

finally concluding with the practical action, to apply all the gained knowledge.

Lecturers were one of the strongest points of the program; the highest scores were found in this section of the questionnaire. They were from various sectors such as: academia, business environment and policy, with high expertise in their field of activity. They delivered valuable theoretical and practical knowledge, through LUs highly appreciated by the participants.

Compared with the average score recorded at the consortium level, for the analysed dimension, Romania scored above the average line. This can be due to the fact that in Romania this type of training courses is not prevalent / developed, and due to the rising interest in the topic.

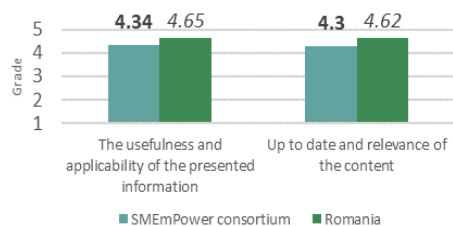


Fig. 9. Comparative analysis Romania vs. Consortium

In comparison with the SMEmPower consortium, the training course structure was appreciated above the average in Romania. The training program it was rated as almost excellent by most of the participants in terms of usefulness and relevance of the delivered information.

3) Feedback qualitative analysis

Even though well structured, the topics presented in each one of the LUs were many, covering a wide range of technologies, to be totally comprehensive, especially for those not having a proper technical background. Thus, the LUs presented could be perhaps refined to include and focus on the most important topics.

More explanation should be given on the calculations; more exercises could be performed by the participants during the course presentations to be clear to all who are not engineers or have no prior exposure to such topics.

Related to practical actions, duration allocated to this activity could be increased to enhance the participants involvement, without affecting their overall daily employment schedule.

V. CONCLUSIONS

Energy tends to be included in the core business of the companies. Awareness of the benefits of rational use of resources, along with increasingly difficult economic conditions have led to changes in the behaviour of SMEs and in terms of energy used. To withstand current conditions, SMEs are optimizing their use of resources and engaging in training programs that can help achieve strategic goals in terms of energy and energy efficiency.

Following the research carried out within the project, the need for programs regarding energy efficiency skills was highlighted. Such courses are useful and attract the attention

of professionals in the field. The professional interest is high in terms of the need to improve their skills in the field and to be up to date with the latest tools for analysis and monitoring of energy consumption within the SME.

The implementation of the training program revealed that in the SME sector practical courses are needed which can offer to the employees the possibility to increase and practice their skills. The education & training program's LUs and overall approach can represent the backbone of a multidisciplinary Masters field.

The presented results show the potential of the SMEmPower Efficiency project and its objectives to "empower" European SMEs to undergo energy audits and take into consideration the importance of energy analytics as energy and cost saving opportunity. The presented topic focused mainly on the current situation identified among the Romanian SMEs, in some cases compared to the partner countries.

The online nature of the course provided an added value, by allowing for a more diverse cohort of professionals to participate in and collaborate on the course, as well as raising awareness for the project throughout Europe.

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