



ACTION PLAN

ON

INCREASING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND USING RENEWABLE ENERGY TO SUPPORT THE TRANSITION TO A LOW CARBON ECONOMY IN SOUTH-MUNTENIA REGION

carried out within the INTERREG project

SHREC „SHifting towards Renewable Energy for Transition to Low Carbon Energy”

Part I – General information

Project: SHREC „Shifting towards Renewable Energy for Transition to Low Carbon Energy”

Partner organisation: South Muntenia Regional Development Agency - SMRDA (ADR Sud Muntenia)

Country: ROMANIA

NUTS2 region: South Muntenia - Sud Muntenia (RO31)

Contact person: Monica Magureanu

email address: programe@adrmuntenia.ro

phone number: + 40 (0)728 282 196

Part II – Policy context

The Action Plan aims to impact:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	European Territorial Cooperation programme
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other regional development policy instrument

This Action Plan aims to have an impact also on the following national policies and programs, by contributing to the achievement of their objectives:

- Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme (via the European Regional Development Fund / ERDF and Cohesion Fund / CF);
- European Territorial Cooperation Programme (INTERREG);
- National Energy and Climate Plan 2021-2030 – PNIESC¹, April 2020;
- National Resilience and Recovery Plan - PNRR²;
- National Long-Term Renovation Strategy to support the renovation of the residential and non-residential buildings stock at national level, both public and private, and its gradual transformation into a national buildings stock with a high level of energy efficiency and decarbonisation by 2050 – SNRTL³, November 2020.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/info/energy-climate-change-environment/implementation-eu-countries/energy-and-climate-governance-and-reporting/national-energy-and-climate-plans_en#final-neeps

² <https://mfe.gov.ro/pnrr/>

³ <https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocument/236612>

Name of the policy instrument addressed: South Muntenia - Regional Operational Programme⁷ – SM ROP 2021-2027⁴

The decision to make this **change of policy instrument**, compared to the start of SHREC project in August 2019, respectively **from ROP 2014-2020 to ROP 2021-2027**, was based on 2 essential arguments:

1. the calendar of SHREC activities, corresponding to the Action Plan elaboration, overlapped with the last year of the former programming period 2014-2020 (n + 3), when SM ROP 2014-2020 came to an end - without new calls for project proposals, any intervention on the initial policy instrument being useless and unjustified;
2. the need to optimize and ensure the efficiency of the actions proposed in Chapter 5 of this Plan by their intervention in supporting the implementation ROP 2021-2027 within the new European programming period; thus, this Action Plan will have a substantial contribution.

SM ROP 2021-2027 (document under the EC assessment) will represent the strategic foundation for regional development within the next programming period (2021-2027 + 2 years).

SM ROP 2021-2027 ensures the implementation of the strategic vision for a sustainable and balanced development of the South Muntenia Region (SMR), contributing to the development of pillars, actions and priorities from the SMR Regional Development Plan (RDP-SMR 2021-2027), Smart Specialization Strategy (SMR-RIS3 2021-2027) and the SMR Integrated Territorial Development Strategy (ITDS-SMR 2021-2027).

SM ROP 2021-2027 has set as its **general objective** the stimulation of smart, sustainable and balanced economic growth in SMR.

From the socio-economic development perspective, it should be noted that SMR has a special characteristic, being the only region in Romania that contains an enclave region in the central part, namely the Bucharest-Ifov Region (BIR), the most developed region in the country. Thus, BIR exerts a socio-economic influence, SMR having great difficulties in retaining the young and highly qualified population. Additionally, development disparities between the northern and southern SMR must be highlighted, where the northern part (NUTS3 regions Arges/AG, Prahova/PH and Dambovita/DB) is heavily industrialized (especially the automotive, mining and metallurgy industry), together generating 71% of regional GDP. The remaining four counties (NUTS3 regions Calarasi/CL, Giurgiu/GR, Teleorman/TR and Ialomita/IL) have a much smaller contribution to the regional GDP (29%), being specialised in agriculture.

Thus, starting from the European and national policies and programs, from the lessons learned during 2014-2020 and from the socio-economic development priorities inside the SMR strategic documents mentioned above (PDR, RIS3, SIDT 2021-2027), and considering the specifics of SMR, the **6 specific strategic objectives of SM ROP 2021-2027** are:

- OST.1.** Stimulating the smart and sustainable development of the region, based on innovation, digitalization and the development of the entrepreneurial ecosystem;
- OST.2.** Stimulating the region's transition to a zero-emission economy by increasing energy efficiency, improving environmental protection and increasing urban mobility;
- OST.3.** Increasing accessibility of rural and urban areas to the TEN-T network through investments in the road infrastructure at county (NUTS3) level;
- OST.4.** Increasing access to quality and inclusive services in education, training and LLL through the development of educational infrastructure;
- OST.5.** Increasing the attractiveness of the region by investing in tourism infrastructure and cultural heritage;
- OST.6.** Developing the administrative capacity of the Management Authority SMRDA and of the project developers and future beneficiaries.

⁴ <https://www.adrmuntenia.ro/por-sud-muntenia-20212027/static/1295>

Through the proposed actions in Chapter 5, SMRDA will contribute to the fulfilment of the following strategic objective of the regional policy instrument SM ROP 2021-2027 and, implicitly, to the achievement of INTERREG SHREC project goals:

OST.2. Stimulating the region's transition to a zero-emission economy by increasing energy efficiency, improving environmental protection and rising urban mobility.

The interventions provided for OST.2 will address the negative effects of identified market failures, namely:

- improving energy efficiency, enhancing biodiversity conservation and green infrastructure development;
- reducing air/water/soil pollution;
- increasing the use and efficiency of public transport.

The actions proposed by SMRDA in this Action Plan aims to correlate the SM ROP 2021-2027 - OST.2 with the EU priorities for the same period, respectively the second European policy objective, with the associated specific objective:

- **EU - PO2 or b):** A greener Europe, resilient, with low-carbon emissions transitioning towards a zero-carbon economy by promoting the transition to clean and fair energy, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation, risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility;
- **EU - Specific Objective or b(i):** Promoting energy efficiency measures and reducing GES.

In 2021-2022 SMRDA carried out a public consultation among South Muntenia regions' stakeholders (the 4 key categories: public authorities (national, regional, local); academia and research; business - enterprises and clusters; civil society - NGOs and professional associations), both through an opinion survey (online and by phone, with 53 participations) and 3 focus groups (with a total of 45 attendants). Following these mixed analyses (quantitative & qualitative) carried out by SMRDA and all SHREC good practices; a Market Study was developed at regional level – SMR, within the INTERREG SHREC project.

Additionally, SMRDA requested data from the Environmental Fund Administration within the Ministry of Environment (AFM) – which were summarized in the table below:

Table 1 – Interest in accessing AFM funding programs in SMR Region (January 2022)

AFM programs	Signed agreements for funding	
Program or Support Policy / Client Type / Works or Activities Type	National	South Muntenia Region (SMR)
Energy Efficient House 2020-2021 – signed agreements for funding		
individuals - single-family homes / increasing energy efficiency	321 <i>(11.5% out of the total submitted funding application)</i>	34 <i>(10.6% out of the total at national level)</i>
Energy Efficient Public Buildings 2021 (ongoing analyses for approval)		
public administrative-territorial units / increasing energy efficiency and smart energy management in public buildings	870 submitted funding applications <i>(150% out of the total allocated budget)</i>	143 submitted funding applications <i>(16.4% out of the total at national level)</i>
PV Green House 2019-2020 (2021 ongoing processing)		
individuals / PV systems for electricity generation, for covering the necessary consumption and surplus delivery in the national network (prosumers)	14,084 selected applicants (2020)	1,949 selected applicants <i>(13.8% out of the total at national level)</i> 1,731 signed agreements
Rabla “Trash” Programme for Home Appliances (vouchers granted in 2019 and 2021)		

individuals / replacing of used old home appliances with energy efficient ones	96,349 (2019)	36,924 (2021)
Public Lighting 2020-2021		
public administrative-territorial units / public lighting (LED lamps)	212 signed agreements (2020) 565 submitted funding applications (2021) under evaluation	13 signed agreements (2020) 49 signed agreements (2021) (68.9% out of the total submitted application in SMR)

Source: Environmental Fund Administration - AFM⁵

Finally, based on public data made available to interested parties by the Energy Regulatory Authority - ANRE and CN Transelectrica SA - National Electricity Transmission Company, SMRDA has analysed an indicative situation (January 2022) for individuals and SMR legal entities that have integrated PV systems in buildings, as prosumers⁶, with valid technical permits (ATR) for distribution grid connection. Thus, in the following table are highlighted the prosumers (individuals or legal persons who own a unit for producing electricity from renewable energy sources, with an installed power of up to 100 kW, according to ANRE Orders no.15/2021 and no.50/2021) connected at the level of each DSOs (Distribution Systems Operator), inside related NUTS3 regions – counties inside SMR.

Table 2 – SMR prosumers with valid technical permits for grid connection (January 2022)

DSOs / Counties (NUTS3)	Prosumers – individuals (no.)	Prosumers – legal persons (no.)	Total prosumers with Pi ≤ 100 kW (no.)	Total installed power Pi (kW)
E-Distribuție Muntenia / Giurgiu	3	0	3	17
E-Distribuție Dobrogea / Călărași	2	1	3	38
E-Distribuție Dobrogea / Ialomița	2	0	2	15
SDEE Muntenia Nord / Prahova	80	8	88	689
SDEE Muntenia Nord / Dâmbovița	62	1	63	330
Distribuție Energie Oltenia / Argeș	0	0	0	0
Distribuție Energie Oltenia / Teleorman	0	1	1	98
TOTAL SMRDA	149	11	160	1187

Source: ANRE⁷ and Transelectrica⁸

Based on data presented above we may observe that:

- there is interest from both individuals and legal entities (local public authorities), in accessing supporting measures / policies from AFM to co-finance investments in energy efficiency and RES integration in buildings; SMR is among the top 3 regions nationally in terms of contracts signed for the programs listed in Table 1;
- with regard to PV systems installation, for covering the buildings needs/demand and delivering the surplus in the national grid, the interest is clearly growing; 1.731 contracts with AFM (Table 1) and only 160 prosumers with valid permits (ATR) (Table 2), which explains the future permits requests to be sent to ANRE, for technical connection to the electricity distribution grid.

⁵ https://www.afm.ro/programe_finantate.php

⁶ Definition according to Prosumer Guide, ANRE <https://www.anre.ro/ro/legislatie/prosumatori>

⁷ <https://portal.anre.ro/PublicLists/LicenteAutorizatii>

⁸ <https://www.transelectrica.ro/ro/web/tel/productie>

Given the difference at national level, according to AFM data for the Energy Efficient House Program (2020-2021), between the number of registered applications 16,409 and only 2,808 applicants who submitted the complete necessary funding documents, the following actions become necessary, both regionally (SMR) and nationally:

1. a better understanding of this program, with a clear explanation of the required documentation accompanying the funding application;
2. an additional regional financial instrument / mechanism, which could be integrated into the SM ROP 2021-2027 to be addressed to individuals, with single-family housing.

At the same time, considering the current global background related to gas, fuel and electricity prices, integrating RES in the renovation concept of existing buildings is increasingly justified and cost-effective from a technical and economic point of view.

There is a need for increasing the level of knowledge and understanding, both for individuals and legal entities, related to the renovation packages proposed by SNRTL and included in SM ROP 2021-2027, with the types of eligible construction works and activities, by building categories, including mixed RES solutions to cover the need for electricity and heat demand (i.e. PVs and HPs). Therefore, the actions to be supported by this Action Plan will intensify the flow of information; improve the knowledge and understanding of key actors involved, thus contributing to the achievement of SM ROP 2021-2027 targets.

Part III – Details of the actions envisaged

Despite the economic progress and growth between 2014-2018, SMR remains, at national level, a region that falls into the category of less developed regions, according to the EU classification.

Also, during the development of the INTERREG SHREC project, the elaboration of the SMR Market Study and the in-depth analysis of the good practices, in addition to the internal-regional discrepancies regarding the level of socio-economic development of SMR component counties (more developed northern counties than southern ones), disparities between SMR and the other SHREC partner regions were observed, regarding the level of development and implementation of European policies in the fields of energy efficiency and RES integration.

To this aim, 2 actions are proposed to be implemented by SMRDA in the period August 2022-July 2023, which will lead to updates of the analysed policy instrument - SM ROP 2021-2027 and to governance improvement for the regional policy instruments, with the common goal of increasing stakeholders' interest in accessing European funds to implement energy efficiency measures and reduce GES, thus contributing to achieving the regional indicators/targets and accelerating the transition of the South Muntenia Region to a zero carbon emission economy.

ACTION 1

PLANING AND LAUNCHING OF A NEW REGIONAL FUNDING SCHEME

1. The background

This proposed action is the result of the exchange of expertise and lessons learned between the project partners, and interregional learning combined with the recommendations/needs of stakeholders highlighted by their participation in LSG meetings.

In order to deepen the learning process, SMRDA has organised, since the beginning of SHREC project, five regional stakeholder meetings. Attendees were representatives of SMRDA, national – NUTS3 and local public authorities, academia, business and research environment, and civil society from South Muntenia Region. During the events were presented and debated good practices from the other regions participating in the project. SMRDA selected the best and needs-matched examples for SMR, to transfer knowledge to the South

Muntenia Region. The draft of SMR Action Plan was presented and debated in connexion with the suitable SHREC partners' good practices.

In November 2021, SMRDA launched the public acquisition procedure aiming the elaboration of the Action Plan. The final version of the Action Plan will be finalized, according to the contract, in April 2022. Thus, the SMR Market Study and the Action Plan were performed with the support of an external consultant, targeting the development of Energy Efficiency and RES integrated projects in SMR, main challenges, needs and the actions to be implemented during the 2nd phase of SHREC project. Following the findings of the social survey performed for the Market Research Study, three focus-groups were organized at the beginning of 2022, where the stakeholders actively participated, expressing their concerns, challenges, opportunities and the most important, the necessary actions that could be implemented in the region in order to improve the policy instrument SM ROP 2021-2027.

One of the main conclusions of these meetings was that it would be of a big interest and a valuable opportunity, to implement an action for supporting, via funding schemes and grants, the existing individual housing renovation.

Also, following the interregional learning and exchange of experience process, South Muntenia RDA has been inspired from the good practices introduced during the interregional workshop **Energy policies and innovative projects in Piemonte**, organized online, on the 21st of January, 2021, namely the *Business models for building retrofitting: making thermal load electric towards energy self-consumption*. The initiative "Smart Retrofitting" supports the adoption of the energy transition technologies towards a low carbon economy, by using PASSIVE measures (coatings, new windows, ventilated walls) & ACTIVE measures (PV + Heat pumps + Storage) & Building Management System.

Piemonte, IT best practice example, related to *Business models for building retrofitting*, created interest due to the main strong point that can enhance the appetite of citizens for this type of initiative. So, private house owners in Italy have shown a great interest for the financial instruments bringing the main advantages in: decreasing households' costs with energy and heating and increasing the value of the real-estate property. Thus, an investment in this area will not only decrease costs with heating, but can also provide an advantage in increasing the property value, which was one of the triggering factors for applying to these types of funding schemes.

According to the last official census (RPL 2011) about 74% of the total population in South Muntenia Region is living in single-family residential housing, with an average living space of 50 m². In the SMR, 90% of the total residential buildings (both single- and multi-family housing) were built before 2000 and most have a partial or total lack of thermal insulation, outdated technology and materials in doors and windows, lack of sun protection on southern and western facades, inadequate use of potential high solar system in the region and inadequate maintenance of heating / air conditioning systems.

Also, due to the ongoing increase in the energy and fuel prices in Romania, generated by a post-pandemic unstable economic situation and the Russian war on Ukraine, SM RDA aims to develop a new funding scheme to be included in SM ROP 21-27, to provide part-subsidized loans, combined with grants, and support energy efficiency and RES integration in individual homes / single-family households.

2. Action

Action 1 will consist of the main following activity:

Planning and launching a new regional funding scheme to support individual and social housing

This proposed Action 1 is the result of the exchange of experience between SHREC project partners, combined with the needs of stakeholders highlighted by their active participation in LSG meetings and consultation process during both quantitative and qualitative research (survey and focus groups organized at the beginning of 2022).

All activities will be focused on planning and launching a new funding scheme which will allow the owners of single-family residential housing to renovate, by covering *Investments in residential buildings (individual and social housing being eligible)*, which will include construction works for:

- improving energy efficiency;

- consolidation - based on identified risks;
- integrating renewable and/or alternative energy sources, for electricity and/or heating.

To this aim, SM ROP 21-27 will provide an estimated 50 mil. € regional allocation, consisting partially of a subsidized loan (20-30%), and a grant (70-80%), to support *Investments in individual and social housing*. In addition, one part of the interest rate, around 3%, will be subsidized. The grant amount provided for one individual house will be around 20.000 euro.

The high cost of energy efficiency improvements has so far discouraged private investments, so public financial support and awareness rising are actions considered necessary to support energy efficiency and RES integration, with its associated socio-economic benefits.

3. Players involved

SMRDA staff will plan, develop, launch the call for proposals, monitor and evaluate the submitted projects.

Stakeholder group members, consisting of the followings, will act as main catalyst to promote the new funding instrument to potential beneficiaries in SMR:

- Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests (MMAP) and Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration (MDLPA)
- County Councils (NUTS3) and mayoralities or Local Councils representatives
- Business support organisations, clusters and SMEs
- RDI institutions and universities
- Civil society

4. Timeframe

August 2022 – July 2023

5. Costs

The costs for the implementation of ACTION 1 will be related to staff costs to be covered from SMRDA own budget. The allocated budget for the call for proposals will be ERDF funds for Priority 2. A region with environmentally friendly cities, included in SM ROP 2021-2027.

6. Funding sources

SMRDA own budget for covering staff costs during planning & launching of the new funding scheme and ERDF for the implementation.

ACTION 2

STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF SOUTH MUNTENIA GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE BY RE-ACTIVATING THE COMMUNITY KEY ACTORS IN THE REGION

1. The background

Similar to ACTION 1, this second proposed action is also the result of the exchange of expertise and lessons learned between the project partners, and interregional learning combined with the recommendations/needs of stakeholders highlighted by their participation in LSG meetings.

During the LSG meetings, the public authorities' representatives had highlighted the fact that due to the energy prices rising especially for natural gas and electricity, the local public budgets are being challenged. Thus, the

interest for the nZEB renovation works in public buildings has risen sharply in order to decrease public costs and avoid financial incapacity. However, general understanding regarding nZEB construction works concept and standards, to be included in project proposals, are very low. So, issues arising are related to skilled workforce; the quality of the funding applications and willingness for submitting projects proposals; the renovation works quality.

Also, the evaluation process conducted for the Priority Area 3 of the ROP 2014-2020 highlighted the risk of a shortage of skilled labour for the implementation of the axis projects in the near future. Due to the strong migration of the population in the country, this is already happening in some areas and sectors. In addition, we must consider that in the next 2-3 years, a large number of new projects will be funded, the recommendations being to carry out initiatives to ensure the provision of good quality labour. The ability to improve the average quality of the workforce employed in this area is the pillar of a successful implementation of a funding programme, along with improving the quality of internal SMRDA staff and raising the awareness of end-users.

Following the findings from the activities performed by SMRDA, since the beginning of SHREC project, as:

- LSG meetings;
- SHREC partners' good practices analyses, including similarities and adequacies identification with SMR;
- SMR Market Study including both regional quantitative (survey) and qualitative (focus groups) research;
- SMR draft Action Plan consultations and debate;

the main conclusion is that SMRDA institutional capacity and competences must be strengthened and the communication flow at the level of SMR key stakeholders must be intensified and optimised in order to increase the level of understanding and knowledge of the private and public entities - future beneficiaries of SM ROP 21-27 policy instrument.

Additionally, following the interregional learning process and exchange of experience, South Muntenia RDA has been inspired from the good practices introduced during the interregional workshop organized on the September 22, 2020 on how the Swedish region of Middle Norrland works to shift towards renewable energy for transition to low carbon economy. The main event has provided valuable knowledge on low carbon economy initiatives and best practices in Sweden, and one has proven to have transferring potential for the South Muntenia region, namely the **Knowledge Transfer Partnership Successful Collaboration Between Academia and Industry, Middle Norrland Region, SE.**

The best practice underlines that collaboration between research environment and the target market (SMEs, public authorities, civil society) should be enhanced, in order to create the opportunity for knowledge to be transferred from "lab" stage to market. In order to be competitive, SMEs need to be more energy efficient, and adapt their production flow to the new low carbon economy requirements. Not all of the SME's have internal resources (time, money and knowledge) to proceed with this adaptation/transformation process. Analysing this particular best practice, aiming to support the integration of energy saving solutions and integrating RES in final consumption in order to decrease the CO2 emissions, the importance of sharing knowledge was noticed.

The stakeholders attending SMRDA focus groups were divided in two: 1. research, professional associations, clusters and SMEs in the area of low carbon economy and RES; 2. public authorities at local, regional and national level. During the discussions it was highlighted that LPA need and want to gain knowledge in order to be able to develop successful projects, and the business and research environment wants to provide knowledge and expertise to interested stakeholders. As a result, opportunities were created both to develop connexion between all parties interested in collaborations and partnerships, and to enhance the projects proposals quality and quantity to be submitted under the new proposed SM ROP 21-27 funding scheme.

As Managing Authority for SM ROP 21-27, South Muntenia RDA aims to enhance the cooperation and act as a catalyst for all key stakeholders in the region in order to increase the level of expertise, knowledge and best practice sharing.

The best practice example related to Knowledge Transfer Partnership Successful Collaboration Between Academia and Industry can be adjusted to the current situation in SMR by transferring knowledge from the academia and business environment, in the fields of RES and nZEB, to the future beneficiaries. Knowing that in Romania nZEB requirements became mandatory for the new buildings starting with 2021, enhancing the level of knowledge and understanding in SMR communities is a must.

2. Action

Action 2 will consist of several activities aiming to implement a Learning and Capacity Building Programme for SMRDA, as follows:

2.A. Planning the Learning and Capacity Building Program

In order to optimise policy instrument (SM ROP 21-27) implementation a learning and capacity building programme will be conceived and planned by SMRDA. This program aims to increase the capacity and improve the skills and level of understanding of SMRDA staff, especially for technical concepts and supporting legislation. This will optimise accessibility and increase the level of absorption of European funds managed by SMRDA, in the field of buildings' energy efficiency and RES integration.

2.A.1. SMR Stakeholders structure analysis

Stakeholders **mapping** and identification of the key SMR actors will be performed at community level. Finally, the structure of the SMR Key Stakeholders Community will be defined, considering the Quadruple helix approach⁹ (similar to the EDP – Entrepreneurial Discovery Process), with the definition of a bottom-up consultative and decision-making process.

2.A.2. SMR Key Stakeholders Community (SMR-KSC)

- drafting and adopting at community level, by the Key Stakeholders Community in South Muntenia region, of an agreement (**MoU** or collaboration agreement) defining a common regional vision for 2021-2027 related to SMR transition to a low carbon economy;
- initiating and implementing actions for the **inventory of success stories**, in the SMR and at SHREC partners' regions recommended in Chapter 4, for the development of adequate information-kits to be used in the implementation stage of the programme, as best practice and steps to follow in the renovation of existing buildings and in the establishment of future energy communities by linking and initiating dialogue with existing prosumers in the region; to help raise awareness among the general public about changing attitudes towards energy saving and the use of RES; planning the learning and capacity building programme (awareness campaign, learning and knowledge sharing events).

2.B. Implementing the Learning and Capacity Building Programme

2.B.1 Urban public awareness rising campaign

In order to encourage and promote nZEB renovation concepts, and new local governance structures such as citizens' energy communities (GEO 143/2021), following the examples of projects developed by communities in SHREC partners' regions, an urban public awareness campaign will be organised and implemented. This education & awareness campaign will be supported by SMR-KSC and will consist of digital promotional materials, such as newsletter and leaflets, distributed at NUTS3 level, and information through online social media, in order to constantly disseminate useful information and share knowledge related to energy efficiency and RES integration in buildings.

SMR-KSC will also make a statement and initiate a lobbying activity at governmental level to accelerate the preparation of secondary legislation - the rules for the organisation and operation of these energy communities.

2.B.2 Learning and capacity building sessions

Periodic Learning sessions will be organized - for SMRDA staff involved in the development and implementation of SM ROP 21-27 (the policy instrument programme, applicant guideline and evaluation grid), and the staff involved in the projects implementation and programme results indicators monitoring.

Concepts and technical solutions (integrated concepts, technologies, materials) related to the eligible activities will be presented:

- renovating the existing buildings stock, in order to increase the energy performance, according to the 3 renovation packages defined in SNRTL, respectively:

⁹ <https://cor.europa.eu/en/engage/studies/Documents/quadruple-helix.pdf>

- i. minimum renovation - Package P1 (in order to meet the national technical regulations related to the buildings energy performance, i.e. close to class C of the current Energy Performance Certificate observing the technical regulations in force);
- ii. medium renovation - Package P2 (in-depth renovation to avoid future works needed to be rebuilt or replaced to meet future nZEB requirements, and with minimal use of RES); and
- iii. maximum renovation - Package P3 (in-depth renovation standard or nZEB, including all renewable energy options such as rooftop PV, solar hot water preparation or solar geothermal heat pumps).
 - integrating RES (solar, low-capacity wind, geothermal, biomass, biogas) for electricity generation covering own/self-consumption, the surplus being delivered in the distribution grid, and / or thermal energy to cover the heating needs, hot water and possibly drinking cold water;
 - metering and management systems for electricity and heat consumption.

The legislative topic will cover both primary and secondary legislation and elements of interest in the Fiscal Code in the field of increasing buildings energy efficiency and RES integration. Also, based on the eligible activities in the economic-financial topic, specific investments figures will be presented for few buildings categories, depending on the renovation package and / or the type of integrated RES. The set of eligible expenditure will be analysed and all funding sources and mechanisms will be inventoried, including mixed funding schemes needed for both:

- pre-investment studies (i.e. technical expertise, feasibility studies, energy audit, etc.)
- engineering, permits, public procurements and construction works.

The sessions info-kits will be structured based on the SMR buildings' stock with arrears in renovation works covered by SM ROP 2021-2027 - eligible buildings according to the set defined by classes A, B, C and D in SNRTL, and estimating SMR renewable energy potential.

The organised learning sessions and the info-kits will be public on social media networks - SMRDA Facebook page. SMRDA will monitor and evaluate the impact of Learning and Capacity Building Program implementation.

Through all the activities carried out by this Community, the SMR-KSC will facilitate connections between authorized trainers and specialists for continuous improvement in fields with work-force deficiencies - energy auditors of buildings, energy managers, companies recommended for collaboration for installation of RES systems through AFM, etc.

3. Players involved

SMRDA staff will plan, develop, launch the Learning and Capacity Building Programme (activities 2.A and 2.B), monitor and evaluate the impact of the program.

SMR-KSC will be structured in 2 categories:

- trainees – the beneficiary of the learning and capacity building programme: SMRDA personnel, SMR urban centres (municipalities and cities) and County Councils (NUTS3), SMEs;
- trainers / lecturers – experts sharing knowledge and expertise: AFM (Environmental Fund Administration) and FREE (Romanian Energy Efficiency Fund), clusters (i.e. Pro-nZEB, Cerman), professional associations (i.e. SUNE, zeroEnergyBuilding Romania), academia (i.e. Valahia University from Târgoviște, Politehnica University from Bucharest), RDI institutes (i.e. ICPE CA, Advanced Technology Systems), etc.

The trainers/lecturers group of experts have agreed to share knowledge and provide consulting to potential SM ROP 21-27 beneficiaries, in order to increase the number and enhance the quality of the projects proposals submitted for the new funding scheme.

4. Timeframe

August 2022 – July 2023

Aug. 22	Sep. 22	Oct. 22	Nov. 22	Dec. 22	Jan. 23	Feb. 23	Mar. 23	Apr. 23	May 23	Jun. 23	Jul 23
Key stakeholders' analysis	MoU draft and Key Actors Community MoU signed	Developing the Campaign and the Promoting & Learning program		Public campaign & promo-learning program launch	Implementing the public campaign & promo-learning program				Reporting		

5. Costs

The costs for the implementation of **ACTION 2** will be related to:

1. staff costs to be covered both from SMRDA own budget;
2. costs related to awareness campaign and learning sessions organisation will be avoided through digitalisation – all information-dissemination materials will be digitally promoted via SMRDA website and social media; and learning sessions organised online with the contribution of pro-bono experts (based on the principle of mutual benefit - they teach and promote financing tools (sources & mechanisms), concepts-approaches, technologies - equipment - materials, and consulting – engineering - construction services from which they can also benefit).

It is recommended to choose the virtual format for the learning sessions in order to have sustainable oriented events (no printing, no traveling), opportunity for more trainees to attend and avoid extra budget spending.

6. Funding sources

SMRDA own budget for covering staff costs during planning & launching of ACTION 2 and ERDF and/or local budget from SMR public authorities for the implementation (public awareness campaign), together with SMRDA own budget (learning sessions in virtual format).

Date: _____

Signature: _____




Stamp of the organisation (if available): _____