

# HORIZON 2020 Programme

Contract No.955857



## Highlights from the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final cycle of SMAFIN Roundtables

In spring 2023, the four participating to SMAFIN project countries, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece and Romania have organized their third Roundtables, almost in parallel, online or in hybrid format. The events have taken place providing the opportunity to 388 stakeholders in total, from important bodies of the political, financial, business, construction and academic sector to learn, discuss, comment, propose and contribute to the national policy and financial measures for energy efficiency.

Discover all the highlights, the key takeaways and the conclusions that have been gathered in the SMAFIN platform:



**Bulgaria**, "The National Decarbonisation Fund: Structuring, Operational Management, Market Deployment" 1 March 2023, Sofia, hotel Astoria and online  
<https://www.smafin.eu/factsheet-of-the-3rd-national-roundtable-in-bulgaria/>



**Croatia**, "Financing Energy Efficiency and Climate Change Resilience in the Building Sector" 20 April 2023, Live event  
<https://www.smafin.eu/factsheet-of-the-3rd-national-roundtable-in-croatia/>



**Greece**, "Supporting the implementation of smart financing for energy efficiency in Greece.2023", 3 May 2023, Athens, Amalia Hotel  
<https://www.smafin.eu/factsheet-of-the-3rd-national-roundtable-in-greece/>



**Romania**, "Increasing energy efficiency by sustainable financing solutions - Mechanisms and financial instruments for the operationalization of strategies and action plans in the field of energy efficiency", 4 April 2023, Bucharest, Novotel Hotel, Lyon Hall (organized in hybrid format)  
<https://www.smafin.eu/factsheet-of-the-3rd-national-roundtable-in-romania/>



## New Releases

Following the latest developments in energy efficiency policy at European and national level and in view of the third cycle of Roundtables, the consortium updated the market analysis report for the period from May 2022 to June 2023. As the National Recovery and Resilience Plans (NRRP) remain the most relevant strategic plans, intervening in the energy efficiency market in all SMAFIN countries, the document brings into focus information related to them. More information on <https://www.smafin.eu/>



## SMAFIN Working Group Updates

**Bulgaria**  
The sixth and final SMAFIN Working Group in Bulgaria has been organised on 1 August, online. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the outcomes from the last Roundtable as well as other relevant events and to finalize the policy recommendations. The project team has sent around the final policy recommendation for the National Decarbonisation Fund (NDF) with sufficient time for feedback and comments from WG members. In the context of the National Programme for the Renovation of MFABs (under NRRP), which is currently in its second phase, introducing a 20% co-financing component, potential next steps and suggestions for improvements of the available financial instruments will be taken into consideration.

**Croatia**  
The third and fourth working group meeting took place on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023, utilizing a hybrid format with both live and online participation. Discussions revolved around SMAFIN results, presenting the draft agenda for the third SMAFIN Roundtable, as well as the presentation of policy recommendations, deliberations on financing mechanisms for energy efficiency, discussions about future steps, and forthcoming actions. The conversation delved into strategies for supporting One Stop Shops, stakeholder involvement, funding strategies, and harmonizing recommendations with energy and climate goals.

On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023, the fifth working group meeting convened to reflect on outcomes stemming from the third SMAFIN Roundtable and examine policy recommendations. Notably, integrated renovation services via One Stop Shops emerged as a significant recommendation for Croatia. Participants deliberated on the value of roundtable conversations and the instrumental role working group members played in shaping policy directions. Furthermore, they expressed appreciation for the interactive approach. The discussion also touched on the continuity of SMAFIN through the newly sanctioned LIFE programme project named SMAFIN Expanded.

**Greece**  
The sixth and final meeting of the SMAFIN Working Group in Greece took place on Monday, June 12, 2023, online. The purpose of the meeting was to briefly present and discuss the conclusions of the last National Roundtable. Moreover, the project team presented the final policy recommendation for One Stop Shop (OSS) for the energy renovation of houses, as it has been formed after incorporating the comments of the relative parallel session of the national Roundtable in May. Next steps and possible adoption of initiatives on the OSS recommendation were discussed with representatives of Municipalities who have joined the WG meeting.

**Romania**  
The sixth and final meeting of the SMAFIN project Working Group in Romania took place on June 28, 2023, online. The meeting provided once again an efficient discussion and information-sharing platform, reconfirming the role of the SMAFIN WG in facilitating inter-institutional cooperation for sustainable action toward financing energy efficiency in Romania. The third Roundtable organized on 4 April 2023, in Romania was analyzed as regards impact and lessons learned for future similar events. Furthermore, an active discussion was facilitated with support of the national SMAFIN team, for the formulation and officialization of the recommendations for policies and financing mechanisms for energy efficiency. The Romanian stakeholders prioritize the implementation of integrated residential and public building renovation services, a one-stop-shop (OSS) structure for the intelligent financing of energy efficient buildings, as a solution for providing the building owners with an integrated access to information-services-resources to support their renovation efforts. A preliminary-variant elaborated within the SMAFIN project was discussed during the meeting and planning of further institutional contributions to increase the potential for future adoption was agreed within the SMAFIN WG.



## SMAFIN was part of the following events:

### International Conference "Clean Energy for People", Day 2, April 25, 2023

The sixth edition of the international online conference "Clean Energy for People" took place from 24 until 28 April 2023. For the second year in a row, E3G - Third Generation Environmentalism and CEE Bankwatch Network, joined as partners by the main organizers from the Environmental Association "ZaZemiatia".

This year's edition focused on the efforts and difficulties associated with the increasing pace of building renovation and the accelerated introduction of individual and district green heating, reviewing European and national policies as well as household oriented financial instruments and programmes. SMAFIN was discussed within the topic of stimulating investments in EE and RES projects for building renovation in CEE during the second day of the conference.

### National conference "Zero-energy buildings: The future is now!" Burgas, May 30 – June 2, 2023

From 31 May to 2 June, 2023, the Expo Centre "Flora" in Burgas brought together specialists, municipal representatives, speakers, and guests for the three-day conference "Zero Energy Buildings: The Future is Now!". The event addressed important topics related to the new building renovation programme, the renewable energy programme for households, and presented best practices, technologies, and innovative concepts. The main conclusion of the conference was that the campaigning nature of the renovation programmes needs to stop.

The forum was joined by Dobromir Vassilev, Director of Housing Policy at the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, Executive Director of the Sustainable Energy Development Agency Eng. Ivaylo Alexiev, representatives of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Sources Fund, FLAG Fund, Bulgarian Industrial Association, University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy, Alliance for Energy Efficiency, Econoler, commercial banks, energy, and financial consultants. There were also guest speakers from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Energy, the European Parliament, and the European Investment Bank, as well as the US Department of Energy.



### "Fit4Future Finance: Enabling the sustainable transition to the next generation economy conference" June 22, 2023

The Hellenic Bank Association, member of the Greek SMAFIN WG, and the American-Hellenic Chamber of Commerce convened the Fit4Future Finance: Enabling the sustainable transition to the next generation economy conference on June 22, 2023, in Athens. Fit4Future Finance aimed to connect the Greek banking system with the business community to highlight the challenges and opportunities that accompany the international trend for sustainable financing, as well as the integration of ESG criteria into the core strategy and development of enterprises. SMAFIN project was there to support the initiative of the Hellenic Bank Association and to learn and discuss about actions implemented by the financial institutions to meet the zero goal by 2050.



### "RoundBaltic Learning event on engaging the financial sector in energy efficiency investments" August 29, 2023 (online)

The learning event is organised within the framework of the sister project RoundBaltic and its overarching objective of supporting the implementation of the Smart Finance for Smart Buildings initiative in the Baltic Sea Region, notably the project's direct target countries Poland, Latvia and Denmark. The particular scope of the sixth and final learning event is to display achievements and experience gained under RoundBaltic, including sharing the good practice. SMAFIN also operating in the Balkan region, will also be there to show its achievements during the three years of implementation.

More about the conference is available on last learning event, <https://roundbaltic.eu/sixth-learning-event/>



## Join the SMAFIN Community

SMAFIN is encouraging an ongoing dialogue among involved stakeholders. Within the e-Forum, interested parties will find guidance for identifying financial opportunities, B2B networking connections and market intelligence support. Register at the <https://www.smafin.eu/forum/>

## Get in contact with us:

[https://twitter.com/smafin\\_eu](https://twitter.com/smafin_eu)

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/smafin-h2020-project>

<https://www.facebook.com/smafinproject>

[www.smafin.eu](http://www.smafin.eu)

## - Consortium -

