

Details on national observatories

Meetings organised by

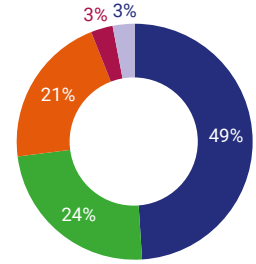
The Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency (SIEA)

Date	Type	Mode	Participants
29th June 2022	Meeting	Hybrid	27
15th May 2023	Meeting	Hybrid	16
22nd May 2023	Meeting	Hybrid	88

Total number of participants: **131**

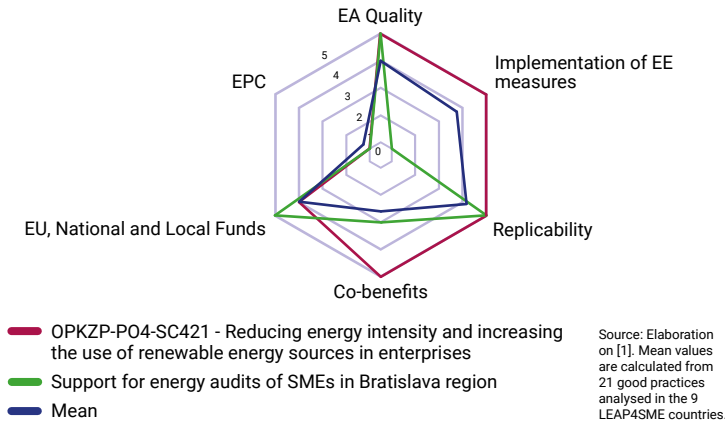
Type of participants

- Business
- Policy makers and funding bodies
- Energy experts
- NGOs
- Business associations

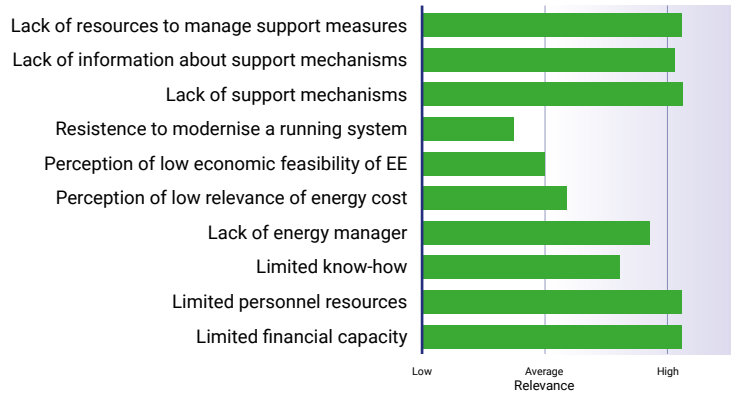


Background from policy assessment and surveys

Evaluation of good practices in energy audit supporting programs in Slovakia

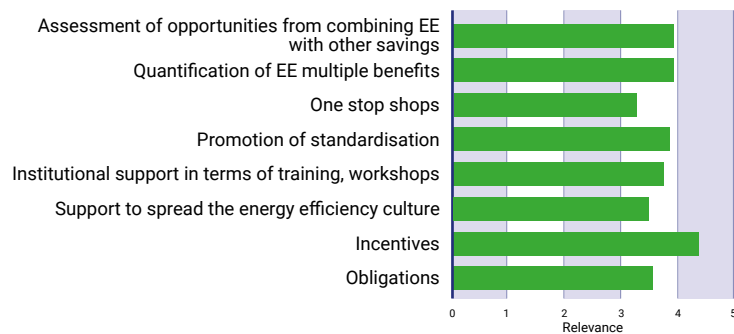


Energy Audits: Most relevant barriers for SMEs



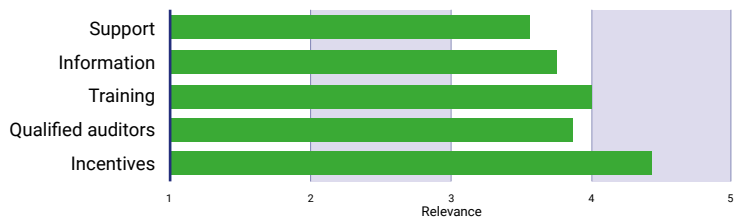
Source: Elaboration on LEAP4SME Survey submitted to organisations, including national agencies and business associations, ministries, NGOs and industrial associations [2].

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

- Overview of official policies for energy efficiency and energy audits
- Barriers to energy audits and energy efficiency in SMEs
- Case studies for energy efficiency in SMEs

Organisational tips and challenges

- Difficulties in engaging SMEs
- Involvement of business associations in promoting the event and disseminating its results
- Participants need to see concrete facts, case studies, numbers
- Inviting external experienced speakers might help

[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:** The promotion and implementation of systematic and comprehensive solutions in enterprises should be an important topic, and special attention should be paid to model energy solutions for SMEs to give a clear idea of what an energy audit is and what the implementation of measures entails.
- **Tailoring:** The energy efficiency in SMEs mechanisms should be based on sectoral approaches (with a focus on manufacturing) more than on general programmes. Interest in audits would increase if they were included as an eligible cost in support schemes.
- **Financial constraints:** For all types of SMEs, the financial capacity of the enterprise is an important barrier. For medium-sized enterprises, the long payback period of the measures is also a significant constraint, with a timeframe of more than 5 years being out of their interest.

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

- **Skills:** The main challenge in increasing energy efficiency in SMEs is promoting a culture of energy efficiency. Hence, continuous training and formation is necessary.
- **Monitoring:** Energy consumption is rarely monitored by SMEs and hence additional support measures, specifically targeted to monitoring, could be useful to increase the adoption of monitoring systems and then the knowledge of firms' own consumption profiles.
- **Audit quality:** The quality of the energy audit and implemented measures should be increased, for example by inspections by the state authority, and it should be assessed to what extent a compulsory professional examination could be a guarantee of the quality of the contractor's work.

