FINANCING PRODUCT

(type-form)

Energy Efficiency of apartment buildings

(name of financing product)

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS AND DEFINITIONS

1.1. Introduction

The financing product "Energy Efficiency of apartment buildings" (hereinafter - product) is intended for accessing and granting financial incentives from the financial means of the Moldovan Residential Energy Efficiency Fund, for financing energy efficiency measures and the use of renewable energy sources in apartment buildings in the Republic of Moldova.

1.2. Definitions and acronyms

MREEF - Moldovan Residential Energy Efficiency Fund

PI NCSE - Public Institution National Center for Sustainable Energy

COA - Condominium Owners' Association as defined in the Law no. 187/2022 on

condominiums

FRC - Finance and Risk Committee

EVRF - Energy Vulnerability Reduction Fund

CP - Common parts – the land and the parts of the building in the condominium that are

intended for the use of all owners in the condominium, as well as other goods that, according to the law or the deed establishing the condominium, are intended for

common use by all owners in the condominium

IHS - Individual Heat Substation

EEOS - Programme on the Energy Efficiency Obligation Scheme

DHS - District Heating System

PP - payback period (not taking into account possible increases in energy prices)

NPV - Net Present Value

Allocation - financial aid for the efficiency of the consumption of energy resources, granted in

accordance with art. 5 para. (1) lit. c) from Law no. 241/2022 regarding the Energy Vulnerability Reduction Fund, intended for vulnerable households to partially cover costs, with the eligible investment from the beneficiary's contribution account

1.3. Main objective

Increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy sources in apartment buildings and decreasing the energy vulnerability of household consumers living there.

1.4. Specific objectives (Programme MREEF, apartment buildings)

- Ensuring the renovation of at least 373 thousand m² of heated area in apartment buildings throughout the country (at least 73.6% of the specific target set in the MREEF Programme and corresponding to its monitoring indicators).
- Recording energy savings at end-users of at least 4.32 ktoe (at least 75% of the specific target set in the MREEF Programme).

1.5. Eligible Applicants and Beneficiaries

Condominium Owners Associations (COA)

1.6. Funding of eligible investments

Eligible investments under the product are funded from:

- Financial incentives granted by PI NCSE from the MREEF Programme, according to the current product;
- Beneficiaries' contribution, which may be covered by at least one of the following sources:
 - COA's own capital/equity;
 - borrowed capital/bank or non-bank loans;
 - allocation;
 - other sources (development partners/donors, local government authorities etc.).

1.7. Type of financial incentives

- The financial incentives from the financial means of the MREEF Programme are granted in the form of:
 - *Grant* 70% of the eligible investment value;
 - *Allocation* for apartment owners in the COA, covering up to 90% of their contribution, depending on the energy vulnerability category of the household to which each apartment owner in the COA belongs.
- Financial incentives for measures approved for funding under the current Financing Product will be provided on the basis of the Funding Contract, signed by PI NCSE and the Beneficiary, within the financial means available in the budget of PI NCSE for the mentioned financial incentives.

1.8. Conditions for granting financial incentives

- Compliance of applicants with the eligibility criteria;
- Compliance with the requirements for energy rehabilitation projects of apartment buildings.

1.9. Validity period (for submission of applications by applicants)

• May 1, 2024 – December 31, 2027

1.10. Product components

The financing product consists of 3 distinct and consecutive components:

- Component I Energy audit;
- Component II Project design documentation;
- Component III Construction works.

1.11. Budget

The budget is established based on the provisions of the Energy Efficiency Financing Fund Programme in the residential sector from the Republic of Moldova, approved by Government Decision No. 251 of 10.04.2024.

The budget of the product is part of the budget of the MREEF Programme and amounts (including administration costs up to 10% according to the Articles of Association): 1 007 775 thousand MDL, of which:

- 716 185 thousand MDL for Grants
- 168 508 thousand MDL for Allocation.
- 123 081 thousand MDL beneficiary contribution

Budget breakdown by product components:

- Component I 4%
- Component II 8%
- Component III 88%

The funding sources of the Product Budget are the financial means received from:

• EEOS – 358 092 thousand MDL:

- EVRF -168508 thousand MDL;
- Donations, grants, other financial means provided for by the Articles of Association 358 092 thousand MDL.

1.12. Energy efficiency and renewable energy measures eligible for funding (further - energy rehabilitation measures of the apartment building)

• Group A - Roof:

- A1. Thermal insulation of the roof (all types);
- A2. Thermal insulation of technical floor.

• Group D – Thermal energy distribution:

- D1. Installation of heating and domestic hot water supply system with horizontal distribution of thermal agent and individual metering of apartments (the consumption of heating heat and domestic hot water);
- D2. Installation of solar collector-based heat generation system by COA.
- D3. Installation of heat pumps.

• Group E - Electric car charging station:

E1. Installation of electric car charging stations for common use.

• Group F - Photovoltaic:

F1. Installation of photovoltaic solar panel system (electricity generation for CP, territory lighting and lifts) including energy storage batteries.

• Group I (Lighting):

I1. Upgrade/renovation of the indoor lighting system in CP.

• Group L (Lifts):

L1. Upgrade of lifts for more efficient electricity consumption.

• Group P (Walls):

- P1. Thermal insulation of external walls;
- P2. Insulation of foundation walls and building base above ground level and heat bridges.
- P3. Thermal insulation of walls between heated apartments and non-heated common areas of staircases (unheated).

• Group S (Basement):

S1. Thermal insulation of unheated basement (intrafloor).

• Group T (Carpentry):

T1. Replacement of exterior doors and/or windows (from CP).

Other measures: repair or installation works, which are strictly necessary to protect or facilitate the implementation of the measures identified on the basis of the energy audit report and the detailed technical project in the cases provided by the legislation.

Specific eligibility requirements for eligible residential building energy rehabilitation measures:

- For apartment buildings connected to DHS, measures in groups A, P, S and T are not eligible for funding if IHS have not been implemented or is not planned to be implemented together with these measures (IHS will be implemented in funding sources other than those offered by MREEF Programme).
- Measures in groups P, T and S are not be eligible for funding if measures in group A are not included, in the situation where, the non-implementation of measures from group A, present a risk to the sustainability of measures in groups P, T and S.
- Measures in group P may be funded only after implementation of measures in group T or together.
- Measure in group E is not eligible for funding if at least one of the measures in groups A and P have not been implemented or are not planned to be implemented together.
- Measure in group F is not eligible for funding if measures in groups A, P, T, I and L (where exists) have not been implemented or are not planned to be implemented together.
- Measure in group L is not eligible for funding if measures in groups A, P, T are not planned to be implemented together.

• Measure in group D3 is not eligible for funding if measures in groups F is not planned to be implemented together.

1.13. Implementation of components

Component I - Energy audit

- a) PI NCSE will hold a call for applications for energy audits. Interested COA shall submit a file containing the following documents:
 - Cover letter (Annex 1).
 - Completed application form (Annex 2).
 - Decision of the COA management board or the COA general assembly approving the decision on the energy rehabilitation of the apartment building.
 - Financial statement of COA for the last reporting year.
 - Extract from the state register of legal entities/units.
 - Decision on the registration of amendments to the articles of association and to the data entered in the State Register of Legal Entities (articles of association, composition of the members of the governing bodies: administrator, management board).
 - Bank statement on the balance of the Reserve/Savings/Development and Repair Fund of COA.
- b) The assessment of the files shall be carried out by the PI NCSE according to the criteria indicated in the table 1

Table 1. Assessment criteria for COA applications.

Criteria	Score		
Legal form of organization	- COA – 20 p.		
	 CCL/APLP/ACC (Housing cooperatives / 		
	Association of privatized housing owners /		
	Condominium co-owners' associations) – 10 p. (for		
	cases where the energy audit report was issued		
	before the entry into force of the Government		
	Decision no. 251/2024 on the approval of the		
	MREEF Programme)		
Bill payment discipline, in % (Share of	– Over 80% - 30 p.		
apartments with no arrears on invoices issued by	– 70%-80% - 20 p.		
the association, out of the total number of	– Less than 70% - 0 p.		
apartments (average over the last 3 years))			
Experience in implementing projects larger than	- 1 project – 10 p.		
50 thousand MDL in the last 7 years	- 5 points will be added for each additional project		
	(maximum 40 points).		
	- 0 points for missing experience.		
Average value of repair and development fund	Available, on average 50 MDL/apartment - 30 p.		
per apartment (separate account)	- For each additional 50 lei/ apartment, 5 points will		
	be added, but no more than 20 points.		
	– Missing – 0 p.		
Average value of reserve fund per apartment	- Available, on average 50 MDL/apartment - 30 p.		
other than repair and development fund	- For each additional 50 lei/ apartment, 5 points will		
	be added, but no more than 20 points.		
	– Missing – 0 p.		
Decision of the general assembly of the	- Present – 50 p.		
association on the approval of the decision for	– Missing – 0 p.		
the energy rehabilitation of the apartment			
building			
Building connected to DHS	- Yes - 30 p.		
	- No $-$ 0 p.		

			_
Existence of the Individual Heating Point in the	_	Yes – 20 p.	
heating system of the apartment building	_	No - 0 p.	

- c) The COA selected by the PI NCSE in priority order according to the accumulated score, will benefit from an energy audit carried out by companies selected and contracted by the PI NCSE.
- d) The expenses for carrying out the energy audit shall be borne by the PI NCSE from the budget provided for component I.
- e) The COA that have energy audit reports developed by sources other than the PI NCSE are eligible for Component II Project Documentation, provided that the apartment buildings managed by these COA meet the eligibility conditions for beneficiaries of this product.

Component II - Project design documentation

- a) Taking into account the results of the energy audit, the COA decides on the energy rehabilitation measures of the apartment building (from those specified in the energy audit report), which are requested to be implemented, the amount of the COA's contribution separately for the project documentation and for the implementation works of the energy rehabilitation measures, as well as the financing/co-financing of the contribution considering the specific eligibility conditions of the measures.
- b) The contracting of the services for the elaboration of the project documentation is carried out by the PI NCSE.
- c) The cost of the project documentation shall be borne by the PI NCSE, with the exception of the COA contribution for the technical project.
- d) The COA's contribution to the project documentation is 10% of the value of the project documentation and is paid by the COA to the PI NCSE within 10 days of the date of signing the funding contract between the PI NCSE and the COA for the preparation of the project documentation and the implementation of the energy rehabilitation measures for the residential block. The funding contract includes, but is not limited to:
 - the cost of preparing the project documentation (based on the winning bid);
 - the estimated cost of implementing the energy rehabilitation measures of the block (based on the costs indicated in the energy audit report);
 - the amount of the COA contribution, equivalent in MDL to 10% for the preparation of the project documentation;
 - the estimated value of the beneficiary's total contribution. The COA contribution for the project documentation is included in the total amount of the beneficiary's contribution.
- e) For the implementation of this component, interested COA shall submit to the PI NCSE a file containing:
 - Funding application;
 - Energy audit report (if it has been prepared on behalf of the beneficiary).
 - Decision of the general assembly of the COA on the approval of the implementation of the list of energy rehabilitation measures of the apartment building for which the financial incentives from the MREEF are requested, the amount of the beneficiary's contribution (separately for the technical project and for the implementation works of the energy rehabilitation measures), as well as the way of its financing (COA capital/equity funds, bank or non-bank credit, by development partners, local government authorities, other sources not prohibited by the legislation and financing products).
 - proof of the availability of the contribution at least for the preparation of the project documentation (bank statement on the available financial resources of the association (repair and development fund, other availability of financial means in the accounts), credit contract, loan contract, document confirming the coverage of the contribution from the account of development partners, local public administration authorities etc.).

- f) The COA participating in Component II are also required to participate in Component III Construction works. COA that do not participate in Component III Construction Works shall pay the remaining amount of the cost of the project documentation, after deduction from the total cost of the project documentation of the beneficiary contribution paid for the project documentation.
- g) For this component, COA that have prepared the energy audit from sources of financing other than the financial incentives granted by the PI NCSE from the MREEF funds in accordance with the regulations are also eligible.
- h) The COA that have project documentation drawn up from sources of funding other than the financial incentives granted by the PI NCSE from MREEF funds are eligible for Component III construction works, provided that the apartment buildings managed by these COA meet the eligibility conditions for beneficiaries of this product.

Component III - Construction works

- a) The PI NCSE signs with the COA an Additional Agreement to the Funding Contract signed at Component II Project Documentation stage. The additional agreement shall indicate:
 - the specified value of the works for the implementation of the energy rehabilitation measures of the block, based on the costs specified in the cost estimates drawn up as a result of the project documentation (including the costs for ensuring the correct execution of the construction works by certified technical officers and the authors of the project documentation);
 - the specified amount of the beneficiary's total contribution and the remaining contribution to be paid by the beneficiary by excluding the contribution paid by the beneficiary at Component II stage from the total amount of the contribution;
 - the deadlines for the payment to the PI NCSE of the COA contribution for the financial investment, are:
 - 30% of the amount of the contribution in the form of an advance payment within 10 days from the date of signature of the additional agreement to the funding contract. The payment made by the COA to Component II is considered part of the advance;
 - 30% of the amount of the contribution within 10 days from the date of signing the minutes/report of acceptance on completion of the works;
 - 40% of the amount of the contribution flat rate or within 2 (two) years from the date of signature of the minutes/report of acceptance on completion of the works.
- b) Until the procurement of the works for the implementation of the energy rehabilitation measures of the block, the PI NCSE shall check the receipt from the COA of the payment of 30% of the contribution in the form of an advance. In the event of non-receipt of the COA contribution in accordance with the commitments made in the funding contract and the additional agreement to this contract, the PI NCSE may decide to terminate the funding contract. The PI NCSE will offer an additional period for payment of the contribution, which will not exceed 12 months from the date of signature of the additional agreement to the funding contract.
- c) Based on the project documentation, the PI NCSE draws up the specifications and procurement the works for the implementation of the energy rehabilitation measures of the block (construction works) and the works for the verification of the correct execution of the construction works.
- d) In the event that the PI NCSE notifies the COA of its failure to comply with its contractual commitments, the PI NCSE may request the termination of the contract and the recovery of the financial incentives granted to the COA, as well as the recovery of material damages.

1.14. Funding decisions

- a) Decisions to accept or reject the eligibility of COA for participation as a beneficiary of financial incentives, for each component, shall be taken by the FRC, as provided for in the Articles of Association of the PI NCSE.
- b) The decision of acceptance or rejection for Component I will be taken on the basis of the score accumulated in the corresponding call.
- c) For Component II, the FRC examines the files submitted and issues the decision to approve for funding the eligible applicants in the order in which their files were submitted to the PI NCSE. In the event that applications exceed the available budget, priority will be given to applicants who:

- are connected to DHS;
- do not record or record the lowest rate of disconnections of apartments from DHS.
- d) On the basis of the FRC decision of acceptance to Component II, the PI NCSE will sign a funding contract with the beneficiaries which will establish the conditions for the implementation of the project and the terms of payment of the contribution.

1.15. Monitoring period of implemented projects

24 months after the signing of the act of acceptance on completion of the works.

II. CONDITIONS AND CRITERIA FOR THE APPLICANT OF THE FINANCING PRODUCT

- 2.1. **Eligibility criteria for applicants** (according to the most recent situation up to the date of application for financial incentives):
 - a) have the legal form of organization of a COA;
 - b) are registered in the State Register of legal entities of the Republic of Moldova;
 - c) the buildings proposed for energy retrofitting were put into operation no later than 2005;
 - d) have no arrears to the national public budget;
 - e) they have not initiated legal proceedings that would jeopardize the implementation of the energy rehabilitation project of the block;
 - f) the associations have the resolution of the general assembly of the association approving the energy rehabilitation of the residential block, the amount of the beneficiary's contribution, as well as the method of financing it (equity/equity, bank or non-bank credit, by development partners, local government authorities, other sources not prohibited by legislation and financing products), in accordance with the provisions of the Law no. 187/2022 on condominium;
 - g) the average monthly arrears (calculated for the last 12 months preceding the submission of the application) of the associations to the intermediary service providers, suppliers of energy resources (electricity, natural gas, heat), water and sewerage, and/or public electronic communications services must not exceed 20% of the total monthly payments for each service;
 - h) they are not in insolvency proceedings or being liquidated.

2.2. Eligibility criteria for energy rehabilitation projects in residential buildings:

- a) promote technically and economically feasible energy rehabilitation solutions in compliance with minimum energy performance requirements, respecting the principle of "energy efficiency first", based on the energy audit report carried out by a qualified energy auditor and registered in the electronic register of energy auditors;
- b) comply with the specific eligibility requirements for energy rehabilitation measures of the residential building set out in point 1.12;
- c) the promoted solutions show a minimum level of energy savings according to the category of measures proposed for implementation (table 2);
- d) show technical feasibility, which shall consist of an assessment of at least the following aspects:
 - the relevance of the proposed solutions to the specific needs of the building(s) (the proposed solutions are included in the types of measures eligible for funding specified in point 1.12);
 - the compliance of the characteristics of the proposed systems, technologies and materials with the minimum technical requirements set out *Minimum technical requirements and specifications for energy efficiency works and promotion of renewable energy sources* (https://cned.gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/specificatii tehnice min ee ser final 201 023.pdf)
 - compliance with all applicable normative requirements and technical regulations, including those relating to the authorization of construction works and quality in construction, as follows:

For Component I"Energy audit", but not limited to:

- compliance with the provisions of art. 19 par. (3), par. (8) and art. 20 par. (1) of Law no. 139/2018 on energy efficiency;
- compliance with the provisions of points 38-51 of the Regulation on energy auditors and energy audit, approved by GD no. 676/2020;
- compliance with the Models/Templates of Energy Audit Reports and Minimum Requirements for Energy Audits in the Buildings Sector.

For Component II" Project documentation", but not limited to:

- compliance with the provisions of the Code of Town Planning and Construction no. 434/2023;
- compliance with the provisions of Law no. 163/2010 on authorizing the execution of construction works;
- compliance with the provisions of the construction normative document NCM A. 07.02-2012 "Procedure for the elaboration, endorsement, approval and framework content of the project documentation for construction. Requirements and main provisions";
- compliance, where applicable, with the Minimum Technical Requirements and Specifications for energy efficiency works and promotion of renewable energy sources.

For Component III "Construction Works", but not limited to:

- compliance with the provisions of the Code of Town Planning and Construction no. 434/2023;
- compliance with the Minimum technical requirements and specifications for energy efficiency works and promotion of renewable energy sources.
 - the technical condition of the building based on the technical building survey report, drawn up and approved in accordance with the requirements of the relevant legislation;
 - the correspondence of the execution plan and timetable with the set of proposed measures and the degree of complexity of the project in accordance with the respective financing product;
 - the correctness and completeness of the project cost estimates, including design, installation, maintenance etc.;
 - the ability of the proposed solutions to deliver energy savings and greenhouse emission reductions in relation to the proposed objectives;
 - the provision of measures to ensure monitoring, reporting and checking of the results of implemented projects.
- e) prove economic and financial feasibility on the basis of a cost-benefit analysis (based on the energy audit) consisting of an assessment of at least the following aspects:
 - the economic efficiency of the project, based on the minimum indicators (discounted net revenue, and payback period) as shown in table no. 2;
 - the ability to secure the beneficiary's contribution in accordance with the financing conditions for this financial product.
- f) comply with the requirements of social, environmental and governance responsibility, which shall consist of assessing at least the following aspects:
 - compliance of the project with environmental and climate change legislation;
 - the project should have a sustainable approach, using materials and technologies that are environmentally friendly and sustainable in the long term;
 - compliance of the governance structure of the associations with the provisions of the Law no. 187/2022 on condominium;
 - evidence of respect for social and decision-making rights in the association, in accordance with the regulatory framework and agreements with development partners.

Table 2. Project economic indicators for categories of measures						
Type of measures	ype of measures Energy savings (based on N		PP (Payback Period), years			
	standardized conditions),	Value) determined at a				
	%	discount rate $i=4\%$,				
		MDL				
A, P	≥ 30%	≥ 0	<u><20</u>			
S	≥ 10%	≥ 0	<u><20</u>			
T	≥ 15%	≥ 0	<u><20</u>			
I	≥ 30%	≥ 0	<pre><2 (light fixtures)</pre>			
F	≥ 30%	≥ 0	<u><20</u>			
Е	Not applicable	≥ 0	<u><10</u>			
DI	≥ 15%	≥ 0	<u><35</u>			
D2	≥ 20%	≥ 0	<u><15</u>			
D3	≥ 30%	≥ 0	<u><15</u>			
L	≥ 30%	≥ 0	<12 (for converters)			

2.3. Eligible expenses for funding:

- Expenses related to the drafting of the documentation (energy audit report, technical expertise, obtaining the urban planning certificate for the design, execution project documentation, project verification by certified project verifiers, obtaining the building permit etc.).
- Expenses related to the implementation of the measures in point 1.12.
- Expenses related to monitoring during the implementation of the project and (verification of correct execution of works, in accordance with the provisions of Urban Planning and Construction Code No. 434/2023 and Law no. 721/1996 on quality in construction, supervision of author etc.).
- Expenses for measures that do not generate energy savings but are necessary to protect and ensure the sustainability of energy efficiency measures, up to 30% of the value of the eligible investment.

2.4. Ineligible expenses for funding:

- costs for the purchase of goods and services or the share thereof covered by other assistance programmes/projects and/or state grants;
- costs incurred prior to the submission of the funding application by the applicant, with the
 exception of the costs of energy audit report preparation services carried out by a qualified energy
 auditor registered in the Electronic Register of Energy Auditors and the costs of design services;
- purchase of second-hand goods, except in the situations provided for in the operational manual for the implementation of the MREEF Programme;
- taxes and duties not included in the value of the goods as shown in the financial statements, except VAT;
- rental payments for premises and equipment, which are not necessary for the implementation of projects financed under the MREEF Programme;
- consumables and administrative costs borne by the beneficiary;
- remuneration of members of the governing bodies and employees of the association;
- costs relating to land management, operation of facilities, maintenance and repair of the building, except for those referred to in the fourth indent of point 2.3;
- purchase of land and buildings;
- purchase of motor vehicles for the needs of the association, members of the governing bodies and employees of the association.

2.5. Specific ceilings for financial incentives (relative share (%) or MDL)

- Grant 70% of the eligible investment value.
- Energy vulnerability allocation for apartment owners:

- Extreme 90% of the amount of the beneficiary's contribution to the eligible investment.
- Very high 75% of the value of the beneficiary's contribution to the eligible investment.
- High 60% of the value of the beneficiary's contribution to the eligible investment.
- Medium 45% of the value of the beneficiary's contribution to the eligible investment.
- Primary 30% of the value of the beneficiary's contribution to the eligible investment.
- Low 15% of the value of the beneficiary's contribution to the eligible investment.
- Non-vulnerable 0% of the value of the beneficiary's contribution to the eligible investment.

2.6. Beneficiary's contribution, (relative share (%))

• A maximum of 30% of the value of the project approved for funding, including the total amount of the allocations. Beneficiaries will pay the difference between the amount of the contribution and the amount of the allowance provided for in point 2.5.

2.7. Conditions for repayment of funding (where applicable)

• In case of non-compliance with the conditions of the MREEF Programme, the beneficiary of the financial incentives is bound to reimburse the funds used for Components II and III.

2.8. Grant payments

(fees, charges, other payments to be covered by the beneficiary for the project implementation)

• not applicable.

2.9. Ways of ensuring project implementation

(mortgage, other conditions imposed on the parties guaranteeing project completion)

not applicable.

2.10. Product risks

- Higher share of spending on non-energy saving measures;
- Non-payment of the contribution by COA due to lack of sources of funding;
- Reduced interest of creditors in covering the COA contribution, as a result of the non-bankability of COA;
- Non-compliance by construction companies with contractual conditions regarding the quality of works.
- Blocking the project implementation process as a result of the action to sue APC and obtaining the winning of the case from the tenants who claim aspects related to the procedure and the correctness of the decision-making process within the APC
- non-implementation of the energy efficiency measures recommended in the audit reports carried out, from the reason for the inability of the APC to organize itself for the approval of the decision to implement the project
- Registration of significant deviations in relation to Table no. 2. Project economic indicators for categories of measures, when calculating the energy savings obtained following implementation project

II. FINAL PROVISIONS

The funding product will be reviewed	l annually by the Funding and	d Risk Committee and the CNED IP Council
from the perspective its update, result	ting from the progress made i	in the implementation of the given product.