



**CONCERTED ACTION  
ENERGY SERVICES  
DIRECTIVE**



# **How to make better use of European financial sources in combination with national schemes for energy efficiency**

**WGR 5.3**

**Core theme 5  
Working Group Report 3**

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It is important and timely to discuss **how national and EU sources of funding can be combined to support national energy efficiency schemes** because two major activities have been on-going at EU level that have to be dealt with by the Member States. These are:

- The preparatory work for the Multiannual Financial Framework 2014-2020 (MFF) has already started in the Member States after the proposal of the European Commission on the 29<sup>th</sup> June 2011: the regulation is soon to be published
- The measures and targets of the new Energy Efficiency Directive have already been discussed in the Member States and the final document adopted by the European Union (EU) on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2012

The aim is to:

- Gain in-sights from the representatives of the European Commission and the European Investment Bank (EIB) about existing EU financing sources for energy efficiency programmes and their possible use
- Learn about good practice through case studies from the MFF 2007-2013 presented by CA ESD participants
- Learn about EU financing opportunities and priorities in the next programming period (2014-2020)
- Discuss how existing successful examples could be adapted to other national circumstances

Presentations by experts sharing ideas and exchanging knowledge are freely available at the CA ESD website ([www.esd-ca.eu](http://www.esd-ca.eu)). Good practice factsheets are also available on the website for public use.

Many Member States are dealing with the same problems and solutions might be available in other countries. It is therefore important for CA ESD participants and energy efficiency policy development experts to discuss difficulties and opportunities of energy efficiency programme/project financing and start thinking how they and their Member States could benefit from sharing new information and how they can personally influence national processes in order to foster energy efficiency improvements.

One aim of CA ESD is to provide **first-hand information** to participants both from the EU level and from Member States. There are presentations by 3 EU representatives (DG REGIO and EIB) and 6 experts from the countries available on the CA ESD website.

- CA ESD participants agreed that the key actors in influencing the delivery of more energy efficiency projects are the national government from the offer side and the industry (SMEs) from the demand side.
- National governments should always make sure that **all relevant stakeholders** from the funding, beneficiary and the facilitator sides are invited into the energy efficiency programme development process. The use of available financing resources has to be matched with the demand of beneficiaries. **Building strong partnerships** (on national, regional and local levels) is an essential success factor.
- **Structural and Cohesion Funds** have been an important source of financial support national energy efficiency programme implementation. Between 2014 and 2020 the amount of funding allocated to the low carbon economy (energy efficiency and renewable energy systems) is **expected to grow** reaching €17 billion with minimum set allocations. This will encourage Member States to set up energy efficiency programmes to finance more projects in this field.
- Using **JESSICA Holding Funds** have proved to be a good way to finance energy efficiency programmes and projects in many Member States, however, it does seem complicated and not very popular in others. In the MFF 2014-2020, it is forecast that at least 5% of the ERDF resources will be allocated to integrated actions for sustainable urban development. **National governments and Managing Authorities should look for further information and help** from the JESSICA Networking platform and the EIB. Bilateral consultation with countries where the scheme is already established is also important to avoid future problems.
- **This is the right time for national governments to establish relevant energy efficiency programmes** co-financed by EU sources which also ensure that the provisions and measures set in the Energy Efficiency Directive are to be met.

#### Added value

This research allowed for a deeper examination of the issue of using EU financial resources to support national EE programmes. Part of the research was dedicated to discussing good practices in the field of EE in buildings and in the SME sector. Practical information about administrative burdens, and difficulties and success factors were presented by authentic national experts and discussed among CA ESD participants.

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The added value of this research is that it involved the most relevant and powerful people, who are able to influence the flow of EE finance in their national central governments by advising on good programme design for EE financing to decision makers. National experts gained first-hand information and were also able to openly exchange views and share needs with EU institution representatives coming from DG REGIO, DG ENER and the European Investment Bank.

It is important to learn about existing good practices in order to better prepare for the next MFF for the 2014-2020 period, this research highlights some of these good practices.



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The Concerted Action for the Energy Services Directive II (CA ESD II) was launched by Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) in May 2011 to provide a structured framework for the exchange of information between the 29 Member States during their implementation of the Energy Services Directive (ESD). For further information please visit [www.esd-ca.eu](http://www.esd-ca.eu) or contact the CA ESD Coordinator Lucinda Maclagan at [lucinda.maclagan@agentschapnl.nl](mailto:lucinda.maclagan@agentschapnl.nl)