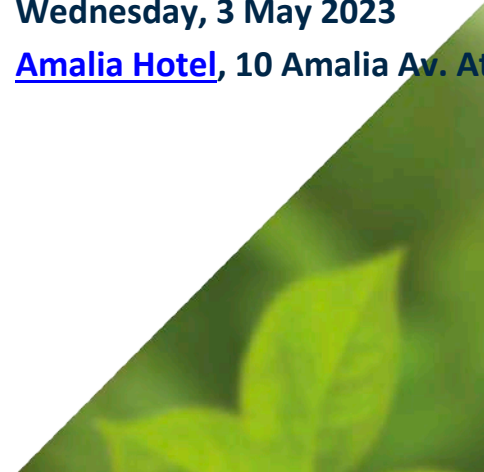




**3<sup>rd</sup> SMAFIN National Roundtable**

**Wednesday, 3 May 2023**

**[Amalia Hotel](#), 10 Amalia Av. Athens**



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## AGENDA AND BACKGROUND PAPER

### 3<sup>rd</sup> SMAFIN NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE IN GREECE

Wednesday, 3 May 2023  
9.30 - 15.00  
Amalia Hotel, Athens

“Supporting the implementation of smart financing  
for energy efficiency in Greece.2023”

## THE SMAFIN PROJECT IN CORRELATION WITH THE NATIONAL OBJECTIVES

In March 2023, the Commission announced the provisional agreement with the European Parliament and the Council to reform and strengthen the EU Energy Efficiency Directive. With this deal, the energy efficiency first principle is given legal strength with a clear requirement for EU countries to take energy efficiency into consideration in policy, planning, and major investment decisions in the energy sector and beyond.

The agreement establishes an EU energy efficiency target of 11.7% for 2030, exceeding the Commission's original 'Fit for 55' proposal. It also further strengthens provisions on energy efficiency financing to facilitate the mobilisation of investments. Under the new provisions, EU countries will be required to promote innovative financing schemes and green lending products for energy efficiency, by ensuring their wide and non-discriminatory offers by financial institutions. EU countries will have to report on the volume of energy efficiency investments.

At the same time, the European Parliament approved its stance for the revision of the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), setting out a more ambitious position ahead of the negotiations with the 27 Member States. The European Parliament's position increases the ambition for energy reduction in buildings including a demand for higher renovation rates.

The main point of the revision includes the substantial reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and energy consumption in the EU building stock (residential, public, and commercial buildings) by 2030, and making it climate neutral by 2050. It is proposed that all new buildings should be zero-emission from 2028, while the deadline for new buildings owned and/or operated by public authorities the deadline has been set for 2026.

For the residential buildings, the first target has been set for 2030. A minimum energy performance of class E should be achieved by that year and class D by 2033 - on a scale going from A to G. Non-residential and public sector buildings need to achieve the same ratings by 2027 and 2030 respectively.

In this context, the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final cycle of SMAFIN Roundtables is of outstanding importance. The SMAFIN project, funded by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 programme, was launched in September 2020 with the aim of facilitating cooperation between stakeholders through public roundtable discussions on energy efficiency investments in buildings, infrastructure, industry, and SMEs, in the four participating to the project countries - Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, and Romania. To date, the first round of roundtable discussions has been completed in spring 2021, followed by the second one in 2022 and the project concludes with the third and final round currently.

Specifically, on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, the third round table discussion in Greece is organised physically this time, at Hotel AMALIA in Athens, on "Support for the Implementation of Smart Financing for Energy Efficient Buildings in Greece.2023" which is a matter of high priority in the national energy policy agenda. The discussion will focus on the following three main pillars:

- Financing energy efficiency in residential buildings (with emphasis on creating a one-stop shop service).
- Financing of energy efficiency in the industry
- Energy Efficiency Auctions for tertiary sector companies

In order to define the above thematic pillars, the conclusions\* of the 1<sup>st</sup> roundtable in May 2021 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> one in April 2022, the results of the discussions among the project's external Working Group members, and the current national energy policy challenges were taken into account.

These challenges, which arise from the planning and implementation of the envisaged financial measures, include, among other things, maximising the expected leverage of funds, the more efficient use of available state resources, the adoption of innovative financial instruments and the mobilisation of the domestic financial sector.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> SMAFIN round table discussion in Greece is organised by CRES - Center for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving ([www.cres.gr](http://www.cres.gr)) in collaboration with INZEB ([www.inzeb.org](http://www.inzeb.org)).

\*The results of the national roundtables organised in 2021 and 2022 are available [here](#) and [here](#) respectively.



## AGENDA

9:30- 10:00	Registration
	Welcome, Dr Lampros Pirgiotis, Director General, CRES
10:00- 10:20	<p>Welcome Notes</p> <p>Dr Spyridon Economou, President CRES</p> <p>Mr. Konstantinos Makedos, President T.M.E.D.E</p> <p>Mrs Vassiliki Koumpli, Member of the Coordinating Committee - Environment &amp; Energy Cluster ICC Women Hellas</p>
10:20- 11:30	Introductory plenary
Moderator:	Dr Lampros Pirgiotis, Director General, CRES
	<p>"The policy framework for energy efficiency in Greece"</p> <p>Vasiliki Sita, Head of the Directorate of Energy Policy and Energy Efficiency, Ministry of Environment and Energy</p>
	<p>"The new European policy framework for the building sector"</p> <p>Dimitris Athanasiou, Energy Efficiency Policy Advisor</p>
	<p>"Financing of energy efficiency projects"</p> <p>Panagiotis Habesis, Head of Sustainability Unit, Hellenic Bank Association (HBA)</p>
	<p>"SMAFIN project results"</p> <p>Vassiliki Papadopoulou, Head of the Department for Dissemination of RES and EE Applications, (CRES)</p>
11:30-12:30	Break
12:30 - 14:30 Parallel sessions	<p>1<sup>st</sup> Thematic parallel session</p> <p>Financing energy efficiency in residential buildings</p>
Moderator	Alice Corovessi, Managing Director, INZEB

	<p><b>“OSS European Best Practice”</b> Adrian Joyce, Director, Renovate Europe Campaign (online presentation in English)</p>
	<p><b>“Financial tools for the energy upgrade of houses”,</b> Gianna Nikou, Head of Staff NSRF - Energy Sector, Ministry for Environment and Energy</p>
	<p><b>“SMAFIN One stop shop Policy recommendation”</b> Elena Taxeri, CRES</p>
	<p>Discussion with the participation of 20 experts</p>

<p><b>12:30 - 14:30</b> Parallel sessions</p>	<p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Thematic parallel session</b> Financing energy efficiency in the industry</p>
<p><b>Moderator</b></p>	<p>Vlasis Oikonomou, Director, Institute for European Energy and Climate Policy (IEECP)</p>
	<p><b>“Financing energy efficiency in the industry- European Best practices”</b> Vlasis Oikonomou, Director, Institute for European Energy and Climate Policy (IEECP)</p>
	<p><b>“Insurance-based model supporting investments in energy-efficient systems by SMEs”</b> Effie Korma, Head of Market Development Department, (CRES)</p>
	<p>Discussion with the participation of 20 experts</p>

12:30 - 14:30 Parallel sessions	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thematic parallel session Energy Efficiency Auctions for tertiary sector companies
Moderator	Christos Tourkolias, Energy Policy and Planning Sector, CRES
	“Presentation of the tender document on the energy efficiency auctions” Christos Tourkolias, Energy Policy and Planning Sector, CRES
	Discussion with the participation of 20 experts
14:30 - 15:00	Conclusions
1 <sup>st</sup> Parallel Session	Alice Corovessi, Managing Director, INZEB
2 <sup>nd</sup> Parallel Session	Vlasis Oikonomou, Director, Institute for European Energy and Climate Policy, IEECP
3 <sup>rd</sup> Parallel Session	Christos Tourkolias, Energy Policy and Planning Sector, CRES

## 1<sup>st</sup> THEMATIC PARALLEL SESSION

### Financing energy efficiency in residential buildings

Energy renovation of residential buildings remains one of the most important priorities in the energy efficiency sector in Greece and thus continues to be monitored and supported by SMAFIN activities.

As a flagship programme in the sector, the "Save 2021" subsidised by the Recovery and Resilience Fund will be part of the 1<sup>st</sup> thematic session. The programme, which aims at improving the energy class of households, by at least 3 energy categories (over 30% Primary Energy Saving) will present the results of the last cycle, insights regarding problems in implementation, and proposals for improvement.

With a view to contributing to the implementation of the National Energy and Climate Plan- NECP as well as the "Save 2021" programme and investigating their possible combination, the One Stop Shop (OSS) concept has been among the main discussion topics since the first SEIF organisation. The concept is coming more into the scene as currently, the two related, to the buildings' energy performance, directives are under revision. Trying to meet the climate targets and face the high-energy prices, policymakers propose to increase the role of instruments including the One Stop Shop as referred to in the adopted European Parliament's position on the revised energy efficiency directive (EED).

During SMAFIN's lifetime, OSS has been presented extensively through best practices, discussed with stakeholders, elaborated as a policy recommendation by the project team, enhanced during the working group meetings, and finally will be validated during the final SMAFIN roundtable discussion.

The main topics of the discussion in this session will be:

- Proposals for further upgrading of the "Save 2021" programme.
- Main barriers and opportunities for the implementation of the presented One-Stop-Shop model in Greece.
- Proposals for the sustainability of the presented OSS model.
- Conditions for the financial sector to facilitate private investment through One Stop Shops.
- Implementation of One-Stop-Shop in municipalities.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> THEMATIC PARALLEL SESSION

### Financing energy efficiency in the industry

In the National Energy and Climate Plan- NECP it was foreseen that specific financial mechanisms will be designed to strengthen the implementation of measures to improve energy efficiency in the industrial sector through Energy Performance Contracts, such as subsidising borrowing costs and facilitating access to financing for Energy Services Companies. Up to now, there has not been any progress in this sector so CRES has undertaken the preparation of a guidance note for improving the energy efficiency of industrial units in the Prefecture of Eastern Macedonia and Thrace.

In this direction, the 2nd parallel session will be dedicated to financing energy efficiency in industry where both the main challenges and the main financing mechanisms will be discussed with the participants.

The main topics of discussion in this session will be:

- The main challenges for industrial units to implement energy efficiency interventions.
- Securing finance for industrial units from the banking sector.
- The role of energy service companies in promoting energy efficiency in the industrial sector
- The most effective approach to designing a potential programme to promote energy efficiency in the industry.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> THEMATIC PARALLEL SESSION



## Energy Efficiency Auctions for tertiary sector companies

The design and implementation of the energy efficiency auctions measure were foreseen in the National Energy and Climate Plan. This measure is expected to focus on achieving final energy savings, making a significant contribution to achieving the objective of Article 7 of the Directive 2012/27/EU to improve energy efficiency. It will also provide financial support for energy-saving technical interventions in sectors with high potentials, such as the industrial and tertiary sectors.

A dedicated working group was set up at the Ministry of Environment and Energy, aiming to draft a proposal for the formation of the institutional framework of competitive processes for the improvement of energy efficiency in accordance with the provisions of the National Energy and Climate Plan. The proposal was presented during the first SMAFIN RT for an informal consultation. Moreover, the legislative framework for the implementation of the energy efficiency auctions was adopted through Law 4843/2021 (Article 20), while recently the Ministry of Environment and Energy assigned a study for the preparation of the tender documents. It is expected that the first round will be launched in autumn aiming to improve energy efficiency in companies in the tertiary sector.

The topic will be presented and discussed in the 3rd parallel session based on the following questions:

- What are the main challenges for the conduction of energy efficiency auctions?
- What can be improved in the presented tender document for the implementation of this mechanism?
- How will the financing of the companies involved be secured by the banking sector?
- What is the minimum level of concentration of interventions that can be ensured?
- What can be the role of Energy Services Companies in facilitating energy efficiency auctions and grouping small individual projects?