



Italian National Agency for New Technologies,
Energy and Sustainable Economic Development

NATIONAL AGENCY
FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY



SMEs energy efficiency awareness plan under the Italian transposition of art. 8 of the EED

*Policy challenges with the implementation of the new EED
and audits in companies, 5th October 2023*

Claudia Toro, PhD
DUEE/SPS/ESE – ENEA



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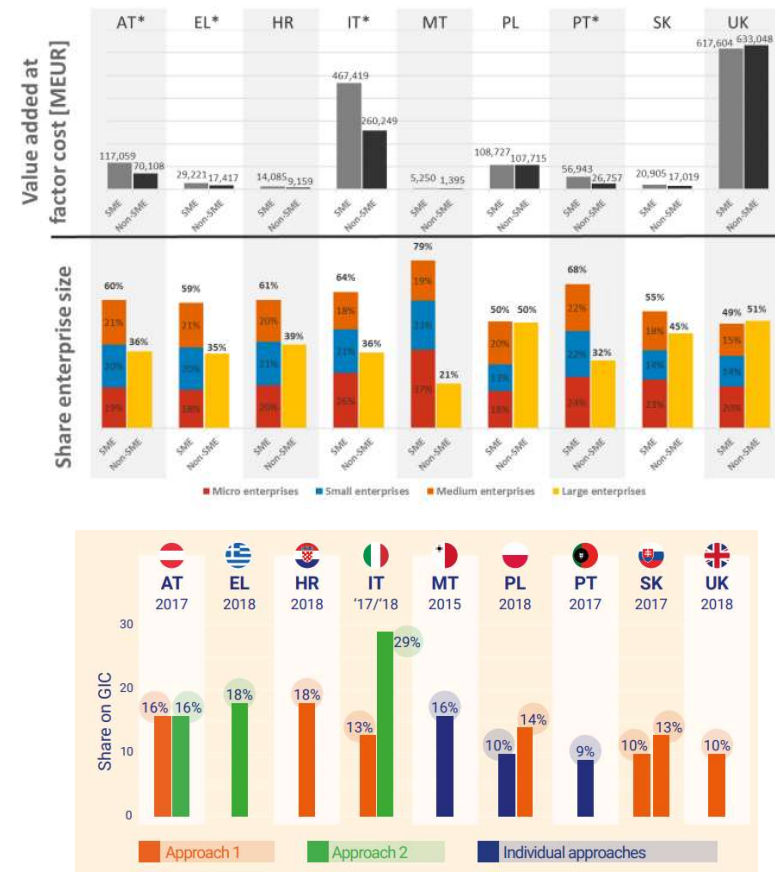


Small and Medium Enterprises in Italy

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of the European economy

Italy (2022)
3,544,509 SMEs

- ✓ More than 99% of all enterprises are SMEs (95% Micro enterprises)
- ✓ SMEs generate 64% of overall value added in the Italian 'non-financial business economy', exceeding the EU average of 56.4%
- ✓ The estimated share of energy consumption on GIC in Italy ranges from 13% to 29%



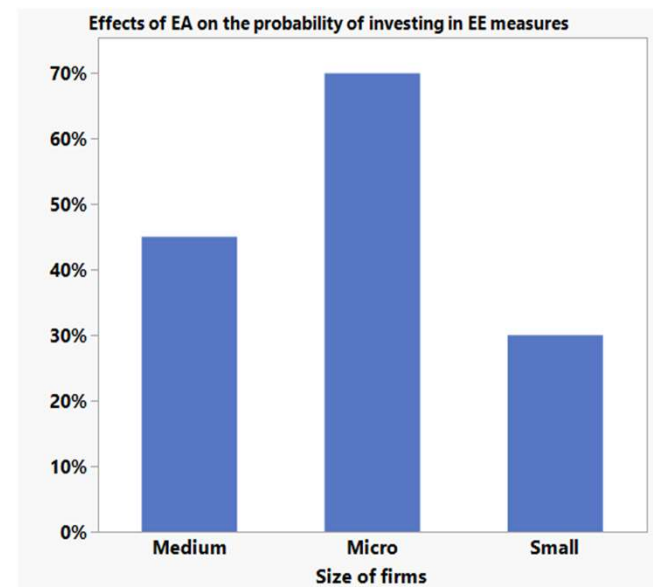
Source: D2.1 Mapping SMEs in Europe: Data collection, analysis and methodologies for estimating energy consumptions at Country levels, AEA [Deliverables | LEAP4SME](#)

Relevance of Energy Audit in SMEs

Energy audit play a crucial role in enterprises' decision making on energy efficiency investments

The probability to invest in EPIAs are 1,5 times higher for companies having an energy audit (*European Investment Bank, 2019*) relative to those not having one.

The energy audit is an effective tool to overcome the information barriers relative to energy efficiency and to enhance the adoption of EPIAs in SMEs.



ENEA elaboration from European Investment Bank, 2019

EAs market overview and barriers to SMEs

The LEAP4SME analysis of the market for energy audits and EE at European level, together with interviews and literature review, allowed to identify a number of barriers and their different impact according to firm size and sector.

Economic

- Cost of EAs
- ROI of EPIAs
- Access to financing

Bureaucratic

- Administrative barriers
- Temporal uncertainty of mechanisms
- Technical language

Others

- Ownership of buildings
- Compromised corporate image
- Uncertainties COVID-19 related

Organisational

- Lack of information
- Lack of understanding of EAs
- Lack of skills/infrastructure
- Decision-making barriers
- Low confidence in the audit process

Barriers	Size of SME		
	Micro	Small	Medium
Access to finance	Challenging – providing guarantee for accessing credit e.g., microloans	Moderately challenging	Not challenging – more likely to have financial reserves. Internal departments that manage business finances
Energy consumption data	Moderately challenging – usually simple energy consumption data / locally accessed	Moderately challenging – may not receive metered consumption	Challenging – more complex organisational consumption
Lack of resource (finance, time, expertise)	Challenging	Challenging	Moderately challenging
Energy efficiency opportunities	Challenging	Challenging	Moderately challenging

Source: D2.3 Energy audits market overview and main barriers to SMEs, EST Deliverables | LEAP4SME

The energy efficiency Italian national awareness plan for SMEs

Article 8, paragraph 10-ter of the Legislative Decree 102/2014 provides that ENEA shall carry out an **annual programme from 2021 to 2030 to raise awareness and provide assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises to carry out energy audits** at their production sites and to implement the energy efficiency measures proposed in the audits.

The plan is not aimed at SMEs (the energy-intensive SMEs) that are subject to the energy audit obligation as per Art. 8 paragraph 3 Legislative Decree 102/2014.

The energy efficiency national awareness plan for SMEs – Main actions

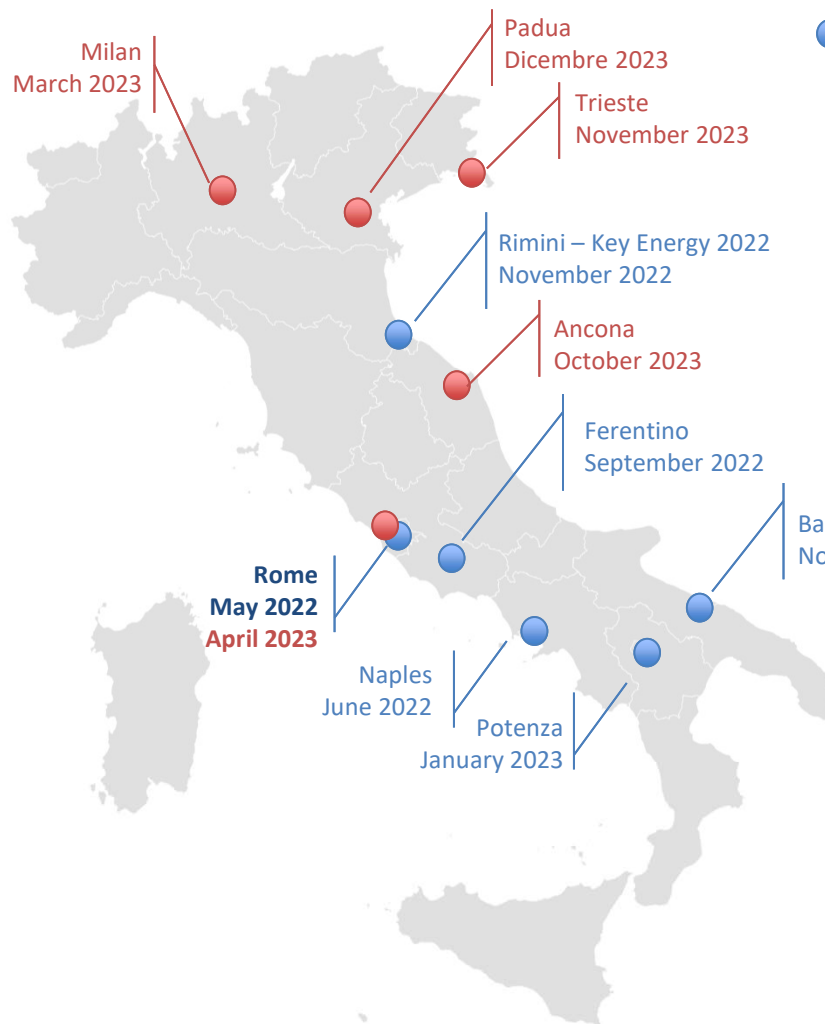
2022-2023 Plan

- Training/information and awareness campaign on energy efficiency for SMEs
- Preparation and implementation of energy efficiency support tools for SMEs.

2023-2024 Plan

- Training/information and awareness campaign on energy efficiency for SMEs
- Dissemination to stakeholders of energy efficiency support tools for SMEs (Tools and Guidelines).

The SMEs training and awareness campaign in numbers



● February 2022- January 2023 6 events

- ✓ More than **1000 participants**
- ✓ Representatives from 5 regions involved
- ✓ More than 20 business associations
- ✓ 2 Professional Associations (Naples and Potenza)
- ✓ Collaboration with 2 Universities (Bari Polytechnic and Basilicata University)

● February 2023- January 2024 6 planned events

- ✓ Milan
- ✓ Rome
- ✓ Online event
- ✓ Padua
- ✓ Ancona
- ✓ Trieste

The SMEs training and awareness campaign: main features

Main topics

- ✓ National and regional support measures
- ✓ Barriers and drivers for energy efficiency and energy audits
- ✓ Tools for the assessment of energy consumption and EAs for SMEs
- ✓ Case studies and best practices

Challenges and lesson learned

- ✓ Difficulties in engaging SMEs
- ✓ Importance of involving business associations in promoting the event and disseminating its results
- ✓ A local scale approach with the involvement of key stakeholders (local entities, industrial districts, etc) fosters participation and diffusion towards companies

Implementation and dissemination of useful tools for SMEs - ATENEA4SME



ENEA in collaboration with the University of Basilicata has developed a **tool to support the implementation of energy audits in SMEs** in the industrial and tertiary sectors

The tool includes two main sections:

- **Analysis of energy, economic and environmental indicators.**
- **Analysis of energy performance improvement actions - EPIAs.** Extensive information is provided on the distribution (and balancing) of electrical and/or thermal consumption among the various utilities in the company/activity undergoing energy diagnosis.

The SMEs training and awareness campaign main features

- During the various meetings, synergies were explored and developed with the **LEAP4SME** project, coordinated by ENEA under Horizon 2020 projects, and focused precisely on policies to be adopted for implementing energy audits in SMEs and overcoming existing barriers.
- As part of the project's activities, the **National Observatory on Energy Efficiency for SMEs** was established to bring together SMEs, local and national public administrations, and all industry stakeholders to discuss specific SME issues.



The SMEs training and awareness campaign: collected recommendation

From policy makers and funding bodies:

Monitoring: Improving firms' awareness of their energy consumption is a precondition to plan and implement effective EPIAs. Energy audits can be considered a key tool, and energy and environmental management systems are also very useful tools.

Financial constraints: Networks of firms are relatively spread among SMEs, since they alleviate the lack of resources which is generally common in these type of firms. Networks could help to better exploit existing energy efficiency opportunities, both at the technological and support measure levels.

Decision making: To further develop energy efficiency in SMEs not only economic barriers should be considered but also cultural barriers. There is still a lack of confidence on the external energy service companies and auditors, and in the EPIAs they propose, that must be faced.

The SMEs training and awareness campaign: collected recommendation

From SMEs and business associations:

Policy framework: Energy efficiency policies must be based on a permanent, stable, and predictable regulatory framework.

Simplification: Easing administrative burdens is a key condition to improve the access to existing incentives from firms interested in investing in energy efficiency. Simplification of procedures is crucial to the effective engagement of SMEs.

Energy efficiency support: The incentives are related to the consumption of energy, instead of the quality of the energy consumption. The incentives (including tax reliefs) should be based on the individual case, in order to fix specific energy saving objectives for each firm.

Additional information can be found here https://leap4sme.eu/results/publications/LEAP4SME_Factsheet_ITALY.pdf

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Claudia Toro, PhD
DU EE/SPS/ESE



Thank you!

claudia.toro@enea.it– www.enea.it
www.energiaenergetica.enea.it

