

HORIZON 2020 Programme

Contract No.955857



2nd Season of SMAFIN Roundtables

Spring 2022 will bring the second round of SMAFIN Roundtables in Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece and Romania with a focus on design and implementation of policy and funding schemes and approaches. Having the second European energy policy package launched at the end of 2021, time is really interesting for the project to discuss the most effective ways to make good use of grants aiming to fulfil EC goals. Best practices across Europe will be identified to be presented during the events in order to provide motivation and know-how in designing and implementing national initiatives. Stakeholders from important bodies of the political, national, business, construction and the academic sector will have the opportunity to learn, discuss, comment, propose and contribute to the national policy and financial measures.

Upcoming SMAFIN Roundtables:



• **Bulgaria**, To address the most pressing issues, with regards to discussions and consultations with the main stakeholders and working group members, the 2nd Roundtable in Bulgaria titled “Municipal energy management and sustainable energy investments” is organized on the 16th -17th March 2022, in Borovets, Samokov Hotel and online. The following topics have been carefully chosen as main pillars for the event: Municipal energy management systems and their role in attracting funding Energy cooperatives in Bulgaria, challenges and solutions and Reducing energy poverty through energy efficiency policies and measures. The event is organised by EnEffect (www.eneffect.bg) and supported by Municipal Energy Efficiency Network EcoEnergy (www.ecoenergy-bg.net) and the National Trust EcoFund (<https://ecofund-bg.org>).



• **Croatia**, Financing energy efficiency measures in multi-apartment buildings and industry (date: TBD) - the Roundtable aims to encourage dialogue between key Croatian stakeholders on improving the availability and allocation of funds for investments in EE and RES measures in buildings and the industry (primarily from Recovery and Resilience Facility and new operational programme). Adoption and the approval by the European Commission of the NRRP in July 2021 has opened a whole new set of discussion topics and will contribute to the engaged dialogues on how to efficiently implement the foreseen investments in the building sector and the industry (initiating and establishing One-stop-shops, utilising financial instruments and EnPC model).



• **Greece**, The second Roundtable discussion in Greece will be organized online, on the 14th April 2022, aiming to continue the dialogue started during the first event last May and to present the work that is continuously carried out by the SMAFIN working groups. Building on the previous successful event structure, it will present policy developments in national and European level and discuss topics such as the announcement of “ELECTRA” programme, one stop shops in the framework of the national “EXOIKONOMO” program, process optimization for energy efficiency auctions and taxonomy. More information will be available soon on the project website www.smafin.eu.



• **Romania**, The themes of the second Roundtable in Romania titled “Financing Solutions for a Sustainable Increase of Energy Efficiency in Buildings and Industry” to be held online, on 12 April 2022, were defined during the 3rd WG meeting. A balanced Agenda was designed aiming to the continuation of SMAFIN support to the national efforts for the operationalization of different instruments for financing energy efficiency projects. The themes of the parallel sessions will be: Integrated Renovation Services for Residential and Public Buildings, Reaching energy efficiency targets of Industry and Services and Development of Financial Instruments for the Implementation of the National Long-Term Renovation Strategy.

Working Groups Updates

Bulgaria

The 3rd Working Group meeting was organized online, via ZOOM platform, on 8 February 2022. The main goal of the meeting was to finalize the topics for the parallel sessions, gather suggestions for moderators and keynote speakers for the upcoming RT. Participants fixed the dates 16th and 17th of March for the event as most suitable, which, coincides with the expected new version of NRRP on 15th of March. There was a unanimous decision to organize the Roundtable in a hybrid format – online and up to 30 in person participants, with respect to all COVID health regulations in the country. In addition, WG members agreed that having the event in the span of two days can prove more productive for the discussions and overall outcome.

Croatia

The next WG meeting in Croatia will be organised in a virtual format in the first half of March. The participants will be representatives of the ministries, building management companies, financial institutions and service providers. Together they will discuss how to use the conclusions of the previous WG meeting in the upcoming Roundtable, as well as the potential of advancing current policy measures and financial programmes.



Greece

SMAFIN next virtual WG meeting in Greece will be organised on 3 March 2022, and this time members representing ministries, banks, relative projects and building managers will discuss the possibilities of scaling up policy measures and financial programmes as well as defining best practices to support the process.

Romania

Two WG meetings (2nd & 3rd) have been organized in Romania the last months.



The second virtual meeting of the SMAFIN working group in Romania took place on 14 December 2021. The meeting was attended by several representatives of governmental bodies involved in the development of financing mechanisms for energy efficiency projects in the public and private sector, namely the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Investments and European Projects, the Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration and the Ministry of Energy. The Group members discussed the developments following the first SMAFIN Roundtable identifying relevant topics to be followed for the organization of the second one in spring 2022. It was agreed that including a parallel session on financing energy efficiency in industry and services is of utmost interest for both public and private stakeholders.



On 22 February 2022, the members of the SMAFIN WG gathered for the 3rd time again using an online platform. Over than 30 people participated representing all the stakeholders’ spectrum creating an excellent opportunity for designing the themes for the second SMAFIN Roundtable that will be organized in April 2022. The draft agenda developed by the project team was discussed, improved and agreed upon. The last part of the meeting turned into a mini-Roundtable discussion on high interest themes such as best a mini-Roundtable to activate the prosumers/consumers communities and early identification of barriers in project design and development to support the readiness of different profile applicants to submit proposals once calls for projects are open or different instruments are activated. The active dialogue provided additional ideas for the organization of the Roundtable for maximizing its contribution to future actions.



Collaboration with sister projects

SMAFIN and RoundBALTIC met during October and November 2021, to define common areas between projects that can cooperate as well as results and experience gained so far that can be shared, maximising both projects’ outputs.

Towards this direction, SMAFIN has also attended the second Round BALTIC learning online event, on the 10th of February 2022. Its scope was to assist public authorities in making clever decisions by unlocking the potential of energy efficiency investments in the public sector when using EPC arrangements to improve the energy efficiency of their buildings, and ultimately accelerate private finance involvement in energy efficiency. Please find more information on <https://roundbaltic.eu/second-learning-event/>



SMAFIN upcoming events

Croatia

SMAFIN findings will be presented at the ETU Initiative conference that aims to bring together European and Mediterranean initiatives and projects that are promoting a just and sustainable energy transition. The conference is scheduled for the 15th to 17th of March in Barcelona and SMAFIN results will be presented in the panel about financing and funding the transition.



SMAFIN GLOSSARY

#SMAFINGLOSSARY is a new section launched by SMAFIN team in social media, which aims to look into definitions of energy-related and energy efficiency-related terms and abbreviations and share them with the public through a series of weekly posts in SMAFIN social media accounts -Twitter, LinkedIn and Facebook-. The scheduled posts are being uploaded every Tuesday, delving into a wide range of energy terms. The educational nature of this campaign emerged as a natural need, as more and more people are getting interested in the energy sector in our times.



Join the SMAFIN Community

SMAFIN is encouraging an ongoing dialogue among involved stakeholders. Within the e-Forum, interested parties will find guidance for identifying financial opportunities, B2B networking connections and market intelligence support. Register at the <https://www.smafin.eu/forum/>

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