

# ENERGY EFFICIENCY

## Bulgaria's way forward

### FUEL POVERTY



55% of Bulgarians can't afford to adequately heat their homes

### NATIONWIDE PROTESTS

Against high energy costs and inequality

### 2015 GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE



INVESTMENT



RENOVATION



JOB CREATION

DECREASE  
In energy use



50%  
energy  
savings

INCREASE  
In quality of life

Families can  
afford to heat  
their whole  
homes.  
Big health  
gains



# REFERENCES

## **55% of Bulgarians can't afford to adequately heat their homes:**

data from Eurostat and BPIE ('Alleviating fuel poverty in the EU', 2014). The 55% number is an average. Half of the Bulgarian population is considered to be below the poverty threshold. Of those, 70% cannot keep their homes adequately warm in winter (or cool in summer). The situation is not much better for the other half of the population: 40% cannot properly heat their homes.

The **nationwide protests** in January / February 2013 were triggered by very high energy costs. Over a 100 000 people demonstrated; there were seven self-immolations. The government fell in February 2013.

**€500 million is already committed.** A second half billion euros is planned. For comparison, the Bulgarian GDP is approximately €43 billion.

The programme is currently focusing on the communist-era apartment blocks, which are poorly insulated and inefficiently heated. There are already contracts to renovate over 2000 blocks. These are big buildings, often with 100 individual apartments.

**Up to 50 thousand jobs:** a €14.5 million pilot scheme co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund and the Bulgarian national budget created almost 1100 new jobs. Similar ratios are likely with the nationwide scheme. Many indirect jobs are also expected.

**Decrease in energy use:** on average, the renovations are reducing energy use by 40-60%. Given the scale of the programme the energy savings can significantly reduce the need for energy imports (over 90% of Bulgaria's gas demand is imported).

**Increase in quality of life:** many apartments are only partly heated in winter: families close off the other rooms to save energy costs. Thanks to the renovations, the whole dwelling can be heated (or cooled in summer). Energy savings also reduce the need for wood (currently used by 34% of households) and coal heating (20%), which improves air quality and health. Source BPIE ('Accelerating the renovation of the Bulgarian building stock', 2016 – in Bulgarian).



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**Data from the Bulgarian ministry of regional development and public works**