



Linking Energy Audit Policies to enhance and support SMEs towards energy efficiency

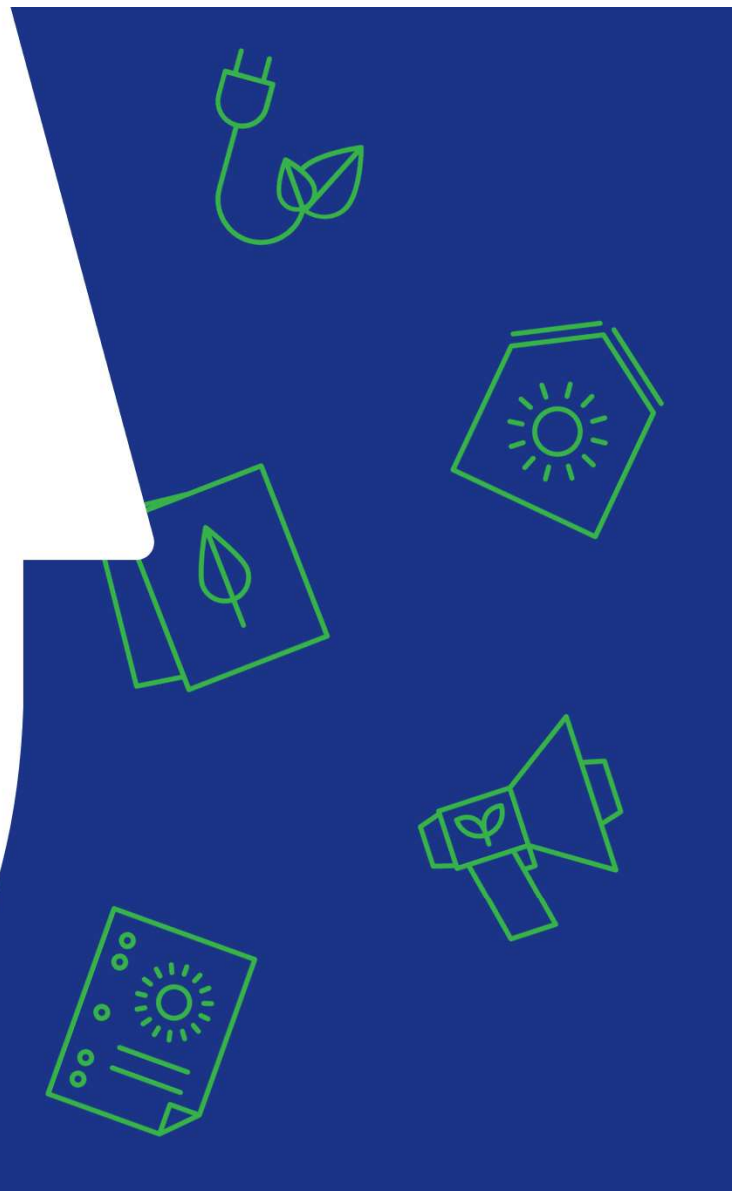
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EULife23 Infodays

1st of June 2023



This project has received funding from the EU H2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 893924.



LEAP4SME

Energy Audit policies to drive Energy Efficiency

Main goals and Consortium

- **Mapping and understanding** the complex context of national and local support to SMEs
- **Contributing**, through LEAP4SME research, analysis, and stakeholders involvement, to help the Institutions finding solutions to fill the gap of data
- **Knowledge sharing** (successes, barriers and failures) on national policies

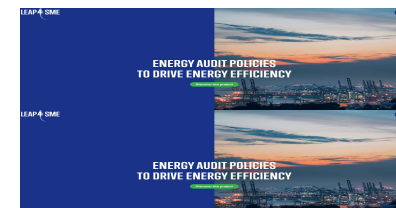
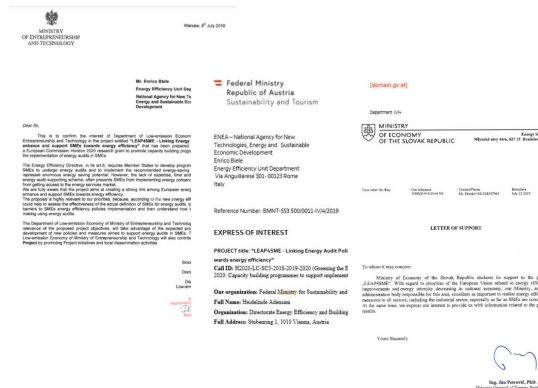


Proposing effective and realistic solutions to policy makers and policy implementers in terms of data, policy schemes, cross-cutting policy solutions embracing both **energy and non-energy benefits**, policy recommendations



LEAP4SME is supported by:

- 2 International associations of national Energy Agencies (EnR and Medener)
- 9 Ministries
- 4 Further National Agencies
- 18 National SMEs associations, Chambers of Commerce, Regional and local Authorities



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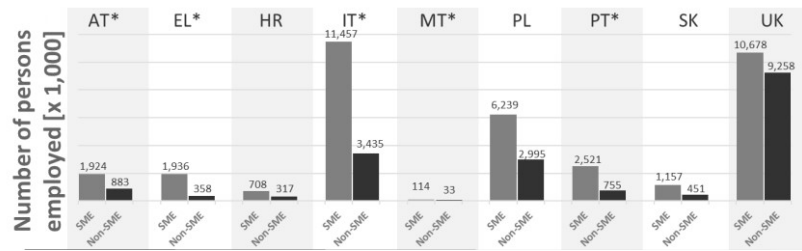
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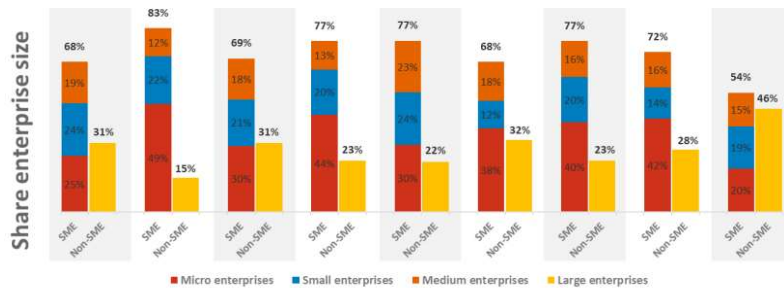
First steps: setting the scene



- Good availability of economic-related data, number of enterprises & employees + interesting results from EC/SAFE and EIB surveys
- Lack of energy-related data on SMEs: insufficient data situation for properly planning energy efficiency policies
- Need for KPIs to implement policies and support the policy process development



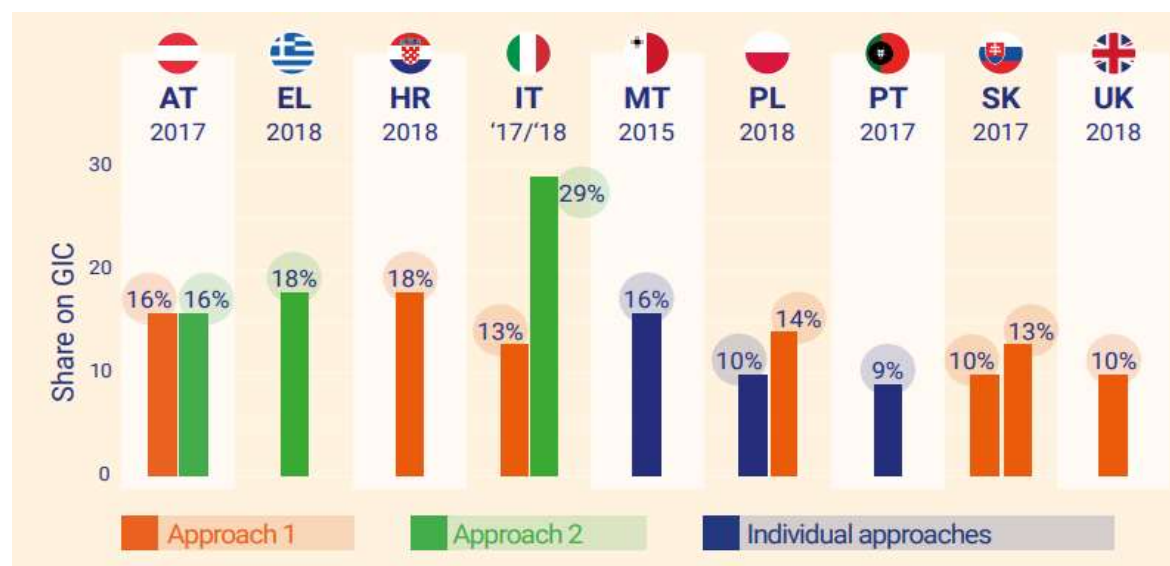
GENERAL SECTOR KPIS		
REFERRED TO ALL ENTERPRISES, BOTH LARGE AND SMES PER SECTOR (INDUSTRY, TRANSPORTS, TERTIARY ETC.) - 1/2 DIGITS NACE CODE		
KPI Group	Availability	Relevance
GENERAL	High	Highly important
ENERGY CONSUMPTION	Medium	Highly important
CO ₂ EMISSIONS	High	Moderately important
ENERGY INTENSITY	Medium	Moderately important
COST OF ENERGY	Low	Highly important
POTENTIAL SECTOR	Low	Highly important



GENERAL SME SECTOR KPIS		
REFERRED ONLY TO SME		
KPI Group	Availability	Relevance
GENERAL	High	Highly important
ENERGY CONSUMPTION	Low	Highly important
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POTENTIAL SECTOR	Low	Highly important

Filling the data-knowledge gap

Example: methodologies for estimating the energy consumption of SMEs in nine European Countries



- Share on gross inland consumption (GIC): 9 - 18% except for Italy
- Different scenarios calculated for Italy resulting in greater range
- Hypothesis, methodologies and assumptions explained in the report
- Refined methodology applied to Austria and Italy → Submitted for peer-review

<https://leap4sme.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/LEAP4SME-D2.1-SME-MAPPING.pdf>

Source: LEAP4SME report "Mapping SMEs in Europe: Data collection, analysis and methodologies for estimating energy consumptions at Country levels". Author: AEA

Gathering data and proposing policy options

Survey/semi-structured interviews for Organisations

- 177 answers collected
- The survey can be considered representative of the opinion of the organizations involved in the ecosystem of energy audits in the project countries (and outside)

Survey



Type of organizations



■ PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS ■ PRIVATE ASSOCIATIONS ■ PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS ■ OTHER

Assessing the policy options

Survey for organisations (177 answers) + survey for SMEs (>100 answers)

Example

“To increase the implementation of the recommended measures for SMEs do you think it is better to concentrate the efforts on”: *ONLY EXTREMELY HIGH RELEVANCE/HIGH RELEVANCE*

	PUBLIC INSTITUTION	PRIVATE ASSOCIATIONS	PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS	OTHER
6.1 Obligations	34%	27%	57%	49%
6.2 Incentives	86%	80%	86%	97%
6.3 Information	65%	57%	49%	49%
6.4 Training, workshops	73%	57%	57%	57%
6.5 Standardization (ISO 50001, IPMVP etc.)	43%	50%	57%	51%
6.6 One stop shops	60%	47%	40%	57%
6.7 Multiple benefits	71%	67%	71%	69%
6.8 Resource efficiency	64%	70%	74%	71%



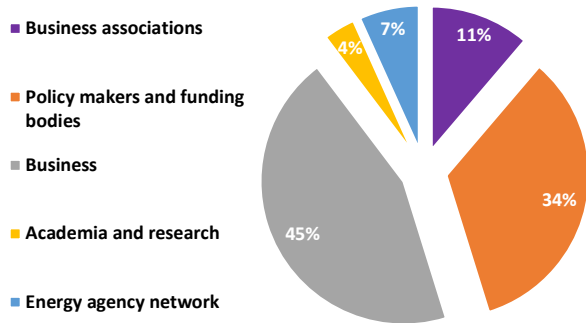
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Broad assessment per Country → Portugal

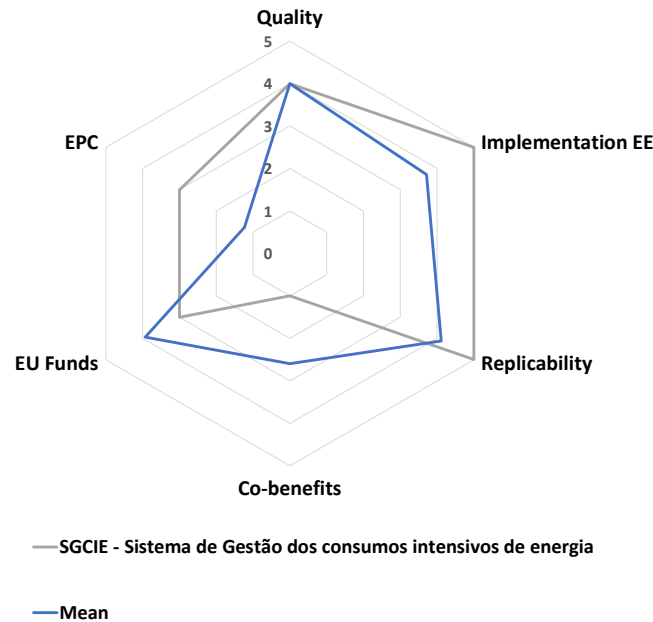
National observatories + policy assessment + surveys



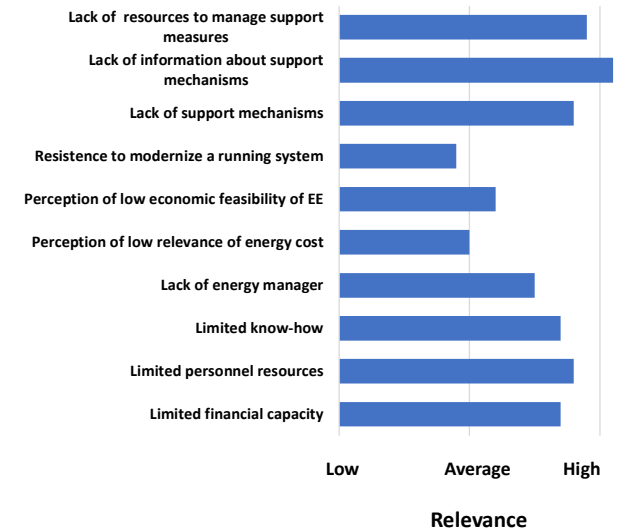
Type of participants



Best practices evaluation



Energy Audits barriers most relevant for SMEs



Source: elaboration on LEAP4SME Survey submitted to organisations, from national agencies and business associations, to ministries, NGOs and industrial associations

June 2022 – February 2023

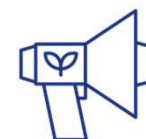
3 online events and interviews with key stakeholders

51 participants

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Portugal: Key recommendations from business associations and SMEs



- **Tailoring:** The disparity in size and core business of SMEs, and the different incidence of energy and resources costs, requires specific support measures and energy audit approaches.
- **Lack of resources:** SMEs often have limited financial and human resources to engage in energy efficiency interventions or carry out audits that are not required by law.
- **Resource audit:** Energy, water, and materials are three dimensions with direct impact in business' costs. A comprehensive assessment of resource efficiency, which goes beyond energy dimension, is considered to be interesting and useful for companies. Resource efficiency audits could be introduced, having well-defined objectives and targets, and they can be used as leverage to access financing schemes and obtain additional support.
- **Skills:** Business associations and SMEs experience a lack of qualified auditors that can act over the energy, water, and materials dimension at the same time. So, a qualifying framework is also necessary. Auditors must be trained, so that they can assure compliance with the technical requirements that energy and resource audit needs.
- **Consumption monitoring:** The importance of measuring/collecting the adequate information on energy and resource consumption, as well as the basic indicators, is recognized. Indeed, it allows to better plan energy efficiency interventions. Monitoring should be tailored on the energy and resources profile of the business sector and done step by step, starting with minimal requirements.
- **Decision making:** Systems as “smart meters” are easier to be widely accepted to collect data. However, it is good practice to present the work to be developed to the top management, before starting the data collection process.



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Some lessons learnt during the project implementation



- Set the general baseline & identify the value added from the proposal
- Start a proposal and a project only if sure of the quality of the Consortium and real interest of participants
- Maintain the relationships in the Consortium: periodic calls, in-person meetings, always guarantee the opportunity of an appropriate involvement to all participants. Also there is no need of daily communications and flurry of messages/emails
- During the Gap period things around may slightly change. Re-assess the context once the project starts and if needed propose adjustments to the baseline
- In case of doubts on the activities, first check the Grant and Consortium Agreements, the annotated Grant & the official online guides. Most of the answers are there
- Be periodically in touch with the funding Authority officers, specially in case of doubts on how to proceed or relevant issues
- Most of the issues can be solved through a call/chat or where applicable with an in-person meeting



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LEAP4SME final conference, Brussels 4/7/23

ITRE Committee Vice-Presidency + International Observatory session



Brussels, 4th of July 2023

LEAP4SME is organising its final conference at the European Parliament, followed by a session with the International Observatory on Energy Efficiency in SMEs set up by the project.

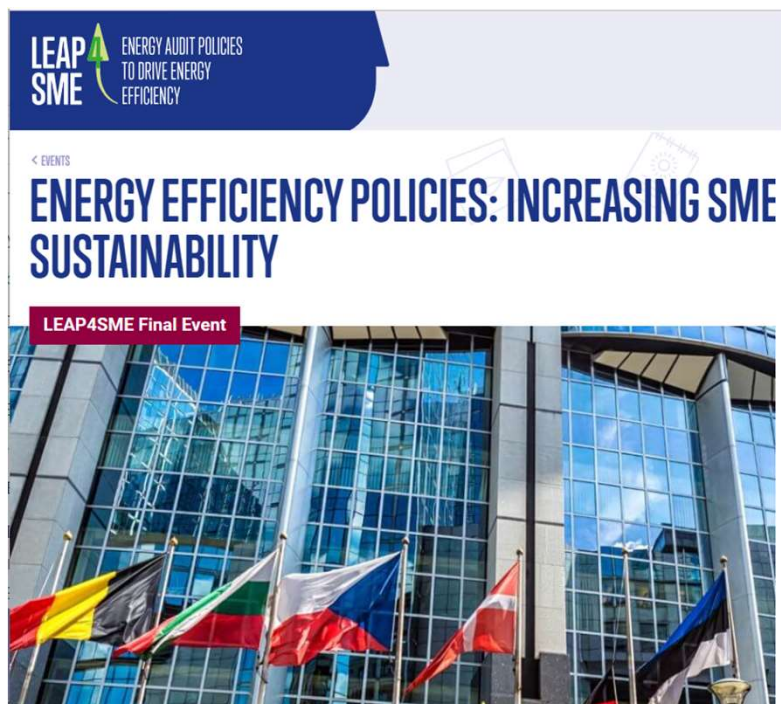
The event will bring together policy-makers, national energy agencies, business associations and other key stakeholders in discussion about creating and implementing more effective energy efficiency policies for SMEs.

It will be an opportunity to gather information from EU policy makers on the latest developments of the EED Recast and to better understand the role of industry, businesses and SMEs in the updated Directive.

The morning policy session will be followed by a session in the LEAP4SME International Observatory series, focused on energy efficiency and sustainable policies and initiatives for SMEs.

The afternoon session will include:

- the results of national observatories on energy efficiency in SMEs in Austria, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, and United Kingdom;
- the opportunities arising from the new European Commission Covenant of Companies for Climate and Energy;
- the role of energy audits and energy management systems in SMEs in policy implementation in Europe and beyond.



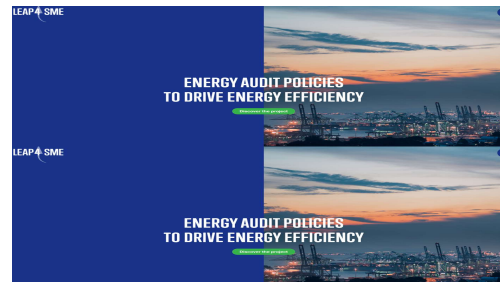
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Details @ <https://leap4sme.eu/event/final-conference-4-july-2023/>



Thanks for your attention

Enrico Biele, ENEA



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