



GREECE | MAY 30TH, 2024 1st NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE

SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SMART FINANCING FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN GREECE.2024



Organised by: Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving – CRES and INZEB



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**15
SPEAKERS
4
MODERATORS**

**68
IN PERSON
DELEGATES**

6 SESSIONS

**Welcome Session | Introductory Plenary
3 Parallel Sessions | Closing Plenary**

01

**PARALLEL
SESSION**

**Financing Energy
Efficiency
in Private & Public
Buildings
National Programmes**

02

**PARALLEL
SESSION**

**Financing Energy
Efficiency
in Private & Public
Buildings
European Funding &
Case Studies**

03

**PARALLEL
SESSION**

**Financing Energy
Efficiency
in the Tertiary Sector
and the Industry**



PARALLEL SESSION 1

FINANCING ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN PRIVATE & PUBLIC BUILDINGS NATIONAL PROGRAMMES

- A helpful strategy would be to combine the "SAVING" and "PV panels on the roof" schemes depending on the availability of the network for new PV projects in each region. When combined, the energy upgrade interventions of the "SAVING" scheme should be done first and then proceed with the PV installations on the roof, as some cases of exclusion from the SAVING scheme were reported due to insufficient capacity of the network to support new PV installations in some regions.
- It is considered very important to reduce bureaucracy, which in the latest versions of the SAVING scheme discourages owners from applying and taking particular care of the sufficient experience of the scheme inspectors responsible for successfully completing the applications.
- The SAVING-RENOVATING scheme could spread over a longer period for the works and be combined with Renovation Passports to monitor the interventions implemented effectively.
- Municipalities may need technical assistance to prepare applications and carry out the work in the programme context. Also, model projects of energy performance contracts would be useful for street lighting projects, preparing works, construction management, and monitoring energy upgrading projects.
- More favourable conditions are needed for cultural heritage buildings. In particular, the maximum cost of €1.80/sq. meter should be increased due to the restrictions/limitations characterising these projects concerning energy savings. This could also counteract the fact that many Municipalities consider the essential 50% grant very low, which acts as a barrier to the scheme's penetration in public entities when other programmes offer up to 100% funding.

PARALLEL SESSION 2

FINANCING ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN PRIVATE AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS EUROPEAN FUNDING AND CASE STUDIES

- The ELENA mechanism requires a three-year period for project development and auctioning, effectively supporting the maturation of projects for auction readiness.
- In Greece, only five ELENA projects currently focus on street lighting, district heating, and renewable energy sources (RES) within the built environment. However, additional infrastructure projects, such as desalination, should also be considered. These projects require a minimum budget of €30 million, targeting larger municipalities and projects.
- PRODIGEE is currently accepting applications, with funding available upon approval.
- Operating under banking standards, PRODIGEE certifies the importance and quality of investments.
- NSRF: While not an official criterion, having a mature project through PRODIGEE can facilitate access to NSRF funding.
- There are checks on funding eligibility through PEP/Development, NSRF, and similar programs, provided that the project meets their expenditure criteria. Energy loads should be documented to determine the necessary cost requirements.
- Due to structural challenges within municipalities, they need to prioritize their Operational Plans, which outline project priorities and funding allocation. The DI SME, under climate legislation, also specifies these projects.
- It is essential to align costs with changes in both Community and National legislation.

PARALLEL SESSION 3

FINANCING ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN THE TERTIARY SECTOR AND THE INDUSTRY

- The long repayment period is a problem for EE investments in businesses, resulting in banks and ESCOs preferring bankable projects. In the industrial sector, the problem is smaller than in buildings, which are characterised by relatively low energy consumption.
- Accessing funds through loans for smaller projects is more difficult because a certain project scale is required. The specific problem can be solved by grouping the projects and promoting the relevant scheme.
- The energy efficiency auction scheme is particularly promising. However, further investigation of the state aid framework in the case of a different mix of consumers is required.
- The on-bill-financing scheme is also seen as an effective and potentially more meaningful tool, but it requires the commitment of participating consumers.
- Supply codes need to be changed to reflect the terms of the specific scheme, while invoices, given their complexity, need to be simplified.
- The duration of the contract is also a critical parameter in the scheme's success, given that it should be as short as possible.
- The terms of switching providers should be defined clearly and transparently, and the repayment amount may be better not to be collected by another provider because managing them creates problems and additional costs.
- Regarding implementing interventions in industry, financing projects with a 4-10 years payback period is preferred.
- The industry sector lacks information about the benefits of energy-saving interventions and financing possibilities. As they are currently constrained, strengthening programmes to improve energy efficiency in industrial units is imperative.
- Financing and other intervention support should consider the positive effects on human health.

