

The project at a glance

SMAFIN Expanded plans the upcoming 3 years to organize **15 National Roundtables** in the project's 5 participating countries – Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Romania and Slovenia – in order to bring together EU policy makers, national government entities, regional authorities, financial institutions, Energy Service Companies (ESCOs), homeownership associations, industry and construction sectors as well as consumer advocacy and citizen organisations.

The project seeks to broaden the previously established SMAFIN roundtables by expanding their scope, targeting Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and including the tertiary sector alongside buildings - a central focus area- within its view. The roundtables will be constantly supported by established **Working Groups** and by a **facilitating platform** that will assist in the dissemination of news, initiatives and in upscaling existing best practices in the field of energy efficiency smart financing. The project introduces **Thematic Working Groups** that will deeply discuss a specific policy measure, a financial model or a national programme to present joint market or policy documents. It launches **Cross-Country Labs** that play a pivotal role in knowledge exchange on financing for energy efficiency while integrating European practices across EU member states and beyond. SMAFIN Expanded will conclude by developing national **recommendations** for effective policy measures or financial frameworks at national and European level.

Current status

SMAFIN Expanded LIFE project, started its journey in October 2023 and consortium members are busy recording barriers and challenges that hinder implementation of energy efficient policies and the realization of large scale investments in each country, collecting financial models, relevant initiatives, previous projects results and best practices. Findings will be disseminated through the project platform and the National Roundtables. Stay tuned!

Forthcoming activities

Since January 2024, **Working Group** meetings in all five participating countries are organised gathering stakeholders to discuss priority topics regarding energy efficiency financing. Outcomes of the discussions will be used to draw up session topics on which the first cycle of **National Roundtables**, planned for spring 2024, will build. Please find more information on www.smafin.eu soon.



SMAFIN Expanded stakeholders' engagement at the EMAN 2024 Conference

Stakeholders play a critical role in projects like the SMAFIN Expanded. The strategic approach towards stakeholder engagement that involves identifying diverse groups of stakeholders while analysing their interests before initiating meaningful collaboration around knowledge exchange is the topic of the paper prepared by Alice Corovessi, INZEB (SMAFIN Expanded partner) and Chara Karakosta (SMAFIN Expanded Working Group Member). The paper titled "A Strategic Approach towards Stakeholder Engagement Mobilizing More Notable Investment in Energy Efficiency Projects" will be presented at the 8th International Scientific Conference – EMAN 2024 to be held on March 21, 2024, at the Faculty of Economics, University of Rome Tor Vergara, in Italy. It was prepared based on the stakeholders' engagement process followed by the SMAFIN Expanded project.

SMAFIN Expanded was present at the events:

▶ The SMAFIN Expanded project was presented at the transformative **Info Day organised by the Association of Greek Valuers**, on February 17, 2024, in Athens. INZEB's Managing Director, Alice Corovessi, was invited as a speaker, shedding light on crucial aspects of sustainable building practices, the revised Energy Performance of Buildings Directive with a focus on the value of One Stop Shops, and the Building Renovation Passports. Considering the 100-plus participants, all professional real estate valuers, the Info Day was an excellent opportunity to present the objectives of the SMAFIN Expanded project and announce the organisation of the first working group meeting in Greece, member of which is the Association of Greek Valuers.

▶ The SMAFIN project results and the SMAFIN Expanded project's vision have been shared recently with representatives from Regions, Municipalities and other public bodies involved in the planning, implementation and financing of energy transition plans. The occasion was the event titled **"Innovative financing mechanisms for Energy Saving projects in buildings"** organised in the framework of the HORIZON 2020 project **ePLANET**, on Wednesday, 7 February 2024, where SMAFIN Expanded Coordinator, Kiki Papadopoulou presented SMAFIN results as well as aims, activities and expected outcomes of the current follow up project.



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