



EUROPEAN **COVENANT OF COMPANIES** FOR CLIMATE AND ENERGY

Overview of Support Schemes
ROMANIA



INTRODUCTION

Context

The European Climate Law sets an ambitious emission reduction target of 55% by 2030 and the objective of becoming climate-neutral by 2050. Achieving these new 2030 energy and climate targets will require an ever more integrated approach to energy transition. It is thus essential to invite companies, in particular the less resourced SMEs, to join the energy and climate efforts of cities in order to develop mutually beneficial public-private partnerships at local level¹.

Aim of the Covenant of Companies

The European Covenant of Companies for Climate and Energy (EU CCCE) is a European Commission initiative to encourage and support companies to step up their contribution to a clean energy transition, energy savings and related climate objectives as set out in the European Green Deal. The initiative aims to provide practical, step-by-step guidelines and technical assistance to European companies to help them take concrete actions resulting in the decarbonisation of their businesses. The initiative is currently in a pilot phase for two years where concepts will be developed and tested to establish a strong foundation for the Covenant of Companies.

Overview of support schemes

With these documents the EU CCCE provides an overview of the European and national support schemes for energy efficiency and renewable energy, national financing tools for clean energy research and innovation projects, as well as available capacity building support for companies.

For the second phase of the project the Consortium has opted to create detailed overviews by narrowing the study down to eight focus countries: Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Ireland, Lithuania, Romania, Spain and Sweden. This document presents an overview of the financial support schemes in Romania, the financing tools for research and innovation and available capacity building materials (non-financial support), at the national and European level. It further offers insights in the national context within which the support is provided.

Disclaimer

This document gives an overview of the available support schemes as of July 2022. It serves to give a general overview of existing material at the national level at this date. Although the Consortium has put considerable effort in collating the material presented, it cannot guarantee that the overviews are fully comprehensive and up-to-date.

¹Tender specification setting up and operating the Secretariat for the EU Corporate Covenant Initiative, p.6.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Romania aims to increase efficiency targeting a reduction of 45.1% in primary energy, 40.4% in final energy consumption (compared to the reference PRIMES 2007 scenario) and sets a 30.7% target for the share of renewables in gross final consumption by 2030.
- The Ministry of Energy has the mission of applying the proposed strategy and government programme as well as funding in the energy sector.
- The Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests carries out policy at the national level in the fields of environmental protection, green economy, biodiversity, natural protected areas and climate change. The ministry provides financial support through the administration of the Environment Fund Administration (AFM).
- There are limited support schemes available specifically in the field of energy and specifically for SMEs. Through the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR) less significant state schemes are made available in the fields of renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- For research and innovation, several strategies have been developed by the national government as well as the transition system operator (TSO). Concrete support schemes for research and innovation in the field of energy are currently limited.



OVERVIEW OF MAIN SUPPORT SCHEMES

A selection of financial and non-financial support schemes available to Romanian companies as of June 2023 for clean energy projects and R&D&I in clean energy.

Romania														
SUPPORT SCHEMES	GENERAL INFORMATION			ENERGY SOLUTIONS COVERED					COSTS COVERED			STATUS		
	Scope	Category	Technology Readiness Levels (TRL)	Renewable energy utilisation	Energy efficient buildings	Energy Efficiency in processes and operations	Sustainable mobility	Circularity	Non-specific	Consultancy fee	Capital investments	Wages/labour costs	Other operational costs	Specific for SMEs
Renewable energy														
Green Certificates (for renewable energy producers)	FIN	GRANT		✓										
Green Certificates (how to acces)				✓										
SME Prosumer (Prosumator)	FIN	TAX		✓										
Electric Up	FIN	FUND		✓						✓				✓
Energy efficiency														
MINIMIS AID SCHEME regarding energy efficiency at the level of SMEs	FIN	FUND			✓	✓								✓
State aid scheme with the objective of supporting investments in modernization, monitoring and efficiency of energy consumption at the level of economic operators in order to ensure energy efficiency in the industry sector	FIN	FUND			✓	✓				✓				
Sustainable mobility														
Used car (Rabla Clasic) Ecobonus	FIN	FUND					✓							
Research and Innovation														
Grant support for digital skills of SME employees	FIN	GRANT							✓				✓	✓
MIND4MACHINES (European Funds)	FIN	GRANT							✓	✓			✓	✓
Ideas Powered for Business	FIN	FUND							✓				✓	✓
DIGITALIZATION OF SMEs	FIN	GRANT							✓		✓	✓	✓	✓

LEGEND

Scope

FIN - Financial support scheme
R&I - Research & Innovation financing tool

Category

TAX - Tax benefit or incentive
GRANT - Grant

FUND - Fund
LOAN - Loan

GUAR- Guarantee

OVERVIEW OF MAIN SUPPORT SCHEMES

Capacity building material available to Romanian companies as of June 2023 for their clean energy transition

Romania										
CAPACITY BUILDING MATERIAL	TYPE			SCOPE						STATUS
Selected Capacity Building Material	Type of support	General information and examples	Emission inventory	Energy performance base line	Monitoring & reporting	Energy Audit	Clean energy plan or strategy	Implementation support	Networking	Specific for SMEs
Training center for industry personnel	TRAIN	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

LEGEND

Form of support

DOC - Guidance document
 EXP - Expert guidance / consultancy
 TRAIN - Course, training, workshop

PLAT - Platform or portal
 HD - Helpdesk

TOOL - Tool (web-based, template or other)
 OTH - Other

OVERVIEW OF MAIN SUPPORT SCHEMES AT EU-LEVEL

Selection of financial and non-financial support schemes available to European companies as of July 2022 for clean energy projects and R&D&I in clean energy.

EU																
MAIN LANDING PAGE		https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home														
Support schemes	GENERAL INFORMATION			ENERGY SOLUTIONS COVERED							COST COVERED					STATUS
Selected Support Schemes	Scope	Category	TRL levels	Renewable energy utilization	Energy efficient buildings	Energy storage	Sustainable mobility	Infrastructure and smart grids	Circularity	Non-specific	Consultancy fee	Capital investments	Wages/labour cost	Other operational costs	Description	Specific for SMEs
Horizon Europe - Relevant Missions																
Adaptation to Climate Change										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Operational costs are only covered when they can be attributed as direct costs. Indirect costs may sometimes fall under the grant, but will depend on the grant agreement for a specific project. See also: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/aga_en.pdf#%5B%7B%22num%22%3A92%2C%22gen%22%3A0%7D%2C%7B%22name%22%3A%22XY2%22%7D%2C%59%2C722%2C0%5D	
Climate Neutral and Smart Cities										✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Annotated Grant Agreement - EU Grants - Art.6.1	
Horizon Europe - Programme Innovative Europe																
EIC Pathfinder	R&I	FUND & GRANT	1 - 4			✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	Annotated Grant Agreement - EU Grants - Art.6.2	
EIC Transition	R&I	FUND & GRANT	4 - 5/6	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	Annotated Grant Agreement - EU Grants - Art.6.2	
EIC Accelerator	R&I	FUND & GRANT	5/6 - 9		✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	Annotated Grant Agreement - EU Grants - Art.6.2	✓
CINEA																
CEF Energy: Energy Infrastructure: Projects of Common Interest	FIN	GRANT						✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	Annotated Grant Agreement - EU Grants - Art.6.2	
CEF Energy: Energy Infrastructure: Cross-border renewable energy projects				✓							✓	✓	✓	✓	Annotated Grant Agreement - EU Grants - Art.6.2	
LIFE Clean Energy Transition	FIN	GRANT		✓	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/life/wp-call/2021-2024/call-fiche_life-2022-cet_en.pdf	
LIFE Circular economy	FIN	GRANT							✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/life/wp-call/2021-2024/call-fiche_life-2022-sap-env_en.pdf	
LIFE Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation	FIN	GRANT		✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/life/wp-call/2021-2024/call-fiche_life-2022-sap-clima_en.pdf	
Innovation Fund	R&I	GRANT		✓		✓		✓			✓				https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-02/IF_flyer-2021%20.pdf	
EIF and EIB																
Invest EU	FIN/R&I	FUND		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓						The financing will typically take place through financial intermediaries that take equity participations, convertible loans and other equity-type financing. These intermediaries would typically be independent commercially-run fund managers that select companies with adequate return prospects, driven by a commercial logic when selecting companies in which to invest or provide other forms of financing. The InvestEU intervention will done on commercial terms and crowd in private investors.	✓

LEGEND	Scope	FIN - Financial support scheme	Category	TAX - Tax benefit or incentive	FUND - Fund	GUAR- Guarantee
		R&I - Research & Innovation financing tool		GRANT - Grant	LOAN - Loan	

OVERVIEW OF MAIN SUPPORT SCHEMES AT EU-LEVEL

Capacity building material available to European companies as of July 2022 for their clean energy transition

EU										
CAPACITY BUILDING MATERIAL	TYPE		SCOPE							STATUS
Selected Capacity Building Material	Type of support	General information and examples	Emissions inventory	Energy performance baseline	Monitoring & reporting	Energy audit	Clean energy plan or strategy	Implementation support	Networking	Specific for SMEs
LIFE close-to-market projects	PLAT	✓					✓		✓	
EIC Business Acceleration Services	PLAT	✓			✓				✓	
Invest EU - Advisory hub	EXP						✓	✓	✓	
Innovation Fund	EXP						✓	✓	✓	

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NATIONAL SUPPORT SCHEMES FOR CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS

Renewable energy utilisation

The Romanian National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) sets a 30.7% target for the share of renewables in gross final consumption by 2030. Romania's National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR) establishes the investment priorities and reforms necessary for recovery and sustainable growth, linked to the green and digital transition envisaged by the European Commission. One notable relevant call for renewable energy under the PNRR is the launch of a non-competitive state aid scheme with the objective of supporting investments in the entire value chain of both **batteries and photovoltaic cells and panels** (production and/or assembly and recycling). Additionally, the Ministry of Energy has launched de minimis state aid schemes with the objective of supporting investments in **high-efficiency cogeneration in the district heating sector** as well as schemes intended to support investments in building capacities for the production of **green hydrogen in electrolysis plants**. All applications can be submitted by creating an account on the **central platform** of the PNRR.

Energy efficiency in buildings

The NECP aims to increase energy efficiency targeting a reduction of 45.1% in primary energy and 40.4% in final energy consumption (compared to the reference PRIMES 2007 scenario).

The Ministry of Energy has launched a de minimis aid scheme to promote investments to reduce energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. The scheme is open to enterprises investing in systems dedicated to the **modernisation, monitoring and efficiency of energy consumption at the enterprise level**. Financing comes from the non-refundable external funds allocated within the Large Infrastructure Operational Programme 2014-2020 (POIM). The scheme targets SMEs and large enterprises, with the exception of enterprises whose activities are listed in **Annex no. 1 to Government Decision no. 780/2006** on the establishment of the scheme for the sale of greenhouse gas emission certificates. Applications can be submitted to the Ministry of Investments and European Projects until 31 December 2023.

Sustainable mobility

Under the coordination of the Ministry of Environment, Water, and Forests, the **Environment Fund Administration** (Administrația Fondului pentru Mediu - AFM) provides financial support for the implementation of projects and programmes for environmental protection, renewable energy, and pollution reduction.

For instance, under the mission to renew the vehicle fleet in Romania, the **RABLA classic** programme provides premiums from the fund for the purchase of new, less polluting motor vehicles in exchange for the surrender of used vehicles for scrapping.

FINANCING TOOLS FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Under the research, innovation, and competitiveness pillar of the NECP, the Romanian government aims to adopt technologies with the highest degree of maturity to achieve decarbonisation through reducing GHG emissions, increased renewable energy sources, and energy efficiency.² To this end, national strategies have been established providing targets and funding.

One example of this is the **Authority for Digitisation in Romania** which offers a grant to **support the digital skills of SME employees**. The aid, granted in the form of participation in employee improvement/retraining programmes, is a maximum of EUR 17,000 per SME. The call is available until end of December 2023 and applicants can submit their applications via the PNRR portal.

NATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING MATERIAL

There is also limited capacity building materials available for companies. At the national level, very few materials are available.

The Ministry of Economy has an annual list of **courses** available through the Training Centre For Industry Staff in Buststeni. Employees in the industry sector can apply for several courses in the fields of IT, technology, energy audits, and various certification schemes.

²Government of Romania, The 2021-2030 Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan, Bucharest, April 202, p.17.

MAIN SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON SUPPORT SCHEMES

Title	Description page	Link
Ministry of European Investments and Projects	The platform of the Ministry of European Investments and Projects - all national and European funding programmes are presented	https://oportunitati-ue.gov.ro/tip_beneficiar_tx/imm/
Competition Council	A state aid register developed by the Competition Council	http://www.ajutordestat.ro/
Centre Regional Development Agency	Catalogue of Sources of Financing Commercial Companies	https://www.adrcentru.ro/
Association of Agencies for Regional Development in Romania	Catalogue of Sources of Financing Commercial Companies	https://www.roreg.eu/fonduri-europene/catalogul-finan%C8%9B%C4%83rilor-disponibilefinan%C8%9B%C4%83rilor-disponibile
fonduri-structurale.ro	EU funds Consulting company	https://www.fonduri-structurale.ro/program-operational/23/planul-national-de-redresare-si-rezilienta

NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL AND ENERGY POLICY FRAMEWORKS AND MAIN STAKEHOLDERS

Romania, through the **National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP)**, aims to increase energy efficiency, targeting a reduction of 45.1% in primary energy, 40.4% in final energy consumption (compared to the reference PRIMES 2007 scenario), and sets a 30.7% target for the share of renewables in gross final consumption by 2030.

The plan is structured in six pillars for the concentration of actions to achieve the objectives:

- 1) Decarbonisation - emissions and GHG absorptions
- 2) Decarbonisation - energy from renewable sources
- 3) Energy efficiency
- 4) Energy security
- 5) Internal energy market
- 6) Research, innovation, and competitiveness

The plan includes measures for each pillar and describes the policies adopted or to be adopted. In the country's **National Recovery and Resilience Plan**, EUR 11.97 billion is provided as a contribution to the green transition and EUR 5.976 billion for the digital transition.

The **National Research-Development and Innovation Plan for 2015-2020** established several programmes on research, innovation, and competitiveness (R&I&C) in the Romanian energy sector. Following the NECP, the Romanian government established **the National Smart Specialisation Strategy for the period 2022-2027**. The strategy defines the national objectives and targets of funding in R&I&C. The research and innovation activity in the energy sector is additionally supported by the strategic orientation of the transmission system operator. In the **ETG Development Plan for 2018-2027**, the TSO established a preliminary list of specific research and innovation objectives.

National vs regional responsibilities

In Romania, the responsibilities for the creation of all energy, sustainability, and environmental protection strategies rest with the state authorities. They can take decisions at the national level. Local authorities can influence decisions through proposals, suggestions, and opinions with recommendation value when the documents are going through the internal public consultation procedure.

¹<https://portal.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/Pages/Finland.aspx>

NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL AND ENERGY POLICY FRAMEWORKS AND MAIN STAKEHOLDERS Continued.

Institutions

In the implementation of the NECP, the main stakeholders are represented by the Ministries of:

- Energy
- Economy, Entrepreneurship, and Tourism,
- Environment, Water and Forests
- Transport, Infrastructure and Communications
- Agriculture and Rural Development
- Public Works, Development and Administration
- Education and Research
- European Investments and Projects

as well as the National Energy Regulatory Authority, Transelectrica, Transgaz and OPCOM, and other entities that will be designated by normative acts and ministerial orders.

In Romania, national-level governance in terms of energy is the responsibility of several state institutions. The **Ministry of Energy** has the mission of applying the proposed strategy and government programmes in the fields of:

- energy and energy resources
- production, transport, distribution and supply of electricity and thermal energy
- civil nuclear
- radioactive waste management and water management
- maintenance and periodic technical checks of energy equipment
- energy efficiency and the “Green Deal” ecological pact

One of the most important stakeholders is the **Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests** which carries out policy at the national level in the fields of environmental protection, green economy, biodiversity, natural protected areas and climate change with regard to all the sectors and sub-sectors it administers. Through the management of the **Environment Fund Administration (AFM)**, the Ministry provides financial support for the implementation of projects and programmes for environmental protection, renewable energy, and pollution reduction.

The **Ministry of European Investments and Projects** is responsible for promoting and simplifying access to European funds for beneficiaries.

The **National Energy Regulatory Authority (ANRE)** is the government-sponsored authority responsible for the development, approval and monitoring of the operation of the electricity, thermal, and natural gas markets. ANRE supervises the process of granting guarantees of origin for renewable energy and establishes the amount of value for green certificates granted to renewable energy producers.

NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL AND ENERGY POLICY FRAMEWORKS AND MAIN STAKEHOLDERS Continued.

Transelectrica is a state-owned electricity Transmission System Operator (TSO) responsible for the operation of the national electricity transmission system. Through its subsidiary **Societatea Operatorul Pieței de Energie Electrică și Gaze Naturale** (The Electric Energy Market Operator (OPCOM)), licensed by ANRE, its main object of activity is the administration of the electricity market, establishing the order of merit-sale for producers to suppliers, in order to maintain the permanent balance between production and consumption, ensuring the conduct of transactions and commercial contracts of authorised participants based on licenses under the law.

Transgaz, similarly to Transelectrica, is the state-owned company gas TSO responsible for the national natural gas transport system.

Other important **stakeholders** include the **Competition Council** which has two major dimensions. The first, a corrective dimension, restoring and maintaining a normal competitive environment and the second, a preventive dimension, monitoring markets and observing the behaviour of the actors participating in such markets, energy producers, energy distributors and energy suppliers.



[https://covenant-of-companies.ec.europa.eu/
#CovenantOfCompanies](https://covenant-of-companies.ec.europa.eu/#CovenantOfCompanies)

Document Title	Overview of Support Schemes - Romania
Project number	ENER/2021/OP/0013
Authored by	Dan Bandrabula (Th!nk E) and Elise van Dijk (Th!nk E)
Checked by	Guendalina Cominotti (LOW Associates Brussels)
Date	04/10/2023

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