



DEESME

National schemes for energy efficiency in SMEs



DEESME has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 892235.




Krajowa Agencja
Poszanowania Energii S.A.

Experience sharing - Poland

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05.10.2023

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National legislation

- ✓ **Law of May 20, 2016 on energy efficiency** (Journal of Laws of 2021, item 2166).
- ✓ Law of April 20, 2021 on amending the Law on Energy Efficiency and certain other laws, which implements a provision of the Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council (EU) 2018/2002 of December 11, 2018 on energy efficiency.

Article 36 [Obligation to conduct energy audit of enterprise; auditing entities].

An entrepreneur within the meaning of the Law of March 6, 2018. - Entrepreneur Law (Journal of Laws of 2021, item 162), **with the exception of a micro, small or medium entrepreneur** within the meaning of this Law, **shall conduct an energy audit** of the enterprise **every 4 years** or have it conducted.

This means that there is **no obligation** for small and medium-sized enterprises to carry out an energy audit.



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Action by public authorities

- ✓ The Ministry of Climate and Environment, which deals with energy issues in Poland, runs programmes to encourage SMEs to carry out energy audits and implement energy efficiency measures.
- ✓ One of these programmes was Technical support for the promotion of energy audits and energy efficiency investments in small and medium-sized enterprises in Poland carried out by KAPE in cooperation with the Ministry (November 2018 - May 2021).



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Small and Medium Enterprisers - Results of the 2019 survey (5.000 companies)

- ✓ 11% of companies indicate that they have performed an energy audit in the past 5 years. In the manufacturing sector, the percentage is higher at 15%, and a further 5% of manufacturing companies plan to implement an audit in the near future.
- ✓ 30% of companies indicate that there are areas of potential energy reduction in their case. For the manufacturing sector, the percentage is 35%. Among all enterprises, the area mentioned most often as one where there is potential for energy reduction is office equipment and lighting, while among manufacturing enterprises it is machinery and equipment.
- ✓ 37% of companies believe that investments in reducing energy consumption can be profitable. The opposite opinion is presented by 44% of respondents.



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KAPE's experience

- ✓ Entrepreneurs are primarily profit-oriented and are much more convinced to cooperate by the economic aspect of energy saving than by the environmental aspect.
- ✓ The awareness of entrepreneurs regarding the impact of energy efficiency on the operating costs is rather low – concrete examples are needed.
- ✓ As a result of the pandemic, entrepreneurs are focused on activities leading to the maintenance of the company on the market, putting aside activities considered by them as secondary, namely those related to increasing energy efficiency. It is therefore worth showing by example that this is the way to reduce business costs.
- ✓ Entrepreneurs have very limited time to take additional actions – the message to get their interest should be clear and specific.
- ✓ More and more entrepreneurs, especially those well-functioning on the market, notice the positive influence of actions related to energy saving on their positive pro-environmental image.



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Main challenges in Poland:

- ✓ Identification of obliged companies, in particular the creation of a full list of all obliged entities, taking into account market developments.
- ✓ Improve the quality of energy audits to better reflect the cost-effectiveness of operations.
- ✓ Coordinate support mechanisms provided by different institutions and establish national mechanisms for SMEs.
- ✓ Raising awareness of the benefits of energy efficiency, taking into account the inactive participation of SMEs in sectoral associations.



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A possible solution to overcome the challenge:

- ✓ Identification of obliged companies, in particular the creation of a full list of all obliged entities, taking into account market developments.



The new directive (EED Recast) may contribute to the creation of such a list.

Currently, verification of companies that are obliged to perform an audit is possible only by identifying companies that have high energy consumption and do not have a complex energy audit. After initial identification, it is checked whether the company meets the definition of a large company. This is dealt with by the Energy Regulatory Office.

A possible solution to overcome the challenge:

- ✓ Improve the quality of energy audits to better reflect the cost-effectiveness of operations.



Here, the provision from the Energy Efficiency Act specifying who can carry out an energy efficiency audit is helpful. According to the Act, it is a person who has relevant experience or has the appropriate education.

A possible solution to overcome the challenge:

- ✓ Coordinate support mechanisms provided by different institutions and establish national mechanisms for SMEs.



The Ministry of Climate and Environment has prepared:

- a list of programmes and financial instruments relating to energy efficiency improvement projects for the end user;
- financial instruments to finance energy efficiency improvement measures
- Central Register of Final Energy Savings (Institute of Environmental Protection)

A possible solution to overcome the challenge:

- ✓ Raising awareness of the benefits of energy efficiency, taking into account the inactive participation of SMEs in sectoral associations.



There are tools in place to make it easier for SMEs to access free information; courses for auditors and employees of SMEs, often organised by employers; various information campaigns and knowledge bases.

Tools

- ✓ **Handbook for self-assessment of energy consumption for small and medium sized entrepreneurs** – helps answer the question why it is worth to increase energy efficiency in the company and what methods to use,
- ✓ **50 good practices collected** – describe activities that improve energy efficiency of small and medium-sized enterprises,
- ✓ **Electricity savings calculator** – allows small and medium-sized enterprises to prepare simplified calculations that do not require specialist technical knowledge,
- ✓ **E-learning course** – enables entrepreneurs and employees of companies acquire knowledge in the field of energy efficiency, reduce their energy bills or preparing for an energy efficiency project,
- ✓ **Self-audit** – a tool for self-assessing the energy performance of a company
- ✓ **SME E-Advisory** – helps to solve a problem in the area of energy efficiency, comprises database of articles on various issues, as well as analysis of specific solutions based on real cases.



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