

Details on national observatories

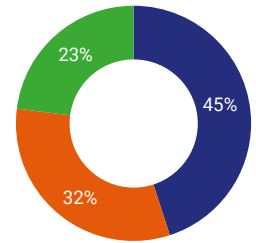
Meetings organised by
Energy Institute Hrvoje Požar (EIHP)

Date	Type	Mode	Participants
2nd June 2022	Meeting	Live	4
20th June 2022	Meeting	Online	9
3rd November 2022	Meeting	Live	4
29th March 2023	Meeting	Live	5

Total number of participants: **22**

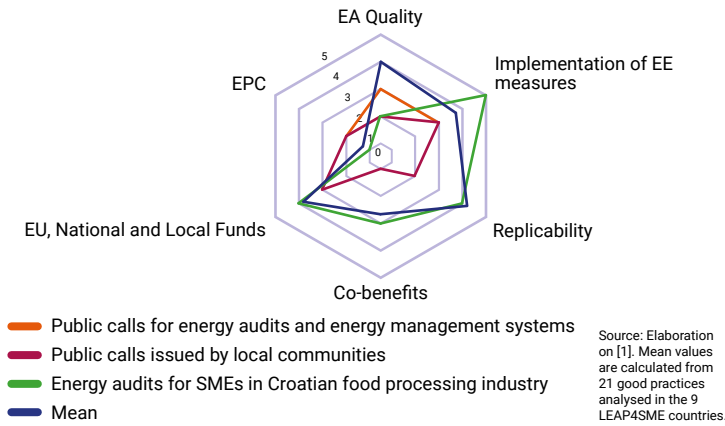
Type of participants

- Business
- Energy agencies
- Policy makers and funding bodies

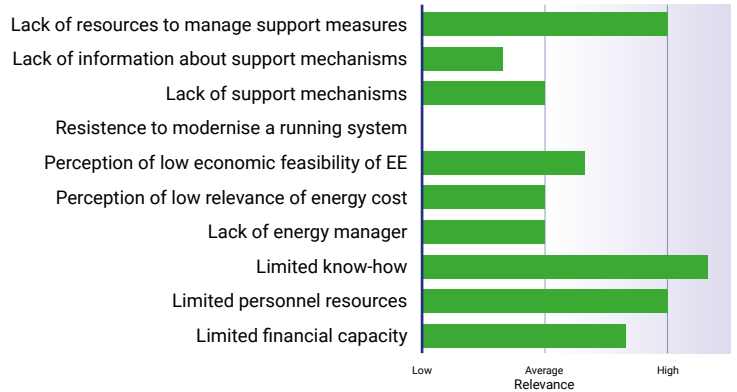


Background from policy assessment and surveys

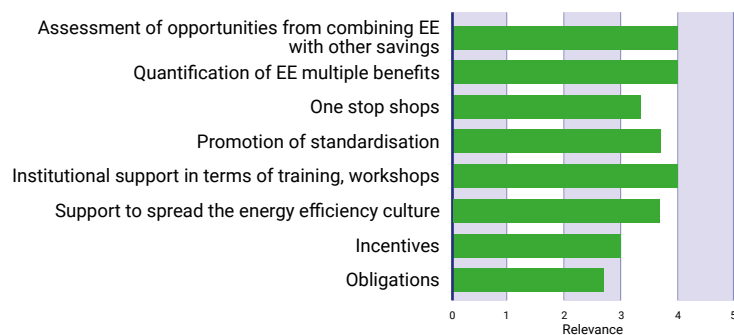
Evaluation of good practices in energy audit supporting programs in Croatia



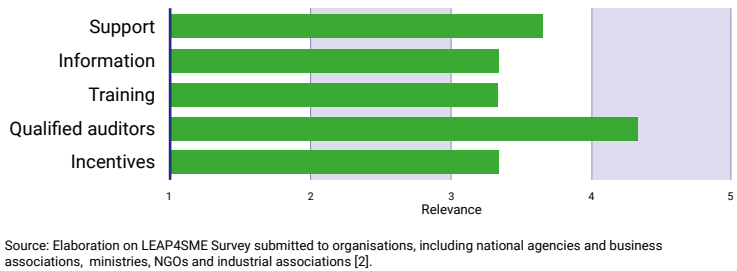
Energy Audits: Most relevant barriers for SMEs



Measures to increase the implementation of energy audit recommendations for SMEs



Energy Audits: Most relevant needs for SMEs



Observatories' main features

Main topics

- Energy audits policy and support framework
- Energy auditor certification scheme
- How to structure financing schemes for energy efficiency in SMEs

Organisational tips and challenges

- Defining the most competent counterparts for discussion within institutions (ministries)
- Adjusting the programme goals with institutional activities

[1] LEAP4SME Deliverable D3.3 Collection of good practices
[2] LEAP4SME Deliverable D3.2 Report on the characterisation of SMEs to steer an effective development policy



Key recommendations

From SMEs and business associations

- **Awareness:** Potential specialised funding – allocations, calls etc. – for energy efficiency in SMEs is available, but the submission of projects is lacking.
- **Audit quality:** The principles of thorough energy audits, combined with economic analyses, potentials and corresponding financing possibilities could be a significant incentive for SMEs.
- **Financial constraints:** Vouchers can be used to support and motivate smaller enterprises to develop energy audits.
- **Consumption threshold:** The relevance of energy on total expenditure affects the motivation to implement energy audits. Policies could be based on energy expenditure thresholds to support energy audits in SMEs.
- **Indicators:** Calls for funding should require energy audits, including the estimation of ex ante and ex post indicators showing the energy savings associated with the interventions to be financed. Such indicators can be useful when applying to projects related to the circular economy since they highlight indirect energy savings. A good practice is for non-energy efficiency specific calls to give additional points for energy efficiency.

Shared with other stakeholders (policy makers, funding bodies, academics etc)

- **Lack of skills:** There is a lack of staff to support energy efficiency and audit schemes among policy makers.
- **Tailoring:** Application parameters for SME calls are difficult to set. In particular two options could be applied: calls for typified projects with defined parameters or open calls without fixed parameters. In the first option, it is easier to evaluate results, but potentially successful projects could be excluded. In the second option, interesting applications may appear, but evaluation of the objectives and results could be more complicated.
- **Monitoring:** Energy efficiency funding schemes for SMEs should include the quantification of potential savings by requiring an energy audit or the compliance with ISO standards.

