

Details on national observatories

Meetings organised by

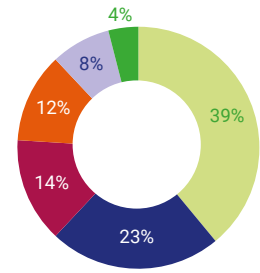
The Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA)

Date	Type	Mode	Participants
17th May 2022	Meeting	Hybrid	23
24th May 2022	Meeting	Hybrid	85
14th June 2022	Meeting	Hybrid	55
24th November 2022	Meeting	Hybrid	70
26th January 2023	Meeting	Hybrid	130

Total number of participants: **363**

Type of participants

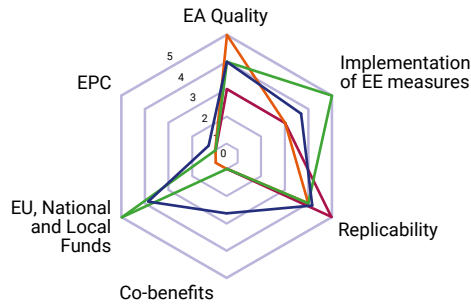
- Energy experts
- Business
- Academia and research
- Energy agencies
- Business associations
- Policy makers and funding bodies



Background from policy assessment and surveys

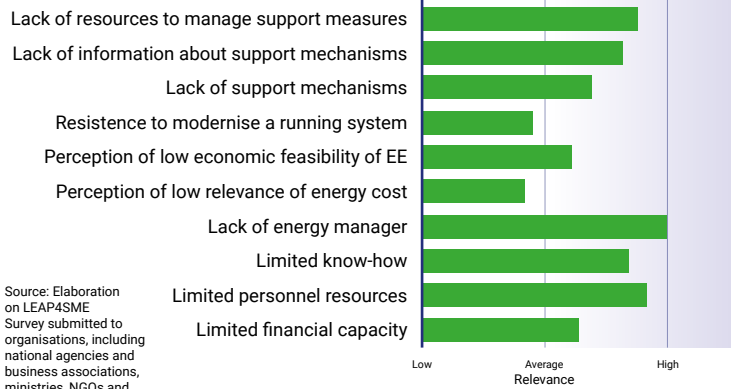
Evaluation of good practices in energy audit supporting programs in Italy

- Regional programmes for energy efficiency/energy audits
- Energy Intensive Industry programme
- TREND - Technology and Innovation for Energy Saving and Energy Efficiency
- Mean



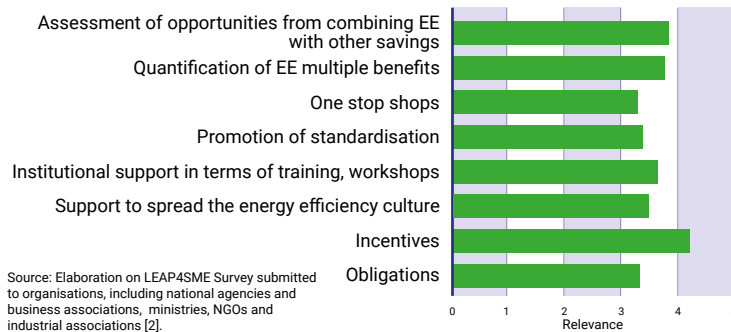
Source: Elaboration on [1]. Mean values are calculated from 21 good practices analysed in the 9 LEAP4SME countries.

Energy Audits: Most relevant barriers for SMEs



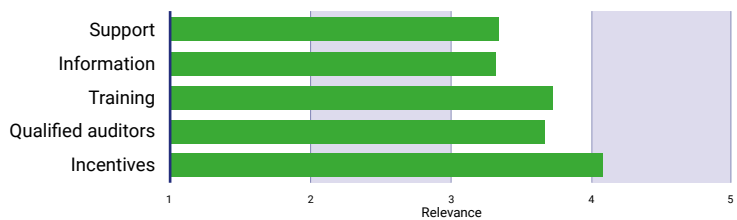
Source: Elaboration on LEAP4SME Survey submitted to organisations, including national agencies and business associations, ministries, NGOs and industrial associations [2].

Measures to increase the implementation of energy audit recommendations for SMEs



Source: Elaboration on LEAP4SME Survey submitted to organisations, including national agencies and business associations, ministries, NGOs and industrial associations [2].

Energy Audits: Most relevant needs for SMEs



Source: Elaboration on LEAP4SME Survey submitted to organisations, including national agencies and business associations, ministries, NGOs and industrial associations [2].

Observatories' main features

Main topics

- National and regional support measures
- Barriers and drivers for energy efficiency and energy audits
- Self assessment tools for energy consumption of SMEs

Organisational tips and challenges

- Difficulties in engaging SMEs
- Risk of low in-person participation when the event is hybrid
- Importance of involving business associations in promoting the event and disseminating its results
- A local scale approach with the involvement of key stakeholders (local entities, industrial districts, etc) fosters participation and diffusion towards companies

[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 policy makers and funding bodies

- **Monitoring:** Improving firms' awareness of their energy consumption, also by financially supporting energy monitoring, is a necessary precondition to plan and implement effective energy performance improvement actions (EPIAs). Energy audits can be considered a key tool, and energy and environmental management systems (also in a simplified version) are also very useful tools.
- **Decision making:** In order to further develop energy efficiency in SMEs not only economic barriers should be considered (for example financing energy audit costs) but also cultural barriers. There is still a lack of confidence on the external energy service companies and auditors, and in the EPIAs they propose, that must be faced.
- **Financial constraints:** Networks of firms are relatively spread among SMEs, since they alleviate the lack of resources which is generally common in these type of firms. Networks could help to better exploit existing energy efficiency opportunities, both at the technological and support measure levels.
- **Tailoring:** The mechanisms for supporting energy efficiency in SMEs should be based on sectoral approaches (with a focus on manufacturing) more than on general programmes.
- **Awareness:** The main challenge in increasing energy efficiency in SMEs is the promotion of a culture of energy efficiency, hence continuous training and access to information is necessary.

Shared with other stakeholders (SMEs and business associations)

- **Policy framework:** Energy efficiency policies must be based on a permanent, stable, and predictable regulatory framework.
- **Simplification:** Easing administrative burdens is a key condition to improve the access to existing incentives from firms interested in investing in energy efficiency. Simplification of procedures is crucial to the effective engagement of SMEs.
- **Energy efficiency support:** The incentives are related to the consumption of energy, instead of the quality of the energy consumption. The incentives (including tax reliefs) should be based on the individual case, in order to fix specific energy saving objectives for each firm.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 893924.

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