



TV

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## BULGARIA: ENERGY EFFICIENT CITIES

### VIDEO

OLD HOUSING BLOCKS

NIKOLAI CLEANS WINDOWS

STOICHEV ON CAMERA

### AUDIO

#### NARRATION

Like many cities in Eastern Europe, Sofia is surrounded by sprawling prefabricated housing estates, built during the socialist period. More than 60% of the population lives in buildings like this. (13)

Historically, low energy prices meant little or no attention was paid to energy efficiency. Many of the buildings are now in a bad state of repair and often use 30% more energy compared to housing in Western European countries. (14)

Nikolai Stoichev lives with his family on the tenth floor of a prefabricated block. (5)

STOICHEV: (Romanian) **M**

*"The temperature inside the building used to be as low as the temperature in the street. Every other year we were repairing the block, and the roof, and we just couldn't afford to carry out the constant*

*repairs to keep warm”. (11)*

#### NARRATION

DETAILS OF BUILDING IN BAD  
SHAPE

In recent years there's been widespread recognition that the process of deterioration must be stopped, but only a handful of buildings have been renovated.

RESIDENTS ON WINDOW

With soaring energy prices, many residents have resorted to sticking insulation to outside walls, but with limited results. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe is working with

OUTSIDE INSULATION

local partners to improve the energy efficiency here. Programme Leader, Paola Deda. (26)

BUILDING RENOVATION

DEDA: (English) F

PAOLA DEDA ON CAMERA

*“We assess the situation of the existing housing stock and we make suggestions on how this can be made more efficient but also better for the household living in the building.” (11)*

#### NARRATION

RETROFITTING /  
VIENNA INSULATION / BUILDER  
CARRYING GLASS

By insulating walls and ceilings, replacing old windows and doors and upgrading heating systems, buildings can be made much more energy efficient. It's a process known as retrofitting. (15)

NIKOLAI CHECKS RENOVATION

Each family in Nikolai's block paid 4000 US dollars for the renovations. But with energy bills cut by as much as 50 percent, the money can be recouped in less than

two years. (11)

NIKOLAI ON CAMERA

NIKOLAI: (Romanian) **M**

*“Now that the work on the block has finished you can really feel the effect of the insulation. We all feel as if we are living in a new property.” (11)*

URBAN LANDSCAPE OF SOFIA

NARRATION

More than half of a city’s greenhouse gas emissions come from buildings. Savings made here offer a great opportunity to lower a city’s carbon footprint. (9)

DEDA ON CAMERA

DEDA: (English) **F**

*“Buildings are extremely important to reduce emissions. There are several estimates that really calculate how high the emissions from buildings are. The intergovernmental panel on climate change has identified the building sector as the sector where the highest savings could be made.” (21)*

AGING HOUSING BLOCKS IN  
SOFIA

NARRATION

Retrofitting all of Bulgaria’s aging housing stock will take time, but it’s hoped that the energy, carbon emissions and money saved here will show a greener way forward for the millions of other families living in similar properties in the region.(16)

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by Andrew Martin for the United Nations.