

# ELENA Facility

Energy Efficiency and Energy Advisory Division  
Projects Directorate  
EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK

## What is ELENA?



- Established in 2009 as European Local Energy Assistance
- Based on an agreement between EIB and EC
  - Managed by the EIB
  - Horizon 2020 Research & Innovation Programme
- Grant for **preparation** (not implementation) of investment programmes
- About **€212m awarded** to projects supporting approx. **€7.2bn investments**

## General Rules



Minimum investment of **€30m**



Grant covers up to **90% of costs** related to **project development**



Budget allocation: first come, first served; range of **€30m – €50m** per year  
Required level of maturity: preparatory studies carried out and main decisions taken before ELENA support request (ELENA proposal should demonstrate high probability that project will be implemented)



Obligation of investment implementation - leverage factor required:  
**20 for sustainable energy projects**  
**10 for residential buildings and transport**



If the leverage not achieved: grant may be clawed back



Investment: from Final beneficiary (applicant) and/or others

Timeframe: 3-4year implementation periods

## Who is eligible?

<b>Public sector</b>	<b>Private Sector</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EU Member States</li><li>• Government organisations</li><li>• Regional, local and municipal authorities</li><li>• Public corporations</li><li>• Financial institutions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Associations, mixed public/private, banks, etc.</li><li>• Social housing associations or homeowner associations</li></ul> <p>ELENA projects should not be profit making.</p>

## What is eligible?

### Eligible costs under ELENA

- technical studies
- energy audits
- business plans and financial advisory
- legal advice
- tendering procedure preparation
- project bundling
- project management

These activities can be carried out by **internal staff** or **external experts**

## Sectors Supported



### Buildings:

- Residential
- Non residential



District heating and/or  
cooling



Street lighting  
Traffic lighting



Urban public transport



Building integrated  
renewable energy sources



Smart grids

## The ELENA projects are divided into 3 envelopes

Energy efficiency  
projects



Transport  
projects



Sustainable  
residential

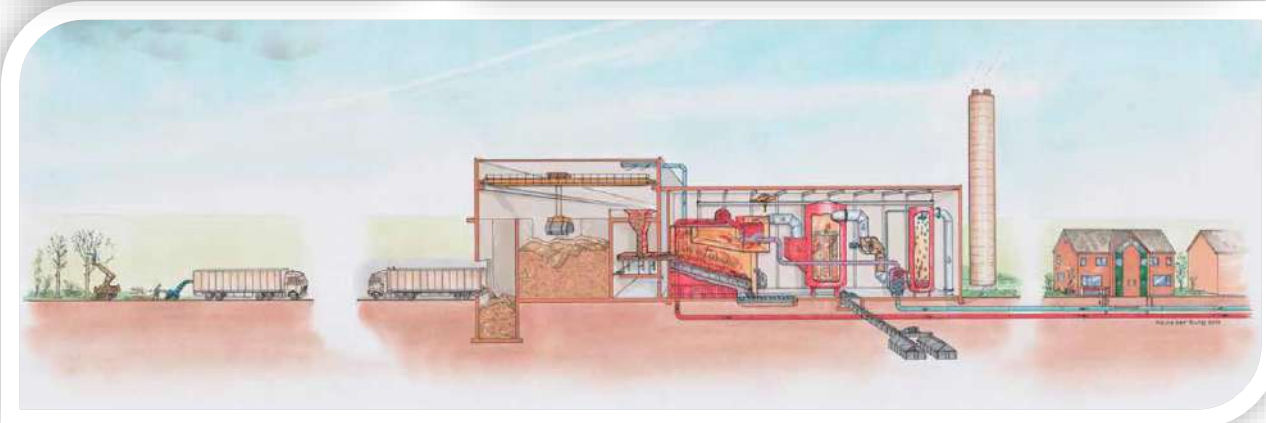
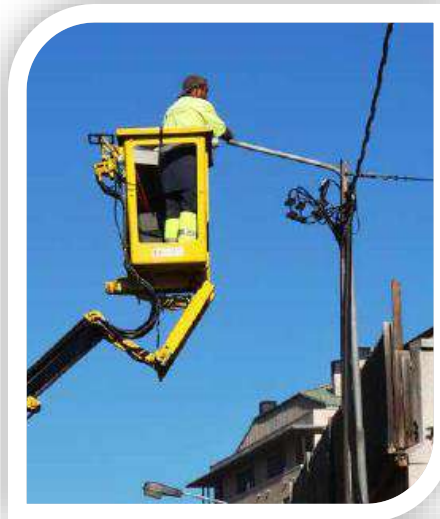




# Energy Efficiency Envelope

## ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

- energy efficiency in residential and non-residential buildings
- building-integrated renewables (such as solar panels)
- public lighting
- district heating (including combined heat and power plants and biomass boilers)
- smart grids





# Sustainable Residential Envelope



## ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

- Single family buildings;
- Multi-family buildings;
- Social housing.

## Urban Transport and Mobility Envelope

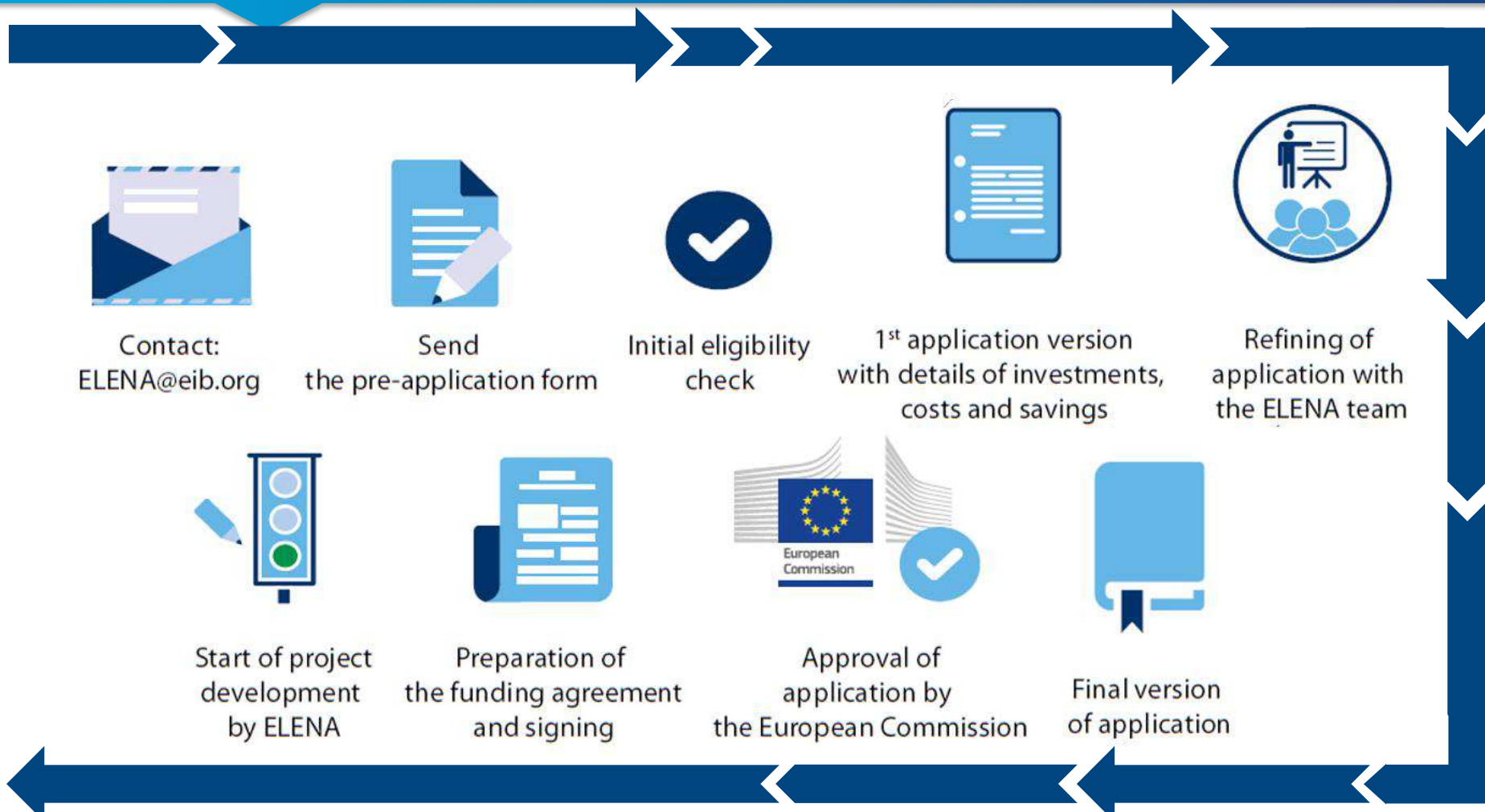


### ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

- Investments to support the use and integration of innovative solutions that promote alternative fuels in urban mobility, such as vehicles and refueling infrastructure.
- Investments to promote the wide-scale rollout of

new, more energy-efficient transport in urban areas, such as shared mobility, urban logistics, intelligent transport systems, urban infrastructure (including investments in soft mobility or mobility that does not involve motorized transport.)

# Application Process



## Leverage Factor

$$\text{LEVERAGE FACTOR} = \frac{\sum \text{Investments} \left[ \text{House, Snowflake, Car, Street Light, Solar Panel, Battery} \right]}{\text{TA grant } \text{€}}$$

Energy efficiency  
projects

20x



Transport  
projects

10x



Sustainable  
residential

10x





## Results achieved

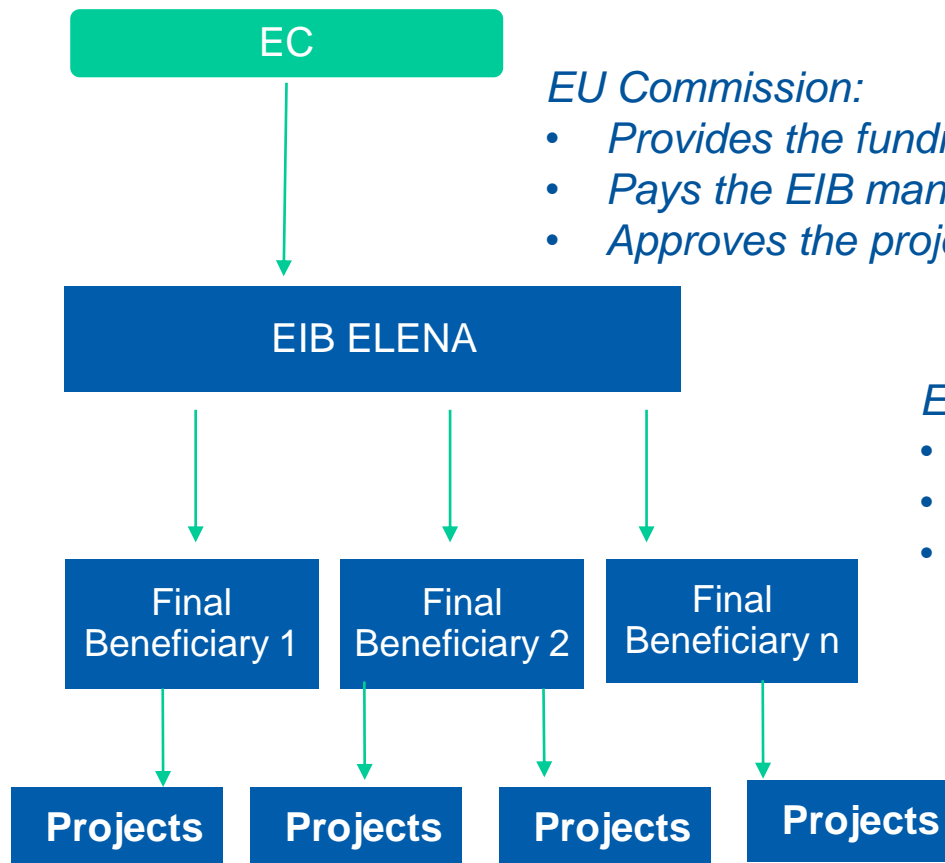


- €212m disbursed and committed EU grant
- 120 ongoing and completed projects, mostly multi-sectoral
- € 7.2 bn realised and expected investments
- Average leverage ratio: 34
- Expected impacts: +/-4,900 GWh/y saved; RES generation 1,300 GWh/y and 1.8 million eq. t CO<sub>2</sub> emissions reductions
- Most of EU covered through support to diverse range of applicants,
  - small & large cities, regional and national entities, financial intermediaries, housing companies, private entities etc
- Support to project “aggregators”

# National ELENA Options

Energy Efficiency Division  
Projects Directorate  
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## Current ELENA Structure



### *EU Commission:*

- *Provides the funding for the projects,*
- *Pays the EIB management fees*
- *Approves the projects*

### *EIB:*

- *Assesses the FBs and projects*
- *Provides advice to the applicants,*
- *Manages the ELENA facility*



## Benefits of National ELENA



- MS can decide on types of eligible projects, leverage, terms and conditions to best meet the local needs
- Can set up National ELENA in local language
- Use the National ELENA to contribute to MS EU policy goals
  - at least double the annual energy renovation rate of buildings by 2030 and fully decarbonize buildings by 2050;
- Use EIB support to set up the entity
- Delegate some responsibilities (e.g. approvals to EC if required)
- Can be in addition to the EC funded ELENA

# 1. Member State sets up National ELENA

## MS has overall responsibility and EIB advises

**EIB:**

- Provides advice to MS in setting up the National ELENA facility

*EIB cost coverage through INVEST EU*



**MS:**

- Provides the funding for the facility and projects
- Defines the rules for the National ELENA (e.g. eligibility, leverage factor, etc.)
- Selects the National ELENA body
- Delegates responsibility to National ELENA to approve grants



**Draft EIB proposal, not validated by the EC.**

# 1. Member State sets up National ELENA

## Main Advantages

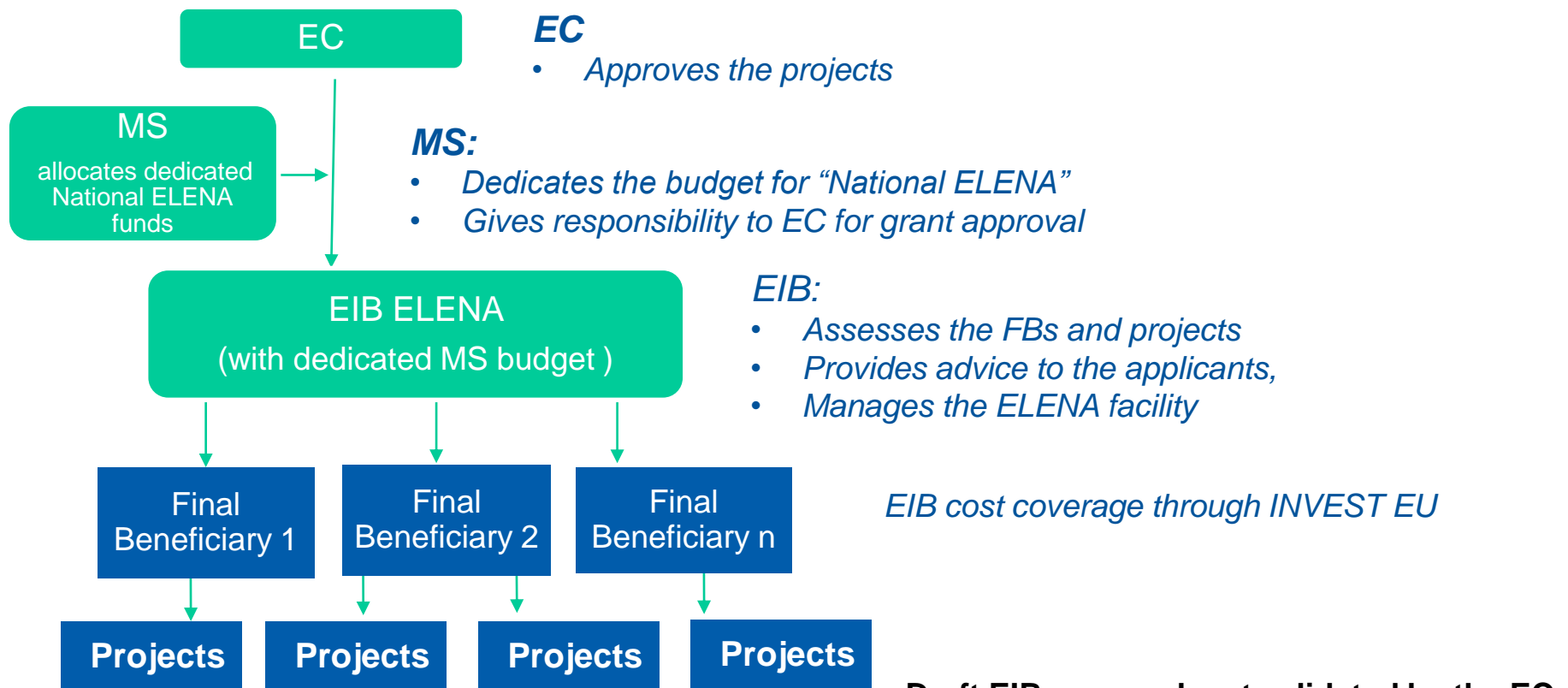
- **Local Language:** The National ELENA can be set up in the national language which could help make it more accessible, in particular to smaller entities requesting support.
- **Size of investment programmes for support:** A MS may set its own rules on the required scale for grant support. This may make it more attractive to final beneficiaries that find it difficult to reach the required EUR 30m investment volume needed to apply for EIB ELENA support.
- **Eligible types of investment programmes:** The MS can decide on the types of eligible investment programmes to be supported (e.g SME industrial process retrofits could be included which are currently not eligible under EIB ELENA).
- **Eligible costs under the ELENA grant:** the MS can decide itself the types of eligible costs the grant can cover, while following the applicable regulations for the funds to be used (e.g. regulations applying to EU and national funds).
- **MS decision to set up ELENA:** By allocating its own funds, the MS makes its own decision to set up an ELENA facility and provide support to the dedicated projects.
- **Complementarity of EU funds:** A MS led ELENA can be established to align to the country's existing energy efficiency initiatives. Aligning all EU and nationally funded mechanisms helps to allocate the funds within the due timelines.
- **Complementarity to EIB ELENA:** A National ELENA facility could be complementary to an EIB ELENA facility.

**Draft EIB proposal, not validated by the EC.**

## 2. Standard ELENA with MS INVEST EU Compartment

MS envelope like an Additional Envelope (e.g residential and transport)

*Agreement between MS and EC*



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## 2. Standard ELENA with MS INVEST EU Compartment

### Main Advantages

- **MS decision to set up ELENA:** By allocating its own funds, the MS makes its own decision to set up an ELENA facility and provide support to the dedicated projects.
- **Outsource management of the Facility to the EIB:** in this option a suitable national body to run ELENA is not necessary as the MS outsources the management to the EIB. This is of course dependent on confirmation that the management costs can be covered and that sufficient staff are available.
- **Customisation of eligibility:** While the ELENA under the INVEST EU compartment would strongly mirror the EIB ELENA, some limited customization could be possible for the following:
  - **Lower leverage factor**, which is currently 20 for Sustainable Energy Envelope and 10 for ELENA residential and ELENA transport. The MS could reduce the required level of investment which may be attractive to smaller projects.
  - **Reduced minimum size of investment programme**, which is currently EUR 30m. While EIB would not manage investment programmes under EUR 15m, there could be some scope to have a reduced minimum size for MS funded National ELENAs recommends
  - **Targeted Beneficiaries and/or sectors** The MS could decide on some specific type of projects to focus on (in line with the standard ELENA eligibilities)

**Draft EIB proposal, not validated by the EC.**

## Summary

- ELENA concept is successful for implementing EE investments in building sector and municipal infrastructure
- Sufficient experience acquired over 10y+ in different contexts
- Grant amount for supporting EE investment preparation is limited (e.g. average 3% (= leverage factor 34))
- Unique selling points:
  - Makes available grants for the project development activities most needed
  - Grant is linked to performance obligation: no investments, no grants
- Current ELENA facility for a national pilot
- Funding opportunities available: ERDF, RFF, national funds

**Draft EIB proposal, not validated by the EC.**

# Thanks for your attention

More information about ELENA:

[www.eib.org/elena](http://www.eib.org/elena)