



Social Green
Interreg Europe



**GREENING SOCIAL HOUSING
IN ESTONIA**

REGIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR ESTONIA

April 2019

CONTENT OF ACTION PLAN

| | |
|---|----|
| Introduction | 3 |
| Background..... | 5 |
| Policy instruments being addressed..... | 7 |
| Interregional learning and local stakeholder involvement..... | 9 |
| Local Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities & threats | 11 |
| Key findings from the self-assessment..... | 11 |
| Financial resources..... | 12 |
| Vision | 12 |
| Objectives and Actions | 13 |
| Description of the actions | 14 |
| Action 1. Developing KredEx financial support scheme "Supporting apartment building reconstruction" conditions for granting support to be more adaptable in all regions of Estonia, regardless of the socio-economical possibilities..... | 14 |
| Action 2. Developing support tools for deep renovation | 17 |

INTRODUCTION

Improved energy efficiency in social housing and in a housing sector in general is not only a matter of reducing the environmental impact of energy consumption in buildings. It is also a question of social sustainability and in particular, of reducing fuel poverty and improving the general health and well-being conditions of social housing residents. Therefore, tackling the problem of energy efficiency in social housing means placing the health and economic needs of social housing residents at the forefront of green renovations projects.

The action plan for Estonia, which has been carried out within the framework of the SOCIAL GREEN project – Regional Policies towards Greening the Social Housing Sector –, has been developed bearing this in mind. It aims at contributing to the improvement of energy efficiency in the housing sector of the region by addressing the policy instrument Operational Program for Cohesion Policy Funds 2014–2020 (henceforth referred to as OP for Cohesion Policy Funds).

The most important parties involved in the preparation of the Estonian Action Plan are either directly or indirectly involved in the development and implementation of relevant national policies and support measures. The experiences and lessons learned from the workshops and site-visits in the SOCIAL GREEN project were also used.

Estonia is a country with high energy consumption, of which households account for nearly half. Hence, housing has an important role to play in increasing energy savings and in promoting renewable energy. Approximately 70% of the apartment buildings in Estonia have been built in 1960–1990-s without paying much attention to energy efficiency.

Since the majority of the housing stock consists of privately-owned apartments, and the bulk of its population's income does not allow the promotion of new housing construction, the main focus of Estonian housing policy is on the modernization of outdated and energy-intensive housing. Important is to motivate owners and make, as much as possible, easy to go for deep renovation to rise energy efficiency in social housing sector and housing in general.

The overall aim of this action plan is to involve different stakeholders in improving the organization of housing management in Estonia and to develop appropriate policy measures and investments. Effective and thoughtful cooperation with various stakeholders will ensure the implementation of the Action Plan vision: *The measures for renovating the*

apartment buildings are equally accessible in all regions of Estonia, regardless of the socio-economic situation, and are actively used all over the country.

The Action Plan consists of the overview about the housing topics and related politics in Estonia, and the description of engagement process, the presentation of an overall vision and objectives.

Two main actions:

- 1.1. Adapting policy instrument "Supporting apartment building reconstruction" conditions for granting support to be more adaptable in all regions of Estonia, regardless of the socio-economical possibilities
- 1.2. Developing supporting tools for deep renovation.
- 2.1. Improving state-subsidized social housing construction policies for local governments and developing new financial instrument and its energy performance monitoring system.

BACKGROUND

The overall objective of the Social Green project is to improve regional development policies oriented to the promotion of greening the social housing sector, through the enhancement of energy efficiency and the use of renewable energies, stressing its importance as an incubator for new markets in the field of energy, technologies, services and business models. Moreover, provides the opportunity to explore green building practices and significantly reduce GHG emissions through cost-effective means while providing much needed housing in a healthy and sustainable manner.

In Estonia, the housing and green retrofitting are dealt within the Operational program for cohesion policy funds 2014–2020. It is regulated by Structural Assistance Act, the implementation of which is within the scope of the Estonian Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications (the main managing authority) and financial institution KredEx (the 2nd level intermedial body). These institutions coordinate the areas related to housing and energy efficiency in Estonia. In addition, the local governments (represented by the The Association of Estonian Cities and Rural Municipalities) and apartment associations (represented by the The Estonian Union of Co-operating Housing Associations) are important parties to the housing dialogue. All the abovementioned parties have been involved in stakeholder meetings under the SG project, in addition to other ministries and authorities.

There are only national level policies and measures in Estonia. The OP and its measures are also only on the national level, which means that there are no measures at the regional level. Because of that, the Estonian national plan is also focusing on national level policy instruments and measures. The OP is implemented through different measures in Estonia, one of them is the apartment building renovation support. According to the explanatory memorandum, the purpose of the support is to modernize the existing housing sector and to improve the public space and living environment; achieving energy efficiency and better indoor climate in existing apartment buildings and promoting the use of renewable energy; reduction of household energy costs; reducing energy dependency and greenhouse gas emissions, ensuring energy savings and security, which will have a positive impact on the environment and the economy.

Approximately 70% of the Estonian housing stock consists of apartments, of which 98% are privately owned. Most of housing is outdated and needs retrofitting. As a result of population decline and past changes in society, more than 12% of apartments are uninhabited and constitute a socio-economic risk factor for the (rural) living environment.

Pursuant to the Estonian Local Government Organization Act, a local government has the task of organizing housing and communal services, spatial planning and social services in its administrative territory. With less than 2% of dwellings owned by the public sector, it makes it difficult for local authorities to reshape their housing quickly, but the process has been successfully started in recent years. One of the priorities of the Estonian OP is to start rescheduling residential areas so that they meet the real needs of the changing (mostly declining) population. This includes also the green renovation of many existing apartment buildings.

It is difficult for the public sector to shape the decisions of private owners, but the municipalities are still dealing with the housing problems in different ways. Through its policies and various institutions, the Estonian state has supported housing management (renovation support for apartment buildings, demolition of old buildings), prioritizing policies adapting to green renovation and demographic conditions.

The goal of the Estonian OP is a quality living environment in every Estonian region for all residents who want to live and work there.

The Social Green project has launched an effective dialogue between the state and local authorities in Estonia. There have been 6 stakeholder roundtables on housing issues, where the various parties have discussed the barriers to housing and sectoral issues, analyzed the results of the previous period of renovation grants, made conclusions about them and also given the suggestions for the upcoming support period.

POLICY INSTRUMENTS BEING ADDRESSED

Operational Program for Cohesion Policy Funds 2014–2020

Priority axe 2.6: Energy Efficiency Investment

Specific objective 1: Energy efficient housing sector and street lighting, and increased share of renewable energy in final consumption.

Self-defined performance indicator: Number of households with improved energy efficiency – 100.

Within the EU Cohesion Policy, different operational programmes support projects in Estonia, covering a wide range of regional development needs. The policy instrument addressed in the regional action plan is the Operational Program for Cohesion Policy Funds 2014–2020 – the main EU structural funds programme available to support the development of the region in the period 2014-2020.

The Operational Programme (OP) for Cohesion Policy Funds is a multifund programme, bringing together investments from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Cohesion Fund and aimed at contributing to the delivery of the European Union's strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth and to the achievement of economic, social and territorial cohesion. The OP, with a total budget of EUR 4,891,748,878, invests in 11 thematic objectives. The total EU contribution is of EUR 3,534,560,285.

One of the priority axes of this policy instrument is Energy Efficiency Investment (priority axe 2.6), which encompasses both investment and supporting measures in the fields of energy efficiency, which includes both investment and supportive measures in the following areas: supporting energy efficiency, smart energy management and renewable energy use in public infrastructure, including in public buildings, and in the housing sector. Specific objective 1 on priority axe 2.6 is energy-efficient housing sector and street lighting. For that objective 6,99% (total amount of 24,711,700 EUR) of EU funds is allocated that will be used to help make the shift towards a low-carbon economy to stabilise energy consumption in 2020 at the 2010 level, to enhance the use of energy-efficient solutions in the housing sector and local infrastructure.

The Estonian Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications is the managing authority of the OP's priority axis 2.6. Implementing body of The Cohesion Policy Funds Operational

Program 2014-2020 priority axis “Energy Efficiency” measure “Energy-efficient housing sector” is national financing institution KredEx Foundation.

KredEx has developed and successfully implemented the apartment building reconstruction support scheme for the implementation of the measure “Supporting the reconstruction of apartment buildings”. The following activities are supported by the scheme: 1) energy audit, 2) reconstruction projects, 3) construction works, 4) salary of technical consultant, 5) construction supervision costs.

According to the OP, the main result indicator of the measure is the total number of renovated dwellings (36000 apartments in 2017-2023). So far, majority of the renovation projects (ca 1000 buildings) have been carried out in larger apartment buildings and larger cities, where the financial capacity of apartment associations is higher. At the same time, the renovation of apartment buildings outside the larger cities is modest as the financial capacity of housing associations in rural areas is lower than housing associations in major cities.

A major challenge for support scheme is to be adaptable in all regions. Therefore, the main challenge and task of the project is redesigning the support measure to increase renovation activity outside the major cities. Simultaneously with the development of the support measure, it is necessary to raise awareness of political decision makers and officials of rural municipalities in order to implement this support measure - its application opportunities, funding conditions and eligible activities. It is also important to increase the competence of the technical consultants recognized by KredEx, both in terms of the support measure and the various technical solutions.

INTERREGIONAL LEARNING AND LOCAL STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

The development of the action plan for Estonia has been based on the principles of inter-regional cooperation between the SOCIAL GREEN partners and participation of the key players of the region that are, directly or indirectly, involved in the green retrofitting and rehabilitation of social housing. Representatives of local governments, ministries and executive agencies have been involved in discussions on how the concept of social housing and considering the sustainable energy use is addressed in different regions of Europe. On the other hand, various social housing support measures have been discussed, both national and regional.

The principle of inter-regional cooperation has allowed SOCIAL GREEN partners to identify, share and transfer innovative methodologies, processes and good practices in developing and implementing greener social housing sector policies, targeting new constructions or retrofitting existing buildings. Bilateral exchanges of experiences between TREA and other project partners, namely the lead partner NORDREGIO, municipality of Mizil and municipality of Alba Julia (Romania), Norte Region (Portugal) and Regional Energy Agency North (Croatia), which have been used to gather further evidence on innovative solutions created in other regional contexts to overcome specific challenges faced by existing policy instruments that support the greening of social housing.

In the course of the project, self-assessment reports, site visits and workshops revealed that the meaning and content of the definition of "social housing" are very different in different regions, ie there is no uniform definition.

Reports and discussions during the project meetings in Romania (April 2017; June 2018) and Portugal (October 2016, March 2019) revealed that one of the problems in these areas is the uneven renovation activity of buildings in regions with different socio-economic development. We detected parallels with Estonia. The OP and its measures are also only on the national level in Estonia, which means that there are no measures at the regional level. We learned that partner regions have more capacity to improve their policy instruments and to ensure balanced development in different regions regardless of the socio-economical possibilities as they can also implement measures in regional level – their OPs have regional dimension that we don't have in Estonia. Despite that it became clear that in its principles, Estonian reconstruction measure was good example for all other project partners. It was bases of discussion for and with other counties and it was considered Estonian scheme can be used as a model how to improve housing sector energy efficiency. We were able to bring

this knowledge about need of regional dimension to the decision makers by organizing local stakeholder meetings and decision makers also participated in interregional study visits. We also proved regional dimension necessity with the study. As we have only national level policy, one of the possible solution was to bring differentiation to national OP's policy instrument.

Based on the experience of Romanian and also Croatian partners, it was concluded that, in addition to financial support measures, the advice and technical support are also required. Its importance came out more thoroughly in discussions at Romania (April 2017) and at Croatia (September 2017) project meeting and study visits. We received confirmation that development and continuous progression of "toolbox" (administrative support, technical advice, etc.) is needed for high-quality renovation of apartment buildings.

In discussions with partners (Norte Region from Portugal and Regional Energy Agency North from Croatia) we learned the importance of continuous networking, partnership working and stakeholder engagement to bringing together actors from different sectors and levels of governance as a tool to improve and adapt the policy instruments. We are planning our Local Stakeholder Meetings that should help to improve policy instrument and keep stakeholders updated of each other needs.

Share of good practices related to public interventions in social housing that have taken place in the local, regional and national contexts of the different project members. Inter-regional learning events, which have been held following locations and times:

- Matosinhos (Portugal, 25th-27th of October 2016);
- Mizil (Romania, 25th-27th of April 2017);
- Varaždin (Croatia, 26th-28th of September 2017);
- Tartu/Tallinn (Estonia, 16th-17th of January 2018);
- Alba Iulia (Romania, 12th-13th of June 2018).
- Porto (Portugal, 26th-27th of March 2016)

In addition of inter-regional learning events listed above there was common workshop of Interreg Europe projects SOCIAL GREEN and FINERPOL held in Tartu (16th January 2018). Events included comprised presentations of local social housing initiatives, financial support schemes, study visits to renovated social housing buildings and good practices workshops.

LOCAL STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES & THREATS

| <i>Territorial area: Estonia</i> | |
|---|---|
| <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The European Strategy to support social housing - National funding Programmes oriented to the retrofitting of houses | <p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Political support - Wide partnership, involvement of stakeholders - Available national and EU funding |
| <p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No national legislation for social housing sector - Lack of specific programs for informing and educating the population about the energy retrofitting | <p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moving out of inhabitants from remote areas - Insufficient funds for building new social buildings, - High retrofitting costs in remote areas - Building degradation due to lack of investment - The lack of knowledge of the importance of the energy efficiency retrofitting |

Key findings from the self-assessment

- Inhabitants from remote areas, which creates a spatial mismatch in terms of housing supply demand.
- Insufficient funds for building new social housing,
- High retrofitting costs in remote areas
- Building degradation due to lack of investment
- The lack of knowledge of the importance of the energy efficiency retrofitting

The main weakness of financing the housing sector so far is its unequal distribution both regionally and between social classes. This action plan seeks to resolve how to distribute subsidies more equitably between regions and thus to mitigate the uneven development of regions and the uneven capacity to use of grants.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

In the more general sense, the management of the housing sector uses the resources of the Estonian state budget and the EU Social Fund, which is curated by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, through the Operational Program. The development and implementation of financial support measures and the allocation of funds are organized by the financing institution KredEx.

The activities of current Action Plan are financed by TREA (partly from Social Green project), the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications and financial institution KredEx.

VISION

The measures for renovating the apartment buildings are equally accessible in all regions of Estonia, regardless of the socio-economic situation, and are actively used all over the country.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS

| Objective | Action | Sub-action (task) |
|---|---|--|
| Improving energy efficiency in housing sector | 1.1. Developing KredEx financial support scheme "Supporting apartment building reconstruction" conditions for granting support to be more adaptable in all regions of Estonia, regardless of the socio-economical possibilities | Collecting and organizing the data about the existing usage of the renovation support measure |
| | | Monitoring the regional distribution of KredEx's use of renovation grant. |
| | | Analyzing and improving the support measures for housing. |
| | 1.2. Developing supporting tools for deep renovation | Capacity building of owners, political decision makers and officials of (rural) municipalities in order to implement the support measure. |
| | | Raising competence of the technical consultant recognized by KredEx, measure and the various technical solutions (+ Collecting the technical solutions and experiences on renovation and building; sharing and encouraging the exchange of best experience and knowledge). |
| | | Elaboration and submission of suggestions regarding buildings energy efficiency and (social) housing management for ministries to take account while implementing the policy instrument for new EU's financial period (2021-2027). |

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIONS

Action 1.1. Adapting policy instrument “Supporting apartment building reconstruction” conditions for granting support to be more adaptable in all regions of Estonia, regardless of the socio-economical possibilities

1. The background

Based on the regional self-assessment and the problems and needs described during local stakeholder meetings, local governments are concerned that different ministries and entities do deal with different aspects of housing, but there is no comprehensive approach to housing policy between state authorities. Inter-regional workshops and experiences introduced and embedded possible actions to improve policy instrument and cooperation between local stakeholders.

Project meetings confirmed that post-socialist countries have many similar problems in housing sector, these countries have tried to find different policy solutions and various support measures have been launched. Reports and discussions during the project meetings in Romania (April 2017; June 2018) and Portugal (October 2016, March 2019) revealed that one of the problems in these areas is the uneven renovation activity of buildings in regions with different socio-economic development – lower renovation activity in rural areas. These countries had regional dimension in their policy instruments that gives them higher capacity to improve their policy instruments and to ensure balanced development in different regions regardless of the socio-economical possibilities.

Despite the good results of our policy instrument “Supporting apartment building reconstruction” and it being a good practice (GP) example for other partners, the measure still needs adaptations in order to fulfill the goals set in the OP (Operational Plan), and to better meet the expectations and needs of regions with different socio-economic backgrounds. Previously, the support measure for the renovation of apartment buildings has been aimed at cost efficiency, the majority of funding has been used in 2–3 bigger cities. In the rural areas, the renovation of the housing stock has been low due to the economic capacity and social stratification of the population.

We were able to introduce the benefits of regional dimension to the decision makers by organizing local stakeholder meetings and decision makers also participated in interregional study visits. We also analysed the experience of the city of Bucharest as one of the possible scenarios for our strategy, where the city organized a complete renovation of the houses in one area and paid 100% of the

costs, that was considered not fitting considering our climatic conditions, energy efficiency requirements and the high proportion of private property in the residential sector. The existing housing renovation measure is being analyzed and developed on an ongoing basis to provide more support to regions where it is needed the most. The study on necessity of regional dimensions that also considered indicators and suggestions to take account in calculating differentiation for support scheme as including differentiation was solution to take account regional dimension in national level policy instrument. This will contribute to the balanced development of all regions of Estonia.

In a process of analysing and developing an apartment building measure in Estonia. We used Local Stakeholder Meetings as a tool learned from project partners for bringing together actors from different sectors and levels of governance as a tool to improve and adapt the policy instruments. In Local Stakeholder Meetings we were discussing about existing policy instrument and local stakeholder needs on policy instrument. Also, different inter-regional experiences and best practices were under discussion of improving our national policy instrument.

Our Local Stakeholder Meetings were very representative as key ministries (Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice), some members of the Estonian Parliament, umbrella organizations for apartment associations and municipalities, representatives of local municipalities take part of meetings. One of the key outcome Local Stakeholder Meetings was that the policy instrument was adapted so quickly to be more adaptable for all regions of Estonia, as the same problem about the uneven renovation activity of buildings in different regions was repeatedly raised and heard by the decision makers during the Local Stakeholder Meetings. The Social Green project with study visits and meetings gave us needed opportunity to study experiences how different countries are ensuring support measures for regions with different socio-economic backgrounds

So far there has been only two specific performance indicators for the measure the performance of the policy instrument - 1) estimated average savings in reconstructed apartment buildings and 2) area of reconstructed buildings. By achieving area indicators, it has been most rational and suitable for apartment buildings owners to renovate buildings in the 2–3 bigger cities. By adapting the policy instrument third indicator/requirement will be added that improves the conditions for granting support to be more adaptable in all regions of Estonia. For that reason, principle supplements for adapting the measure were added, such as differentiated grant rates for regions - grant rates are depending real estate price that correlates with standard of living and requirement that 70% of grant money need to be used outside Tallinn or Tartu.

2. Action details

In a close cooperation with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications and Foundation KredEx, recommendations for improving the policy instrument (and therefore the support measures) for housing will be elaborated.

Sub-actions (tasks):

- Collecting and organizing the data about the existing usage of the renovation support measure

Success factor: Data from KredEx once a year (in first or fourth quarter of year)

- Monitoring the regional distribution of KredEx's use of renovation grant

Success factor.- The number of renovation projects outside Tallinn and Tartu would be at least 50% of all grants issued (our survey shows that 405 renovations were carried out outside Tallinn and Tartu during the period 2015-2018)

- Analyzing and improving the support measures for housing

Success factor: Revised version of the financing scheme

3. Players involved

-Tartu Regional Energy Agency – performing the analyzes, drafting the proposals

-Financing institution KredEx – holding and providing the data on renovated buildings, developing the financial measures

-Estonian Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications - developing the financial measures, counseling and supervision of developing the measures

-The Estonian Union of Co-operating Housing Associations – representing the most important target group (the apartment associations)

4. Timeframe

03.2019–12.2020

5. Costs and funding

Financial instrument KredEx, Tartu Regional Energy Agency

The cost of analysis will be approximately 3000–4000 €

No project resources will be used (the role of project is more monitoring)

Action 1.2. Developing supporting tools for deep renovation

1. The background

Based on the regional self-assessment and the problems and needs described during local stakeholder meetings, local municipalities have different capacities and have very different experiences in dealing with housing management. The local authorities find that there is a lack of a unified, coordinated and supported approach by the state, and more dialogue is needed between the state and the authorities and the local authorities themselves. The local authorities are willing to share their practices and learn from each other and introduce their needs of measures for decision makers. Innovative solutions from partner authorities and from inter-regional learnings can be introduced and discussed. It is ideal soil for organizing local stakeholder meetings as tool, learned from project partners (Portugal, Croatia), for improving the policy instrument itself and supporting tools for implementing and supporting the policy instrument.

As housing is related to various fields (building construction, renovation, legal issues, etc.) which are curated by different ministries and agencies, it is important to coordinate and communicate this information to target groups more systematically. So far, this has not been done enough – the authorities have made their own efforts to communicate and share the information. During the Social Green project, the need to do it in a united and coordinated way has arisen.

The round tables are an excellent methodology to bring together the stakeholders from both local and state authorities' level for introduce tools for deep renovation. There has been no systematic transmission of information by the authorities as the topics of state institutions are focused to their own interests and there is no coordinating party in that dialogue. The presence of all parties involved in a neutral atmosphere of round tables is essential for building partnerships rather than hierarchical relationships.

The roundtables bring together local authorities and representatives of state institutions to identify the needs and problems associated with the implementation of laws and the sharing and use of grants. Roundtables offer a neutral form of dialogue, they do not represent the narrow interests of any target group or stakeholders. During the Social Green project, the round table method has already become a tradition, the format of the event has justified itself and all parties see the need to continue. As the round tables were and will be very representative it can be used as a great tool to support adapting and implementing the policy instrument.

Study visits and discussions within them confirmed the need of development of renovation toolbox (administrative support, technical advice, etc.) is necessary for high quality renovation of apartment buildings. Its importance came out more thoroughly in discussions at Romania (April 2017) and at Croatia (September 2017) project meeting and study visits attended by Head of Housing Division of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications and Head of the housing and energy efficiency division of KredEx.

Local stakeholder meetings and inter-regional meetings proved the importance of policy instrument's supporting tools in such a complex field as renovation. To improve the efficiency of green retrofitting, it is very important to have technical advice targeted to the apartment buildings (co-operatives) and rural area municipalities to support them for choosing modern and cost-effective solutions to ensure good quality of renovation, energy efficiency of buildings and a good indoor climate. Therefore, the continuous development of the capability and competence of the technical consultants provided is highly important.

2. Action details

Developing supporting tool for improving the quality of renovation and motivating owners. The tool and its development contains the following:

- Technical consultant for renovation to owners,
- Expertise of technical design to ensure quality of renovation in the end of process and to ensure energy efficiency targets
- Round tables and trainings events

Events, roundtables and trainings will be organized in regions, up to three times per year, all together 4–6 events. The legal issues of managing the (social) housing, and support tools are introduced to local-level authorities and owners.

The feedback from municipalities and other stakeholders gained during communication and counselling process will be analyzed and reflected to the state (ministries) for an input to further elaboration of the policy instruments.

-Sub-actions (tasks):

- Capacity building of owners, political decision makers and officials of (rural) municipalities in order to implement the support measure.

Success factor: 4-5 workshops, roundtable meetings for ministries and local government representatives for introducing of tools. Support tools are widely used - 100% of renovations

will be using technical consultant for preparation of design and implement of renovation to achieve energy efficiency targets

- Raising competence of the technical consultant recognized by Kredex, measure and the various technical solutions (+ Collecting the technical solutions and experiences on renovation and building; sharing and encouraging the exchange of best experience and knowledge).

Success factor: 4 seminars or workshops for technical consultants are organized.

- Elaboration and submission of suggestions regarding buildings energy efficiency and (social) housing management for ministries to take account while implementing the policy instrument for new EU's financial period (2021-2027).

Success factor: Proposals for complementing the policy instrument

3. Players involved

Tartu Regional Energy Agency – organizing and coordinating the flow of informational event, initializing the dialogue between local authorities and different institutions

Financing institution KredEx – co-organizing the events, proposing the topics, partly financing

Different parties of round tables:

Financing institution KredEx – development and implementation of support measures for housing development

Estonian Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications – responsibility for housing and construction areas in Estonia

Ministry of Justice – responsibility for legislative and judicial matters in Estonia

Ministry of Finances – responsibility for spatial planning, regional policy and support measures considering the regional policy

Ministry of Social Affairs – development and provision of support measures for different social groups

The Association of Estonian Cities and Rural Municipalities – representing the major target groups

The Estonian Union of Co-operating Housing Associations – representing the major target groups

4. Timeframe

03.2019-12.2020

5. Costs and funding

Financial instrument KredEx, Tartu Regional Energy Agency

Cost 10000–12 000 € action

Letter of acknowledgement from the relevant organisation responsible for policy

For Structural Funds programmes (i.e. Investment for Growth and Jobs and European Territorial Cooperation programmes), the list of policy responsible organisations is available on the 'In my country' pages on the programme website www.interregeurope.eu

| | |
|--|---|
| Project acronym¹ | SOCIAL GREEN |
| Project title | Regional Policies towards Greening the Social Housing Sector |
| Name of the signing organisation (original) including department if relevant) | Majandus- ja Kommunikatsiooniministeerium |
| Name of the signing organisation (English) including department if relevant) | Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications |
| Name of the policy instrument addressed (original) | Operational Program for Cohesion Policy Funds 2014–2020; Priority axe 2.6:Energy Efficiency; Investment Specific objective 1 |
| Name of the policy instrument addressed (English) | Ühtekuuluvuspoliitika fondide rakenduskava 2014-2020; Prioriteetne suund 2.6: Energiatõhusus; Investeeringuprioriteet 1 |
| Name of partner(s) concerned in the application form (English) | Tartu Regional Energy Agency |

We hereby acknowledge:

- that we welcome the contents and actions of the Action Plan submitted to us by the project partner, as it contains appropriate and acceptable means to monitor and improve Policy Instrument related activities.
- that we are open to continue our cooperation with the project partner in Phase 2 of the SOCAIL GREEN project to further consider. Discuss and take on board insights, expert information and market knowledge provided by the project partner for jointly monitoring and improving the management and the strategic focus of the Policy Instrument and its corresponding scheme conditions, following the Action Plan considerations.

| | |
|--|--|
| Name of signatory | Ivo Jaanisoo |
| Position of signatory | Head of Construction and Housing Department |
| Date | 30.08.2019 |
| Signature and institution stamp (if exists) |  |

¹ Information indicated in this table must correspond to the information provided in the application form.