

# NEWSLETTER #1 – March 2020

## WHAT’S NEWS?



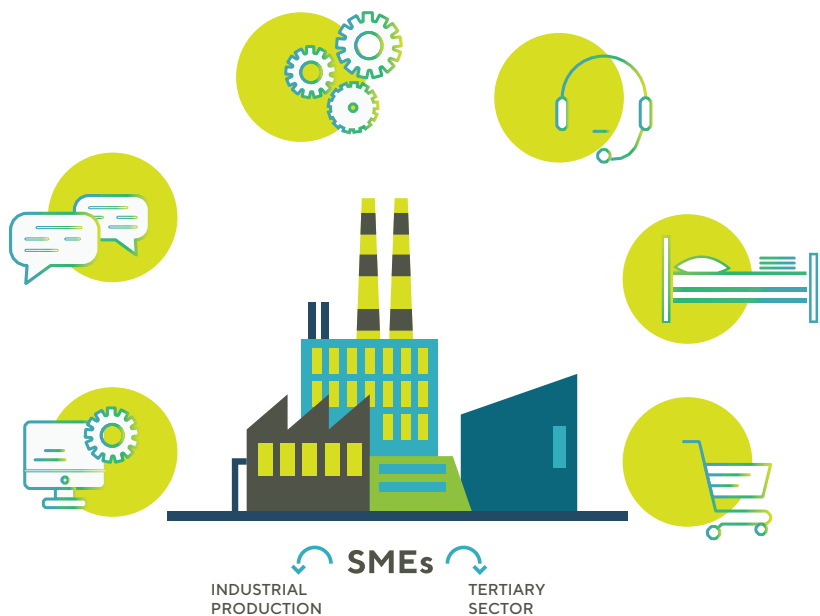
SME mPower Efficiency is the new Horizon 2020 project for SMEs aiming to save energy and reduce costs by improving their energy management and resources.

A joint effort conveying eight countries from the main geographical regions in Europe: West (Spain), Central (Germany, Italy), North (UK), Eastern and South Europe (Romania, Slovenia, Greece, Cyprus). On the 19th of September 2019 the project partners met for the first time in Thessaloniki, in an intense and successful two-day meeting to kick off the SME mPower Efficiency project. During the meeting the main steps of the project have been reviewed, the critical parts analysed and addressed and above all the whole consortium of partners aligned once more to work jointly for the same goals.



After the kick off meeting, the project has been moving fast with:

- The release of the first [Press Release](#)
- The launch of the [SME mPower Portal](#)
- It open social tools [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)
- The delivery of **8 national workshops** in each partner country. Find out more in the FOCUS section below
- The **report** on the main barriers and the status quo for SMEs in the EU partner countries, Find out more in the “DON’T MISS OUT” section below.



## FOCUS

The last couple of months were a busy period for us, delivering **8 workshops** in **8 EU countries**, reaching out SMEs as well as key actors playing a fundamental role in the implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED) in EU, such as professionals, institutions, ESCOs. The common goals were to introduce SME mPower Efficiency, while engaging with key stakeholders and creating an interactive opportunity for networking. Below there is a focus on the workshops held in each partner country.





## CYPRUS

- **Title:** *1<sup>st</sup> SMEmPower Efficiency workshop in Cyprus*
- **Reference partner:** Cyprus Federation of Employers & Industrialists (OEB)
- **Number of participants:** 15
- **Results:** During the round-table discussion, participants had the opportunity to share their knowledge and exchange different points of view, with outcomes covering different aspects on how to promote energy efficiency in SMEs. Initially the main national barriers for the implementation of energy efficiency solutions for SMEs were identified, alongside suggestions in the improvement of the legislative framework and its limits. Another core topic was the SMEmPower training course; attendants investigated topics to include, administrative and formal aspects to make the training course accessible and valuable for SMEs.



## GREECE

- **Title:** *Contributing towards the improvement of energy efficiency in Small and Medium Enterprises: the European project SMEmPower*
- **Reference partner:** Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
- **Number of participants:** 40
- **Results:** Greek project partners, SMEs and the policy makers had the opportunity to convene and exchange knowledge and experiences regarding the energy efficiency. The outline of the current situation and experience will be used for the good implementation of the project. SMEs were informed about the processes to improve their energy efficiency, along with the existing supporting actions and funding schemes. The workshop marked the beginning of the engagement and communication among all parts during all the project duration.



## GERMANY

- **Title:** *Recommendation for better implementation of energy-audit measures in SMEs – Expert workshop*
- **Reference partner:** adelphi research gemeinnuetzige GmbH
- **Number of participants:** 9
- **Results:** The main insights that arose from the workshop were a series of recommendations. The core barrier that the implementation of energy efficiency measures faces is the economic feasibility. One way to tackle it is by making grants and subsidies more accessible. All parties were in agreement that energy audit outcomes should be more closely aligned with opportunities for federal subsidy programs. Another recommendation was the creation of an online portal where firms could have an energy efficiency profile, to reduce information barriers and in transaction costs in the long run and to provide a space where firms could rank amongst their competitors with regards to energy efficiency. Other recommendations were: more support for the implementation of technical measures; state assurance of energy audit quality; the increase of trust towards energy auditors; the improvement of schooling for communication and presentation of economic feasibility/viability





issues for auditors, looking beyond mere amortization periods and calculating returns on investment. A last practical recommendation was the implementation of a novel service “audit+”, where auditors are available to clients even after the audit and act as a technical guide and contact-person during the implementation of recommended measures.

## ITALY

- **Title:** *1<sup>st</sup> SMEmPower Efficiency workshop in Italy*
- **Reference partner:** EnerGia-Da Srl
- **Number of participants:** 17
- **Results:** The workshop further investigated the barriers for the implementation of the EED and energy efficiency measures that SMEs are experiencing in their daily working life. Participants to the workshop were asked to work in groups and reply to key questions. Answers allowed identifying the SMEs’ main concerns, the status quo and the main barriers, alongside possible solutions to incentivise the implementation of energy efficiency solutions. From the side of the organizer and contribution to the project, the results will be used move forward with the project’s next steps. Finally the workshop kicked off the local stakeholder engagement activity, raising awareness of the project and its opportunities.



## ROMANIA



- **Title:** *Barriers and solutions in the implementation of energy efficiency in Romania (1<sup>st</sup> SMEmPower Efficiency workshop in Romania)*
- **Reference partner:** Servelect Srl and Technical University of Cluj-Napoca
- **Number of participants:** 85
- **Results:** The first SMEmPower Efficiency workshop organized in Romania attracted the attention of the Ministry of Energy and of the press in the field of energy efficiency and of course a lot of SME representatives. The workshop gave the opportunity to representatives of European and Norwegian funds and representatives of the Romanian Energy Efficiency Fund to understand more about the barriers encountered by companies in accessing funds. In addition, representatives of Ministry of Energy, Economy and Business Environment learnt more about the main concerns that energy managers have regarding the energy efficiency situation in Romania. Finally, the open discussion allowed the sharing of successful stories, experiences and advice for other energy managers and auditors.



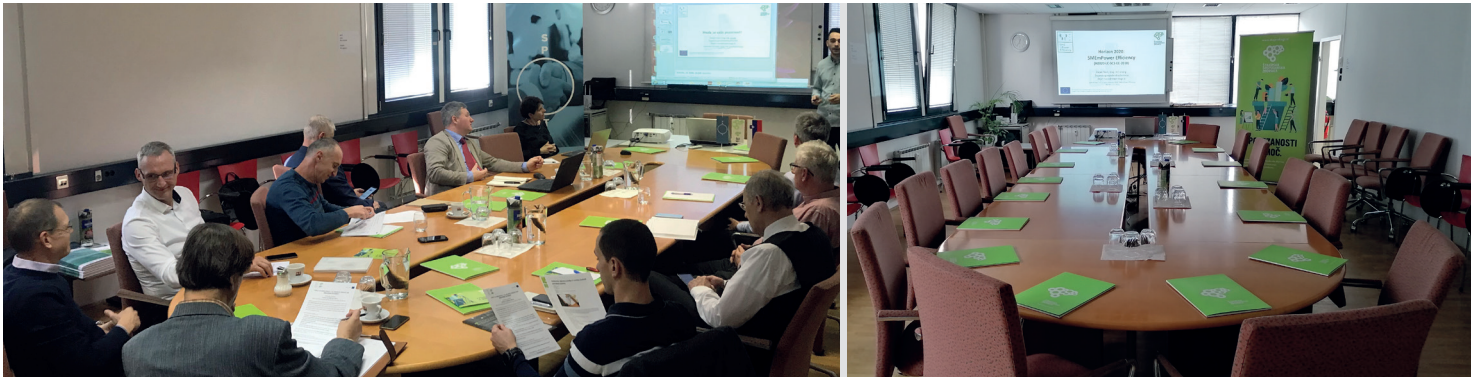
## SLOVENIA



- **Title:** *1<sup>st</sup> SMEmPower Efficiency workshop in Slovenia*
- **Reference partner:** Stajerska Gospodarska Zbornica
- **Number of participants:** 14
- **Results:** Participants, who were experts from various fields of energy sector (production of energy, distribution of energy, energy efficiency management etc.) shared their knowledge and exchanged different points of view. They in turns got



insights on how regional energy agencies can contribute to the aim of the project. Further investigation also regarded the national barriers for SMEs in implementing energy efficiency solutions, such as lower financial resources and fewer employees, the level of bureaucratization and legislation.



SPAIN



- **Title:** *1<sup>st</sup> SMEmPower Efficiency workshop in Spain*
- **Reference partner:** Universitat Politècnica de València (UPV)
- **Number of participants:** 23
- **Results:** The SMEmPower workshop carried out in Valencia, brought together different actors in the promotion of energy efficiency and savings within SMEs. Among the actors, the companies, energy auditors, SMEs, future professionals (last year engineering students), Universities and research centres were also presented. During the event, a round-up table was organized for discussing the main barriers, challenges and potential benefits for SMEs involved in energy saving initiatives. Despite SMEs energy efficiency awareness and their specific and independent initiatives for reducing energy consumption in their facilities, they commented the need for specific training programs for SMEs and technical support for carrying out the energy efficiency measures within their workplace. Finally, the workshop was the first step for engaging SMEs in the activities and objectives of the project.



UNITED KINGDOM



- **Title:** *Hydrogen Safety Awareness seminar*
- **Reference partner:** Teesside University
- **Number of participants:** 23
- **Results:** The event was extremely successful in its engagement for the SMEmPower Efficiency project. It created awareness among the participants triggering further conversations and interactions. Some figures show the engagement results: 90 people registered at the event; 60 attended; 10 enquiries; 5 lead and potential area of collaboration with an SME (Mabbet); 1 potential MoU.





## DON'T MISS OUT!

» **In April**, the publication of a comprehensive report on the energy efficiency levels of SMEs in the project partner countries, including the main barriers identified.

**Framework analysis report**, a report on the current and potentially improved framework relating to energy efficiency in industry, energy managers, auditors and ESCOs.

» **In May**, the publication of two more key reports, providing information on current financial and training opportunities in the project partner countries.

**Funding mechanisms**, a report on current and potentially improved funding mechanisms, support schemes and energy & climate framework in the participating countries for 2030.

**Certification schemes/training methodologies**, a report on current certification schemes for energy managers and auditors in partner countries and in Europe, and on existing training programmes and methods.

... downloadable [here](#)

» Launch of the first edition of the **Education & Training courses for SMEs**

One of the main outputs of the project is an integrated Education & Training (E&T) programme targeting energy related SME staff and tailored on real needs of SMEs. The E&T programme will focus on financial and technical data required to prove that specific measures are cost-effective, while the trainees will apply their acquired knowledge to at least **160 pilot** installations as practical action. Training courses will be open and for free. **It is a great chance to improve your company's energy efficiency and to reduce energy costs, while increasing the knowledge of your team.**

... *stay tuned till summer!*

» **Open call for selection of pilot enterprises.**

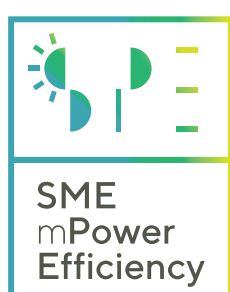
Several pilot enterprises will be selected to benefit of technical support provided by the working teams and consortium partners. They will jointly work on reports detailing proposed energy saving measures for the selected pilots, including financial indicators to enable cross-comparison. Interested SMEs can apply to participate and obtain support on energy surveys, technical assistance and concrete energy savings proposals.

... *come on board!*

» Development of the **FREE online tools:**

Monitoring & Targeting tool for energy analytics and Development of the Measurement & Verification tool.

... coming soon on the [SMEmPower Portal](#)



*A unique opportunity  
for SMEs to save  
energy and costs!*



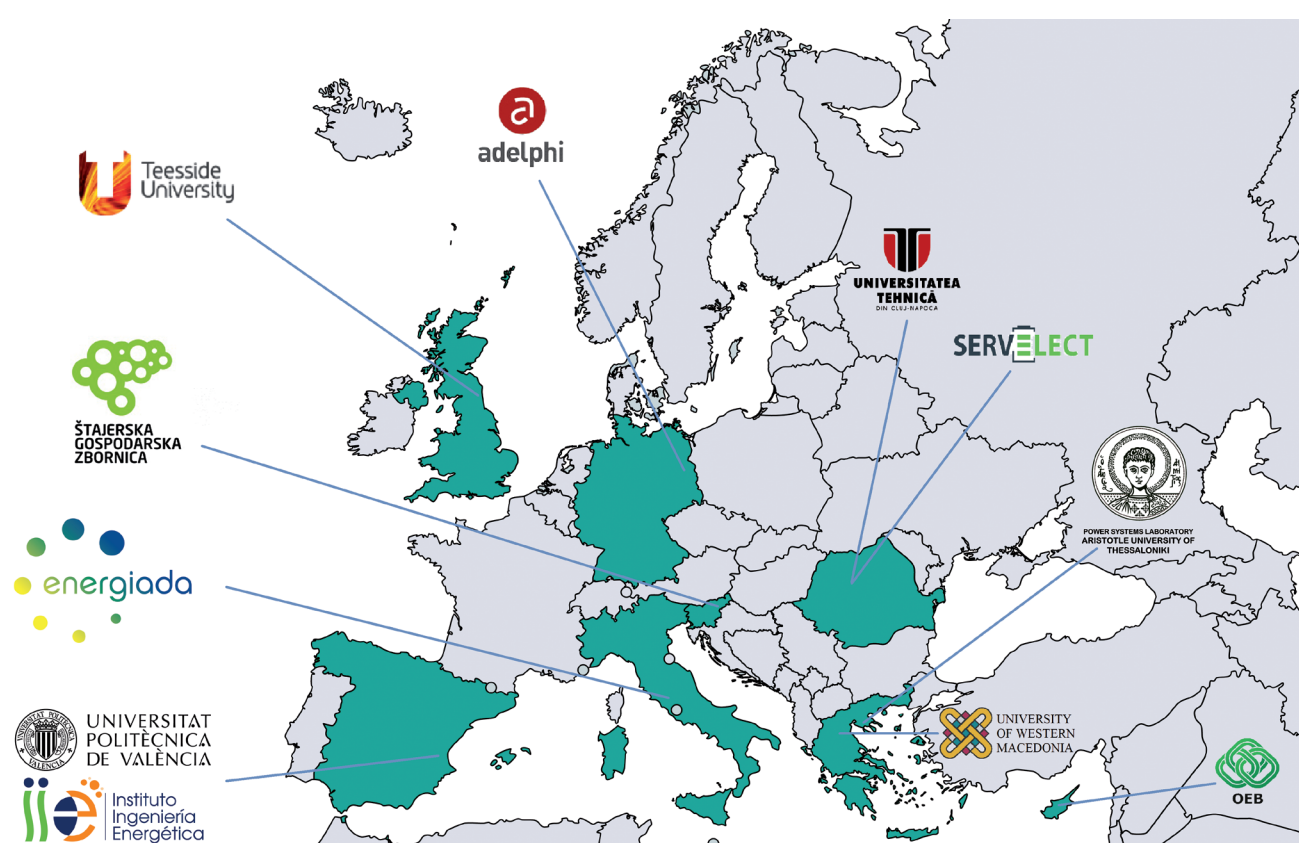


## ABOUT SMEMPOWER EFFICIENCY

**SMEmPower Efficiency** is a new H2020 project that **supports the small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)** in the implementation of the Energy Efficiency Directive, for a more **sustainable and efficient operation**.

The project's goal is to promote **energy audits** in selected SMEs and to support the best proposals. Additionally the project will deliver a series of integrated and accredited **Education & Training (E&T)** programme targeting energy related SME staff, plus in-house short trainings for decision makers.

E&T programme will focus on **financial and technical data** required to prove that specific measures are cost-effective. The trainees will apply their acquired knowledge in undergoing audits in their SMEs **supported by the SMEmPower Efficiency experts**.



## HOW TO JOIN US

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