



1st SMAFIN National Roundtable in Greece

Thursday 20 May 2021

(Online)

www.smafin.eu



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AGENDA AND BACKGROUND PAPER

1st SMAFIN NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE IN GREECE

Thursday 20 May 2021
10.00 – 14.30 (online)

**“Supporting the implementation of smart financing
for energy efficient buildings in Greece”**



The 1st SMAFIN roundtable in Greece is organised under the auspices of the Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy.

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THE SMAFIN PROJECT IN CORELLATION WITH THE NATIONAL OBJECTIVES

Increasing energy efficiency is assumed at European level as a cross-cutting strategic objective for protecting the environment and reducing the impact of climate change, improving the quality of life, and reducing the EU's dependence on external oil and gas suppliers. Greece has set ambitious objectives in the National Energy and Climate Plan, and has been concerned, at the current stage, with identifying the best ways to promote actions and support the necessary processes both from national budgetary resources and through the financing framework available from the European Green Deal and the EU Recovery and Resilience Mechanism.

The current levels of investment in sustainable energy are not sufficient to meet Greece's 2030 climate and energy targets. For this reason, smart financing mechanisms are needed to support large-scale and long-term investments, especially in buildings and industry.

During the period 2018-2019, the Directorate General for Energy (DG Energy) of the European Commission organised public discussions on investing in sustainable energy, the Sustainable Energy Investment Forums (SEIFs). The positive experience gained is being exploited through the SMAFIN project (www.smafin.eu), to further identify barriers to financing energy efficiency projects, to support public policy planning in this sector, and to find solutions for attracting private capital and increasing investment in energy efficiency projects across Europe.

Succeeding the progress and the dialogue facilitated by SEIF events, the SMAFIN project funded under the EU's Horizon 2020 program aims to facilitate cooperation among stakeholders within permanent dialogue forums on energy efficiency investments in buildings, infrastructure, industry, and SMEs, in the four participating countries – Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece and Romania. Thus, for the following three years the project envisages the annual organisation of one National Roundtable in each country participating in the project.

The first roundtable meeting in Greece, which due to the conditions related to COVID-19 will take place online, has been designed following the practice of SEIFs organised in the country. Its theme is based on national priorities for increasing energy efficiency rates, as these are described in the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP).

Specifically, during the first months of the SMAFIN project, an extensive analysis of the first round of SEIF in Greece was carried out, regarding the structure, the speakers, the participants, while special attention was given to the issues discussed as well as the comments received from the participants.

The subject of the first SMAFIN Roundtable organised in Greece is “Supporting the implementation of smart financing for energy efficient buildings in Greece”, which is an issue that concerns highly the national public agenda making it a high priority. The agenda will be structured according to the following three main pillars:

- Financing energy efficiency in residential buildings.
- Financing energy efficiency in public buildings.
- Energy Efficiency Auction for tertiary sector companies.

These thematic issues have considered thoroughly both the conclusions and recommendations of previous Sustainable Energy Investment Forums, but also the current challenges that Greece is facing.

The challenges arising from the planning and implementation of the envisaged financing measures include, among others, the maximisation of the expected funds’ leverage, the more efficient use of available state resources, the adoption of innovative financing tools and the more active mobilisation of the domestic financial sector. Within this context, the Ministry of Environment and Energy aims to mobilise all available resources at national and European level, including the Structural Funds.

Emphasis will be placed on the energy upgrade of the building stock through energy efficiency contracts and more generally through public-private partnerships. Besides, particularly important issues are the implementation of competitive procedures to achieve energy savings aiming at improving the economic efficiency of the applied technologies, as well as reducing the risk of implementing measures by third parties through the grouping of small individual projects.

The 1st SMAFIN Roundtable in Greece is organised by **the Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving – CRES** (www.cres.gr) with the cooperation of **INZEB** (www.inzeb.org) and under the auspices of the **Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy**.

AGENDA

10:00- 11:30	Introductory plenary (90 min)
Welcome	Lambros Pyrgiotis , General Director, CRES
Introductory notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Konstantinos Skrekas, Minister of Environment and Energy ▪ Dimitrios Athanasiou, General Directorate for Energy, European Commission ▪ Georgios Stasinou, President of the Technical Chamber of Greece ▪ Dimitrios Stamatis, Chairman of the Deposits and Loans Fund ▪ Spyridon Economou, President, CRES
10:45 – 11:30	European and national framework for energy efficiency policies and financing initiatives
Moderator:	Argyris Demertzis , Journalist, ECOPRESS
	"Energy efficiency policy framework in Greece" Vassiliki Sita , Head of Energy Policy and Energy Efficiency Directorate, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy
	"From SEIFs to SMAFIN: The role of CRES" Charalampos Malamatenios , Head of Energy Policy and Planning Division, CRES
	"Financing of energy efficiency projects" Panagiotis Habesis , Head of Sustainability Unit, Association of Greek Banks
	"EIB financial instruments for energy and climate change" Elias Papageorgiou , Loan officer, Investment Team for Greece & Cyprus, European Investment Bank.
	"Modern financial tools for a green economy"

George Kouloukis, Head of Loan Department, Deposits and

THEMATIC PARALLEL SESSIONS

11:45 – 13:30 Parallel sessions	1st Thematic parallel session (105 min)
	Financing energy efficiency in residential buildings
Moderator	Alice Corovessi , Managing Director, INZEB
	"Greek renovation wave " Chrisoula Vaitsi , Head of support office for the Energy Efficiency Regulation of Buildings, Technical Chamber of Greece, General Secretary of Panhellenic Association of Certified Energy Inspectors
	"Financial tools for energy upgrading homes" Gianna Nikou , Head of NRSF Structure of the Ministry of Environment and Energy - Energy Sector
	"Financial tools for energy upgrading homes" Christoforos Hatzopoulos , Head of Banking & Retail Loans, National Bank of Greece
	Discussion –With the participation of group of experts
13:30-13:45	Break

11:45 – 13:30 Parallel sessions	2nd Thematic parallel session (105 min)
	Financing energy efficiency in public buildings
Moderator	Vlasis Oikonomou , Director of the Institute for European Energy and Climate Policy (IEECP)
	"Energy saving in public buildings" Nestor Mavropoulos , Directorate of Energy Policies and Energy Efficiency, Ministry of Environment and Energy
	"The contribution of Local Government in achieving national goals for public buildings" Alexandra Papadopoulou , Senior Research Associate, EPU-NTUA
	"Funding mechanisms for the implementation of energy efficiency projects in Municipal Buildings - The PRODESA project" Argiro Giakoumi , Department for Energy Policy Analysis, CRES
	Discussion - Participation of group of experts
13:30-13:45	Break

11:45 – 13:30 Parallel sessions	3rd Thematic parallel session (105 min)
	Energy Efficiency Auctions for tertiary sector companies
Moderator	Christos Tourkolias , Energy Policy and Planning Sector, CRES
	"Measures to finance energy saving interventions in companies" Vassiliki Sita , Head of Energy Policy and Energy Efficiency Directorate, Hellenic Ministry of Environment and Energy

	<p>"Competitive energy efficiency improvement processes" Minas Iatridis, Head of Energy Policy Analysis Department, CRES</p>
	<p>Discussion - Participation of group of experts</p>
13:30 – 13:45	Break
13:45 – 14:30	<p>Conclusions (45 min)</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alice Corovessi, Managing Director INZEB ▪ Vlassis Economou, Director of the Institute for European Energy and Climate Policy (IEECP) ▪ Christos Tourkolias, Energy Policy and Planning Sector, CRES
14:30	End of the discussion

The event will be held in Greek.

1st THEMATIC PARALLEL SESSION:

Financing energy efficiency in residential buildings

The 1st parallel session will address ways to ensure efficient, sufficient, and diverse funding for the energy renovation of residential buildings, thus ensuring compliance with national commitments and objectives.

According to the recent report for the national long-term renovation strategy (March 2021), the target for 2030 is the upgrade of the 23% of the household building stock, respectively for 2040 the target is the upgrade of the 36% -42%, while the target for 2050 is to have upgraded the 45% -49%. The energy upgrade of residential buildings has been included in the National Recovery and Sustainability Plan (April 2021) and is described in detail in pillar I – Green Transition under the second axis "Energy upgrade of the country's building stock and spatial reform".

The focus of the axis will also be on the new national funding scheme "I am saving - I am getting autonomous" which was released in 2020. Through this scheme, the renovation of 12-15% of buildings and/or building units is aimed to be renovated within the period 2021-2030, as a target described in the National Energy and Climate Plan that will be achieved through targeted policy measures. At the end of the summer 2021, the new programme will be announced, where different criteria will be considered while examining the applications.

The main topics of discussion that are expected to be addressed in this session are:

- What are the main challenges that have arisen from the implementation of energy upgrade programmes for residential buildings? How can these be treated?
- How will the largest equity leverage by households be ensured?
- How possible it is to improve the economic efficiency of the selected interventions?
- Do you think that the possible establishment of a one stop service (One Stop Shop) would help in the more cost-effective upgrade of the building stock? What potential problems would it be possible to solve?
- Could the gradual radical renovation and utilisation of tools - such as the Building Renovation Passports - be examined to achieve the objectives set for the residential building stock?

2nd THEMATIC PARALLEL SESSION:

Financing energy efficiency in public buildings

The session will examine financial tools that will accelerate the pace of renovations and energy efficiency investments in public buildings and infrastructure.

According to recent research conducted as part of the project on the challenges faced locally, these include lack of data on energy consumption and savings, limited funding, high initial investment costs, long repayment period and measurement difficulties, and verification of the savings achieved. The use of energy efficiency contracts and the grouping of projects could be part of the solution but at the moment, there are difficulties due to lack of experience and know-how, complexity of projects and insufficient legislation. In contrast, funding opportunities, a favourable legal framework and the activation of the local community are considered to be the main drivers for energy efficiency investments.

The first part of the session will be dedicated to the presentation of supportive funding programmes and mechanisms in public buildings, with special reference to municipal buildings. The National Energy and Climate Plan foresees the redesign of the ELECTRA programme, which concerns the financing of energy efficiency interventions in general governmental buildings, including the participation of Energy Services Companies in the implementation of the interventions through Energy Performance Contracts.

The purpose of the ELECTRA programme is to create attractive and sustainable energy upgrade investments in the building stock of public bodies, with effective leverage of funds from both the private and the public sector through the adjustment of the regulatory framework. In addition, the contribution of the upgrading of the role of energy managers of public buildings is expected, as it is added as a condition to financial programmes for energy upgrading of public buildings.

The short presentations will be followed by a discussion on the utilisation of the existing possibilities and the confrontation of the difficulties that the institutions face in filling the financial gaps. The discussion will be based on the following questions:

- What are the main challenges that have arisen from the implementation of energy upgrade programmes for public buildings? How can these be treated?
- How will the largest equity leverage by public bodies be achieved?
- How will the greater participation of Energy Service Companies be facilitated?
- How is it possible to improve the economic efficiency of the selected interventions?
- Could public- private sector contracts be used to accomplish major projects?

- Would it be appropriate to create a priority order based on existing energy consumption, so that the most energy-intensive public buildings are financed first?
- Will training activities be included to change the behaviour of the civil servants involved, so as to achieve energy savings due to behaviour change?

3rd THEMATIC PARALLEL SESSION:

Energy Efficiency Auctions for tertiary sector companies

The design and implementation of the energy efficiency auctions measure was foreseen in the National Energy and Climate Plan. This measure is expected to focus on achieving final energy savings, making a significant contribution to achieving the objective of Article 7 of the Directive 2012/27/EU to improve energy efficiency. It will also provide financial support for energy saving technical interventions in sectors with high potential, such as the industrial and tertiary sectors.

The energy efficiency auctions are planned to be carried out based on the economic efficiency of the interventions and with clear instructions for the calculation and verification of the energy saved. In addition, the measure will not set limits on maximum energy savings, which will be compensated by providing incentives for grouping projects and reaping the benefits of the economies of scale that will be created.

A dedicated working group was set up at the Ministry of Environment and Energy, aiming to draft a proposal for the formation of the institutional framework of competitive processes for the improvement of energy efficiency in accordance with the provisions of the National Energy and Climate Plan. The proposal reached by the working group stipulates that competitive processes can be carried out through the implementation of seven different stages.

During the session, the proposal of the Working Group will be presented in order to implement a pilot program to improve energy efficiency in companies in the tertiary sector.

A discussion will follow, based on the following questions:

- What are the prospects and challenges from the implementation of this mechanism?
- How will the financing of the companies involved be secured by the banking sector?
- What is the minimum level of concentration of interventions that can be ensured?

- Is it possible to group small individual projects? What can be the role of Energy Services Companies in this?
- Could smart online tools be used to bring together small projects and link project developers to interested investors?