

## **European Commission Technical Assistance Facility - Executive summary of Final Report 2017 (Reporting period: 21 December 2011 - 31 December 2017)**

### **Introduction**

The European Energy Efficiency Fund (eeef) was launched in July 2011. The eeef aims to provide an additional commercial source of funding for energy efficiency and small-scale renewable energy measures within the European public sector. If required, it could be combined with project development services through a technical assistance (TA) facility provided by the European Commission (EC). The EC Technical Assistance Facility (EC TA) was managed by eeef's Investment Advisor Deutsche Bank.

### **Activities**

The EC TA aimed to support public authorities in accelerating their investments in the fields of energy efficiency and small-scale renewable energy sources by providing grants for up to 90% of the development costs. Its objective was to develop investment projects, facilitate their financing and overcome barriers that hinder the realisation of those type of investments. The application phase for securing grants under the EC TA ended on 31 March 2014. In total, €14.1 m in EC TA funds were allocated to support the project development activities of 16 public beneficiaries across eight Member States of the European Union.

### **Outcome**

By the end of 2017, the EC TA successfully facilitated 10 projects (provided TA amount of €8.8 m) leading to a total investment volume of €194.4 m which are at various stages of implementation. Four TA projects (€53.9 m) have already achieved financial close with the eeef, including Région Rhône-(a building retrofit project in France), the City of Venlo (a street lighting project in the Netherlands), the Ore Valley Housing Association (a project related to small-scale renewables and energy conservation measures in the United Kingdom) and the City of Santander (a public lighting project based in Spain); while three further TA projects (€94.2 m) including the Groupement de Redéploiement Economique Liège (a building retrofit project based in Belgium), the University of Liège (another building retrofit based in Belgium) and partly the City of Córdoba (a public lighting and building retrofit project in Spain) are under completion with the TA beneficiaries' own funding and/or other regional sources. Further projects, including two Spanish cities and a Portuguese region, aim to reach completion soon, with eeef financing under discussion.

Key lessons learned include the preparation and realisation of TA projects are only possible if the required support and the related sustainable multiannual outlooks are given. This specifically implies the need for continuous political commitment to implement the projects. The succession of mayors and/or local governments and their corresponding change in priorities and goals often proved challenging. In some cases this resulted in the reimbursement of TA grant funding provided. Other projects proved to be technically and/or economically unfeasible based on the outcome of the TA phase.

The EC TA was a well-perceived project development opportunity in the European sustainable energy market and helped projects to finance energy audits, feasibility studies and the preparation of implementation plans, including procurement procedures. By the end of 2017 it closed its operations. Going forward, public authorities will receive TA support from the eeef's newly created TA Facility. For further information on the eeef TA Facility, please visit: <https://www.eeef.eu/eeef-ta-facility.html>