Pilot Program Case Study

Mustersanierung programme of the Austrian Climate and Energy Fund

Initial situation
The Austrian Climate and Energy Fund has an annual subsidy programme for deep renovations which is administered by the Grant Authority KPC and their partners Grazer Energy Agency who are also credentialed ICP project developers.

In this pilot program, a gap analysis between the Mustersanierung subsidy programme and the ICP Standard Tertiary Protocol (as Mustersanierung only covers tertiary buildings) was conducted to analyse differences between the requirements of the subsidy programme and the ICP Protocol, to make recommendations for the future development of the subsidy programme, and to elaborate how ICP (or elements thereof) could be incorporated in the subsidy programme without substantially increasing the effort required for a grant application.

Application of ICP Standard Tertiary Protocol
The gap analysis followed the 5-phases structure of the ICP Protocol and was conducted by Denkstatt Austria, with feedback and alignment with the Austrian Climate and Energy Fund, KPC and Grazer Energy Agency. The ICP QA checklist and the Mustersanierung grant application checklist formed the basis of the analysis:

ICP QA checklist for IREE certification

Mustersanierung grant application checklist

Moreover, the following documents were included in the analysis:
- ICP: Project Development Specification; OPV Plan Template; OM&M Plan Template; M&V Plan Template

Results
Generally, it should be noted that the objectives of a subsidy programme (maximising CO2-reductions) can differ from the objectives of a certification scheme such as ICP (maximising energy savings and financial returns for investors). The following major results were derived:
Mustersanierung fulfils major ICP requirements in particular for the ICP phases Baseline, Savings Calculation, and Measurement & Verification.

Mustersanierung’s baseline and savings calculation for the building insulation is based on the energy performance certificates before and after the renovation which is not sufficient for ICP.

ICP has more comprehensive documentation requirements on the historical energy use as well as on the inputs, assumptions and calculations.

ICP requires plans for the Design, Construction and Verification as well as Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring phases which aren’t addressed in the Mustersanierung programme.

ICP requires documentation on the qualification of the engaged specialists (project developer as well as people responsible for OPV / OM&M / M&V plans which aren’t addressed in the Mustersanierung programme.

And the following recommendations were made:

- Documentation on the qualification of the engaged specialists can increase the quality of planning documents and savings calculations and therefore of the grant applications.
- More information on historical energy use and building use as well as benchmarks can increase the understanding of the project as well as the quality of plausibility checks and measurement and verification activities.
- Plans for the Design, Construction and Verification as well as Operations, Maintenance and Monitoring phases can increase project quality in the implementation phases; Templates for such plans could be provided.
- A definition of investment criteria could provide access to additional financing options.
- ICP or parts thereof could be integrated either through a premium on the standard subsidy rate or as a recommendation on the Mustersanierung programme website.

Discussion and Outlook
The pilot program was presented by Mustersanierung Programme Manager Mr. Christoph Wolfsegger from the Austrian Climate and Energy Fund and discussed at the 5th National Steering Committee Meeting in January 2018. The stakeholder feedback from the Steering Committee Meeting was integrated into the final report on the pilot program.

The results, recommendations and opportunities for integration of ICP as well as the final report of the pilot program were discussed with Mr Stelzer, Program Manager at the grant authority KPC, on January 31st 2018. Given the short timeline for the preparation of the 2018 Mustersanierung program (which needs to be finalised at the beginning of March 2018), it was agreed to evaluate a possible integration in the 2019 Mustersanierung program together with the Austrian Climate and Energy Fund at the end of 2018, also based on the further market development/adoptions of ICP for Buildings after the end of the Horizon 2020 project.