



## Press release

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## EU-Projektstart SEFIPA: setting up an Austrian financing platform to fund sustainable energy projects

**The Austrian Society for Environment and Technology (ÖGUT) and Energy Changes GmbH are successfully launching the project “Sustainable Energy Financing Platform in Austria” (SEFIPA for short), which is being funded as part of the EU programme “Horizon 2020”. The aim is to collaborate with policymakers on establishing new instruments for funding projects concerned with energy efficiency and renewable sources of energy.**

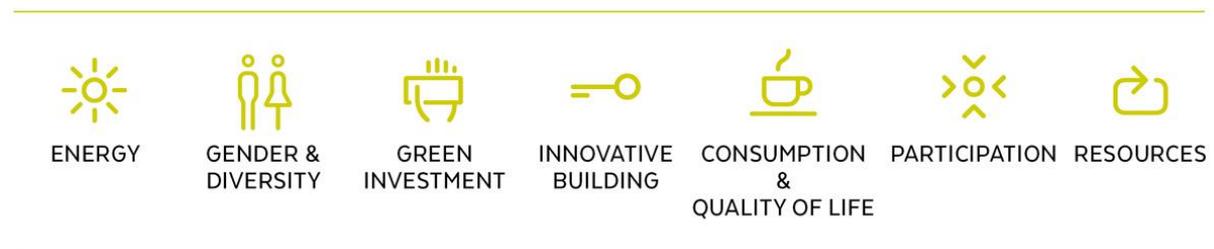
The kick-off meeting for the EU SEFIPA project was held on 16 March. In collaboration with policymakers the two partners in this project, ÖGUT (project coordinator) and Energy Changes, aim to develop innovative tools (financing instruments, new regulative arrangements, information campaigns), so as to stimulate increased investment in sustainable energy in Austria. The project will run for three years, and has a budget of close to a million Euro. The first step will be to constitute a Finance Lab made up of leaders and experts in the fields of financing, business and consumer associations, public administration and project development. The Finance Lab will create new financing instruments and draw up concrete proposals for improving the legal framework applying to investment in sustainable energy projects. Setting up a crowd-investing platform for energy efficiency and renewable sources of energy in Austria will be a focal point.

“We are excited to fund an ambitious project like SEFIPA through the Horizon 2020 Energy Efficiency call”, says Adrien Bullier, Senior Project Advisor at the European Commission's Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (EASME). “The project will bring a key contribution to unlock private finance for sustainable energy, which is essential to achieve the objectives of the Paris agreement and the EU's climate and energy strategy,” Bullier is convinced. “This project is important to push the issue of energy efficiency in Austria: new financing instruments can close the existing investment gap and thus make a significant contribution to the energy policy turnaround,” Monika Auer (ÖGUT's General Secretary) feels sure. “And we very much want to involve as many individuals, companies and public bodies interested in the issue as possible in implementing the project, so that the permanent success of the central idea is assured”, Clemens Plöchl (managing partner, Energy Changes) reveals.

## ÖGUT – Austrian Society for Environment and Technology

As an independent non-profit organization, ÖGUT has for 30 years promulgated sustainability as the basis for the economy and society. As a platform for sustainable development ÖGUT links together more than 100 organizations and institutions in the business world (companies involved in waste disposal, financial services, energy services etc., plus lobby organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce and the Confederation of Industry), the administration (Federal ministries, the Province of Lower Austria, the City of Vienna) and environmental advocacy (the largest Austrian environmental NGO's). ÖGUT is a competence centre with a wide range of topics and services on offer. Our aim is to develop innovative responses to today's challenges and to get them implemented, in collaboration with our network.

ÖGUT's seven focuses:



## Energy Changes

Energy Changes' business activities solely focus on renewable energy, energy efficiency and GHG mitigation activities. It identifies, evaluates and develops renewable energy/ energy efficiency and GHG reduction projects and provides policy consulting as well. It's staff includes engineers, scientists, economists and business experts with many years of experience in sustainable energy, resource management and the Kyoto mechanisms. EC (Austria) was founded in 2006 and has currently 10 employees and an annual turnover of 1.2 Mio EUR. Energy Changes is based in Vienna, Austria with 2 additional operational offices in Austria and one subsidiary in Bratislava, Slovakia.