

Press Release

RENOINVEST project successfully concludes its 1st international roundtable on One-stop-shop

We are delighted to announce that the EU-funded RENOINVEST Consortium has successfully concluded the first international roundtable meeting in Slovenia at [Megra Fair](#) on April 18th, 2024. The roundtable emphasized the "one-stop shop" approach, promoting dialogue and collaboration to advance sustainable practices in energy transition and finance within participant countries and the EU.

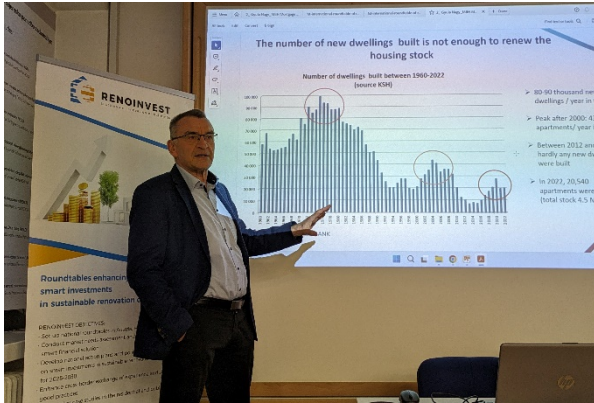
The RENOINVEST project aims, among other things, to bridge the gap between actions and policy for sustainable finance in the building renovation field and orientate policy and decision-makers and financial actors towards sustainable renovation of buildings by triggering private finance. The event brought together financial actors, stakeholders, and experts from the building sector representing Hungary, Slovenia, and Austria, with a profound focus on addressing the challenges tied to sustainable renovation and the green transition.



The conference commenced with an impactful address by **Ms. Lili Béres** (Hungary), representing [ÉMI Non-profit Llc.](#) the lead partner of the RENOINVEST project. The company is committed to and emphasized its crucial role in leading sustainable transformation within the industry. Moreover, she emphasized the significance of the RENOINVEST project in confronting the challenges of sustainable building renovation, particularly in alignment with the EU's ambitious targets for 2050. Notably, Ms. Béres stressed the urgent need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60% and underlined the critical importance of renovating 3% of residential buildings annually to meet this target.

Mr. Ivan Kenda (Slovenia), representing the [Eco Fund](#) emphasized its vital role in supporting local communities and individuals with tailored solutions and financial aid for building renovation. The established 60 advisory offices across Slovenia provides 8.000 free expert advice annually to households on energy efficiency investments and the use of renewable energy sources in residential buildings. He introduced the EU-supported RENOV-AID project, which will further develop a comprehensive Slovenian 'one-stop-shop' concept.

Mr. Samo Peter Medved (Slovenia), representing the [Municipality of Maribor](#) in Slovenia, oversees energy efficiency and reconstruction for public buildings in the city. During the conference, he outlined their core activities, including funding allocation for building renovation. Their primary strategy involves using the Eco Fund to construct new buildings and enhance energy efficiency in existing structures. Additionally, Mr. Medved emphasized their use of private-public partnerships and support for photovoltaic systems, highlighting their commitment to sustainable energy solutions.



Mr. Gyula Nagy (Hungary), CEO of [MBH Mortgage Bank](#) and President of the European Mortgage Federation and Data Research Committee, provided valuable insights into energy efficiency from the banking sector's standpoint. He underscored the significant rise in house prices in Hungary compared to other markets and stressed the importance of prioritizing the renovation of old buildings to achieve the EU's NetZero goals. Mr. Nagy

introduced the EEM (Energy Efficient Mortgages) Initiatives, a pan-European private bank financing mechanism aimed at promoting investments in energy-efficient buildings and renovations. Engaging over 70 institutions, including major commercial banks, this initiative aim to function as a comprehensive service, assisting customers through three key stages: assessing energy needs, securing financial options, and connecting with appropriate renovation providers.

Mr. Károly Oelberg (Hungary), representing [AACM Central Europe Llc.](#), introduced the RenoHUB project, which received funding from Horizon 2020. The primary objective of this project was to establish one-stop shops in Hungary. He outlined the project's objectives, introduced different one-stop shop systems, including the RenoPoint brand, physical offices, and an online advisory platform. In conclusion, Mr. Oelberg highlighted the positive relationship between real estate prices and the energy performance of buildings, underscoring the importance of energy-efficient measures in the real estate market.

Ms. Ulla Unzeitig (Austria), CEO of [Renowave.at](#) presented the RENOBOOSTER Project, which aimed to establish one-stop shops in Austria for private residential owners. Ms. Unzeitig highlighted the outcomes of the RENOBOOSTER Project, which comprised of two pillars: the house information platform and the Quality platform. The house information platform provides valuable insights for homeowners, while the Quality platform serves as a hub for partners and stakeholders in the renovation sector. She highlighted the growth in consultation activities year by year and reaffirmed their dedication to assisting customers in saving money through their comprehensive one-stop shop services.

Dorottya Hujber (Hungary) from [ÉMI Non-profit Llc.](#), the coordinator of RENOINVEST introduced the project's main goals, activities, and current stage for participants. She also emphasized the importance of developing sustainable financial solutions for building renovation, to increase the number of energy-efficient buildings. To achieve our goals, it is essential to maintain ongoing dialogue through national roundtables and involve various disciplines and stakeholders.



Sabina Jordan ([ZAG](#), Slovenia), Susanne Formanek ([Renowave.at](#), Austria), Dénes Bulkai ([Archenerg Cluster](#), Hungary) The project partners shared initial findings from Renoinvest's study on the policy landscape and market capacity for sustainable building renovations in Austria, Hungary, and Slovenia. The study focuses on identifying key factors, barriers, and gaps hindering sustainable building renovations

from a financial perspective. Experts conducted country-specific analyses and highlighted building renovation as pivotal for achieving decarbonization goals. They pinpointed key challenges in the renovation market, including legal barriers, insufficient policies, ineffective business models, limited funding, and societal knowledge gaps. A major overarching obstacle identified was the underutilization of private financing in sustainable renovations due to a lack of understanding among government, private, and financial sectors. Thus, experts emphasized the need for closer collaboration across these sectors to effectively realize Zero Emission goals by 2050.



The event concluded with a Roundtable panel discussion featuring esteemed experts from the project countries: Ulla Unzeitig ([Renowave.at](#), Austria), Károly Oelberg ([AACM Central Europe Llc.](#), Hungary), Gyula Nagy (CEO of [MBH Mortgage Bank](#), Hungary), and Valentin Odar ([Eco Fund](#), Slovenia), moderated by Wolfgang Amann ([IIBW](#), Austria). The discussion primarily focused on

the role of One-Stop-Shops (OSS) in facilitating investments in energy efficiency. Participants shared their insights, highlighting the importance of educating individuals on efficient house renovation practices. They stressed the significance of providing accessible information and assistance to promote energy-saving measures effectively, with a growing recognition of Artificial Intelligence's future role in OSS. Additionally, participants emphasized the social dimension of advisory services, advocating for a deeper understanding of customer needs and concerns. Both online and offline services were deemed essential for OSS to enhance availability and accessibility. However, it was acknowledged that while OSS play a vital role, they alone cannot address challenges such as the shortage of skilled workers, financial support gaps, knowledge deficits, and regulatory inefficiencies. Collaborative efforts involving diverse stakeholders are crucial to overcoming these challenges and advancing a more sustainable and efficient building renovation sector.

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