AMR - 20 years of service for local development

The Association of Romanian Cities (AMR) was founded in 1990, under the name of Federation of Romanian Cities (FMR), by 30 founding associate members, and has operated from the very beginning as an organisation supporting and representing local authority interests.

AMR is a private law, non-profit-making, non-governmental, and apolitical, legal entity, which was set up to promote and protect the common interests of local government authorities, to solve and manage public needs on behalf and in the interest of local governments.

AMR currently includes \textbf{103 cities (municipii) and the 6 districts (sectoare)} of the Bucharest capital city.
Facts and figures about energy infrastructure in cities

**Trends:**

- losses in the networks increased in average by 11% in the last 4 years, in half of the cities with central heating system;
- in the last 10 years, 7 cities have stopped operating the urban heating system

**Measure to curb these trends consisted in public investments:**

- 9 cities out of the 34 who operate urban heating systems succeeded to reduce energy losses, in average with 5%;
- 7 out of the 34 cities succeeded to get European funding for the rehabilitation and modernization of the urban heating network.
Facts and figures about public lightening infrastructure

- Various legal forms: public, privatized or PPP
- Investments needed to modernize the network and reduce energy costs
- In very few cases the distribution network was bought back by the municipality in order to modernize it
Priority Axis 4: Increasing energy efficiency and security of supply, in the context of combating climate change: Major domain of intervention 4.2 – Take advantage of energy renewable resources for green energy production provide financing for local authorities and private companies

Total budget: 433,341,562 EUR including national co-financing

Areas of intervention: supporting investments in upgrading and building new production capacity for electricity and heat by turning to renewable energy:

1\textsuperscript{st} call for projects in 2008; out of the 15 projects approved only 3 are from local authorities;

2\textsuperscript{nd} call for projects in 2010; out of the 17 projects approved only 2 are from local authorities.
SECTORAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAM FOR ENVIRONMENT

Priority Axis 3 “Reduction of pollution and mitigation of climate change by restructuring and renovating urban heating systems towards energy efficiency targets in the identified local environmental hotspots”

Total budget: 458.537.288 EUR including national co-financing

Interventions consist in rehabilitation of urban heating systems

Projects financed: 5 major projects (Iași, Timișoara, Bacău, Oradea, Vâlcea) with budgets over 50 million euro and 2 non-major projects (Focșani and Botoșani) with budgets of about 36 million euro. All 7 projects consist in rehabilitation and modernization of urban heating systems.
REGIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAM (ROP)

Priority axis 1: Support to sustainable development of urban growth poles

Total budget: 1.391.171.785 euro including national co-financing

Key areas of interventions include:

- Buildings: rehabilitation, extension, finalization of construction works;
- Urban transport: sustainable mobility, intermodal terminals, intelligent transport systems etc.
- Public lightening

ROP approach differs from the other operational programs as the beneficiaries (local authorities) - in order to get funding cities have to design integrated development plans at the level of intervention areas which includes pipeline projects.
**NATIONAL PROGRAMS FINANCED FROM STATE BUDGET**

1. **Thermal Rehabilitation Program** addresses to the owners' associations that want to increase the energy performance of the housing blocks built on the basis of a project elaborated in the period 1950-1990, regardless of their heating system.

The annual budget of the program is approved by Minister’s order and is 110 million lei (aprox. 24 mil. euro).

The financial scheme works as follows: the owners association pays 20% of the total cost of the rehabilitation works and the remaining 80% is provided from the state and the local budgets.
II. The Green House Programme for individual households and local authorities

- The call for individuals (building owners) has a budget of 100 million lei, financed by the Environment and Forestry Ministry from the State budget.

- The call targeting public institutions and local authorities of the same Green House program finances investments in heating systems installation that use renewable energy sources, including replacement or completing classic heating systems. The annual budget of the call is about 100 million lei. The project covers 90% of the eligible costs, up to 4 million lei per beneficiary.
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