





Challenges and corrective measures

## Challenges in MAB

- Distrust in Government initiatives
- Failed public relations program
- Poorly organized apartment owners
- Uncertainty regarding monthly payments after modernization
- Many low-income people were eligible for heating bill compensations, and had no incentive to join the program
- Possible state aid issues
- Legality of personal data handling
- Turning the apartment owners into borrowers against their will (possibly), and as a consequence

# Challenges in public buildings



- Reluctance by public institutions to borrow (dependency of grant schemes)
- Challenges to achieve real savings (economic viability) vs high cost of deep renovation
- Need for additional subsidies in modernization projects, especially in cultural heritage buildings
- Fiscal debt (EUROSTAT treatment of debt related to cost saving investments)
- Energy data availability about public buildings
- ESCO model new and scary beast to use
- Building users don't have obligations for EE
- Need to have not only EE investments

## Common challenges

- Banks initial reluctance and distrust
- Banks being risk averse

- success in lowering gas prices
- limitations within construction sector, as mostly small companies bid for contracts

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## Corrective measures in MAB

#### Facilitating and promoting FI's

- Project owner for MAB program appointed
- Municipalities involved:
  - instructed to draw lists of the worst-performing buildings
  - appointed renovation administrators
- Technical assistance measures introduced
- Promotional campaign launched
- Result based subsidy introduced together with gradual phase-out of heating bill compensations
- Quality assurance system introduced

#### NPI involved

VIPA appointed as FI manager

#### Legal changes introduced

- 50% +1 of apartment owners to agree on project
- Loans bound to apartments (not individual)

#### Scandalization and simplification of a process

- Loan to remain off the balance of Administrator
- Simple and standard procedures and document forms introduced



# Main financing conditions

- 3% fixed interest for 5 years after 5 year + 3% + EURIBOR (changed from 3% fixed interest rate)
- up to 20 years loan maturity
- loan amount up to 100 % EE investment
- 24 month grace period (during construction)
- no collateral required
- 30% grant upon achieving 40% savings and energy class C (changed from 40%)
- up to 100% of project development and administration costs reimbursed
- 100% of reimbursement or installments to low income families

# Corrective measures in public buildings

#### Facilitating and promoting FI's

- Centralized public real estate manager appointed
- Technical assistance measures introduced
- Improving building ownerships related obligation system
- Quality assurance system introduced
- ESCO model discussed and promoted at the state level

#### NPI involved

- VIPA appointed as FI manager
- VIPA stated to act as one-stop-shop blending FI and grant

#### Scandalization and simplification of a process

- Standard set of documentation for ESCO introduced using ELENA support
- Discussions and communication with EUROSTAT on off-balance financing possibilities



# Main financing conditions

- up to 2% fixed interest + EURIBOR (actual can be as low as 0%)
- up to **20 years** loan maturity
- loan amount up to 100 % EE investment in case of direct lending and up to 80% in case of ESCO
- 24 month grace period (during construction)
- no collateral required
- (new COVID19) up to 70% repayable assistance grant (grant based on the achieved results)
- up to 14 EUR/m<sup>2</sup> grant (blended within FI) for technical documentation and project preparation activities







#### Lessons learned





#### In dept Market assessment (ex ante)

- Important to see big picture
- Early consultation with stakeholders
- Priority for in-house assessment (although high expertise needed)



#### **Consistent political support**

- Consistent policies and stable procedures (assurance of ongoing political support)
- Complementing (blending FI's and grants) rather than competing grants
- Support for reforms facilitating FI's in particular sector



#### Facilitating and promoting FI's

- Delegation of process owner
- TA facilities for project development
- · Promotion (awareness raising) of FI's
- Play "Carrot-and-Stick" game (motivative measures to be introduced with punishing ones)

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## Lessons learned





#### Simplification and standardization of FI's

- Make FI's as flexible as possible
- Develop standard and simple set of documentation
- Use "One stop shop" concept
- · Ensure quality of implemented projects

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#### Other observations

- Slow start of FIs raising public awareness, changing mentality, subsidies vs loans, challenge to shift thinking from "grants" to "revolving investments"
- Good planning milestones and steps to achieve them and apply corrections in a timely manner
- Use NPBI's in case of reluctance of financial intermediaries to perform administrative functions related to ESIF
- While project pipeline accelerating think of alternative financing sources leveraging public funds





