

# The use of EU funds in Central and Eastern Europe: Valuable examples

Online Webinar - 30 May 2022, 12.00-14.00 CET



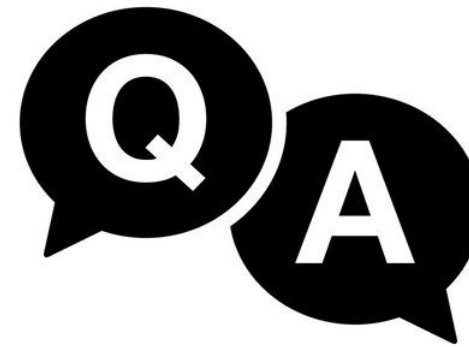
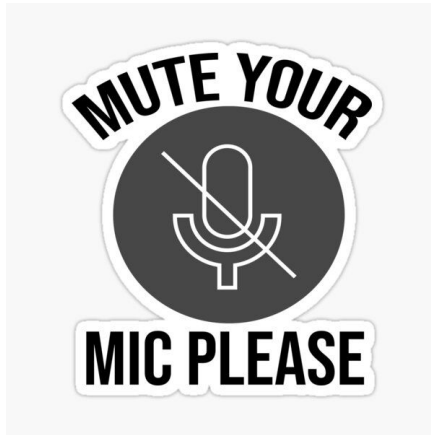
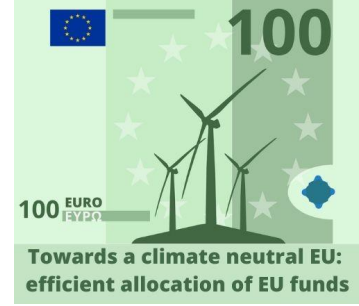
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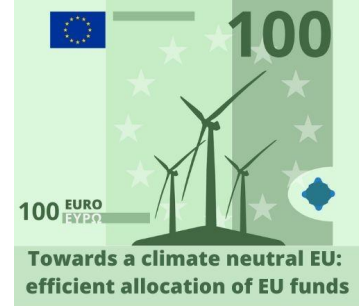


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This webinar is organised as a part of the project “Towards a climate neutral EU: efficient allocation of EU funds”



Learn more here: <https://www.ceeweb.org/eufunds/>

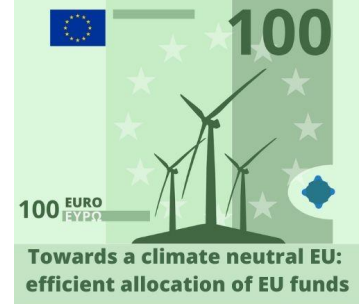


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# Agenda of the webinar:



1. Introduction – How can the use of EU funds contribute to climate mitigation and adaptation
2. Presentation of the Best Practice Database
3. Examples of EU funded projects from 8 CEE countries: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia
4. Next steps



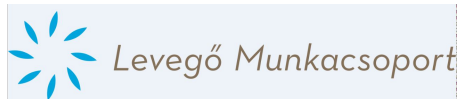
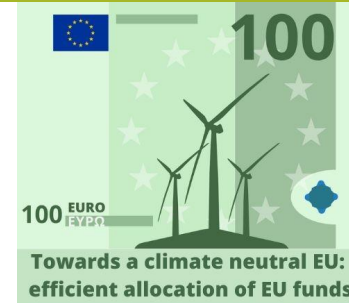
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# How can the use of EU funds contribute to climate mitigation and adaptation

1. By financing appropriate projects
2. By not financing inappropriate projects
3. By applying robust conditions for EU funding on national level
4. By strict enforcement of the conditions

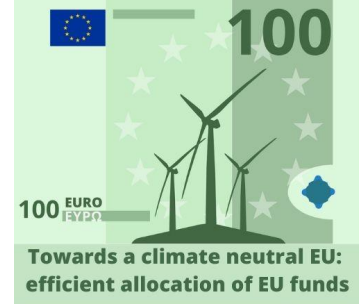


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# How can the use of EU funds contribute to climate mitigation and adaptation

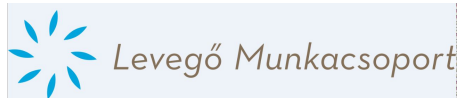


## 1. By financing appropriate projects (with efficient implementation)

For example:

- Energy efficiency of buildings
- Public transport
- Organic farming
- ...

## • Raising awareness

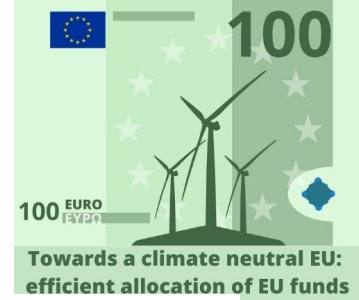


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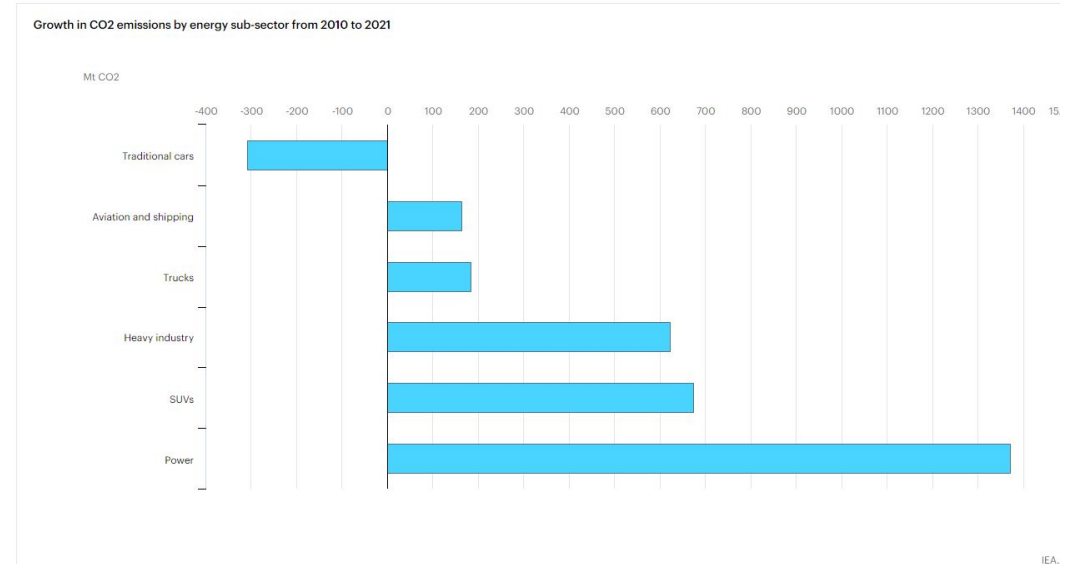
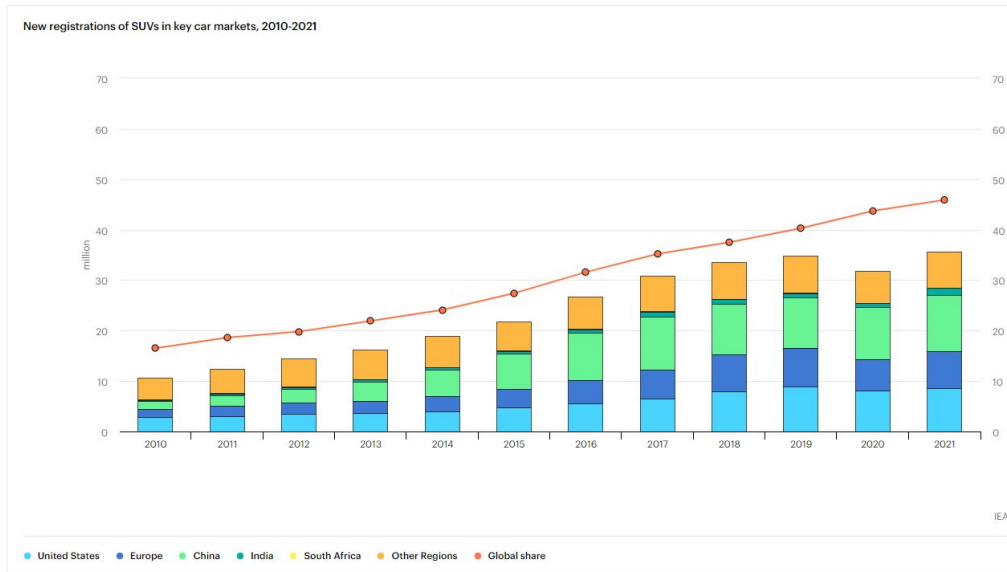


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# How can the use of EU funds contribute to climate mitigation and adaptation



## SUVs rank among the top causes of energy-related carbon dioxide emissions growth over the last decade

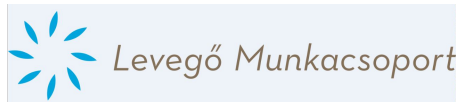


Source:  
<https://www.iea.org/commentaries/global-suv-sales-set-another-record-in-2021-setting-back-efforts-to-reduce-emissions>

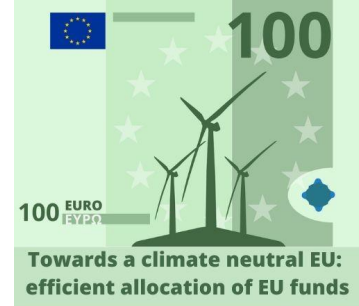
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# How can the use of EU funds contribute to climate mitigation and adaptation



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### It worked with cigarettes. Let's ban ads for climate-wrecking products

Outlawing adverts that push high-carbon products such as SUVs would be a simple win for regulators looking to take climate action, says **Andrew Simms**

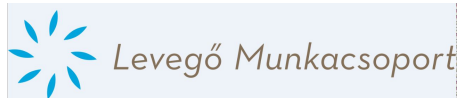


ENVIRONMENT | COMMENT 4 May 2022

By **Andrew Simms**



<https://www.newscientist.com/article/mg25433851-200-it-worked-with-cigarettes-lets-ban-ads-for-climate-wrecking-products/>



À propos Partenaires Charte Blog Contact



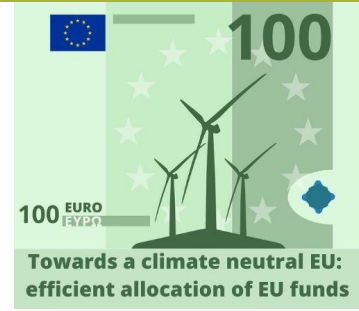
<https://www.lisacar.eu/>

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# How can the use of EU funds contribute to climate mitigation and adaptation



## 2. By not financing inappropriate projects

### Luxury hotel built with EU money



Photo: A. Lukács

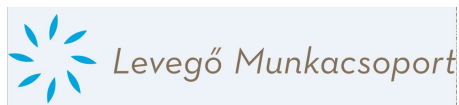
### Enlargement of tobacco factory with EU money



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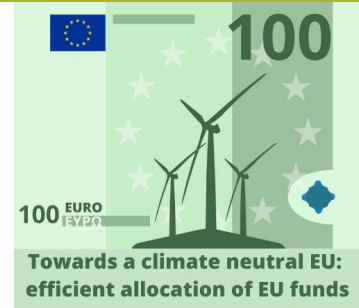


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# How can the use of EU funds contribute to climate mitigation and adaptation

## 3. By applying robust conditions for EU funding on national level



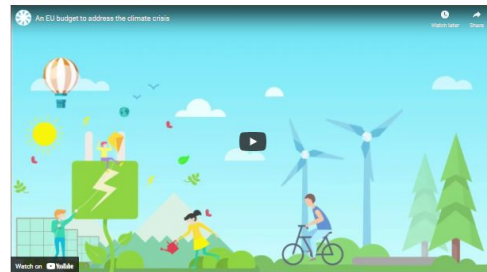
The EU budget is one of the most important financial tools in the hands of national governments. It's also the number one financial instrument at disposal of EU institutions to boost climate action across the bloc. It could and it should ensure EU money are spent on renewable energy and sustainable solutions instead of fossil fuels.

The EU budget, or Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), is still being regulated and some key decisions that will affect how EU funds drive climate change mitigation are still open. As part of the project 'An EU budget to address the climate crisis' supported by the European Climate Initiative (ECI), the EEB together with Clean Air Action Group, Green Budget Germany and Clean Air Action Group (England), has been following the negotiations with the aim of building a bridge between EU institutions, governments and civil society. Our aim is to ensure the next budget works for people and the environment. For this reason, we're calling on EU institutions to allocate more money to climate action and to make all funds conditional on the level of ambition laid out by governments in their Partnership Agreements (PAs) – legally binding documents which are a prerequisite for receiving EU money.

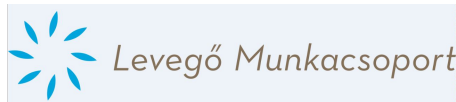
On behalf of the Heinrich Böll Foundation, the EEB wrote a report summarising the current state of play and highlighting the need for a green budget as the main tool to implement the promises set out in Europe's overarching strategy to decarbonise our economy, known as the European Green Deal.



The coalition carried out a survey across Europe asking some of the most prominent national NGOs their views on EU spending and their expectations for the future. Some of these views were presented at a conference in Brussels, where members of civil society met representatives of EU institutions to discuss the next steps for the adoption of the 2021-2027 budget. Here you can find an account from the survey by Clean Air Action Group.



<https://eeb.org/work-areas/climate-energy/an-eu-budget-to-address-the-climate-crisis/>



### NGO Proposals for the Partnership Agreement on EU Funds and the National Recovery and Resilience Plan

- HUNGARY: Proposals for the Hungarian Partnership Agreement on the European structural and investment funds 2021–2027 and the National Recovery and Resilience Plan for contributing to a climate-neutral EU (by Clean Air Action Group and CEEweb for Biodiversity)
- HUNGARY: Proposals for General Enabling Conditions for the Hungarian Partnership Agreement on the European structural and investment funds 2021–2027 and the National Recovery and Resilience Plan for contributing to a climate-neutral EU
- HUNGARY: Comments on the Hungarian Recovery and Resilience Plan from an environmental perspective
- HUNGARY: Comments on the draft Hungarian Partnership Agreement on EU Funds from an environmental perspective
- HUNGARY: Opinion on Hungary's draft Partnership Agreement concerning compliance with the horizontal enabling conditions
- MAGYARORSZÁG: Javaslatok az Európai Strukturális és Befektetési Alapokról szóló, 2021–2027 közötti időszakra vonatkozó Magyar Partnerségi Megállapodás és a Nemzeti Helyreállítási és Alkalmazkodási Terv környezetvédelmi előfeltételeire a klímasegélyes EU-ért
- MAGYARORSZÁG: Javaslatok az Európai Strukturális és Befektetési Alapokról szóló, 2021–2027 közötti időszakra vonatkozó Magyar Partnerségi Megállapodás és a Nemzeti Helyreállítási és Alkalmazkodási Terv általános előfeltételeire a klímasegélyes EU-ért
- BULGARIA: Synopsis of the Position on the Draft Version of the Partnership Agreement on the European structural and investment funds 2021–2027 (by Economic Policy Institute in collaboration with Green Policy Institute)
- BULGARIA: Synopsis of the Position on the Draft Version of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan of the Republic of Bulgaria (by Economic Policy Institute in collaboration with Green Policy Institute)
- BULGARIA: Final assessment of third version of NRRP of Bulgaria
- БЪЛГАРИЯ: Становище по проекта на Споразумение за партньорство на Република България за 2021–2027 г. (Институт за икономическа политика, Институт за зелена политика)
- БЪЛГАРИЯ: Становище по проект на План за възстановяване и устойчивост на Република България (Институт за икономическа политика, Институт за зелена политика)
- БЪЛГАРИЯ: Становище по версията на Националния план за възстановяване и устойчивост на Република България от 20 май 2021 г.
- CZECH REPUBLIC: Assessment of draft Partnership Agreement setup in the areas of environment and civil society partnership in the Czech Republic
- CZECH REPUBLIC: Comments to the National Recovery Plan

<https://www.levego.hu/egyeb/ngo-proposals-for-the-partnership-agreement-on-eu-funds-and-the-national-recovery-and-resilience-plan/>



#### PUBLICATIONS

Transferring knowledge about the current situation on the national level, and preparing assessments.

#### Filter publications

- All countries All dates
- PDF Opinion on Hungary's draft Partnership Agreement concerning compliance with the horizontal enabling conditions. Prepared by: Clean Air Action Group (HU). Country: Hungary.
- PDF Magyarország partnerségi megállapodás tervezetének véleményezése a horizontális feljogosító feltételeknek történő megfelelés szempontjából. Prepared by: Clean Air Action Group (HU). Country: Hungary.
- PDF Comments on the draft Hungarian Partnership Agreement on EU Funds from an environmental perspective. Prepared by: Clean Air Action Group (HU). Country: Hungary.
- PDF OP's assessment with EWN. Prepared by: Centre for Transport and Energy (CZ). Country: Czech Republic.
- PDF NRRP assesment (CAN-BW joint membership group assesment). Prepared by: Centre for Transport and Energy (CZ). Country: Czech Republic.

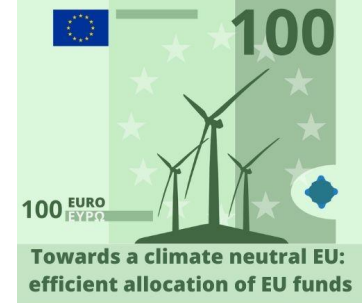
<https://www.ceeweb.org/eufunds/publications.php>



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4. By strict enforcement of the conditions

**No compliance → immediate suspension of EU funding**



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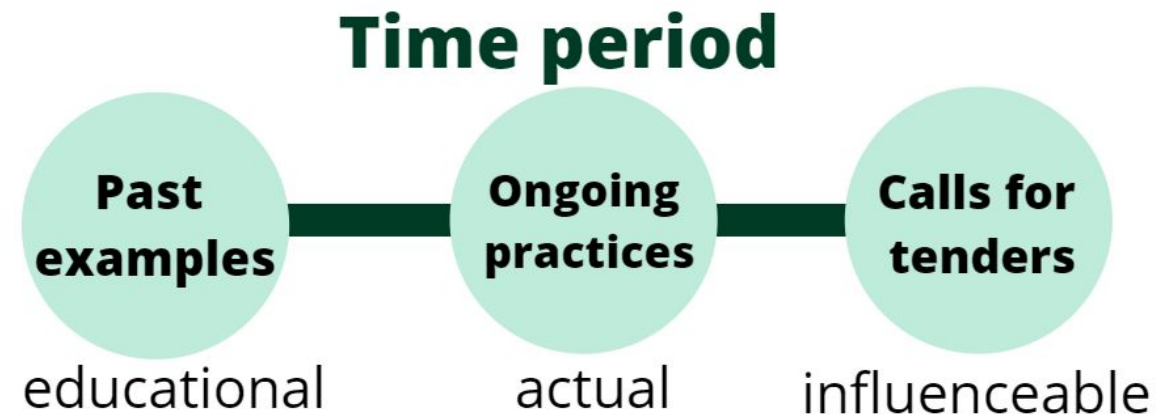
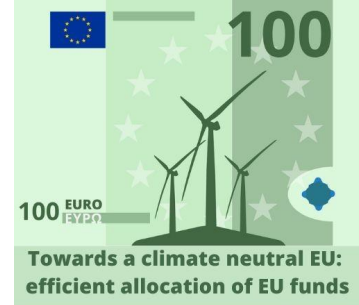


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# Best Practice Database

- Project Goal: highlight best practices and lessons learnt, and widely disseminate these observations
- Content: short description, policy recommendations, sources
- Any interested citizen or organization can submit examples
- 2023 target: >250 examples
- **Criteria: interesting, educational, valid and constructive**
- Any measure can be submitted that has an effect on EU funding, including policies, legislations as well as programmes and projects.

<https://www.ceeweb.org/eufunds/best-practices.php>



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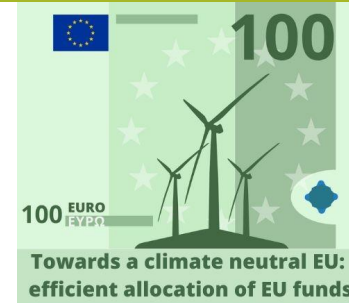


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# Slovenia

ZERO500 (MFF 14-20) :  
investment grants for energy poor households

- EkoSklad (public env. fund) provides soft loans and small grants to households, municipalities and SMEs
- With these instruments it is hard to reach energy poor households
- Additional EU funding used to provide larger grants for energy renovation of buildings with (energy) poor households (pilot with 500 households)



EKO SKLAD

SLOVENSKI OKOLJSKI  
JAVNI SKLAD

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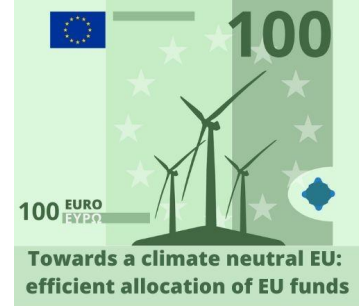
# Slovenia

## Wastewater treatment (NRRP)

Under the NRRP a call for wastewater treatment has been formed and published

The call specifically targets “grey areas” where support for wastewater treatment has not been available in the past (only areas with less than 2000 PE are eligible)

The call is a positive move forward since it provides support where it is needed and has not been provided so far.



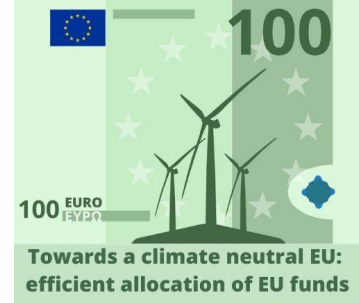
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# Slovenia

# BAU



Mistake(s) to avoid:

setting weak decarbonisation criteria for subsidies for investments into productivity improvements in SMEs (NRRP)

- e.g. only 10% energy and material efficiency improvement
- surveys show that productivity improvements in SMEs already achieve 10-20% EE improvements

misuse of earmarked funding (MFF 14-20)

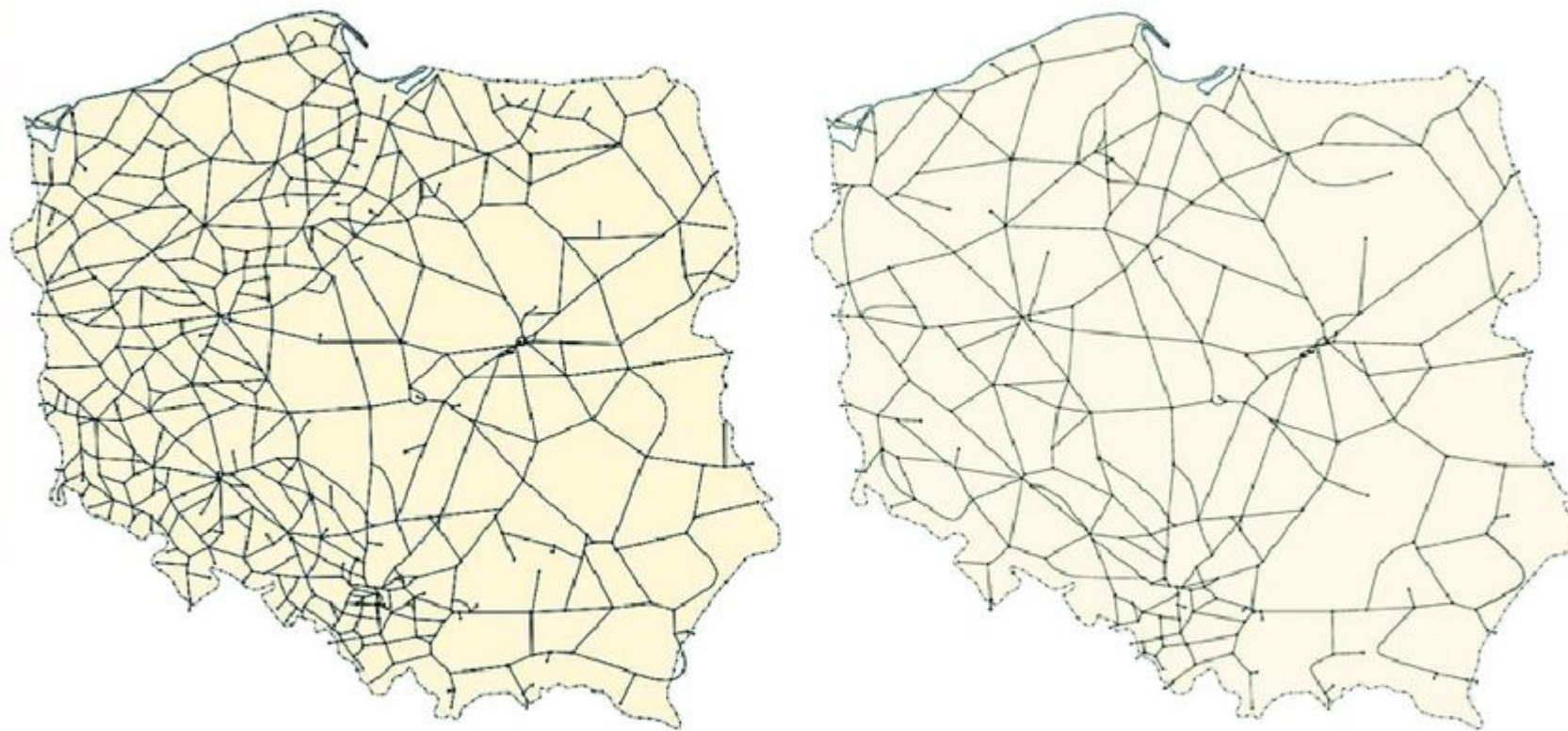
- ex-post assessment showed > 90% of R&D and SME financing earmarked for climate measures were not used for this purpose

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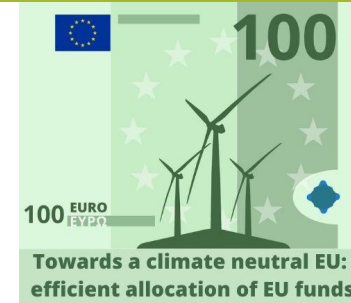


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# Poland



Regression of rail passenger networks, 1988-2008, Źródło: Komusiński s., 2010, Przekształcenia przestrzenne sieci pasażerskiego transportu kolejowego w Polsce w latach 1988– 2008, Prace Komisji Geografii Komunikacji PTG, t. XVII, Warszawa–Rzeszów, s. 25–28; 47–82



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# Poland

## Modernisation of Poznań-Wągrowiec diesel railway line

- Realised 2011-2013
- Financed 50% from ERDF, Regional Operational Program Grater Poland
- Shortened time of travel by 25 min.
  - 40% the actual time

## Result

- Railway line, previously marginalised, became second the most used railway line in Wielkopolska with over 10,5 ths trains yearly



fot. Jakub Roesler, Rynek Kolejowy.pl

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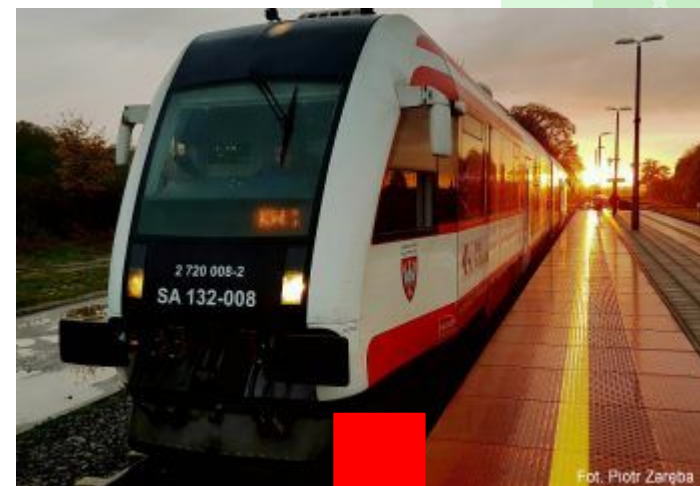
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# Poland

The initial revitalisation opened the way for:

- Rising the number of passengers on the line >50%, leading to...
- Less cars on the road to Poznań (subsequently park&ride facilities had to be built from EU Funding)
- Rising the number of trains in 2018 (train each 30 mins instead of 1 hour) that led to purchase of 4 higher capacity, more efficient trains (from local funding)
- Opening of train service point in Wągrowiec (partly from EU funding)
- Modernisation of Wągrowiec railway station - awarded the best railway station in 2018 (partly from EU funding, station building modernised solely from local funding)
- Plans and EU funding to revitalize actually closed part of the railway line to Szubin, Kcynia and further to Bydgoszcz



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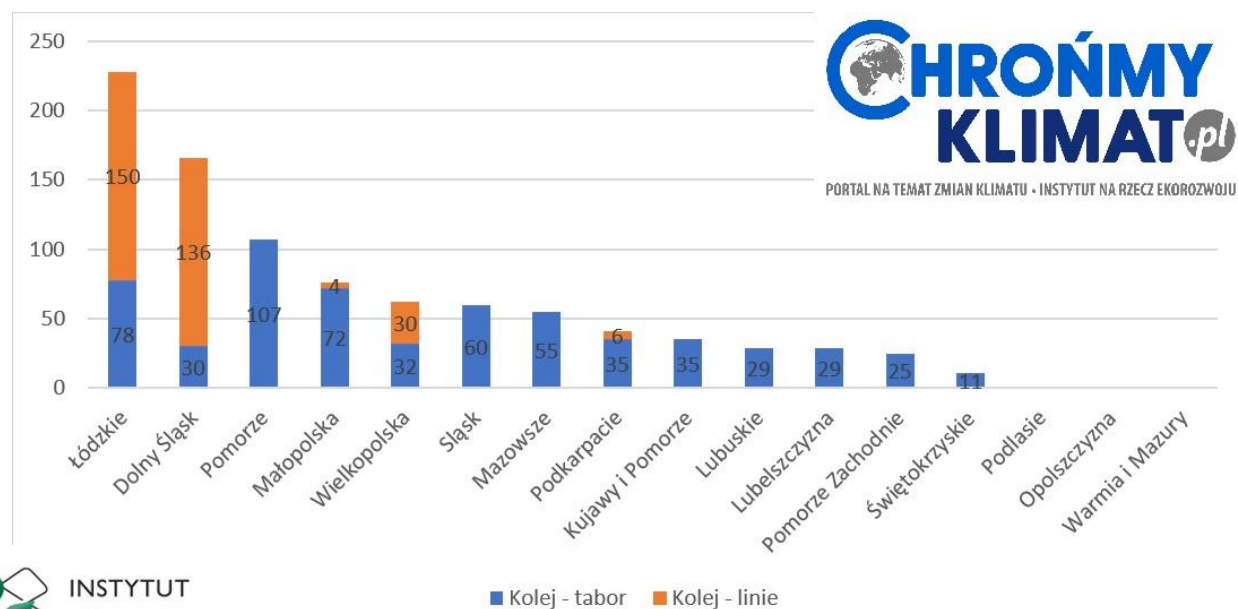


neutral EU:  
of EU funds

# Poland

## Recommendations:

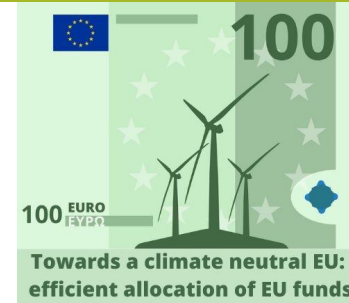
- All new railway modernisations should be a part of a revitalisation packets (railway, trains, stations, communication with local transport and park&ride facilities)
- New modernisations should put more effort to electrify the railway lines
- Polish regions should be more bold in modernisation of railway lines - in 2021-2027 period only 3 regions decided to modernise railway lines



jskie zaplanowane (mln EUR) na transport kolejowy w polskich regionach (stan na 30.03.2022)



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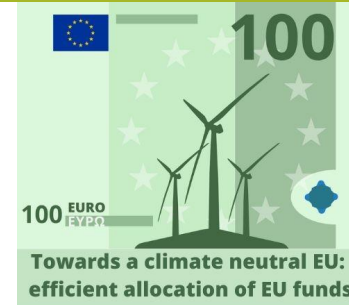
# Bulgaria

## Potential good practice for efficient spending of EU funds - Investment within NRRP: Support for renewable energy for households

The objective of the measure is to increase the use of renewable energy in final energy consumption in the household sector by financing the purchase of new 'best in class' solar systems for domestic hot water and photovoltaic systems.

The measure consists of the financing of two types of measures for the use of renewable energy by households: i) installation of solar systems for domestic hot water supply and ii) installation of photovoltaic systems of up to 10 kWp, including electricity storage.

The investment shall support at least 10 000 households with inefficient solid fuel heat sources for their replacement by 'best in class' solar domestic hot water (DHW) or photovoltaic systems.



## National Recovery and Resilience Plan

OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

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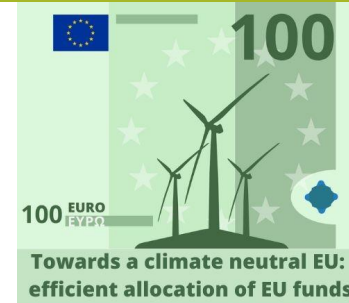
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# Bulgaria

## Potential good practice for efficient spending of EU funds - Investment within NRRP: National Infrastructure for Electricity Storage from RES (RESTORE)

The objective of the investment is to enable a significant increase the share of renewable energy (wind and solar) in the energy mix and ensure the security, stability and readiness of the Bulgarian electricity system.

The investment shall consist of support to install and commission a national infrastructure of grid-scale electricity storage facilities with 6000 MWh of usable energy capacity. The facilities (consisting of batteries, inverters, transformers, power electronics/intelligent electronic devices and control automation) will be distributed around the territory of Bulgaria and located near renewable generating capacity.



## National Recovery and Resilience Plan

OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

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# Bulgaria

## Potential obstacle for efficient spending of EU funds - Investment within NRRP: Digital transformation of the electricity transmission grid

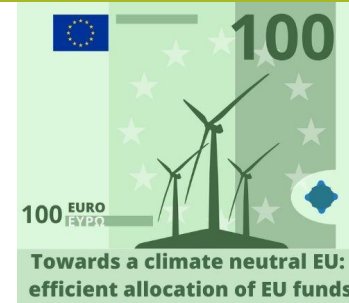
With a number of sub-projects the Electricity System Operator (ESO) would improve its abilities to manage safely and steadily the electricity system operation. As a result of those actions, the conditions and requirements for the technical feasibility of the electricity transmission system shall be met to integrate a cumulative new 4 500 MW of production capacity from renewable sources into the electricity system by 31 March 2026. Also, a cumulative 1 200 MW of additional net interconnection capacity with Romania and Greece compared to the existing available capacity shall be made available to the market by 30 June 2025.

### Risks:

- bad procurement practices that may prolong procedures and implementation time;
- there are already applications for more than 10000 MW of new PV, thus goal already became inadequate to the real demand for network capacity;
- corruption.



Институт за икономическа политика  
Economic Policy Institute



## National Recovery and Resilience Plan

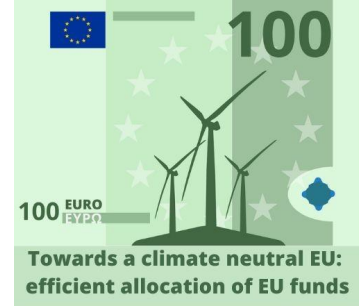
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# Slovakia



## 1. Regional Energy Centers

- Measure addressing key issue related to EU fund spending (bureaucratic - >underspending) included in:
  - NECP
  - new Operational Program draft to be funded from ESIF 2022-2027
- System of energy governance on regional level: Energy planning, EU funds use ... principles of „New EU Bauhaus“ how to optimise energy needs and consumption
- Benefits:
  - EE and RES increase focusing on regions
  - Centers will: coordinate, monitor, analyse, guide ...
  - incl. identification of key investment activities and projects, support with project implementation



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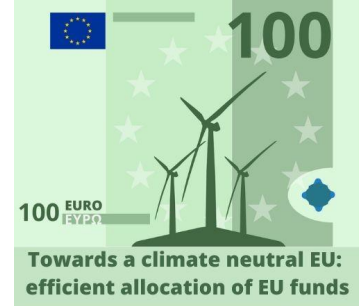


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# Slovakia

## 2. Sustainable transport - Cyklo Transportation in NRRP

- development of low carbon transport infrastructure:
  - RRF total funding: € 700.000.000
  - cyclo transportation: 100 mil. eur (315 mil EUR is amount needed to build 900 km of basic network of cyclopaths in municipalities)
- conditions for success:
  - clear strategy
  - legislation and technical standards need to be updated
  - increase of capacities – municipal and national level (ministry)
  - data analysis related to mobility... build where the potential is (data can be used also for public transportation – cyclo should be connected to railways)



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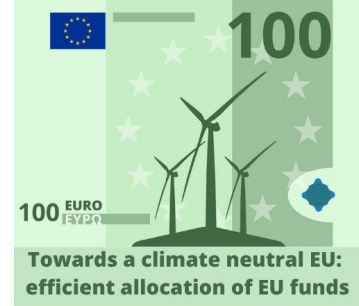
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# Slovakia

## 3. House renovation

- RE „Green light for households“: incentives program
  - ESIF allocation, since 2015, 76 mil - > installment of 36 000 RES
- Last call for projects: 15 mil EUR
  - 5000 households requested, vast majority for heat pumps (next call focusing on solar and photovoltaic)
  - Call was closed in 11 minutes, no money left!
- New ESIF expected 100 mil EUR for RES in households
- NRRF allocation 528 mil EUR, 30 000 houses, “all in one” combination of EE and RES and other measures (e.g.green roofs), vulnerable groups added,

Lessons: more!, easier spending, include deep renovation, focus and adjust for vulnerable groups



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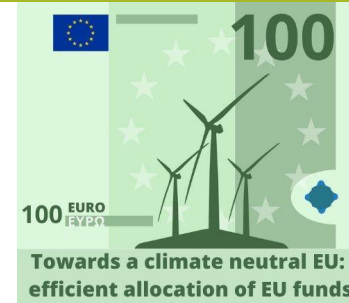
# Romania

## Overview:

A total number of 13 cases on the following thematic area:

- Agriculture, forestry (1)
- Biodiversity protection (5)
- Education (1)
- Energy efficiency (1)
- Tourism (1)
- Transport (3)
- Waste management (1)

Area: local, regional, national.



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# Romania

## 1. Improvement of the conservation status of the bison species in the Vânători-Neamț N.P.

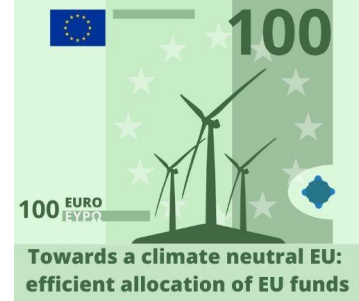
Thematic area: biodiversity protection. Area: regional.

Duration: March 2007 – March 2013.

Budget: 200,000 EUR, source: ERDF&CF (OP Environment 2007–2013).

Achieved goals:

- assuring the conservation of the bison, an umbrella species for the NP.
- elaboration of a management model for the park.
- building a successful brand and infrastructure.



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# Romania

## 2. The green line of public transport in Sibiu Municipality

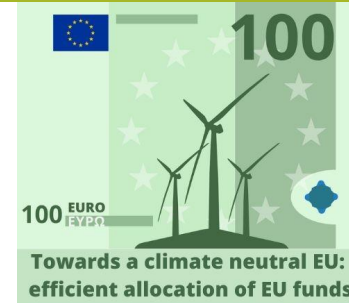
Thematic area: transport. Area: local.

Duration: November 2017 – June 2021.

Budget: 11,450,000 EUR, source: ERDF 7,660,000 EUR (67%).

Achieved goals:

- green line in the historical city center (5 minibuses, 6 charging stations, 6 ticket selling machines).
- after successful start: 13 stops extended to 22 stops.
- following the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan for 2016–2030.
- overall: no emissions and sound pollution, alternative transport for residents and better city image.



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# Romania

## 3. Management of biodegradable waste in Baia Mare Municipality

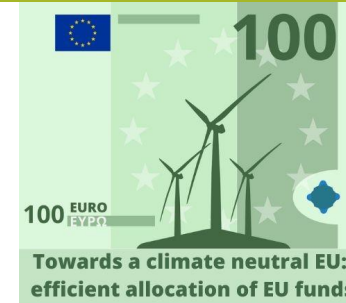
Thematic area: waste management. Area: local.

Duration: September 2013 – June 2015.

Budget: 442,355.5 EUR, source: ENPI&ENI 398,120.85 EUR (90%).

Achieved goals:

- cross-border cooperation between Baia Mare (RO), Ivano-Frankiysk (UKR), Kolomyia (UKR).
- modern and efficient system for the recycling of biodegradable waste materials resulting from the maintenance of municipal green spaces.
- creation of infrastructure, investment into machines and hiring staff



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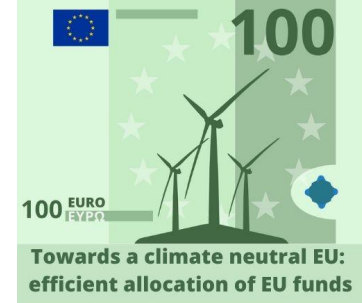
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# Latvia

## Solar thermal district heating system at Salaspils

Best practice since 2019 [www.salaspilssiltums.lv](http://www.salaspilssiltums.lv)

Totals costs 7.3 MEUR, 2.3 MEUR from Cohesion Fund



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# Latvia

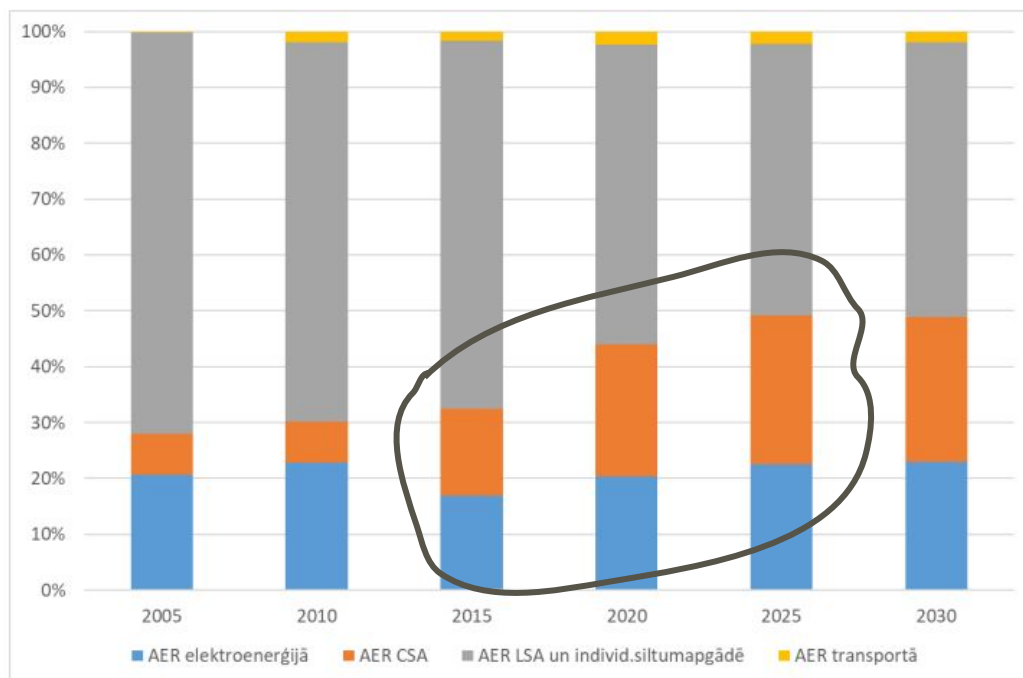
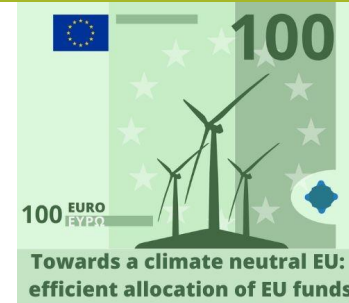


Figure 15. Indicative development projections of the division of the share of RE until 2030<sup>57</sup> (%)

## Investments in decarbonising heating systems

Increasing role of forest biomass

About 150 MEUR in 2014-2020.

Lastest EU2020 funds programme launched this spring - 69M EUR available, 72 project applications.

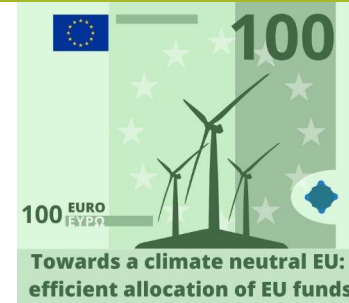


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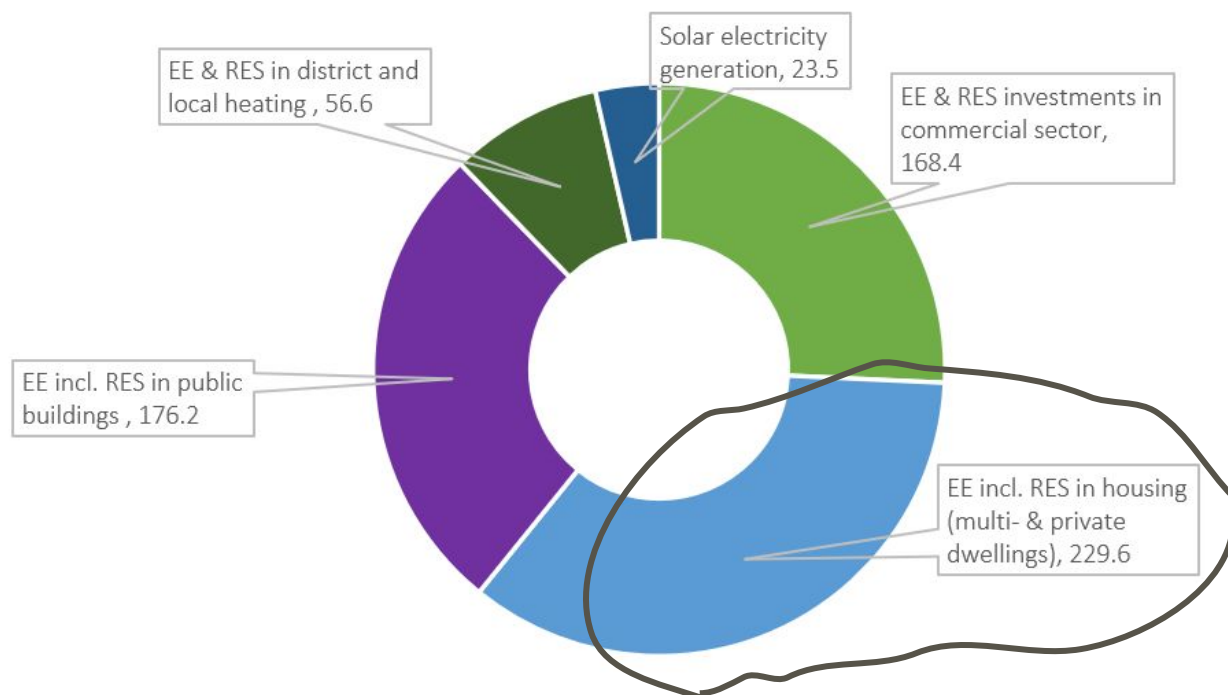


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# Latvia



EU funds for energy efficiency & renewables,  
2021 - 2027 (EUR , millions)



## Preparation of the new renovation programme

Main challenge: increasing the rate of energy efficiency measures. 230 MEUR.

Governance, participation, and funding barriers

Information campaigns: “Live Warmer” & Riga Energy Agency initiatives

DATA: [Ministry of Economics](#), 2022

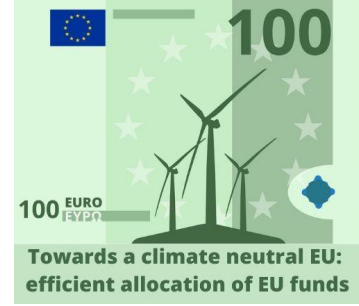


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# Czech Republic



## New green for savings programme

- energy savings and GHG emissions reductions through increased energy efficiency in family houses and apartment buildings

*2009 – 2010 Green for savings programme*

revenues from sale of emission credits under the Kyoto protocol on GHG

*2014 – 2021 New green for savings programme*

revenues from the sale of EU allowances (EUA and EUAA)

*2021 – 2030 New green for savings programme*

financed from the (NRRP), from 2026 onwards from the sale of emission allowances or MF

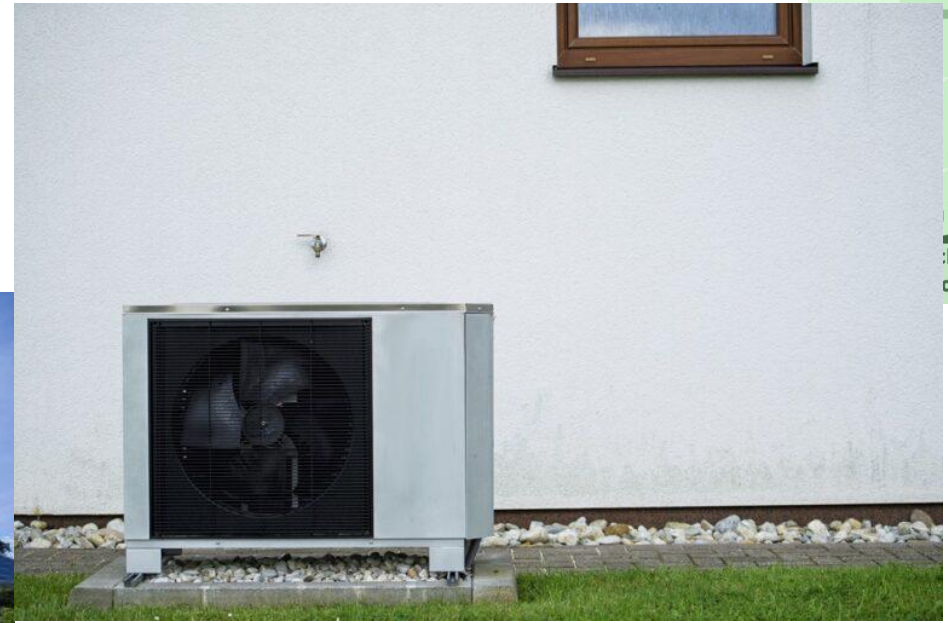


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# Czech Republic

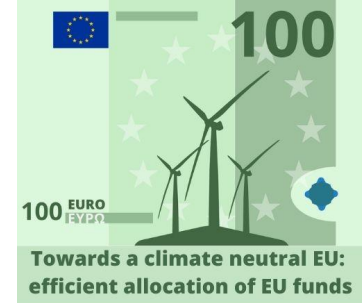
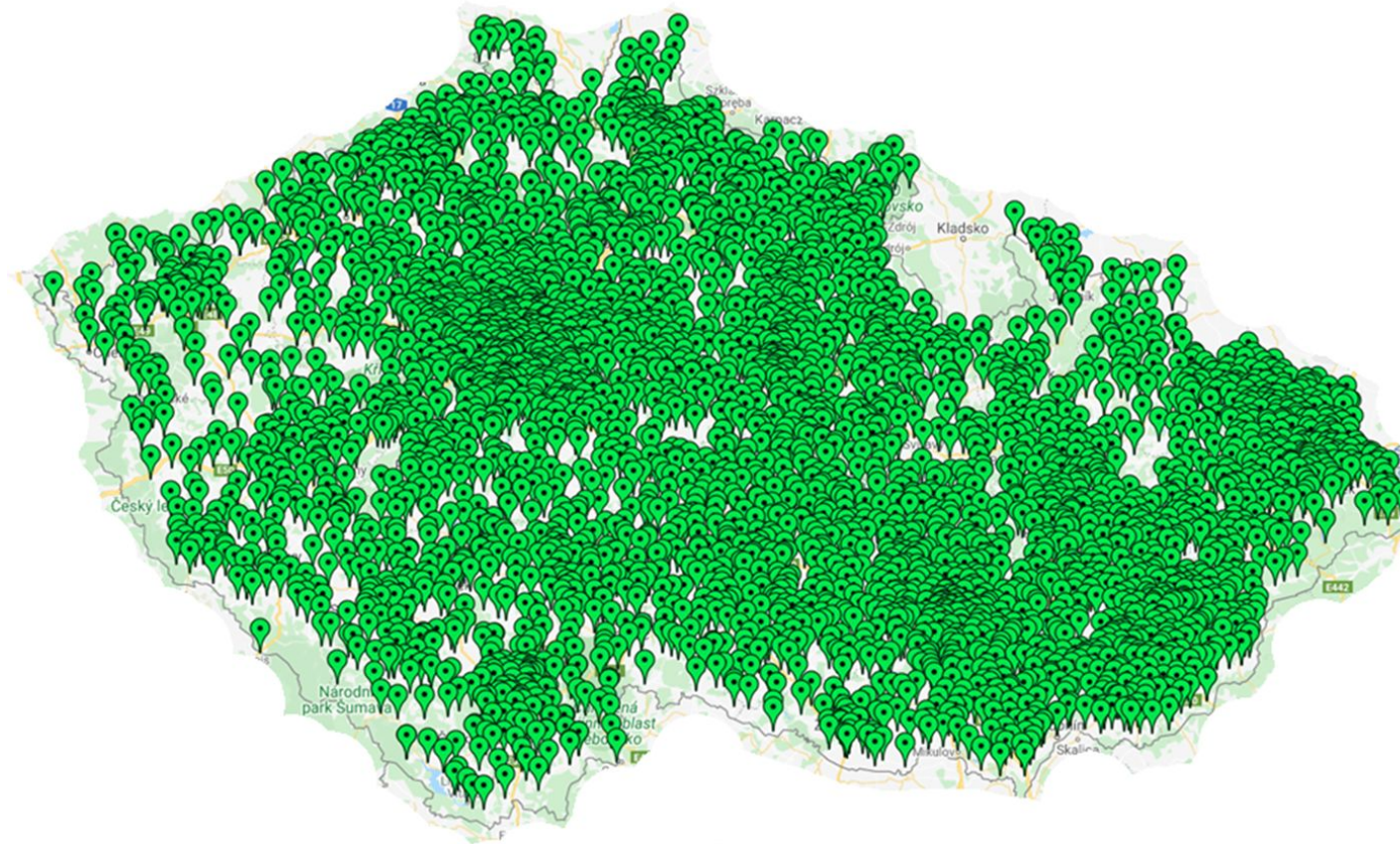


# Czech Republic

2014 – 2021

74 000  
beneficiaries

EUR 649 mil.



Source: State Environmental Fund of the Czech Republic



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# Czech Republic

## *2021 – 2030 New green for savings programme*

Programme allocation = EUR 1.578 bilion

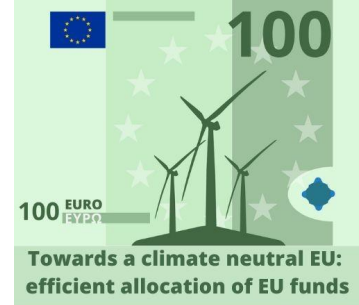
- EUR 769 million from the NRRP
- + approx. EUR 162 million/year from 2026 onwards from auctioning of emission allowances or the Modernisation Fund

### Allocation of resources

Renovation and construction of family and apartment buildings - EUR 405 million

Replacement of non-compliant heat sources with RES sources and separate RES installations - EUR 344 million

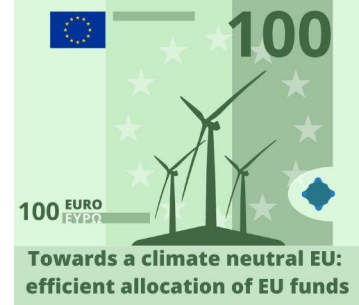
Support for environmental education and awareness - EUR 20 million



# Czech Republic

## Summary

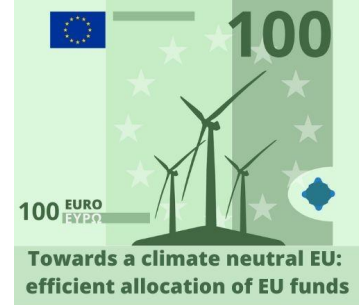
- Well known and popular programme
- Exclusion of fossil fuel projects
- The overall allocation should be increased



# Czech Republic

## Electrification of railways

- financed by the NRRP
- started in 2020, expected to be completed by mid 2024
- aim: to increase the share of non-fossil energy for transport
- total allocation: **CZK 6.716 bil. (EUR 272 mil.)**

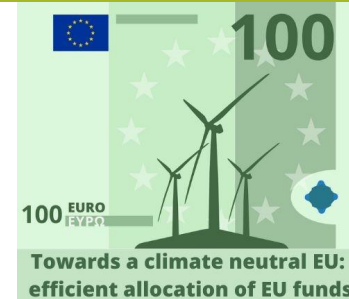


# Hungary

## LIFE-MICACC 2017-2021

- Budget: 2,546,783 € (60% EU funding)
- **ecosystem-based** natural water retention measures (NWRM).
- 5 pilot projects in small, rural municipalities
- **Cost-effectiveness** and **long-term economic sustainability** in focus
- **Local municipalities** being key actors

**An exception compared to trends:** oversized hard-engineering solutions, financially unsustainable, centrally distributed developments, deterioration of natural conditions of lakes and wetlands, conservative water management practices (drainage)



(picture source: [vizmeqtartomegoldasok.bm.hu/](http://vizmeqtartomegoldasok.bm.hu/))

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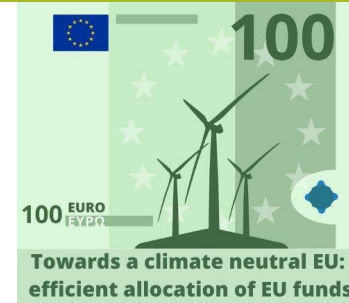
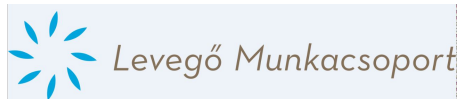


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# Hungary

## Residential photovoltaic systems and heating electrification, RRF 2021-2027

- Budget: ~530 mil € (80% EU funding)
- 100% non-refundable
- 45,000 households
- PV or PV+heating electrification
- No energy efficiency improving measures are supported or required
- Requirement: income  $\leq$  2020 annual mean per capita income



picture source: /www.napelemek.org

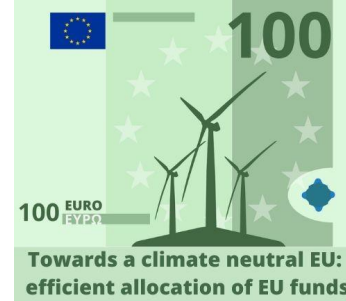
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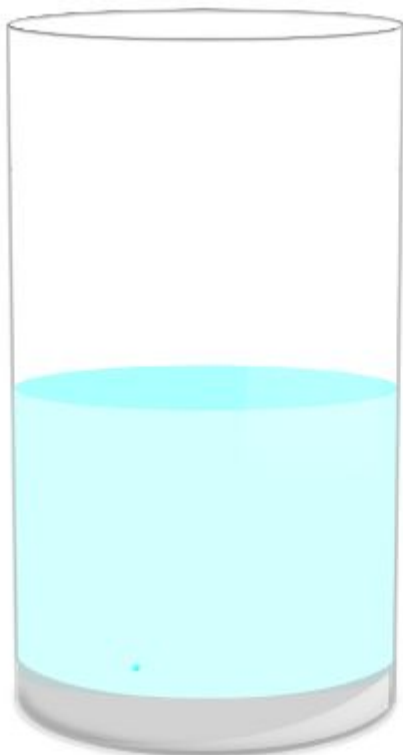
# Hungary

Residential photovoltaic systems and heating electrification, RRF  
2021-2027



## Half full

Increasing the share of renewable energy



## Half empty

Energy efficiency first!

- >50% of Hungarian households in need of renovation

Energy poverty not addressed

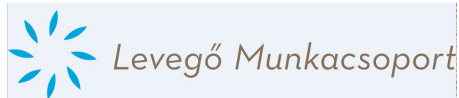
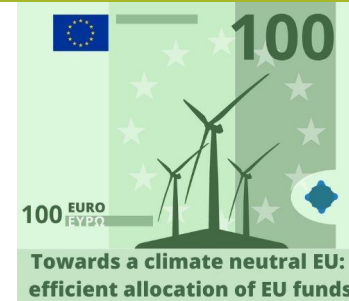
- „too favorable” for affluent people
- impact of the boom of applications on capacity & prices

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# Hungary

## Mistake to avoid: EIB loan for Budapest Airport development without EIA and public consultations

- Budget: **463 million €** loan (EU: 43%)
- start: 2018
- Forecast: 15 → 21 million million passengers per year, **50% increase in air traffic by 2030**
- **No Environmental Impact Assessment**  
→ increased GHG emissions, impact on air pollution, noise pollution, and on the market value of neighbouring homes not addressed
- project **divided into sub-projects**, approved in advance



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# Hungary

## Mistake to avoid: EIB loan for Budapest Airport development without EIA and public consultations

2020: NGOs issued a complaint to EIB →

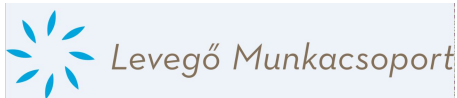
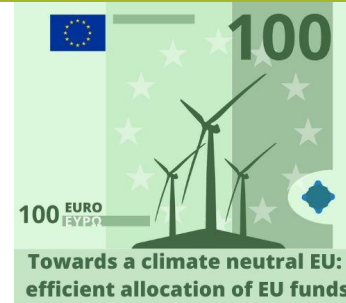
*EIB compliance review findings:*

**failure to assess climate, noise and air pollution impact,  
failure to involve local stakeholders in public consultations**

*Other recommendations:*

**enforce the “polluter pays” principle**

**division of a de facto huge project into smaller ones and  
thereby avoid EIA**



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# You can also contribute



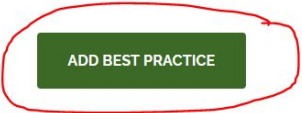
office@ceeweb.org / +36 1 398 0135 / f t y in

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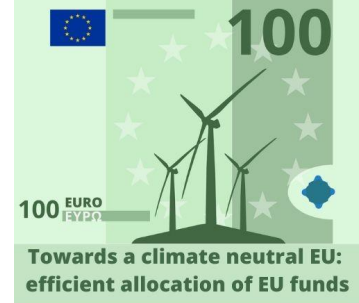
## TOWARDS A CLIMATE NEUTRAL EU: EFFICIENT ALLOCATION OF EU FUNDS

ABOUT / PROJECT PARTNERS / EUROPEAN CLIMATE INITIATIVE (EUKI) / NEWS / PUBLICATIONS / USEFUL LINKS / **BEST PRACTICE DATABASE**



### BEST PRACTICE DATABASE

This database intends to be a collection of best practices and avoidable mistakes related to EU funding. Any interested citizen or organisation can submit here best practices or examples with lessons learnt after a simple registration. The input will be made public only after an approval and



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## Add a best practice to the database (asterix \* denotes required fields)

Submitter name \*

Submitter organisation

Submitter email \*

Submitter website (if any)

Source of information \*

Best practice language \*

Please choose a language ▾

Country \*

Please choose a country ▾

Area \*

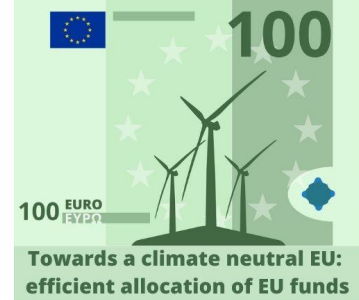
Please choose an area ▾

Thematic area \*

Please choose a thematic area ▾

Best practice title \*

Best practice content \*



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