D7.3 Final conference

RenoHUb H2020 project

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Project **RenoHUb**
"Integrated Services to Boost Energy Renovation in Hungarian Homes"

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Contributors	MEHI, AACM, IMRO, MCSTE
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Table 1: Document Factsheet

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Draft 1	05/05/2023	First draft	Energiaklub
Final version	08/05/2023	Final version	Energiaklub

Table 2: Document History

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PROJECT PARTNERS

AACM: AACM Central Europe Llc
ENERGIAKLUB: Energiaklub Climate Policy Institute and Applied Communications Association
IMRO: IMRO-DDKK Non-profit Ltd
MCSTE: Hungarian Family House Owner Organization
MEHI: Hungarian Energy Efficiency Institute

1. Objectives of the RenoHUb project

The energy demand of the residential sector accounts for approximately one-third of the final energy consumption in Hungary. The domestic residential building stock has an enormous potential for energy savings. Based on recent estimates, approximately two-thirds of the 4.4 million homes in Hungary are energetically outdated, and with appropriate energy renovation approximately 40 to 50 percent of the final energy currently used could be overall saved. Besides the reduction of energy overhead cost, deep energy renovation of residential buildings offers an increase in the real estate value. At the same time, energy refurbishment at large scale can significantly contribute to meeting the national climate and energy policy targets. According to estimations by experts, approximately 80-100 thousand apartments would need to be refurbished each year in order to prevent further aging of the building stock, whilst the actual yearly renovation rate is far below. RenoHUb aims to trigger a significant upscale of the energy retrofits of the Hungarian residential building-stock. The project is based on the assumption, that the rate of the energy renovation of homes can be significantly increased by eliminating the technical, financial and legal barriers of the refurbishment process and providing adequate technical support to the homeowners.

The key outcome of RenoHUb will be the implementation of a Renovation Hub (RenoHUb) model that is based on a "one-stop-shop" scheme, aiming to support the energy renovation of the Hungarian residential building stock. The "one-stop-shop" model is proved to be powerful instrument to accelerate home retrofits, and it successfully works in several European countries. RenoHUb will consist of an Online Platform and network of information offices (called RenoPont offices). RenoHUb services will be able to seamlessly cover the entire spectrum of energy renovation process for both the multi- apartment and single-family buildings.

2. Presentation of WP7 - Dissemination and exploitation

The main objectives of the national and international dissemination are to raise awareness of and promote RenoHUb, to publicise the project concept and the project results, and to enhance the visibility and showcase the achievements of the project among various national and international stakeholders. Exploitation comprises the creation of a Replication Plan, with the aim of ensuring the long-term sustainability of RenoHUb.

Assumption for the outreach of the dissemination and exploitation events: - Stakeholders reached by national and international dissemination events: 1,000 persons. - Stakeholders reached by national and international newsletters: 5,000 persons. - Participants at the Final Conference: 120 persons.

Under the WP7 work package a total number of 6 tasks (T7.1-T7.6) are specified. This document (D7.3) builds on the results obtained during the development of the task T7.5 (Organizing the final conference).

3. Description of T7.5 and D7.3

As a major and final step stone of RenoHUb, an international closing conference was organized in Budapest on the 4th of May 2023, to allow a wider sharing of the project results with the expert community.

All major stakeholders, both from national and international levels, were invited: ministry officials, business leaders, representatives of domestic and international professional organizations, local governments, and the representatives of the media. This event - due to its professional content - had great interest among architects and energy specialists as well as financiers. Every consortium member represented itself and has presented the project results, outputs, including the intriguing Hungarian adaptation of the one-stop-shop model. Research results were also presented, conclusions, solutions and communication campaigns shown to the wide public. Besides the conference, a field trip was organized on the 3rd of May 2023, where a visit to the Budapest Józsefváros RenoPont office was guided by MEHI employees.

D7.3 deliverable summarises the main points of discussion during the conference.

4. The conference

4.1. Programme and venue of the conference

The conference was held at the MagNet Community House in the centre of Budapest, which hosts programmes, presentations and discussions focusing on community and social initiatives, sustainability and culture. All of this is offered in one of the most beautiful palaces on Andrassy Avenue, offering a varied, comfortable and technically equipped venue, of which we chose the most spacious room, as we were expecting a minimum of 120 people. The conference was hybrid, there was an online broadcasting of the conference for people who were following the conference online. Since there were foreign presenters and guests as well the conference was interpreted into Hungarian and English as well.

The title of the conference was: **After the soaring energy bills and before renovation grants – what next for residential energy efficiency.**

Date of the conference: 4th of May 2023, 9:00 – 16:00

The conference was moderated by Anikó Pálffy, Energy Efficiency policy expert (Hungarian Energy Efficiency Institute).

The main focus of the programme was to be able to present the results of our research, as well as the one-stop shop models from abroad and from Hungary, at the closing conference. In addition, we wanted to use the round table discussions to present the implementation experiences and the financing opportunities for residential energy efficiency.

Before presenting the domestic experience, we would have liked to have presented the experience of the One-Stop-Shop networks in the European Union, as well as the approaches and results of EU projects - energy renovation of residential buildings of residential buildings. This was followed by a presentation of our domestic achievements, the work and results of the last 3 and a half years, and the research results of the project. We have also invested a lot of effort in mapping as widely as possible the attitudes of the population towards renovation and the impact of renovation on the value of property. In addition to the results, we also wanted to present the salient facts, experiences and, last but not least, opportunities for the energy renovation of family houses in Hungary in 2023. To emphasise the role of OSSs, our presentations included one on the role of OSSs in energy efficiency. We also described in detail the two pillars of the project: the website and the office network.

The main topics of our afternoon roundtable discussions were the domestic building stock and renovations, and the perspectives of financing residential energy efficiency.

Detailed brochure of the conference:

RenoHUb

After the soaring energy bills and before renovation grants – what next for residential energy efficiency?

Time	Presentation	Presenter
9.00 - 9.30	Registration and reception of guests	
9:30 - 9:40	Conference opening	Martina Méhes, Energiaklub
9:40 - 9:55	One-stop-shop advisory networks experiences in the European Union	Daniela Bachner, CINEA
9:55 - 10:15	Driving forward the energy refurbishment of residential buildings: Approaches and results from other EU-funded projects	Jenny-Claire Keilmann, Climate Alliance
10:15 - 10:40	The 3 and a half year of the RenoHUb project	Gergely Schum, Energiaklub
10:40 - 11:00	Research results of the RenoHUb project: residential renovation attitude and the effect of renovations on property value	Fanni Sáfián-Farkas PhD, MEHI
11:00 - 11:20	Energetic renovation of family houses in 2023 in Hungary, facts, experiences, opportunities	István Gulyás, Hungarian Family House Owners Association
11:20 - 11:50	Coffee break	
11:50 - 12:50	Round table discussion: The domestic building stock and energetic renovations	Moderator: Zoltán Varga, IMRO-DDKK Environmental Nonprofit Participants: István Gulyás, Hungarian Family House Owners Association, Éva Beleznay, HuGBC, Tamás Csoknyai PhD, Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Ada Ámon, Municipality of Budapest Capital City, Péter Nagy, Hungarian Chamber of Engineers
12:50 - 13:50	Lunch break	
13:50 - 14:05	The two pillars of RenoPont: the website and the office network	Ilona Illésné Szécsi and Adrienn Tóth, MEHI
14:05 - 14:25	The role of OSS beyond energy efficiency	Benigna Boza-Kiss, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)
14:25 - 15:25	Round table discussion: Perspectives on the financing of residential energy efficiency	Moderator: Ildikó Rajné Adamecz, financial expert Participants: Péter Sőrés, MVM, Réka Hámori, Hungarian Bank Association, András Árva, K&H Bank, Károly Oelberg, AACM Central Europe , Dénes Bulkai, international financing expert
15:25 - 16:00	Buffet with networking	

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4.2. The presenters

As with the themes of the conference presentations, we have sought to be as diverse as possible in our choice of speakers and panelists. We wanted to explore the topics from as many perspectives and as many professional points of view and experiences as possible. We have taken into account our network of contacts and who we have come into contact with during the RenoHUb project and would like to continue to maintain professional contacts. It was also important for us to know who the most experienced people in the field were, as we not only wanted to showcase our results, but also to inspire and provide further inspiration to the audience.

Presentations by the consortium partners were predominant, and the round table discussions were also moderated by the partners. The EU experience of the one-stop-shop was presented by Daniela Bachner (CINEA) and the results of other EU-funded projects by Jenny-Claire Keilmann (Climate Alliance). The role of OSSs beyond energy efficiency was presented by the house. International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA).

MVM Group, the Hungarian Banking Association and K&H Bank were invited to a roundtable discussion on the perspectives of financing residential energy efficiency. In addition, financing experts participated in the discussion.

The following joined the discussion on the domestic building stock and energetic renovations: the Budapest University of Technology and Economics, the Hungarian Green Building Council (HuGBC), the Municipality of Budapest and the Hungarian Chamber of Engineers.

4.3. Invitees

The range of invitees was varied. Both national and international participants were expected. Our aim was to get the news of the closing conference and the results of the RenoHub project to as many places as possible. Our target audience was mainly professionals, but we also tried to organise presentations and discussions that would be of interest to the general public. Another important factor in the selection of the invitees was that we wanted the conference to be an opportunity for networking. We believe in the power of networking, we wanted to get as much feedback as possible and we also wanted participants to benefit from attending the conference. We wanted to give them as much information and experience as possible about the RenoHUb project, and we also wanted participants to meet partners and colleagues with whom they could support each other's work.

Among the guests we invited were:

- Municipalities and mayors,

- Non-profit organisations,
- Centre for Social Sciences,
- The National Society of Conservationists (NSC),
- Universities,
- Equilibrium Institute,
- Hungarian Academy of sciences,
- Green Policy Center,
- Hungarian Central Statistical Office,
- Greendependent,
- Trade associations, Banks,
- Climate Policy Institute,
- BPB (Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung),
- Habitat for Humanity,
- NAPE (Narodowa Agencja Poszanowania Energi S.A.)

4.4. Summary and photo report of the event

Field trip:

On the day before the conference (3rd of May 2023), visitors had the opportunity to visit the central RenoPont office in the 8th district of Budapest, Gutenberg Square. We wanted to show how the office works and what aspects we have taken into account in its design. Visitors were told about the workings and daily life of the offices.

Conference:

Daniela Bachner from CINEA, the European Climate, Environment and Infrastructure Executive Agency, explained that the importance of the consultancy offices is based on the fact that 35 million homes across the EU need to be renovated by 2030, and this should be done in depth. And most of the time, money, time and a lack of knowledge are the reasons for the lack of renovation. In addition, at the end of the decade, there is a commitment to build not just near-zero but zero-emission buildings.

Jenny-Claire Keilmann, representing the Climate Alliance, which has 2,000 members in 25 countries across Europe, explained that there is a need for grassroots initiatives, but that building renovation needs to be addressed in a complex way, taking into account the financial, legal and energy context. In his presentation, she added that there is a strong need to organise ongoing meetings and training sessions at both national and EU level to keep track of changes.

Gergely Schum of Energiaklub, the project leader, said in his presentation that it was very welcome that, contrary to the original plans, not two but eight RenoPont renovation consultancy offices had been established across the country, although most of them are in

Budapest for the time being. In contrast to the EU models, the Hungarian network offices are only intermediary offices, i.e. they help clients to find the most suitable company (bank, contractor). The aim should be to double or triple the 1% or so of renovation activity in 2019. The level of interest so far is illustrated by the fact that in about one and a half years, more than 200 consultations have taken place at existing RenoPonts.

Dr. Fanni Sáfián-Farkas of the Hungarian Institute for Energy Efficiency, approaching the issue from a more practical side, stated that a well-executed deep renovation can quadruple the energy costs of a property. At the same time, he shared with the audience his experience that preliminary questionnaire surveys and focus group interviews have shown that renovations are also motivated by aesthetic considerations. Although a significant part of the population has undergone renovations over the last 5-10 years, these have been partial renovations, which in themselves have had very little impact. In other words, planning is an essential aspect of renovation, which in most households can only be achieved with help.

István Gulyás, head of the Hungarian Family House Owners' Association, used concrete, "live" examples to show how much a well-executed renovation can change the energy efficiency of a building. He explained that while it is a welcome fact that since 2016 the number of condensing boilers installed or replaced has increased by 12% and 18% more solar panels and solar collectors have been installed, around 40% of households cannot finance this from their own savings.

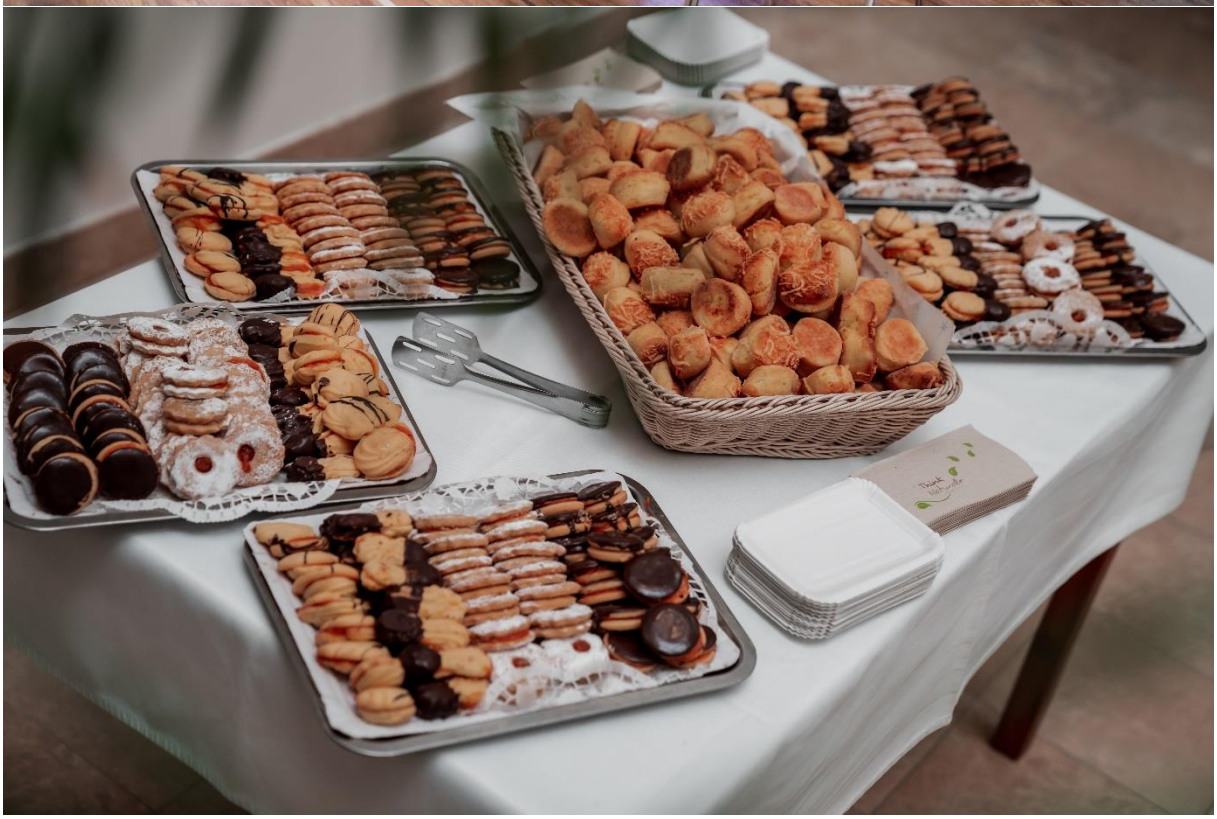
The lunch break was immediately preceded by a **round table discussion** with Dr. Tamás Csoknyai, Associate Professor at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Éva Beleznay urbanist, urban architect, István Gulyás, Péter Nagy and Zoltán Varga who was moderating the discussion. It was said at the beginning of the discussion - to the surprise of many - that it is planned that energy certificates will no longer be mandatory for the sale of residential properties, but that new buildings will be more like energy passports. According to the experts of the Round Table, the target group of the advisory centres does not only include owners, but also, in the case of condominiums, the common representatives and the managers of the condominium. However, it has been argued that a nationwide network on a large scale would be justified.

After lunch, **Ilona Illésné Szécsi** from the Hungarian Energy Efficiency Institute presented the website created by Energiaklub to the conference participants. He added that after registration, interested parties will have access not only to a building energy efficiency calculator created with the help of BME, but also to a database of experts set up with the help of the „Calm Building" Information System. You can also book an appointment using the website, both in person and online.

Benigna Boza-Kiss of CEU and IIASA, the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, added in her presentation that various advisory points have been in existence for almost 100 years, for example, the Belgian building energy efficiency advisory points work with real estate agents, but similar organisations also exist in France and the Netherlands, and there are already socially sensitive advisory offices that help renovate social housing.

The last event of the day was also a **roundtable discussion** with Péter Sőrés of MVM Group, Réka Hámori of the Hungarian Banking Association, András Árva of K&H Bank, Dénes Bulkai of ArchEnerg Cluster Szeged, Károly Oelberg, Managing Director of AACM Central Europe Ltd. and Ildikó Rajné Adamecz. According to K&H Bank, last year was very much about home renovations, which is why they launched a combined loan product: a preferential loan for renovations as well as purchases. Although far fewer loans have been taken out recently to buy homes and even less money is being spent on renovation, financial institutions are under "enormous" pressure to do so. For banks, it's not necessarily about making a big leap in the energy efficiency of the home, but convenience and speed are important considerations, which is why K&H Bank has already introduced a mobile app for green loans. They added that banks are already going green in their day-to-day operations, but much more needs to be done. It may help that the Hungarian government is looking to launch a HUF 10 billion energy efficiency pilot programme (plus a HUF 400 billion programme planned).

Professional pictures of the conference venue, presentations, guests and speakers were taken to show the quality and variety of the conference programme.

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és pénzt otthonod
energetikai felújításával!
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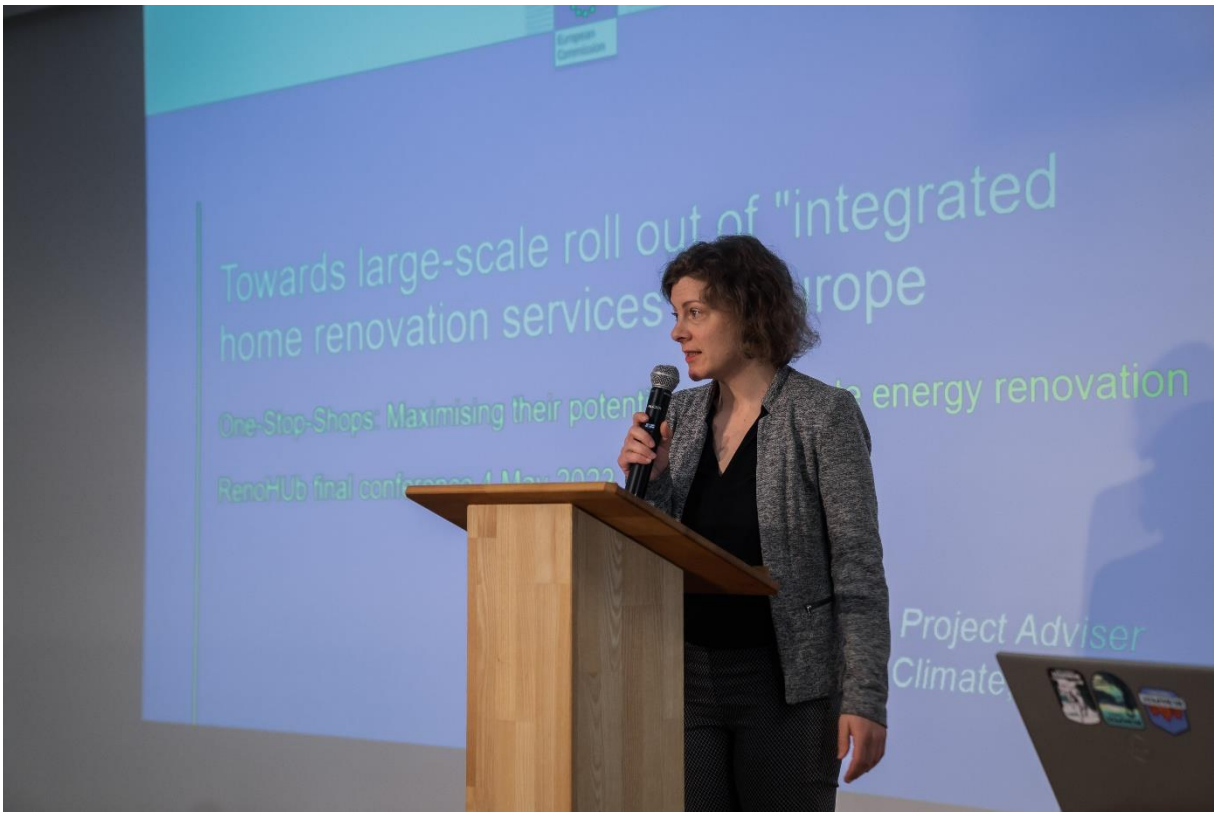
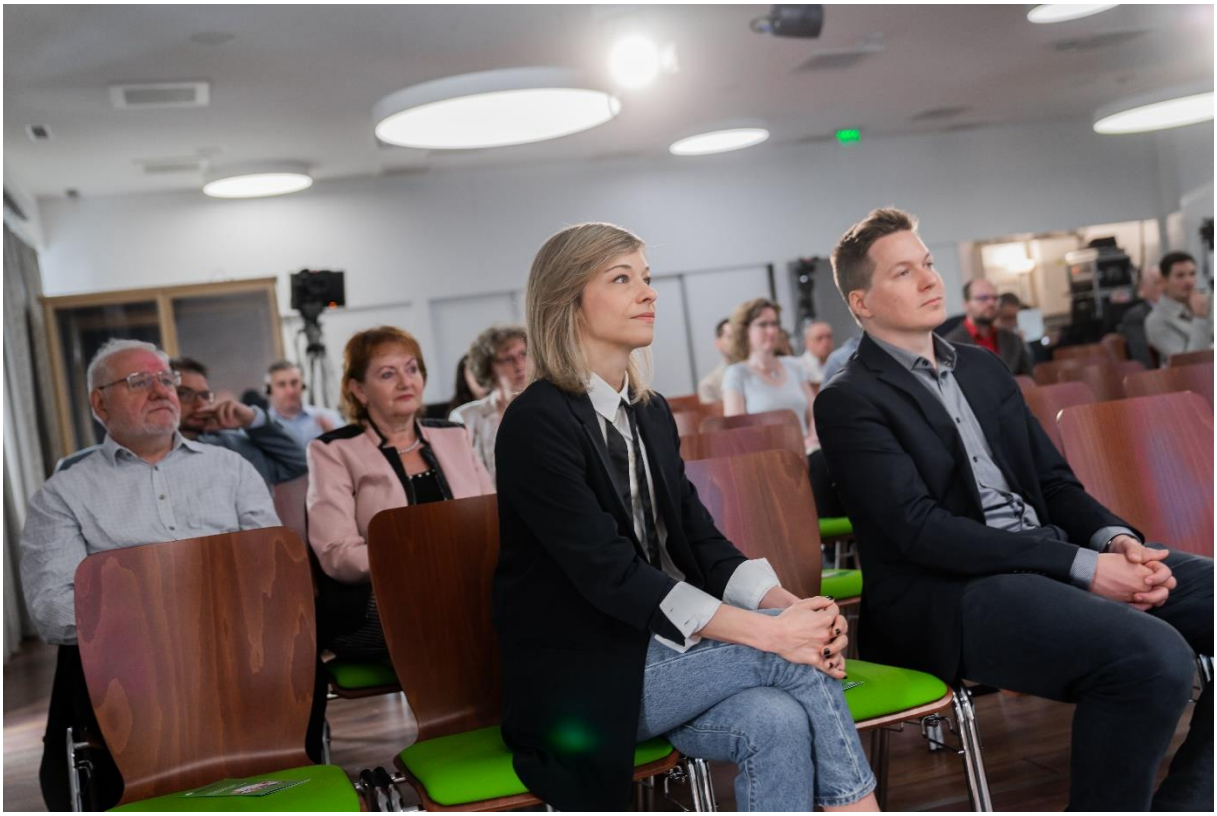

Towards large-scale roll out of "integrated
home renovation services
energy renovation
Project Adviser

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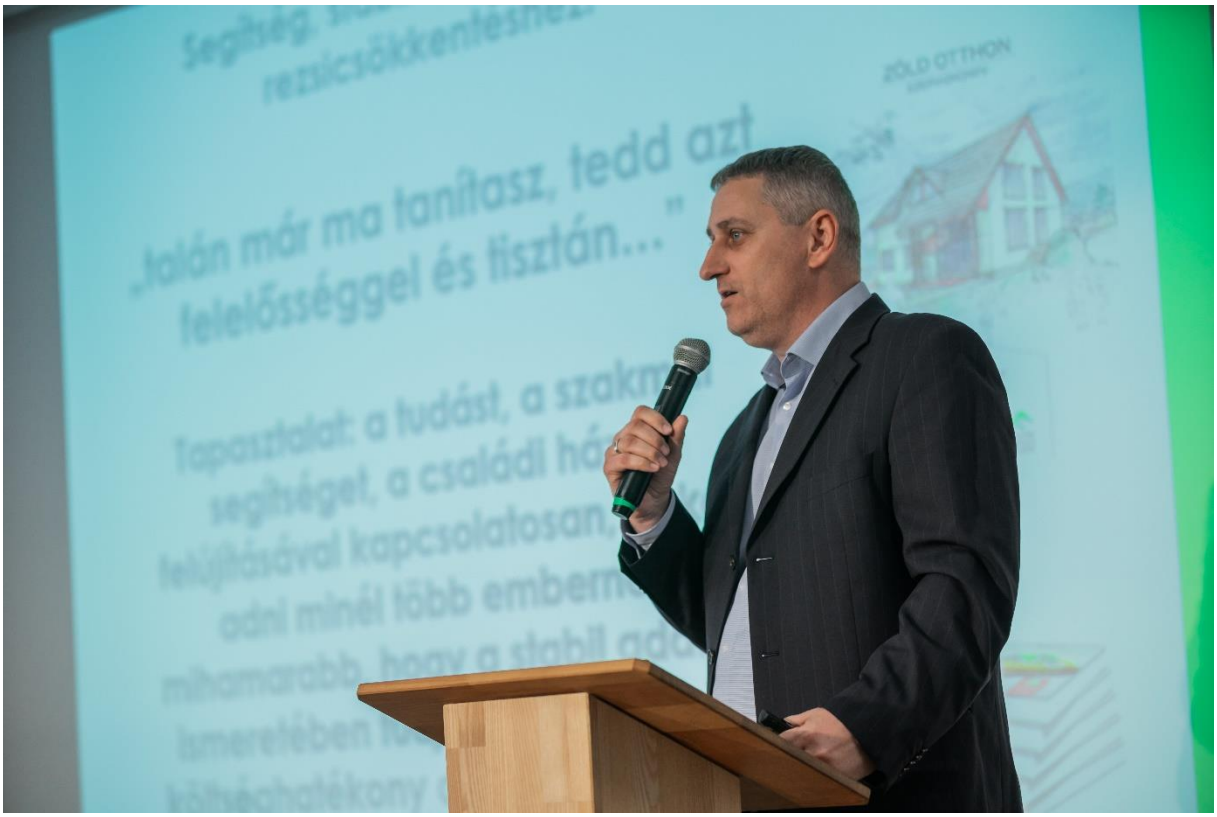
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