Fact Sheet

EU-funded project IRENE helps vulnerable households access fair and affordable energy renovations

Co-funded by
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Project name

IRENE: Catalysing Inclusive, Representative, Equitable Energy reNovation wavE

Project Summary

Energy poverty affects millions across the EU, impacting health, social inclusion, and quality of life. IRENE addresses this by promoting integral energy-efficiency renovations in multi-apartment buildings to combat energy poverty and prevent gentrification. IRENE aims to implement effective and inclusive strategies tailored to the unique needs of vulnerable populations in the project pilots: Vilvoorde and Leuven (Belgium), Vilnius (Lithuania), and Madrid (Spain).

Four One-Stop Shops (OSS) will be established to offer technical, financial, and legal support. The approach consists of local diagnoses and the establishment of multi-stakeholder groups, including local authorities, community representatives, and technical experts.

These groups will contribute to the creation of Energy Justice Hubs to foster dialogue, develop solutions, and ensure long-term sustainability. IRENE follows an inclusive, participatory process with training programmes that empower residents and stakeholders to engage in the energy transition. By collaborating with policymakers and exploring innovative financing options, it aims to overcome regulatory and financial barriers, making renovations more accessible and effective. Through diverse urban applications, IRENE develops scalable models for inclusive energy renovations that reduce consumption and costs while improving living conditions.

General Objective

IRENE aims to promote energy efficiency improvements in multi-apartment buildings, focusing on vulnerable populations by co-designing renovation programmes that reduce energy use, improve living conditions, and prevent displacement. It empowers communities through inclusive solutions, tackles regulatory and financial barriers, provides technical and financial support, and enhances training and awareness among authorities and homeowners to overcome energy poverty challenges.

Specific Objectives

1. Establish 4 Energy Justice Hubs (one per city) with at least 15 active stakeholders.
2. Empower vulnerable residents through a capacity-building approach and establish a Just Energy Protocol.
3. Facilitate the integral renovation of 227 buildings, implement nine legislative acts and secure €293 million investments in sustainable energy solutions.
4. Develop OSS in 4 pilot cities as accessible frameworks for integral renovation services focused on vulnerable groups.

5. Ensure the inclusion and prevent displacement and gentrification of vulnerable groups and promote equitable renovation through 97 governance structures.
6. Reduce energy use by 72 GWh/year and CO_2 emissions by 68.6 tCO_2e/year. These benefits include improved physical and mental health, enhanced comfort and indoor air quality, greater social inclusion, and reduced public health expenditure.
7. Pilot the programme in four cities (Madrid, Vilnius, Vilvoorde and Leuven). Ensure the replication and scaling up of the integral renovation programme across Europe.

Project Pilots

- Vilvoorde and Leuven (Belgium)
- Vilnius (Lithuania)
- Madrid (Spain)

Project partners

- Global Factor International Consulting SL (Spain)
- Technische Universiteit Delft (Netherlands)
- Stad Vilvoorde (Belgium)
- Stad Leuven (Belgium)
- ANESE, Asociación Nacional de Empresas de Servicios Energéticos (Spain)
- Ayuntamiento de Madrid (Spain)
- Atnaujinkime Miestą (Lithuania)
- Lithuanian Consumers Alliance (Lithuania)
- Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (Spain)
- Horizon Europe Leading Projects (Spain).

Project Details

- **Programme:** LIFE Clean Energy Transition
- **Reference:** LIFE24-CET-IRENE/101215481
- **Duration:** 01/09/2025 – 31/08/2028
- **Total Budget:** €1,842,069
- **EU Contribution:** €1,749,966

Press contact

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Useful links:

- **Project video:** https://youtu.be/qDoEr2HKwgU
- **Website:** https://www.helpeu.eu/irene
- **Social Media:**
  - LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/company/irenelifeproject/
  - LinkedIn Group: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/16968040/
  - Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/IRENELifeProject/
  - Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/irenelifeproject/
  - YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/@IRENELifeProject/
  - Newsletter: https://helpeu.eu/irene/irene-newsletter/

Attachments:

- Project logo
- Consortium logo pack
- EU emblem
- Pilot photos

IRENE

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