



Social Energy Renovations (SER)

“Generating social, environmental and economic impact at community, country and the European Union levels”

4-year European Commission-funded project

Context

To meet the EU's ambitious 2050 climate goals and support post-COVID-19 recovery, an annual investment of €243 billion is required until 2050, with €64 billion specifically for **non-residential building renovations**. The **third sector**—encompassing NPOs, associations, foundations, cooperatives, and social enterprises—employs 28.3 million full-time equivalent workers, representing 13% of Europe’s workforce. Despite their broad service offerings (e.g., education, housing, and training), these organisations remain underserved by finance, seen as high-risk borrowers. As a result, most **Third Sector Organisations (TSOs)** lack access to long-term financing and the resources necessary for sustainable building renovations.

Project Summary

The Social Energy Renovations (SER) project promotes **sustainable renovations within the third sector in Italy**. SER has created an operational hub, the **SER HUB**, which provides **comprehensive technical and financial assistance** to TSOs for clean energy projects, including **de-risking financing instruments** to ensure project viability.

Additionally, SER has developed an **Impact Assessment Methodology** to evaluate the broader social and environmental impacts of these renovations, as well as the **SERVICE4Impact** app, a tool designed to measure the energy and structural vulnerabilities of buildings in the third sector.

SER aims to empower social enterprises and catalyse **over €200 million in clean energy investments** in the 5 years following the project. This will result in nearly **3,000 jobs, 893 tons of CO₂ savings, and significant social benefits**—reducing energy poverty and enhancing social equality, health, well-being, productivity, financial literacy, and social cohesion. Thus, SER’s impact extends beyond energy savings, fostering an inclusive, green, post-COVID-19 recovery.

Project Scope

Launched in May 2021, the SER project spans 45 months, promoting sustainable renovations in **Italy’s** non-profit sector, with plans to scale in **Bulgaria and France** and exploratory roundtables in **Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Poland**.

Project Partners

SER brings together **8 organizations from 4 EU countries**:



The SER Project received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101024254.