



**3rd SMAFIN National Roundtable in  
Romania - 4th April 2023  
București, Hotel Novotel, Lyon Hall**



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## 3rd NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE IN 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

4th of April 2022

## **AGENDA AND BACKGROUND PAPER**

*Event organized in Romania within the Horizon 2020 project SMAFIN in partnership with the Government of Romania - Department of Sustainable Development, the Ministry of Investments and European Projects, the Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration, the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Finance.*



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## OBJECTIVES

The roundtables organized within the SMAFIN project aim to encourage a structural dialogue between Romanian key stakeholders, in order to define barriers to wider investment in renovation, in the context of discussions on energy efficiency financing, in line with national priorities and opportunities.

Increasing energy efficiency is assumed at European level as a cross-cutting strategic objective for protecting the environment and reducing the impact of climate change, improving the quality of life and reducing the EU's dependence on external oil and gas suppliers. Romania has assumed ambitious objectives in the national strategic framework in the field of energy and climate change, being concerned at the current stage with identifying the best ways to promote actions and support the necessary processes both from national budgetary resources and through the financing framework available in the future from the European Green Deal and the EU Recovery and Resilience Mechanism.

At the same time, it is recognized that current levels of investment in sustainable energy are not sufficient to meet Romania's 2030 climate and energy targets, and that smart financing mechanisms are needed to support large-scale and long-term investments, especially in buildings and industry.

The European Commission - DG Energy organized in 2018-2019 the **Sustainable Energy Investment Forums (SEIF)**. The positive experience gained is relevant to further identify barriers to energy efficiency financing, and to support the design of public policies in this area, as well as market solutions, attract private capital and increase investment in energy efficiency across Europe.

Starting by the dialogue facilitated by SEIF events, the SMAFIN project ([www.smafin.eu](http://www.smafin.eu)) funded under the EU's Horizon 2020 program aims to facilitate cooperation among stakeholders within permanent dialogue forums on energy efficiency investments in buildings, infrastructure, industry and SMEs, in four countries, including Romania. Thus, the project envisages the annual organization of round tables in each of the countries participating in the project.

The First Round Table was organized in Romania on the 15th April 2021 (on line) and focussed on **FINANCING SOLUTIONS FOR ENERGY RENOVATION OF BUILDINGS**. More details may be found [here](#).

The Second Round Table was organized online too on the 12th of April with the general theme of **FINANCING SOLUTIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE INCREASE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN BUILDINGS AND INDUSTRY**. More details may be found [here](#).

The Third Round Table aims to address **INCREASING ENERGY EFFICIENCY BY SUSTAINABLE FINANCING SOLUTIONS** and is structured according to the following three main topics of discussion:

- Integrated Energy Renovation Services of Residential and Public Buildings;
- Financing mechanisms for the implementation of energy and climate strategies and action plans,
- Integrated mechanisms for monitoring the implementation of energy efficiency financing programs.

These thematic issues took into account the conclusions and recommendations of the previous Round Tables, but also the current challenges that financing the energy efficiency projects must face.

Besides the topic related to the renovation of buildings, the topic of energy efficiency financing in the industrial and service sectors is addressed in an integrated manner, within parallel sessions no. 2 and 3.

The event is organized by the Romanian partners within the project SMAFIN - ENERO - Centre for the Promotion of Clean and Efficient Energy in Romania ([www.enero.ro](http://www.enero.ro)) and Pro-nZEB - Cluster for Promoting nearly Zero Energy Buildings ([www.pro-nzeb.ro](http://www.pro-nzeb.ro)) and benefits from the support of the Romanian Government through the Department for Sustainable Development, the Ministry of Investments and European Projects, the Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration, the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of Finance.

Media Partner: [Energynomics](#)

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**AGENDA** Duration: 5 1/2 hours

The event will take place in Romanian with interpretation. The Round Table will be moderated by Mr. Gabriel Avăcăriței, Chief-Editor at Energynomics. The plenary sessions and the parallel session no.2 will in hybrid format

Registration. Lyon Hall (55 seats capacity). Welcome coffee. 9:00 - 9:30

<b>9:30</b>	<b>Introductory plenary - hybrid format (1h 30 min)</b>
	Welcome, Setting the scene, Introductory remarks/keynotes
<b>Moderator</b>	<b>Gabriel Avăcăriței</b> , Chief-Editor, Energynomics
<b>9:35</b>	<b>KEYNOTE ADDRESSES and PRESENTATIONS</b>
	<b>Alexandra-Maria Bocșe</b> , State Adviser - Department of Climate and Sustainability, Presidential Administration
	<b>Laszlo Borbely</b> , State Counsellor of the Prime Minister of Romania, Coordinator of the Department of Sustainable Development - Government of Romania
	<b>Krzysztof Kasprzyk</b> , Deputy Head of Unit CE-DG Regio E2, on line
	<b>Oana Ozmen</b> , Member of the Romanian Parliament
	<b>Pavel-Casian Nițulescu</b> , State Secretary, Ministry of Energy
	<b>Marin Țole</b> , State Secretary, Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration
	<b>Andrei Liviu Antipa</b> – Vice-president, Environmental Fund Administration
<b>10:20</b>	<b>Horia Petran</b> , President, Cluster Pro-nZEB <i>(Presentation) SMAFIN proposals for policy recommendations / financing schemes</i>
<b>10:30</b>	<b>Moderator</b> , <i>Questions &amp; Answers</i> <i>Presentation of Parallel Sessions</i>
<b>11:00</b>	Coffee break.

<b>11:30</b>	<b>Thematic parallel session 1 (1 h 30 min)</b>
	<b>INTEGRATED ENERGY RENOVATION SERVICES OF RESIDENTIAL AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS</b>
<b>Moderator</b>	<b>Ion Dogeanu</b> , Executive Director, Agency for Energy Efficiency and Environmental Protection AEEPM
<b>Rapporteur</b>	<b>Alexandru Mureşan</b> , Researcher, Technical University Cluj-Napoca,
<b>11:35</b>	<b>(INFORMATION)</b> <b>Ella Şipeţan</b> , Timişoara municipality, <i>One Stop Shop experience in Timişoara</i>  <b>Alexandru Mureşan</b> , Researcher, Technical University Cluj-Napoca, Co-Founder RENERGIA, <i>Energy transition in the residential environment- Intelligent digital tools, the RENERGIA initiative</i>
<b>11:55</b>	<b>(FINANCING)</b> <b>Pollyanna Hangan</b> , Member of the Romanian Parliament <i>Legislative initiatives in the energy efficiency field – the First Green House</i>
<b>12:05</b>	<b>(TECHNICAL SERVICES)</b> <b>Horia Petran</b> , President, Cluster Pro-nZEB <i>The nZEB Roadshow project</i>
<b>12:10</b>	Q&A, DISCUSSIONS – Moderator, all participants
<b>13:00</b>	Light lunch break.

	<b>Sesiunea tematică paralelă 2 – hybrid format (1 h 30 min)</b>
	<b>FINANCING MECHANISMS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS</b>
<b>Moderator</b>	<b>Adrian Ghiță</b> , Executive Director, Romanian Fund for Energy Efficiency – FREE
<b>Rapporteur</b>	<b>Manuela Drăghicescu</b> , Executive Director, New Energy Industry Association. SUNE
<b>11:35</b>	<b>Carolyn Anders</b> , Senior Manager, Adelphi <i>The Horizon 2020 PROSPECT+ project - innovative mechanisms for financing the renovation wave, on line</i>
<b>11:50</b>	<b>Viktoras Sirvydis</b> , Expert, World Bank, <i>Opportunities for Romania in development of financial instruments in combination with grants for residential energy efficient renovations, on line</i>
<b>12:00</b>	<b>Carmen Pavel</b> , President, Association of ESCO companies, <i>Energy Performance Services, a must for a sustainable</i>
<b>12:10</b>	Q&A, DISCUSSIONS – Moderator, all participants
<b>13:00</b>	Light lunch break

<b>11: 30</b>	<b>Thematic parallel session 3 (1 h 30 min)</b>
	<b>INTEGRATED MECHANISMS FOR MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY FINANCING PROGRAMS</b>
<b>Moderator</b>	<b>Corneliu Rotaru</b> , Fund Manager, Romanian Fund for Energy Efficiency – FREE
<b>Rapporteur</b>	<b>Andrei Popescu</b> , Researcher, URBAN-INCERC
<b>11:35</b>	<p><b>Presentations/free speeches</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ <i>Indicators to monitor financing mechanisms for the implementation and development of the Buildings Digital Register</i>, Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration</li> <li>✓ <i>Centralization of energy efficiency data and indicators</i>, Ministry of Energy</li> <li>✓ <i>Corelation with sustainability indicators –</i> Department of Sustainable Development – General Secretariat of the Government</li> <li>✓ <i>Assessment of energy efficiency projects- the FREE experience</i> Romanian Fund for Energy Efficiency – FREE</li> </ul>
<b>12:10</b>	Q&A, DISCUSSIONS – Moderator, all participants
<b>13:00</b>	Light lunch break

13:30	<b>Closing plenary – hybrid format (1h 30 min)</b>
<b>Moderator</b>	<b>Gabriel Avăcăriței</b> , Chief Editor <i>Energynomics</i>
13:35	<b>Mariano Gonzales</b> , Expert, World Bank on line
13:50	<b>Stefania Racolța</b> , Head of Climate Strategy & Regional Delivery for Central and South Eastern Europe, EBRD
14:05	The <b>Rapporteurs</b> present the parallel sessions summaries
14:15	Q&A, DISCUSSIONS on SMAFIN proposals for policy recommendations /financing schemes
14:55	Conclusions and closing remarks
15:00	End of the event

## BACKGROUND PAPER

The third Round Table (RT3) is organized in Bucharest on April 4, 2023, starting at 9:30 a.m. The location is Novotel Hotel, Bucharest, Lyon Hall.

Unlike previous editions, RT3 will take place in physical format but also in hybrid format (physical + online) for plenary sessions and one of the parallel session. The interventions will be conducted mainly in Romanian but also in English (for participants who do not speak Romanian), with simultaneous translation, where appropriate. Some interventions from the agenda of the event will take place in online format. Also, the event will be available live on specialized media channels. Participants watching the event online will be able to ask questions in a dedicated section. These questions will be answered either during the event, for those selected by the moderator, or later, on the SMAFIN project platform ([www.smafin.eu](http://www.smafin.eu))

As this event is mainly a debate forum, in addition to relevant presentations, generous slots in the agenda are reserved for discussion.

The Round Table begins with a plenary session, with all participants. After a short break, the participants will be divided into 3 groups, depending on the parallel session they previously signed up for.

The parallel sessions include relevant presentations to set the context of the current situation in Romania and to stimulate effective discussions.

Each parallel session will have a moderator who will lead the session and a rapporteur who will prepare a summary of the discussions.

Moderators will prepare key questions relevant to the topic addressed, to which participants will be invited to answer, to make discussions within the thematic sessions more effective.

After the end of the parallel sessions and the second break, the participants will return to the plenary session. After the presentations of general interest indicated by the agenda, the rapporteurs of the sessions will present the main aspects that arose from the discussions held in the parallel thematic sessions, as well as the recommendations resulting from them.

A plenary discussion session will follow, and at the end, the conclusions drawn from the entire event will be summarized. These will form the basis of the subsequent analysis carried out by the SMAFIN working group, which will conclude on the recommendations to be followed for the improvement of energy efficiency financing policies and mechanisms.

## THEMATIC SESSION 1: INTEGRATED ENERGY RENOVATION SERVICES OF RESIDENTIAL AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS

This session will address the issue of increasing renovation rates and the level of performance required for residential and public buildings, in order to achieve the targets assumed by Romania, following mainly deep energy renovation or achieving nZEB level of public buildings, including energy produced from renewable sources.

One of the main topics that will be discussed in this session is the definition and promotion of the One Stop Shop-OSS concept in Romania, a structure that would provide an integrated solution, *information-services-resources*, for building owners in their renovation efforts. A pilot project at the municipal level has already been started in Romania within a European project financed by the H2020 program. An OSS model in Romania would emerge after discussions on issues such as who manages OSS, access to financing through innovative mechanisms with the participation of private financing, the involvement of the necessary actors on the three relevant levels: information/consultancy, technical services, financing.

## THEMATIC SESSION 2: FINANCING MECHANISMS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

This session will address the development of mechanisms for the effective implementation of strategies and action plans for energy and climate, in the context of recently published national programs and the need to multiply the effect of public funding. Representatives of the Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration, responsible for the implementation of the Long-Term Renovation Strategy - LTRS, the Ministry of Energy and financial institutions involved in energy efficiency programs are invited to present their achievements and best practices.

The main topics of discussion expected to be covered in this section are:

- Financing instruments for the Renovation Wave and LTRS Implementation,
- The support of European financial institutions
- The European experience regarding energy efficiency support mechanisms to ensure the increase in the multiplier effect of public financing for energy renovation of buildings and energy efficiency in industry

## THEMATIC SESSION 3: INTEGRATED MECHANISMS FOR MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY FINANCING PROGRAMS

This session will address the mechanisms for monitoring existing and planned financing schemes for energy efficiency projects, aiming to ensure relevant performance indicators and integrating information on the impact of financing, thus supporting the tracking and compliance of national commitments on energy efficiency and the environment.

The main topics of discussion expected to be covered in this section are:

- The sufficiency of the performance indicators provided by the existing and planned programs
- Coordinated mechanisms for collecting information from the implementation of various programs and financing instruments currently in existence
- Integration and processing of information collected regarding both building renovation and energy efficiency in industry and other sectors

## EXPECTED RESULTS

It is expected that the organization of the third SMAFIN round table will strengthen the status of these events as a recognized forum for cooperation between the stakeholders interested in national policy priorities, to support the implementation of programs and funding instruments, in order to achieve the assumed objectives and targets. In addition, the results of the consultation will provide policy makers with **national recommendations for effective and enforceable policy measures** or proposals for financial instruments to be delivered to policy makers at all levels and/or to financial institutions.