



Austria's funding programmes for vulnerable households

Final Conference SocialWatt, 16.03.2023, Brussels

Klemens Leutgöb,
Georg Benke



- **Target group: vulnerable households all over Austria**
 - 6.100 households over 10 years (since 2010)
- **Fully sponsored by VERBUND AG (largest Austrian utility)**
 - Approx. 4.5 mill. EUR over 10 years
- **Mainly energy advise, replacement of households appliances and settlement of outstanding energy invoices**
- **Due to success expansion with funding from the Austrian Energy and Climate Fund**
 - € 120 Million 2023 – 2026
 - Management by social actors (Caritas, Volkshilfe, etc.)

Programme „Heizöl raus“

- **Programme provides funding of up to 100% of the eligible costs for replacing fossil-fuel heating systems with ‘climate-friendly’ systems**
 - Priority connection to local/district heating
 - Pellets heating systems : up to € 25.000,-
 - Air heat pump: up to 17.000,-
- **Target group: Vulnerable single-family houses all over Austria**
- **Financing: Austrian Government, Ministry of Climate Protection**
 - € 140 Million for the period 2022-2025
- **Organizational aspects**
 - Organization and processing at the federal states level
 - depending on the federal state 80 to 1.200 funding cases / year
 - Includes a basic energy consultation on-site to check the opportunities
- **Similar programme for multi-family houses is under development**

Renovation of Multi Family buildings (2022 – 2025)

- **Primarily thermal renovation measures** (building envelope), and **heating systems** (connection to district heating, wood central heating or heat pumps) **if jointly done with thermal renovation** (or if thermal renovation was already done)
- **Target groups:**
 - **Listed charities, NGOs or municipalities owning or operating buildings larger than 300 m², older than 20 years and inhabited by low-income or vulnerable people** (for more than 50% of the heated area), including also accommodation for refugees or the homeless, women's shelters, children's homes.
 - For-profit facilities (e.g., old people's homes, nursing homes, holiday homes) are not eligible.
- **Financing**
 - € 45 million (2022 – 2025) funded under Austria's Recovery and Resilience Plan
 - projects have to be finished by the end of the programme (2025)
 - Funding **up to 100 %** of the net costs incurred, with a flat-rate up to €300 or €360/m² (depending on the energy performance achieved), and €150/m² for heating systems.

Pilot action „Pellets stoves for vulnerable households“

- **Pilot programme accompanied and evaluated in the frame of SocialWatt**
 - Test to which degree pellets stoves are accepted by vulnerable households and how to contribute to the alleviation of energy poverty
- **Cost**
 - € 4.000.- € 7.000,- per household, sponsored by a stove producer
 - Relevant organizational efforts required
- **Advantage of this form of heating**
 - well-established technology, very efficient because stove is inside the apartment
 - Low risk to overstretch the heating budget, because energy sources have to be purchased in advance
- **Outcomes of the pilot programme are summarised in a guideline**
- **Transfer to the other ongoing funding programmes envisaged**

Lesson learned

- **Funding programmes are still focusing on the simpler use cases**
 - Exchange of heating system and of electric appliances
 - Deep renovation only for specific cases where projects can be channelled by social (housing) actors
- **It is a major challenge to reach the concerned households**
 - Data protection is a serious barrier to identify target group members
 - The definition of (energy) poverty and vulnerable households has to remain flexible – the funding schemes should address also the “transition zones”
 - Deeper evaluation required who is currently participating in the programmes and which groups are not reached
- **Besides subsidies, vulnerable households need special accompaniment in order to be able to benefit from the programmes**



e7 energy innovation & engineering

Ingenieurbüro für Energie- und Umwelttechnik

Walcherstrasse 11/43, A-1020 Wien

Tel.: +43 1 907 80 26

www.e-sieben.at