



Improving Energy Efficiency in Low-Income Households and Communities in Romania

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The general background of the project



Project Goal

- Reduction of GHG emissions generated by buildings

Project Objective

To dismantle the barriers to the implementation of energy efficiency measures among poorer households and in poorer communities in Romania and alleviate fuel poverty.

Budget & Project Duration

- USD 3 million—GEF grant
- USD 119 million— co-financing from partners – USD 99.23 million achieved
- 2011 - 2016

The main components of the project



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Intended Outcomes in June 2011 ProDoc	Actual Status of June 2016
<p><i>Outcome 1:</i></p> <p>Romanian energy policy integrates fuel poverty issues</p>	<p>Romanian energy policy has not fully integrated fuel poverty issues</p>
<p><i>Outcome 2:</i></p> <p>Supply of trained architects</p>	<p>Supply of architects, building engineers and auditors</p>
<p><i>Outcome 3:</i></p> <p>Energy efficient buildings reconstructed</p>	<p>71 public and apartment buildings rehabilitated with sustainable energy technologies in low-income communities</p>
<p><i>Outcome 4:</i></p> <p>Data and information available for decision-makers</p>	<p>Information for designing programmes to address fuel poverty are available; however, data from the new MRDAP-hosted building registry is not yet available.</p>



Barriers to overcome



- **Legal barriers:**
 - Lack of clear policy to address fuel poverty;
 - Municipalities not oriented towards end use EE – especially for poor customers;
- **Financial barriers:**
 - Application for Government programs is complex and requires technical analysis that is duplicated;
 - Lack of money among some households within blocks of flats to afford co-financing;
 - Effective and innovative financial mechanisms are not in place;
- **Institutional barriers:** Lack of institutional support and coordination of government actors;



Barriers to overcome

- **Capacity and technical barriers:**
 - Lack of EE knowledge among building professionals;
 - Municipalities are not able to effectively tender and check quality of programs;
 - In rural areas, most people implement projects in a Do-it-yourself with lack of knowledge.



- **Awareness barriers:**
 - Lack of information about fuel poverty;
 - Lack of data for utilities and municipalities/ Government / donors on fuel usage for prioritization of buildings refurbishment;
 - Lack of information about the economic benefits of EE.

Key results achieved



- For **removing legal, regulatory** barriers at national level the project:

- Facilitated development and approval of secondary legislation for the latest EU Directive on Energy Efficiency and Cogeneration with High Efficiency (27/2012);
- Made proposals for definition of “fuel poverty” concept in Romania;
- Developed a proposal of Possible Methodology for Fuel Poverty Assessment in Romania.

- At local level, mainstreamed fuel poverty measures into the local development strategies/energy strategies.

- For **removing financial barriers**:

- 71 demonstration project of thermal rehabilitation of social blocks using grant financing
- Developed technical documentation for 50 types of blocks



Key results achieved

Measures addressing Capacity and technical barriers:

- ▶ Trained an increased number (826) of building professionals on application of EE measures in buildings;
- ▶ Identified and promoted two sustainable locally produced EE insulation materials;
- ▶ Provided support for the accreditation process of both companies.



Key results achieved

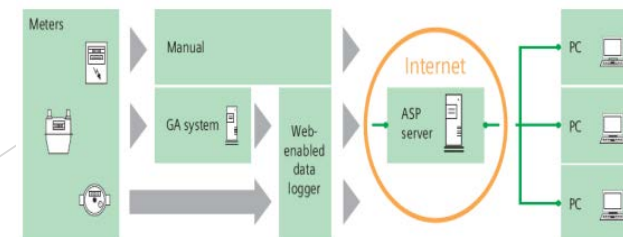


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For removing the awareness barriers:

- ▶ 50 information points at national level (covering 28 counties) established;
- ▶ Organized “Energy Efficiency Begins with Local Communities” contest

To make data and information available for **decision-makers** the project developed an energy management information system.



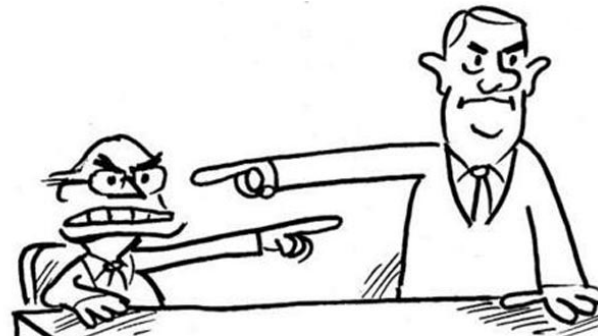
Lessons learned

- **Project design:** Major focus on utilization of 'Romanian only' energy-efficiency building materials.



- **Management:**

- ▶ *Adaptive project management* allows regular adjustments to project outputs, but, sometimes can only partially solve the problem;
- ▶ *Ownership of the project and commitment* by the project partners it is instrumental.



Lessons learned



- Transferring a **national buildings registry** takes longer than might be imagined;
- The choice of energy-efficient design and materials for the **demonstration projects** has a high replicability potential.



Important to ensure that the materials selected follow international best practice for energy-efficiency.

Thank you for your attention!



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