

EEW4 External Event Report

Title of the event: *Energy efficiency in Central and Eastern Europe: narratives and financing*

<i>Date & location:</i>	18 th November 2019, Bratislava
<i>Organiser(s):</i>	Energy Cities assisted by RFSPA in the framework of the CEEC XIII
<i>Summary of the event</i>	Some states in Central and Eastern Europe introduce residential energy bill reduction programmes instead of implementing (real) residential energy efficiency strategies. EU funds dedicated to fostering residential energy efficiency are redirected towards (central) governmental buildings renovation. There are though several good practices of local authorities' sustainable energy actions to share and several opportunities for financing them. This event, organised at the largest Central European Energy Conference (CEEC XIII), was focusing on learning from experiences and identifying working narratives of energy efficiency and sustainable energy investments in Central and Eastern Europe, primarily the Visegradi 4 countries.
<i>Objective & main programme point</i>	This session was seeking successful narratives and stories worth spreading and discuss how the "energy efficiency first" principle of the European Union could be implemented in the CEE countries, esp. the Visegradi 4 countries. The session was also aiming at bringing the energy efficiency debate from a municipal to a national level, by integrating the event in the most prestigious regional energy conference. Our panel, involving pioneering speakers from local governments, NGOs from Central and Eastern Europe and IFIs intended to shed a critical light on energy efficiency policies and investments and seek feasible, progressive solutions.
<i>Conclusions</i>	A study by Buildings for Future, outlined that renovation rate in the Visegradi countries remains much below the required 3% and often only minor improvements are made, much of the savings potential remains untapped. Major issues with project preparation (ability) and public procurement were highlighted. In the V4 countries, typically 100% ESIF – grant – financing is provided, there is little use of financial instruments. ESIF is the main financing source of building renovation. Capital cities and their regions (municipalities in these regions) are not eligible, which is a problem for municipalities in these



"The project EEW4 has received funding from the European Union Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 847153"

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regions. As for the narratives; quality of the indoor environment is very important, often as much as energy savings. Cost savings and available EU funds remain the key drivers for energy efficiency in the region. However, as CITENERGO highlighted, the primary issue is the lack of 'ownership', the lack of energy managers in Slovakia. Without a driver in the driver seat no energy management can be expected.

Programme

Bratislava, [CEEC XIII](#). 18th November 2019

Evening session timeframe: 18:15-20:00 (105')

- **Richard Paksi**, Analyst, Buildings for Future (B4F)
- **Mr. Roman Chovanec**, Head of Energy Office, Bratislava, SK
- **Zsofia Hamza / Tamas Csoknyai**, Budapest, XII. District, HU
- **Jaroslav Klusak**, Energy manager of Litomerice municipality, CZ
- **Matus Skvarka**, Expert in Energy Efficiency, CITENERGO network, SK
- **Andreas Piontek**, Energy Expert, Energy Efficiency Division / ELENA, EIB
- **Alexander Hadzhiivanov**, Associate Director, Green Building Investments, EBRD

Moderated by: Kristina Dely, Energy Cities

Pictures



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