

## REELIH Regional Conference II

16 - 17 November 2021

*Scaling up energy efficiency renovations of multi-apartment buildings to alleviate energy poverty in Eastern Europe through knowledge transfer between EU member states and countries in the Eastern Neighborhood and Western Balkans*

*A conference organized by Habitat for Humanity International and United States Agency for International Development as part of Europe Housing Forum by Habitat for Humanity International and held in the framework of the UNECE Eleventh International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development.*

DAY I November 16, 2021		
14:15 – 16:00	Session 1	Setting the scene. Presenting Habitat for Humanity International research and recommendations and response by EU policy makers
BREAK		
16:15 – 17:45	Session 2	Financing residential energy efficiency
DAY 2 November 17, 2021		
12:00 – 13:45	Session 3	Presenting new REELIH project video Community mobilization: REELIH project and other best practices
BREAK		
14:00 – 15:30	Session 4	EU policies and implementation on national level
BREAK		
15:45 – 17:30	Session 5	Improving homeowner associations' legislation. Closing remarks

## MODERATORS



### **Stefan BOUZAROVSKI**

**Chair, Energy Poverty Advisory Hub (EPAH)**  
**(previously Energy Poverty Observatory, EPOV)**

Stefan Bouzarovski is a Professor of Human Geography at the University of Manchester, where he directs the People and Energy Programme. He also chairs the ENGAGER COST Action – the world’s largest network of energy poverty experts, practitioners, and policy advocates. With more than 25 years of experience in energy inequality measurement, identification, socio-demographics, and best-practice policy development and evaluation, he has provided expert advice to the European Parliament, European Commission, United Nations, World Bank, and International Energy Agency.



### **Oleg DZIOUBINSKI**

**Regional Adviser at Sustainable Energy Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)**

Oleg Dzioubinski is the Regional Adviser at the Sustainable Energy Division (SED) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in Geneva. He provides advisory services, capacity building activities and manages projects in the area of energy upon requests of countries with economies in transition. From 2008 to 2018, he was Energy Efficiency Programme Manager at SED. He coordinated UNECE work on energy efficiency in industry sector, managed projects on energy efficiency in buildings, and facilitated regulatory and policy dialogue on barriers to improve energy efficiency.

**Knut HÖLLER****Executive Member of the Board at IWO – Housing Initiative for Eastern Europe**

Knut Höller is a founding member of the German NGO Housing Initiative for Eastern Europe (IWO) e.V. The aim of the association is to provide German experiences from the housing transition in the former GDR and actual know-how from German housing sector to Central and Eastern European neighbors. He has been working in Latvia since 2001 and has been involved in numerous bilateral and EU-funded projects dealing with the energetic refurbishment of multi-apartment buildings in Latvia, the training of refurbishment managers and housing issues in the country.

**Zita KAKALEJCIKOVA****Project Manager of REELIH, Habitat for Humanity EMEA**

Zita Kakalejckikova has been with Habitat for Humanity area office for Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMEA) since 2014 working first in the advocacy team that supports HFHI EMEA advocacy initiatives to change housing policies on the regional as well as national level with focus on the European level advocacy, social housing, residential energy efficiency and energy poverty and housing for Roma. Zita has a 6-year experience in working on a project, supporting the coordination of a consortium, being part of the coordination team of the REELIH project and supporting the REELIH project regional advocacy efforts. From September 2020 Zita became a project coordinator of H2020 funded project ComAct Community Tailored Actions for Energy Poverty Mitigation led by HFHI, since November 2020 Zita as well took over the project coordination of the REELIH project funded by USAID.

**Elena MILANOVSKA**

**Associate Director, Capital Markets & Financial Inclusion Europe, Middle East, and Africa Terwilliger Center for Innovation in Shelter, Habitat for Humanity International (TCIS HFHI)**

Elena Milanovska currently holds the position of Associate Director – Capital Market and Financial Inclusion with Terwiliger Center for Innovation in Shelter - Habitat for Humanity International. Elena's experience in business development has played an essential role in promoting HFHI as the leader in the housing finance sector across the region, securing over billion investments in housing microfinance. At the same time, she is responsible for the implementation of a regional (Central Eastern Europe, Middle East and North Africa) expansion and capital mobilization strategy with a special focus on partnerships with Financial Institutions and SME's through TCIS (Shelter Venture Fund, MicroBuild Fund) and other investors or investment vehicles (i.e EiB on-going discussion on structuring EE fund for Wester Balkan).

## SPEAKERS

**Liljana ALCEVA****Deputy Director - Program at Habitat for Humanity Macedonia (HFHM)**

Liljana Alceva is the head of Habitat Macedonia's program operations since 2009, being the major contributor to the development of the program portfolio and institutional donors' funding. Liljana's areas of expertise include project cycle and organisational management, social inclusion, local development, and advocacy. In the past 10 years she's been active in the energy efficiency of the residential sector. Before joining Habitat, she worked for the Macedonian Centre for International Cooperation and for the UNDP country office in Macedonia on several training and management positions.

**Gaspard DEMUR****DG ENER, European Commission**

M. Demur is Team Leader for National Renovation Strategies and Recovery at the European Commission, Directorate for Energy (DG ENER). He is ensuring the mainstreaming of energy efficient renovation of buildings into the post-Covid recovery plans that EU Member States develop in cooperation with the European Commission. He previously worked as an Assistant to the Director General of DG ENER, following closely the Governance of the Energy Union as well as nuclear and international files.

**Julien DIJOL**  
**Policy Director of Housing Europe**

Julien Dijol is Head of Policy at Housing Europe. His role is to ensure an effective advocacy work through relevant links with the EU projects in which Housing Europe is involved. He therefore has contributed to various EU projects, in particular in the field of Cohesion Policy, Energy, Social Inclusion as well as to several publications.

**Grzegorz GAJDA**  
**Senior Urban Sector Specialist at European Investment Bank (EIB)**

Grzegorz Gajda is Senior Urban Specialists at the European Investment Bank. He appraises projects submitted for the EIB financing both from the European Union countries and from outside of the EU. Previously, while he was with the IFC he led Ukraine Residential Energy Efficiency Project. Prior to the IFC, he was with European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, where he appraised, negotiated, and implemented urban investment projects in Poland and Ukraine. He comes from Warsaw, Poland and holds MA Econ. from Warsaw University.



### **Eva GEROHAZI**

**Researcher, Metropolitan Research Institute  
Budapest (MRI)**

Eva Gerohazi joined the Metropolitan Research Institute in 1997, gaining experience in the field of urban development. She started her career as the project manager of the residential building renovation programme of USAID. Since then, she continued dealing with the energy efficient renovation of residential buildings, broadening the scope to Central and Eastern Europe, focusing on the issues of energy poverty. She has participated in different research programmes financed by the European Union in the fields of renovation of housing estates, fostering self-organized construction and renovation of the housing stock.



### **Krzysztof GIERULSKI**

**Policy Officer at the European Commission**

Krzysztof Gierulski is a policy officer at the European Commission and works as a head of the energy efficiency section at the Support Group for Ukraine (SGUA). His main task has been helping with the reforms on energy efficiency and renewable energy in Ukraine. He has been seconded to SGUA from the Directorate-General for Energy of the European Commission, where he worked on the development of the EU energy efficiency policies, was involved in the drafting of EU policy documents and acts including Energy Efficiency Directive, implementation of the EU rules on metering & billing, enforcement of the rights of energy consumers, advice to the EU Member States on the implementation of the National Energy Efficiency Action Plans, and more.

**Richard HATHAWAY****Vice President, Europe, Middle East, and Africa,  
Habitat for Humanity**

Rick Hathaway is a vice president for Habitat for Humanity International, responsible for the overall success of Habitat's affordable housing activities in dozens of countries throughout Europe, Middle East, and Africa. Previously Rick served as the Vice President for Asia-Pacific – with 25 plus years of Asia experience. Hathaway joined Habitat for Humanity in 1989 as director of US programs where he managed the organization's expansion to all 50 states. He came to Asia in 1993, working to develop new Habitat operations in South Korea and New Zealand. From 1995 to 2002, he supported the development of Habitat organizations and programs in East and Southeast Asia. While working in Asia for many years Rick and his family have lived in Manila, Philippines; Seoul, Korea; Auckland, New Zealand; and Bangkok, Thailand. Rick was project director for the Jimmy Carter Work Project, when Habitat's premier annual volunteer annual event was held in the Philippines in 1999, and again, in 2001, when the event was held in South Korea. Rick subsequently served as an advisor when the event was held in South Africa, Mexico, India, and in the Mekong. Rick graduated from the University of Massachusetts in 1983 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. Rick holds two masters degrees: one in Urban and Environmental Management from Australia's RMIT University in Melbourne, and another in Business Administration from Eastern University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. He is a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the Project Management Institute, USA. Hathaway is married with two children and currently resides in Bratislava, Slovakia

**Arsen KARAPETYAN****National Expert on Housing Policy and Multi-Apartment Building Management, UNDP**

Arsen Karapetyan, is a civil engineer and economist by education. He is an experienced policymaker with proven ability to combine extensive knowledge of civil engineering, investment planning and industry regulating with graduate studies in economics in the US. Has participated in preparing investment projects, and in restructuring and reforming infrastructures (especially energy and water sectors) and housing sector. Mr. Karapetyan has been actively involved in drafting first energy law as well as making preparatory works for establishing of then RA energy commission (currently – RA Public Services Regulatory Commission). Mr. Karapetyan has worked about 10 years with UNDP Armenia on projects for improving energy efficiency in buildings and lighting sector as building codes and standards expert as well as housing policy and multi-apartment buildings management expert.

**Nadejda KHAMRAKULOVA****Project Officer at the Sustainable Energy Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)**

Nadejda Khamrakulova is the Project Officer at the Sustainable Energy Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). She is currently working on a project aimed to enhance capacities of countries to develop and implement energy efficiency standards in buildings. From 2015 to 2019, Nadejda was providing consultancy services in the area of sustainable development to FAO, UNECE, and UNEP. From 2007 to 2014, she was working in the UNECE to implement projects on financing energy efficiency and renewable energy investments, enhancement of transboundary water cooperation, and assessment of economic policies.

**Varsenik KHLOYAN****Project Manager, Residential Buildings at Habitat for Humanity Armenia (HFHA)**

Varsenik Khloyan has been working at Habitat for Humanity Armenia since 2015 and is the project manager for “Residential Energy Efficiency for Low Income Households” (REELIH) project. She is responsible for the development and application of replicable financial models for residential buildings’ renovation and energy upgrade, homeowners’ capacity buildings and awareness raising activities. Since 2017 Varsenik is engaged in advocacy activities focused on the reform of residential buildings management law.

**Violeta KOGALNICEANU****Head of Infrastructure and Energy Efficiency Unit, Energy Community**

Violeta Kogalniceanu has 25 years of experience in international programme management and consulting for energy and energy efficiency policy and strategy development, capacity building and institutional strengthening, energy efficient technologies and renewable energy sources. As Head of Infrastructure and Energy Efficiency Unit at the Energy Community Secretariat in Vienna, she helped to identify priority infrastructure energy projects and facilitate dialogue with the Donors’ Community and the International Financial Institutions in order to bridge the gaps between projects and financing. She also worked with the Energy Efficiency Coordination Group, and with EBRD in the Regional Energy Efficiency Programme.

**Meran LUKIĆ**  
**Principal Banker at EBRD**

Meran Lukic is Principal Banker in EBRD's Sustainable Infrastructure Group, Infra Europe Team. He has been with EBRD since 2008. In his current capacity, Meran is responsible for business development, structuring, execution and monitoring of a large number of transport and environmental infrastructure projects in Serbia and North Macedonia. In recent years, Meran has become increasingly engaged in energy efficiency, including appraising and financing public sector projects, as well as in policy dialogue with national and sub-national authorities.

**Lisa MAGNO**  
**Deputy Assistant Administrator at USAID**

Lisa Magno is the Deputy Assistant Administrator (DAA) in the Bureau for Europe and Eurasia at USAID, starting August 2021. Prior to joining the E&E Front Office, she served as USAID/Kosovo Mission Director. Ms. Magno is a development professional with 30 years of experience working for USAID. She started her career as a local-hire contractor for USAID's Mission to the Philippines where she was a technical officer responsible for overseeing local government and civil society programs. During her time at USAID/Philippines, she also managed regional programs in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. The second phase of her career was spent in Latin America where her focus was on collaborating with USAID implementing partners in Honduras, Peru, and Bolivia.

### **Iskra MIHAYLOVA**

**Member of the European Parliament**



Iskra Mihaylova is a member of the European Parliament where she joined the Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, chaired the Committee on Regional Development, and later joined the Renew Europe group and was elected as its vice chair. She is member of ITRE Committee and Substitute member of DEVE. She works actively in the field of energy efficiency, renewable energy sources and energy transition towards energy decarbonization and green solutions, as well as on synergies between European policies. For her work and activities as MEP, Iskra Mihaylova was awarded the MEP Award 2017 for the category Regional Development.

### **Besim NEBIU**

**Director for Central and Eastern Europe / Commonwealth of Independent States, Habitat for Humanity)**



Besim Nebiu is the Director for Central and Eastern Europe /Commonwealth of Independent States at Habitat for Humanity. He has over 20 years of career in non-profit management, civil society development, democratization, media freedoms and international development. Based out of Habitat's EMEA Area Office in Bratislava, for many years Besim has led HFHI's work on residential energy in Eastern Europe and managed the Residential Energy Efficiency (REE) program and initiatives, including the REELIH program. Besim has BA and MA in Economy and 15 years' managing social housing, shelter and residential energy programs in Eastern Europe, Western Balkans, and Central Asia. In his current role, Besim leads the Habitat team that organized the Europe Housing Forum 2021.



### **Edo OMIC**

**Economist at Council of Europe Development Bank (CEB)**

Edo Omic is an Economist at the Council of Europe Development Bank, where he works on research related to economic inequalities, the social sector, energy poverty, and general macroeconomic policy in Europe. He is currently working on a report analyzing the state of social infrastructure in Western Balkans and how it relates to human capital development in the region. He has previously held a position at the OECD where his research centered on South-East European SME policy, international trade, and industrial policy.



### **Andrew POPELKA**

**Senior Energy Advisor, Energy and Infrastructure Division Bureau for Europe and Eurasia, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**

Andrew Popelka is a Senior Energy Advisor in the Europe & Eurasia Bureau of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), supporting the agency's energy sector reform agenda and energy efficiency programs in Southeast Europe and in Eastern Partnership countries. Prior to joining the agency in 2014 he worked as an independent consultant on a multitude of projects in the US, Europe, Asia and in Africa, promoting energy efficiency, and supporting investment in efficient heat and power generation, industrial facilities, public buildings, and in residential sector.

**Senta SCHMATZBERGER****Project Manager, Building Performance Institute Europe (BPIE)**

Senta Schmatzberger is project manager at BPIE (Buildings Performance Institute for Europe) since 2019 with more than 10 years of experience working on the energy transition. She focuses her work on energy efficiency policies in buildings with a strong link to social policy and multiple benefits, looking at buildings in the energy system and an important part of a just society. In the past she worked for a diverse range of organizations and topics ranging from renewable energy at the German Agency for Renewable Resources (FNR) to climate change with the UNFCCC secretariat.

**Gergely SCHUM****Project manager at ENERGIACLUB**

Gergely Schum is an Economist in International Economy and Business, with a focus on sustainable regional and environmental development studies. Gergely has broad experience in real estate refurbishment, energy efficiency, and sustainability projects. Currently, he is working as the project leader of an H-2020 project called RenoHUB at Energiaklub.

**Hélène SIBILEAU****Senior Policy Advisor at Buildings Performance Institute Europe (BPIE)**

Hélène Sibileau works at the Buildings Performance Institute Europe (BPIE) as Senior Policy Advisor. Her role is to ensure that EU legislation on buildings policy, and especially the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, is based on the latest available research, to deliver on the climate neutrality objective by 2050. Before this, she was Senior EU Affairs Manager for almost six years at EuroACE – Energy Efficient Buildings, a Brussels-based business association representing manufacturers of energy efficient products in buildings. Hélène’s missions ranged from monitoring, policy analysis, drafting amendments and implementing advocacy strategies towards the EU institutions.

**Svitlana SLESARENOK****Odessa Housing Union association**

Svitlana Slesarenok has been dealing with community level action in Odessa, Ukraine ever since 1996, when she had to deal with the absence of heating in a multi-apartment building. Throughout the years she worked to empower the residents of multi-apartment buildings, to raise their quality of life as part of the Citizens Movement, for which she was awarded the ‘Golden Pearl’ prize in 2002, as well as recognized as ‘Odessa’s woman of the year 2002’ as the leader of a public movement.

**Esad SMAJLOVIĆ**  
Senior Advisor at GIZ

Esad Smajlović is a mechanical engineer in energy management, Energy efficiency advisor with more than 20 years' experience working in Balkan's region, mostly in energy efficiency for buildings. While working as HFHI REELIH country program manager for residential buildings in partner municipalities piloted and refurbished with strong involvement of homeowner association. Currently, Esad is working on preparation of national programme for EE reconstruction of residential building.

**Valentina STARDELOVA**  
Head of Energy Department, Ministry of Economy,  
Republic of North Macedonia, Skopje

Valentina Stardelova currently works as the Head of the Energy Department at the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of North Macedonia. She has more than a decade of experience of working with energy related policies, laws and measures. Valentina is also a legal expert, with many publications on national, European and energy law, for which she is well respected both in North Macedonia and abroad.

**György SÜMEGHY****Associated Director of Advocacy & Policy, Habitat for Humanity, EMEA**

György Sümeghy received his MA in English and Hungarian Literature in 1995 in Budapest. He spent ten years in public education and later at a private business college. He joined Habitat for Humanity Hungary as National Director in 2005. Under his leadership, Habitat for Humanity Hungary has become an advocacy led organization to change housing policies in the country. György joined HFHI/EMEA in 2013 to lead regional advocacy initiatives and support national advocacy programs in the EMEA region. He represents HFHI in Brussels and all over Europe at regional conferences and in coalitions. He is also leading EU level policy advocacy efforts.

**Elena SZOLGAYOVA****Co-chair of the #Housing2030 initiative**

Elena is an architect and urban planner with long-standing research and policy making experience. She was Director General of DG Housing Policy and Urban Development at the Ministry of Transport and Construction of Slovakia. For over two decades participated in shaping the visions of the global, European, and national housing and urban policies, was one of those steering the process toward adoption of the Geneva UN Charter on sustainable housing. She participated in the Habitat III Bureau and in the Housing Policy Unit during the preparatory process of the New Urban Agenda. She has been one of the coordinators of the Housing Partnership under the EU Urban Agenda. Elena served from 2013 to 2019 as Chair of the UNECE Committee on Housing and Land Management.



### **Petar TASIĆ**

**Consultant at ENOVA, Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Petar Tasić joined Habitat for Humanity Bosnia and Herzegovina team in 2017 through Enova Consultants & Engineers. Currently works as a Consultant in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources, as well as a University Assistant in Mechanical Engineering Faculty of the University of Sarajevo. Petar has 15 years of working experience in commercial and academic sectors and spent 3 years at Technical University Graz as researcher. He has been involved in more than 50 projects, published 1 university book and 15 papers in scientific journals, and participated in 18 scientific conferences.



### **Marin Petrovic**

**Consultant at ENOVA, Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Marin Petrovic currently works as a Consultant in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources at Enova Consultants & Engineers, which also implements the REELIH project in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Marin has 16 years of working experience in commercial and academic sectors in Western Balkan countries as well as in Ireland on several research project. He has planned and successfully implemented more than 100 projects, published 3 books and many scientific papers.