

A NEW CHANCE TO BECOME RELEVANT AS NATIONAL INSULATION SECTOR ?

There is a lot of information indicating that more and better insulation can contribute to saving energy and CO2 reductions. Various national associations have been active in backing this up with facts and examples and presenting this information to local politicians.

The Covid-19 situation can help us to accelerate the process and to make the most of an EU finance plan.

In response to the economic impact that the COVID-19 pandemic is having on EU economies, the European Union is setting up a Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). The RRF will involve € 312.5 billion in grants and € 360 billion in low-interest loans to finance investments and reforms between the years 2021 and 2023.

Member States can attain these funds – up to an individually calculated share – by preparing National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRPs), in which they outline a coherent package of reforms and public investment projects.

Member States are therefore encouraged to submit their national reform programs and their recovery and resilience plans in a single integrated document, providing an overview of the reforms and investments that the Member State plans to undertake in the upcoming years, in line with the objectives of the Facility (deadline 30th April, 2021).

Why do we think that this can be used for our business?

Each recovery and resilience plan will have to include a minimum of 37% of expenditure related to climate. It is clear that we can support our local government in setting up a part of the national recovery and resilience plan related to insulation, with a direct effect on CO2 reduction and energy saving.

The target would be for energy waste reduction in the local industry to be a topic within each national RRP and, therefore, reflected in budgets for energy waste audits (for example TipCheck) and grants/loans for responding insulation investments should be involved.

Plant owners, service companies, and maybe also our contractor companies will then be able to generate grants or loans directly from the NRRP, which could be a source of direct support for any investments in energy waste reduction, thus resulting in more and better insulation.

All associations and global companies join actually forces to influence local politicians

Naturally, every global company involved in the insulation business has recognized this opportunity and is interested in contributing to the different member state plans. FESI will inform you individually about ongoing activities and provide country-specific information on the potential of energy waste and CO2 reduction, which you may apply to media and politics.

Needless to say, this is another chance to focus more explicitly on the possible role of our business and industry in reducing CO2 emissions and to work actively against climate change.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Jan Zanen, FESI secretary.

