



D5.2 SMAFIN Expanded Platform

January - 2025



The project is co-funded by the European Union's Programme for Environment and Climate Action (LIFE) under Grant Agreement No. 101120412

The Report at a Glance

Grant Agreement	101120412	Acronym	SMAFIN Expanded
Full Project Title	Supporting smart financing implementation for energy renovation of existing private and/or public buildings, investments in SMEs and the tertiary sector		
Funding Scheme	LIFE 2022-CET-FINROUND		
Start Date	October 2023	End Date	September 2026
Project URL	www.smafin.eu		
EU Project Officers	Celine Tougeron, Pierre-Antoine VERNON		
Deliverable	D5.2 SMAFIN expanded platform		
Work Package	WP 5 Communication & dissemination, sustainability, replication, and exploitation of project results		
Date of Delivery	Contractual	April 2024	Actual June 2024
Nature	Report	Dissemination Level	Public
Lead Beneficiary	CRES		
Responsible Author(s)	Elena Taxeri	e-mail	elena@cres.gr
Contributors	Kiki Papadopoulou (CRES), Alice Corovessi (INZEB), Morana Plejić (REGEA), Stanislav Andreev (EnEffect), Damir Staničić (JSI), Horia Petran (PRO-nZEB).		
Reviewers	All partners		
Keywords	Energy efficiency investments, Financing, Roundtables, Energy efficiency initiatives, Website, Platform, CMS, Content, Tools, Best practices, Leverage factor, News, Events, Investors, ESCOs.		

Disclaimer

The sole responsibility for the content of this publication lies with the authors. It does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Union. Neither the CINEA nor the European Commission is responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

ABSTRACT – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document details the content of the SMAFIN Expanded Web-Platform, which has been developed within the framework of the SMAFIN Expanded project.

The overall objective of SMAFIN Expanded project is to support smart financing implementation of energy efficiency investments mainly in private and public buildings but also SMEs, industry and infrastructure, by setting up permanent national roundtables. The roundtable framework is supported through the SMAFIN Expanded Web-Platform, which is the main and central communication hub of the project. The mission of the platform is, first, to provide capacity building and knowledge sharing between stakeholders and function as a consulting tool and second to gather and disseminate project's results coming from SMAFIN Expanded Roundtables, National Working Group and Thematic Working Group discussions, policy analysis and market assessments. As a result, the project stakeholders community will have comprehensive access to all its outcomes serving as a guidance for smart financing, investor education and market intelligence.

This document details the following sections that can be found in the SMAFIN Expanded Web-Platform:

- ▶ Library
- ▶ Country National pages and Roundtables
- ▶ News
- ▶ Results

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	4
2.	Specifications and Infrastructure	5
2.1	Web Address	5
2.2	Sitemap	5
3.	SMAFIN Expanded platform Contents	7
3.1	Home Page	7
3.2	About.....	7
3.3	Library	7
3.4	Countries	9
3.5	Results.....	10
3.6	News.....	11
4.	Platform's Monitoring.....	12

1. INTRODUCTION

The SMAFIN EXPANDED platform has been developed as a web-based repository for information on energy efficiency smart financing. The platform is designed to play a crucial role in sharing the outcomes of the SMAFIN Expanded project and supporting the realization of its expected impacts. To maintain its relevance, the platform will be regularly updated with new information as project generates results.

The expanded SMAFIN platform takes over and continues the work of the successful SMAFIN platform. All stakeholders in the field of energy efficiency financing will enjoy the continuity of the roundtable activity, as the knowledge gained the last six years can be found in one place.

The previous SMAFIN facilitating platform to support the process of roundtables and provide capacity building and knowledge sharing among the stakeholders has been replicated. The new version as SMAFIN Expanded platform, continues to support the successful implementation of roundtables. Announcement, background and agendas are provided prior to each event, presentations, conclusions and keynote speeches after the event.

Furthermore, it is the main driver for the dissemination of project outputs, news and results and thus contributes to the upscaling of best practices on smart financing of energy efficiency projects.

Additionally, the platform collects and provides news on initiatives and new programmes that are announced or launched on European or country level so that stakeholders can be informed at early stages and grab the networking or applying for funding opportunities.

In recent years, a significant number of tools and events, related to smart financing for buildings, has been produced. A wealth of information, support documents and recommendations has been generated, offering significant benefits for removing the financial and non-financial barriers. However, this wealth of information is dispersed across various websites, national and European ones. Therefore, the SMAFIN Expanded platform consolidates this information and makes it easily accessible to the stakeholders, including banks, ESCOs, energy agencies, policymakers, national bodies and national, regional and local authorities.

SMAFIN Expanded platform has been structured on a country-based menu with the main contents in national languages so that the information is without any barrier transferred to local community. This structure also allows for the creation of clones (national platforms) after the termination of the SMAFIN Expanded project.

This document outlines the contents of the platform as well its functionalities.

2. SPECIFICATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

2.1 WEB ADDRESS

The web address of the SMAFIN Expanded platform is <http://www.smafin.eu>.

Its main menu includes a direct link to the previous SMAFIN platform, which has been archived at <https://first.smafin.eu/>."

The platform has been developed in an OPEN SOURCE Content Management System namely WordPress. The CMS has a friendly administration panel and is compatible with the latest versions of all common browsers. It can incorporate documents and media files and provides the "search" facility. Through an authentication user procedure, the CMS can allow different role-based authorization.

The responsive template of the platform is compatible with the SMAFIN Expanded identity.

2.2 SITEMAP

The menu of the platform has been structured in a way that provides direct access to the library, to the country pages, to the project outcomes, to news and to the past project SMAFIN.

The main menu and submenus of the platform are:

- ▶ Home
- ▶ About
 - Concept
 - Partners
 - Communication
 - Contact us
- ▶ Library
- ▶ Bulgaria
 - Roundtables
 - News
 - Communication
- ▶ Croatia
 - Roundtables
 - News
 - Communication
- ▶ Greece
 - Roundtables
 - News
 - Communication
- ▶ Romania
 - Roundtables
 - News
 - Communication

- ▶ Slovenia
 - Roundtables
 - News
 - Communication
 - Cooperation
- ▶ Results
 - Fact sheets
 - Deliverables
 - Posters
- ▶ News
 - News
 - Newsletters
- ▶ SMAFIN PROJECT

3. SMAFIN EXPANDED PLATFORM CONTENTS

3.1 HOME PAGE

The Home page introduces the visitors to the SMAFIN Expanded project highlighting the benefits for each stakeholder category.

News and Xnews are displayed in a prominent place making the home page more attractive.

Header, includes the social accounts of the project and the “search” functionality while Footer, includes the EU and Partner’s logo as well as a contact form. Both the Header and Footer appear on all pages.

3.2 ABOUT

“About” section is providing full details on the project’s objectives and activities, communication material in English and information regarding the project participating countries.

3.3 LIBRARY

The “Library” aims to advance European financial mechanisms for energy efficiency investments by offering information and guidance on smart financing strategies. Its goal is to attract more private funds while reducing reliance on public resources. The Library provides tailored information for various stakeholders, including investors and banks, with education on risk mitigation tools and green banking practices. It offers municipalities and SMEs insights into financing opportunities and best practices, showcases exemplary European projects for policymakers, presents win-win solutions for ESCOs, and shares reports and studies from European institutions and other projects for academics and NGOs.

The “Library” contains all the information and analysis gathered under the second Work Package (WP2) of the SMAFIN Expanded project. This data is documented in the following deliverables and has been transferred to an Excel worksheet for import into the database.

- ▶ D2.1 ASSESSMENT OF RELEVANT PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES
- ▶ D2.2 ENERGY EFFICIENCY BEST PRACTICES REPOSITORY
- ▶ D2.3 MARKET ANALYSIS ON FINANCIAL MODELS

An excel template with predefined fields was distributed to the partners for the data collection as shown in figure below:

Name of the project	Ongoing	Coordinator	EU/ National project	EU programme	Involved countries	Key topics	Key beneficiaries	Short summary (English)	Relevance to SMAFIN Expanded	Link
MESTRI-CE	Yes	REGA, Croatia	EU	Interreg Central Europe	HR, SI, AT, IT, DE, PL	deep energy renovation, construction of public and private buildings, building standards, socioeconomic assessments, citizen involvement, sustainable cities	Energy agencies, Public authorities, SMEs, Financial institutions, Citizens	MESTRI-CE is developing a methodology to support the transportation of new EU requirements for each element in the buildings (re)construction investment process: building standards and tools, data management, technical and financial aspects, and the implementation of the methodology in the field.	Green-Sustainable financing	MESTRI-CE
ORFEE	Yes	Energies Demain	EU	Horizon 2020	FR, ES	One-Stop-Shop, financing schemes, platform, homeowners, business models	SMEs, Citizens, Financial institutions	ORFEE is a project of the European Commission for the purpose of creating companies acting as One-Stop-Shops. ORFEE has three primary objectives: 1) Support households in implementing energy-efficient renovations, 2) Provide the financial support for the construction and the renovation of buildings.	One-Stop-Shop	ORFEE
RENOINVEST	Yes	EMI Epitesugyi Minőségellenőrző Innovációs Nonprofit Kft	EU	Life 2022	AT, HU, SI	cross-border cooperation, action plan, Roundtables, building renovation, sustainable investments, financing schemes	Energy agencies, Public authorities, SMEs, Financial institutions, Citizens	RENOINVEST aims to tackle sustainable building renovation challenges, develop action plans, facilitate dialogue and collaboration and leverage investments in three Central European countries with shared historical, economic, and construction industry traits.	Cross-border cooperation, Roundtables	RENOINVEST
CEESEN-BENDER	Yes	DOOR – Croatia	EU	Life 2022	HR, EE, RO, DE, PL	energy poverty, multipartment buildings, private buildings, capacity building, public administrators, CEE, DECAPS	Citizens, Energy Sector, building Sector	Empower and support vulnerable homeowners and renters living in multi-apartment buildings in 5 CEE countries. The project will help them through the renovation process by identifying the main obstacles and creating energy-efficient renovation plans.	Energy poverty, homeowners, multipartment buildings	CEESEN-BENDER
EEFIG - Energy Efficiency Financial Institutions Group	Yes	Managed by unit B2 in DG Energy	Global	N/A	All EU	DEEP – energy efficiency platform, EEFCO – sustainable investments, financing schemes, ESG, EU Taxonomy,	Financial institutions	Institutions on energy efficiency and provides the Commission with concrete studies and recommendations on the way forward for energy efficiency	EE initiative for the financial sector	EEFIG
EEFEC - European Energy Efficiency Financing Coalition	Yes	Managed by unit B2 in DG Energy	EU	N/A	All EU	European Commission, public authorities and stakeholders in the energy efficiency financing sector, SEP	High-level representatives from all Coalition members, private sector, national authorities	The Coalition builds on the Energy Efficiency Financial Institutions Group (EEFIG), initiated in 2013 by the Commission and UNEF FI, which provided key insights on energy efficiency financing. With UNEF FI as a continuing partner, the Coalition aims to develop a common vision and action plan.	EU initiative for financial sector and national authorities	EEFEC
Working Group for Sustainable Financing	Yes	MINFIN	National	N/A	HR	ESG, EU Taxonomy, climate-related risks, supervision of FI, sustainable and green investments, carbon footprint, employees education, citizens engagement	Financial institutions, Policy Makers and Public Authorities, SMEs, Energy Sector	The Working Group for Sustainable Financing Support, launched on October 24, 2023, by Croatia's Ministry of Finance, focuses on integrating sustainable business practices into the national financial sector. The group gathers members from government, academia, the financial sector, and regulatory bodies and aims to steer Croatia's financial landscape towards greater sustainability. The goal is to create the Sustainable Finance Forum, a centralized platform for coordination and support in sustainable financing	National initiative for financial sector and national authorities	MINFIN

Figure 1: The excel data collection template for the database

The “Library” is a data repository where each tool on the database can be filtered from this page using a series of check boxes from drop down lists. Filtering options are as follows:

- By countries, where the tools are active,
- By beneficiary, including all SMAFIN expanded target groups
- By topic, where all key words belonging to the Smart financing for Energy Efficiency concept are inserted.

Working Group for Sustainable Financing

Save 2023

RENOCALLY

The NZEB ROADSHOW

SCALE-UP fi-compass initiative

REVERTER

PROPEL

SHEERenov+

Save-Renovate

RENOINVEST

Countries involved

Key beneficiaries

Key topics

Search

Search anything among Research Projects

1 2 3 4 →

Figure 2: Screenshot of the “Library”

Once the tools of interest have been located, the user can access more detailed information by clicking on the specific tool (see Figure 3)

RENOINVEST

Summary (English): RENOINVEST aims to tackle sustainable building renovation challenges, develop action plans, facilitate dialogue and collaboration and leverage investments in three Central European countries with shared historical, economic, and construction industry traits.

Coordinator: EMI Epitesugyi Minosegellenorzo Innovacios Nonprofit Kft

Project scope: EU

EU programme: Life 2022

Countries Involved:

- Austria
- Hungary
- Slovenia

Key Topics:

- Action plan
- Building renovation
- Cross-border cooperation
- Financing schemes
- Roundtables
- Sustainable investments

Key Beneficiaries:

- Citizens
- Energy agencies
- Financial institutions
- Public Authorities
- SMEs

External link: Click [here](#) for more.

Figure 3: A Screenshot of the detailed page of each library item

The summary of most of the tools is available in both English and the national language.

A link either to a file or to a webpage accompanies each tool for further information.

3.4 COUNTRIES

This division on the menu aims to provide information on the project's core activities mainly in national languages, ensuring that it can serve as a national platform supporting roundtables in each country (Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Romania and Slovenia) after the project's completion.

As shown in Figure 4, each country menu includes the following submenus:

- ▶ National roundtables' documentation
- ▶ News (Local/National)
- ▶ Project's communication material translated in national languages (Leaflet, Poster, Newsletters)

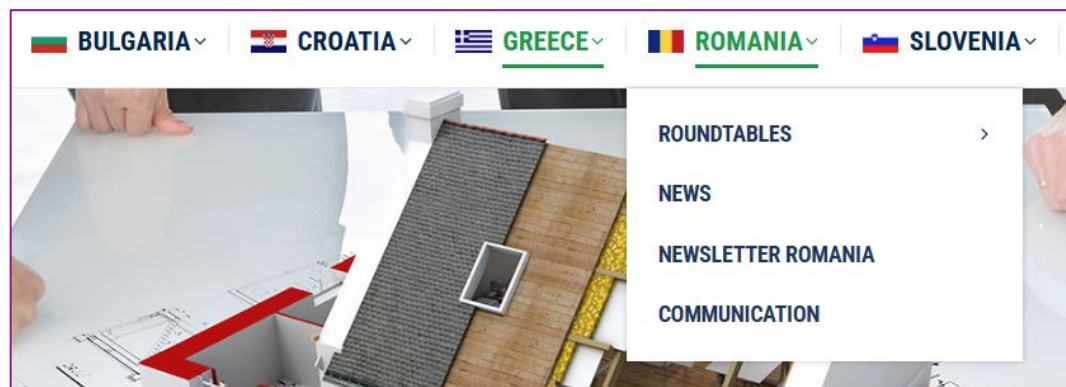


Figure 4: Screenshot of the menu, focused on the country pages

Each Roundtable page hosts the following items:

- ▶ The invitation
- ▶ The agenda, including plenary and parallel sessions
- ▶ The background document
- ▶ The presentations
- ▶ A photo gallery

Under Slovenia, a special section is devoted to the Slovenian cooperation between the two (2) sister projects SMAFIN Expanded and RENOINVEST.

3.5 RESULTS

Under “RESULTS”, the platform hosts key outputs of the project as following:

- ▶ Project’s Deliverables
- ▶ Fact sheets and posters of the roundtables as well as the main best practices and financing schemes

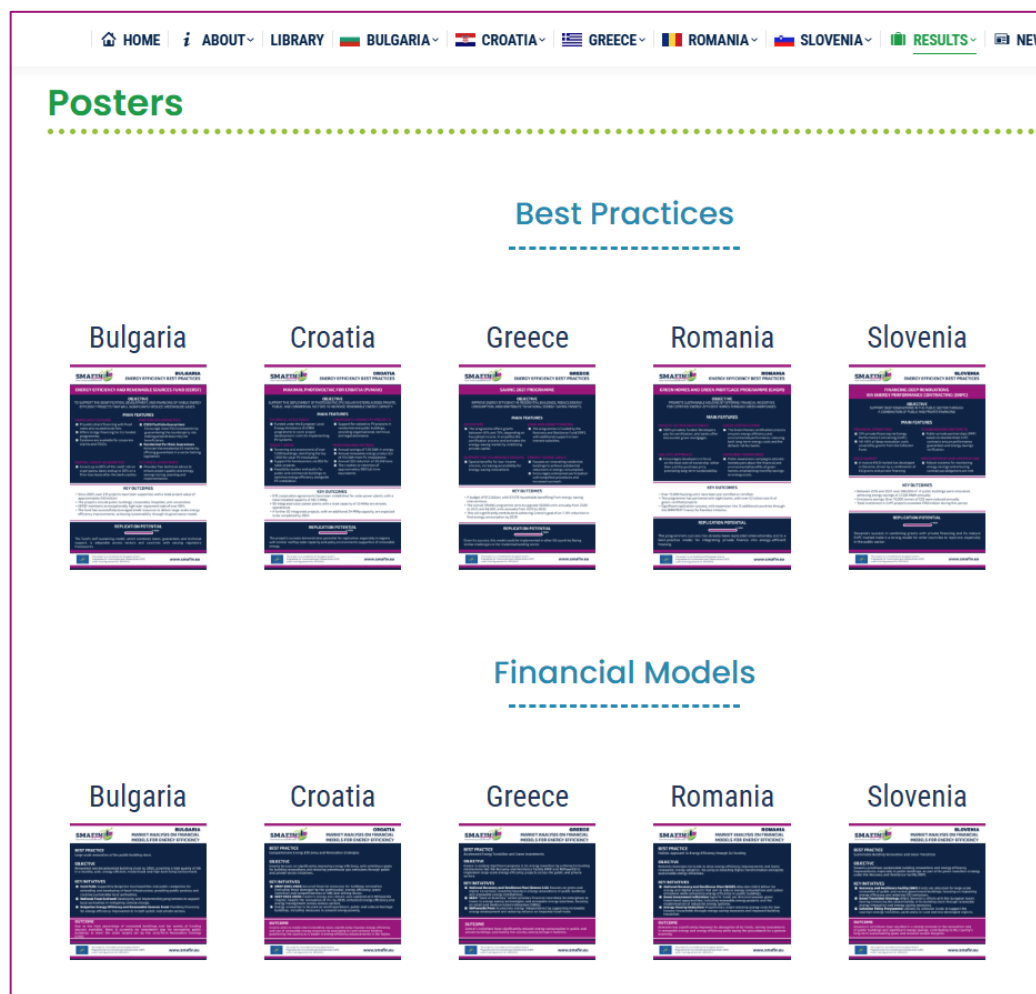


Figure 5: Screenshot of the “posters” sections displaying the Best practices and financial models

3.6 NEWS

The “News” section includes among others, updates of the European and national initiatives, success stories and achievements on EU level. News and SMAFIN’s Expanded newsletters published, are targeting all SMAFIN Expanded target groups and are in English, while, under “Countries” the news exist in national languages.

4. PLATFORM'S MONITORING

The SMAFIN Expanded platform is monitored by the Google Analytics

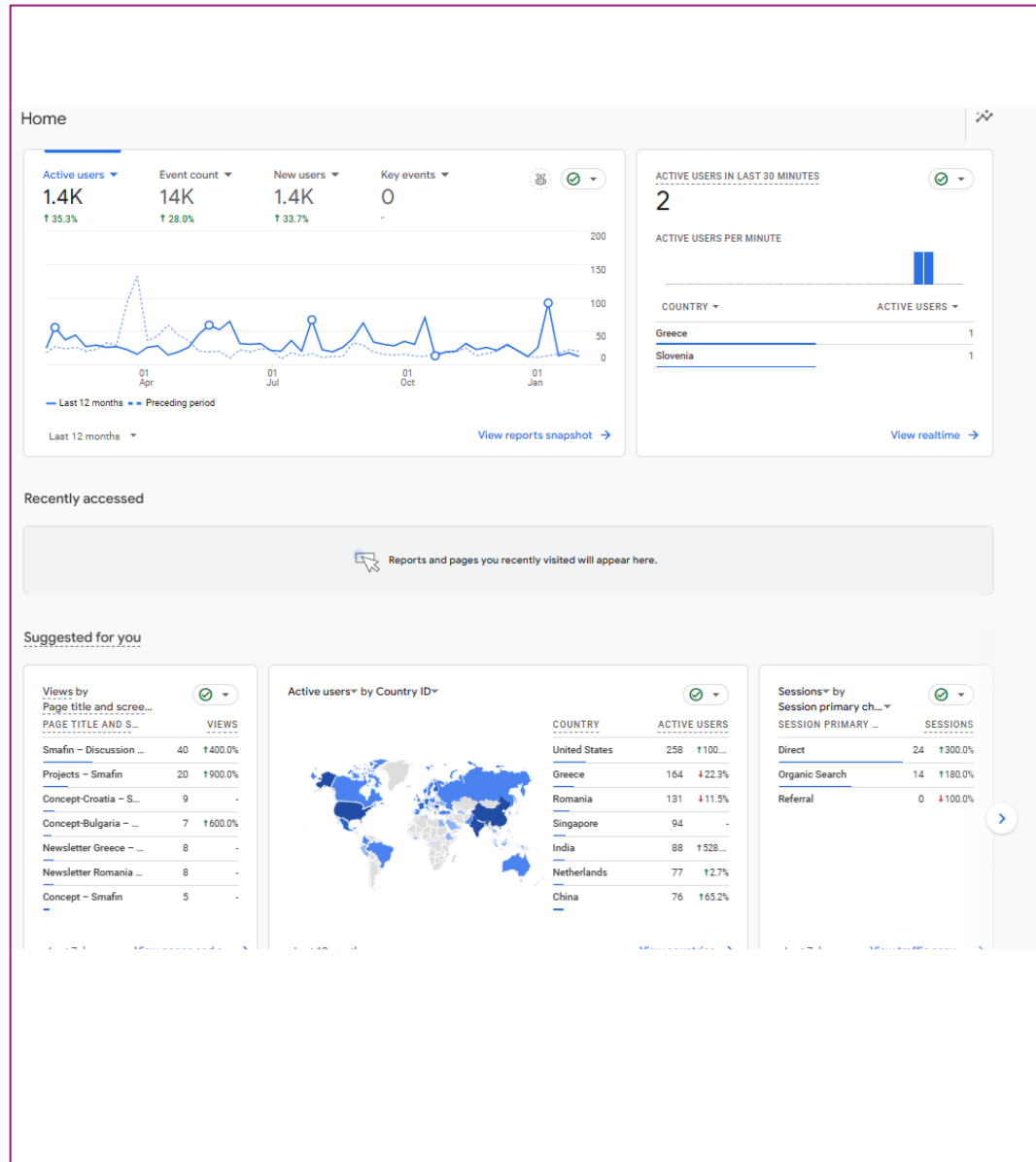


Figure 6: Screenshot of the Google Analytics main page displaying statistics of the last 12 months