

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR WORKSHOP FACILITATORS**

# EU Funding Strategy for Four Regional Heating and Cooling Projects



**EU funding strategy for four regional heating and cooling projects**

External study performed by  
*PNO Consultants*

  
for the Joint Research Centre

**Good to Know**

Chances of obtaining public funding decrease with distance. Meaning that local, regional and national subsidies have typically higher winning chances than funding from EU programs. It is therefore recommended to start any public funding strategy as close to home as possible.

## Toolbox Categories

This report contains a tailored EU funding strategy for four regional heating and cooling projects, namely: Andalucía (ES), Western Macedonia (EL), Castilla y León (ES) and Northeast Romania (RO). This study follows a previous study, which provided an overview of EU funding sources for the regional heating and cooling sector.

**Country:** Europe  
**Category:** Technical  
**Media:** Guide  
**Language:** English  
**Source:** <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/2e0b04aa-7071-11e9-9f05-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

**Summary:**

This report offers tailored financial strategies to enhance the success of heating and cooling initiatives in Andalucía, Western Macedonia, Castilla y León, and Northeast Romania. By aligning specific projects with appropriate EU funding sources, the guide helps stakeholders secure essential financial support, improving the economic feasibility of these energy projects. This strategy is particularly beneficial for governments and the energy industry at the national level, facilitating the heating transition through optimized funding. The guide not only identifies suitable EU funds but also recommends combined funding strategies, maximizing financial benefits. This comprehensive approach supports the development of sustainable heating and cooling solutions across Europe, promoting energy efficiency and cost savings.

## PUBLICATION OVERVIEW

**Title:** EU funding strategy for four regional heating and cooling projects

**Objective:** Tailored EU funding strategy for four regional heating and cooling projects, namely: Andalucía (ES), Western Macedonia (EL), Castilla y León (ES) and Northeast Romania (RO).

**Date of publication:** 2019

**Authors:** Veen, R. and Kooijman, E, European Commission: Joint Research Centre

**Approach:** The heating and cooling projects analysed from Andalucía (ES), Western Macedonia (EL), Castilla y León (ES) and Northeast Romania (RO) were the following:

- Develop smart thermal grids for thermal energy in ports (Andalucía);
- Installation of (co-firing) biomass boilers in the existing district heating network and autonomous high-efficient biomass boilers in households (Western Macedonia);
- Development of an online platform where consumers (potential or not) and installers can meet. The main objective with the platform is to promote thermal renewable energy installations by providing quality assurance to consumers (Castilla y León);
- Development of an energy-efficient heat pipe/heat pipe heat-exchanger to recover heat from used water in buildings (Northeast Romania).

The study provides an overview of the projects, followed by a short introduction of the EU funds that match each project. Subsequently, a recommended EU funding strategy is provided for each project. Preferably, the funding strategy provides a combination of EU funding sources. Finally, each funding strategy includes the next steps for the application process. These funding strategies include EU funding sources of the current programming period (2014-2020). Where possible, an outlook was provided for the period beyond 2020 (2021-2027). The overview focuses on public funding, both grants and other (innovative) financial instruments, such as soft loans and guarantees.

This study follows a previous study “Identification of EU funding sources for the regional heating and cooling sector”, which provided an overview of EU funding sources for the regional heating and cooling sector, available at <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2760/994541>.

## TOOL EVALUATION

### How to Use

1. Select a project  
Choose from one of the four case studies, depending on your theme of interest and/or geographical area of implementation:
  - a) smart thermal grids and combination of different renewable energy technologies in energy-intensive and fossil fuels-dependent infrastructure, such as ports;
  - b) implementation of renewable energy sources for H&C to feed existent fossil fuel-fed district heating networks, and/or the installation of decentralised renewable energy sources for H&C on households;
  - c) development of online platforms to increase the level of trust between consumers and installers, promoting the installation of renewable energy sources;
  - d) development and implementation of recover heat solutions for used water in buildings.
2. Review the selected project’s description and corresponding relevant funding sources:

Examine the overview of the project, its funding needs, the introduction to the EU public funding options that match it, its recommended EU funding strategy and the next steps for the application process.

3. Analyse the above information and apply to your project:  
Use the descriptions provided to understand the context of the case study and understand if the funding sources suggested and funding strategy described may be applied to your case. Do bibliographical research on the funding sources, to see if they still apply and/or see the conditions of the current programming period.
4. Further reading:  
Consult the study “Identification of EU funding sources for the regional heating and cooling sector”, which provided an overview of EU funding sources for the regional heating and cooling sector, available at <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2760/994541>.

### Key Benefits

- It includes a variety of cases, including different EU geographical contexts and countries, types of projects, types of technologies to implement/develop and different levels of application (residential buildings, public infrastructure, district heating networks and online platforms).
- It includes cases of implementation/development of different up-to-date and innovative H&C technologies/solutions.
- It examines different types of EU public funding instruments (grants, loans, guarantees, Technical Assistance, Project Development Assistance, Energy Performance Contracting, etc).
- It provides funding strategies that may serve as a starting point and may be adapted to different types of projects in different EU geographical contexts.

### Cost Aspects

- The report is freely available to the public.
- Successful implementation may incur personnel costs due to the need for significant involvement in funding applications.
- Many funding sources prefer cross-border collaboration or SME involvement, so secure local partners and support.

### Evaluation

- **Challenges:** The publication dates from 2019, so most mentioned funding sources refer to the programming period of 2014-2020. Therefore, these funding sources may be outdated. It is recommended to check the updated funding sources. Note that variability in applicability and in regulations in different EU countries may affect the accessibility to the mentioned funding sources.
- **Success Factors:** Strong alignment with EU framework. Replicable funding strategies for similar projects on other EU countries.

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## MORE INFORMATION FOR WORKSHOP PREPARATION

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**Willingness to engage in dialogue or workshop participation:** not yet contacted

**Possible support within REDI4heat:** -

**Similar Approaches in the Toolbox:** -

**Further information on topic (with focus on target countries):**

The spanish case, an online platform connecting consumers and installers to promote renewable energy installations, could have similarities and synergies with poland's online platform:

<https://zone.gunb.gov.pl/pl/system-zone>

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