Semester 1 stakeholder meetings (01/08/2019 - 31/01/2020)

1. Netherlands

Date: December 4th, 2019, 15:00-16:00

Location: Office of the province of Groningen

Attended

1. Dirk Koppert (VNO-NCW Noord)
2. Rein Bouwer (Province of Drenthe)
3. Maya Janssen (Province of Groningen)
4. Nina Knol (Province of Groningen)

Agenda

1. Introduction to the project SMEPlus
2. Introduction of the different policies
3. Possible role for the stakeholders
4. Ideas for extra stakeholders
5. Next meeting

Notes

VNO-NCW said it would be a good idea to get a few SME's to join as stakeholder.

Maybe also a member or representative of an industrial area (they usually have a business club with a board).

We agreed to plan the next meeting in February/March because there will be a bit more progress in the project to talk about.

2. Austria

Dates: 9 December 2019 and 21 January 2020

Location: Eisenstadt, office of Regionalmanagement Burgenland

Attended

9 December 2019

1. Dietmar Baurecht (Regionalmanagement Burgenland)
2. Thomas Böhm (Regionalmanagement Burgenland)
3. Philipp Novakovits (EEE)
4. Johann Binder (Forschung Burgenland)

21 Jan 2020

1. Johann Binder (Forschung Burgenland)
2. Ulrike Cámara-Ehn (Wirtschaftskammer Burgenland)
3. Sigrid Hajek (WIBUG)
4. Joachim Hacker (EEE)
5. Martina Jauck (AMT BGLD)
6. Dr. Gernot Hanreich (FH Burgenland)
7. Thomas Schwentenwein (Energie Burgenland Wärme und Service)
8. Dietmar Baurecht (Regionalmanagement Burgenland)
9. Kathrin Springsics (Regionalmanagement Burgenland)

Agenda

1. Introduction to the project SMEPlus
2. Introduction of the different policies
3. Introduction of good practices

Notes

The first constructive meeting with the local SMEPlus stakeholders in Austria took place on 21 January 2020. The SMEPlus team of Regionalmanagement Burgenland introduced the SMEPlus aims & activities to the stakeholders as well as presented selected best practices from other SMEPlus partners. The agenda and details for the planned SMEPlus study visit in Austria on 4-6 March were also discussed.

3. Germany

Date: On January 23, 2020, 10.30-14.30

Location: Wiesbaden, Office of Ministry of Economics, Energy, Transport and Housing

Attended

1. Sebastian Hummel (Hessisches Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Energie, Verkehr und Wohnen)
2. Dagmar Meinen (Hessisches Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Energie, Verkehr und Wohnen)
3. Miriam Frenke (WIBank)
4. Dr. Karoline Billing (WIBank)
5. Sasa Petric (RKW Hessen)
6. Dr. Felix Kaup (Hessen Trade and Invest)
7. Stefan Heyde (LandesEnergieAgentur Hessen)
8. Katrin Schalk (HoE)
9. Christian Engers (HoE)

Agenda

1. Introduction to the project SMEPlus
2. Introduction of the different policies
3. Introduction of PIUS regional policy
4. Study visit in Gävle, Sweden

Notes

The SMEPlus project was presented to and discussed with a very motivated group of stakeholders. The focus of the kick-off meeting in Wiesbaden was on getting to know each other and an insight into the focus, the process and the goals of the project. Another highlight was the report from the study visit to Sweden, where the partners presented their respective good practices. Overall, it was a good start to the exchange of experience. All five regional stakeholders from Germany are looking forward participating and contribute to SMEPlus project.

4. Romania

Date: On 29 January, 10.30

Location: Craiova, office of SWO RDA

Attended

1. STROE TIBERIU (CRAIOVA CITY HALL)
2. EPINGEAC MIHAELA (ENERGY COMPLEX OLTENIA)
3. ANDREI DANIELA (ENERGY COMPLEX OLTENIA)
4. MURGAN DANIELA (INTERMEDIATE BODY FOR REGIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAM)
5. BALAN OVIDIU (INTERMEDIATE BODY FOR REGIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAM)
6. MARILENA ALECU (INTERMEDIATE BODY FOR REGIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAM)
7. MAGDA LUNGU (INTERMEDIATE BODY FOR REGIONAL OPERATIONAL PROGRAM)
8. IONESCU-LUPEANU SILVIA (DOLJ COUNTY COUNCIL)
9. LAVINIA CRETU (SWO RDA)
10. ALINA NEGRILA (SWO RDA)
11. CRISTINA PETRE (SWO RDA)
12. DANA ILIE (SWO RDA)
13. CRISTINA MIHALSCHI (SWO RDA)
14. MIHAI MARIAN (SWO RDA)

Agenda

1. Introduction to the project SMEPlus
2. Introduction of regional policy
3. Introduction of three Swedish good practices
4. Interaction of stakeholders
5. Q&A

According to the agenda, the SWO RDA implementation team presented the objectives, activities, expected outcomes and implementation stage of the project, with focus on the regional policy instrument, in this case represented by the Priority Investment 2.1A within the Regional Operational Programme 2014-2020.

Three good practices identified and implemented by the Lead Partner, University of Gävle, in the field of energy efficiency of SMEs were introduced to the stakeholders, respectively: Software for industrial energy auditing; Energy efficiency networks ENERGIG; and Database for energy efficiency measures. All three tools were part of a pilot program initiated by the University of Gävle, targeting the improvement of energy efficiency in industrial SMEs from the Gävleborg region.

During the interactive part of the meeting, business environment and regional public authority representatives debated the needs and proposal of improvement measures for the regional policy instrument that addresses the SMEs in SWO Region. In the debating session the stakeholders were showing a lot of interest in the Swedish good practices, and they've asked questions about how the program was implemented, expected results and from which type of financing sources it was funded.

After an intensive Q&A session, regional stakeholders expressed their interest to be directly involved in the project activities. Further activities in the project will focus on the ways that the partners can improve their regional policy instruments. The interregional exchange of experience and know-how will help partners to offer better support for adopting measures and will allow to capitalize the potential of the energy efficiency programmes that apply to industrial SMEs.

Semester 2 stakeholder meetings (01/02/2020-31/07/2020)

1. Spain

Date: On 20 February 2020

Location: Economic Development Agency of La Rioja

Attended

1. Iván Moya, Regional Directorate for Energetic Transition and Climate Change
2. Rebeca Fernández, Regional Directorate of European Funds and the Office in Brussels
3. Florencio Larrea, Regional Directorate of European Funds and the Office in Brussels
4. Elena Garrido, Business Federation of La Rioja
5. Cristina Quintero, Chamber of Commerce of La Rioja
6. Laura Hidalgo, Professional Association of Electric and Renewable Energy Installators
7. Jorge García, National Association of Producers of Photovoltaic Energy
8. Enrique Esteban, Economic Development Agency of La Rioja
9. María Rosario Uruñuela, Economic Development Agency of La Rioja

Agenda

10:00-10:30 Welcome and project presentation introduction. Economic Development Agency of La Rioja

10:30-11:00 Energy Policy in La Rioja. Regional Directorate for Energetic Transition and Climate Change

11:00-11:15 Regional grants to promote energy efficiency in SMEs. Economic Development Agency of La Rioja

11:15-12:15 Introduction of the regional stakeholders, questions, colloquium and closure.

2. Germany

Date: 18. June 2020, 10:00 – 12:00

Location: online via Microsoft Teams

Attended:

1. Sebastian Hummel (Ministry of Economics, Energy, Transport and Housing – State of Hessen)
2. Dagmar Meinen (Ministry of Economics, Energy, Transport and Housing – State of Hessen)
3. Charlotte Reith (Ministry of Economics, Energy, Transport and Housing – State of Hessen)
4. Miriam Frenke (WIBank)
5. Dr. Karolin Billing (WIBank)
6. Sasa Petric (RKW Hessen)
7. Tatjana Rosenau (Hessen Trade and Invest)
8. Stefan Heyde (LandesEnergieAgentur – LEA)
9. Christian Engers (House of Energy)
10. Katrin Schalk (House of Energy)

Agenda:

- Welcome and introduction
- News from the project SMEPlus (current status and report of the 2nd Study Visit in Austria)
- International exchange part 1: Austrian Stakeholder Andreas Vidic presents the Austrian Good Practice „Kommunalkredit“
- Reports of the Stakeholders: Current status of Good Practice „PIUS“ (with a focus on the impact of the Corona-Crisis on the PIUS-programme)
- International exchange part 2: Dutch project manager Maya Janssen presents the Dutch Good Practice „carrot and stick“
- Discussion and questions

Notes (if any)

Due to the Corona-Crisis, the second German Stakeholder-meeting had to take place online. Since by June 2020 everybody was used to online-meetings already, we took the opportunity to foster the international exchange of ideas. Therefore, the Austrian Stakeholder Andreas Vidic and the Dutch project manager Maya Janssen joined the meeting online to present their Good Practices. The German Stakeholders listened to these presentations eagerly and appreciated the opportunity to connect with the European project partners.

3. Romania

Date: June 29th 2020, 9:15 – 12:00

Location: Online via ZOOM

Attended:

1) Virginia Matei (Craiova Large Infrastructure Directorate)

2) Ioan Iordache (National Research and Development Institute for Cryogenic and Isotopic Technologies)

3) Paul Mihai Mircea (Faculty of Electrical Engineering – University of Craiova)

4) Ramona Neacsu (Valcea County Council)

5) Tiberiu Stroe (Craiova City Hall)

6) Mihaela Lupancescu (Automotive South-West Oltenia Competitiveness Pole)

7) Cristina Mihalschi (South-West Oltenia Regional Development Agency)

8) Lavinia Cretu (South-West Oltenia Regional Development Agency)

9) Alina Negrila (South-West Oltenia Regional Development Agency)

10) Mihai Marian (South-West Oltenia Regional Development Agency)

Agenda:

- Top needs presentation: *to support the industrial SMEs taking energy efficiency measures in the South-West Oltenia Region*
- Good practice presentations:
  - *Energy Efficiency Network, a concrete energy solution to reduce SMEs costs by lowering energy consumption in production processes by different optimising energy efficiency measurses (Sweden);*
  - *Energy efficiency through law enforcement & Energy efficiency in large / complex industrial SMEs through energy scans (Netherlands);*
  - *PIUS – Invest (Germany);*
  - *Reducing energy consumption at the level of industrial consumers / Specific Objective 6.2 / Large Infrastracture Operational Programme 2014-2020 - Study Case Heineken Romania SA (Romania);*
  - *ICSI's capacity regarding unconventional energy and good practices developed (Romania);*
  - *Energy audit – analysis technique used to study the energy efficiency of industrial processes (Romania).*

Notes:

Because of the Coronavirus pandemic, all of the project events have had to be reorganised online. Since the third interregional learning romanian event was scheduled in the same period, we have taken the opportunity to arrange the second stakeholder meeting in the same time (basically it was a 2 in 1 event). Thus, due to our stakeholder's interest and requests we have decided to invite Mr. Patrik Thollander from the University of Gavle (Sweden), Mrs. Maya Jenssen from the Province of Groningen (Netherlands) and Mr. Christian Engers from the House of Energy (Germany) in order to present their good practices. In this regard, all participant stakeholders showed interest in learning from the project partners to see what are the key issues that need to be improved and can be improved for our future policy instrument, also taking into account the legal framework that governs this.

4. Netherlands

Date: June 29th, 15:00-16:30

Location: My Office, Groningen

Invited	Organisation	Attended
1. Floris van Dijk	County of Groningen	Yes
2. Dirk Koppert	VNO-NCW Noord	No
3. Rein Bouwer	Province of Drenthe	Yes (via video)
4. Maya Janssen (notes)	Province of Groningen	Yes
5. Nina Knol	Province of Groningen	Yes

Agenda:

1. Update last months
2. Available European Funds; difference between us and the other partners.
3. Questionnaire "barriers and drivers for taking energy efficiency measures"
4. Expanding the stakeholder group
5. Next meeting:

Notes

1. Update last months of SMEPlus happenings

Nina and I told our stakeholders about the study visit to Austria and the online study visit with the Romanian partner/stakeholders. We talked about the different cases/projects and concluded that it is interesting for us to invite the German and Swedish partners to give a presentation in our upcoming stakeholder meeting.

2. Available European Funds; difference between us and the other partners.

Nina explained which European funds are available for the northern region of the Netherlands en how they are divided and distributed. This is done by SNN and they use the RIS and the OP ERDF. In the Northern Netherlands ERDF is mainly used for innovation projects for SMEs. The ERDF works with calls and SMEs, knowledge institutions and other partners can submit an application.

3. Questionnaire "barriers and drivers for taking energy efficiency measures"

Floris had a good idea about distributing the questionnaire through a teacher and students of the Hanzehogeschool Groningen. He will ask this teacher what the possibilities are. The students can use this as a study-project and get study points for it.

Follow up on September 9th.

4. Ideas for extra stakeholders

Skipped for now.

5. Next meeting

We agreed to plan the next meeting on September 9th. We will ask if the German and Swedish partners are available to give a presentation.

Semester 3 stakeholder meetings (01/08/2020 - 31/01/2021)

1. Netherlands

Date: September 9th 2020

Location: Health Hub Roden, Drenthe

Invited	Organisation	Attended
Floris van Dijk	County of Groningen	Yes
Dirk Koppert	VNO-NCW Noord	Yes
Rein Bouwer	Province of Drenthe	Yes
Maya Janssen (notes)	Province of Groningen	Yes
Nina Knol	Province of Groningen	Yes

Agenda:

1. Update: progress and actions in the last months
2. Presentations by German and Swedish project-partners
3. Questionnaire
4. Next steps; action plan

Notes

1. Nina and Maya explained the steps and actions taken in the last months. Due to Covid not a lot happened.
2. The German and Swedish presentations were received well by the stakeholders.
3. Maya explained the questionnaire; the questions it contains and what the target group is. She also asked if the stakeholders would help send it out to their companies.
4. We talked about the next planned steps and about the German and Dutch (online) study visits that are coming up this semester. We asked them to play a part in the dutch study visit and the province of Drenthe and county of Groningen are willing to do this.

2. Germany

Date: December 9th 2020 and 27 January 2021

Location: Online Dutch German study visits

Participants

Felix Kaup	Hessen Trade and Invest
Sebastian Hummel	Ministry of Economics, Energy, Transport and Housing – State of Hessen
Sasa Petric	RKW Hessen
Charlotte Reith	Ministry of Economics, Energy, Transport and Housing – State of Hessen
Robert Weicht	Stakeholder

Karolin Billing	WIBank
Miriam Frenke	WIBank
Dagmar Meinen	Ministry of Economics, Energy, Transport and Housing – State of Hessen

Agenda:

1. On 9 December 2020 10.00-12.00 the first Dutch German online study visit: How to help SMEs in achieving energy-efficiency was held.
2. On 27 January 2021 9.30-12.00 the second Dutch German online study visit: Funding energy efficiency in SMEs was held.

Notes

1. German Stakeholders participated at the first online study visit on December 09 and,
2. all German Stakeholders but one participated at the second online study visit on January 27.

3. Italy

Date: December 10th, 2020, 10:30-12:00

Location: Online meeting

Attended

1. Nicoletta Amodio (Confindustria)
2. Stefania Nardone (Confindustria)
3. Elena Bruni (Confindustria)
4. Rita Sofi (CNA)
5. Salvatore Manna (CNA Campania)
6. Valentina Bagozzi (Confartigianato imprese)
7. Bruno Panieri (Confartigianato imprese)
8. Federico Frattasi (INVITALIA – Coordinator of the investigation of financing applications)
9. Paolo Martella (INVITALIA – Planning of financing measures)
10. Carmine Conte (INVITALIA – Planning of financing measures)
11. Giovanni Maria Scimemi (INVITALIA – MiSE DGIAI external expert)
12. Tommaso Iorio (INVITALIA – MiSE DGIAI external expert)
13. Sergio Sinigaglia (INVITALIA – MiSE DGIAI external expert)
14. Rossella Baselice (Ministry of economic development - MiSE DGIAI)
15. Alessandra De Angelis (MiSE - DGIAI)
16. Giuseppina Pellegrino (MiSE DGIAI)
17. Maria Lustrì (MiSE – DGIAI)

Agenda

1. Welcome and introduction to the project SMEPlus
2. The past grants and tenders on energy efficiency for enterprises in Italy
3. Introduction of the different regional policies and best practices
4. Possible role for the stakeholders
5. Ideas for extra stakeholders
6. Q&A

Notes

1. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, the first Italian Stakeholder-meeting had to take place online. The SMEPlus team of MiSE DGIAI introduced the SMEPlus aims & activities to the stakeholders, recapped the past grants and tenders on energy efficiency for enterprises in Italy as well as presented selected best practices from other SMEPlus partners. During the meeting, all business environment representatives, MiSE and INVITALIA debated the needs and proposal of improvement measures for the national policy instrument that addresses the SMEs in Italy. In the debating session the stakeholders were showing a lot of interest in the partners' good practices, and they've asked questions about how the various programs were implemented, expected results and from which type of financing sources they were funded.
2. After an intensive Q&A session, Italian stakeholders expressed their interest to be directly involved in the project activities.

4. Austria

Date: 26 January 2021 11-12.30

Location: online via ZOOM

Attended

1. Johann Binder (Forschung Burgenland)
2. Martina Jauck (AMT BGLD)
3. Dr. Gernot Hanreich (FH Burgenland)
4. Sigrid Hajek (WIBUG)
5. Thomas Schwentenwein (Energie Burgenland Wärme und Service)
6. Dietmar Baurecht (Regionalmanagement Burgenland)
7. Marlene Hrabanek-Bunyai (Regionalmanagement Burgenland)

Agenda

1. GREETING
2. INTRODUCTION ROUND STAKEHOLDER SMEPLUS
3. QUESTIONNAIRE / QUESTIONAIRE OF THE SMEPLUS PROJECT
4. DISCUSSION STUDY VISIT NETHERLANDS-GERMANY 1 and 2 STRATEGY: CLIMATE PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY EFFICIENCY
5. DISCUSSION OF GOOD PRACTICE

6. OUTLOOK FOR THE SMEPLUS PROJECT
7. OPEN ITEMS | QUESTIONS | DISCUSSION

Notes

5. Romania

Date: January 27th, 2021, 10:00-10:30

Location: online via ZOOM – admin was at the Office of the South-West Oltenia Regional Development Agency

Attended

1. Mihaela Lupancescu (Automotive South-West Oltenia Competitiveness Pole)
2. Beatrice Georgescu (Agropro Oltenia Cluster)
3. Alexandra Sirbu (Agropro Oltenia Cluster)
4. Mihai Munteanu (Intermediate Body for Regional Operational Program 2014-2020)
5. Cristina Mihalschi (South-West Oltenia Regional Development Agency)
6. Lavinia Cretu (South-West Oltenia Regional Development Agency)
7. Loredana Tisan (South-West Oltenia Regional Development Agency)
8. Mihai Marian (South-West Oltenia Regional Development Agency)

Agenda

1. Presentation of the SMEPlus project implementation stage, with a good focus on developing the action plan for the policy instrument (PP2);
2. Open discussions regarding the way we should improve our policy instrument, taking into consideration the exchange of experience and good practices at SMEPlus project level.

Notes

Since we are in the Action Plan development phase, the discussions focused mainly on this topic. Thus, taking into consideration our policy instrument and the fact that we are at the ending of the 2014-2020 financial programming period, we discussed the possibility to influence our policy instrument by good governance (as also written in the application form). All the participant stakeholders discussed that a good way to do this would be to try to influence the policy instrument by taking the following possible actions:

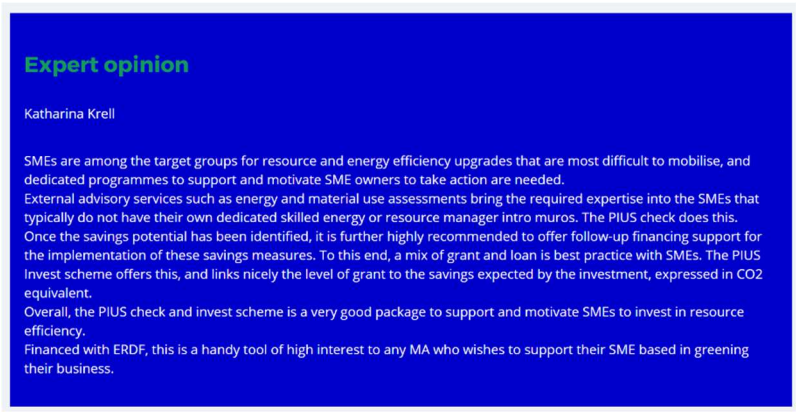
1) By improving the monitoring procedure in order to try to quantify the impact at SME level in energy efficiency gain;

2) To build a public, free of charge, data base (at regional level) by describing the sectors of activities, the taken measures and the results obtained after implementing them; this tool could be also used by other SMEs that haven't adopted any type of measures in order to obtain energy efficiency.

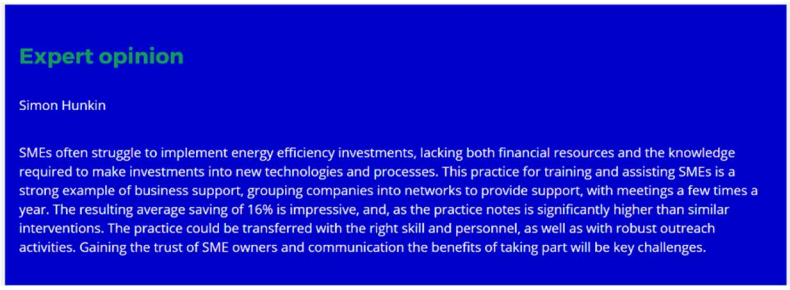
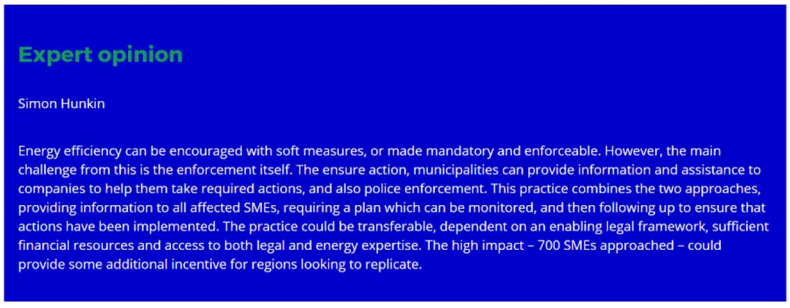
This is a non-exhaustive list and as the development of the Action Plan progresses, these propositions will be shaped accordingly.

Good practices

PIUS Programme Germany



Energig Sweden



Energy-efficiency through law enforcement