

New EU funding programs for energy efficiency and e-mobility

by Johannes Becker, funding consultant, Partner

Rising energy prices are putting pressure on industry, while at the same time the transition in Romania from petrol and diesel-powered vehicles to electric mobility is progressing slowly compared to Western Europe. For this reason, several EU-funded programs are currently being prepared within the Romanian Ministry of Transport, addressing these issues and allowing funding applications to be submitted in the coming months.

Funding program for more energy-efficient production of building materials – “Pro Infra”

It may come as a surprise that an EU funding program for more energy-efficient production of building materials is administered by the Ministry of Transport. However, only the production of materials needed for the development of Romania's infrastructure is eligible for funding – for example, concrete, structural steel, aluminum, cables, mortar, gravel, sand, etc. Companies can receive funding of up to €15 million for replacing old, energy-inefficient equipment, provided that the new equipment consumes significantly less energy.

The construction of new factories is not eligible for funding, nor is equipment or machinery powered by fossil fuels. A single funding application may cover multiple sites.

The key factor for the success of a funding application is the amount of aid requested per unit of energy saved—the lower the requested aid, the higher the chance of approval. A second—much less decisive—factor is the use of renewable energy.

A total of €200 million is available under this program, half of which is expected to be allocated in 2026.

Funding program for electric trucks

A second EU funding program can cover part of the investment costs for the purchase of new electric trucks. Companies whose articles of association include CAEN code 4941 – road freight transport are eligible for funding. Trucks in categories N2 (over 3.5 tons gross weight) and N3 (over 8.5 tons gross weight) are eligible for funding. The total budget of the program is €80 million.

Eligible costs include the additional costs for purchasing electric trucks, calculated as the difference between the cost of a zero-emission truck and the cost of a conventional truck of the same category, based on two comparable offers, one for each vehicle type. However, it should be noted that, as under this program, the amount of funding requested will influence the chances of approval: the funding is based on the amount of CO₂ saved. The lower this amount, the better the chances of success. Furthermore, companies whose trucks operate mainly in Romania have better prospects.

Funding programs for charging infrastructure for electric vehicles

Two EU funding programs of the Ministry of Transport are targeting charging infrastructure for electric vehicles.

The “e-Mobility RO” program promotes charging stations along Romanian highways and national roads. Charging stations with a charging capacity of at least 150 kW for passenger cars (a total of at least 600 kW per location) and with a charging capacity of at least 350 kW for trucks (a total of at least 3,600 kW per location on highways and 1,500 kW on national roads) are eligible for funding. The program's budget amounts to €299 million, with a maximum of €30 million per applicant. When evaluating the projects, 85% of the score depends on the requested funding per kW of charging capacity, while 15% depends on the total charging capacity installed at a site.

The second program, “e-Move RO,” aims to promote charging stations on company premises, but these must also be accessible to the public 24/7, against payment for the electricity consumed. At least two charging stations with 22 kW charging capacity, at least two with 150 kW, and at least one with 350 kW must be installed. If desired, the project may also facilities for the generation of renewable energy to supply these charging stations.

An applicant may submit multiple projects at different locations. Typical applicants for this program include gas station chains, supermarkets, and retail parks, but it is also open to any other companies interested in promoting electric mobility. The total budget for this program amounts to €250 million, with funding up to €25 million available per applicant.

Conclusion

These four programs for energy efficiency and electric mobility demonstrate that these issues are increasingly high on the political agenda in Romania as well. No official launch date has yet been announced for the application processes for any of the programs, but they are expected to be launched in the first half of 2026.

We have been supporting companies in relation to state aid and funding programs for many years and look forward to strong participation.

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