ComActivate

Enabling community action for energy sufficiency

D6.7 AfterLIFE Plan

Exploitation and replication activities – international and EU

BPIE



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List of abbreviations

BG	Bulgaria
BPIE	Buildings Performance Institute Europe
BRP	Building Renovation Passport
CE	Central Europe
CEE	Central and Eastern Europe
CET	Clean Energy Transition (LIFE sub-programme)
CINEA	European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency
CSO	Civil society organisation
CV	Curriculum vitae
D	Deliverable (e.g. D6.7)
DE	German
DG ENER	Directorate-General for Energy (European Commission)
DHW	Domestic hot water
DNSH	Do No Significant Harm
EC	European Commission
EE	Energy efficiency
EN	English
EnEffect	Center for Energy Efficiency EnEffect (Bulgaria)
ENERPOV	Energy poverty (LIFE Clean Energy Transition topic and related indicators)
EP	European Parliament
EPBD	Energy Performance of Buildings Directive
ESCO	Energy Service Company

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ETS2	Emissions Trading System 2
EU	European Union
EU PEERS	European Community of One-Stop-Shops for Home Energy Renovation (LIFE project)
FIDESZ	Fidesz – Hungarian Civic Alliance (political party)
GHG	Greenhouse gas
GIS	Geographic information system
GWh	Gigawatt-hour
HFH	Habitat for Humanity
HFHI	Habitat for Humanity International
HOA	Homeowners' association
HU	Hungary
IWO	Housing Initiative for Eastern Europe (Initiative Wohnungswirtschaft Osteuropa)
KPI	Key Project-level Indicator
LCA	Lithuanian Consumers Alliance
LED	Light-emitting diode
LIFE	EU programme for the environment and climate action
LRA	Local and regional authority
LT	Lithuania
M	Month of the project (e.g. M34)
MFAB	Multi-family apartment building
MoV	Means of verification
MRI	Metropolitan Research Institute
NB	Nota bene

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NBRP	National Building Renovation Plan
NESR	Neighbourhood Energy Sufficiency Roadmap
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NHFHI	Nadácia Habitat for Humanity International
OSS	One-stop shop
PPP	Public-private partnership
PV	Photovoltaic
RC	Resource Centre
RES	Renewable energy source
SCP	Social Climate Plan
SECAP	Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan
SO	Specific Objective (e.g. SO2)
T	Task (e.g. T6.2)
tCO2	Tonnes of carbon dioxide
UAB	Uždaroji akcinė bendrovė (Lithuanian private limited company)
WP	Work Package
BUILD UP	European Commission knowledge platform on building performance
SCF	Social Climate Fund
SMART	Specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound

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Introduction

Project objectives

The overarching objective of the project is to ensure the energy sufficiency of vulnerable people living in multi-family apartment buildings (MFABs) in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) by enabling the implementation of neighbourhood-level best practice in clean energy production, consumption and efficiency measures. The overall objective of achieving energy sufficiency is about determining how energy-poor communities living in MFABs in CEE can reduce their energy wastage (through energy efficiency measures) and access sufficient and secure levels of affordable, clean energy (including through self-generation/community-generation) to alleviate energy poverty and bring their buildings in line with neutrality objectives. The project consortium has been working towards the achievement of the overall objective via six specific objectives:

1. Project coordination and collaboration: **To ensure the efficient and collaborative delivery of the project activities and budget across countries, the monitoring and evaluation of effectiveness, and the cohesion and added value of the consortium in responding to the challenge.**

2. Resource Centre (RC) institutionalisation: **To develop, demonstrate and build capacity for the sustainable operation of four RCs, as solutions for tackling energy poverty, in vulnerable neighbourhoods in Bulgaria, Hungary and Lithuania.**

3. Neighbourhood Energy Sufficiency Roadmaps: **To develop, demonstrate and co-create innovative Neighbourhood Energy Sufficiency Roadmaps (NESRs) for energy-poor MFAB neighbourhoods in three vulnerable municipalities in Bulgaria, Hungary and Lithuania.**

4. RC support services: To build the knowledge and capacity of MFAB homeowners' association (HOA) managers, communities, and other stakeholders on energy efficiency and renewable energy opportunities, in four municipalities in Bulgaria, Hungary and Lithuania.

5. Multi-stakeholder policy and investment dialogue: **To co-create and contribute to national/regional/EU enabling policy and financial environment for RC sustainability and NESR implementation**

6. Communications, dissemination and exchange to ensure sustainability, replication and exploitation: **To promote and support the sustainability, replication and exploitation of RC institutionalisation and NESR at the national, regional and EU level.**

Purpose of the AfterLIFE Plan

The AfterLIFE Plan describes how stakeholders are encouraged and supported to exploit the project results during the project and sets out recommendations for exploitation after the project ends. The AfterLIFE plan will, for example, describe how project results can be used for further research, and

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how exploitable materials from WP2, WP3, and WP4 and dedicated exploitation materials developed as part of T6.2 can be disseminated and kept available for relevant stakeholders after the project ends. Together, these deliverables and milestones support effective exploitation during and after the project.

The Sustainability, Exploitation and Replication Strategy was used as the guiding document to feed into the AfterLIFE Plan due at the end of the project. Further, through the project, partners have been prompted and reminded to complete a "reflection template" upon finalising a deliverable; these forms outline key dissemination, exploitation, and replication results, other lessons learned, and recommendations for future work and next steps. Responses to the reflection templates have been assessed as part of developing this AfterLIFE Plan to assess how project partners and interested external stakeholders can learn from ComActivate to exploit and replicate results for future projects and endeavours. Nine responses were received (between July 2024 and August 2026), covering D2.1, D2.2, D3.1, D3.2, D4.1, D4.2, D4.4, D5.5 and the Kaišiadorys District Municipality training on effective communication with residents. Their takeaways are reflected in the 'Beyond the project' text for the relevant outputs and in the sections on institutional sustainability, financial sustainability, replication (including lessons learned) and continued dissemination. As responses were not submitted for every deliverable, they illustrate rather than comprehensively represent partners' views.

Project achievements

Main outputs

WP2

D2.1 Inventory of Resource Centre models and typologies

This publication analyses six successful one-stop shop (OSS) models from across Europe to identify the factors that contribute to effective community support for residential building renovation. Drawing on practical case studies, it explores governance models, financing approaches, stakeholder engagement and service delivery, providing municipalities and practitioners with evidence-based guidance for establishing local RCs. The report also provided the conceptual foundation for the Resource Centres established through ComActivate.

Beyond the project

The publication will remain freely available through the ComActivate website and partner organisations after the project has ended. It provides a practical reference for municipalities, policymakers and organisations seeking to establish or strengthen OSS under the recast Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD). Researchers and practitioners can also use the report to compare emerging RC models and build upon the lessons identified through the six case studies. In its reflection, the lead partner highlighted that the report's key messages, which are summarised under institutional sustainability below, are aimed at policymakers at regional, national and EU level and apply most directly where an owner-occupied condominium sector exists. Partners plan to keep discussing them in workshops, conferences and bilateral meetings with local policymakers.

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D2.2 Baseline report on the state-of-the-art Resource Centres in the demonstration sites

This baseline report assesses the conditions for establishing and strengthening RCs in the ComActivate demonstration sites in Bulgaria, Hungary and Lithuania. It examines the local building stock, policy and financing frameworks, stakeholder landscape, and the barriers and opportunities affecting residential renovation. The report provides a detailed understanding of local contexts and an evidence base for designing Resource Centres that respond to community needs and support energy-efficient renovation.

Beyond the project

The report offers valuable insights for municipalities and organisations seeking to establish similar one-stop support services for residential renovation. By documenting the enabling conditions and local challenges across different contexts, it provides a foundation for adapting the RC model to other regions facing comparable barriers to energy-efficient renovation. Partners' reflections add that the survey and questionnaire that were used to inform the report's development can be adopted by other organisations running similar projects, adapted to study the needs of specific groups such as vulnerable populations, and applied beyond ComActivate's thematic scope; as the underlying data changes slowly, the findings are expected to stay relevant for several years. The Lithuanian partners noted that data on the energy efficiency situation and surveys of residents' opinions and behaviour are often unavailable, and that pilot municipalities, which can only provide their own data, needed substantial support from the research partner, which others replicating the study should anticipate.

D2.3–D2.5 Sustainability, business and investment plans for the operation of the local Resource Centres

These reports present sustainability, business and investment plans for the four RCs established through ComActivate in Burgas, Budapest-Józsefváros, Elektrėnai and Kaišiadorys with a horizon of 2030. Building on local analysis of housing stock, institutional arrangements, funding opportunities and stakeholder needs, the reports identify practical pathways for ensuring that the RCs can continue operating beyond the lifetime of the project. Together, they demonstrate how locally embedded support structures can contribute to delivering national and European renovation objectives while responding to the needs of vulnerable households.

Beyond the project

The plans provide a practical roadmap for municipalities operating the pilot RCs and can continue to guide local decision-making as renovation programmes evolve, taking into account different possible scenarios. More broadly, they offer a replicable model for other municipalities seeking to establish sustainable OSS under the EPBD. Their recommendations on governance, financing, staffing and community engagement remain relevant as Member States implement National Building Renovation Plans (NBRPs) and the Social Climate Fund (SCF).

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D2.6 Transferability report on Resource Centre implementation

The Transferability Report documents the lessons learned from establishing and operating the ComActivate RCs, identifying the factors that support successful implementation in different local contexts. It calls attention to the contextual factors that are decisive in making the RCs successful organisations, while also providing practical tips on how to increase the efficiency of RC operation.

Beyond the project

The report provides practical recommendations for municipalities and organisations interested in replicating the RC model elsewhere in Central and Eastern Europe, helping to facilitate wider uptake beyond the project's pilot areas.

WP3

D3.1 Report of existing approaches for Individual Refurbishment Roadmaps for residential buildings with samples from each implementing country for MFABs

This report reviews existing approaches to long-term renovation planning for residential buildings, with a particular focus on building renovation passports and Individual Refurbishment Roadmaps. Drawing on examples from across Europe, it examines how these tools guide homeowners through staged renovation, financing opportunities and decision-making, while identifying common implementation challenges and good practices. The findings provide the basis for adapting individual renovation planning approaches to the neighbourhood scale within ComActivate.

Beyond the project

The report is a practical reference for policymakers, municipalities and practitioners seeking to develop or improve renovation roadmaps. By highlighting successful European examples and lessons learned, it supports the wider adoption of effective planning tools for energy-efficient building renovation beyond the ComActivate project. Partners' reflections note that, as renovation passports are referred to in the EPBD and Member States are required to implement them, the findings can be replicated across all EU countries. Splitting renovation into individual measures also makes step-by-step renovation, and therefore financing, more feasible for homeowners. Partners recommend developing an example for each country and demonstrating it to professionals who work with homeowners, such as associations of planners, energy auditors and housing managers, while continuing to discuss with local, regional and national stakeholders which examples suit their context and what is still needed to introduce such a system.

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D3.2 Collection of good practices of district renovation concepts and individual refurbishment roadmaps

This report presents good practice examples of neighbourhood renovation approaches that informed the development of NESRs within the ComActivate project. It explores integrated approaches to neighbourhood renovation, examining how energy efficiency measures can be combined with wider considerations such as infrastructure, mobility, land use and stakeholder engagement. Through a series of case studies, the report highlights practical examples that support the development of tailored renovation strategies in the project's demonstration sites.

Beyond the project

The report provides municipalities, urban planners and other practitioners with practical inspiration for developing integrated neighbourhood renovation strategies. By showcasing successful approaches from across Europe and identifying the key elements of effective neighbourhood and district planning, it supports the wider uptake of holistic, place-based solutions for reducing energy poverty and improving the energy performance of residential neighbourhoods. The lead partner (IWO) recommends making the good practice examples publicly available as factsheets on the project website, as they can be of interest to municipalities across Europe and beyond, and notes that they include financing and funding schemes that governments and municipalities can use as a blueprint for similar schemes. A key message for municipalities, planners and engineers is that the neighbourhood approach goes beyond a mass renovation of buildings: by also addressing public spaces, mobility and district heating plans, it delivers larger benefits through synergies at neighbourhood scale.

D3.3 Excel databases on the energy efficiency of residential housing stock

This deliverable provides detailed analyses of the residential building stock in Burgas, Budapest-Józsefváros, Elektrėnai and Kaišiadorys, supported by accompanying Excel databases and interactive three-dimensional geographic information system (GIS) models. Together, these resources enable local authorities to assess current building performance, identify renovation priorities, estimate investment needs and evaluate the energy, environmental and economic impacts of different renovation scenarios.

Beyond the project

These datasets provide municipalities with a long-term planning resource that can be updated as local information evolves. They can support future investment planning, inform local renovation strategies, contribute to NBRPs and underpin applications for European and national funding programmes. The accompanying methodology can also be replicated by other municipalities wishing to develop similar building stock databases.

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D3.4 Renewable energy opportunities for neighbourhood energy self-sufficiency

This report assesses how locally available renewable energy sources can contribute to improving the energy self-sufficiency of the four ComActivate pilot neighbourhoods. Taking account of local climate conditions, urban form, existing heating systems and available technologies, it identifies technically feasible renewable energy solutions and estimates the investment required to implement them.

Beyond the project

The report provides municipalities with an evidence base for integrating renewable energy into future neighbourhood renovation strategies. It also offers a practical methodology that other local authorities can adapt when assessing renewable energy opportunities within their own residential building stock.

D3.5 Roadmaps for energetic upgrading of districts in selected neighbourhoods

The four NESRs are locally tailored plans for tackling energy poverty and improving the energy performance of MFABs in ComActivate's pilot areas: Vazrazhdane in Burgas (Bulgaria), the Magdolna, Orczy and Losonci quarters of Józsefváros in Budapest (Hungary), and the central areas of Elektrėnai and Kaišiadorys (Lithuania). Each roadmap sets out where a neighbourhood stands today and where it wants to be, combining a technical survey of the local building stock with an assessment of energy vulnerability and local housing, funding and socio-economic conditions. Each then sets a vision, goals and an action plan with responsibilities for delivery.

The roadmaps rest on two pillars: energy efficiency and energy sufficiency, meaning that no household falls below a decent level of energy while unnecessary energy use is avoided. Each also includes a communication and outreach framework for reaching residents, particularly vulnerable households, and describes the role of the local RC in supporting delivery. The Lithuanian roadmaps also draw on a resident well-being survey on shared spaces.

Beyond the project

The roadmaps can continue to serve as working planning tools for the four municipalities. They can be formally adopted by the councils and linked to existing climate, heating and cooling, and urban development plans. They give the local RCs a clear role in implementation. The building-level data and priorities can also support funding applications, for example under national renovation programmes or the SCF, and help municipalities coordinate renovation with heating and electricity network planning. The action plans are designed to be reviewed and updated as conditions and funding change, and each roadmap includes at least ten years of monitoring after the works. Beyond the pilots, the methodology is transferable.

Other municipalities can follow the ComActivate *Guidelines for Developing NESRs* (see below) to develop their own roadmaps, and the problems the roadmaps flag that municipalities can't solve alone, such as eligibility rules or loan conditions, can give national policymakers evidence from the local level.

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D3.6 Toolbox of guidelines and training materials

The toolkit is a practical guide to engaging residents in neighbourhood energy transitions, drawing on three years of work in Burgas, Józsefváros, Elektrėnai and Kaišiadorys while developing the roadmaps. It brings together tools and lessons on building trust, reaching under-represented residents, particularly energy-poor households and vulnerable groups, and making technical renovation plans understandable. It also covers adapting engagement methods to different social groups. It offers a structured but adaptable approach to planning, delivering and sustaining engagement, and is aimed at community engagement coordinators and practitioners in municipalities, OSS and other institutions.

Beyond the project

The toolbox will serve as a practical resource for RCs, municipalities and other organisations interested in applying the ComActivate approach in new contexts. The pilot municipalities and RCs can keep applying it as they carry their roadmaps into delivery, and other local actors can use it to make engagement a routine part of renovation and neighbourhood planning, not an add-on. It also works alongside the NESR Guidelines, which refer readers to it for guidance on engaging communities.

D6.4 Guidelines for Developing NESRs

This guide, developed jointly by WP3 and WP6, provides a practical, step-by-step framework for anyone developing their first NESR, based on the experience of producing the four ComActivate roadmaps in Burgas, Józsefváros, Elektrėnai and Kaišiadorys. It is intended for municipal staff, Resource Centre teams and homeowners' associations (HOAs). It should be adapted to local conditions rather than completed as a template. It covers building a neighbourhood profile and carrying out a technical assessment, using guiding questions to identify and prioritise problems, setting a vision and SMART goals, and turning those goals into an action plan with clear responsibilities and timelines. It explains the two pillars of a roadmap, energy efficiency and energy sufficiency, and the role of an RC in carrying the roadmap into delivery. It also shows how the same approach can extend beyond housing to energy, mobility and public and green spaces.

Beyond the project

The guidelines are designed to outlast the project. Any municipality or local organisation, in or beyond Central and Eastern Europe, can use them to develop its own roadmap without starting from scratch, including as a practical way to put the neighbourhood approach promoted by the recast EPBD into practice. Because the framework asks users to set priorities against urgency and feasibility, keep a watch list of issues that can't yet be tackled, and review goals at regular intervals, a roadmap can be updated as funding and priorities change and later extended to other neighbourhoods and sectors.

D6.4 Guidelines for Developing NESRs

This guide, developed jointly by WP3 and WP6, explains how to build an interactive 3D map of a neighbourhood's building stock, showing each building's shape and size alongside its heating system and energy needs, potential energy and cost savings, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and insulation quality, both as they are now and after renovation; the same methodology described in the

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guidebook was used to model all four ComActivate pilot areas. It is written so that a user with no GIS experience, such as a municipal planner or energy officer, can follow it independently. It walks through the full process: accessing the web map and its layers, editing existing building features, drawing new buildings and entering the mandatory height data, and viewing the resulting 3D models. Two prerequisites apply: a contributor licence for the mapping platform, and an existing analysis of the building stock to supply the parameters.

Beyond the project

Because the workflow relies on a standard, widely available GIS platform and a repeatable set of steps, other municipalities can adopt it to plan energy renovation without specialist staff or bespoke software. Once a model exists, it can help a municipality compare buildings, identify the highest-need areas and target limited renovation funds at them, and communicate the scale of proposed interventions to stakeholders and residents. The pilot municipalities can also keep the models up to date as renovations are completed and use them to revise their roadmaps, although their long-term value depends on keeping the platform licence, the data and the maintenance in place.

WP4

D4.1 Capacity Building Programme for stakeholders

This publication presents the overall framework for strengthening the knowledge and skills of municipalities, HOAs and other stakeholders involved in renovating multi-family apartment buildings. It provides guidance on assessing training needs, identifying target audiences, designing learning objectives and developing tailored training programmes that respond to local circumstances.

Beyond the project

The programme can continue to support municipalities, training providers and organisations delivering capacity-building activities beyond ComActivate. Its structured approach can be adapted for future renovation programmes, ensuring that knowledge and skills continue to develop alongside evolving policy and financing frameworks. According to the lead partner's reflection, the methodology for creating training modules can serve as a basis for tailor-made capacity-building programmes in other municipalities in the three pilot countries and in countries with a similar context, such as North Macedonia (where Habitat for Humanity North Macedonia is an Associated Partner of the ComActivate project), provided that training needs are updated, and experts and budgets are identified. Stakeholders who better understand the technical and financial side of renovation are also better able to navigate the financing opportunities offered by their governments.

D4.2 Capacity building materials and training tools

This publication provides practical training materials and facilitation tools to support capacity-building activities for homeowners, HOAs, RC staff, municipalities and other stakeholders involved in residential renovation. The materials are designed to strengthen technical knowledge, communication skills and collaboration across the renovation process.

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Beyond the project

These resources will remain available for future training activities delivered by ComActivate partners and other organisations working in the residential renovation sector. The materials can be updated over time to reflect changes in legislation, funding opportunities and technical developments while continuing to support local capacity-building initiatives. The lead partner notes that the materials can be used in full by any skilled trainer and, later, by RC staff or home energy managers wishing to spread knowledge of the benefits of energy efficiency. Their reflection also noted that chapter two, a manual of training and facilitation techniques and methods, can also be applied outside ComActivate's thematic scope. Feedback from using the materials in practice will be the most useful input for improving them. A further example of local capacity-building is the training on effective communication with residents (building trust, involving residents in decision-making and managing difficult situations) delivered by Kaišiadorys District Municipality. Its balance of theory and practice, with a focus on active participation and skills application, can be used by partners and other organisations to develop and regularly review their own communication strategies.

D4.3 Best practices from Resource Centres

Drawing on experiences from the ComActivate pilot RCs, this report highlights practical approaches to delivering community-based renovation support. It explores successful service models, stakeholder engagement methods, governance arrangements and funding approaches, while identifying key lessons for establishing and sustaining RCs beyond individual project lifetimes.

Beyond the project

The report provides practical guidance for municipalities and organisations seeking to establish similar RCs elsewhere. By documenting lessons learned from the pilot sites, it supports wider replication of community-based renovation support across Europe and complements the implementation of OSS under the EPBD.

D4.4 Set of Services for the Community

This publication defines the range of services that RCs can provide to homeowners, HOAs and local communities throughout the renovation journey. It outlines practical service models covering information provision, technical advice, financial guidance and stakeholder coordination, while demonstrating how service packages can be adapted to different local contexts.

Beyond the project

The report offers a practical operational framework that municipalities and RCs can continue to use and adapt after the project has ended. As local needs evolve and new funding mechanisms become available, the service model can be refined while maintaining its central objective of supporting inclusive, community-driven building renovation. Reflecting on the report, the lead partner (HFHI) notes that its definition of target groups, step-by-step guide to the renovation process and real examples from the pilot countries can be a starting point for setting up or improving RC services in

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other locations, if the steps are adapted to local target groups, funding and retrofitting opportunities. Its awareness-raising tools can also indirectly help RCs keep functioning after the project, thanks to greater awareness of the RC among residents.

WP5

D5.1 EU & National Level Energy Sufficiency Policy Analysis and Monitoring

This report examines the policy frameworks for alleviating energy poverty and the renovation of multi-family apartment buildings at both EU level and in the three ComActivate partner countries: Bulgaria, Hungary and Lithuania. It assesses how existing policies support vulnerable households, with particular attention to the recognition of RCs and NESRs as mechanisms for delivering energy-efficient renovations. The report combines policy mapping with insights into implementation challenges and identifies priorities for strengthening national and EU policy frameworks.

Beyond the project

The report provides policymakers at EU, national and local levels with evidence-based recommendations for improving policies that address energy poverty and building renovation. By highlighting gaps and opportunities across different governance levels, it supports the development of more effective and socially inclusive energy renovation strategies beyond the ComActivate project.

D5.2 Analysis of Gaps and Barriers for Financing Homeowners' Associations and Multi-family Apartment Buildings

This report analyses the financing landscape for HOAs and MFABs in Bulgaria, Hungary and Lithuania, with a particular focus on barriers to financing energy efficiency renovations. It examines the role of development banks, current investment practices and financing regulations, while identifying opportunities to improve access to finance for renovation projects that contribute to tackling energy poverty.

Beyond the project

The report provides valuable insights for policymakers, financial institutions and development banks seeking to improve financing mechanisms for residential renovation. Its findings support the development of more accessible and effective financial frameworks to accelerate energy-efficient renovation across Central and Eastern Europe.

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D5.3 Bridging the Implementation Gap: 15 Recommendations for National Policymakers to Accelerate Renovation and Alleviate Energy Poverty

This policy report identifies key gaps between EU building policy requirements and their implementation at national level. Drawing on findings from the ComActivate pilot countries, it presents fifteen recommendations to strengthen support for vulnerable households, improve stakeholder participation, promote integrated renovation approaches and establish more accessible and socially targeted funding frameworks. Although informed by experiences in Bulgaria, Hungary and Lithuania, the recommendations are applicable across the EU.

Beyond the project

The report offers practical guidance for national policymakers seeking to translate EU ambitions on energy poverty and building renovation into effective action. By focusing on implementation challenges, it supports the development of more inclusive policies that can accelerate renovation while ensuring vulnerable households are not left behind.

D5.4 Policy Paper on Institutionalisation of Resource Centres and Implementation of Neighbourhood Energy Sufficiency Roadmap

This policy paper argues that RCs and NESRs should become permanent parts of how renovation is delivered, not temporary projects. It draws on the experience of the four pilot municipalities, where the RCs' capacity has depended on short-term project funding, discretionary municipal budgets and irregular national renovation calls. The paper looks at what lets an OSS last, including a place within public institutions, stable funding, staff capacity that follows demand and proactive outreach. It also shows how roadmaps can become part of regular municipal planning. It sets out a blueprint for national governments, covering the legal mandate, financing, predictable renovation programmes and links to data and social services. A second blueprint for municipalities covers adopting a roadmap formally, assigning responsibility and giving the local OSS a role in delivery. Good practice examples from the pilots run throughout.

Beyond the project

The paper is intended to inform decisions after the project closes. National governments can use it as a practical framework as they set up OSS networks and reflect them in their NBRPs under the recast EPBD, and as they use the SCF to finance advisory and renovation support. Municipalities can use the municipal blueprint to embed a roadmap in their council decisions, budgets and existing plans, such as climate and heating and cooling plans, and to give their OSS a formal mandate to support delivery. The pilot municipalities can draw on the paper's recommendations as they seek stable funding for their own RCs once the project ends.

D5.5 Good Practice Report on Enabling Financial Frameworks

This publication presents good practices for developing public-private partnership (PPP) models and financing frameworks that support energy-efficient renovation of privately owned multi-family

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apartment buildings, with a particular focus on energy-poor households. It combines an overview of current PPP approaches with case studies from across Central and Eastern Europe and an analysis of opportunities for expanding private investment in Bulgaria, Hungary and Lithuania.

Beyond the project

The report provides practical guidance for policymakers, financial institutions and project developers interested in establishing financing models that combine public and private investment. By showcasing successful examples and identifying opportunities to unlock private finance, it supports the wider uptake of affordable energy-efficient renovations beyond the ComActivate project. The lead partner (HFHI) reflects that the report can serve as a reference and advocacy tool for partners, RCs, municipalities, NGOs and policymakers in discussions with banks, public authorities and other investors on future renovation financing schemes, with case studies that can be adapted to national circumstances rather than starting from scratch. Its principles could also inform financing for other types of affordable housing, smaller-scale energy improvements or community-based investments. Further research is needed on topics the report could only touch on, notably how renovation financing mechanisms affect women and men differently, impact crowdfunding, municipal Energy Service Company (ESCO) models and renovation-linked financial products.

T6.2 Exploitation and dissemination materials

Throughout the ComActivate project, WP6 developed a comprehensive suite of dissemination and exploitation materials to maximise the visibility, accessibility and long-term uptake of the project's results. This included the ComActivate website, newsletters and social media channels, alongside brochures, posters, roll-up banners, videos, infographics, professionally designed publications and translated policy briefs, creating a consistent online and offline project identity and supporting engagement with policymakers, municipalities, researchers, civil society organisations and other key stakeholders.

Beyond the project

The dissemination and exploitation materials developed through ComActivate will remain publicly available on the project website and partner organisations after the project's completion. The website will continue to host the project's publications and communication materials, ensuring that stakeholders can access key outputs beyond the funded project period. Practical guidance developed through the project, including the Resource Centre methodologies, Neighbourhood Energy Sufficiency Roadmaps and capacity-building resources, will continue to support municipalities, researchers and practitioners implementing the recast EPBD, National Building Renovation Plans and the SCF. By maintaining these resources and making them openly available, the knowledge generated by ComActivate can continue to inform policy development, support future research and facilitate the replication of successful approaches across Central and Eastern Europe.

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Key impacts

ComActivate's main impacts are summarised in the table below, along with the forecast impacts for up to five years after the project ends. Note that the table was prepared in month 34 of the project, when drafting of the AfterLIFE Plan commenced.

Long-term objective (impact) - 5 years post project and contribution by end of project **Specific Objective 1 – To ensure the energy sufficiency of energy-poor citizens in MFAB neighbourhoods in CEE**					
Indicator	Baseline (credibility see 2.2)	Target (credibility see 2.2) (Original text from project start; results may differ as the project scope expanded to four municipalities)	MoV	Status at M34	Long-term impact (5 years post project)
# MFAB dwellings renovated (ENERPOV)	Some buildings have had partial/full energy efficiency renovation, but most of them have not. RES usage is low. Renovation baselines will be established during the project.	Of the 1,531 MFABs targeted: End of project: 8.5% fully renovated (EE) with RES installed. Five years post project: 11.5% fully renovated (EE) with RES installed, 30% fully renovated, and 50% partially renovated.	Detailed energy audits of buildings targeted by the project	Not yet measured – detailed energy audits are scheduled for the end of the project; no interim renovation figures recorded yet.	To ensure the energy sufficiency of energy-poor citizens in MFAB neighbourhoods in CEE
# energy poor consumers benefiting (ENERPOV)	The starting point for this project is zero consumers – the measure of benefit will be change against the baseline above.	Of the 107,608 MFAB residents in target neighbourhoods with warmer/cooler homes, lower energy bills, secure energy supply: End of project: 8.5% Five years post project: 91.5%		Not yet measured – benefit will be assessed via end-of-project energy audits; no interim figures recorded yet.	Warmer, more affordable homes and a secure energy supply for the great majority of MFAB residents in the target neighbourhoods, sustained

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					well beyond project end.
# GWh/year primary and final energy savings (ENERPOV and CET)	The energy currently needed for heating, DHW and lighting for all buildings targeted is: Primary energy 511GWh/year, final energy 422GWh/year.	End of project: Primary energy 33GWh/year, final energy 27GWh/year. Five years post project: Primary energy 352GWh/year, final energy 291GWh/year. Reduction of 44%.		Not yet measured – primary and final energy savings will be quantified through end-of-project energy audits.	Substantial, lasting reductions in primary and final energy demand across the target MFAB neighbourhoods.
# GWh/year of RES generated (ENERPOV and CET)	Energy generated by MFAB residents from RES accounts for 13% (approx. 66GWh/year) average for MFABs in all target countries.	End of project: 96GWh/year, Five years post project: 148GWh/year.		Not yet measured – RES generation will be quantified through end-of-project energy audits.	A significantly higher share of residents' energy needs met by renewable sources, sustained after the project ends.
% GHG emission reduction (LIFE)	The GHG emissions for heating, DHW and lighting are approx. 100,730 tCO2/year.	End of project: 8,562 tCO2/year (5%). Five years post project: 100,727 tCO2/year (58%), after energy efficiency and RES installations		Not yet measured – GHG emission reduction will be quantified through end-of-project energy audits.	A major, durable cut in greenhouse gas emissions from the target building stock, continuing to grow as renovations progress.
€ investment in EE and RES (ENERPOV, CET, LIFE)	The baseline is zero as the calculations will be based on investments triggered by this project discounting any existing investments.	End of project: approx. €31 million. Five years post project: approx. €298 million. About €329 million invested in renovation and introduction of RES, stimulated	Public and private investment schemes	Not yet recorded – investment tracking is ongoing (every 6 months), but no consolidated figure has been logged yet.	The project's demonstration effect keeps unlocking public and private investment in energy efficiency and RES well beyond project end.

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		by the project activities.			
# jobs created (CET)	RCs in target countries have mixed levels of operation	Two additional jobs are created per RC (six in total) as a result of funds secured through the project	Record of finances secured	On track – linked to SO2.2: at least 7 full-time-equivalent posts created across the Resource Centres in Bulgaria, Hungary and Lithuania, against a target of 7; capacity in one Lithuanian location (Elektrėnai) still building up.	Resource Centres remain staffed and operational, sustaining local employment linked to renovation and energy-advice services.
# policies, strategies /adapted (CET)	Zero for this project	Three SECAPs 1-3 national policies per country 1-2 EU policies	Policies containing recommendations	Not yet achieved – none of the targeted SECAPs, national policies or EU policies have been formally adapted yet.	SECAPs and national/EU policies formally embed energy-sufficiency and RC/NESR approaches, anchoring the project's approach in binding local and EU strategy.
# implementation sites (CET)	Zero for this project	3x NESRs 3x 3D modelling of MFAB energy sufficiency use and potential	Documentation from sites	Target achieved – all NESRs and their corresponding 3D models completed for Bulgaria,	NESRs and 3D models continue to be used by municipalities and stakeholders as a reference tool

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				Hungary and Lithuania.	for planning further neighbourhood-level energy interventions.
Specific Objective 2 – Resource Centre sustainability					
Indicator	**Baseline**	**Target**	**MoV**	**Status at M34**	**Long-term impact (5 years post project)**
# RCs in vulnerable districts with an operational plan	All three target locations operate some form of RC, but these are unstable organisations.	RC operational plan in place in three locations	RC operational plans	Target achieved	Resource Centres continue operating on the basis of their approved operational plans, providing a stable local service beyond the project's lifetime.
# Municipality staff with increased capacity to deliver RC services	RC in target locations have part-time employees with limited knowledge of MFAB renovation approaches.	7 full-time staff delivering services	Employment record	Target achieved - Józsefváros - by the end of the project four full-time employees work at the RC, and there are two people subcontracted for occasional tasks. Burgas - there is one full-time employee working at	Municipalities retain trained, dedicated staff capacity to keep delivering RC services after project funding ends.

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				the RC by the end of the project. Kaišiadorys - One new full-time job was created with the establishment of the RC. Elektrėnai - The establishment of the RC created two new part-time positions.	
# SECAPs that integrate the operation of RC and the development of NESRs	Local documents (SECAPs or equivalent) reference RCs in a vague future format. Neighbourhood energy sufficiency is not indicated.	Three updated SECAPs (or equivalent) emphasising RCs and NESRs	Local SECAPs or similar documents	In Józsefváros, SECAP is to be accepted in September 2026. RCs and NESRs are mentioned here. In Burgas, the Energy Office is already mentioned in the SECAP. The RC is not specifically mentioned, however, there are several measures, which comply with its provided services:	RC operation and NESR development are formally embedded in each municipality's SECAP, guiding local energy planning for years to come.

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				In Lithuania, the cities have no SECAP, or similar relevant local strategic document. National-level strategic planning documents address similar topics in Lithuania. Local-level organisations and institutions are usually not included in these plans, but sometimes it is possible for them to submit comments and suggestions.	
Improved political commitment and resources for RC operations	The loose operation of RCs indicates the lack of long-term political commitment.	Sustainability of RCs is recorded in local strategic documents in all three locations / municipalities	Documented evidence of commitment	Partially in progress – not yet formally documented in Burgas, Bulgaria. Józsefváros, Hungary has a "political commitment" : they have to sustain the RC for 5 years at least according to their contract	Local authorities sustain political and financial commitment to RC operation as a recognised part of their strategic planning.

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				with the Municipality of Budapest. In Kaišiadorys and Elektrėnai, there is no specific political commitment yet. However, in Kaišiadorys, to ensure the long-term continuity of the RC, it was established within the Municipality's Property Department. In Elektrėnai, the municipality is committed to sustaining the RC if its effectiveness in accelerating the renovation process is demonstrated.	
Specific Objective 3 - Neighbourhood Energy Sufficiency Roadmaps					
Indicator	**Baseline**	**Target**	**MoV**	**Status at M34**	Long-term impact (5 years post project)

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# NESRs scoped	Zero NESRs at project start	Four NESRs scoped	NESR documentation	Target achieved – all four NESRs scoped (Bulgaria, Hungary, Lithuania–Kaišiadorys, Lithuania–Elektrėnai), delivered via D3.5.	Completed NESRs continue to guide neighbourhood-level renovation and energy-sufficiency planning in all four locations after the project ends.
# / diversity of stakeholders involved in scoping NESRs		1 LRA, 10 engineers, 10 architects per location, 460 HOAs per location of LRAs, engineers, CSOs, HOAs, architects, etc	NESR meeting records	Target exceeded – 242 stakeholders engaged in scoping NESRs (39 LRA/CSO representatives, 44 engineers/architects, 21 HOAs, 138 Other (NGOs, energy efficiency and local climate agencies, research and academic institutions, private individuals, companies)	A broad, multi-disciplinary stakeholder network remains engaged with NESRs, supporting their ongoing implementation and refinement.
Multiple benefits addressed in NESRs		Collective outdoor spaces improve wellbeing and lower social isolation	NESR roadmap, wellbeing survey	Survey conducted in: Lithuania: Elektrėnai (87 respondents) and Kaišiadorys (84	

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				respondents) Bulgaria: Burgas survey will remain open until 25 September Hungary: Will use the results of a survey conducted in 2025, as it already covered six buildings in Józsefváros and provides relevant insights into residents' living conditions, shared courtyards and their potential to strengthen social cohesion and climate resilience	
# tools and methods produced		Building stock analysis, 3D models, NESR for each location and training modules including e-learning	Tools and products	Mostly achieved – building stock analyses, 3D models and NESRs completed for Bulgaria, Hungary and Lithuania; training module and	The full toolkit (analyses, 3D models, NESRs, training and e-learning) remains publicly available, supporting replication of

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				e-learning materials are expected to be complete by the end of September 2026	the approach elsewhere.
Specific Objective 4 – Community knowledge and capacity increased					
Indicator	**Baseline**	**Target**	**MoV**	**Status at M34**	Long-term impact (5 years post project)
# HOA managers with increased capacity on EE and RES	There are no specific training or capacity-building activities for HOAs in most of the target locations, except for Burgas.	75 – 125 HOA managers per country	List of participants receiving training / accessing support and evaluation of capacity	48 HOA managers trained in Bulgaria, 9 in Hungary and 7 in Lithuania	A growing pool of HOA managers with the skills to plan and oversee EE and RES measures in their buildings, sustaining renovation momentum after the project.
# and diversity of stakeholders with increased competencies	There are no specific training or capacity-building activities that bring together diverse local stakeholders	25 – 35 per country engineers, construction companies, architects, CSOs…	Training report Periodical and final project report List of participants	Target exceeded – 53 stakeholders reached in Bulgaria, 56 in Hungary and 75 in Lithuania	A wider base of engineers, construction companies, architects and CSOs with the competencies to deliver MFAB energy-sufficiency projects long after ComActivate ends.
# energy-poor consumers with increased	Homeowners lack knowledge about EE and RES schemes	5000 reached indirectly (media, via HOA	Record of #s reached through on and offline activities	Target achieved for HU and LT -	Sustained higher public awareness and demand for EE and

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knowledge of EE and RES benefits	and are sceptical about the benefits of EE and RES	managers) per country and: 600 (HU), 670 (BG) 1000 (LT) directly vian RC engagement activities per country		20,029 (HU indirectly) 726 (HU directly) 3,207 (LT indirectly) 1,133 (LT directly) Awaiting numbers from Burgas, Bulgaria	RES solutions among energy-poor consumers in the target neighbourhoods.
Specific Objective 5 – Policy and financial environment for RC and NESR enabled					
Indicator	**Baseline**	**Target**	**MoV**	**Status at M34**	Long-term impact (5 years post project)
Improved understanding of market barriers / regulatory restrictions that hinder energy sufficiency of MFABs	General understanding but no comprehensive, consolidated analysis for MFABs	Three country level reports identifying the gaps and barriers for MFABs.	Reports	Target achieved – gap-and-barrier reports completed for Bulgaria, Hungary and Lithuania (D5.2).	The evidence base on market barriers continues to inform national and EU-level policy and financing initiatives after project end.
# and diversity of public, private, other stakeholders in target countries and EU level engaged in dialogue	Some dialogues exist but not those uniting energy poverty and carbon neutrality of the buildings sector	45 (15 per country) from LRA, private sector (investor / banks), NGO's, academia, engineers, HOA's	Participant lists	Target substantially exceeded at country level – 209 stakeholders engaged in Bulgaria, 70 in Hungary and 70 in Lithuania; EU-level engagement not yet recorded	An active multi-stakeholder dialogue on MFAB financing and energy sufficiency persists in each target country beyond the project.

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# policy recommendations from multi-stakeholder dialogue	Zero	Four sets of recommendations (three national / one EU)	Policy recommendation reports	Target achieved - 4	Policy recommendations from the multi-stakeholder dialogues continue to shape national and EU financing frameworks for MFAB renovation.
# public-private stakeholders actively involved in financing models for neighbourhood / MFAB energy sufficiency	Zero	15 (5 per country) from LRA, private sector (investor / banks), NGO's, academia, engineers, HOA's	Participant records / record of commitments made	Below target so far – 4 stakeholders engaged in Bulgaria, 2 in Hungary, plus 1 at EU level; no figure yet recorded for Lithuania	New public-private financing models for MFAB renovation, tested during the project, remain operational and attract further investment.
# policymakers expressing agreement of ComActivate recommendations	Zero	15	Record of comments	In progress – 10 of the targeted 15 policymakers have expressed agreement with ComActivate recommendations so far.	A durable base of policy-maker support helps keep ComActivate's recommendations on the policy agenda after the project closes.
Specific Objective 6 – Exploitation, replication, and dissemination of project results					
Indicator	**Baseline**	**Target**	**MoV**	**Status at M34**	Long-term impact (5 years post project)
# and diversity of organisations reached	Zero	1400 LRAs, EU policymakers, NGOs, business associations,	Registration lists of events and	Not yet quantified – dissemination reach is	ComActivate's results remain visible to a broad,

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with disseminati on (media and events) of project results		research and academia, building professionals, construction companies, etc	media monitoring	tracked on an ongoing basis	diverse audience, continuing to inform practice across the sector.
# and diversity of organisatio ns replicating project results	Zero	27 organisations from a minimum of five countries	Survey responses from stakeholde rs engaged during the project saying how they have replicated / exploited results	One replicating organisation confirmed (HFH North Macedonia), against a target of 27 organisations from at least five countries; other countries not yet quantified.	The RC and NESR models are replicated by organisations beyond the original target countries, extending the project's reach.
# and diversity of organisatio ns exploiting project results, especially NESR models	Zero	19-22 organisations from municipalities, policymakers, construction companies, research and academia, etc		Not yet quantified – no figures recorded yet.	Municipalities, policymakers and industry actors continue to apply NESR models and other project outputs in their own work.
# examples of support for NESR approaches at the EU level	Zero	7 organisations (EU policymakers, EU members parliament, NGOs, etc)	Document ation of support	Not yet achieved	EU-level actors continue to reference and support NESR-based approaches to MFAB energy sufficiency.
# examples of improved policies / more effective	Zero	3 improved SECAPs, six improved national policies, and two	Changes to public policies that reflect project	Not yet achieved – no SECAP, national policy or EU	SECAPs and national/EU policies are measurably revised to

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implementation of EU policies and legislation at the EU/EC/EP level due to advocacy of project results		improved EU policy processes	recommendations and results	policy changes recorded yet against the target of 3 SECAPs, 6 national policies and 2 EU policy processes	reflect ComActivate's recommendations, embedding its results in the policy framework.
# media mentions of ComActivate aims, results, recommendations	Zero	30	Records of media mentions on national and EU level	Nearly achieved – 27 of the targeted 30 media mentions recorded so far.	Continued media visibility keeps ComActivate's results, aims and recommendations present in the public and policy discourse.

AfterLIFE objectives

Sustainability

D6.3 defines "sustainability" as the long-term continuation of project results and the initiatives and institutional structures it produced. Four areas of sustainability are considered in this project and integrated into its strategy: institutional, financial, policy, and environmental/social.

This section assesses the definitions established at the start of the project for how sustainability would be ensured and examines progress made so far.

Institutional sustainability

In the context of the ComActivate project, institutional sustainability is interpreted as ensuring that the Resource Centres will be able to run independently once the project has ended.

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Institutional sustainability efforts focus on clearly embedding RCs within local governance structures, either as municipal entities or affiliated bodies. Human resource planning should potentially combine in-house staff with subcontracted experts. Supporting documents such as internal rules and, where needed, revisions to Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs) should also take place, along with staff training in technical, financial, and organisational competencies. The role of RCs should be defined in relation to key target groups, such as HOAs and energy-poor households, alongside core functions in outreach, technical support, and coordination.

Financial models under consideration towards institutional sustainability include municipal budget contributions, participation in public tenders, service-based income, and co-financing with the construction sector; financial sustainability is discussed in further detail in the next section of this report.

Partners' reflections on the inventory of RC models (D2.1) point to several conditions that support the long-term operation of RCs/OSS: the financial and organisational presence of a municipal entity; a coalition of public and private stakeholders, in which local NGOs can help to engage residents and support overwhelmed public entities in accessing funding; services adapted to local funding and institutional environments, as there are no quick-fix solutions; sustained outreach and personal engagement with homeowners, which takes considerable planning and time; a core team with broad expertise in energy audits, renovation works, financing and legal matters; and a good website. These conditions are reflected in the pilot experiences described below, for example in the challenge Burgas has faced in recruiting and retaining suitably skilled staff, and in the Hungarian and Lithuanian approaches of embedding the RC within the municipality.

Institutional Sustainability			
Project Activity	**How sustainability is ensured**	**Specific tasks/requirements**	**Related Work Packages**
Institutionalisation of Resource Centres	Local ownership → Local and regional authorities (LRAs) to run Resource Centres (RCs)	Research project partner will work with municipal partners to develop institutionalisation processes and build LRA capacity	WP2 → RCs
	Structure for engagement is established → for neighbourhood and stakeholders	Through NESR activities, build engagement Use outputs from WP2 Peer learning events from WP6 to facilitate replication of RC institutionalisation HOA manager capacity-building in WP4	WP3 → NESRs WP4 → Capacity building

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Progress at M34 and forecast for post-project

Bulgaria

Burgas Municipality opened its RC at the end of 2022. The office is in the very centre of the city, in a building owned and managed by Burgas Municipality. Currently, the main target groups are citizens and HOAs in Burgas.

In 2023, about 4,000 people visited the RC in Burgas. 3,400 were interested in renovating their buildings, 300 in replacing old wood stoves with air conditioners and 200 in solar panel installations. The RC is well recognised by the citizens, is easily approachable and with convenient working hours from 09:00–17:00 from Monday to Friday. Unfortunately, when there are no programmes for MFAB renovation and renewable energy system support for households, there is low engagement with the RC, putting institutional sustainability at risk.

The Burgas Municipality recognises the vital need to broaden the services provided by the RC, as well as to significantly increase the training sessions, info days, expos, and other events organised to boost community engagement and cement the long-term and independent operation of such facilities. However, to do so, an employee with an architectural and engineering background is required, which has proven to be a significant challenge. Three RC employees have been engaged and replaced since the RC opened, despite promising CVs, as individuals were unable to meet the municipality's expectations.

In addition to professional background, another chiefly important quality that the municipality has identified for its RC employees is an individual's willingness to, for example, take the initiative for community engagement, influence and persuade citizens to engage with the RC, proactively reach out to residents to better understand their needs, and propose and organise trainings and events in response to residents' needs. Unfortunately, it has been difficult to find people who fit this profile and to secure a long-term commitment.

At national level, the framework within which RCs operate is also evolving. In Bulgaria, the establishment of the National Decarbonisation Fund, which had its management appointed in the summer of 2026 and is expected to start working in the near future, the ongoing transposition of the recast EPBD and proposed amendments to the Energy Efficiency Act introducing the 'energy efficiency first' principle represent important institutional developments that could strengthen the ecosystem supporting building renovation. For RCs, these changes may create new opportunities to provide capacity-building, information and technical support to stakeholders, although their longer-term impact will depend on how the new instruments and regulatory provisions are implemented in practice.

Hungary

The municipality of **Józsefváros** established an RC in autumn 2025 that focuses on the relationship with the municipal tenants, assisting them in all housing related issues, and strengthening their community life. In addition, the RC is gradually preparing new capacities (e.g. by hiring an energy expert) to provide services and consultation to municipal tenants and the managers of privately-

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owned condominium buildings as well. This reflects a gradual evolution of this service: first, it was just advice; then, it was paired with giving out low-value equipment (e.g. humidity meter, draught excluder, heat-reflective foil, LED light bulbs etc.); finally, it expanded by hiring another expert to work parallel. Clients can apply for a timeslot with a hired energy expert, who goes straight into their flats and provides them with tailored, low-threshold advice and draws the conclusion in a short report with recommendations, which then are shared with both the client and the municipality. This serves as a link between services and ensures that the difficulties clients face and the recommendations to ease these problems are channelled into the municipal body. The experiences communicated by the energy expert became starting points of policy making and service development inside the Municipality. This gradual development is seen as significantly more realistic, given the current political and funding situation in Hungary – if the RCs are considered part of local municipalities, institutionalisation is more feasible.

What has been observed in many municipalities that are under-financed is that more flexible solutions tailored to the reality make more sense than a more 'complete' RC that is fully funded. For example, when there is little market support for RCs, no public procurement process or no submission phase for renovation works, RC employees will take on different tasks.

From September 2026, the RC will be part of the Housing Policy and Asset Management Department, where housing-related programs are coordinated, colleagues are working directly with the Józsefváros Asset Management Company and are directly responsible for the asset management strategy (both tenements and flats). (NB: These concern only municipal buildings and tenements, people who work with municipal tenants. The Housing Policy and Asset Management Department has no ties with private owners and privately owned buildings.) Besides the fact that the Municipality is politically committed to the RC's services, this institutional change consolidated the RC and secured its position in the long-term.

A key obstacle to institutionalisation of the RC is the lack of a national support scheme for MFABs. For an existing RC that was set up before ComActivate by an NGO, project partners observed that very few citizens were accessing the RC's services and, consequently, when the funds from that previous project had run out, the physical form of that RC closed. If national-level subsidy schemes become available for condominiums, the municipality is willing to broaden the services of the RC to facilitate refurbishments of the district's old buildings to help the private flat-owners. However, if opportunities stay the same, the RC will continue in its current form, focusing on tenements, community engagement and empowerment. Promisingly, at the time of preparing this report, new refurbishment programs are being discussed, with a likelihood that they will also target MFABs.

Lithuania

In Kaišiadorys, the RC make-up and format, as well as the format of the launch event to ensure relevant stakeholders are informed about the RC are still being decided in partner meetings.

There are enough financial resources and staff to continue the RC work after the ComActivate project ends. When an RC opens and/or before the project ends, some council decisions should have taken place regarding the continuation of the RCs; at the time of preparing this report, no legal steps like council decisions had yet been taken.

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The Elektrėnai Resource Centre opened at the end of 2025 and is operating very successfully.

The chosen strategy is not only to provide consultations on site or online, but also to go to meetings with groups of residents, which is especially relevant after the announcement of calls for applications, when residents have a lot of questions, and they are best resolved in their own community, with the help of experts. Active information dissemination campaigns are also being carried out, focused on various social and age groups, using a wide variety of channels - from social networks and the regional press to direct communication- which provide good results.

ComActivate partners are still exploring options for the long-term legal framework after the project ends, as the current law stipulates that only four types of people can submit a renovation application, so this will be difficult if the goal is for it to be done by an RC (e.g. so far, Lithuania does not plan to include such structures, such as information centres, in the list of entities that can submit renovation applications, but their value in assisting with application submission and information dissemination is undoubtedly important.)

Links between NESRs and RC institutionalisation

The NESR engagement of ComActivate, led by EKO Invest and Housing Initiative for Eastern Europe (IWO), is meant to help with the institutionalisation of RCs. As part of engaging on the NESR process, IWO has suggested that RCs could be the facilitators of the NESR process, and these discussions are ongoing to explore challenges project partners face, including the limits of their influence and that not all stakeholders or resources are able/available to work with them.

In the cases where partners decide that RCs shouldn't be the facilitators of the NESR process, IWO suggests to structure the conversation instead on the importance of leadership to facilitate discussion about what should be done for a given neighbourhood or district; that someone must take the lead to coordinate with stakeholders, organise regular meetings to speak with partners and establish a clear process.

Financial sustainability

Identifying sources and models of revenue to finance (a) the future operating costs of RC and (b) the implementation of NESRs is part of WP5, which aims to foster financial and policy level sustainability.

Financial sustainability needs to be ensured for the different products of the project by reducing reliance on project funding for both the RCs and NESRs.

ComActivate business plans for RCs were completed by April 2026 and were designed, among others, to add the "Financial sustainability" aspect of RC continuation after the project ends. ComActivate WP2 meetings, from November 2025 to February 2026, were dedicated to detailed discussions about the individual RC pilots; from these, the Sustainability, business and investment plans of the four pilot RCs were developed, emphasising the importance of project funding and the role of municipalities in providing long-term financing after the project ends. However other potential

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sources were considered, like cooperation with business actors and finding roles of the RCs in implementing national strategic plans, like the Social Climate Plans. In all cases it became clear, that public financing is needed when vulnerable households are in the focus of attention, who are less capable of benefit from market finance mechanisms.

Financial Sustainability			
Project Activity	**How sustainability is ensured**	**Specific tasks/requirements**	**Related Work Packages**
Resource Centres	Public-private investment models	Financial institutions to provide recs + models for generating funds Support from central government + EU funds	WP2 → business models WP5 → financial models
NESRs	Different funds: Recovery and Resilience Fund European Regional Development Funding Cohesion Funding	Financial institutions targeted for loans Central government grants	
	Energy efficiency obligation schemes	Potential interest for utility companies and other obliged parties	

Progress at M34 and forecast for post-project

Bulgaria

Currently, there are 1.5 employee positions at the Burgas RC, which are within the municipality's budget, alongside RC rent, and event costs.

Since April 2024, the Burgas Municipality has been cooperating with a private business to support the RC: a company specialised in the design and construction of passive houses provides one employee to the RC. This person works in the office and is responsible for advising visitors on questions related to insulation materials, windows, heating and cooling systems. The success of this collaboration for over a year points to a long-term view of its continuation and to the potential for other collaborations to support RC activities.

Currently, the expert from the passive house shop's pay is funded through an international project and not by the municipality's budget. This person will support the RC for two more years (from the time of preparing this report); the municipality hopes the role will continue, but this is not yet certain. Importantly, the demand for services provided depends on having a national long-term building renovation programme and financial support schemes.

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Hungary

For true financial sustainability, a stable national subsidy for renovation works that supports decarbonisation and energy efficiency of buildings is needed. Currently the RC employees are financed from municipal sources, including partly from the ComActivate project. After the project period, the financial burden remains on the municipality, which will need to adjust the labour force scope to the needs and financial possibilities.

New actors however are emerging at the renovation market as 'quasi' RCs. The Hungarian energy obligation schemes have meant that energy companies needed to deliver savings among their customers, and they had to deliver improved energy efficiency; this has been mostly useful for single family homes, but sporadic use by MFABs has been documented as well.

On district level, current subsidy schemes are planned to stay in place, even if no change happens in city- or national level. Schemes to support the renovation of parts of buildings in undivided common ownership, home renovation programme for municipal tenants. (Schemes include: the Home Renovation Grant Programme, the Eszter Pécsi and Mária Telkes Grant Programme which targets MFABs, specifically, and the Budapest Green Panel Programme.) There remains the opportunity for condominiums or cooperatives located within the district to submit applications for financial support outside the regular grant scheme in order to eliminate life-threatening structural conditions.

The Municipality's asset conversion strategy is also a way to ensure that renovations of tenement buildings can continuously happen. The main point of this strategy is that municipal buildings in the worst condition that cannot be renovated in a cost-effective manner are sold after the tenants' relocation, and the revenue generated by the sale of the plot is reinvested into the renovation of the Municipality's vacant dwellings that are in poor condition. Moreover, the money generated by selling these buildings serves the minor renovation of other tenement buildings. This approach is justified – among other reasons – by the fact that exact technical improvement of heating-systems requires complex architectural and technical refurbishments, therefore the latter must be the first step towards a more energy-efficient building-stock.

On EU-level, between 2022 and 2026, the Union stopped allocating cohesion funds to Hungary, such as those from the European Regional Development Fund. After the elections in April 2026, with the new government taking its place, consultations began between government representatives and the European Commission to unfreeze the funds frozen by the Commission. As of now, several agreements have been reached on the release of the funds, leading to the planning of a new building energy modernisation programs, besides modernising Hungary's energy networks and railways, as well as build social housing and dormitories.

A detailed analysis of how the RC's operation will change under different scenarios is available in D2.3 *Sustainability, business and investment plans for the operation of the local RC in Józsefváros (Hungary)*.

Other funding opportunities on Municipality-level are continuously discussed and offered for those who apply for counselling and advertised online and in the municipal premises district-wide. The Municipality is well known for its cooperativeness and openness to innovation, which makes it a valuable partner amongst stakeholders.

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Lithuania

In Kaišiadorys, RC costs are incorporated into the municipality budget. This includes the use of local institutions and infrastructure to house an RC, and the ability to book municipal venues for meetings and workshops without incurring costs. Further, Lithuanian banks are direct stakeholders in the RCs and connected to their daily work, helping to secure a long-term financial view.

The RC is opened in a municipal building where financial considerations such as rent and energy bills, for example, are covered; should this model continue after the ComActivate project ends, it would secure financial sustainability. What remains to be determined is whether RC staff are employed under the municipality after the project.

Similar to the “institutionalisation” discussion for Hungary, the Kaišiadorys RC is a part-time activity and not open every day; this keeps it manageable for people working in property department for the municipality to maintain responsibilities across that level of work, including for an RC.

The situation is similar in Elektrėnai, where the municipality is working as building administrators, so RCs will be hosted in their buildings.

In Lithuania, building renovation only takes place when the environment ministry issues a “call” to renovate and it is the municipal staff members serving with an RC that support renovations under those calls.

A new call is planned for autumn 2026. RC staff only inform about calls (at that time there are simply more information needs and people being consulted), but information about renovation and consultations is needed constantly. The ComActivate group in Lithuania (LCA, Elektrėnai and Kaišiadorys) in July organised an important discussion - a stakeholder meeting, where the gaps in the renovation process were discussed, and a serious document was prepared - recommendations for improving the renovation process in Lithuania, which was submitted to the Ministry of the Environment, responsible for the implementation of the renovation policy.

Financial sustainability of NESRs through loans or energy efficiency obligation schemes

Building on the model discussed in the previous section, where RCs facilitate the NESR process, RCs should be funded by municipalities as part of delivering a high quality of life to citizens and creating jobs at local level for renovations. RCs would ideally become trusted partners at the municipal level because they become the go-to resource for such consultations, and they help people in an all-encompassing way.

In addition to supporting renovations, RCs are tackling numerous other problems in buildings, like broken walls and damaged rooms. In the case of Elektrėnai, they are already foreseeing a more holistic approach that includes linking energy efficiency updates with neighbourhood upgrades (e.g. fixing street lighting).

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IWO argues that RCs should be prioritised in the long-term budget of the municipality, regardless of the source of funding (e.g. EU, national) – similarly to how a municipality would never close a hospital. The argument is that RCs deliver clear and tangible results for residents and the wider community, and present a new piece in the local governance structure without which any improvement in the building stock and energy poverty of residents is impossible.

With the implementation of the EPBD minimum energy performance standards for non-residential buildings and the national trajectory for residential buildings, most municipalities will likely need to prioritise refurbishment of old and/or deteriorating buildings. This priority task should be seen as a justifying argument for municipal leaders to secure long-term financing for RCs.

Reflections on the *Good practice report on enabling financial frameworks* (D5.5) add that, without EU funding, the most relevant models are those that create revolving or repayable financing structures and mobilise private capital rather than relying continuously on grants. The report identifies revolving funds as potentially more sustainable than time-limited public calls, and recommends using public resources for guarantees, interest subsidies and other incentives that enable affordable private renovation lending, while keeping targeted grants for energy-poor households. It also finds that financing alone is not enough: RCs/OSS can expand their role from information provision towards financial facilitation, helping HOAs understand financing options and connecting them with banks, ESCOs, municipalities and other investors. As the research drew mainly on desk research and interviews with ComActivate partners and RCs, involving commercial banks, investors and ESCOs more directly would help to test the proposed models against their lending criteria and perceived risks.

Policy sustainability

Strengthening policy sustainability at the local, national, and EU level is a key emphasis of WP5 and WP2. At any political level, political leaders change regularly, and these changes often come with a shift in political priority and direction. The success of NESRs and RCs is especially sensitive to local level political changes of priorities. The integration and institutionalisation of RCs and NESRs into SECAPs or similar documents will help to guarantee policy sustainability on local level which also might allow to secure long-term financing.

Policy Sustainability			
Project Activity	**How sustainability is ensured**	**Specific tasks/requirements**	**Related Work Packages**
Resource Centres + NESRs	Integrate into SECAP governance structure	Bi-annual implementation monitoring	WP5, WP2 → multi-stakeholder dialogues, EU events
	Integrate good practice measures into national and EU energy, climate, and poverty reduction policies and plans	Multi-stakeholder dialogues and advocacy	

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	Shift emphasis from short-term crisis measures (energy subsidies) to long-term structural measures		
	Implementation of policies at local level	City-to-city engagement and regional dialogue across CE countries	

Progress at M34 and forecast for post-project

Bulgaria

Bulgaria is in the process of aligning its national policy framework with EU requirements on building renovation, energy poverty and social climate support, but implementation is still incomplete. The country has submitted its NBRP to the European Commission for assessment, adopted (in March 2026) a long-awaited energy poverty regulation that introduces safeguards against electricity disconnection and a system to identify vulnerable households, and is preparing a third draft of its Social Climate Plan (SCP) after two earlier drafts were sent back for revision. Renovation of multi-family apartment buildings (MFABs) is central to both the NBRP and the draft SCP (with roughly €568 million earmarked for it), but delivery still depends heavily on municipalities with uneven technical capacity, homeowners' associations that often lack administrative and financial expertise, RC and OSS advice services that remain fragmented across the country, and an incomplete national building registry that makes it hard to systematically target the worst-performing buildings.

Forecast: The new energy poverty regulation and eventual approval of the SCP should formalise definitions and identification of vulnerable households, but practical delivery tools (e.g. financing guarantees for collective renovation, a properly functioning nationwide RC/OSS network, and quality-control mechanisms for renovation work) are likely to take another one to two years to catch up with the legal changes. This is precisely the gap that ComActivate's Resource Centre model and Neighbourhood Energy Sufficiency Roadmaps are designed to help close, particularly for municipalities and homeowners' associations that still lack capacity.

Hungary

Hungary's national policy framework for building renovation and energy poverty remains significantly less developed than Bulgaria's or Lithuania's. The country has no SCP, following an earlier attempt to prepare one being discontinued under the previous government and its NBRP is still in draft form after an expert consultation held in summer 2026. The main policy tool currently driving results is Hungary's Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme (a mechanism requiring energy suppliers to deliver a set amount of energy savings among their customers), which was redirected toward the buildings sector in 2025 and has produced rapid but narrow gains, mainly in the form of attic insulation in single-family houses, with the 2026 savings target already met earlier in the year. Energy poverty has no clear operational definition in Hungary, and MFABs are largely excluded from current support

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schemes, even though they represent a meaningful share of the country's housing stock; support instead concentrates on single-family homes, which make up about 90% of the buildings classified as worst-performing.

Forecast: While the finalisation of the NBRP is in the process, how and when the SCP will be developed is still a question. Nevertheless, the new program for the energy modernisation of the residential buildings (both single family and multi-family) is expected to appear in March, 2027. Its exact framework is currently taking shape, but it is still unknown to what extent it will include the modernisation of the worst performing buildings, that are often inhabited by energy poor households. The discussions about the subsidy program will likely take place in the coming months, and for these, when the aim is to reach those energy poor households residing in MFAB ComActivate's evidence base and pilot models are best placed to feed into Hungarian policy design once the NBRP is published.

Lithuania

Of the three ComActivate pilot countries, Lithuania has progressed furthest in translating EU building and energy policy requirements into national law and funded programmes. It has amended its energy efficiency legislation (2025), submitted its NBRP (due for final adoption by the end of 2026), and (as of June 2026) had its SCP formally approved by the European Commission, unlocking roughly €422 million from the SCF, including about €270 million for renovating MFABs and covering more than 37,000 apartments. Lithuania has run a dedicated multi-family building modernisation programme since 2005, offering high subsidy rates and preferential loans, has required every municipality to have a dedicated energy-efficiency advisor since 2017, and is expanding its one-stop-shop advisory network to all 10 counties in 2026, including dedicated case management for vulnerable households.

Forecast: Lithuania's main challenge going forward is the speed and consistency of delivery, rather than the design of its policies. Overall energy consumption has not been falling fast enough to meet national targets, and renovation rates are falling short of long-term goals, despite major upcoming funding calls (643 buildings scheduled for full renovation from October 2026, and 2,367 for partial renovation from early 2027). The rollout of the Social Climate Plan and expansion of RC/OSS is expected through 2026–2027. Lithuania will likely serve as ComActivate's strongest example of transferable best practice for other EU Member States, provided municipal capacity keeps pace with the expanding advisory network.

Environmental/social sustainability

The goal of NESRs is to ensure energy savings and alleviating energy poverty while guaranteeing that the energy used is decarbonised, in addition to considering environmental and social sustainability. Therefore, the scoping of NESRs will adhere to the ‘Do No Significant Harm’ (DNSH) principle and include environmental impact assessments to ensure renovations and renewable energy installations minimise harm to the natural environment.

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Social sustainability, i.e. alleviating energy poverty, is targeted through the project by working at the neighbourhood/community level, therefore not only leading to energy efficiency improvements, but also involvement and engagement for the community.

Environmental and Social Sustainability			
Project Activity	**How sustainability is ensured**	**Specific tasks/requirements**	**Related Work Packages**
Resource Centres	Running by themselves	Capacity building	WP3 → NESRs WP4 → capacity-building training of HOAs WP5 → multi-stakeholder and EU dialogue
NESRs	Following the DNSH principle	Environmental impact assessments Promotion and exploration of renewable energy	

Progress at M34 and forecast for post-project

Bulgaria

The RC in Burgas currently plays a central role in supporting homeowners and local authorities in advancing building renovation and projects in renewable energy systems. The approach to develop a NESR is strongly linked to the municipality's long-standing policies on sustainable urban development and social inclusion. The city has already committed to scaling up renewable energy use and energy efficiency in public buildings, with several solar installations and deep renovations implemented under EU and national funding programmes. Within the NESR framework, the municipality will support neighbourhood-scale interventions, focusing on both technical upgrades and social sustainability, ensuring that energy efficiency improvements directly address energy poverty while adhering to the DNSH principle through environmental safeguards and resource-efficient practices.

Citizen engagement is also recognised as a key element of the NESR, understanding that building trust and enabling collective decisions is a cornerstone in MFABs for the optimal condition of the built environment and its surroundings. The RC provides guidance on decision-making alongside technical solutions and connecting renovation efforts with broader community benefits such as renewable energy use in municipal buildings and improved public spaces; the RC thus serves as a bridge between the people and the local administration. Therefore, the NESR will be designed not just as an energy intervention but as a tool for neighbourhood-scale social and environmental improvements, enabling a process that is collaborative in spirit, while transformative in its ambitions.

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Hungary

In the Hungarian pilot of Józsefváros, preparations for the NESR focused on the workshop that took place in June 2025. Here, stakeholders with diverse backgrounds and from various sectors met and engaged in a productive discussion about the NESR. The focus was manifold, given that the NESR is a new type of document, looking at neighbourhood level planning in a holistic, complex way. As a result, discussions centred on defining the exact genre of the document, its target group and beneficiaries, and were central to understanding the next developmental steps.

The NESR in its current form is an attempt to define those potential interventions that do not only result in lower energy/housing/transport consumption but also provide sufficient housing conditions for those who currently lack it. These policies could be operated rather on district and less on neighbourhood level (like operation of a social housing agency, renovation support schemes, provision of technical assistance).

The challenge of adapting the NESR in Józsefváros partly comes from the future large-scale interventions that are planned to happen in the neighbourhood of Orczy quarter, part of the Pilot Area. Developments of top-class universities currently under construction will gradually change the social character of the neighbourhood, meaning that the energy poor would have to move to outer districts of Budapest. Thus, a NESR in this context considers adaptation to changing market demands and accounts for the political factors in order to support vulnerable neighbourhoods. This has to be done not only by increasing the quality of both its building stock and public spaces but by appropriately rearranging energy sources and consumption patterns.

In many older residential buildings in Józsefváros, heating is provided by individual gas convectors installed separately in each apartment, and there is no central pipe network running throughout the building.

- The installation of such a system in municipal rental buildings would require substantial structural interventions and the temporary relocation of residents, for which there is currently neither sufficient capacity nor the necessary financial resources. In the case of condominium buildings, both the financial background and the level of commitment required for such investments are lacking.
- As for condominiums, property owners in Hungary generally tend to think in terms of individual apartments rather than at the level of the condominium as a whole. Investments in building-wide improvements are typically not part of their decision-making horizon. This is reinforced by the fact that renovation subsidies are predominantly available for individual dwellings or private homeowners, whether provided by the state or by the banking sector. Moreover, public support schemes primarily target the renovation of detached houses, which is largely irrelevant in Józsefváros. Even when condominium-level subsidy schemes become available, interest tends to remain very low. In 2026 only one out of fifty eligible buildings applied for the Green Panel Programme. Condominium management bodies are generally focused on day-to-day operational management rather than long-term development, and this tendency is further strengthened by the growing proportion of privately owned apartments that are rented out, whose owners often have little interest in investing in renovation works. Another important factor is that energy prices in Hungary are kept artificially low through state intervention. As a result, utility costs do not currently provide a sufficiently strong incentive for apartment owners to seek alternative heating solutions or undertake major energy-efficiency investments.

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In residential buildings built since the late 20th century, district-level or building-centred heating systems have already been installed. However, the extension of district heating infrastructure to these buildings has not been resolved. Although the district heating pipeline reaches the Szigony Street panel housing estate in the neighbourhood of Losonczi Quarter, it does not extend to other parts of the district or to the wider Pilot Area. Expanding this infrastructure would require a major investment by energy service providers, for which no funding is currently available.

In addition, even if electrification were technically feasible—which at present is also supported mainly at the individual household level—the district's infrastructure is not prepared for such a transition. The installation of solar panels on the roofs of older buildings is technically difficult – if not impossible –, while the modernisation of the ageing electrical network would require substantial financial investment. At present, no viable mechanism or funding opportunity is available to address this challenge.

Therefore, the concept of NESRs is more difficult to implement in a single pilot district of a city, as certain challenges, roles and responsibilities don't stop at the neighbourhood borders.

Lithuania

In Lithuania, municipal agencies are partially responsible for carrying out renovation activities, i.e., organising meetings with residents. Once the homeowners of a given building decide together to renovate, the municipality prioritises supporting them as the land is considered public. In Kaišiadorys, the municipality-appointed primary renovation administrator is UAB "Kaišiadorių butų ūkis". It prepares investment plans, procures construction services, and oversees the modernisation process. In Elektrėnai: the municipal enterprise UAB "Elektrėnų komunalinis ūkis" (project partner) is responsible for the processes and administration of the renovation (modernisation) of apartment buildings.

Municipal administrations provide general oversight, approve energy-efficiency improvement programs, and coordinate compensation for renovation costs for low-income residents.

However, they lack the resources and human capital to allocate sufficient time and funds to ensure that all necessary activities—which guarantee smooth renovation promotion processes—are carried out to a high standard and on the required scale. For example, this includes expert consultations, information dissemination, specialist training, and motivational activities targeting various segments of the public, among other things. Therefore, RC work is important.

In both Elektrėnai and Kaišiadorys, the municipal approach to NESRs is about prioritising the benefits residents "can see and feel" from renovation processes. Due to the administrative structure, rather than looking at the neighbourhood level, they are looking at "quarters", which is the scale at which projects can move beyond individual building projects to support elements like the installation of new public lighting and road refurbishment.

In the Elektrėnai municipality, specifically, a decision to do works in a neighbourhood requires that decision to come from residents of that area. The municipality recognises the great potential of RCs to support this existing process for larger-scale work since, by design, RCs will be the facilitators of such decision-making processes.

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A further example from Elektrėnai on large-scale impact is that of the public heating system: with land being public and decisions needing to come from the municipal level, as the administrators of the public heating system, the municipality was able to renovate this system for the entire city.

Engagement of social and environmental civil society organisations in the establishment of NESRs

In June 2025, IWO organised workshops in Kaišiadorys (Lithuania), Józsefváros (Hungary), and Burgas (Bulgaria) to begin the process of developing NESRs. These sessions brought together housing companies, NGOs, municipalities, and urban developers to explore how local energy sufficiency strategies could be shaped through participatory planning.

Participants worked in mixed groups to envision a zero-carbon future in 2050 and identify the steps needed to achieve it. The exercise generated ideas on renewable energy integration, energy storage, and implementation timelines, which were later discussed in relation to current challenges.

Insights from these workshops served as the foundation for drafting NESRs in each municipality. These roadmaps aim to act as starting points for integrated urban development strategies that align with long-term climate goals. EKO Invest and IWO prepared a NESR template that focuses primarily on housing, while considering other sectors as optional; this template was discussed with the local partners and subsequently completed.

As part of ComActivate's work to ensure that NESRs deliver multiple benefits to citizens, such as social cohesion through integration of community spaces and other public services through better integration in neighbourhood planning, IWO explained both the difficulty of creating NESRs and their relevance. Specifically, IWO stressed the importance of bringing different stakeholders together to develop a successful NESR and provide examples showcasing how they were able to overcome challenges.

In the vision that RCs are also central to the implementation of NESRs, IWO will elaborate on this structure and integration, supporting the local partners in ensuring that RCs are included as active players in the NESR wherever possible. The connection between RCs and NESRs still requires more time. Most RC activities started at a later stage than planned and hence the RCs are now in the process of being recognised as a relevant stakeholder that can be involved in facilitation of NESRs.

Exploitation

Exploitation refers to project results and learnings that can be exploited either by project partners or by other stakeholders after the project has concluded.

This section presents the table from D6.3 that identified project outputs from WPs 2, 3, 4 and 5 that could be exploited in commercial activities and public policymaking and assesses the potential for continuity of results beyond the project's end based on learnings up to M34.

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Exploitable activity	Work package	Stakeholder	How activity can be used once the project ends	Analysis at M34 for continuity post-project
RC sustainability and business plans	2	Financial institutions	Use for advocacy, create financial products	RC business plans make the most sense when there is a stable public subsidy at the national level, which ensures that people need the services of an RC. It is the case in Lithuania and Bulgaria, but not in Hungary. The business plans acknowledge that taking into account the special focus of RCs (vulnerable buildings and households) the business model is based on strong involvement of public financing. Thus, the exploitation of the Plans is most realistic among local governments.
NESR tools	3	Municipalities, researchers, NGOs, Financial institutions, HOAs and building managers	Information on how to cooperate with different stakeholders and initiate the development of NESRs	IWO is having frequent meetings with ComActivate partners and each RC pilot partner, including exploring examples from other countries and municipalities, with follow-ups on these discussions to identify concrete results and capture reflections. Such regular “coaching" has proven effective for results, including a workshop series which took place in three municipalities in June 2025 and the NESR drafting process.
Multi-stakeholder dialogues	5	Policymakers, financial institutions, construction and renewable energy companies, building professionals, HOAs, building managers, NGOs	Share experiences, overcome challenges	EnEffect shared a template with project partners with ideas on how to structure the dialogues they organise, topics to consider, stakeholders to invite etc., based on experiences in Bulgaria; it was agreed that not everyone had to follow the template and that other formats could be followed, but that it would be important to engage national-level governments and to keep track of what took place and interesting outcomes to share with other countries/EU-level stakeholders. The policy level is the outer limit of the framework for the NESR discussion; from there project partners can build on what previous discussions identified as challenges to NESR development. **Bulgaria:**

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				• The first dialogue, organised with the Bulgarian Construction Chamber, Renovate Bulgaria, and Cleantech Bulgaria, took place on 27 March 2025 in Sofia; it gathered around 92 participants, including representatives from ministries and public funds. Financing for renovations will continue until 2029 so discussions were focused on the recovery & resilience plan, the upcoming social climate plans. A key challenge discussed was the discontinuation of co-financing by homeowners – which was a progressive programme from the government which allowed more flexible financing mechanisms to be developed –, so ComActivate partners are now thinking about how to mobilise citizens on things like NESRs. • The second dialogue took place on 17 March 2026 in Sofia and online as part of the conference “Financing Energy Efficiency: The National Renovation Plan and the Role of Local Authorities”. Discussions focused on the long-term implementation of the National Renovation Plan, the creation or expansion of sustainable financing models beyond grants, as well as the role of municipalities and RCs as key drivers of renovation and the need of better coordination and support for citizens. The discussion placed strong emphasis on the need to establish an effective financial toolkit and improve coordination between institutions. Dimitar Ganev, Chair of the Board of the National Decarbonisation Fund, explained that the fund will offer a broad range of blended financial instruments, including grants, guarantees, loans, and technical assistance, with the main focus on households, public buildings, and businesses. The fund is expected to become operational by the end of the year, with the aim of achieving a lasting shift from campaign-based to sustainable financing. **Hungary:**

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				• The first dialogue was focused on social climate funds – this is the topic that can put building renovations in the spotlight. • The second dialogue was implemented in May 2026 focusing on the combination of worst performing buildings and energy poverty in Budapest. • ComActivate partners in Hungary are facing the challenge that their nation and many other eastern EU nations won't want to step into the revised Emissions Trading System 2 (ETS2), which has direct implications for the social climate plans, as the funding will have to come from national budgets which makes them extremely unlikely. **Lithuania:** • The first dialogue took place in May 2025 and was very successful with key representatives for renovation taking part: scientists from the energy institute, financial institutions, etc. There was a presentation by MFAB residents who successfully completed renovations and shared their experiences. All these diverse stakeholders sat at the same table to share challenges and explore solutions. • A big challenge that has been identified and explored in the first dialogue is communication: not all institutions get the same documents, same databases, etc. • The event also explored best practices in terms of processes and construction materials, to help others learn from the experiences. • On 3 July 2026, the second round of the multi-stakeholder dialogue took place in Vilnius (expert discussion "Solutions for Energy Efficiency and the Renovation of Apartment Buildings"). During the event, participants discussed several issues hindering faster renovation of apartment buildings. The meeting had a practical goal in advance: to formulate and submit specific recommendations to the Ministry of the Environment—which is responsible for renovation policy in Lithuania—to improve the renovation process.

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EU-level dialogues	5	Policymakers, financial institutions, construction and renewable energy companies, building professionals, HOAs, building managers, NGOs	Share experiences, overcome challenges	The first EU policy roundtable took place on 4 November 2025. It was co-hosted by ComActivate project partners and Members of the European Parliament (namely MEP Marcos Ros Sempere), who are part of the European Urban Forum; the interest of Forum partners to co-host the event is a positive indication of the importance of the topic within the Parliament. The second EU policy roundtable took place as part of Europe Habitat Day in April 2026. The ComActivate Project hosted a discussion on the future of housing in Europe: "One Stop Shops in CEE: Essential, Effective and… Endangered?" Panellists from government of Lithuania and municipal level in Hungary, the European Mortgage Federation, and the European Commission shared insights from work on the ground and summarized that OSS are essential tools for making renovation a reality, yet too many are caught in the "pilot trap," unable to scale without sustained support. **Belma Jahovic**, from **Eko Invest Ltd** shared how work from the **ComActivate Project** on NESRs is demonstrating that these tools are a lot more than a 'nice to have'! They're designed to trigger wider social and structural renewal and refurbishment in a neighbourhood.
RC network events	5	Municipalities, HOAs, building managers	Share experiences, overcome challenges	**Bulgaria** • A 2-day training event took place in March 2025. ○ Day 1 brought together over 50 representatives from buildings approved for renovation. They gained clarity on their roles throughout the process, from technical coordination to quality control and collaboration with contractors and the municipal team.

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				○ Day 2 focused on the contractors, equipping them with knowledge on their responsibilities, how to communicate effectively with HOAs, and how to avoid common pitfalls. Special attention was given to innovative technologies and materials that drive energy efficiency. • A third training session took place in November 2025, in Burgas. The training event introduced participants to the role and services of Resource Centres, emphasizing their function as sustainable one-stop shops supporting citizens, investors, municipalities, and other stakeholders beyond the duration of individual projects. The event highlighted the legal obligations under the Renewable Energy Act for municipalities to provide administrative support for renewable energy installations and presented the activities and operational model of the Energy Office – Burgas, including a guided visit. The technical programme covered municipal energy management, photovoltaic technologies and renewable energy communities, and quality building renovation under the new national procedure for sustainable energy upgrades. Practical guidance was provided on improving municipal energy planning and monitoring, understanding PV systems and implementation processes, and ensuring high-quality residential renovation. The event concluded with an open discussion and networking, enabling participants to exchange experiences and strengthen cooperation among municipalities, experts, and other stakeholders. • Fourth capacity-building event is foreseen in autumn 2026, as earlier in the Springtime there was no chance for policy engagement on the NESRs or other relevant topics, given that Bulgaria had its national elections in April (the seventh in several years of political instability). **Lithuania** • The training sessions in March 2026, named "Renovation I'm Happy About," organised by ComActivate, were aimed at residents of Elektrėnai and Kaišiadorys, particularly vulnerable groups experiencing energy poverty (seniors, young families with children, and low-

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				income households). Targeted information was sent to municipal departments working with vulnerable groups, as well as to local NGOs. The goal of the trainings was to highlight the benefits of renovation for residents, motivate them with success stories, and discuss with experts how modernisation changes energy consumption levels and which energy-saving measures are most beneficial for specific buildings. The training took place over two days, with one day in Elektrėnai and one day in Kaišiadorys. • The training session "Effective Communication with Residents: Building Trust and Managing Difficult Situations", which took place in April 2026, was designed for representatives of organizations directly involved in the renovation process and working with the residents of Elektrėnai. When planning the project training, the aim was to make it useful for stakeholders, so a survey was conducted to identify the skills they lacked most when working with residents and motivating them to renovate. The most common feedback was that employees who interact directly with residents on renovation issues particularly need to know how to build positive rapport, persuade people, speak persuasively, and resolve conflicts, which often arise when dealing with issues that directly affect residents. The training took place over two days, with one day in Elektrėnai and one day in Kaišiadorys. • Experience-Sharing Event on 26 May 2026. The event provided an overview of renovation trends in Lithuania, the legal framework, and the challenges in this area, and included a discussion among experts, building managers, and representatives of local municipalities titled “Renovation of Apartment Buildings: Practices and Solutions”. Attendees shared ideas and experiences on how to encourage neighbors to take a more active interest in renovating their homes and where to begin. The event increased Vilnius District municipal leaders' knowledge of how to promote renovation—specifically, how to communicate and what arguments to use when encouraging residents to begin renovation

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				projects. The discussion allowed not only experts but also representatives of local administrative units and building managers to express their views and work together to find effective solutions. Elektrėnai's experience is helping other municipalities achieve better results. • There will also be two two-day training sessions in both cities: information dissemination to residents (institutional staff and other relevant individuals), in September 2026, and Financial Aspects of Renovation (for residents) in October 2026, just before the announcement of a new call for applications for state support. **Hungary** • Various events have taken place, including workshops and trainings. • A key insight from these events is that there are sometimes overlaps between audiences for these events; the same stakeholders are working on RCs as on other topics, so it's important to identify these overlaps and determine how different agencies, businesses, institutions, etc. could better collaborate.
Peer-learning events	6	Policymakers, financial institutions, construction and renewable energy companies, building professionals, HOAs, building managers, NGOs	Share experiences, overcome challenges	**ComActivate and the SUN BOX project jointly organised the first two-day Peer Learning Event in Vilnius, Lithuania**, bringing together project partners and stakeholders to exchange experiences on community engagement, OSS, energy sufficiency and the renovation of multi-family apartment buildings. The event combined technical visits, peer-learning discussions and practical demonstrations to showcase successful approaches to tackling energy poverty and accelerating building renovation. The event enabled participants to exchange practical knowledge on renewable energy technologies, municipal OSS and community engagement strategies. Site visits to PROTECH, SoliTek and the "A Miestas" OSS demonstrated how technical innovation and local advisory services can support renovation projects.

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				Key lessons highlighted the importance of placing residents at the centre of renovation processes, maintaining continuous communication throughout projects and tailoring engagement approaches to the specific needs of each community. The discussions also reinforced the value of peer learning in sharing successful practices between countries participating in the project. **The second Peer Learning Event is being planned for October 2026.**

Guidance for Building Renovation Passports, NESRs and 3D models	6	Researchers, NGOs, RCs	Use for advocacy and in own work, dissemination	**Building Renovation Passport (BRP) templates**
				
				• IWO originally planned to create templates for each ComActivate partner country but have realised the difficulty of doing this for stakeholders who aren't involved in development of renovation roadmaps or processes.
				  ○ A German example that was developed with a housing management association and defines what an individual renovation roadmap or BRP is and what it should include was amended to an international context and re-elaborated within the context of the ComActivate project; this work included translation from DE to EN and changing the design. It was also translated into local languages.
				
				  ○ The template is designed to function at the individual and local level: municipalities can share the template with stakeholders who don't usually know what a BRP is in terms of content or what it should look like, filling it in without the need for extensive technical knowledge.
				• There is a challenge to ensure NESRs are not oversimplified, as this risks bringing very few benefits to the pilot areas.
				• There is an additional challenge of scale: in Burgas, for example, there are hundreds of pilot buildings; working with them on individual renovation roadmaps and including these into the bigger picture is extremely difficult.
				• The individual building renovation roadmaps and NESRs (scaling renovation roadmaps up to neighbourhood level) should be done in parallel,

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				with the main contact points in the RCs to connect the municipal level with local level.
				• The ideal scenario is one where RCs support homeowners fully through the long process.
				  ○ IWO sees the priority for the future being to move RCs from a general citizen advice centre to something that meaningfully advises HOAs.
				  ○ RCs should focus on the needs residents have in the long-term, not only the needs of the ComActivate project. For example, challenges that were shared during workshops like structural needs, residents being unhappy with issues in their buildings, parking spaces, etc., should be addressed by the RCs. This means RCs need adequate resources to deal with these issues and to remain available to residents in the long-term.
				  ○ RCs can facilitate wider building management processes: to not only help homeowners, but to bring stakeholders together.
				  ○ Municipalities should also emphasise that RCs have a central role in renovation processes; this is especially important in the context of challenging socio-political and funding circumstances.

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Replication

Replication refers to specific project outcomes that can be replicated in other activities or projects, either by the same project partners or other stakeholders.

The LIFE horizontal KPIs identify four areas of catalytic effect (spatial, financial, thematic, and societal) which have been integrated into the design of the ComActivate project.

This section presents the specific activities outlined in D6.3 for each of the four areas of replication and assesses progress made up to M34 and continuity beyond project end.

Spatial replication

There is significant potential for the RC business and investment plans to be replicated beyond the scope of this project. Member States across the EU are expected to have an increasing interest in setting up OSS like RCs: The EPBD sets clear requirements for Member States to provide technical assistance vian OSS. They are especially important for reaching and facilitating cooperation among MFABs residents, especially through engagement with HOA managers.

Task/Deliverable	Work Package	Specific Activity	Progress at M34 and analysis of potential continuity post-project
T5.3 (multi-stakeholder dialogue) and T2.3 (Evaluating the replicability potential of the RC operational model)	2 + 5	Establishing a multi-country RC network to gather knowledge and experience, and share ideas, promote replication of RC business and investment plans. HFH Macedonia as Associated Partner will replicate results.	The first step towards replicability was accomplished in October 2026, in the Peer Learning event in Budapest. The results can further be replicated in the upcoming projects on RCs/OSS.
All tasks in WP3	3	Tasks combine to map approach for efficiency, renewables, and sufficiency for vulnerable MFAB neighbourhoods that can be replicated in target countries and beyond.	The areas covered by ComActivate project activities are in some cases more than a neighbourhood – for example, in Burgas it's a whole district with hundreds of buildings. It might make sense to identify neighbourhoods and to prepare for each a NESR instead of using one for all.

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Financial replication

This focuses on the financial models that secure the institutionalisation of RCs and NESRs and can be replicated by project partners or other interested stakeholders.

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Task/Deliverable	Work Package	Specific Activity	Progress at M34 and analysis of potential continuity post-project
T5.2 (Exploring public-private investment models with financial institutions) + T5.3 (multi-stakeholder dialogue) + T5.4 (EU policy dialogue)	5	Multi-stakeholder dialogues, EU-level advocacy, and the scoping of sustainable investment models will help replicate the institutionalisation process of RCs and NESRs.	The activities that have taken place so far in the project have successfully brought together relevant stakeholders for conversations about and processes for institutionalisation. The most concrete outcomes of these include the identification of policy and funding challenges (e.g. in Hungary) and structural mechanisms that can ensure the institutional sustainability of RCs (e.g. in Lithuania). ComActivate's D5.2 (*Analysis of gaps and barriers for financing HOAs and MFABs*), published in April 2025, reveals the current state of commercial and development banks investing in energy-related projects in the three ComActivate countries. Specifically, it explores the critical obstacles of high upfront costs, insufficient investor interest, and inconsistent financing regulations across EU Member States. The EU policy dialogue in November 2025 and further rounds of multi-stakeholder dialogues have been critical opportunities to discuss ways to overcome policy and finance barriers, as much as how to reinforce systems and solutions that are proving successful to support MFAB renovations through RCs. Especially the 2nd stakeholder dialogue as part of the Europe Housing Days included stakeholders specifically focused on the financial specificities – European Investment Bank and European Mortgage Federation.
T2.3 (Evaluating the replicability potential of the RC operational models)	2	By combining findings from different reports in the project (good practice analyses) and various events, financial replicability will be outlined, such as greater resources for LRAs for RC operations from central or EU funding, combined with private	The need for RCs to be embedded in municipal budgets and national subsidy schemes, as discussed in the previous sections of this report, is already a helpful insight towards such recommendations.

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		sector (such as construction industry) sponsorship.	

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Thematic replication

Both RCs and NESRs have a wide scope for replication beyond the intended thematic scope of energy efficiency, renewables, and energy sufficiency.

Task/Deliverable	Work Package	Specific Activity	Progress at M34 and analysis of potential continuity post-project
All tasks in WP3 on technical development of NESRs	3	Engagement of social and environmental CSOs in the establishment of NESRs, ensuring that NESRs deliver multiple benefits to citizens, such as social cohesion through integration of community spaces (rewilding gardens, access to mobility) and other public services through better integration in neighbourhood planning.	The workshops organised by IWO in June 2025 in all three ComActivate countries to begin the process of developing NESRs brought together social and environmental CSOs, alongside housing companies, municipality representatives and urban developers. Insights from these workshops now serve as the foundation for drafting NESRs in each municipality (See a detailed description of these workshops in the section “Engagement of social and environmental civil society organisations in the establishment of NESRs” above.)
All tasks in WP2 on RC institutionalisation and WP4 on RC support services	2 + 4	Services provided by RCs support local action on a range of issues, such as addressing social isolation through community activities like youth services, environmental issues through activities like urban green infrastructure and rewilding. RCs need to be institutionalised locally within LRAs to have oversight and local responsibility for all local issues.	**Bulgaria:** The main activities of the RC are to provide information and administrative support for financing programmes for energy efficiency and photovoltaic installations. Since April 2024, in partnership with EnEffect and a private company, the RC plans to broaden the services it provides. Specialised trainings on insulation materials, heating/cooling, and ventilation systems for the construction sector are planned. Energy audits of buildings or single apartments will be also available. There was an intention to broaden the services provided and significantly increase the training, info days, expos etc. organised by the RC, but finding the right staff for this has been a serious challenge in the past year. At the time of preparing this report, a questionnaire is being prepared for distribution among HOAs and RC visitors to better understand citizens’ need for trainings, info days, campaigns etc. Once these needs are

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			identified, a series of events will be organised to match expectations. **Hungary:** The RC was opened in autumn 2025 as a community space, primarily for municipal tenants. This is the sector where the renovation process takes place, controlled and implemented by the municipality but with the involvement of the local tenants. In the multi-family building sector, the renovation process is sporadic and concentrates on everyday operational issues. This is due to the fact that no national and only a very limited local subsidy scheme for renovation is available and interest stays very low. **Lithuania:** In Kaišiadorys, RC costs are incorporated into the municipality budget, while in Elektrėnai RCs are hosted in municipal buildings, providing financial sustainability and signalling positive integration into municipal-level activities. Within this structure, the case of Elektrėnai being able to renovate its entire public heating system reflects the level of responsibility to address local issues and the wide-scale impact actions at this level can have.

Societal replication

The project aims to contribute to the development of new or existing national legislation, policies, and regulations through the integration of RCs and NESRs into SECAPs (WP2), and through advocacy on measures for delivering emissions reductions in EU buildings, reducing energy consumption and costs, as well as overcoming regulatory barriers (WP5/WP6) thereby addressing a wide variety of stakeholders at multiple governance levels.

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Task/Deliverable	Work Package	Specific Activity	Progress at M34 and analysis of potential continuity post-project
T2.2 (Institutionalisation process at the demonstration sites) + T5.2 (Exploring public-private investment models with financial institutions) + T5.3 (multi-stakeholder dialogue) + T5.4 (EU policy dialogue)	2 + 5	The multi-stakeholder dialogue in WP5 and the RC networking in WP2 will build on and establish national and/or macroregional models of cooperation. By engaging e.g., local stakeholders in EU level dialogues and national stakeholders in local dialogues, the replication of policy-relevant learning across different types of stakeholders will be secured.	The EU policy dialogues, multi-stakeholder dialogues and RC networking activities have been critical opportunities to discuss ways to overcome policy and finance barriers, and how to reinforce systems and solutions that are proving successful to support MFAB renovations through RCs. **Bulgaria:** The experience gained through the RC networking and multi-stakeholder dialogue has helped clarify the role of Resource Centres in providing integrated information, capacity-building and support for renovation, while also identifying persistent regulatory, financial and institutional barriers. The establishment of the National Decarbonisation Fund, the transposition of the recast EPBD, and proposed amendments to the Energy Efficiency Act, including the reinforcement of the “energy efficiency first” principle, are likely to reshape the framework for building renovation and energy efficiency financing. These developments create opportunities for Resource Centres and municipalities to continue contributing to the implementation of national policies, particularly by providing local capacity, information and stakeholder coordination. The established networks and cooperation mechanisms could provide a basis for continued dialogue between RCs, municipalities, national institutions, financial actors and other stakeholders, including the energy community that was established in the municipality. Further institutionalisation of the RC model within national and local renovation policies and financing mechanisms would help ensure that the knowledge, capacities and partnerships developed through the project are maintained beyond its lifetime.

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			Lithuania: The project partners have already begun collaborating with the Vilnius District Municipality and are sharing their successful project experiences by participating in joint events and discussions. This is very important because in the Vilnius District Municipality, the rate of renovation is among the lowest in Lithuania, even though it surrounds Vilnius, the country's capital. A very important aspect is that the Lithuanian group succeeded in bringing together the key stakeholders involved in renovation processes in Lithuania for joint discussions aimed at finding the best solutions. These efforts were summarized at the second stakeholder meeting, where joint recommendations were adopted and submitted to the Ministry of the Environment—the agency responsible for shaping and implementing renovation policy in Lithuania. **Hungary** In Hungary the RC experience has helped the employees both there and in the municipality learn from the Bulgarian and Lithuanian partners, and they also participated in a series of communication trainings that will support them in the future to work with tenants and MFAB residents alike.

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Lessons learned from partner reflections

Beyond individual outputs, the reflection templates offer practical lessons for partners and other organisations that wish to replicate ComActivate's approach or carry out similar work. Most respondents considered their methodology to have worked well and saw potential to replicate it in other countries and beyond the project's thematic scope. The main lessons are summarised below.

- **Adapt rather than copy:** partners see strong replication potential, for example for the baseline survey methodology (D2.2), renovation passports, which Member States are required to implement under the EPBD (D3.1), the training and RC service models (D4.1, D4.2 and D4.4) and the financing models analysed in D5.5. However, these need to be adapted to local target groups, legal frameworks, financial markets, HOA structures and subsidy systems rather than copied directly. D2.1 likewise concludes that there are no quick-fix solutions for OSS.
- **Allow enough time and start early:** partners would allow more time at the end of deliverables to explore specific cases in more depth (D2.1) and start planning and writing earlier (D3.2). In D3.2, work started late because contracting external experts and securing budget for them took longer than expected, and the summer break prevented internal proofreading; partners recommend contracting experts early and organising internal review in advance. Deliverables that built directly on earlier tasks in the same work package (D4.1 and D4.4) reported smooth delivery and timely partner input.
- **Plan for data gaps and local capacity:** specific data on energy efficiency and on residents' opinions and behaviour can be hard to obtain, and municipalities may only be able to provide their own data and have limited experience in preparing such analyses (D2.2). Future studies should budget time and support for data collection and analysis.
- **Involve more perspectives:** partners suggest involving commercial banks, investors and ESCOs directly in future financing research (D5.5), looking at examples from outside the EU when reviewing renovation roadmaps (D3.1), and documenting the full training needs assessment methodology so that external users can apply the approach from start to finish (D4.1). D5.5 also identifies a research gap on how renovation financing mechanisms affect women and men differently.
- **Facilitation and trust matter as much as tools and finance: D5.5 finds that hands-on technical, financial and social facilitation by RCs, OSS, NGOs and other intermediaries can be as important as the financial product itself, particularly for vulnerable and elderly households. Based on interviews with the pilot RCs, it also found that women were more likely to seek RC services, and recommends adapting communication and services accordingly, for example through child-friendly spaces and accessible information. Kaišiadorys District Municipality's training on effective communication with residents shows how skills in trust-building and resident engagement can be strengthened through practice-oriented capacity-building.**

Continued dissemination

Beyond the end of the project, numerous ComActivate outputs will remain relevant and will continue to be actively used and referenced by consortium partners in their ongoing work, ensuring the project's findings keep reaching new audiences.

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Reusable communication materials

The project's infographic, poster and video all summarise the importance of RCs/OSS beyond the scope of project outcomes and will remain available for partners to reuse. Municipality partners in Bulgaria, Hungary and Lithuania are expected to continue drawing on these materials when presenting renovation and energy poverty programmes to residents, homeowners' associations and local stakeholders, using them to introduce concepts such as RCs/OSS and neighbourhood-level renovation approaches that ComActivate helped establish locally.

All of these materials will remain hosted on the project webpage, which will continue to serve as the central, publicly accessible library of ComActivate outputs after the project's formal end.

Policy and technical reports

ComActivate's research and consultancy partners (i.e. BPIE, Habitat for Humanity International & Habitat for Humanity Europe & Middle East, EKO Invest, EnEffect, MRI, and IWO) will continue to actively reference and build on the project's **technical and policy outputs** in adjacent work areas and future projects.

Taken together, the continued availability and reusability of outreach materials sustained by municipality partners and continued dissemination of technical/policy outputs across partners' broader portfolios ensures that ComActivate's findings continue to generate impact well beyond the project's official closure, rather than dissemination stopping at the final reporting deadline.

Long-term maintenance of project outputs

The ComActivate project webpage, hosted on BPIE.eu, will continue to be maintained beyond the project's formal end, serving as the permanent public repository for all project outputs. This ensures that municipalities, researchers, policymakers and practitioners can continue to find and use ComActivate's resources.

The webpage will continue to host the full library of project outputs alongside all project dissemination and communication materials (i.e. brochure, infographic, poster and project video).

As the site owner, BPIE maintains responsibility for the technical upkeep of the webpage after the project ends, including keeping links functional, ensuring hosted files and 3D models remain accessible, and updating the page if any partner organisations or contact details change. While the page will no longer be actively updated with new project activity once ComActivate concludes, it will be reviewed periodically to confirm all resources remain available and functional, so that the project's outputs continue to be discoverable and usable by third parties well beyond the funding period.

Monitoring

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Following the end of the ComActivate project, the main outputs developed under WPs 2, 3, 4 and 5 will remain publicly available on the ComActivate website. Project partners will continue to monitor the use and visibility of these outputs, where possible, through their ongoing work with municipalities, policymakers and other stakeholders. This will help identify how the project's results continue to support energy renovation initiatives and the development of Resource Centres (RCs) beyond the project lifetime. Monitoring activities will include website analytics, stakeholder requests for publications, external references to project outputs, and feedback received during conferences, workshops and stakeholder engagement activities.

To ensure a consistent approach across the consortium, partners will undertake periodic reviews during the AfterLIFE period against the agreed monitoring indicators and partner commitments. A simple review framework/template will guide this process, allowing partners to report relevant developments, share experiences, identify examples of reuse or adaptation of project outputs, and discuss potential follow-up actions or collaboration opportunities.

As many project partners continue to work on building renovation, energy efficiency and energy poverty through European and national initiatives, opportunities to apply and build upon ComActivate's results are expected to continue after the project has ended. Partners will monitor relevant follow-up proposals, projects and initiatives that build on ComActivate's results, partnerships or lessons learned. This will provide insight into how the project's methodologies, guidance and recommendations are used in practice, particularly by municipalities and organisations working to establish RCs, develop renovation strategies or strengthen local capacity.

Where relevant, partners will collect examples of how ComActivate outputs have been reused, adapted or referenced in future projects, policy development and capacity-building activities. This information will help demonstrate the long-term contribution of the project to improving energy renovation practices and supporting the implementation of the EPBD.

Area to monitor	Indicator	Monitoring approach	Responsible partners
Access to and citation of project publications	Downloads, citations and references to project outputs	Website analytics, stakeholder requests for materials, external references, and feedback collected through events and stakeholder engagement activities	BPIE, NHFHI
Resource Centres	Continued operation and use of RC methodologies, approaches and tools	Follow-up engagement with pilot municipalities and stakeholders to identify continued use, adaptations and lessons learned	Pilot municipalities, relevant project partners
Capacity-building materials	Continued use in training activities, workshops and	Feedback from partners, municipalities and future projects;	EKO Invest, IWO, MRI, EnEffect, LCA, pilot municipalities

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	knowledge-sharing initiatives	monitoring of reuse or adaptation of materials in capacity-building activities	
NESRs and technical guidance	Uptake of recommendations in local planning, renovation strategies and energy efficiency initiatives	Follow-up with municipalities, policymakers and professional networks to identify application of guidance and methodologies	All partners
Policy analyses	Continued use of policy findings and recommendations in policy discussions, planning processes and related initiatives	Follow-up with policymakers, municipalities and relevant stakeholders to identify references to, application of or further development of the policy analyses	BPIE, NHFHI, relevant project partners
Funding gap analysis	Uptake of findings and recommendations in discussions on financing mechanisms, investment needs and support schemes for renovation and energy efficiency	Follow-up with municipalities, financial institutions and relevant stakeholders to identify use of the analysis in planning, funding discussions and development of financing approaches	NHFHI, BPIE, pilot municipalities, relevant project partners
Sustainability, business and investment plans	Continued use, implementation or further development of plans and proposed actions beyond the project lifetime	Follow-up with pilot municipalities and relevant stakeholders to assess progress in implementing plans, securing financing, developing investment pipelines and adapting approaches to changing local conditions	Pilot municipalities, NHFHI, EKO Invest, relevant project partners
Dissemination materials	Continued sharing and visibility through websites, newsletters, events and stakeholder channels	Monitoring of partner communication activities, references in external communications and engagement opportunities	All partners

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Reuse of project results and future collaborations	Examples of reuse, adaptation or further development of ComActivate results in new projects, policy initiatives or capacity-building activities	Collection of examples through partner reporting, follow-up discussions and monitoring of related proposals, initiatives and collaborations building on ComActivate results	All partners
AfterLIFE review process	Progress against agreed indicators, partner commitments and identified follow-up actions	Periodic consortium review using a common AfterLIFE monitoring template to assess progress, share experiences, identify challenges and discuss further collaboration opportunities	All partners

Partner commitments

By organisation

- **HFHI (Habitat for Humanity International, Project Coordinator) and Habitat for Humanity Europe & Middle East:** will continue to reference and build on ComActivate's technical and policy outputs in their wider programme of work on housing and energy poverty in Central and Eastern Europe and will continue to support the pilot Resource Centres in Bulgaria, Hungary and Lithuania as they move towards locally financed, independent operation.
- **NHFHI (Nadácia Habitat for Humanity), WP4 lead for capacity-building: will continue to make use of the capacity-building programme and training materials developed for HOA managers and other stakeholders (D4.1, D4.2, D4.3 and D4.4) in its ongoing work with communities in the target countries.**
- **BPIE, lead beneficiary for dissemination and exploitation (WP6):** will maintain the ComActivate project webpage, hosted on BPIE.eu, as the permanent public repository for project outputs, keep its links and hosted files, including the 3D models, functional and updated, and continue to draw on the project's policy analyses (D5.1, D5.3 and D5.4) in its engagement with DG ENER and in future BPIE research on renovation and energy poverty in Central and Eastern Europe.
- **MRI (Metropolitan Research Institute), WP2 lead for Resource Centre institutionalisation:** will continue to use the RC sustainability, business and investment plans developed for Bulgaria, Hungary and Lithuania (D2.3, D2.4 and D2.5) to guide the pilot Resource Centres' financing and operation after the project and will share these plans with

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other municipalities and national partners exploring Resource Centre models, including through platforms such as EU PEERS and BUILD UP.

- **IWO (Housing Initiative for Eastern Europe), lead of the NESR engagement process in WP3: will continue to advise project municipalities, and other municipalities beyond ComActivate, on applying the NESR approach to district-level renovation and energy sufficiency planning, building on the good practice report on refurbishment roadmaps (D3.2) and the multi-stakeholder workshops it led.**
- **EKO Invest, technical delivery partner for WP3:** will continue to make available the building stock analyses, 3D models, roadmaps and toolbox of guidelines and training materials produced for the four target districts (D3.3 to D3.6) and will continue to reference them in its ongoing technical work with municipalities.
- **EnEffect:** will continue to draw on the multi-stakeholder dialogue format and template it shared with project partners, and will remain a partner to the Burgas RC in broadening the training and advisory services it offers to citizens and construction professionals.
- **LCA, contributing partner to the WP6 exploitation and dissemination materials (T6.2):** will continue to support the dissemination of project outputs within its own network, alongside the other contributing partners named above.
- **HFH North Macedonia, Associated Partner:** will replicate the RC operational model in North Macedonia, drawing on the multi-country RC network and knowledge sharing established through WP2 and WP5.
- **Municipality partners (Burgas in Bulgaria; Józsefváros in Hungary; and Kaišiadorys and Elektrėnai in Lithuania): will continue to operate, and where resourced expand, their Resource Centres beyond the project, and will keep using the project's dissemination materials, including the infographic, poster and video, to introduce Resource Centre and neighbourhood-level renovation concepts to residents, homeowners' associations and local stakeholders.**

By output

- The policy analyses (D5.1's assessment of EU and national policy frameworks for renovation and energy poverty, D5.3's 15 Recommendations for National Policymakers and D5.4's policy paper the on institutionalisation of Resource Centres and implementation of NESRs) will continue to inform BPIE's engagement with DG ENER and its contributions to EU policy processes such as the Energy Poverty Advisory Hub, and will be cited in future BPIE research addressing renovation and energy poverty in Central and Eastern Europe.
- The funding gap analysis (D5.2, on financing barriers for homeowners' associations and multi-family apartment buildings) will remain a reference point for partners' ongoing work on renovation financing mechanisms, including in follow-on proposals and technical assistance work with municipalities.
- The **Neighbourhood Energy Sufficiency Roadmaps** (D3.5, with four roadmaps developed for the project's four partner municipalities) will continue to be used by those municipalities as a working plan for district-level renovation and energy sufficiency measures beyond the ComActivate pilots and referenced by partners when supporting other municipalities interested in adopting a neighbourhood-level approach.
- The sustainability, business and investment plans for the Resource Centres (D2.3, D2.4 and D2.5, one for each of the three pilot countries) will directly guide how the pilot Resource Centres are financed and operated after project funding ends. They will be shared by project

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partners with other municipalities and national partners exploring Resource Centre models, including through third-party platforms such as EU PEERS and BUILD UP.

- The **good practice report on enabling financial frameworks** (D5.5) can serve as a reference and advocacy tool for partners, RCs and municipalities in discussions with banks, public authorities and other investors about future renovation financing schemes, and is intended to be shared through ComActivate and Habitat for Humanity International networks, future policy and financing events like roundtables and stakeholder workshops, and direct engagement with financial institutions.

Conclusions

ComActivate ends in October 2026, but its structures and tools are designed to outlast the project. This AfterLIFE Plan has assessed how institutional, financial, policy, and environmental and social sustainability are being secured for the RCs and NESRs, and how the project's results will be exploited and replicated once it ends. The overall picture is one of solid progress in all three pilot countries, alongside dependencies that lie largely outside the project's control – most notably, the availability of national support schemes for MFABs.

Institutional sustainability

Municipalities are the anchor of the RCs' long-term future, and embedding RCs within local authorities is the most realistic route to independent operation. In Józsefváros, the RC becomes part of the municipality's Housing Policy and Asset Management Department from September 2026, which consolidates its position in the long-term. In Kaišiadorys, RC costs are incorporated into the municipal budget and, as in Elektrėnai, the RC is hosted in municipal premises. In Burgas, the RC is a well-recognised municipal service, although recruiting and retaining suitably skilled staff, and low engagement when no renovation programmes are running, remain risks. In Lithuania, the legal framework will also matter, as current legislation limits who can submit renovation applications.

Financial sustainability

The business and investment plans completed in April 2026 show that public funding, above all from municipal budgets, will remain necessary, particularly where RCs serve vulnerable households that cannot benefit from market-based finance. Complementary sources are nonetheless emerging: the cooperation between Burgas Municipality and a private company specialised in passive houses, the role RCs can play in delivering national strategies such as the Social Climate Plans (SCPs), and financing through energy efficiency obligation schemes, loans from financial institutions and EU funds.

Policy sustainability

Embedding RCs and NESRs in Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs) and in national and EU frameworks is key to protecting them from shifts in political priorities. Lithuania has progressed furthest, Bulgaria is still aligning its framework with EU requirements, while Hungary has fallen behind with MFABs largely excluded from current support schemes. In all three countries, the transposition of the recast EPBD, which requires Member States to provide technical assistance through OSS, gives RCs a clear policy hook. The project's policy analyses and recommendations will

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continue to inform BPIE's and Habitat for Humanity's engagement with DG ENER and other EU policy processes.

Environmental and social sustainability

NESRs follow the 'Do No Significant Harm' principle and work at neighbourhood level, so that energy efficiency improvements go hand in hand with community involvement and engagement. Linking NESRs to RCs, as facilitators of the process, is the model being explored to carry them forward, although the Józsefváros experience shows that some challenges, roles and responsibilities cannot be addressed at the scale of a single pilot district.

Supporting municipalities and seeking further funding

Municipalities, particularly under-financed ones, will need continued support to keep RCs running and to put NESRs into practice. The business and investment plans and roadmaps developed with the pilot municipalities give them a working basis, and RCs are well placed to help municipalities make use of emerging funding. In Lithuania, the approved SCP unlocks roughly €422 million, including about €270 million for MFAB renovation, with new renovation calls from October 2026. In Bulgaria, the draft SCP earmarks around €568 million for MFAB renovation and the National Decarbonisation Fund is expected to start working in the near future. In Hungary, the agreed release of €16.4 billion in cohesion funding, part of which is intended for social housing programmes, and existing district-level renovation schemes offer further openings. Where relevant, partners can support municipalities in identifying and applying for these opportunities, alongside national grants, energy efficiency obligation schemes and financing from financial institutions.

Beyond the project, ComActivate's results will continue to be used in several ways:

- **Future workshops, conferences and training events:** consortium members can continue to present the project's results, methodologies and lessons learned at relevant events.
- **A good practice example for stakeholder engagement:** ComActivate shows how municipalities can be directly involved as consortium partners and actively contribute to project implementation and decision-making.
- **A resource for Communities of Practice and future initiatives:** the project's tools, materials and findings can be used within existing Communities of Practice and can inform future consortia, partnerships and project proposals.
- **Advocacy, policy and evidence-based decision-making:** project outcomes, findings and data can continue to support advocacy efforts, policy recommendations and evidence-based decision-making at various levels.
- **A demonstration project from the CEE region:** ComActivate can be showcased as an example of community-driven energy transition and municipal engagement in Central and Eastern Europe, helping to inspire similar initiatives and future projects.

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In short, ComActivate leaves behind working RCs anchored in local government, business and investment plans, neighbourhood roadmaps, and a body of evidence and recommendations for policymakers. Their long-term impact will depend on continued municipal commitment and on national and EU support schemes reaching MFABs, which is why the continued engagement of partners with municipalities and policymakers beyond the project, as set out in the partner commitments, matters as much as the tools themselves.

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