

SMAFIN Expanded Roundtables - 2026 Cycle - completed across five countries

The third and last, 2026 cycle of SMAFIN Expanded Roundtables, (RTs) took place in Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Romania and Slovenia. Explore the key highlights, insights, and conclusions from all five events—available in SMAFIN Expanded platform:

- ▶ **Bulgaria**, “**Financing energy efficiency: The Rational Building Renovation Plan and the role of local authorities**”, Tuesday, 17 March 2026, Grand Hotel Sofia, Sofia Hall, Sofia, organized by EnEffect
<https://www.smafin.eu/3rd-smafin-expanded-national-roundtable-in-bulgaria/>
- ▶ **Croatia**, “**Sustainable finance and implementation of energy efficiency projects**”, Tuesday 21 April to Thursday 23 April 2026, Hotel Amadria Park, Sibenik, organized by REGEA and Croatia Green Building Council
<https://www.smafin.eu/3rd-smafin-expanded-national-roundtable-in-croatia/>
- ▶ **Romania**, “**Implementing Smart financing of energy efficiency investments: From strategies and dialogue to action**”, Thursday, 23 April 2026, Institutul Bancar Român Str. Negru Vodă, nr 3, sector 3, organised by national project partners in partnership with the Government of Romania - Department of Sustainable Development, Ministry of Investments and European Projects, Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration, Ministry of Energy and Ministry of Finance
<https://www.smafin.eu/3rd-smafin-expanded-national-roundtable-in-romania/>
- ▶ **Slovenia**, “**Financing Sustainable and Energy-Efficient Projects**”, Tuesday, 19 May 2026, Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel, Bratislavska cesta 8, 1000 Ljubljana. It was organized by the Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Energy - National Center of the European Energy Efficiency Financing Coalition - and the "Jožef Stefan" Institute - Center for Energy Efficiency
- ▶ **Greece**, “**Supporting the Implementation of Smart Finance for Energy Efficiency in Greece 2026**”, Thursday, 28 May 2026, Stratos Vassilikos Hotel, Athens, organized by CRES and INZEB <https://www.smafin.eu/3rd-smafin-expanded-national-roundtable-in-greece/>



Thematic Working Groups Drive Regional Progress

To date, more than 20 Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) have convened; each tailored to the national priorities of participating countries and designed to address their most pressing sectoral challenges. Despite the diversity of focus areas, all TWGs aligned around a shared objective: delivering practical, results-oriented solutions by mobilising private capital, streamlining procedures, and strengthening institutional capacity.

These dynamic exchanges have laid a strong foundation for concrete policy proposals, which will be further refined during the upcoming national roundtables.

The topics explored highlight the most urgent needs and strategic priorities identified by each country, as outlined below:

Bulgaria:

- ▶ Sustainability of One-Stop Shops
- ▶ Supporting tools for the renovation of residential buildings
- ▶ Energy communities for RES and building renovation
- ▶ Establishment of Municipal Energy Efficiency Fund
- ▶ National Building Renovation Plan

Croatia:

- ▶ Renovation of public buildings
- ▶ Decarbonisation of public buildings, technical and financial aspects
- ▶ Renovation of residential and energy poverty

Greece:

- ▶ Financing of energy efficiency interventions under the obligation scheme
- ▶ Financing energy efficiency renovations and the role of One Stop Shops
- ▶ One Stop Shops - OSSs for home renovation: Definition of skill gaps and needs
- ▶ “Renovate my home” program: Monitoring of the progress, definition of barriers and proposals to upgrade

Romania:

- ▶ Development of financing mechanisms for energy renovation and decarbonisation

Slovenia:

- ▶ EU Taxonomy and green financing
- ▶ Demonstration programme to accelerate deep renovation of multi-apartment buildings
- ▶ Visions of district heating development in Slovenia and financing needed
- ▶ Sustainable renovations - integrated deep and seismic renovations (ESCOs on-bill financing)
- ▶ Financial plan for deep renovations of public buildings (new National Renovation Plan)

Factsheets for each topic will be published soon on the project website in all five national languages.



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SMAFIN Expanded Cross Country Lab, 30 April 2026, online

The third Cross-Country Lab of the SMAFIN Expanded project, organised online on April 30th, 2026, focused on a central implementation challenge in energy efficiency financing: the gap between the availability of financing instruments and the actual materialisation of investments. Across Europe, numerous policy tools and financial schemes have been introduced to support energy efficiency. However, translating these frameworks into bankable projects and measurable investment flows remains a persistent challenge. Bringing together policymakers, financial institutions, market actors, and technical experts from Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Romania, and Slovenia, the Lab explored how financing tools move from design to real transactions and what conditions are required to scale investments in the Balkan and Southern European markets.

Please find more information on the newly published factsheet: https://www.smafin.eu/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/3rd-CROSS-COUNTRY-LAB_ONLINE_APRIL-2026.pdf?fbclid=IwY2xjawSxtOFleHRuA2FlbQlXMAbZcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjlwMzIxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEez2BzXQbWbg_EWFpLT5myurEaHaDrpegghODxSbXq0_l8HTjasr5WT3jU1yg_aem_TvpZbqH4ArgEdmVik1cvzw



Stay tuned—there is much more to come!

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