Slovakia
Subsidies for the thermal insulation of residential buildings

Responsible authority: Ministry of Transport and Construction
Managing authority: Ministry of Transport and Construction

General information

The energy efficiency policy targets of Slovakia are defined in the "Energy Policy of the Slovak Republic" (2014). The absolute target for EED Article 3 is a primary energy consumption not exceeding 989 PJ and a final energy consumption not exceeding 387 PJ in 2020. The target for 2030 is set at 30.3% savings compared to the reference PRIMES2007 scenario. The cumulative end-use savings to be achieved according to EED Article 7 amount to 26 565 GWh for 2014-2020 and to 47 877.5 GWh for 2021-2030.

Slovakia aims to achieve the Article 7 targets by using alternative energy efficiency measures.

Investments in several types of energy efficiency measures are subsidised, partially from the EU and the State budget. In recent years, the focus has been on the thermal insulation of buildings and around 60% of flats have been insulated. At the current levels of renovation, all blocks of flats in the country will be insulated by 2030.

Organization and MRV

The main institution responsible for strategy, planning and regulations is the Ministry of Economy of the Slovak Republic. The Ministry of Transport and Construction is responsible for the implementation of measures in the building sector. Several support schemes are focused on thermal insulation and refurbishment of residential buildings. Almost all of them are operated by the State Fund for Housing Development.

The Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency (SIEA) is in charge of monitoring of the energy savings and has developed a Monitoring System for Energy Efficiency (MSEE) to collect the data needed to evaluate the savings. SIEA is also responsible for energy advisory tasks, awareness raising, energy education, and the promotion of energy innovation.

Methods for the calculation of energy savings are generally ex-ante scaled savings. Existing and projected thermal performances of buildings are determined according to technical standards. Savings are determined from the difference between the "before" and "after" Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs). EPC data is entered by energy experts doing the EPCs in the INFOREG Information System (INFOREG IS) that includes the EPC database. INFOREG IS automatically checks the data that are then formatted and exported to MSEE.

Quality checks are also conducted as part of the preparation of action plans and the annual report. As measures are controlled on a project-by-project basis, there was no need to establish a statistically significant sampling.

Sectoral coverage

The Ministry of Transport and Construction has started the Single-Family Home (SFH) Renovation Program in 2016. The program provides financial support for improving the energy efficiency of family houses, in form of start-stop calls. From 2019, support is also provided for nZEB newly-built SFHs.

At the start of the program, the contractor had to be an accredited construction company, today, do-it-yourself activities are also allowed.

Costs and benefits

Subsidies for thermal insulation of SFH can be up to 8000 euros or 40% of eligible costs, plus max 800 euros for documentation. EPC is a proof of nZEB level achieved.

Financing is provided from the State budget, allocation in the previous years (2017-2019) reached 4.4 million euros/year on average. Over 6 calls for projects organised between 2016 and 2019, about 3000 applications were approved for a total close to 23 million euros (7650 euros/project on average) (Ministry of Transport and Construction).

Beside the financial incentives, there are legislative regulations (minimum requirements for buildings undergoing major renovation and for new buildings), as well as training and educational activities included within the programs.

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N° 840034.

Overview of the policy mix reported by Slovakia for article 7

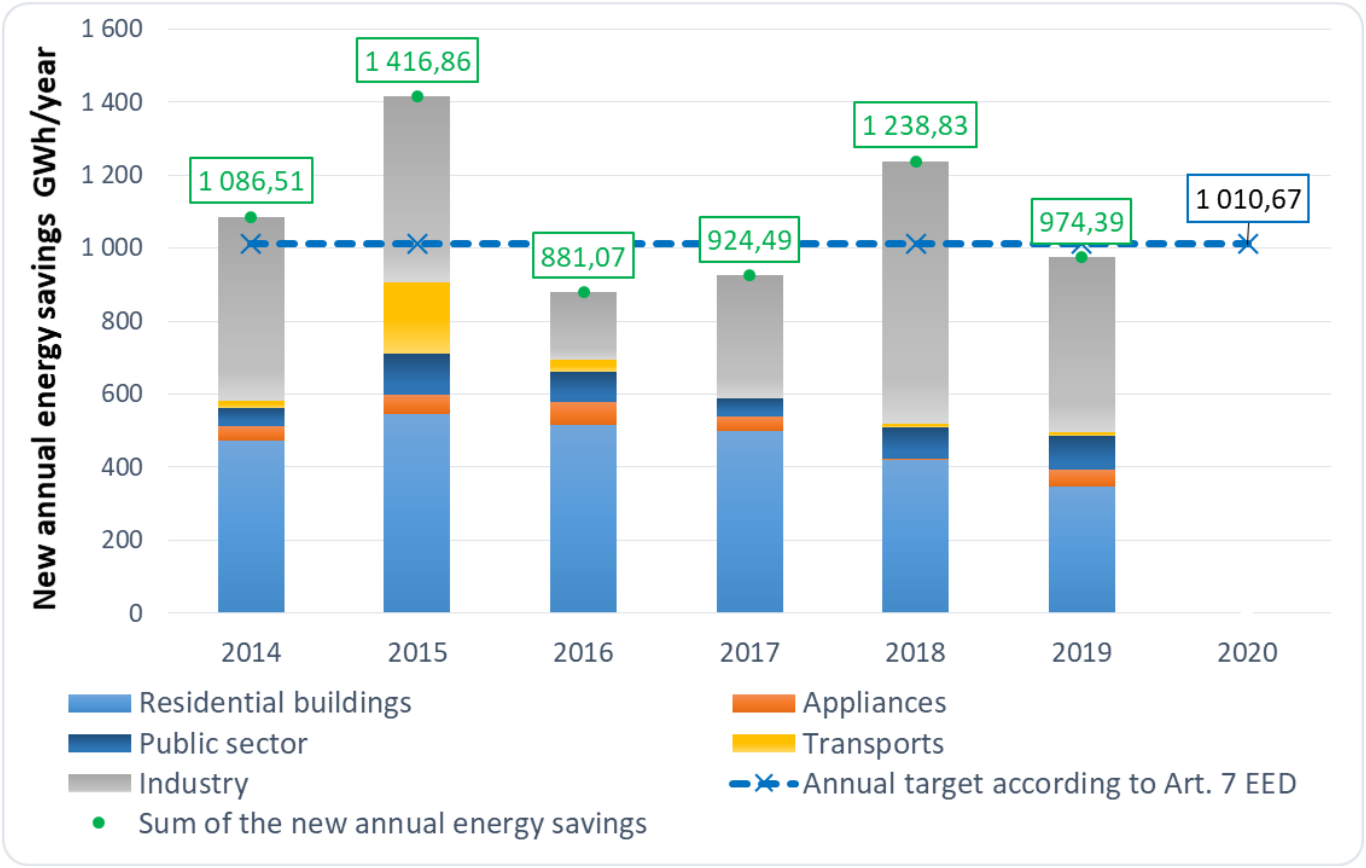
(source: annual reports to the EED)

Transversal / cross-cutting
Investments in several types of energy efficiency measures are subsidised, partially from EU Funds and the State budget. Various measures support building renovation and insulation, and other energy efficient improvement of residential single-family homes, apartment houses and public sector buildings.

Buildings	2016 - 2018 [GWh]
Energy performance improvement of residential buildings	1225
Energy performance improvement of public buildings	167
Construction above minimum law requirements	151
Construction of nZEB (nearly Zero Energy Buildings)	28

Transport / traffic	2016 - 2018 [GWh]
Building and modernization of transport infrastructures	23
Modernization of fleet for public transports	13

Industry	2016 - 2018 [GWh]
Voluntary agreements	1114
Application of legislation measure (mandatory energy audits)	117



Interview with Peter Drotar

Senior advisor
Ministry of economy of the Slovak republic

What have been the main changes in the policy in the recent years?

Even if the energy performance contracting has a quite long history in Slovakia, the detailed rules for providing such a service were not standardised until 2018.

We have managed to improve this situation by the change of Energy Efficiency Law as well as by creating the document named *Concept for development of energy performance contracting in Slovak public sector*. This document was prepared by the Ministry of finance in cooperation with the Ministry of economy, and was done in line with a guide to the statistical treatment of energy performance contract. Moreover the energy performance contracts templates for the public sector have been elaborated.

What about MRV?

In 2017, a national project focused on energy efficiency monitoring improvement, named "Extension of energy efficiency monitoring system" was launched. Thanks to this project many existing functionalities were improved and also a lot of new ones were implemented. Thanks to this extension of the existing monitoring system we were able to identify new energy savings that have contributed to the fulfilment of energy efficiency targets.

Actually, the main effort is focused on integration of all relevant national databases gathering the data necessary for evaluation of energy efficiency activities and targets. In this context, our ambition is also to have as fully automatized systems as possible, as regards the data collection and also its evaluation.

What success factors have you identified?

One of the most important things is the way in which the communication with all relevant stakeholders involved in energy efficiency targets fulfilment is set. There is one very good example from the industry.

The effort to involve a key enterprises in the country in terms of energy consumption, into participating in reaching the energy efficiency targets was initiated by the Minister of economy himself. This approach had a very positive feedback from many of enterprises that were addressed. This was a key factor that helped us very significantly to meet the target for the article 7 EED.

Are there interactions with other policies?

Energy efficiency is a horizontal topic that concerns, more or less, each sector in national economy. However, this fact was not always reflected in a sufficient way in relevant policies.

Our current effort is to incorporate gradually energy efficiency first principle into all relevant policies and thus to ensure better synergy effects between policies.

Are there any expected modification under discussion?

Actually, one of the biggest challenges is to find a way how the energy efficiency first principle could be used in order to maximise the benefits from it, not only for energy efficiency targets, but also for other sectors and national economy as such.

One of the most important areas which is expected to be modified is an approach to regions and the idea of strengthening the regional energy support in the future.

If you could go back in time, what would you do differently?

I would redesign the way in which the financial support for energy efficiency projects is provided and improve the interaction within relevant policies and stakeholders.