



Setting up Permanent Stakeholder Forums in Poland, Latvia and Denmark

August 2023



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 967051.

Document Control Sheet	
Project Coordinator	EC Network
Responsible Author(s)	LEIF, EC Network
Organisation	LEIF
Subject / Title of Document	Setting up Permanent Structure to improve the energy efficiency finance framework in Poland, Latvia and Denmark
Related Task('s)	WP2
Deliverable No.	D2.4
Date of Issue	August 2023
Version Number	Final v2
Ref./File Name	RoundBaltic D2.4. Setting up Permanent Structures to improving the energy efficiency finance framework
Nature of the Deliverable**	Deliverable (D)
Distribution Category: (PU/CO)*	PU

*Type: **PU**: Public, **CO**: Confidential

**Nature: Type of deliverable could be a F: Flyer, B: Brochure, WP: working paper, P: Paper, D: Deliverable, MD: Management Document, S: Slides, PR: Press Release, CD: Cd-rom, C: conference, W: workshop, TR: training, ME: Media Event, WW: website/webtool

Disclaimer

Responsibility for the information and views set out in this document lies entirely with the authors. The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.

Content

1	Introduction	4
2	Setting up Permanent Structures to improving the energy efficiency finance framework and work process	4
3	Report on setting up permanent structures per intervention country.....	5
3.1	Summary of support activities in Poland.....	5
3.2	Summary of support activities in Latvia	16
3.3	Summary of support activities in Denmark	17
4	Conclusion and overall observations	20

1 Introduction

The overarching objective of the RoundBaltic project is to support the implementation of the Smart Finance for Smart Buildings initiative in the Baltic Sea Region, notably the project's direct target countries Poland, Latvia and Denmark. Moreover, RoundBaltic refer to the same objectives as Sustainable Energy Investment Forums (SEI Forums) to build momentum for energy efficiency (EE) finance.

SEI Forums bring together representatives of the financial and energy efficiency sectors to discuss and find solutions to the challenge of energy efficiency finance. Key focus areas are how to ensure an investment friendly framework along designing of financing instruments in accordance with the financial pillars more effective use of public funds, aggregation and project development assistance, and de-risking. A third focus area is to showcase specific initiatives as well as triggering new investment initiatives within existing private and public buildings, industry and SME's, street lighting, district heating, transport infrastructures and integrated renewable energy sources. At the stakeholder level a key intention is to engage the financial sector in conjunction with building capacities of project developers, incl. public authorities, on how to develop EE investments according to the policies.

The RoundBaltic project aims to provide framework and momentum for energy efficiency investments in the direct target countries Poland, Latvia and Denmark, building on the activities of the SEI Forums initiative, incl. the most recent roundtables held in Warsaw, 27 March 2019, Riga, 10 April 2019 and Copenhagen, 14 May 2019.

This document concerns the project's task 2.4 aiming to set up permanent structures improve the energy efficiency finance framework in the target countries Poland, Latvia and Denmark, as managed by the project partners SAPE, LEIF, EC Network and Gate 21 and with EC Network as the overall task leader.

2 Setting up Permanent Structures to improving the energy efficiency finance framework and work process

This task addresses Round Baltic's specific objective 6 to pave way for the establishment of permanent structures to support financing of energy efficiency investments.

The task is much related to task 2.2 (Organisational support framework and intervention plan) in the sense that the intervention plan of that task will include a plan for how to seek ways to put in place permanent structures for supporting energy efficiency finance in Poland, Latvia and Denmark. As a separate objective of RoundBaltic, it is seen appropriate to have a separate task to help meeting this big challenge.

Following the intervention plan work, Task 2.4 will start early in the action, incl. it can be addressed already at the entry national roundtable. It has been part of the consultations with the project stakeholders in the project preparation phase and as it can be seen key stakeholders have declared their intent to pursue the establishment of permanent structures (in LOS attached to the proposal). The effort will be intensified during the project period along the learning of approaches and actions.

A particular scope of work is to investigate the prospects for putting in place Financing Platforms that have been established in other EU countries with support of H2020 like SEFIPA (2016-2019), the Sustainable Energy Financing Platform in Austria, as mentioned under section 1.3.2. It is likely that

such Financing Platforms could be the appropriate way forward and - in addition to learning from the existing platforms - the consortium can consult with parties like EIB with great expertise in this field.

3 Report on setting up permanent structures per intervention country.

3.1 Summary of support activities in Poland

In Poland, RoundBaltic began, among others, following the SEI Forums Conference and National Round Tables in 2017-2019. In connection with the organization of these events, structures were formed at the national level participating in the continuous process of improving energy efficiency support instruments.

On the public side, they include:

1. Ministries:
 - a. Climate and Environment, responsible for climate policy, which has taken over from 2022 the spending of funds for this purpose from the national budget and from the EU
 - b. Development and Technology, responsible for the implementation of LTRS and for financing the renovation of buildings
 - c. Funds and Regional Policy managing the European Funds implementation system
2. Central Financial Institutions:
 - a. National Fund for Environmental Protection (NFOS), responsible for, among others, energy efficiency financing programs in single-family homes, industry and transport and supporting the development of the use of RES
 - b. Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego managing the Thermal Modernization and Renovation Fund focused on multi-family houses, local governments, low-income households and co-managing regional financial instruments for improving energy efficiency and developing RES in 13 regions
 - c. Bank Ochrony Środowiska, financing directly beneficiaries of energy efficiency support programs with repayable instruments
3. Others:
 - a. European Investment Bank, supervising 12 ELENA projects in Poland and co-managing regional financial instruments for improving energy efficiency and developing RES in 3 regions
 - b. State Institute for the Development of Cities and Regions, established in 2002, supporting the Ministry of Funds, among others, in empowering local governments in the energy efficiency financing system
 - c. Polish National Energy Agency (KAPE), established in 1994, operating in the form of a public-private joint-stock company with majority shares of NFOS, as an expert organization in the implementation of EU directives in the discussed area

On the non-public side, they include:

1. Polish Bank Association, operating since 1991, representing the interests of non-public financial institutions, although public ones are also associated with it
2. SAPE Association, operating since 2004, bringing together physical authorities and energy agencies experienced in cooperation with beneficiaries of energy efficiency financing, sometimes since the mid-1990s
3. Fala Renowacji Association, operating since May 2022 as a representative of the interests of main suppliers of goods and services for building renovation
4. Reform Institute, a think-tank operating since 2022, whose team managed the creation of LTRS
5. Association of Polish Cities, operating since 1990, bringing together 355 out of 979 cities in Poland, representing the interests of local governments, having a representative for energy efficiency delegated by SAPE
6. Commercial banks operating actively on the investment market in this area, including: BNP Paribas, VELO, Alior, PKO BP, ING
7. Association of Energy Auditors, operating since 2000 in the area of supporting energy auditing professionals through educational and environment-integrating activities (1,700 members)
8. Lewiatan Confederation, founded in 2004, bringing together 53 business associations, actively working to adapt Polish enterprises to the requirements of climate policy

At the regional level, these structures were created based on RoundBaltic activities by SAPE members in 7 Polish regions: BAPE-Pomerania, DAES- Lower Silesia, AUiPE - Łódź Province, RAPEiS - Kujavia-Pomerania, FEWE - Silesia, NAPE-Masovia, Podlaskie. The composition of these structures results from the RoundBaltic logic and regional conditions. In each region, the public side is represented by the region's government authorities and their agencies, as well as local governments with their relevant units. Moreover, entrepreneurs and energy advisors are represented in the Regional Councils.

The structures described above are not formal, but this does not prevent them from working together towards the transformation goals in the discussed scope. An example is the joint EIB ELENA Roadshow in Warsaw on September 14, 2023. This initiative was submitted by the EIB ELENA team to the management of RoundBaltic in Poland in early July 2023. As a result, RoundBaltic's management included preparations for its implementation in the current project work program, consisting of:

1. Shaping the event program together with the EIB - based on the experiences of the roundtables:
 - moderated by the RoundBaltic Manager in Poland and EIB ELENA senior expert
 - participation of the Ministry of Climate and the European Investment Bank in the introduction
 - roundtable with representatives of target groups on barriers to the development of investment projects: TBS Sosnowiec - residential buildings, local governments -the City of Warsaw, entrepreneurs - Konfederacja Lewiatan, banks - Bank Ochrony Środowiska

- roundtable with the participation of financial institutions with presentations of national budgets and financial instruments with the participation of EU funds: NFOS, BGK, BNP Paribas, National Contact Point for EU financing instruments
 - examples of 4 ELENA projects operating in Poland
 - direct consultations with ELENA candidates
2. Establishing synergies with RoundBaltic and the activities of the Polish Bank Association

RoundBaltic made information about the event available to NRT and RRT participants, and the Polish Bank Association notified its members about it.

3. Using cooperation with national and regional structure partners to recruit participants

Information about the event was distributed by the Fala Renowacji Association, the Institute of Cities and Development and the Association of Polish Cities.

The event <https://www.euconf.eu/events/elena-roadshow-poland> took place on-site according to the agreed program with the participation of over 160 people, mainly representing beneficiaries of financial instruments from all over the country. Information from the Ministry of Climate and public financial institutions was presented by competent representatives, complete and meeting the needs of beneficiaries. Participants had the opportunity to ask questions and have direct contacts with speakers and panellists.

Preparing and conducting the event within two months from the date of its initiation proves the maturity of market structures and participants to address important topics for Poland's climate future. The durability of structures is guaranteed by the durability of the institutions that create them.

Below is inserted an overview table on the Regional Advisory Boards in Poland, incl. information on members, data on meetings, topics discussed and the associated structures.

Co-ordinator and composition of the Advisory Board	Dates of meetings	Topics discussed	<p>1. The informal structures discussed correspond to the regional advisory boards/councils?</p> <p>2. If any other permanent structure was also set up?</p>
<p>Pomerania Regional Co-ordinator: BAPE (member of SAPE)</p>			
<p>Marshal's Office of the Pomeranian Voivodeship Voivodeship Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management in Gdańsk Gdańsk City Hall OMGGS (Gdańsk-Gdynia-Sopot Metropolitan Area) RIGP (Regional Chamber of Commerce of Pomerania) BAPE</p>	<p>02.03.2021 21.05.2021 09.06.2021 08.10.2021 29.11.2021 17.01.2022 31.08.2022 10.11.2022 14.12.2022 02.02.2023 06.04.2023 28.04.2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>discussion on the outcomes from National Round Table on Financing Energy Efficiency in Poland,</i> - <i>preparations and evaluations for the Regional Round Tables for the province Pomeranian.</i> - <i>barriers and challenges for the implementation of measures to improve energy efficiency in the region</i> - <i>energy efficiency initiatives planned in the region, energy islands as an example of good practice in the region</i> - <i>current and future EE funding opportunities in the region</i> - <i>issues of financing energy efficiency and renewable energy sources, including supporting the development of energy islands in the Pomeranian Voivodeship</i> 	<p>1. yes, the regional public authority, regional environmental fund, municipalities, representatives of SMEs were present</p> <p>2. no, but the permanent structures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Department of Energy of the Marshal Office, which initiate and coordinate activities in the region to implement the Regional Operational Plan which includes financing of EE and RES measures - the BAPE as regional energy agency acting as advisor to the Marshal Office, municipalities and other investors in EE and RES

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>financing renewable energy sources from repayable and non-repayable funds and the potential of energy communities</i> - <i>possibilities of financing wind energy in the City of Gdańsk</i> 	The selected members continued co-operation within the BUILD UP Skills II project co-ordinated by BAPE in the region
Łódzkie Co-ordinator: AUİPE (member of SAPE)			
<p>Marshal's Office of the Lodzkie Region Department of Regional Policy Voivodeship Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management in Łódź Lakshmi Piotr Stawicki – financing advisor District Office in Zgierz City Hall - Mayor of Uniejów: Lodz City Hall - City Strategy Office RAPE Sp. z o. o</p>	<p>04.10.2022 16.01.2023 15.03.2023 Individual meetings with representatives and correspondence via email</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>preparations and evaluations for the Regional Round Tables for the region</i> - <i>the current state of financing activities related to energy efficiency in region</i> - <i>identification of needed actions at the regional level, necessary to support investments in efficiency energy</i> - <i>how to improve access to performance financing instruments energy</i> - <i>good examples that could be adapted in region</i> - <i>status of Implementation of the recommendations from the Second Regional Round Table</i> 	<p>1. yes, the regional public authority, regional environmental fund, municipalities, financing advisor, representatives of SMEs were present 2. no, but the permanent structures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Department of Regional Policy of the Marshal Office, which initiate and co-ordinate activities in the region to implement the Regional Operational Plan which includes financing of EE and RES measures - the AUİPE as regional energy agency acting as advisor to the Marshal Office, municipalities and other investors in EE and RES

<p>Project Group - Witold Kurczynski Entrepreneurship Development Foundation Housing Cooperative Radogoszcz – West AUiPE</p>			<p>The selected members continued co-operation within the BUILD UP Skills II project co-ordinated by AUiPE in the region</p>
<p>Podlaskie Co-ordinator: NAPE (member of SAPE)</p>			
<p>Marshall Office, Department of EU Funds Voivodeship Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management Eastern Fund in Białystok Białystok City Hall Association of Rural Communes of the Podlaskie Voivodeship Cooperative Regional Audit Union of Housing Cooperatives</p>	<p>19.05.2022 19.12.2022 23.08.2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>preparations and evaluations for the Regional Round Tables for the region</i> - <i>the planned changes to the Thermomodernization Act and the related change in energy audits</i> - <i>favorable changes related to various forms of benefits for entities carrying out thermal modernization (increase in bonuses, RES and MZG grants)</i> - <i>improving the energy balance of the City of Kolno (including the discussion of: the possibility of building new RES installations, the possibility of obtaining financing for these investments, the issue of energy clusters and energy cooperatives</i> 	<p>1. yes, the regional public authority, regional environmental fund, municipalities, financing advisor, representatives of SMEs and housing sector were present</p> <p>2. no, but the permanent structures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Department of EU Funds of the Marshal Office, which initiate and co-ordinate activities in the region to implement the Regional Operational Plan which includes financing of EE and RES measures - the NAPE as regional energy agency acting as advisor to the Marshal Office,

<p>Association of Energy Auditors EcoExpert NAPE</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>current events related to energy efficiency in the municipal and residential sector and SMEs and works related to energy efficiency</i> - <i>needs of cooperatives and real estate managers regarding the regulations of heat settlements and linking them energy efficiency</i> 	<p>municipalities and other investors in EE and RES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Association of Rural Communes of the Podlaskie Voivodeship representing almost all non-urban communities as counterpart for Marshal Office and NAPE <p>The selected members continued co-operation within the BUILD UP Skills II project co-ordinated by NAPE in the region</p>
<p>Masovia Co-ordinator: NAPE (member of SAPE)</p>			
<p>Department of Regional Development and European Funds of the Marshal's Office of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship Department of Waste Management, Emissions and Integrated Permits of the Marshal's Office of the Mazowieckie Voivodeship</p>	<p><i>Communication took place via e-mail</i></p> <p>18.08.2023 08.06.2022</p>	<p><i>According to the memorandum of understanding signed by MJWPU and NAPE the preferred form of communication was email, therefore the meetings were held only twice. Nevertheless the email communication and phone conversations were on daily basis.</i></p> <p><i>Topics:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>preparations and evaluations for the Regional Round Tables for the region</i> 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. yes, the regional public authority, regional EU funding unit and regional development agency were present 2. no, but the permanent structures are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Departments of the Marshal Office, which initiate and co-ordinate activities in the region to implement the Regional Operational Plan which includes financing of EE and RES measures and to implement the Regional RES Plan

<p>MJWPU - Mazowiecka Unit for the Implementation of EU Programs (a unit acting as a leader/coordinator of the participation of the leading institutions of the Voivodeship Self-Government in the initiative in question)</p> <p>ARM-Mazowsze Development Agency SA</p> <p>NAPE</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>regional diagnosis - opinion on relevance and adjustment according to the needs of the region</i> - <i>status of Implementation of the recommendations from the Second Regional Round Table</i> - <i>one-stop-shop for region-wide energy consulting scheme</i> 	<p>- the MAE (Masovian Energy Agency – public) as regional energy agency acting as advisor to the Marshal Office, municipalities and other investors in EE and RES, providing wide scope of services co-financed by EU ELENA</p>
<p>Kuyavia-Pomerania</p> <p>Co-ordinator: RAPEiŚ (member of SAPE)</p>			
<p>Department of Regional Development, Sustainable Development and Science of the Marshal's Office of the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship</p> <p>Voivodeship Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management in Toruń</p>	<p>12.02.2022</p> <p>28.10.2022</p> <p>19.01.2023</p> <p>27.01.2023</p> <p>04.05.2023</p> <p>30.06.2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>status of implementation of the conclusions of the Regional Roundtable</i> - <i>analysis of reports from the First Regional Round Table of the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship</i> - <i>programs implemented and planned in WFOŚiGW, regarding the co-financing of tasks related to energy efficiency and energy saving</i> - <i>programming the EU financial perspective 2021-2027</i> - <i>new aid measures and rules for granting funds for energy efficiency improvement.</i> 	<p>1. yes, the regional public authority, regional environmental fund, municipalities, financing advisor, representatives of SMEs and housing sector were present</p> <p>2. no, but the permanent structures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Department of Regional Development, Sustainable Development and Science of the Marshal Office, which initiate and co-ordinate activities in the region to implement the Regional

<p>Toruń City Hall Association of Energy Auditors (ZAE) RAPEiŚ</p>		<p>- <i>European Funds for Kuyavia and Pomerania 2021-2027 program adopted by the European Commission</i></p>	<p>Operational Plan which includes financing of EE and RES measures</p> <p>- the RAPEiŚ as regional energy agency acting as advisor to the Marshal Office, municipalities and other investors in EE and RES</p> <p>The selected members continued co-operation within the BUILD UP Skills II project co-ordinated by RAPEiŚ in the region</p>
<p>Silesia Co-ordinator: FEWE (member of SAPE)</p>			
<p>Regional Energy Board Górnośląski Fund SA Voivodeship Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management in Katowice Silesian Union of Communes and Poviats The Upper Silesian-Zagłębie Metropolis</p>	<p>14.09.2022 26.10.2022 08.2023</p> <p><i>additional communication via email and meetings during round tables and</i></p>	<p>- <i>preparations and evaluations for the Regional Round Tables for the region</i></p> <p>- <i>planning permanent cooperation regarding the creation of conditions for financing energy efficiency improvement as part of the work of the Regional Energy Board</i></p> <p>- <i>Energy efficiency in FESL'2027, based on the participation in the FESL'2027 Monitoring Committee</i></p> <p>- <i>FESL'2027 Working Group on Just Transformation.</i></p>	<p>1. yes, the regional public authority represented by the Regional Energy Board, Regional Investment Fund regional environmental fund, municipalities, scientific advisor,</p> <p>2. no, but the permanent structures are:</p> <p>- the Regional Energy Board composed of Marshal Office and all counties which initiate and co-ordinate activities in the region to implement the Regional</p>

<p>Association of Polish Cities Central Mining Institute FEWE</p>	<p><i>other events associated to the topics</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>New WFOSiGW instruments e.g. for housing communities.</i> - <i>Solutions for effective implementation of programmes supported by the ELENA mechanism</i> - <i>Conditions and opportunities for the creation of OSS in the region.</i> 	<p>Operational Plan which includes financing of EE and RES measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the FEWE as regional energy agency acting as advisor to the Marshal Office, municipalities and other investors in EE and RES <p>The selected members continued co-operation within the BUILD UP Skills II project co-ordinated by FEWE in the region</p>
<p>Lower Silesia Co-ordinator: DAEiŚ (member of SAPE)</p>			
<p>Marshal's Office of the Lower Silesian Voivodeship SYGMA- Financing advisors DCRL – Local Development Centre District Office in Dzierżoniów Podgórzyn municipality EKO-UNIA Association - ngo</p>	<p>15.12.2020 17.06.2021 07.11.2021 11.05.2022 01.12.2022</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Regional Operational Program for 2021-2027</i> - <i>financial support from the Marshal's Office of the Lower Silesian Voivodeship fund</i> - <i>ROP supporting Energy Efficiency</i> - <i>ELENA and ONE-STOP-SHOP</i> 	<p>1. yes, the regional public authority, municipalities, financing advisors, representatives of SMEs, housing sector and citizens were present</p> <p>2. no, but the permanent structures are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Marshal Office, which initiate and co-ordinate activities in the region to implement the Regional Operational Plan which includes financing of EE and RES measures - the DAEiŚ as regional energy agency acting as advisor to the Marshal Office,

<p>Fundacja Świadomi Klimatu (Climate Aware Foundation)</p> <p>Association of Energy Auditors (ZAE)</p> <p>EcoDevelopment Foundation (Fundacja EkoRozwoju)</p> <p>Krzysztof Szymański energy auditor</p> <p>Stanisław Stelmaszek – economist of the Archdiocese of Wrocław</p> <p>Piotr Polak treasurer of the Claretian order,</p> <p>Kamienna Góra Social Housing Association (TBS)</p> <p>Real Estate Management- Stanisław Kordasz</p> <p>Rational Entrepreneurship Center Foundation (Fundacja Centrum Przedsiębiorczość Racjonalna)</p> <p>Lower Silesian Vocational Training Center (DZDZ)</p>			<p>municipalities and other investors in EE and RES</p> <p>The selected members continued co-operation within the BUILD UP Skills II, project co-ordinated by DAEiŚ in the region</p>
---	--	--	---

3.2 Summary of support activities in Latvia

During the first part of the project main conclusions about the creation of permanent structure were that it should be in the form of national sustainable energy efficiency competence center that compiles and coordinates all energy efficiency-related processes in the country, as well as educates and advises and provides enterprises, financial institutions, and implementers with the information necessary for decision-making and project undertaking. It could be based on finance institution ALTUM (financial and informational support, execution). Within such center would be a need to establish a national database of publicly credible data on energy efficiency projects executed in country. It could be based on State Construction Control Bureau of Latvia. As Ministry of Economics leads both of these entities, common discussions should be facilitated in creating permanent structure for supporting EE in SME's. However, during RoundBaltic discussions more ideas about the development of such center have not been developed.

There has been continuous discussion about a need of permanent centralized structure/institution - knowledge center in Latvia responsible reaching goals of energy efficiency. The need of such knowledge center has been discussed for years with no tangible result. The main goal permanent centralized structure/institution would be to compile and coordinate all energy efficiency-related processes in the country, as well as educate and advise and provide enterprises, financial institutions, and implementers with the information necessary for decision-making and project undertaking – a knowledge center in Latvia responsible reaching goals of energy efficiency. Such permanent structure could be also one-stop shop established in 2023 in Riga.

One-stop shop as permanent structure is seen as the need of for supporting multifamily building apartment owners. Vidzeme planning region through INTERREG project RenoWave is planning to establish one-stop-shop. Possibly The State Construction Control Bureau together with finance institution ALTUM and Vidzeme planning regions could establish a permanent structure for supporting SMEs in EE measures.

The third and final national roundtable on June 2023 focused on the next steps on sustaining attraction of private funding to finance energy efficiency – also on the next steps of creating and sustaining permanent structures for supporting implementation of energy efficiency. One of the main recommendations were to continue work on the creation of a one-stop shop. As mentioned before, Riga energy agency has created OSS in the beginning of 2023 (renove.lv) and Vidzeme planning region is planning to create one in 2024-2025 as part of project.

All in all, RoundBaltic in Latvia has helped in creation of two permanent structures via its organized discussions.

Although it was Riga Energy Agency's (REA) own decision to establish OSS RoundBaltic integrated and invited REA as a stakeholder to participate in the events and share the experience among other partners and use already existing mechanisms to improve functioning of the OSS. Since Vidzeme planning region is also planning to establish OSS through INTERREG project it is important that the region is aware of possible challenges and problems to avoid during this process. In these both cases RoundBaltic provided a valuable platform for exchange of ideas and through discussion and finding the best efficient way to create OSS. Also, it could encourage other regions to find the solution for creating OSS in order to make implementation of energy efficiency projects.

3.3 Summary of support activities in Denmark

RoundBaltic's task 2.4 is to seek ways to put in place permanent structures for supporting energy efficiency finance, incl. exploring aspects like:

- Involvement of the relevant stakeholders from both the financial and Energy Efficiency sector
- Appropriate linkage to the implementation of the linked policies
- Financing instruments and implementation concepts
- Project development assistance (PDA)
- Ensuring funding of the above-mentioned services

Key efforts on the Danish situation have concerned:

- **Regulatory aspects**

The second round of regional roundtables and third/final national roundtable, May 2023, entailed updating the project stakeholders on the implication of future policies in linkage with the project's task 2.4 on setting up permanent structures for EE finance. As part of this Danish Energy Agency made a presentation at the third national roundtable of the key aspects of the EED and EPBD under revision and came also around supplementary national policies and initiatives, incl. programmes for subsidies, phasing out of oil and gas + digitalization of relevance to energy efficiency. This was followed by discussion, notably on the financial aspects of the new regulation and the provisions for OSS.

- **'National ELENA'**

A clear feedback from the roundtables is a reluctance towards the existing 'stop and go' subsidy schemes as they tend not to provide the stable investment support required. At the same time the ELENA programme has been appreciated among the stakeholders as the concept of leverage factor and no deadlines for application has been helpful to boost green investments in Denmark.

Following this, RoundBaltic has done an effort to advocate for putting in place a 'national ELENA' to supplement the European one with a view to bring additional PDA means and adopt the funding criteria to the Danish context (for instance lowering the required investment volume if found appropriate). Among the efforts provided by RoundBaltic:

- 27th April 2023, EC Network had a meeting with Ralf Goldmann, Head of Division at the Energy Efficiency and Energy Advisory of EIB. This meeting made clear that EIB see positive prospects for Denmark to develop a national ELENA Programme and offered support in discussions on how to set this up and feed in with experiences made by EIB so far.
- EC Network reported this to the key counter parts in the Danish partner regions and received positive feedback. It was agreed to address this aspect at the upcoming national roundtable, 22nd May 2023, and that Lea Munkholm from Central Denmark could present the idea of a 'national ELENA' and the positive experience the region has had with running an EU ELENA project
- EC Network supported this process, incl. undertaking an investigation of the outcome of the 10 ELENA projects implemented in Denmark. This revealed that EU ELENA

supported PDA mostly within buildings, district heating and infrastructure that via a grant of 21.4 MEUR helped to boost green investments for around 900 MEUR (average leverage factor of 42)

- The participants at NRT3, 22 May 2023, gave positive response on the idea of a national ELENA and consequently it was decided to follow-up on exploring such initiative.
- A subsequent consultation of Danish Energy Agency has revealed that the option of a national ELENA programme is being considered by the Danish Government, but it was not possible to obtain details of where it stands. These opportunities will be explored in the post-RB period.
- Future national structures

Danish regions and municipalities formed the 'Climate Alliance' as a national platform as follow-up of the previous DK2020 initiative and doing fund-raising for new activities aiming at monitoring and implementation of action plans. RB is keeping dialogue with the parties behind the Climate Alliance aiming to integrate RB findings in the process.

A latest effort of RoundBaltic has been to explore the implications of putting in place a national hub for energy efficiency hub in Denmark in relation to the EU Energy Efficiency Financing Coalition (following session at the Contractor's meeting 26th Oct. 2023) and how to feed RB experiences into that process. EC Network will follow-up on this in the post-project period.

Permanent structures for energy efficiency finance

The national **DK2020 initiative** has helped all 98 Danish municipalities to develop climate and energy action plans in line with European SECAP standard. All based on the same methodology (C40).

A new initiative the Climate Alliance has been formed to monitor the plans and take the step from plan to implementation, including financing issues -This involves all regions.

Further the regions have taken an initiative to support the process by the LIFE ACT project (Action for climate transition) in which all regions will work on several sub projects focusing on implementation of climate mitigation and adaptation measures, a.o.in relation to energy renovation.

RoundBaltic have worked closely with four out of the five Danish regions and paved the way to integrate energy efficiency finance efforts in these projects. RB partner Gate 21 will be operator of the 'Climate Alliance' in Eastern Denmark (Zealand + Capital Region), ditto the subcontractors Central Denmark and South Denmark Regions, and hence in these regions (4 out of 5 Danish regions) there can be direct transfer from RoundBaltic to the 'Climate Alliance'.

National Level

RoundBaltic has facilitated cooperation with the financial sector at national and regional level in relation to the actions enabled at regional level

RoundBaltic has established dialogue with EU EIB and the Danish Energy Agency on the prospect of creating a national ELENA for Denmark

Possible integrated into a national OSS coordinated with regional advisory structures –also addressing requirements in revision of the EPBD and Building directives.

As to Social Housing a permanent national supporting and coordination structure is integrated into the joint national initiative “The Green Model”, aiming at a holistic approach to guide the green transformation of the social housing sector.

4 Conclusion and overall observations

For Poland in order to improve the activities, it was necessary, first of all, to prepare for the implementation of legal changes at the level of strategies, laws and regulations. Public authorities, according to the divisions of competences, prepared several changes that were postulated in the RoundBaltic national diagnosis and translated into recommendations submitted by stakeholders during the round tables. An extremely important element of complex investment processes is financing at every stage of implemented projects. Offers related to the one-stop-shop or ESCO procedure seem to facilitate the implementation of activities, but in the situation of local government units, these are still not very convincing proposals because in the case of tenders for the implementation of tasks, it is allegedly difficult to control the effects in relation to costs by financial services leads to the abandonment of such activities. In tenders organized by local government units, the parameter of completion time is often not used, and meanwhile, for a private investor, but also a bank that grants loans, the date of commencement of operation of the facilities after construction or modernization, i.e. the beginning and end of the return-on-investment period, is of great importance.

For Latvia the main aspect is creating road maps for regions that includes OSS development for management of projects and structured approach to project development. With already two planning regions involved in RoundBaltic projects it is important to further involve regional/local stakeholders (explanatory work for end users) that are backed up by financial institutions in Latvia that have the instruments to finance EE projects. Another aspect is the optimizing use of public funds incl. involvement of private capital and ESCO. Use of funds and finances should be made more flexible – simple and understandable. The use of EU funds should be controlled, but the implementation/acquisition must be flexible - the method of acquiring the money must be discussed with all involved parties - the involved state institutions, ALTUM, banks and entrepreneurs must arrive at the best available solution. The responsible ministries must change the approach when the processes have not been discussed with all parties, accordingly, the implementation is too long and complicated, bureaucratic. A different format of financing is not effectively created for each program. State institutions should become more efficient/faster/ with KPIs and with measurement of results. This would encourage closer mutual cooperation and the implementation of more effective programs that would increase the country's competitiveness.

For Denmark the newly formed “Climate Alliance” consisting of all Danish municipalities is envisaged to be driving force for energy efficiency finance onwards. It takes point of departure in a systematic effort to make energy and climate plans in accordance with international standards for sustainability and the scope of the “Climate Alliance” is to go from plan to realization of the plans, covering the geographical area of the municipalities (meaning also the private sphere). RoundBaltic have worked closely with four out of the five Danish regions and paved the way to integrate energy efficiency finance efforts in these projects. As part of this RoundBaltic developed road maps on how the four Danish regions can manage this process, incl. paving way for sustainable energy investments as generated by the RB intervention. The process has been aimed synchronized with the development at national level, incl. provisions of the revised EU Directives and specific initiatives of a national ELENA programme as well as forming of a national hub in relation to the new EU Energy Efficiency Financing Coalition.