

Housing cooperatives still constitute a fair share of all living arrangements in Central and Eastern Europe. According to the national statistical offices, housing cooperatives owned two million dwellings in Poland (2018) and 430,000 in Czechia (2017). After 30 years of political transformation, housing cooperatives will face the next socio-technical transformation. Energy transition will necessitate evaluating the trade-off between the uptake of new energy-efficient technologies and higher energy costs in the longer run. Therefore, it is crucial to explore and understand existing power relations in housing institutions and the perception of problems and preferences regarding energy transition among managerial boards, citizens, and external institutional actors.

The aim of this project is to assess the adaptive capacity of housing cooperatives in internalising energy transition based on the example of Poland and Czechia. In the first stage, we will catalogue housing cooperatives and explore and assess their strategies for dealing with energy transition. We will pay particular attention to the power relations inside housing cooperatives and in their relations to other institutional actors such as heating companies and municipalities. Then, we will investigate how and to what extent housing cooperatives and their residents perceive their readiness for short-term and long-term obligations to implement or suspend energy transition investments.

On the basis of comprehensive data about all housing cooperatives from existing administrative sources, we will prepare initial typology and select eight diverse housing cooperatives in different spatial units of Poland and Czechia. Within each case, we will conduct (1) a household survey, (2) a discrete choice experiment, and (3) individual in-depth interviews with decisionmakers. The results will enable us to identify modes of action in particular types of housing cooperatives and to offer energy transition adaptation scenarios replicable in other countries with a significant share of multi-family buildings.