



# Sectorial approach to scale up residential energy efficiency in Central and Eastern Europe: REELIH Project Impact Workshop

**April 28, 2022**

**Falkensteiner Hotel,  
Pilárikova 7372/5, 811 03 Bratislava, Slovakia**

[Residential Energy Efficiency for Low Income Households, or simply the REELIH](#), is a project led by Habitat for Humanity International (HFHI) in the partnership with United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and with the local implementing partners: Habitat for Humanity Macedonia, Habitat for Humanity Armenia, and ENOVA (Bosnia and Herzegovina). The REELIH project has been addressing the issue of energy poverty in these three countries by working on scaling up financing for renovation of multi-apartment buildings to increase the energy efficiency and comfort of living in these buildings for almost ten years. Its activities have included demonstration projects, research for better understanding of the energy poverty in the region, and facilitation of the “eco-system” of stakeholders, by working with the municipalities and financing institutions to develop, test and scale financial models for residential energy efficiency with the special emphasis on the low-income households.

Tenth year of REELIH’s implementation brings about the need to evaluate and harvest what we have achieved since 2012. Thanks to this project, HFHI’s expertise in residential energy efficiency has grown significantly and our network of partners working on similar challenges has enlarged. We together gathered more knowledge and experience in the field. Thanks to that, voice for the special case for Central and Eastern Europe, where majority of the residential building stock is in the private ownership, is now much stronger. With the final year of implementation of the REELIH project, we want to take this opportunity to organize the last project workshop to continue discussions about scaling up renovation of the residential building stock in the Central and Eastern Europe and Western Balkans, which still has its long way to go.

First, the residential eco-system needs sustainable financing. Hence, the workshop will provide a deep dive into the existing and developing financing models for renovation of the multi-apartment buildings by looking at local examples and identifying good practices and remaining bottlenecks. Second, we will focus on how the EU level policymaking is implemented at the national level by discussing the National Building Renovation Strategies as defined by the upcoming Energy Performance of Buildings Directive. Finally, we will share good learnings from the REELIH project implementation during the past ten years and celebrate its successes with the participants of the workshop.

*This conference is made possible by the support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the sole responsibility of the Habitat for Humanity Europe, the Middle East and Africa and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.*

# AGENDA

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**9:00 – 9:30**

## **Registration**

**9:30 – 9:45**

## **Welcome**

### **SPEAKERS:**

- **Andrew Popelka**, Senior Energy Advisor, Energy and Infrastructure Division, Bureau for Europe and Eurasia, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- **Zita Kakalejcikova**, Manager, Residential Energy Programs, Habitat for Humanity International – Europe and Middle East (HFHI EME)

**9:45 – 11:15**

## **Session 1: Financing models for residential energy efficiency: good practices and existing bottlenecks**

The session aims to discuss best practices to finance renovation of multi-apartment buildings. It will present newly developed financing models for countries and learnings from the existing studies. With the discussion, we aim to identify remaining bottlenecks and possible solutions to overcoming them.

**MODERATOR:** **Elena Milanovska**, Associate Director, Capital Markets & Financial Inclusion, HFHI EME and Africa Terwilliger Center for Innovation in Shelter (HFHI TCIS)

### **SPEAKERS:**

- **Dragomir Tzanev**, Executive Director, EnEffect, Bulgaria
- **Liljana Alceva**, Deputy Director – Program, HFH Macedonia
- **Iulia Pushko**, Operations Officer, Energy Efficiency for Ukraine Program, IFC Europe and Central Asia
- **Andrew Popelka**, Senior Energy Advisor, Energy and Infrastructure Division, Bureau for Europe and Eurasia, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

**11:15 – 11:45**

## **Coffee Break**

**11:45 – 13:15**

## **Session 2: How National Building Renovation Strategies impact renovation of the multi-apartment buildings**

The session will provide experience from multiple countries from the region of Central and Eastern Europe and Western Balkans, like Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Bulgaria, Hungary, Estonia, or Lithuania (countries to be selected), in developing National Building Renovation

Strategies and their impact on renovation of the multi-apartment buildings in the selected countries.

**MODERATOR:** Kęstutis **Kupsys** – Member of European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and Vice-president of Lithuanian Consumers Alliance (LVOA-ALCO)

**SPEAKERS:**

- **Bulgaria:** **Mincho Benov**, National Director, HFH Bulgaria
- **North Macedonia:** **Liljana Alceva**, Deputy Director – Program, HFH Macedonia & **Katerina Bilbiloska**, Energy department, Ministry of Economy
- **Lithuania & Estonia:** **Inga Rovbutas**, Project Director, Housing Initiative for Eastern Europe (IWO)
- **Slovakia:** **Veronika Rehakova**, Director DG Housing Policy, Construction and Urban Development, Ministry of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic

**13:15 – 14:15**

**Lunch Break**

**14:15 – 15:15**

**Session 3: Harvesting the learnings from the REELIH project**

Three breakout sessions will provide an opportunity for participants to learn about good practices from the three implementing countries of REELIH project, namely Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and North Macedonia.

*REELIH project: Successes and Learnings from Armenia*

- **Varsenik Khloyan**, Project Manager, Residential Buildings, HFH Armenia

*REELIH project: Successes and Learnings from Bosnia and Herzegovina*

- **Petar Tasic**, Consultant in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources, ENOVA, Bosnia and Hercegovina

*REELIH project: Successes and Learnings from North Macedonia*

- **Liljana Alceva**, Deputy Director – Program, HFH Macedonia

**15:15 – 15:30**

**Coffee Break**

**15:30 – 16:00**

**Closing remarks**

- **Besim Nebiu**, Director, Central and Eastern Europe, Habitat for Humanity International, Europe and Middle East