

# Enhancing at an Early Stage the Investment Value Chain of Energy Efficiency Projects

# D2.2 Report on National Stakeholder Consultations

May 2022











**Enhancing at an Early Stage the Investment Value Chain of Energy Efficiency Projects** 

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# **Preface**

Triple-A has a very practical result-oriented approach, seeking to answer three questions:

- How to assess the financing instruments and risks at an early stage?
- How to agree on the Triple-A investments, based on selected key performance indicators?
- How to assign the identified investment ideas with possible financing schemes?





The Triple-A scheme comprises three critical steps:

- Step 1 Assess: Based on Member States (MS) risk profiles and mitigation polices, including a
  Web based database, enabling national and sectoral comparability, market maturity identification,
  good practices experiences exchange, reducing thus uncertainty for investors.
- Step 2 Agree: Based on standardised Triple-A tools, efficient benchmarks, and guidelines, translated in consortium partners' languages, accelerating and scaling up investments.
- Step 3 Assign: Based on in-country demonstrations, replicability and overall exploitation, including recommendations on realistic and feasible investments in the national and sectoral context, as well as on short and medium term financing.

# Who We Are

	Participant Name	Short Name	Country Code	Logo
1	National Technical University of Athens	NTUA	GR	EPU
2	ABN AMRO Bank N.V.	ABN AMRO	NL	■ ABN·AMRO
3	Institute for European Energy and Climate Policy Stichting	IEECP	NL	<b>⊘</b> IEECP
4	JRC Capital Management Consultancy & Research GmbH	JRC	DE	•jrc самы макасемент
5	GFT Italy srl	GFT Italy	IT	GFT ■
6	CREARA Consulting SL	CREARA	ES	<b>⊘</b> reara
7	adelphi research gemeinnützige GmbH	adelphi	DE	adelphi
8	Piraeus Bank SA	РВ	GR	1
9	University of Piraeus Research Center	UPRC	GR	TEESlab
10	SEVEn, The Energy Efficiency Center	SEVEn	CZ	SEVET
11	Public Investment Development Agency	VIPA	LT	VIPA MONTH
12	National Trust Ecofund	NTEF	BG	NOCHAL RESI RESI RESILVED







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# **Executive Summary**

Five specific stakeholder categories were targeted through four pre-determined actions from the project onset until its finalization. The inclusion of relevant stakeholder inputs as well as learning from their experiences was ought to and has proven to be an essential part of the project's successful conclusion, building on their shared experiences, knowledge and learning from the best practices and putting them in a European context towards Energy Efficiency Financing.

The stakeholders included in the consultations often originated from the partner organizations individual network(s), by building on their existing relations, though also leveraging the opportunity provided by Triple-A to reach out and include entirely new contacts. This resulted in a total of 123 bilateral meetings involving 161 external participants throughout the project period.

The key inputs and knowledge gathered during these meetings were continuously incorporated in the project's activities and by design are interwoven with everything that was done to jointly form a strong foundation to build upon and carry out the work that was proposed from the project.





# 1 Introduction

The overarching goal of the activities described in this report was to gather input from all interested parties and to ensure the necessary consultation with financial institutional bodies and market operators at the national and EU level. As such, stakeholder consultation was a fundamental task in the Triple-A project and was essential for achieving the project's targets. Stakeholder consultation was achieved throughout the project by leveraging the consortium partners' networks and partner relations. These networks and partner relations allowed to engage with key-stakeholders, nationally and at the EU level, and thus ensured both effective engagement and gathering of relevant inputs to the Triple-A project.

Triple-A stakeholders are defined as all parties that are somehow affected by the project's outcomes and operations. The project's stakeholder engagement activities are captured in four specific actions: (1) Identification of market barriers, (2) Consultation processes, (3) Advisory Board consultations, and (4) Capacity building activities. Together these four actions are at the core of the projects stakeholder consultation activities and share interdependencies between them.

**1st action: Market perception from demand and supply side stakeholders.** The goal of this action was to gather **stakeholders' perceptions on barriers**, specifically of market and economic nature, which affect the implementation of financing schemes for energy efficiency measures. To this end, the consortium members engaged with actors, both large and small, from the financial sector to gather inputs and opinions. This was carried out through the consortium's direct engagement efforts in bilateral meetings and related surveys.

2nd action: Bottom-up consultation to enhance the engagement of stakeholders from case study countries through a series of bilateral and multilateral consultations. The main objective of this activity was to motivate stakeholders towards collaboration in the project, including in the implementation of case studies. The group of stakeholders involved in this action adds to those of action 1 through the inclusion of project developers such as ESCOS, construction companies, and manufacturers, but also 'other' financing bodies such as public institutions, corporate entities, and multilateral banks.

By setting up periodic communication, consortium members aimed to trigger stakeholder interest for the case study countries, particularly during their preparation and launching phases. The consortium was able to ensure sufficient involvement of these stakeholders in the set-up of the case studies which mostly supported the activities of work packages (WP) 4: Tools and Benchmarks for Mainstreaming Energy Efficiency Investments, and 5: In-country Demonstration of Triple-A Investments, and resonated in all of the project's activities.

**3rd action: Steering decisions made through consultations with members of the Advisory Board (AB).** A pool of experts was approached and recruited to include their expertise in the design and delivery of the project, with the intention to also complement the stakeholder dialogues initiated in all the WPs. More specifically, these Advisory Board (AB) members were tasked to guide the stakeholder dialogue by reviewing issues with targeted groups of actors, by providing feedback on project outputs (mainly concerning but not limited to the methodology used for setting up the case studies), as an additional layer of quality assurance of the work carried out by the consortium, and to ensure an





appropriate level of representation of different perspectives. Deliverable D2.3 – Report on Advisory Board Activities – captures and details the activities undertaken as part of this action.

4th action: Capacity building activities were carried out to help identifying case studies linked to WP5, and to extend general stakeholder outreach through the participation, inclusion, and introduction of interested stakeholders to the project's ongoing activities. This happened through a series of webinars that were organized in each case study country (included in this report) as well as a series of regional training workshops of which the results are captured in the separate stand-alone deliverable D2.4: Report on Regional Training Workshops on Energy Efficiency Financing.

This report is structured as follows:

- Section (2) overviews bilateral meeting consultations carried out in the participating countries and presents respective highlights and key observations. These highlights and key observations are direct results from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> action detailed above. Activities captured in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and part of the 4<sup>th</sup> action (regional training workshops) are captured in standalone deliverables.
- Section (3) presents outcomes of the webinar series, which were also carried out in context of action 4.
- Section (4) contains the reports on webinars that were implemented per country under the Triple-A project.
- Section (5) provides a comprehensive overview on bilateral meetings carried out in each case study country.





# 2 Stakeholder Consultations

# 2.1 Process Overview

The project's stakeholders were defined as all parties that are in any way linked to or affected by the project's outcomes. Throughout the project's duration, especially during initialization, all partners – in particular, country leads – actively engaged in stakeholder consultation. This involved contacting stakeholders, engaging with them, and collecting their input(s). Overall, each Triple-A country lead ensured that the necessary consultation with financial institutional bodies and market operators took place and that insights were fed back into project outcomes. Within the project methodology and all associated reports, stakeholders are categorized into five specific types:

- (A) Financing Bodies
- (B) Companies / Project Developers
- (C) Policy Makers
- (D) Researchers and Academia
- (E) Others

In this categorization the first two types (A) & (B) are essential and their input is deemed crucial to carry out the project activities and guarantee the success of the project. The other stakeholder categories, although important, were of less relevance for the project as their day-to-day activities were often out of scope for the specific activities included within the work packages, which doesn't however mean their inputs were not considered.

All project partners were encouraged to register and report all bilateral meetings set up and carried out with stakeholders throughout project duration. Partners reported their bilateral meetings through a predefined template (see meeting reports in Section 4). The template provided a common structure required for reporting and left sufficient flexibility for meeting customization to support the collection of individual inputs from stakeholders. The meetings were reported on a per country basis, so bilateral meeting reports were combined in locations with more than one project partner involved (Germany, Greece, and Netherlands). Partners were free to define the method for carrying out the bilateral meetings, however most meetings were carried out via videocall though in many cases physical meetings were also reported.

Over the course of the project a total of 123 bilateral meetings involving 161 external participants were implemented and documented. A breakdown of meetings carried out per country and per stakeholder category is provided in table (1) below:

Table 1: Number of Stakeholders involved in the bilateral meetings

Туре:	BG	CZ	DE	GR	IT	LI	NL	ES	TOTAL
A - Financing bodies	8	4	3	2			14	7	38
B - Companies / Project developers	4	9	1	5	23	3	3	10	58
C - Policy makers	3	5			6	3	6		23





D - Researchers and Academia	1	4	2	2	5		13	2	29
E - Other	1		5	5			2		13
# of External Participants:	17	22	11	14	34	6	38	19	161
# of Meetings:	7	17	11	13	23	5	25	22	123

The stakeholders included in the consultations were typically engaged through the partner organizations' individual network(s) and existing relations. However, also new contacts / organizations outside of existing networks of project partners were contacted / engaged, based on the partners' personal experience and knowledge of the market.

The inputs and knowledge gathered during the meetings were continuously incorporated in the project's activities and together form the foundation of all work carried out in the project. No specific meeting for the processing of stakeholder insights was set up, but insights were shared through a continuous exchange of knowledge, data, and experiences throughout the project. This allowed for ongoing incorporation of the stakeholder insights into all draft and final project outcomes, milestones, and deliverables.

# 2.2 Highlights and Key Observations

What follows is a bullet list summary of highlights, recommendations, and key observations that were captured and included in the final project outcomes and that originated from the project's stakeholder consultation activities.

As with any summary of qualitative data/insights, this is a generalization created from individual stakeholder consultation reports. Therefore, mostly only those topics that broadly resonated across stakeholders are included in this list of highlights and observations. For the detailed breakdown and individual meeting reports the reader is referred to section (4).

#### **Policy**

- Priority should be given to energy efficiency investments in industry and buildings in support of the strategy for sustainable finance.
- The inclusion of the *EU Taxonomy* has been a hit-and-miss, meaning some appreciated the inclusion, while others found it redundant due to prior knowledge. Stated is that the EU Taxonomy is only important for three groups: 1. Financial market participants and issuers of financial products within the EU; 2. Large companies (>500 employees) that are already required to provide non-financial reporting under the EU Non-Financial Reporting Directive (NFRD); 3. EU and Member States when setting public measures, standards or labels for green financial products or green bonds.
- It remains very difficult to find and implement new financing schemes. Timeframes are too short and public funds are not enough; private funding is mandatory to accelerate EE project developments.

#### **Financial Instruments**





- A clear consensus is reached regarding the presence of a major gap between theory and practice particularly when it comes to EE investments. Most tools and financing schemes available today are in some way or another similar according to consulted stakeholders. What lacks is the room and flexibility to implement innovative financing schemes and apply them to existing situations or to introduce new schemes into upcoming projects. The key reason behind the unwillingness to innovate is suggested to be due to financing institutions, especially in upper management, still being rather conservative.
- Most tools and proposed financing schemes are in some way or another known, however what
  lacks is the room and flexibility on the supplier side to implement new financial schemes to
  existing situations and/or introduce new schemes into projects as this remains a very
  conservative market with significant lead times.
- Participants of both the bilateral meetings and webinars expressed that the simple steps for
  evaluating EE projects included in the assess and assign tool are missing entirely in their
  respective countries (especially amongst Southern and Eastern European locations) and
  therefore represent a great opportunity for companies and financial institutions to improve their
  EE investment strategy through Triple-A implementation.

## **Demand for action – Tools/Database**

- Stakeholders participating in the training workshops indicated the tools and database provide benefits to them by building trust between energy efficiency investors and project developers. However, features should be added such as to include not only energy savings, but also technologies and possibilities for generating energy.
- The sustainability criterion of the projects could be more explicit in the tools and database. In addition, the data behind the tools leading to calculation of the results could be made more transparent; the calculation of the risk percentages in the tool was given as an example.

## **Demand for action – project:**

- The Triple-A project could potentially support municipalities by indicating which energy efficiency project ideas could be included in Sustainable Energy Action Plans and facilitating the procedure of financing matchmaking.
- Through its synergies and wide engagement of stakeholders, the Triple-A project can find and promote good practices in energy efficiency financing that are useful for ESCOs and other EE companies.

## **Demand for action – policy**

• Economic incentives, such as tax exemptions and grants for the implementation of energy efficiency interventions should be provided.

# **Process/project-related observation**

• The scope of the content of the webinar as well as the bilateral meetings should be limited to a few key topics. The contents discussed were often too expansive; with stakeholders having





difficulty prioritizing feedback on specific aspects as the scope of the topic was too broad, often superseding their individual expertise.

- The training workshops and webinars of the Triple-A project have contributed to an exchange
  of knowledge, experience, and transfer of the project expertise to stimulate and increase the
  interest and participation of key stakeholders. The trainings have also facilitated a dialogue
  mechanism to share common tools and instruments on a national level when introducing energy
  efficiency investments.
- Despite the projects intention to strengthen cross-country exchange, stakeholders indicated to be most interested in policies and available funding schemes at the national level, which were marked as one of the more interesting and valuable aspect of the projects capacity building activities.
- The Triple-A tools provide a standardized way of project evaluation which could be integrated into banks' and financing institutions' evaluation procedures, standards, and policies, albeit with a significant lead time required for implementation in the most favorable situation.
- The project's goals and the direction taken towards their achievement were deemed relevant and logical. Stakeholders encouraged the consortium to continue down its current path. That said, concerns were raised about the inclusion and general awareness of new developments in Energy Efficiency financing related topics.

General remark on the stakeholder engagement process and activities as a whole: The persistent travel restrictions due to the ongoing pandemic heavily impacted the consortia's stakeholder engagement activities as it restricted almost all forms of stakeholder engagement activities to remote sessions. Although it is unclear how this exactly impacted the project, it seems reasonable to assume that the lack of personal interaction / networking hampered the possibility to build a relation of trust especially with 'new' external parties. Such a relation is however essential especially when dealing with more sensitive topics of the project like the collection of financing cases.





# 3 Capacity Building Webinar Series

By extension of the individual bilateral stakeholder consultation meetings set-up by the project partners a per country group webinar and training workshop were organized with the aim to assist in the general dissemination of the project as well as capacity building. The outcomes of the training workshop are captured in specific deliverable (D2.4) while the Capacity Webinar Series outcomes is detailed under the following section (3).

# 3.1 Overview

The Triple-A project Webinar Series "Financing Energy Efficiency Projects" was organized in 8 European countries: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Spain, and the Netherlands. The aim of the Webinar Series was to share the knowledge, tools and methodology developed and utilised during the Triple-A project and that are relevant to financing energy efficiency investments across the European Union. The main objective of the series was to prepare and raise interest for the Regional Training Workshops and train key stakeholders on how to use the Standardised Triple-A Tools that are developed and available through the project website.

The following topics were addressed:

- 1. The EU Taxonomy Regulation, setting the stage and allowing us to discuss and compare projects through a uniform language.
- 2. The Risks and Mitigation strategies to assess potential future investments.
- 3. An overview of Financial Instruments available that minimise risks and maximize your projects potential.

Below is an overview of the event dates in each country. For a full overview with more information on each event, including recordings for each country where available, please see the dedicated Capacity Building Webinars page.<sup>1</sup>

Table 2: Triple-A Webinar Schedule overview

Country	Webinar Date (2021):
Netherlands	April 21 - 10:00-12:00
Czech Republic	May 18 - 14:00-16:00
Greece	May 26 - 14:00-16:00
Bulgaria	May 27 - 14:00-16:00
Spain	May 27 - 16:00-17:30
Lithuania	June 14 - 12:00-12:45
Bulgaria (follow-up)	June 18 - 09:00-10:30
Italy	June 29 - 14:00-15:00
Germany	June 30 - 14:00-16:00

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> https://aaa-h2020.eu/capacity-building-webinars

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A total of **224** persons participated in the Triple-A Capacity Building webinars. They were informed about the ongoing developments within the Triple-A Project and received training on the topic of the EU Taxonomy, risks and mitigation strategies, and the financial instruments that are available to minimise risk and maximize investment potential.

A full breakdown of the webinar series by country and stakeholders is provided in Table 3 below.

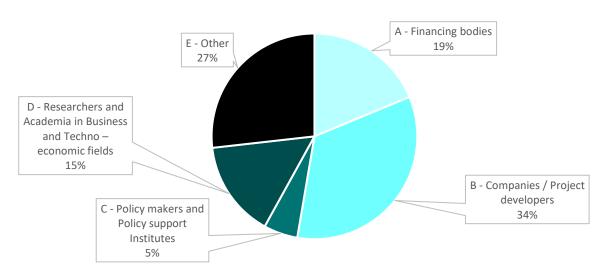
Table 3: Per country overview of the outreach, uptake, and participation at the Triple-A Capacity building webinars across the various stakeholder types

	BG	CZ	DE	GR	IT	LI	NL	ES	TOTAL
Total Participated:	58	21	14	54	5	16	29	27	224
Total No-response/declined	n/a	44	37	49	3	0	290	12	435
Total invited:	58	65	51	103	8	16	319	39	659
Type:									
A - Financing bodies	10	9	0	9	0	0	11	3	42
No-response / Declined	n/a	1	5	0	0	0	157	2	165
Invited:	10	10	5	9	0	0	168	5	207
B - Companies / Project developers	24	0	1	16	5	9	6	15	76
No-response / Declined	n/a	5	6	25	2	1	30	4	73
Invited:	24	5	7	41	7	10	36	19	149
C - Policy makers and Policy support									
Institutes	3	2	0	1	0	1	5	0	12
No-response / Declined	n/a	9	0	2	0	0	45	1	<i>57</i>
Invited:	3	11	0	3	0	1	50	1	69
D - Researchers and Academia in Business									
and Techno - economic fields	1	6	5	14	0	0	4	4	34
No-response / Declined	n/a	9	1	13	1	0	32	0	56
Invited:	1	15	6	27	1	0	36	4	90
E - Other	20	4	8	14	0	6	3	5	60
No-response / Declined	n/a	19	25	9	0	0	27	2	82
Invited:	20	23	33	23	0	6	30	7	142

The above table shows that the overall response rate is 32%, which is quite high. A closer look reveals that the strategy and effort for stakeholder engagement varied from country to country, both in terms of the scope and type of stakeholders contacted. This was to be expected given the multidisciplinary team tasked with conducting the webinars.







Triple-A Webinar attendees per target group (%)

# 3.2 Takeaways and Learnings

In this section a brief overview of the main takeaways and key learnings are given followed by a brief per country breakdown. For more information on the agenda, speakers, hosts, and further collected feedback and remarks from speakers per country, refer to the individual country reports in section (3.3).

In general, the feedback across the partner countries has been quite positive. Participants enjoyed being presented with an introductory overview of the project and understood its relevance toward the goal at hand. The EU Taxonomy part seems to have been a hit-and-miss, and was deemed very relevant to some attendees, and less-so relevant for others. This was, however, expected, as the webinar didn't allow to go deep into the taxonomy, therefore keeping it relatively generic as to cater for a large audience. Stakeholders that are familiar with, and make use of, the taxonomy in many cases already have a better understanding of its innerworkings and complexities then could be conveyed as part of a 1-hour webinar. Nevertheless, its remarked as a mandatory part of the series due to the fundamental connection with the Triple-A Assess, Agree, Assign tool and the Database.

Participants of several countries expressed that the "simple steps" the project suggests, are missing in the evaluation of energy efficiency projects in their respective countries (especially in Southern and Eastern Europe) and therefore represent a great opportunity for companies and financial institutions to improve the RE investment strategy.

There is a consensus that there is a large gap when it comes to theory and practice in EE investments. Most tools and finance schemes are in some way or another very familiar to most participants. What often lacks, however, is the room and flexibility to implement these new financing schemes to existing situations and/or introduce new schemes into projects as this remains a very conservative market.

With regards to more organizational issues and for future events it could be considered to offer a certificate of participation / attendance as many parties have employee training schemes set-up for their companies, making it mandatory for its employees to participate in external events that provide training





on relevant topics. These certificates need to state time, date, duration, and description of activities/topics and can be sent to attendees (upon request) after successful conclusion and offers a good incentive for participants to engage and participate in the webinar event.

The overall length of the original presentation and amount of information seemed to exceed the webinar format. In cases where country leads ran through the entire webinar template as provided, the event ran over 1.5 up to 2 hours including a discussion and Q&A. for future events it is recommended to limit the duration to 1 hour (including the discussion).

# 3.3 Country Specific

What follows are the summarized reports of the various webinars carried out. For reference, the full reports are provided in section (5).

# 3.3.1 Bulgaria (NTEF)

#### 1st Bulgarian webinar

Date: 27th of May 2021

Time: 14:00-16:00

**Description:** This webinar shared the knowledge, methods and tools developed under the Triple-A project, which are highly relevant for financing energy efficiency projects. As a partner of Triple-A project in Bulgaria, NTEF provided an overview of the development of the EU regulatory framework for environmental, social and management factors (ESG) in companies and the place of EU Taxonomy. Another topic of the webinar was the most common risks associated with the implementation of EE projects and applicable strategies to reduce their impact. The topic of financial mechanisms used for the implementation of EE projects aroused great interest. The event was participated be investors and financers; energy service companies, construction companies and representatives of municipalities.

**Link:** <a href="https://aaa-h2020.eu/index.php/capacity-building-webinars/follow-triple-capacity-building-webinar-bulgaria">https://aaa-h2020.eu/index.php/capacity-building-webinars/follow-triple-capacity-building-webinar-bulgaria</a>







Figure 1: Capacity Building Webinar: Bulgaria

#### Feedback:

- The EU Taxonomy is important for three main players: 1. Financial market participants and issuers
  offering financial products within the EU; 2. Large companies (with more than 500 employees) that
  are already required to provide non-financial reporting under the EU Non-Financial Reporting
  Directive (NFRD); The EU and Member States when setting public measures, standards or labels for
  green financial products or green bonds
- From the point of view of financial institutions, the risks cover all aspects of the EE "business" (from the idea - through the implementation - to the operation, maintenance and monitoring of the results).
- In Bulgaria there is a **need for more and flexible financial mechanisms for the implementation of EE projects**. Debt- based financial instruments are preferable for projects with high financial performance or for owners of private buildings who want to implement EEM. Subsidies and grants are more appropriate for the implementation of projects in the public sector (EE measures in school buildings, kindergartens, public buildings).

# 2nd Bulgarian webinar (follow-up)

**Date:** 18th of May 2021

Time: 09:00-10:30

**Description:** The intention of the series of webinars is to help you use the Standardized Triple-A tools for evaluation of EE project ideas, as well as to offer the most appropriate ways to finance energy efficiency projects in Bulgaria.

This webinar shared the knowledge, methods and tools developed under the Triple-A project, which are highly relevant for financing energy efficiency projects. As a partner of Triple-A project in Bulgaria, NTEF





provided an overview of the sources of funding for EE projects, as well as information on the most common models for financing such projects. Innovative models for financing EE projects, already established as good practices worldwide, were presented. The models used for financing EE projects in the Republic of Bulgaria were presented, as well as ideas for new financial mechanisms. The event was participated by investors and financers, energy service companies, construction companies, representatives of municipalities and ministries.

**Link:** <a href="https://aaa-h2020.eu/index.php/capacity-building-webinars/follow-triple-capacity-building-webinars/follow-triple-capacity-building-webinars-bulgaria">https://aaa-h2020.eu/index.php/capacity-building-webinars/follow-triple-capacity-building-webinars-follow-triple-capacity-building-webinars-bulgaria</a>

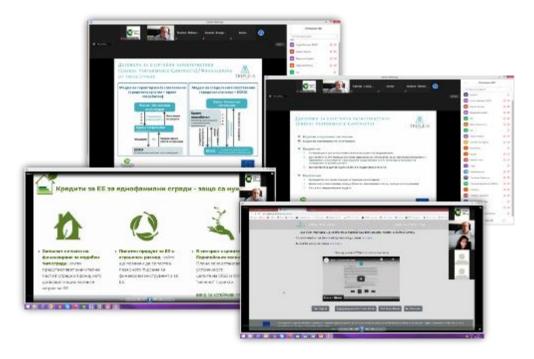


Figure 2: Capacity Building Webinar: Bulgaria - Follow-up

#### Feedback:

- Available financial instruments for EE projects: 1. Large variety of sources of funds and solid potential for their accumulation and targeted use 2 There are innovative models for EE financing, but few of them are applied in Europe. 3 Great potential for using Green Bonds as a source of funds.
- Used financial models for EE projects in the Republic of Bulgaria. 1 Grant schemes have a large share (accompanied by their advantages and disadvantages). 2 Green loans for single-family buildings and industrial enterprises, guarantees and mixed financing models are used to a small extent
- In Bulgaria there is a need for more and flexible financial mechanisms for the implementation of EE projects. 1) Debt- based financial instruments are preferable for projects with high financial performance or for owners of private buildings who want to implement EEM. 2) There is great potential for the introduction of innovative models, such as On-Bill Financing or On-Bill Repayments and ESCO contracts. 3) Subsidies and grants are more appropriate for the implementation of projects in the public sector (EE measures in school buildings, kindergartens, public buildings).





# 3.3.2 Czech Republic (SEVEn)

Date: 18th of May 2021

Time: 13:00-14:00

**Description:** Triple-A Capacity Building Webinar "Financing Energy Efficiency Projects" in Czech Republic was successfully organised by SEVEn on the 18th May 2021. The aim of these Webinar Series is to share the knowledge, tools and methods developed and utilised under the Triple-A umbrella and are relevant to energy efficiency investments financing in the European Union.

The presentation of a new program to support EPC projects, risk reduction in project financing and modern financial instruments and mechanisms, were the main topics of the Czech webinar. The organization of the webinar and the first part of the presentations was provided by SEVEn. A representative of ČMZRB subsequently presented the European ELENA program to facilitate the implementation of energy saving measures. Finally, a fruitful discussion took place with relevant experts. The webinar took place online via Zoom webinars. The recording has been uploaded on YouTube with more views than original broadcast.

#### Photo's / media:

The webinar was recorded and uploaded here: <a href="https://youtu.be/KG6sAulYFEl">https://youtu.be/KG6sAulYFEl</a>





# FINANCOVÁNÍ ENERGETICKY ÚSPORNÝCH PROJEKTŮ



Jiří Karásek



Jaroslav Maroušek

SEVEn, The Energy Efficiency Center

(SEVEn)



Vladimír Sochor

Českomoravská záruční a rozvojová banka (ČMZRB)









Figure 3: Capacity Building Webinar - Czech Republic

**Link:** <a href="https://aaa-h2020.eu/capacity-building-webinars/triple-capacity-building-webinar-czech-republic">https://aaa-h2020.eu/capacity-building-webinars/triple-capacity-building-webinar-czech-republic</a>

#### Feedback:

• In the feedback poll, half of the respondents asked for more detailed presentations. Two thirds rated the webinar good, one third average

# 3.3.3 Germany (JRC)

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2021

Time: 14:00-15:00

#### **Description:**

Financing energy efficiency is seen as vital for achieving the EU's energy and climate goals. However, it remains a challenge how to identify investments that can promote sustainable growth while having the capacity to deliver on their commitments from the early stages of investment creation. The aim of these Webinar Series is to share the knowledge, tools and methods developed and utilized under the Triple-A umbrella.

This was the main focus of the discussion that took place during the German Capacity Building Webinar: "Financing Energy Efficiency Projects". The event was organized by JRC on Wednesday 30 June 2021 at 14:00 CET, having a duration of 60 min. It was participated by 14 stakeholders from financing, energy and research sectors, while it has to be highlighted the participation of SIA (a European leader in the design, creation and management of technology infrastructures and services for Financial Institutions, Central Banks, Corporates and the Public Sector, in the areas of Card & Merchant Solutions, Digital Payment Solutions and Capital Market & Network Solutions).



Link: <a href="https://aaa-h2020.eu/capacity-building-webinars/triple-capacity-building-webinar-germany">https://aaa-h2020.eu/capacity-building-webinars/triple-capacity-building-webinar-germany</a>

# Feedback:

EU Taxonomy part was informative for some but not all attendees





- Attendees showed interest in receiving a copy of the publicized final Triple-A deliverable(s) after the webinar and to be updated on the next steps and status of the project.
- Although most of the attendees were familiar with some if not all of the financial models it was very relevant for them

# 3.3.4 Greece (NTUA)

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> of May 2021

Time: 11:00-13:00 CET

**Description:** Energy efficiency finance is considered of outmost importance for the achievement of the EU's energy and climate objectives. However, it remains a challenge how to identify which investments can foster sustainable growth, while also having the capacity to meet their commitments from the first stages of investments generation.

This was the main focus of the discussion that took place during the Greek Capacity Building Webinar "Triple-A Energy Efficiency Investments: Incorporating the Principles of Sustainable Financing and the EU Taxonomy" which was organised on Wednesday 26 May 2021 at 11.00 CET, by the Horizon2020 project Triple-A: "Enhancing at an Early Stage the Investment Value Chain of Energy Efficiency Projects", supported by Build Back Better Greece.

During the session the following topics were addressed:

- The EU Taxonomy Regulation, setting the stage and allowing to discuss and compare projects through a uniform language.
- The Risk and Mitigation strategies to assess potential future investments.
- An overview of Financial Instruments available that minimise risk and maximize projects potential.

Link: https://aaa-h2020.eu/capacity-building-webinars/triple-capacity-building-webinar-greece







Figure 3: Capacity Building Webinar: Greece

#### Feedback:

- Many times, when projects are implemented through public energy efficiency funding, only the initial investment cost is examined and granted. There is no further responsibility or reward for the beneficiary for the achievement of the promised energy savings.
- Upscaling energy efficiency ensures that human activities will keep fostering but consuming less.

  This is beneficial for all humans and the planet.
- Our experience shows that although Triple-A proposes these "simple" steps, these steps are missing
  from the scope of energy efficiency project assessments and is, therefore, a huge opportunity for
  companies and financial institutions to improve upon, especially when taking into account the
  upcoming legislation changes.
- The EU Taxonomy, SDG and ESG criteria compile a green fraction, and if they are appropriately used,
   could lead to identifying sustainable and green investments.
- Covid-19 acts as an accelerator towards green energy recovery.
- In Greece, the 2020 energy efficiency target has not yet been achieved due to difficulties in financing such projects (less than 50% of the applications for energy efficiency investments are finally financed).
- There is an effort to incorporate and promote the ESG criteria in the Triple-A Tools and methodology in order for the companies to report their contribution in ESG factors.
- The new technical directive of the Technical Chamber of Greece (TCG) in cooperation with the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy on the economic evaluation of energy investments takes into account what Triple-A examines, i.e., the EU Taxonomy, ESG criteria and the need for information homogenization in the field of energy efficiency financing.





- Municipalities could benefit from European programs and be supported towards developing energy communities.
- With the assistance of European H2020 projects, sustainable city Network facilitates municipalities
  to establish Energy Communities and produce energy from renewable sources. Many aspects of
  these projects could be facilitated by the Triple-A project methodology (such as the installation
  of net metering systems).
- The Triple-A project could support municipalities by indicating which energy efficiency project ideas
  could be included in Sustainable Energy Action Plans and facilitating the procedure of financing
  matchmaking.
- Many similar to Triple-A projects provide high academic knowledge, but it cannot be applied in order to face real problems of the market.
- The Triple-A Tools could save time and money since they could be applied in several sectors.
- A typical evaluation framework should be adopted when a company is regarded as ESG ready.
- Through its synergies and wide engagement of stakeholders, the Triple-A project has a remarkable ability to find and promote good practices in energy efficiency financing that are useful for ESCO and other EE companies.
- The Triple-A Tools could also support energy efficiency promotion in public buildings, benchmarking projects and connecting them with the financing market.
- Triple-A Tools provide a standardized way of projects' evaluation which could be integrated into banks' and financing institutions' evaluation procedures, standards and policies.
- It is essential that Triple-A Tools be tested by market actors in order to ensure that they are correctly calibrated.

# 3.3.5 Italy (GFT)

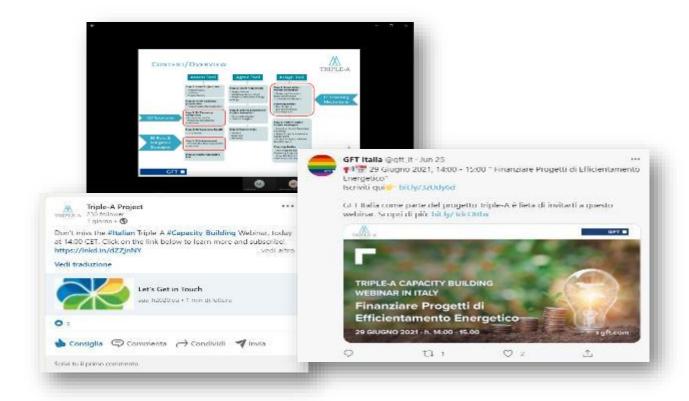
Date: 29th of June 2021

Time: 14:00-15:00 CET

**Description:** Energy efficiency finance is considered of outmost importance for the achievement of the EU's energy and climate objectives. However, it remains a challenge how to identify which investments can foster sustainable growth, while also having the capacity to meet their commitments from the first stages of investments generation.







Link: https://www.aaa-h2020.eu/capacity-building-webinars/triple-capacity-building-webinar-italy

#### Feedback:

- All the attendants found the presentation very interesting, with a lot of useful information clearly presented in just one hour.
- The one-hour duration is considered optimal for a webinar.
- All the attendees expressed the interest in keep following the Triple-A projects results and collaborate with it, as well as to the regional workshop later this year.
- Attendees asked to receive a copy of the presentation.

# 3.3.6 Lithuania (VIPA)

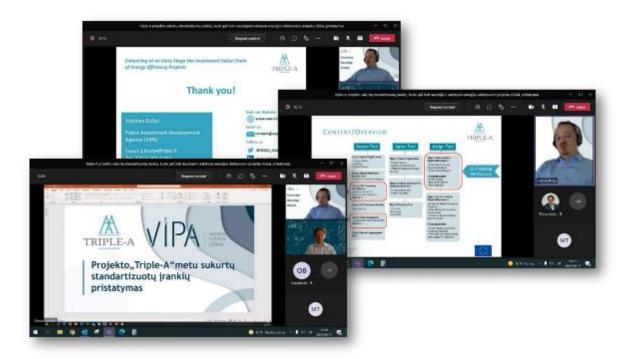
Date: 29th of June 2021

Time: 14:00-15:00 CET

**Description:** This webinar introduced Standardised Triple-A Tools, how tool users could explore financing for projects and how financing authorities could find attractive investments in the field of energy efficiency. The functionality of the Standardised Triple-A Tool was also presented in a dedicated session, followed by feedback received from participants on the Tools environment and functionalities.







Link: https://www.aaa-h2020.eu/capacity-building-webinars/triple-capacity-building-webinar-lithuania

#### Feedback:

Although the Triple-A Webinar successfully took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2021, no relevant feedback or suggestions for improvement was collected. Users indicated to be interested in the tools and to provide feedback in case they encounter any unclarities.

# 3.3.7 Netherlands (IEECP)

Date: 21st of April 2021

Time: 10:00-12:00 CET

**Description:** IEECP join forces with the ABN AMRO Bank N.V. in The Netherlands to work on two interconnected projects funded by European H2020: ICCEE, seeking to identify and implement significant energy efficiency performance benefits in the food and beverage cold supply-chain sector, and the Triple-A project to enhance, at an early stage, the Investment value chain of energy efficiency projects, assist financial institutions to increase their deployment of capital in energy efficiency and make investments more transparent.

The Dutch Capacity Building Webinar was held on the 21th April 2021, attended by 27 stakeholders from the financing sector. During the webinar IEECP and ABN AMRO went deeper into the inner workings of the Triple-A project and the underlying criteria used.

Link: <a href="https://aaa-h2020.eu/capacity-building-webinars/triple-capacity-building-webinar-netherlands">https://aaa-h2020.eu/capacity-building-webinars/triple-capacity-building-webinar-netherlands</a>

#### Feedback:





- Attendees indicated to miss the practical application and/or need of this tool for their dayto-day need, though it could be a nice repository if database is extensive and remains public, though strong concerns surrounding privacy issues and validity of the information
- Attendees would like to have a more 'hands-on' session going through and working with the tripleA tools and applying it to some of their own cases. It was nice to receive the overview on the
  taxonomy and risk/mitigation strategies however. Strong indication that they'd be interested to join
  in on the 'Workshop' event planned for later in the year
- EU Taxonomy part was informative for some (not all) attendees others indicated to be already
  well aware of the steps and criteria presented
- Guest speaker Energie-Nederland shared an interesting topic/case however it was remarked that the relevance to the triple-A tools as they were presented during the webinar was unclear
- Attendees showed interest in receiving a copy of the Publicized final Triple-A deliverable(s) after the
  webinar as not all the Financial Models included in the presentation were presented but rather a
  selection was made based of a digital poll held during the webinar.
- Although most of the attendees were familiar with some if not all of the financial models it was very
  relevant for them to receive the 'helicopter' perspective, hence also the interest in receiving a
  copy of the source deliverable(s) which have been made available to the attendees after the webinar.

# 3.3.8 Spain (CREARA)

**Date:** 27<sup>th</sup> of May 2021

**Time:** 16:00-17:30

**Description:** We inaugurated the series of webinars "Financing Energy Efficiency Projects" that will be held, within the framework of the Triple-A Project, in 8 European countries. As a representative partner of this European project in Spain, Creara aims to provide an overview of the financing instruments available to minimize risk and maximize investment expectations in energy efficiency projects. This training is free and is aimed at investors and financers; energy service companies; real estate agents, construction companies

Link: https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5540178922857664272

#### Feedback:

- There was a general interest in innovative financing schemes by the audience.
- There was an observation about the restrictions of some types of energy contracts in order to be aligned with the European Regulations. The fact that needs to be compared with a threshold or target is considered a limitation.
- Both guest speakers agreed that even though their projects are technically robust it is very difficult
  to find new financing schemes. They confirmed the vision that the timeframes are in general too
  short and that public funds are not enough so there is an agreement in the fact that private funding
  is required to further develop energy efficient projects.
- A participant mentioned that based on their experience the typology to be financed has great impact
  in the interest of potential investors. Combining different types of energies and stakeholders is
  an issue for the investors.





# 4 Capacity Building Webinars Full Country Reports

The full country reports of the webinars carried out are given in this section. The information provided here goes beyond that of the summary provided in section (3) and further details specific actions, feedback as well as individual speaker comments and remarks to the webinar event.

# 4.1 Bulgaria

Date: 27.05.2021



Link to the main webinar event Page(s) with information: https://aaa-h2020.eu/index.php/capacity-building-webinars/follow-triple-capacity-building-webinar-bulgaria

Approx. Webinar duration: 1.50 h.

# of attendees at the webinar: 39 participants had submitted a preliminary application for participation in the webinar, but in fact 21 joined

#### General Description / introduction of the webinar:

The intention of the series of webinars is to help you use the Standardized Triple-A tools for evaluation of EE project ideas, as well as to offer the most appropriate ways to finance energy efficiency projects in Bulgaria.

This webinar shared the knowledge, methods and tools developed under the Triple-A project, which are highly relevant for financing energy efficiency projects. As a partner of Triple-A project in Bulgaria, NTEF provided an overview of the development of the EU regulatory framework for environmental, social and management factors (ESG) in companies and the place of EU Taxonomy. Another topic of the webinar was the most common risks associated with the implementation of EE projects and applicable strategies to reduce their impact. The topic of financial mechanisms used for the implementation of EE projects





aroused great interest. The event was participated be investors and financers; energy service companies, construction companies and representatives of municipalities.

# Host(s) / Guest-Speaker(s):

1. Ivaylo Tzekov, NTEF

#### **Overall Programme:**

\*Timeslots are an indication, actual schedule will differ

Time	Topic	Who
13:00- 13:10	Brief introduction to Triple A project	Host
13:10- 13:40	The applicability of EU Taxonomy in Triple A instruments	Host
13:40– 13:50	Discussion	All
13:50- 14:20	Standardized Triple-A tools and the most common risks associated with the implementation of EE projects and applicable strategies to reduce their impact	Host
14:20- 14:30	Discussion	All
14:30- 15:00	Energy Efficiency Financing Mechanisms – Part 1	Host
15:00- 15:10	Discussion	All

#### Feedback:

- The EU Taxonomy is important for three main players: 1. Financial market participants and issuers offering financial products within the EU; 2. Large companies (with more than 500 employees) that are already required to provide non-financial reporting under the EU Non-Financial Reporting Directive (NFRD); The EU and Member States when setting public measures, standards or labels for green financial products or green bonds
- From the point of view of financial institutions, the risks cover all aspects of the EE "business" (from the idea through the implementation to the operation, maintenance and monitoring of the results).
- In Bulgaria there is a need for more and flexible financial mechanisms for the implementation of EE projects. Debt- based financial instruments are preferable for projects with high financial performance or for owners of private buildings who want to implement EEM. Subsidies and grants are more appropriate for the implementation of projects in the public sector (EE measures in school buildings, kindergartens, public buildings)

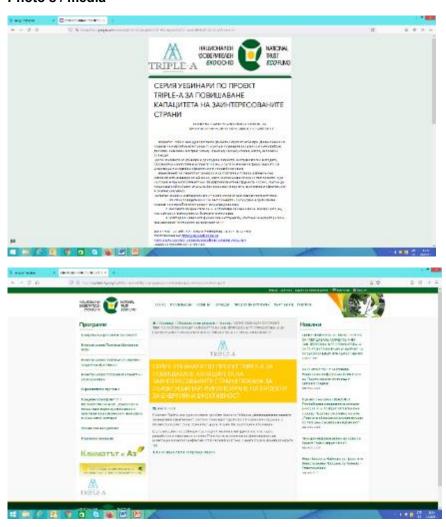
# Speaker personal remarks on the webinar:





- The duration of the webinar should not exceed 1 1.30 hours.
- If there is no mutual connection between the topics, the interest and attention of the participants is easily lost.
- Of particular interest are the possibilities for using different types of financial instruments

# Photo's / media



# 4.2 Bulgaria – follow-up

Date: 18.06.2021











Link to the main webinar event Page(s) with information: https://aaa-h2020.eu/index.php/capacity-building-webinars/follow-triple-capacity-building-webinar-bulgaria

Approx. Webinar duration: 2.15 h.

# of attendees at the webinar: 38 participants had submitted a preliminary application for participation in the webinar, but in fact 35 joined.

# General Description / introduction of the webinar:

The intention of the series of webinars is to help you use the Standardized Triple-A tools for evaluation of EE project ideas, as well as to offer the most appropriate ways to finance energy efficiency projects in Bulgaria.

This webinar shared the knowledge, methods and tools developed under the Triple-A project, which are highly relevant for financing energy efficiency projects. As a partner of Triple-A project in Bulgaria, NTEF provided an overview of the sources of funding for EE projects, as well as information on the most common models for financing such projects. Innovative models for financing EE projects, already established as good practices worldwide, were presented. The models used for financing EE projects in the Republic of Bulgaria were presented, as well as ideas for new financial mechanisms. The event was participated by investors and financers; energy service companies, construction companies, representatives of municipalities and ministries.

## Host(s) / Guest-Speaker(s):

- 2. Ivaylo Tzekov, NTEF (Host);
- 3. Galia Vassileva, Energy Efficiency and Renewables Fund (Guest-Speaker);
- 4. Iva Petkova, Fund for Local Authorities and Governments (Guest-Speaker);
- 5. Dochka Vassileva, Fund Manager of Financial Instruments in Bulgaria (Guest-Speaker).





#### **Overall Programme:**

\*Timeslots are an indication, actual schedule will differ

Time/CET	Торіс	Who
9:00-9:05	Opening of the event	Host
9:05-9:40	Review of available financial instruments that minimize risk and maximize the potential of EE projects.	Host
9:40–9:50	Discussion	All
9:50-10:30	Financial instruments for the implementation of EE projects in the Republic of Bulgaria.	Host/Guest Speakers
10:30- 10:40	Discussion	All
10:40- 11:00	Opportunities for new financial instruments for implementation of EE projects in the Republic of Bulgaria	Host/Guest Speakers
11:00- 11:15	Discussion	All

#### Feedback:

- Available financial instruments for EE projects: 1. Large variety of sources of funds and solid
  potential for their accumulation and targeted use 2 There are innovative models for EE financing,
  but few of them are applied in Europe. 3 Great potential for using Green Bonds as a source of
  funds.
- Used financial models for EE projects in the Republic of Bulgaria. 1 Grant schemes have a
  large share (accompanied by their advantages and disadvantages). 2 Green loans for singlefamily buildings and industrial enterprises, guarantees and mixed financing models are used to a
  small extent
- In Bulgaria there is a need for more and flexible financial mechanisms for the implementation of EE projects. 1 Debt- based financial instruments are preferable for projects with high financial performance or for owners of private buildings who want to implement EEM. 2 There is great potential for the introduction of innovative models, such as On-Bill Financing or On-Bill Repayments and ESCO contracts. 3 Subsidies and grants are more appropriate for the implementation of projects in the public sector (EE measures in school buildings, kindergartens, public buildings).

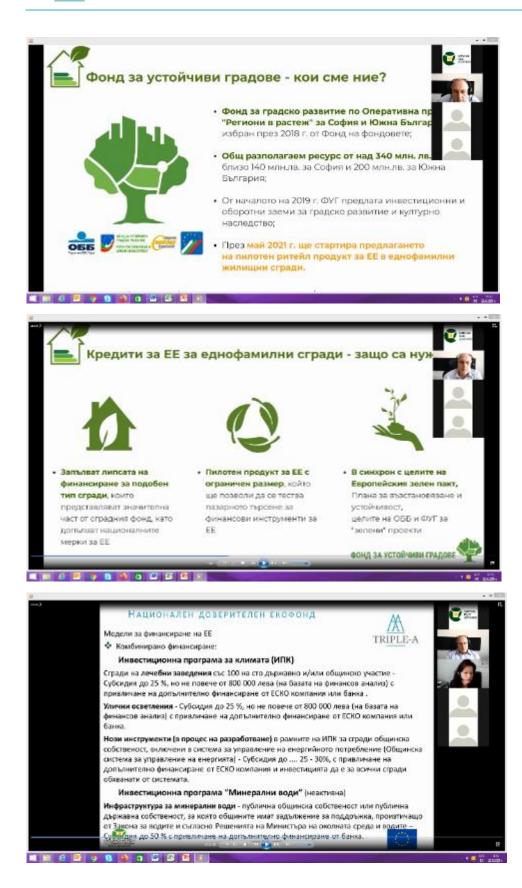
# Speaker personal remarks on the webinar:

- Of particular interest are the possibilities for using different types of financial instruments.
- The potential of alternative sources of fundraising (Green Bonds, Revolving Funds) is not used enough.

#### Photo's / media

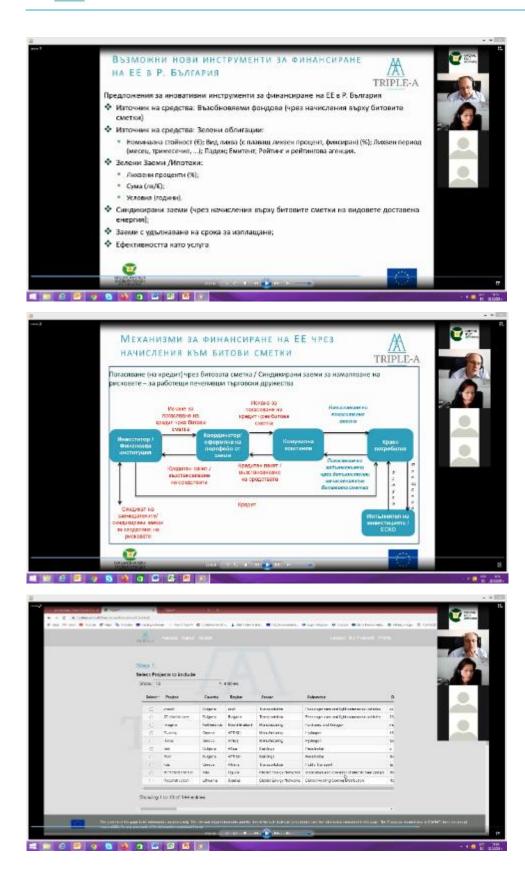






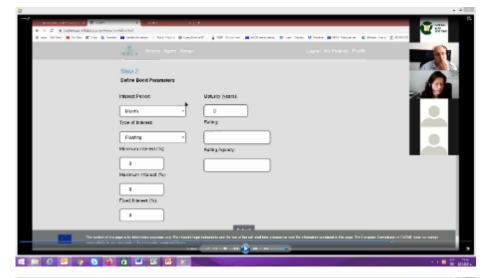


















# 4.3 Czech Republic

Date: 18 May 2021



Link to the main webinar event Page(s) with information: Triple-A Capacity Building Webinar in The Czech Republic | Triple-A (aaa-h2020.eu)

Approx. Webinar duration: 1 hours 15 minutes

# of attendees at the webinar: 18 + 31 views ex-post on YouTube

#### **General Description / introduction of the webinar:**

Triple-A Capacity Building Webinar "Financing Energy Efficiency Projects" in Czech Republic was successfully organised by SEVEn on the 18th May 2021. The aim of these Webinar Series is to share the knowledge, tools and methods developed and utilised under the Triple-A umbrella and are relevant to energy efficiency investments financing in in the European Union.

The presentation of a new program to support EPC projects, risk reduction in project financing and modern financial instruments and mechanisms, were the main topics of the Czech webinar. The organization of the webinar and the first part of the presentations was provided by SEVEn. A representative of ČMZRB subsequently presented the European ELENA program to facilitate the implementation of energy saving measures. Finally, a fruitful discussion took place with relevant experts. The webinar took place online via Zoom webinars. The recording has been uploaded on YouTube with more views than original broadcast.

# Host(s) / Guest-Speaker(s):

- 1. Jiří Karásek (host, moderator), SEVEn
- 2. Jaroslav Maroušek (senior expert on financing EE projects), SEVEn
- 3. Vladimír Sochor (senior expert on financing EE projects), Czech and Moravian Development and Guarantee Bank

#### **Overall Programme:**





#### \*Timeslots are an indication, actual schedule will differ

Time	Topic	Presenter
13:00- 13:05	Introduction	
13:05- 13:10	Approach to project assessment (Triple-A tool)	Jiří Karásek (SEVEn)
13:10- 13:20	Impacts of EU taxonomy	Jiří Karásek (SEVEn)
13:20- 13:25	Risk mitigation strategies	Jaroslav Maroušek (SEVEn)
13:25- 13:35	Modern financial instruments and mechanisms	Jaroslav Maroušek (SEVEn)
13:35- 13:50	Presenting the new support scheme for EPC method in the Czech Republic	Vladimír Sochor (ČMZRB)
13:50- 14:00	Discussion and wrap up	Jiří Karásek

#### Feedback:

• In the feedback poll, half of the respondents asked for more detailed presentations. Two thirds rated the webinar good, one third

#### Speaker personal remarks on the webinar:

- Key stakeholders participated (financial sector, municipalities)
- 18 participants online + 23 views offline of the recording on YouTube
- Introduction of Triple-A, de-risking and financial instruments, national examples
- New supporting scheme for EP contracting introduced vie Czech and Moraviaan Guarantee Bank
- Recording and You Tube channel was very useful
- Narrow target group with a high impact.
- Involvement of Municipalities (Česká Třebová, Jihlava, Kladno, Milevsko, Děčín)
- Duration 1h15m was sufficient, reduce No. of slides.
- Still a lot of information to be delivered via trainings

#### Photo's / media

The webinar was recorded and uploaded here: <a href="https://youtu.be/KG6sAulYFEI">https://youtu.be/KG6sAulYFEI</a>





Figure 4 From the presentation – introducing the speakers

Posílení investičního hodnotového řetězce projektů energetické účinnosti v rané fázi



# FINANCOVÁNÍ ENERGETICKY ÚSPORNÝCH PROJEKTŮ







Jaroslav Maroušek

SEVEn, The Energy Efficiency Center

(SEVEn)



Vladimír Sochor

Českomoravská záruční a rozvojová banka (ČMZRB)





## Feedback / Summary prepared by:

Václav Šebek, SEVEn, vaclav.sebek@svn.cz





# 4.4 Spain

Date: 27/05/2021

# Link to the main webinar event Page(s) with information:

Inscripción (gotowebinar.com)

Approx. Webinar duration: 1 hour 30 min

# of attendees at the webinar: 21 (optional: 34 registered; 13 no-show)

#### **General Description / introduction of the webinar:**

On May 27, we inaugurated the series of webinars "Financing Energy Efficiency Projects" that will be held, within the framework of the Triple-A Project, in 8 European countries. As a representative partner of this European project in Spain, Creara aims to provide an overview of the financing instruments available to minimize risk and maximize investment expectations in energy efficiency projects. This training is free and is aimed at investors and financers; energy service companies; real estate agents, construction companies ... You can sign up here: <a href="https://lnkd.in/gm\_7u4w">https://lnkd.in/gm\_7u4w</a>

## Host(s) / Guest-Speaker(s):

- 1. Paolo Sonvilla (Creara-Host)
- 2. Ruth Domínguez (Creara-Host)
- 3. Adrián Cañamares (Creara-Host)
- 4. Pedro Luis Espejo (Creara-Host)
- 5. Iván Madrigal (EOS Energy-Guest Speaker)
- 6. Marc Vives (Granollers Mercat-Guest Speaker)

## **Overall Programme:**

Time	Topic	Who
16:00- 16:05	Welcoming	Paolo Sonvilla
16:05- 16:15	Introduction	Ruth Dominguez
16:15- 16:25	EU Taxonomy Regulation	Adrián Cañamares
16:25- 16:35	Risk and Mitigation Strategies	Pedro Espejo
16:35- 16:50	Financial Instruments	Ruth Dominguez
16:50- 17:05	Pilot Project 1	Iván Madrigal
17:05- 17:15	Pilot Project 2	Marc Vives





17:15-	Conclusions	Ruth Dominguez
17:35		

#### Feedback:

- There was a general interest in innovative financing schemes by the audience.
- There was an observation about the restrictions of some types of energy contracts in order to be aligned with the European Regulations. The fact that needs to be compared with a threshold or target is considered a limitation.
- Both guest speakers agreed that even though their projects are technically robust it is very difficult
  to find new financing schemes. They confirmed the vision that the timeframes are in general too
  short and they public funds are not enough so there is an agreement in the fact that private
  funding is required to further develop energy efficient projects.
- Marc Vives mentioned that based on their experience the typology to be financed has great impact in the interest of potential investors. Combining different types of energies and stakeholders is an issue for the investors.

#### Speaker personal remarks on the webinar:

- Bringing down the webinar from 2 hours to 1.30 hours made it more appealing to the audience.
- It is difficult for the audience to make the difference between the Next Generation Funds coming from Europe and the Triple A Project as a connection point between stakeholders.
- Webinar format is less engaging to open a discussion than the face-to-face format.

#### Feedback / Summary prepared by:

Ruth Dominguez Sanchez (CREARA, ruth.dominguez@creara.es)





# 4.5 Germany

Date: June 30st 2021 - 14:00-15:00

Link to Webinar Page: <a href="https://aaa-h2020.eu/capacity-building-webinars/triple-capacity-building-webinar-germany">https://aaa-h2020.eu/capacity-building-webinars/triple-capacity-building-webinar-germany</a>

Final webinar duration including discussion afterwards: 50 min

Number of attendees: 14 Hosts / Guest-Speakers:

1. Konstantina Tripodi (JRC / Triple-A project) - Host



# **Overall Program:**

\*Timeslots are an indication, actual schedule will differ:

Time	Topic	Speakers
14:00-14:10	General Introduction JRC, JRC &Triple-A slide1-14	Konstantina Tripodi JRC
14:10-14:20	Introduction Triple-A slide 14-22	Konstantina Tripodi JRC
14:20-14:30	The EU Taxonomy slide 23-32	Konstantina Tripodi JRC





14:30-14:35	EE Risks and Mitigation Strategies slide 33-39	Konstantina Tripodi JRC
14:35-14:50	EE Financing Mechanisms slide 40-68 (Total 22 slides)	Konstantina Tripodi JRC
14:50-15:00	Why Triple-A & Questions slide 69-73	Konstantina Tripodi JRC
15:00	End Of Webinar	Konstantina Tripodi JRC

#### Feedback:

- Attendees would like to have a more 'hands-on' session going through and working with the triple-A tools
  and applying it to some of their own cases. It was nice to receive the overview on the taxonomy and
  risk/mitigation strategies however. Strong indication that they'd be interested to join in on the 'Workshop'
  event planned for later in the year
- EU Taxonomy part was informative for some (not all) attendees
- Attendees showed interest in receiving a copy of the publicized final Triple-A deliverable(s) after the webinar and to be updated on the next steps and status of the project.
- Although most of the attendees were familiar with some if not all of the financial models it was very relevant for them
- As a question there was:
  - 1. Does Triple-A maintain a database (or knowledge base) of Green Projects?
  - 2. Participants ask for certification of participation
  - 3. And whether there will be more webinars or trainings or workshops on these topics in the future.

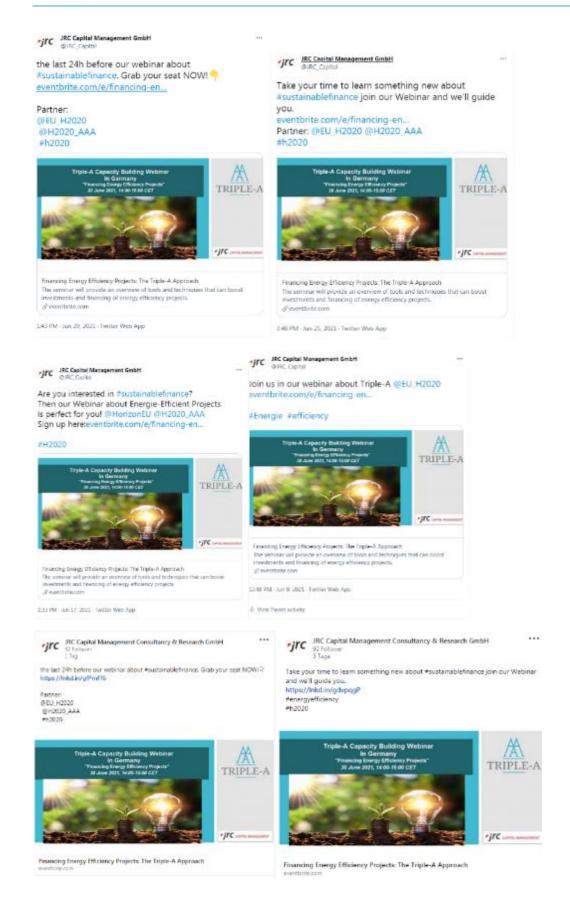
#### Speaker Remarks on the template slide deck (Konstantina Tripodi /JRC):

- Webinar was held in Berlin, Germany, the standard presenter 'script' English
- Skipped CaixaBank case example
- Showed all financial instruments part
- Discussion afterward was limited to answering only a few questions not as much interaction as originally hoped for
- Somewhat unhappy with the number of no-shows though still feel a group of 14 relevant external participants was 'good enough'
- The meeting has been recorded

#### Photo's / media













Are you interested in #sustainablefinance? Then our Webinar about Energie-Efficient Projects is perfect for you! Sign up here: https://lnkd.in/gKPyg\_C

#H2020 #innovation #energyefficiency

Financing Energy Efficiency Projects: The Triple-A Approach eventbrite.com

#### Link from social media:

https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6811255115853520896

https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6814187851329212416

https://twitter.com/JRC Capital/status/1409839882030272512

https://twitter.com/JRC\_Capital/status/1408421465666605061

https://twitter.com/JRC\_Capital/status/1405488877792542723

https://twitter.com/JRC Capital/status/1402578270500098049

https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:6815605662513537024

## Feedback / Summary prepared by:





| JRC Capital Management

Email: ktripodi@jrconline.com

Website

**Tools** 

aaa-h2020.eu

toolbox.aaa-h2020.eu





# **4.6 Italy**

Date: 29 June 2021



## Link to the main webinar event Page(s) with information:

Triple-A Capacity Building Webinar in Italy | Triple-A (aaa-h2020.eu)

Approx. Webinar duration: 1 hour # of attendees at the webinar: 5

#### **General Description / introduction of the webinar:**

Energy efficiency finance is considered of outmost importance for the achievement of the EU's energy and climate objectives. However, it remains a challenge how to identify which investments can foster sustainable growth, while also having the capacity to meet their commitments from the first stages of investments generation.

This will be the main focus of the discussion that will take place during the Italian Capacity Building Webinar "Finanziare Progetti di Efficientamento Energetico" which will be organised on Tuesday 29 June 2021 at 14.00 CET, having a duration of 60', by the Horizon2020 project Triple-A: "Enhancing at an Early Stage the Investment Value Chain of Energy Efficiency Projects".

During the session the following topics will addressed:

- The EU Taxonomy Regulation, setting the stage and allowing to discuss and compare projects through a uniform language.
- The Risk and Mitigation strategies to assess potential future investments.
- An overview of Financial Instruments available that minimize risk and maximize projects potential.

Method of hosting: MS Teams.





#### Host:

1. Maurizio Megliola (GFT Italia)

#### **Overall Programme:**

\*Timeslots are an indication, actual schedule will differ

Time	Topic	Who
13:55- 14:00	Walk-in & Technology check	All
14:00- 14:15	Introduction	GFT
14:15- 14:25	The EU Taxonomy	GFT
14:25- 14:35	Risk and Mitigation Strategies	GFT
14:35- 14:50	Financial Models for Energy Efficiency Projects	GFT
14:50- 15:00	Comments & Wrap-up	AII

#### Feedback/Questions:

- All the attendants found the presentation very interesting, with a very lot of useful information clearly presented in just one hour.
- The one-hour duration is considered optimal for a webinar.
- All the attendees expressed the interest in keep following the Triple-A projects results and collaborate with it, as well as to the regional workshop later this year.
- Attendees asked to receiving a copy of the presentation.
- Question: Is it possible to use the toolbox starting only from a preliminary project idea?
- Question: When entering a project in the Toolbox, is it necessary to indicate the name of a customer, or can we remain generic?
- Question: In the Assign phase, are there standardized and automatic tools to close the financing agreement? or does the platform just bring the parties together?
- Question: What timescales are there today to define a contract between a project and a lender? is the platform ready to close a contract? Or will it be at the end of the project in 2022?

#### Speaker personal remarks on the webinar:

- From the technical point of view, everything went fine. MS Teams is a very good solution for hosting a webinar. No issue during the whole duration of the event.
- Webinar was held in Italian, though kept the information on the slides in English. No negative comment received about this point.
- Discussion was limited to answering only a few questions mostly in the chat.





- Got some off-line comments after the webinar from the stakeholders (interested in collaborating to the project) about the concern in allowing customer sensitive information to be published on the Triple-A Toolbox (in particular AGREE tool).
- Unfortunately, the number of participants was not as expected. However, the webinar has been
  recorded and it will be further exploited "on-demand" through the recording that will be published
  on the project media channels so that many more views will be reached.
- The webinar was advertised on Triple-A's social channels only less than an hour from the start.

#### Photo's / media



Figure 5 - Twitter post from the Triple-A account





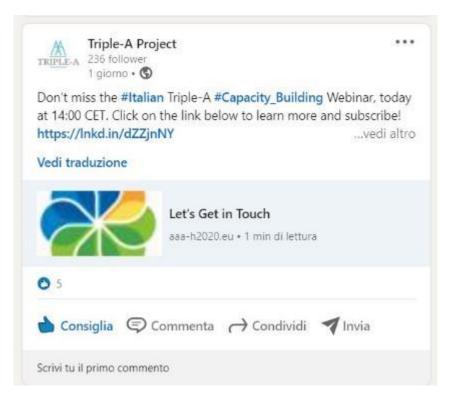


Figure 6 - Linkedin post from the Triple-A account



Figure 7 - Twitter post from the GFT Italia account





Figure 8 – Screenshot from the live broadcast recording

## Feedback / Summary prepared by:

Maurizio Megliola, GFT Italia, maurizio.megliola@gft.com

# 4.7 Lithuania

Date: June 14 | Time: 12:00-12:45 CET



Triple-A Capacity Building Webinar in The Lithuania | Triple-A (aaa-h2020.eu)

#### National invitation link | VIPA

Webinar duration: 45 minutes

number of attendees at the webinar: 15 (15 registered; 1 no-show)

#### **General Description of the webinar:**

This webinar introduced Standardised Triple-A Tools, how tool users could explore financing for projects and how financing authorities could find attractive investments in the field of energy efficiency. The functionality of the Standardised Triple–A Tool was also presented in a dedicated session, followed by feedback received from participants on the Tools environment and functionalities.

#### Host(s) Speaker(s):

- 1. Justinas Bučys VIPA (Host Speaker)
- 2. Žilvinas Kačiuška VIPA (Host Organizer)

# **Overall Programme:**





Time	Topic	Who:
12:00- 12:45	Triple A Tools and Methodology linking with Energy Efficiency Financing Mechanisms	Host

### Feedback:

Participants seemed to be interested in the topic and tool that was presented. Feedback was not received during webinar, however participants informed hosts to try to use tool and give feedback once they have used the tool.

The webinar was held in a national language.

### Photo's:

Webinar media file attached separately.

# Summary prepared by:

Mindaugas Taujenis, Public Investment Development Agency (VIPA), email: mindaugas.taujenis@vipa.lt





# 4.8 The Netherlands

Date: April 21st 2021 - 10:00-12:00





Link to Webinar Page:

Triple-A Capacity Building Webinar in The Netherlands | Triple-A (aaa-h2020.eu)

Final webinar duration including discussion afterwards: 1h 37min

# of attendees: 27 (53 registered; 26 no-show)

## Hosts / Guest-Speakers:

- 1. Erik Faassen (IEECP / Triple-A project) Host
- 2. Reinout van den Berg (Energie-Nederland) Guest Speaker risk and mitigation Strategies

### **Overall Programme:**

\*Timeslots are an indication, actual schedule will differ

Time	Topic	Who
09:55- 10:00	Walk-in & Technology check	All
10:00- 10:15	General introduction ICCEE, Triple-A & IEECP -> Institute for European Energy and Climate Policy	Erik (IEECP)
10:15- 10:30	Introduction to Triple-A	Erik (IEECP)
10:30- 11:00	The EU Taxonomy	Erik (IEECP)
11:00- 11:20	Risk and Mitigation Strategies and their application from the Energie-Nederland Perspective	Reinout (Energie- Nederland)





11:20- 11:40	Financial models for Energy Efficiency projects	Erik / All
11:40- 12:00	Discussion & Wrap-up	All

#### Feedback:

- Attendees indicated to miss the practical application and/or need of this tool for their day-to-day need, though it could be a nice repository if database is extensive and remains public, though strong concerns surrounding privacy issues and validity of the information
- Attendees would like to have a more 'hands-on' session going through and working with the triple-A tools and applying it to some of their own cases. It was nice to receive the overview on the taxonomy and risk/mitigation strategies however. Strong indication that they'd be interested to join in on the 'Workshop' event planned for later in the year
- EU Taxonomy part was informative for some (not all) attendees others indicated to be already
  well aware of the steps and criteria presented
- Guest speaker Energie-Nederland shared an interesting topic/case however it was remarked that the relevance to the triple-A tools as they were presented during the webinar was unclear
- Attendees showed interest in receiving a copy of the Publicized final Triple-A deliverable(s) after
  the webinar as not all the Financial Models included in the presentation were presented but rather
  a selection was made based of a digital poll held during the webinar.
- Although most of the attendees were familiar with some if not all of the financial models it was very
  relevant for them to receive the 'helicopter' perspective, hence also the interest in receiving a copy
  of the source deliverable(s) which have been made available to the attendees after the webinar.
- (other) Guest speaker had some sound quality issues making parts of the presentation difficult to follow, however this issue was resolved quickly enough
- (other remark received through a personal email afterwards) Webinar was sometimes hard to
  follow as the presenter (Erik) kept mixing English and Dutch words on the fly speaking in Dutch
  though keeping slides in English and at times using the English terms in Dutch sentences.

### Speaker Remarks on the template slidedeck (Erik/IEECP):

- Webinar was held in Dutch, translated the standard presenter 'script' from English to Dutch though kept the information on the slides in English, this at times caused difficulties for non 'native' English speakers recommendation to translate both the presentation as well as the 'script'. I do think however this was only the case for a very select few (1) participant(s) ...
- Skipped CaixaBank case example (slide: 30) with the intention of having the guest speaker
  present a case to make it more hands-on, unfortunately however the case presented was less
  relevant than originally envisioned. Host (Erik) failed to verify this before the start of the
  webinar.
- Skipped all financial instruments' part (slides 41-45) not the impression it was missed/needed, it is after all rather basic information
- Discussion afterward was limited to answering only a few questions not as much interaction as
  originally hoped for. Unfortunately, this appears to be often the case with webinars, perhaps
  adding more interaction in the presentation / webinar could help with this.
- Somewhat unhappy with the number of no-shows though still feel a group of 27 relevant external participants was 'good enough'





 Forgot to record the meeting – recommend having someone present during the meeting who can take care of these technicalities.

#### Feedback / Summary prepared by:



**0** 600

Erik Faassen | IEECP

Project Manager

Email: erik@ieecp.org

Website Tools

aaa-h2020.eu toolbox.aaa-h2020.eu

# 4.9 Greece

Date: 26 May 2021





Link to the main webinar event Page(s) with information: Triple-A Capacity Building Webinar in Greece | Triple-A (aaa-h2020.eu)

Approx. Webinar duration: 2 hours

# of attendees at the webinar: 54 (optional: 103 registered; 49 no-show)

#### General Description / introduction of the webinar:

Energy efficiency finance is considered of outmost importance for the achievement of the EU's energy and climate objectives. However, it remains a challenge how to identify which investments can foster sustainable growth, while also having the capacity to meet their commitments from the first stages of investments generation.

This was be the main focus of the discussion that took place during the Greek Capacity Building Webinar "Triple-A Energy Efficiency Investments: Incorporating the Principles of Sustainable Financing and the EU Taxonomy", which was organised on Wednesday 26 May 2021 at 11.00 CET, by the Horizon2020





project <u>Triple-A: "Enhancing at an Early Stage the Investment Value Chain of Energy Efficiency Projects"</u>, supported by <u>Build Back Better Greece</u>.

During the event the following topics were addressed:

- The EU Taxonomy Regulation, setting the stage and allowing to discuss and compare projects through a uniform language.
- The Risk and Mitigation strategies to assess potential future investments.
- An overview of Financial Instruments available that minimise risk and maximize projects potential.

#### Host(s) / Guest-Speaker(s):

Participants of the discussion:

- 1. Dr. Haris Doukas, Associate Professor NTUA, Member of the Steering Committee of TCG
- 2. Mr. Ioannis Georgizas, General Manager of the SUSTAINABLE CITY, Triple-A Advisory Board Member
- 3. Dr. Nikolaos Kakogiannis, Founder and General Manager of ABEC LP and ResNovae LP
- 4. Dr. Chara Karakosta, Triple-A Project Coordinator
- 5. Mr. Dimitris Kollias, Development Manager, GREENESCO Energy SA
- 6. Dr. Yannis Konsolas, Senior Manager at the Development & Sustainable Banking and Bank Relations Unit of Piraeus Bank

The discussion was moderated by Professor John Psarras (NTUA), Scientific Coordinator of Triple-A Project.

#### Feedback:

Participants expressed the following questions/ concerns and related answers have been given by the panelists:

#### Q: At which level have European countries adopted sustainable development principles?

- The central and northern European countries are pioneers in legislative initiatives.
- No country has developed a strictly binding framework with specific indicators.

#### Q: How has the Covid-19 pandemic affected energy efficiency investments?

- 38% of the budget of the Recovery plan for Europe has been directed towards promoting energy transition.
- Teleworking at the scale of 70%-80% has changed the energy needs in the workplace/buildings and the status quo of the real estate sector.

#### Q: How to deal with green washing?

- It is a difficult task since a great amount of money will be circulated at the next period, while respective indices for evaluating energy efficiency investments do not exist.
- A way should be found to evaluate effectively energy efficiency investments.

#### Q: How could the Triple-A Tools be used in the future?

Private sector needs support due to the economic crisis from the pandemic, something that is one
of the primary goals of financial institutions.





- An observatory should be created that assesses energy efficiency investments and their environmental footprint.
- Energy efficiency investments that achieve the greater savings should be rewarded.

#### Speaker personal remarks on the webinar:

- Many times, when projects are implemented through public energy efficiency funding, only the initial investment cost is examined and granted. There is no further responsibility or reward for the beneficiary for the achievement of the promised energy savings.
- Upscaling energy efficiency ensures that human activities will keep fostering but consuming less.
   This is beneficial for all humans and the planet.
- Our experience shows that although Triple-A proposes these "simple" steps, these steps are
  missing from the scope of energy efficiency project assessments and is, therefore, a huge
  opportunity for companies and financial institutions to improve upon, especially when taking into
  account the upcoming legislation changes.
- The EU Taxonomy, SDG and ESG criteria compile a green fraction, and if they are appropriately used, could lead to identifying sustainable and green investments.
- Covid-19 acts as an accelerator towards green energy recovery.
- In Greece, the 2020 energy efficiency target has not yet been achieved due to difficulties in financing such projects (less than 50% of the applications for energy efficiency investments are finally financed).
- There is an effort to incorporate and promote the ESG criteria in the Triple-A Tools and methodology in order for the companies to report their contribution in ESG factors.
- The new technical directive of the Technical Chamber of Greece (TCG) in cooperation with the
  Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy on the economic evaluation of energy investments
  takes into account what Triple-A examines, i.e. the EU Taxonomy, ESG criteria and the need for
  information homogenisation in the field of energy efficiency financing.
- Municipalities could benefit from European Programmes and be supported towards developing energy communities.
- With the assistance of European H2020 projects, sustainable city Network facilitates municipalities
  to establish Energy Communities and produce energy from renewable sources. Many aspects of
  these projects could be facilitated by the Triple-A project methodology (such as the installation of
  net metering systems).
- The Triple-A project could support municipalities by indicating which energy efficiency project ideas could be included in Sustainable Energy Action Plans and facilitating the procedure of financing matchmaking.
- Many similar to Triple-A projects provide high academic knowledge, but it cannot be applied in order to face real problems of the market.
- The Triple-A Tools could save time and money since they could be applied in several sectors.
- A typical evaluation framework should be adopted when a company is regarded as ESG ready.
- Through its synergies and wide engagement of stakeholders, the Triple-A project has a remarkable ability to find and promote good practices in energy efficiency financing that are useful for ESCO and other EE companies.
- The Triple-A Tools could also support energy efficiency promotion in public buildings, benchmarking projects and connecting them with the financing market.
- Triple-A Tools provide a standardised way of projects' evaluation which could be integrated into banks' and financing institutions' evaluation procedures, standards and policies.
- It is essential that Triple-A Tools be tested by market actors in order to ensure that they are correctly calibrated.





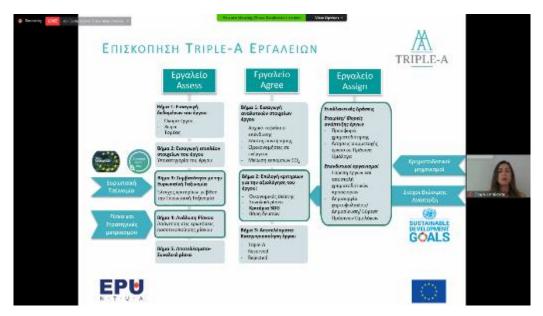
#### Photo's / media













TRIPLE - A CAPACITY BUILDING WEBINAR



### Triple-A Επενδύσεις Ενεργειακής Απόδοσης:

Ενσωματώνοντας τις Αρχές της Βιώσιμης Χρηματοδότησης και της Ευρωπαϊκής Πράσινης Ταξινομίας



#### Χάρης Δούκας

Αν. Καθ. ΕΜΠ

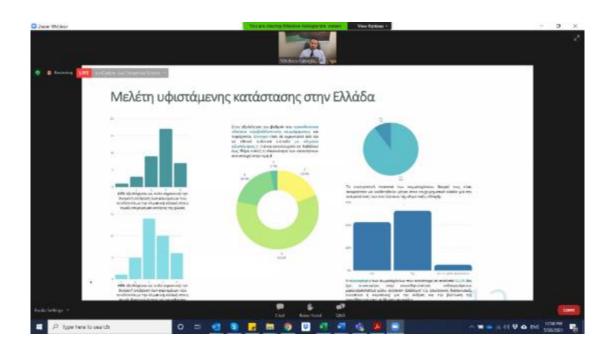
Μέλος Διοικούσας Επιτροπής ΤΕΕ





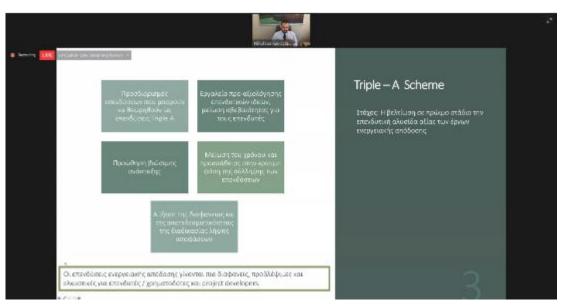




















# Feedback / Summary prepared by:

Chara Karakosta (NTUA, chkara@epu.ntua.gr)

Katerina Papapostolou (NTUA, kpapap@epu.ntua.gr)





# 5 Bilateral Meeting Full Country Reports

(removed for confidentiality)





# 6 Stakeholder Consultations Contacts List

(removed for confidentiality)