



Fourth RENOINVEST roundtable focusing on municipal building renovation 26. June 2025

Summary

RENOINVEST Municipal Roundtable Event Summary

Within the framework of the [RENOINVEST project](#), the **fourth municipality-focused roundtable**, held on **26 June 2025**, aimed to promote the **sustainable renovation of public and private buildings, with particular emphasis on improving energy efficiency, integrating renewable energy sources, and advancing innovative financing models**. The online event also served as a joint professional day of the [OwnYourSECAP project](#), further strengthening the exchange of knowledge and experience between the initiatives.

The program was hosted by [ÉMI Nonprofit Ltd.](#) for **Quality Control and Innovation in Building**, with the [Municipality of Alsómocsolád](#) and the [Archenerg Cluster](#) acting as co-organizers. Representatives from governmental, municipal, financial, and professional organizations discussed the current regulatory environment supporting building renovations, opportunities for grant and bank financing, as well as the role of energy communities.

The roundtable carried particular relevance, as the **renovation of municipal buildings plays a key role in achieving the EU's 2030 climate and energy policy targets**. These buildings are not only significant energy consumers but also directly influence the quality of life and sustainability of local communities. The event thus contributed to enabling participants – including municipalities, construction experts, banking institutions, and energy stakeholders – to jointly develop proposals and best practices that foster long-term sustainable renovations and support the green transition of local communities.

The professional programme was opened by **Dr. Balázs Török, Strategic and Development Director at ÉMI**, who shared practical insights from his previous experience as a deputy mayor regarding the renovation of public buildings. He emphasized that the modernization of the building stock—particularly institutions owned by municipalities—is not only a climate-related priority but also economically beneficial. Sustainable investments can significantly reduce operating costs over time, while also contributing to energy independence and a more livable local environment.

Dorottya Hujber, coordinator of the international RENOINVEST project, then presented the background, objectives, and key activities of the initiative. Funded by the LIFE programme, the project operates in three countries—Hungary, Austria, and Slovenia—to support sustainable renovation practices. Activities include organizing national and international roundtables, conducting pre-feasibility studies, developing action plans, compiling best practices, and operating thematic working groups. In Hungary, four national roundtables have been held so far, with this event specifically focusing on municipalities.

Municipal Goals and EU Commitments in Building Energy Performance

Presenter: Örs Ringhoffer – Head of the Energy Efficiency Department, [Ministry of Energy](#)

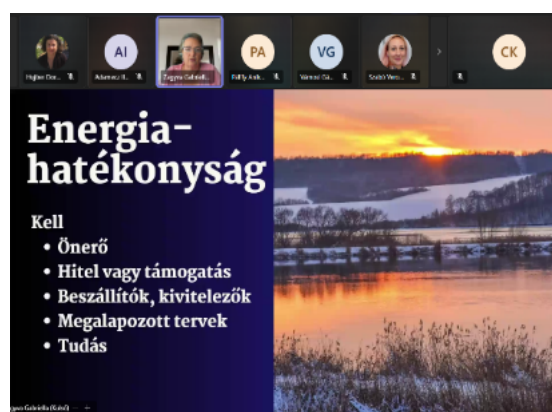
Örs Ringhoffer, provided an in-depth overview of the challenges in transposing current EU directives—particularly the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive and the Energy Efficiency Directive—into national policy. He **highlighted that Hungary faces major obligations in the coming years, such as reducing energy consumption in public institutions** by at least 1.9% annually and renovating 16% of the worst-performing non-residential buildings by 2030.

He emphasized that while the targets are justified, practical implementation is hindered by limited municipal autonomy, borrowing constraints, and restricted access to ESCO-type (Energy Service Company) solutions. Excessive administrative burdens and a lack of technical capacity further slow progress. According to Mr. Ringhoffer, **solutions include strengthening data-driven planning, adapting the legal framework, and introducing targeted advisory and financial support mechanisms.**

The Case of Alsómocsolád: Community Energy and Strategic Climate Action

Presenter: Gabriella Zagya – Environmental and Climate Officer, [Municipality of Alsómocsolád](#)

The presentation highlighted that for smaller municipalities, the greatest challenges lie in their limited professional and financial capacities, as well as in fragmented funding opportunities. In many cases, climate strategies exist only on paper, while implementation is hindered by short-term interests and the difficulties of community involvement. Among the proposed solutions, particular **emphasis was placed on partnerships, knowledge sharing, flexible planning tools, and community resources** – such as voluntary work or the engagement of civil organizations. One of a great successes was the renovation of the “Autum Light” home for elderly, which is featured as a good practice in the [Best practice handbook of sustainable building renovations](#) of the Renoinvest project. The example of Alsómocsolád clearly demonstrates that even a village with fewer than 300 inhabitants can be a pioneer in the green transition.



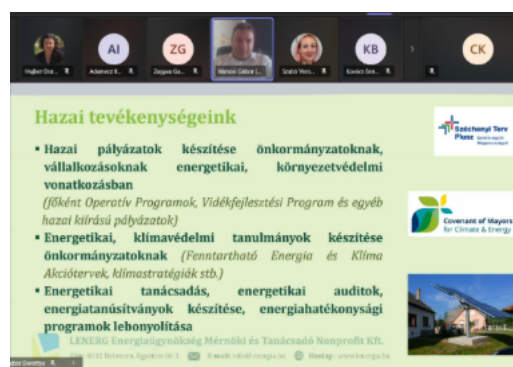
Within the framework of the **Own Your SECAP project**, the municipality reviewed its Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan, which is built on four pillars: energy saving, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and smart energy management. Using an evaluation system, they identified three main priorities: municipal building renovation, climate adaptation, and increasing energy efficiency. These are being implemented through a combination of grant funding, international resources, and community contributions, while community gardens, local food production, and the use of renewable energy strengthen social cohesion and provide an exemplary model for other municipalities.

EU Funding and Grant Opportunities for Municipalities

Presenter: Gábor Vámosi – Managing director, [LENERG Energy Agency](#)

Gábor Vámosi, drew on more than a decade of professional experience to present the EU funding opportunities available to municipalities. He emphasized that the key to securing support lies not merely in proper administration, but above all in long-term strategic thinking and the timely development of well-founded concepts.

Among the EU financing instruments, he highlighted the **European City Facility (ECUF)**, which provides both financial and technical support to municipalities in developing investment concepts, enabling them to access public and private funding more easily. He also presented the **Interreg Danube Region Programme**, which finances partnership projects promoting the green transition and renewable energy, as well as the **LIFE Programme**, offering a budget of €600 million to support innovations linked to the clean energy transition. A new initiative, the **European Energy Communities Facility**, helps energy communities prepare business plans with grants of €45,000. These funding schemes provide municipalities and communities with the opportunity to design and implement ambitious energy efficiency and climate protection projects, laying the groundwork for a sustainable and resilient future.



Bank Financing: Opportunities and Frameworks

Presenter: László Badics – Regional Head of Sales, [MBH Bank](#)

Representing the financial sector, László Badics of MBH Bank presented financing opportunities for municipal energy investments. With around 40% market share in municipal lending, the bank is **committed to supporting sustainable development**.

MBH BANK

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 ESCO-ügyletek

He explained the **advantages of classic ESCO models**, where municipalities involve an external service provider in the investment without taking on debt, yet still benefit from the savings. In contrast, direct municipal investment may offer lower interest rates but often involves more complex procedures related to permitting and VAT handling.

Community Energy: A New Model for the Energy Transition

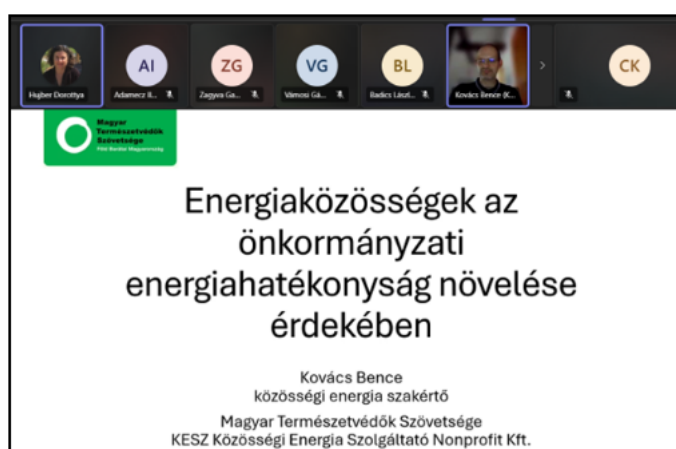
Presenter: Bence Kovács – Community Energy Program Manager, Friends of the Earth Hungary (MTVSZ)

Bence Kovács gave a comprehensive overview of the state of community energy models in Hungary, their potential, and current challenges. These models are decentralized, democratic systems allowing municipalities, businesses, and citizens to participate in energy production and consumption as “prosumers.”

Currently, **11 registered energy communities operate in**

Hungary, mostly as non-profit Ltds. The creation of the National Community Energy Provider in 2023 gave new momentum to these initiatives. Practical examples included the Jurányi Incubator House and the Kispest Forrásház projects.

However, the existing regulatory environment is still restrictive. Net metering and public fund management rules complicate operations. **The expected new EU directives entering into force in 2026**, such as the revised Electricity Market Directive, **may pave the way for change.**



Roundtable Discussion: Experiences, Challenges, and Recommendations

The roundtable discussion organized within the framework of the **RENOINVEST project and led by Ildikó Rajné Adamecz, financial expert of Archenerg Kluster** aimed to review practical experiences of municipal building renovations, as well as financing and funding opportunities. During the event, municipal representatives and experts shared their experiences, challenges, and recommendations to advance sustainable investments.

Gabriella Zagyva presented innovative solutions implemented in Alsómocsolád—including green roofs, hempcrete, and seasonal heating systems—and shared the municipality’s flexible responses to the 2022 energy crisis. She emphasized the importance of accurate consumption data and digital monitoring to support sound investment decisions.

Dávid Szebeni, President of the [Urban Development Association](#), stressed the importance of knowledge sharing between municipalities and proposed the creation of a shared knowledge base to facilitate the replication of successful models.

In the second half of the discussion, experts addressed the current state of financing. **Miklós Kántor** (MBH Bank) noted that while bank financing is available, the lack of municipal co-financing and the unpredictability of support schemes remain barriers. **Bence Kovács** (MTVSZ) discussed the potential of energy communities and regulatory gaps. **Gábor Vámosi** (LENERG) called for an independent advisory network for municipalities, while **Anikó Pálfi** lead expert of the [Energy Efficiency Institute](#) emphasized the need for “one-stop-shop” advisory and information systems.

The roundtable made it clear that successful municipal building renovations require more than just funding: **reliable data, well-functioning professional networks, and institutional cooperation** are equally essential. Enhancing knowledge sharing, improving regulatory predictability, and strengthening advisory capacities are vital steps toward real progress.

Conclusion

The RENOINVEST municipal roundtable clearly highlighted that the **sustainable energy transition can only succeed if local-level actors—primarily municipalities—receive adequate legal, financial, and professional support**. The showcased examples, best practices, and financing opportunities clearly demonstrate that the set goals are achievable, provided that the systemic barriers hindering progress are addressed collectively.