



Sustainability Action Plan for the REACH project

This document is product of the planned activities of Work Package - WP2 of the “Reduce Energy Use and Change Habits” (REACH) project co-funded by the IEE Programme of the European Union.

The document presents the actors, activities that should be included and undertaken to support the future implementation and continuation of REACH project activities.

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Executive summary

The main goal of the sustainability plan is to ensure continuation of impacts of activities implemented within project REACH upon end of the implementing period and without the financial contribution from IEE Programme. The project partners have throughout implementation of various activities within project REACH ensure that their organizations have become recognized for being experts in dealing with energy poverty issues. This has also been achieved for DOOR who has no become respected NGO in the field of energy poverty in Croatia and even EU. DOOR has already initiated further steps which will be contributing to sustainability of the action and has written several project proposals, become involved in activities on governmental level related to energy poverty and has employee who is a Convener of the European Energy Poverty Observatory Advisory Board.

Goals and objectives of the Sustainability Action Plan (SAP)

Specific goals of the SAP are:

- To ensure sustainability of implementing energy efficiency measures as a tool for fighting energy poverty in Croatia
- To ensure sustainability of national and local policies aimed at fighting energy poverty in Croatia
- To ensure continuation of awareness rising campaigns and media interest on importance of designing systems for alleviation of energy poverty in Croatia
- To ensure sustainability of impacts on EU level policies by making DOOR as advocator for specificities of SEE in regards to energy poverty



Actors that can make REACH approach sustainable

Throughout project implementation several key actors have been identified:

The following actors have been identified as key for ensuring sustainability of REACH results:

Society for Sustainable Development Design, DOOR (www.door.hr)

- continuing advocacy and information sharing efforts in the field of energy poverty
- developing new project proposals related to energy poverty and ensuring needed funding for continuing planned activities
- strengthening its national and regional role as expert NGO with one of two program areas focused on energy poverty

Ministry of Environment and Energy, Ministry of Construction and Physical Planning, Ministry of Social Care and Youth together with Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund and Center for Monitoring Business Activities in the Energy Sector and Investments need to continue working on improving national social and energy legislative and ensure:

- development of new bylaws and laws for protection of vulnerable consumers and fighting energy poverty and meeting requirements of EU directives
- widening the existing definition of vulnerable consumers
- reallocating funds acquired through emission trading scheme for energy poverty
- different types of subventions for energy efficiency support schemes based on social criteria
- developing Program for tackling energy poverty in Croatia and implementing measures with primary focus on energy efficiency in vulnerable households

All of the listed competent authorities have expressed their interest and will to develop, support and implement actions aimed at fighting energy poverty. They each have supported directly some or all activities implemented within REACH, and have shown their support to DOOR's efforts.

City of Zagreb as a Croatian capital Zagreb can set an example for other local authorities to follow in fighting energy poverty. City of Zagreb has expressed their desire to design and implement measures which would help their citizens escape adverse effects of energy poverty. City of Zagreb has joined work done within REACH in the last year of its implementation, however, by already giving support to start of activities aimed at tackling energy poverty. Zagreb has shown strong commitment.

Other NGOs, primarily environmental and social, who have been capacitated through REACH are great asset in further advocacy work and designing better national, regional and EU level policies in



participatory manner and taking into consideration that energy poverty is an social issue requiring primarily technical solutions.

Integrating REACH approach in existing structures

Sustainability of the REACH approach in Croatia will be ensured as a first step through special measure within the 4th National Energy Efficiency Action Plan. The measure developed in cooperation with DOOR and other interested stakeholders, has been included in the draft of 4th NEEAP which is expected to be adopted in spring 2017. The measure foresees development of the national Program for alleviating energy poverty. The program is to be developed by the end of 2018 the latest and it will include developing criteria for beneficial energy efficiency schemes aimed at fighting energy poverty, it will also include detailed plan on who should be implementing those measure.

Furthermore, the implementation of the Program foresees start of the national pilot scheme for energy advising of energy poor and start of implementing the measures in energy poor households, starting with low-cost measures, such as were implemented within REACH, and progressing to replacement of household appliances bases on system “old for new” and all the way to full refurbishment of the buildings (building envelope insulation, windows and doors replacement etc.)

The implementation and monitoring of the visits to energy poor households should be regulated on national level by competent authorities.

It is of crucial importance to involve local social actors, NGOs, social care centres, local authority representatives and others who are well familiar with field situation in their area. Their involvement and education is of great significance as they are the ones who will best be able to identify households in need and to direct them to apply for newly designed support schemes.

Action Plan Costs and Tools Ensuring Funds

The activities on national level are planned in the following time frame:

- Duration of the whole national measure „Program for alleviating energy poverty“ : 1.1.2017.31.12.2026.
- 1st Interim period 1.1. 2017.-31.12.2018.
- 2nd Interim period 1.1.2019.-31.12.2020.
- 3rd Interim period 1.1.2020.-31.12.2026.

It is assumed that on the national level 5000 households will take part in the program yearly. For purpose of costs estimation the following further assumptions have been made:

- the average surface of the building of targeted households is 70 square meters with 100 square meters of external wall surface and 35 square meters of windows surface.

- the average energy class of the building is F
- thermal insulation is estimated to bring savings of 72kWh/m² of wall surface (external thermal insulation by ETICS system with insulation based on EPS 12 cm) and 192 kWh/m² of windows surface
- ceiling is insulated towards the unheated attic and this brings 30kWh/m² surface savings
- part of the targeted households need replacement of household appliances (through system “old for new” which means they will be required to give away their old appliances if they are to get new ones in order to ensure that there will be actual savings)
 - o program foresees replacement of refrigerators aged 1989 to 2000 with A+ and replacement of washing machines 1970-1975 with A+++
 - o estimated savings are 370kWh and 248kWh of electricity annually
- external wall retrofitting will be done on 30% of households, windows and doors replacement on additional 30% and in 40% only simple energy efficiency measures will be implemented (replacement of 5 standard lightbulbs with LED lighting, aerators on taps which are used for domestic hot water, energy saving shower, 18m of draft proofing tape for windows and doors per household) ensuring 900kWh of heat and electricity savings annually.

Using the aforementioned assumptions the following cost estimates have been calculated:

- total needed investment throughout 10 years is 1.747.080.000HRK (around 230 million EUR) with 200.000HRK (around 26.000EUR) of initial investment for development of the Program
- First Interim period (2 years, 10.000 households) requires 349.416.000HRK (around 46 million EUR)

The planned sources of funding are:

- National Energy Efficiency and Environmental Protection fund through funds available by emission trading scheme based on Air Protection Act (OG 160/11, 47/14)
- Energy distributors/suppliers based on energy efficiency obligations according to the Energy Efficiency Act (OG 127/14)

DOOR foresees further ensuring of sustainability of the action by developing numerous project proposals on local, national, regional and EU level. In February proposal has already been submitted to the national call announced by funds available from European Social Fund (project proposal foresees testing a pilot scheme of having training for energy advisors within the University as part of their curricula and being tested on City of Zagreb area), and is planning to develop further project proposals for upcoming national and EU level calls.

Summary of the most likely way forward

Overall, it is expected that more national, regional and EU actors will put their focus on energy poverty. Reasons that are wide, from new recommendations coming on EU level through the new “Energy package” which now has much stronger focus on energy poverty and energy vulnerability, to increased awareness on the importance of the topic which has been achieved through REACH and other similar



actions. It is likely that Croatian government and NGOs will be developing new, and improving existing policies with aim of protecting vulnerable households and alleviating energy poverty and that the topic will continue to have increasing trend of media visibility.