



## Government Support Scheme for the Rehabilitation of Houses used by the Population in fuel poverty

### I General Considerations

Whereas Romania is committed towards increasing the energy efficiency of its housing stock, and in doing so, the Romanian Government is committed towards supporting the population facing fuel poverty in covering the costs of thermal rehabilitation of their houses, the Romanian Government hereby approves the following support scheme:

### II Definitions

Terms listed below shall have the following meaning:

- (a) Affordable costs – means costs not exceeding more than [●]% of a household's income;
- (b) Applicant – means the household's representative who is applying for the financial support for heating and who can be, as the case may be: the owner of the house, the lessee, in case of a lease or a free lease agreement;
- (c) Financial support for thermal rehabilitation - means the financial contribution received by a household for bridging the gap between that household's share of thermal rehabilitation costs and the costs covered by the thermal rehabilitation programmes;
- (d) Fuel poverty - means a household's inability to ensure the thermic comfort of its house at affordable costs out of the household's income;
- (e) House – means the living space, irrespective of the title it is used on, where a household lives continuously;
- (f) Household – means the husband, the wife, as well as other persons, irrespective whether they are bound by family connections or not, who have the same domicile or residence and/or live and manage the household together [for a period of time longer than 30 days, consecutive or cumulated, during the cold season];
- (g) Household's income – means all income of all members of one household, including but without being limited to, salaries, unemployment benefits,

child support, stimuli for the parent who has the right to paternity/maternity leave but who returns to work before one year, family support, social support for ensuring the minimum guaranteed income, support for disabled people, etc.;

- (h) Ministry of Resort – means the Ministry of *[ministry to be included, following Government's decision]*;
- (i) Thermal rehabilitation – means the construction works undertaken for upgrading the energy efficiency of the housing stock subject to this support scheme up to at least *[energy efficiency standards to be included by energy specialist]*;
- (j) Thermal rehabilitation programmes – means programmes for the thermal rehabilitation of the existing housing stock, whether managed by local public authorities or by the central public authorities, with the support of the local public authorities;
- (k) Thermic comfort – means an indoor temperature of [21°C] throughout the cold season.

### **III Financial support for thermal rehabilitation**

#### **3.1 Eligibility criteria for financial support for thermal rehabilitation**

- 3.1.1 Households facing fuel poverty are entitled to financial support for the thermal rehabilitation of their houses under the terms and conditions of this support scheme, whenever their houses are included in thermal rehabilitation programmes.
- 3.1.2 The housing stock has to be built and handed over by the end of 2000.
- 3.1.3 Simultaneously with the application for financial support for heating, however not later than [15 October of each year], applicants shall also submit a separate application for financial support for thermal rehabilitation, and shall also express their consent for being included in the thermal rehabilitation programmes. / [Applicants having submitted applications for financial support for heating shall be automatically considered to have expressly consented to their houses being included in the thermal rehabilitation programmes and to having applied for the financial support for thermal rehabilitation.] Applicants who do not have an ownership title over the houses they live in, shall also provide a notarized document indicating the consent of the rightful owners of the houses to having the houses included in the thermal rehabilitation programmes.
- 3.1.4 The template application shall be made available by the local city hall through the owners' associations for applicants living in blocks of flats, or directly to those applicants living in single houses and made available on the internet webpage of the local city hall.

3.1.5 The right to financial support for thermal rehabilitation shall be determined by order of the mayor. Such orders are communicated until [15 November] to applicants, owners' associations [and county agencies for social protection], and will indicate the amount of the financial support for thermal rehabilitation.

### **3.2 Level of financial support for thermal rehabilitation**

The financial support for thermal rehabilitation shall cover in full the share of the thermal rehabilitation costs which households facing fuel poverty should cover, [however not exceeding RON [●] per household, depending on the thermal rehabilitation programmes the respective housing stock is included in].

### **3.3 Funds for the financial support for thermal rehabilitation**

3.3.1 The financial support for thermal rehabilitation shall be covered from the state budget, through the budget of the Ministry of Resort.

3.3.2 Within [●] [months/years] as of the entry into force of this support scheme, following a monitoring period of minimum [●] [months/years], the Romanian Government may resolve on the set up of a fund specially designed for supporting investments in the thermal rehabilitation of the living stock used by households facing fuel poverty. Simultaneously, the Romanian Government will also resolve on the administrative structure for the fund's set up, management and operation, including but without being limited to: management authority, financing sources for the fund, categories of eligible projects, categories of eligible applicants.

### **3.4 Payment of the financial support for thermal rehabilitation**

3.4.1 The financial support for thermal rehabilitation shall be transferred by the Ministry of Resort to the local public authorities within [30 (thirty) days], based on the minutes signed between the local public authorities and the selected companies having undertaken thermal rehabilitation works for the handing – taking over of the thermal rehabilitation works.

3.4.2 Local public authorities shall submit with the Ministry of Resort copies of the minutes for the handing – taking over of the thermal rehabilitation works within maximum [30 (thirty) days] as of signing date.

3.4.3 Local public authorities shall pay the prices for the thermal rehabilitation works under the terms and conditions of the agreements for the provision of thermal rehabilitation works signed with the companies selected following public procurement procedures.

3.4.4 Local public authorities shall ensure that the handing – taking over minutes are transmitted to the [county agencies for social protection] which shall elaborate the data base with the consumers benefiting from financial support for thermal rehabilitation.

## **IV Obligations of the local public authorities**

Local public authorities shall have the following obligations in implementing this support scheme:

- 4.1.1 Develop local thermal rehabilitation programmes for the housing stock in their jurisdiction, and/or draft applications for including the housing stock in their jurisdiction in national thermal rehabilitation programmes, as the case may be;
- 4.1.2 Include with priority the housing stock of the population facing fuel poverty in thermal rehabilitation programmes, and to this end ensure that annual thermal rehabilitation programmes include minimum 20% of the housing stock of the population facing fuel poverty;
- 4.1.3 Provide centralized data to the Ministry of Resort on the number of households in their jurisdiction facing fuel poverty by [15 November of each year];
- 4.1.4 Organize and finalize public procurement procedures by signing agreements with selected companies for the provision of thermal rehabilitation works by [1 February of each year] for the thermal rehabilitation works included in the thermal rehabilitation programme for that respective year;
- 4.1.5 Inform the Ministry of Resort by [15 February of each year] of the results of the public procurement procedures, including *inter alia* information on the prices offered by the selected companies for undertaking the thermal rehabilitation works; name and headquarters of the selected companies, implementation schedule for the envisaged thermal rehabilitation works;
- 4.1.6 Subject to the financial support for thermal rehabilitation being covered from local budgets, mayors may request payment of the financial support for thermal rehabilitation from the Ministry of Resort by [30 April of the following year] at the latest;
- 4.1.7 Monitor the thermal rehabilitation works performed by the companies selected following public procurement procedures, and enforce the sanctions provided under public procurement agreements, when the thermal rehabilitation works do not comply with the standards included in the thermal rehabilitation programme;
- 4.1.8 Monitor the energy savings achieved following the implementation of the yearly thermal rehabilitation programmes, report the monitoring results to the Ministry of Resort and also make them publicly available on their official websites;
- 4.1.9 Provide data, information and supporting documents to the Ministry of Resort, as requested by the Ministry of Resort, in exerting its monitoring prerogative over the implementation of the support scheme.

## **V Monitoring**

The Ministry of Resort shall monitor and control the implementation of this support scheme and mayors and companies selected following public procurement procedures are compelled to collaborate with the representatives of the Ministry of Resort and provide data, information and supporting documents, as requested.

## **VI Final provisions**

- 6.1.1 The Ministry of Resort shall elaborate a template agreement for the provision of thermal rehabilitation works within [90 (ninety) days] as of the entry into force of this support scheme.
- 6.1.2 Mayors' orders determining the right to financial support for thermal rehabilitation (*i.e.*, approving, denying, amending or terminating such right) can be challenged according to the Administrative Contentious Law no. 554/2004, as subsequently amended.
- 6.1.3 Beginning with the [second year] following the launch of this support scheme, local public authorities shall conduct surveys to identify the social categories which, although not registered for financial support for heating, are not able to cover their share of the thermal rehabilitation costs. The social categories thus identified shall become eligible applicants under this support scheme beginning with the [third year] following the launch of this support scheme.
- 6.1.4 The local public authorities' failure to comply with the provisions of:
  - (a) Article [●] shall result in the [mayor being sanctioned with a fine amounting to RON [●]].