Overview of national observatories
Portugal

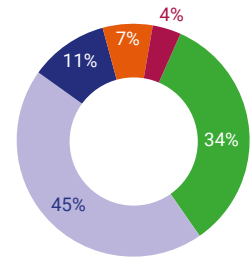## Details on national observatories

Meetings organised by
Agência para a Energia (ADENE)

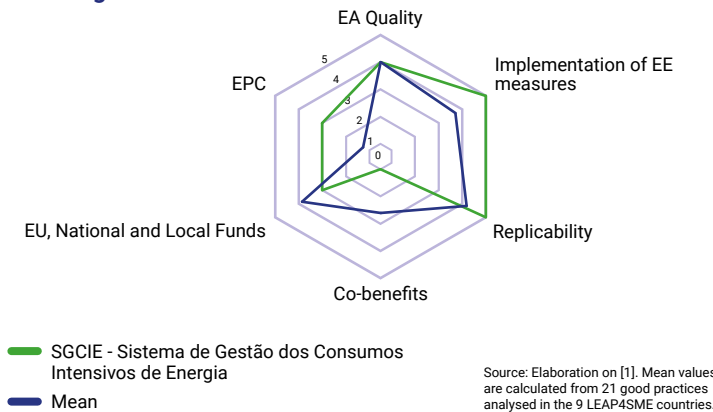| Date	Type	Mode	Participants
1st June 2022	Meeting	Online	15
10th October 2023	Meeting	Online	15
28th February 2023	Meeting	Online	21
		Total number of participants:	**51**

Type of participants

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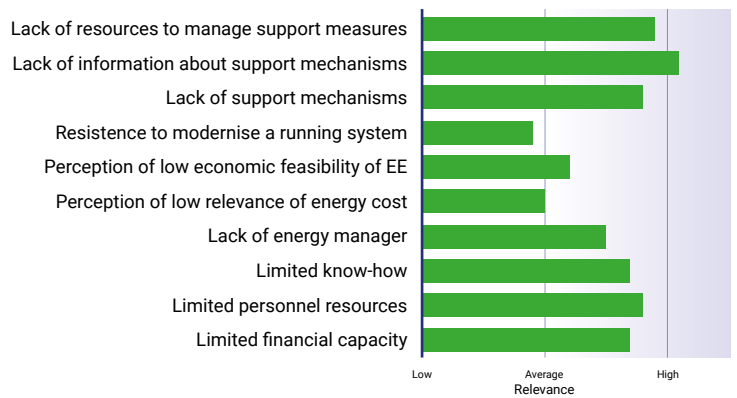- Policy makers and funding bodies
- Energy agencies
- Academia and research

45% Business
34% Policy makers and funding bodies
11% Business associations
7% Energy agencies
4% Academia and research

Background from policy assessment and surveys

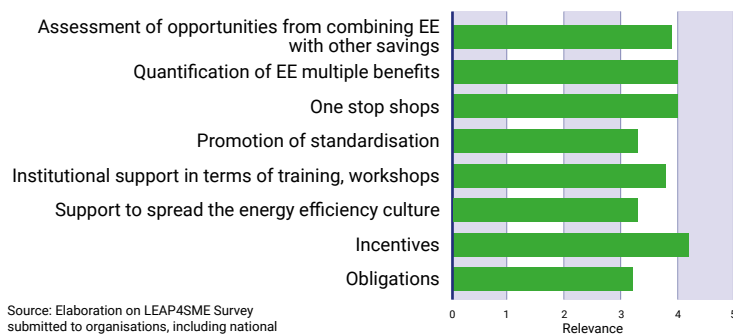### Evaluation of good practices in energy audit supporting programs in Portugal

Radar chart axes: EA Quality, Implementation of EE measures, Replicability, Co-benefits, EU, National and Local Funds, EPC

— SGCIE - Sistema de Gestão dos Consumos Intensivos de Energia
— 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

- Lack of resources to manage support measures
- Lack of information about support mechanisms
- Lack of support mechanisms
- Resistence to modernise a running system
- Perception of low economic feasibility of EE
- Perception of low relevance of energy cost
- Lack of energy manager
- Limited know-how
- Limited personnel resources
- Limited financial capacity
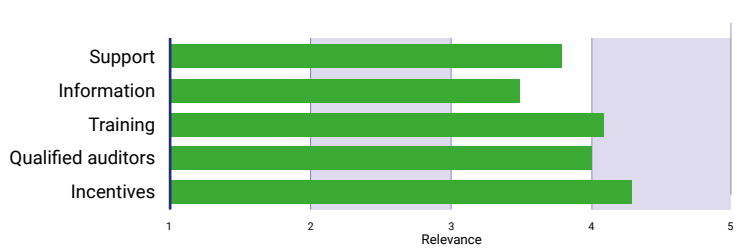
Relevance: Low — Average — High

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

- Assessment of opportunities from combining EE with other savings
- Quantification of EE multiple benefits
- One stop shops
- Promotion of standardisation
- Institutional support in terms of training, workshops
- Support to spread the energy efficiency culture
- Incentives
- Obligations

Relevance: 0 1 2 3 4 5

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

- Support
- Information
- Training
- Qualified auditors
- Incentives

Relevance: 1 2 3 4 5

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

- Non-energy benefits KPIs
- Best practices related to energy efficiency and non-energy benefits
- Resource audit

Organisational tips and challenges

- A group of about 20 entities agreed to be contacted on a regular basis for meetings' purposes, so the range of stakeholders engaged was not that high.
- Targeted direct invitations may be more effective than general invitations or social media posting.
- Online meetings seem to work very well with smaller groups of participants.

[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

- **Tailoring**: The disparity in size and core business of SMEs, and the differences in energy and resource costs, requires specific support measures and energy audit approaches.
- **Financial constraints**: 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 the energy dimension, is interesting and useful for companies. Resource 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.
- **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 the better planning of 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 like "smart meters" are more likely to be widely accepted to collect data. It is good practice to present the work to be developed to the top management, before starting the data collection process.

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

- **Indicators**: Non-energy benefits KPIs can help with the evaluation of energy efficiency incentive requests.
- **Energy efficiency support**: After the identification of energy efficiency measures in an audit, support is needed for their implementation.
- **Digitalisation** programs and energy efficiency policies could be usefully interconnected.

Contact
media@leap4sme.eu

leap4sme.eu