

Details on national observatories

Meetings organised by

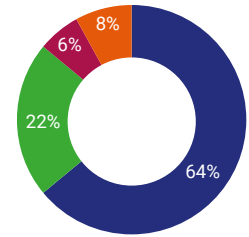
The Energy & Water Agency (EWA)

Date	Type	Mode	Participants
23rd June 2022	Meeting	Live	23
24th November 2022	Meeting	Live	27

Total number of participants: **50**

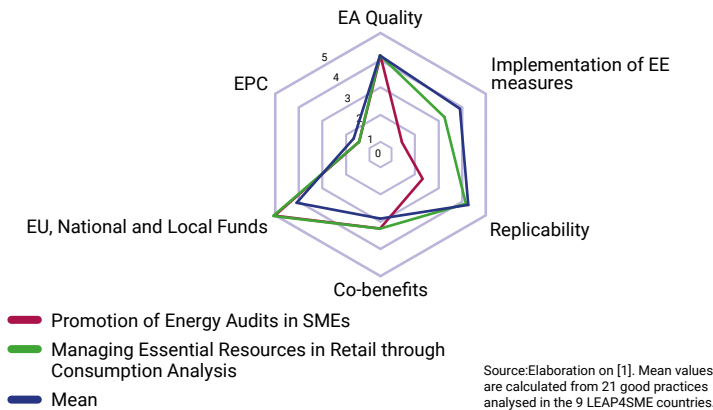
Type of participants

- Business
- Policy makers and funding bodies
- Education and Public administration
- Energy agencies

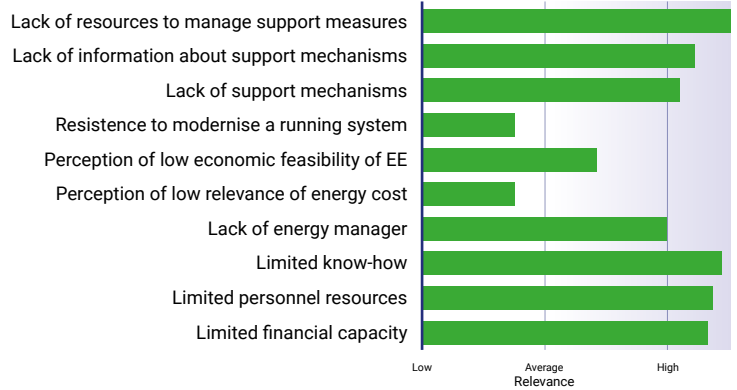


Background from policy assessment and surveys

Evaluation of good practices in energy audit supporting programs in Malta

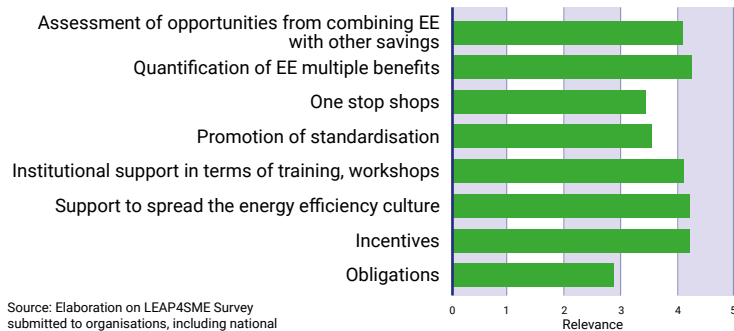


Energy Audits: Most relevant barriers for SMEs

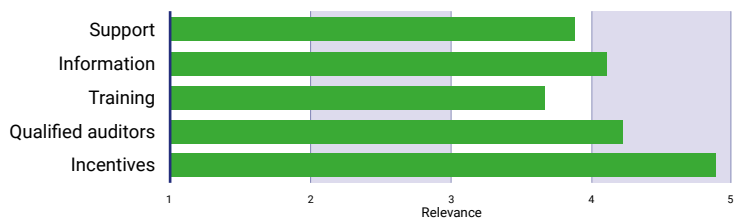


Source: Elaboration on LEAP4SME Survey submitted to organisations, including national agencies and business associations, ministries, NGOs and industrial associations [2].

Measures to increase the implementation of energy audit recommendations for SMEs



Energy Audits: Most relevant needs for SMEs



Observatories' main features

Main topics

- Available schemes for SMEs to implement energy efficiency measures and energy audits
- Role of energy and water consumption in SMEs' priorities
- Barriers and drivers for energy efficiency investments

Organisational tips and challenges

- Involve business associations to reach out to SMEs
- Keep in mind the typical working hours of SMEs
- 'Time is money' – difficulties in getting SMEs attending the event

[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

- **Guarantee schemes:** Also including loans, these are key to ensuring better access to finance, financing new investments and business transfers for SMEs. Guarantee co-lending schemes for SMEs (risk sharing facility and co-lending among different funding bodies) could be another effective solution.
- **Decision making:** Businesses that are not working on sustainability could see a significant impact on their competitiveness. It is recommended to not only support SMEs financially, but throughout their decision-making process so they can make this leap towards sustainability.
- **Digitalisation:** Investing in digitalisation could play a key role in optimising the use of different resources, including energy, human and economic resources, and in helping SMEs to face their general lack of resources.
- **Tailoring:** Ideally, financial support is tailored to specific categories of SMEs while maintaining some flexibility particularly in terms of funding so as not to limit SMEs operations.

Shared with other stakeholders (SMEs and business associations)

- **One-stop-shop:** SMEs would benefit from having a one-stop-shop which can guide them through the available financing schemes and assist them through the application process of such schemes.
- **Lack of resources:** SMEs are not willing to make investments with a Return on Investment (ROI) greater than three years. Moreover, energy efficiency investments could be perceived as too complex and SMEs think that applying for schemes and loans may adversely affect their cashflow due to timeliness issues to receive the desired grant.
- **Awareness:** There are various schemes available for SMEs, some of which SMEs may not be aware of. It was recommended to include information on possible financing schemes in the energy audit report.

