



# A ONE STOP SHOP FOR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

Photo by Yasamine June

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Photo by Municipality of Padova

# WELCOME TO THE 3<sup>RD</sup> EDITION OF OUR **PROJECT NEWSLETTER!**

Dear reader,

The [PadovaFIT Expanded](#) project is in its final six months of operation. The One Stop Shop (OSS) in Padova has been operational since February 2021 in the shape of an [Energy Saving Desk](#) and has already provided information and contacts to over 700 citizens. We have been open to constant feedback and fine tuning from our customers and local stakeholders. In this last phase, we will be moving towards a more advanced OSS model, within a public-private partnership and the desire to create a sustainable model.

The One Stop Shop is part of a broader strategy of the Municipality of Padova, which aims at climate neutrality by 2030. In April 2022, the European Commission included Padova among the 100 European cities that

will try to achieve this challenging goal as part of the '[Climate Neutral and Smart City Mission](#)'. The OSS in Padova is very relevant for this goal through its renovation advice to citizens, support to families in energy poverty conditions and, also, by working on innovative projects at neighborhood level, such as energy communities.

**We will be moving towards a more advanced OSS model, within a public-private partnership and the desire to create a sustainable model.**

Thanks to the [PadovaFIT Expanded](#) project, pilot cities of Timisoara in Romania, and Vidin and Smolyan in Bulgaria, are now defining their operational model. It is our desire that the availability of national funding for building regeneration goes in parallel with the development of these municipality-driven One Stop Shops. New condominium facilitators have been trained through the project, playing a key role in accompanying condo-

minium assemblies in the decision-making process. These capacity activities are key for replication of the OSS model across the EU.

As to the lessons learned, the project has so far highlighted how each city should develop its own One Stop Shop model, in line with the objectives of local administrations and the demands of citizens and local stakeholders. Even if there is no one definition of One Stop Shop, there are multiple operational models, each characterized by different relationships between public and private partners, a different set of services offered to end users and their own business model. The key aspect remains: OSS should remain capable of guaranteeing economic-financial sustainability in the medium-long term.

We wish you a relaxing summer, and do keep in touch with us through our events and social media activities, on our website ([www.padovafit.eu](http://www.padovafit.eu))!

Signed,  
**Project lead, Municipality  
of Padova**

# A ONE-STOP-SHOP FOR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE



Photo by Matthew Henry

Lacking a substantial domestic supply of natural gas, when it comes to meeting its energy needs, Europe is largely at the mercy of imports. Prior to the war in Ukraine, imports from Russia accounted for an estimated 45% of the EU's total gas demand.

Now, the constant threat of having this supply cut off, in combination with a decision by many European countries to discontinue purchasing Russian gas, has sent prices sky high. It's also sent the EU looking for new ways to secure its energy supply. We believe a good place to start is with energy efficient building renovations.

## Old buildings are inefficient buildings

Most of Europe's buildings were built during the post-war construction boom. According to a [study conducted by Knauf Insulation](#), out of the nearly 250 million houses in Europe, less than 10% were built in the last decade – meaning they aren't only old, they're also grossly inefficient. In fact, that same study estimates that of the 85 to 90% of buildings that will still be standing in 2050, at least 75% are energy inefficient.

Considering how inefficient these buildings are, it should come as no surprise that buildings are the Continent's single largest consumer of energy – responsible for 40% of the EU's total energy consumption.

Now the good news is that these inefficient homes can be made energy efficient through renovation. The bad news is that for many homeowners, doing so is easier said than done.

[As the European Climate Foundation reports](#), European citizens are willing to carry out energy renovation in their homes in order to, amongst other things, pay less in energy bills. However, many are reluctant to do so due to both the perceived costs involved and the hassle of organising the renovation work. Enter the one-stop-shop.



Photo by Quinten-De-Graaf

### One stop to more home renovations

Designed to provide practical support to homeowners, one-stop-shops (OSS) are positioned as a central repository for all-things relating to home renovations. This includes everything from conducting an assessment and understanding options to securing financing and putting together the right team of contractors.

PadovaFIT Expanded received funding through the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, has already established a one-stop-shop for supporting energy efficiency home renovations in Padova, Italy – and it plans to expand to Timisoara, Romania and the Bulgarian cities of Smolyan and Vidin.

**OSS also help ensure a homeowner goes from being interested in investing in a renovation to actually carrying one out.**

OSS not only create a smooth start-to-finish process for the customer, according to a study by the Building Performance Institute Europe (BPIE), OSS also help ensure a homeowner goes from being interested in investing in a renovation to actually carrying one out.

Enticing more homeowners to renovate their inefficient homes is of fundamental importance to achieving the EU Renovation Wave Strategy's goal of renovating 35 million building units by 2030 – a figure that, if achieved, would put a substantial dent in the building stock's total energy consumption.

For example, a recent BPIE policy briefing notes that renovating residential homes



Photo by Pawel-Czerwinski

with proper insulation alone would reduce the amount of natural gas used for heating by 44%. It would also save 45% of the final energy consumption currently used to heat Europe's residential buildings.

Considering that heating accounts for nearly 35% of a home's total energy consumption, it's easy to see how a simple increase in energy efficiency can result in a substantial decrease in fuel use. And any reduction in fuel will ultimately help reduce the EU's dependence on imported – often expensive – energy.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**1.5 Mtoe**

could be saved in the EU in one year, according to the European Commission, simply by providing information on easy to install insulation measures in buildings

Source: SOGESCA

In Italy, over

**30.5bn**  
euros

were invested in the renovation market thanks to the Italian tax incentive system "Super Ecodonus"

Source: SOGESCA

In Romania, **77%** of buildings need renovation, yet only **1.3%**

of residential buildings benefit from light to medium renovation. At the same time, the rate of deep renovation, which may lead to savings of over 60%, is only 0.1%

Source: Municipality of Timisoara

# THE RETROFITTING SITUATION IN ROMANIA (WITH TIMISOARA LEADING THE WAY!)

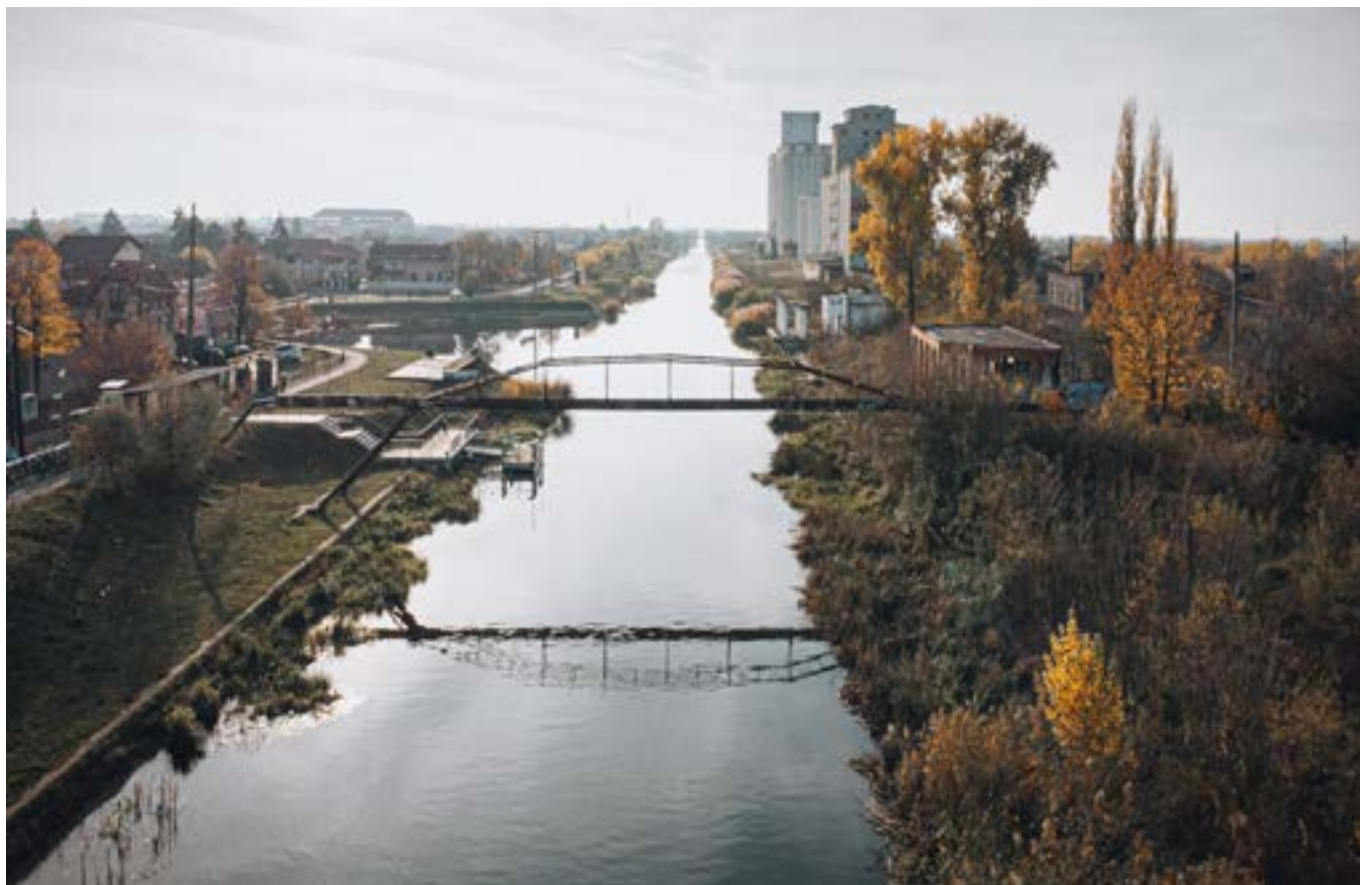


Photo by Elvis Ray

The retrofitting of buildings undoubtedly provides added value and brings multiple benefits to building owners, occupants and the community as a whole. However, many stakeholders who support the renovation movement, including public authorities, do not yet have enough technical, administrative

and financial competence and capacity to develop, implement or finance integrated energy efficiency services.

Romania's building sector covers approximately 45% of the country's total energy consumption, and despite the urgent need to increase the energy performance in buildings, the renovation rate still remains very low. In Romania, about 53% and over

over 90% of residential buildings were built before 1970 and 1989 respectively, meaning that the majority were constructed in the absence of energy efficiency standards for buildings, resulting in an energy performance between 150 and 400 kWh/m<sup>2</sup>/year. As a result, 1 in 7 Romanian families face serious problems with their housing in terms of energy efficiency.



Photo by Elvis Ray

## Barriers

Barriers to undertaking deep renovations in Romania currently include some of the following:

- limited data and information regarding the building stock
- lack of understanding of energy consumption and potential savings for homeowners and tenants
- not enough of skilled workers and contractors in the market;
- lack of incentives for energy renovation; and
- low mobilization of public and private financing to help partially or fully fund home renovations.

## What can be done

In order to drastically increase the deep renovation rate of Romania's building stock, integrated renovation solutions will need to be offered to all actors involved in the renovation process. This will require the cooperation of authorities, contractors, financing institutions, and the general public. National and local authorities, along with non-governmental associations, need to engage their citizens by offering their expertise and services to help reduce and/or solve the administrative and technical hurdles. The solution lies in actively participating in home renovation One-Stop-Shops, thus establishing trust with locals and

increasing the chances of renovation projects being carried out to completion.

Financial institutions must also be directly or indirectly involved in OSS offers in order to provide smart funding solutions to those that interested in carrying out energy retrofits but are unable to produce the initial capital required to fund the projects. In addition, contractor relations should be made available in the form of vetted or trained labourers to reduce the largest obstacle cited by homeowners undertaking retrofits, namely poor quality of works.

## **1 in 7 Romanian families face serious problems with their housing in terms of energy efficiency.**

Ideally, One-Stop-Shops should act as a mechanism for the rapid advancement and implementation of renovation works through public funding mechanisms to create a self-sustained following that will lead to a significant change in the mindset towards private market players. For this reason, the Municipality of Timișoara has partnered with the **PadovaFIT Expanded** project to learn from its best practices and thus contribute to the energy renovation of the City of Timișoara's building stock.

## An OSS in Timișoara

One of the resulting actions of the project will be to set up an OSS as part of the local public administration in Timișoara. It will act as a link between service providers and final beneficiaries, while simultaneously functioning as a center for information through direct communication with existing technical and financial actors on the market. This OSS will:

- function as a channelling mechanism for beneficiaries who wish to access funding through national programs
- carry out retrofit works through the Timișoara City Hall
- provide lists of accredited and pre-approved private contractors with a proven track record based on previous experience; and
- guarantee an impartial and transparent source of information for financial and technical solutions on the market.

The Municipality of Timișoara's website will host all relevant information in the form of a step-by-step guide and aid documents that can be downloaded, along with links to relevant institutions and contractors to help with the administration of carry out the renovation works. To learn more about the Timișoara home renovation OSS or the PadovaFIT Expanded project, please contact Ms. Ella Sipetan at [ella.sipetan@primariatm.ro](mailto:ella.sipetan@primariatm.ro)

# S O G E S C A

SOGESCA is an engineering and consultancy company founded in 1986 to offer environmental and energy consulting services to public bodies and industrial enterprises. SOGESCA's technical team consists of 15 skilled, certified experts with a background in civil, mechanical, environmental, electrical and energy engineering, chemistry, geology, biology, agronomy, social and political sciences ready to complete each other to comply with the complex issues related to sustainable development, energy and work safety.

SOGESCA is experienced in the energy sector and is working on several projects and actions dealing with energy planning, energy policies and regulations, the Covenant of Mayors (directly and indirectly supporting 80+ Italian Municipalities), Energy Management Systems and CO2 emissions management in the

public sector as well as in the private one (ie. implementing ISO 50001 and ISO 14064).

SOGESCA is experienced in technical and financial tools for the implementation of energy efficiency measures and the implementation of RES technologies in both the private

and the public sector. It has developed a guideline for the integration of [Energy Management Systems and SEAPs/SECAPs](#) within the H2020 project Compete4SECAP.

SOGESCA is technical partner of the [LIFE VenetoADAPT](#) project focused on updating of existing SEAPs into SECAPs in the central Veneto Region, working with the Municipalities of Padova, Vicenza and Treviso, the Metropolitan Area of Venice and the Medio Brenta unione of Municipalities, covering over 3,5 million inhabitants.

### Role in PadovaFIT Expanded project:

SOGESCA is providing its competences for the technical engi-

neering of the action, including knowledge for energy measures and management of the technical supply chain.

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## PROJECT NEWS AND EVENTS

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### Online webinars

In the first half of 2022 we have had a lively series of online webinars, tackling a range of topics relevant for OSS (citizen participation, financing and business models). Would you like to watch some of the videos and presentations of these webinars?

[See them on our website here.](#)

### Workshop on One Stop Shops

Upcoming event this month! On June 29th in the lively city of Zagreb, we are co-organizing a workshop on One Stop Shops with municipalities working on the topic of [energy poverty](#). If you can join us, this will be very hands on and practical!

[More info here](#)

### COMING SOON!!!

We are planning another lively webinar in September 2022, this time on topic of consumers and how they respond to energy prices. Stay tuned for more info on our website, coming soon.

Also, our final event will be happening LIVE in person in November this year, most likely in the lovely city of Padova. If you would like to present or participate, let us know. Stay tuned to our website for more details!



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