



**2nd SMAFIN National Roundtable in
Romania – 12th April 2022
(Online)**

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2nd NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE IN ROMANIA

“FINANCING SOLUTIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE INCREASE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN BUILDINGS AND INDUSTRY”

12th of April 2022

AGENDA AND BACKGROUND PAPER

Event organized in Romania within the Horizon 2020 project SMAFIN in partnership with the Government of Romania - Department of Sustainable Development, the Ministry of Investments and European Projects, the Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration, the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Finance.



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OBJECTIVES

The roundtables organised within the SMAFIN project aim to encourage a structural dialogue between Romanian key stakeholders, in order to define barriers to wider investment in renovation, in the context of discussions on energy efficiency financing, in line with national priorities and opportunities.

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. Romania has assumed ambitious objectives in the national strategic framework in the field of energy and climate change, being 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 in the future from the European Green Deal and the EU Recovery and Resilience Mechanism.

At the same time, it is recognized that current levels of investment in sustainable energy are not sufficient to meet Romania's 2030 climate and energy targets, and that smart financing mechanisms are needed to support large-scale and long-term investments, especially in buildings and industry.

The European Commission – DG Energy organised in 2018–2019 the **Sustainable Energy Investment Forums (SEIF)**. The positive experience gained is relevant **to further identify barriers to energy efficiency financing, and to support the design of public policies in this area, as well as market solutions, attract private capital and increase investment in energy efficiency across Europe.**

Starting with the dialogue facilitated by SEIF events, the SMAFIN project (www.smafin.eu) 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 four countries, including Romania. Thus, the project envisages the annual organisation of round tables in each of the countries participating in the project.

The First Round Table was organised in Romania on 15th April 2021 (on line) and focussed on **FINANCING SOLUTIONS FOR ENERGY RENOVATION OF BUILDINGS**. More details may be found [here](#).

The Second Round Table aims to address **FINANCING SOLUTIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE INCREASE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN BUILDINGS AND INDUSTRY** and is structured according to the following three main topics of discussion:

- Integrated Renovation Services for Residential and Public Buildings,
- Energy Efficiency in Industry,
- Development and operationalization of Financial Instruments needed for the Long-Term Renovation Strategy.

These thematic issues took into account the conclusions and recommendations of the previous Round Table, but also the current challenges that Romania must face.

This time, beside the topical themes related to building renovation, it also approaches the theme of financing energy efficiency projects in industries and services.

The event is organised by the Romanian partners within the project SMAFIN – **ENERO** – Centre for the Promotion of Clean and Efficient Energy in Romania (www.enero.ro) and **Pro-nZEB** – Cluster for Promoting nearly Zero Energy Buildings (www.pro-nzeb.ro) and benefits from the support of the Romanian Government through the Department for Sustainable Development, , the Ministry of Investments and European Projects, the Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration, the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Finance.

AGENDA

The national round table will be moderated by Mr. Gabriel Avăcăriței, Chief-Editor at Energynomics.

The event will take place in Romanian with interpretation.

Duration: 5 hrs including breaks.

10:00	Introductory plenary (1h 30 min)
	Welcome, Setting the scene, Introductory remarks/keynotes
Moderator	Gabriel Avăcăriței , Chief-Editor, Energynomics
	Laszlo Borbely , State Counsellor of the Prime Minister of Romania, Coordinator of the Department for Sustainable Development - Government of Romania
	Diana Bărglăzan , Team Leader, DG Energy, European Commission
	Oana Ozmen , Member of the Romanian Parliament, Secretary of the Commission for Industries and Services, Romanian Parliament
	Pavel-Casian Niculescu , State Secretary, Ministry of Energy
	Marin Țole , State Secretary, Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration
	Boni Florinela Cucu , General Director, ECOFIN, Financial Assistance and International Financial Relations General Directorate, Ministry of Finance
	Moderator , Questions & Answers Presentation of Parallel Sessions
11:30	Coffee break

11:45	Thematic parallel session 1 (1 hour 30 min)
	INTEGRATED RENOVATION SERVICES FOR RESIDENTIAL AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS
Moderator	Dumitru Chisăliță , President, Intelligent Energy Association
Rapporteur	Ion Dogeanu , Executive Director, Agency for Energy Efficiency and Environmental Protection AEEPM
11:50	<p>Ella Șipețan, Timișoara Municipality <i>Padova Fit -the One Stop Shop concept in Timisoara</i></p> <p>Milena Agopyan, Energy Agency of Plovdiv <i>Padova Fit -the One Stop Shop development in Plovdiv</i></p>
12:00	Alice Corovessi , Managing Director, INZEB <i>Building Renovation Passport - iBRoad2EPC Project</i>
12:10	Jonathan Volt , Buildings Performance Institute Europe - BPIE <i>Turnkey Retrofit & Ren on Bill (H2020 projects)</i>
12:20	Q&A, DISCUSSIONS – Moderator, all participants
13: 15	Coffee break

11: 45	Thematic parallel session 2 (1 hour 30 min)
	ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN INDUSTRY
Moderator	Andrei Ceclan , President, Association of Auditors and Energy Managers SAMER
Rapporteur	Manuela Drăghicescu , Executive Director, New Energy Industry Association. SUNE
11:50	Daniela Barbu , Director, Department for Energy Efficiency, Ministry of Energy <i>ESCO Market Regulation, the Energy Performance Framework Contract</i>
12:00	Carmen Pavel , President, Association of ESCO companies, <i>The Energy Performance Contract – a market perspective</i>
12:10	Sebastian Staicu , Project Finance Manager, Romanian Commercial Bank-BCR, <i>Credits for Energy Efficiency Projects</i>
12:20	Adrian Ghiță , Executive Director, The Romanian Fund for Energy Efficiency – FREE <i>Financing solution for EE projects to consumers - Relevant projects financed by FREE.</i>
12:30	Q&A, DISCUSSIONS – Moderator, all participants
13:15	Coffee break

11: 45	Thematic parallel session 3 (1 hour 30 min)
	DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONALIZATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS NEEDED FOR THE LONG-TERM RENOVATION STRATEGY
Moderator	Horia Petran , Senior researcher, INCD URBAN-INCERC
Rapporteur	Alexandru Mureșan , Researcher, Technical University Cluj-Napoca
11:50	Mariano Gonzales , World Bank <i>WB Technical Assistance – Renovation Wave and LTRS Implementation</i>
12:00	Venera Vlad , Associate Director, Infrastructure Europe, EBRD <i>Mechanisms to support Energy Efficiency in Buildings</i>
12:10	<i>Programs to increase Energy Efficiency of existing Buildings:</i> Sorin Maxim , President, Romanian Association of Regional Development Agencies - ROREG, <i>The Regional Operational Programs</i> Carmen Iliescu , DGDRI, Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration - MDLPA <i>MDLPA activities to promote Energy Efficient Buildings</i>
12:25	Q&A, DISCUSSIONS – Moderator, all participants
13:15	Coffee break

13:30	Closing plenary (1h 30 min)
Moderator	Gabriel Avăcăriței , Chief Editor at Energynomics
13:35	Roxana Dela Fiamor , E3G, Green Finance Institute, <i>Coalition for the Energy Efficiency of Buildings (CEEB) Europe – an inspiring initiative</i>
13:45	Ana Maria Ciortan , Deputy Director, Private Individuals Banking Division, Alpha Bank Romania <i>Green Financing and the Energy Efficient Mortgage</i>
13:55	Pavel-Casian Nițulescu , State Secretary, Ministry of Energy <i>Promoting energy efficiency- a priority for the Ministry of Energy</i>
14:05	The rapporteurs present the parallel sessions summaries
14:15	Q&A, DISCUSSIONS
14:55	Conclusions and closing remarks
15:00	End of the event

BACKGROUND PAPER

The round table (RT2) is organized online, on April 12, 2022, starting at 10:00 a.m. (EET), with an estimated duration of 5 hours. It will be hosted by the ZOOM Events platform. Each participant will announce their participation by registering, following the link sent by the organizers.

As this event is basically a discussion forum, the relevant stakeholders' participants will be actively involved in the discussions, while for all participants there is the opportunity to follow the event and to put questions into a dedicated section. These questions will be answered either during the event, for those selected by the moderators, or later on the SMAFIN project platform (www.smafin.eu).

Also, the event will be available live on specialized media channels.

The Round Table will start with a plenary session, which can be followed by all registered participants. After a short break, the active participants will be divided into 3 groups, depending on the parallel session to which they were previously registered. The rest of the participants will have the opportunity to follow any parallel session they want.

The parallel sessions include relevant presentations to set up the current situation in Romania, the activities in progress and future objectives. The interventions will be held in Romanian or English language (for non-speaking Romanian participants), with simultaneous translation, where appropriate. Each parallel session will have a moderator who will convene the sessions and a rapporteur who will prepare a summary of the discussions.

The moderators will prepare topical key questions that are relevant to each thematic session, so that participants can be invited to address them during the discussions, in order to make the thematic sessions effective.

After the end of the parallel sessions and the second break, the participants will return to the plenary session. After the presentations of general interest included in the agenda, the respective rapporteurs will present the main conclusions extracted from the discussions within the parallel thematic sessions, as well as recommendations resulting from them.

A plenary discussion follows, and at the end, the conclusions drawn from the entire event will be summarized. These will form the basis of the subsequent analysis carried out by the SMAFIN working group, which will establish the steps to be followed and the topics for discussion for the next round table.

THEMATIC SESSION 1: INTEGRATED RENOVATION SERVICES FOR RESIDENTIAL AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS

This session will address the issue of increasing renovation rates and the level of performance required for residential and public buildings, in order to achieve the objectives assumed by Romania, following mainly deep energy renovation or achieving nZEB level of public buildings, including energy produced from renewable sources.

The main topics of discussion that are expected to be raised within this section start from the results of several H2020 projects:

- Development of the One Stop Shop concept in Romania municipalities,
- Building Renovation Passport to facilitate higher deep energy renovation rates,
- Innovative concepts for promoting the financing of buildings renovation.

THEMATIC SESSION 2: ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN INDUSTRY

This session will address ways to ensure efficient, sufficient and diverse funding for the energy efficiency projects in industry and services as well thus ensuring compliance with national commitments in this area.

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

- Development of the ESCO regulatory framework and the Energy Performance Contract concept in Romania: status and barriers,
- Romanian NRRP objectives on energy efficiency,
- Successfully applied funding schemes by commercial banks and the Romanian Fund for Energy Efficiency.

THEMATIC SESSION 3: DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONALIZATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS NEEDED FOR THE LONG-TERM RENOVATION STRATEGY

This session will address the mechanisms for the effective implementation of the Long-Term Renovation Strategy, in the context created by the recently published national strategies, plans and programs. Representatives of the Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration, in charge with the LTRS implementation, and of financial institutions involved in buildings energy efficiency programmes are invited to present their work and good practices.

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

- Financial instruments for Renovation Wave and LTRS Implementation,
- Mechanisms to support Energy Efficiency in Buildings,
- Plans to increase the leverage of public funding energy renovation.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The organization of the second SMAFIN ROUND TABLE is expected to strengthen the status of these events as a known forum for cooperation among stakeholders on national policy priorities, to support the implementation of funding programs and instruments, in order to achieve the objectives and targets assumed. In addition, the results of the consultation will provide policy makers with national recommendations for effective and applicable policy measures or financial instruments to be delivered to decision-makers at all levels and / or to financial institutions.

FUTURE EVENTS

According to the SMAFIN project planning, the next round table should be organized after one year (in 2023). However, the next meeting of the SMAFIN working group will be organized in about one month after the second round table to analyse the results of the discussions in the round table and to prepare the activities until the next round table. As the round tables were designed as a living tool, the possibility of having an additional event in 2022 will be examined together by the members of the working group and the project team, with the representatives of the institutions which support at national level the organization of these events.