

**LEAP
SME**



ENERGY AUDIT POLICIES
TO DRIVE ENERGY
EFFICIENCY

BEHAVE Conference

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9 National Energy Agencies

supported by:

2 International associations of National Energy Agencies

9 Ministries

4 Further National Agencies

18 SMEs business associations, Chambers of Commerce, Regional and local Authorities



Main goals of LEAP4SME:

- **Mapping and understanding** the complex context of national and local support to SMEs
- **Proposing effective and realistic solutions** to policy makers and policy implementers in terms of policy schemes, cross-cutting policy solutions embracing both energy and non-energy benefits, policy recommendations
- **Knowledge sharing** (successes, barriers and failures) on national policies



“All new climate change initiatives need “behaviour change enabling plans” to ensure success”

Energy Research Partnership report, How behaviour change will unlock Net Zero

BARRIER: A key barrier to cutting carbon emissions are the significant changes in behaviour required, with both the public and by businesses needing solutions to enable capability, motivation and opportunity.

POLICY: Policy-driven behaviour change must be preceded with “behaviour change enabling plans” for business and the general public to move towards a low-carbon lifestyle.

Key findings from SME energy mapping

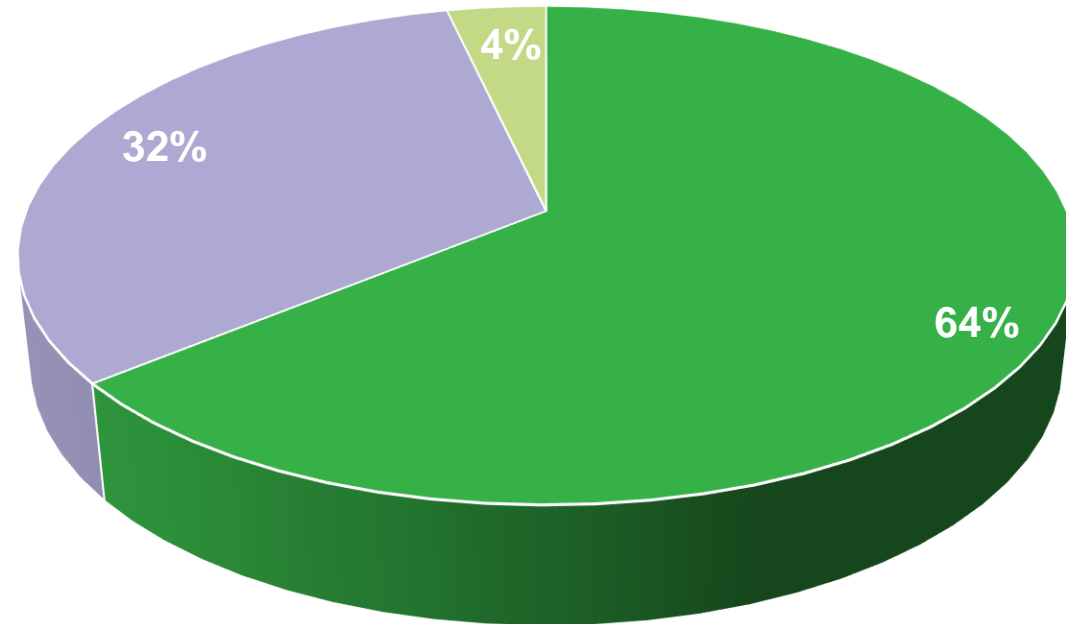
- 99% of businesses in partner countries are SMEs (<250 employees)
- 86% are micro enterprises (<10 employees)
- 87% of SMEs are autonomous, making independent financial decisions
- SMEs account for between 54% and 83% of employment
- For the most of the analysed countries, the SMEs share of gross inland energy consumption preliminary estimations range from 9 to 18%
- Key sectors for number of enterprises, persons employed and value added:
 - Wholesale and retail
 - Manufacturing
 - Professional, scientific and technical.

Overview of SME energy policies

- National, regional and EU policies & programmes have been reviewed
- Some specifically target SMEs, others cover a wider scope (but still affect SMEs)
- Some policy instruments are sector specific or exclude certain sectors
- Policy instruments grouped into categories (although some overlap):
 - Financial Support
 - Information/advice
 - Regulation

Overview of SME energy policies

167 policy instruments identified



■ Financial support ■ Information/advice ■ Regulation

Financial support

- Investment fund initiatives, loans, grants, tax relief
- Funding sources are variable, but most common are National Gov. and EU sources
- Many are targeted at specific SME sectors, for example:
 - Portugal's **Credit line for Decarbonisation and Circular Economy**, which provides access to finance via loans for Industrial and Tourism SMEs
- Others target all businesses, such as:
 - Austria's **Klima + energie fonds**, which subsidise the cost of solar thermal and solar PV through non-repayable grants

Regulation

- Efficiency obligation schemes, EPCs, minimum energy standards
- Less regulations were found than other policy instruments, and none were specifically aimed at SMEs
- Examples include:
 - Poland's **energy efficiency “white certificates”** which stimulate energy efficient behaviours by imposing fees on suppliers who don't demonstrate savings
 - UK's **Minimum energy efficiency standards (MEES)** requiring private rented properties to meet an EPC rating of E or above

Information and advice

- Research, advice, tools, awareness raising, capacity building, network
- Support funded through EU, National Gov. and private sector org.
- Examples include:
 - **EU funded projects**, such as SMEmPower, ENGINE, ERASME, projects that provide information to SMEs to encourage energy efficient behaviours
 - UK banks **RBS and Lloyds**, which offer SMEs energy efficiency advice and free audits
 - Greece's **RESOLIVE** project, which produced guidance for olive oil producers to encourage the uptake of renewable energy

Common barriers to SMEs

- Lack of awareness in the available support
- Limited understanding of policy instrument
- Support not being tailored to SMEs
- High complexity of support measures – applications, implementation
- Low availability and uptake of training and capacity building
- Requirement for continued support which isn't available

Thank you for your attention!

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