

# EU Energy efficiency policy and financing

Slovenian National Hub – European Energy Efficiency Financing Coalition  
Roundtable on Financing Sustainable and Energy-Efficient Projects

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# Key priorities – Energy

## 1) Competitiveness

- **Clean Industrial Deal** and **Affordable Energy Action Plan**
- New Energy Efficiency Impetus, European Grids Package,
- Electrification and Heating and Cooling Action Plan (upcoming), Strategic Roadmap for digitalisation and AI in the energy sector and Data Centre Energy Efficiency Package (upcoming)

## 2) Decarbonisation

- **Green Deal** and **Fit for 55 Package**: including **Energy Efficiency Directive**, **Renewable Energy Directive**, **Energy Performance of Building Directive**

## 3) Energy security

- **AccelerateEU** (recently adopted)
- Phase-out of strategic **dependencies**
- Strengthen the **resilience** of **EU energy system** vis-a-vis geopolitical crises impacting the global energy market



# Draghi Report - *The future of European competitiveness* (published September 2024)

High energy costs in Europe are an obstacle to growth

EU's decarbonisation goals are more ambitious than its competitors - additional costs

Decarbonisation offers an opportunity for Europe to lower energy prices and take the lead in clean technologies ("clean tech"), while also becoming more energy secure

Europe will need to deploy a mixed strategy that combines different policy tools and approaches for different industries

**A joint decarbonisation and competitiveness plan**



# AccelerateEU

[AccelerateEU – Energy Union – affordable and secure energy through accelerated action – Energy COM/2026/370 published 22 April 2026](#)

**The Communication addresses EU's rising energy costs on volatile fossil fuel markets and aims to accelerate the clean energy transition and strengthen our energy resilience.**

## **An Energy Union that delivers:**

- Energy security and affordability
- Efficient, flexible and interconnected energy system
- Clean, abundant and homegrown energy

**Affordable and secure energy  
through accelerated action**

**EUR 24 bn** additional spending on fossil fuel imports in first 53 days since start of Middle East conflict – and counting

Total of **EUR 340 bn** import value of fossil fuels in 2025 (**57%** of energy consumed in the EU is **imported fossil fuel**)

**→ We need targeted immediate actions that make our energy system long-term resilient, via homegrown clean energy and energy efficiency.**



# 5 pillars of AccelerateEU



**Accelerate EU - Energy Union**  
Five strategic actions for cleaner and affordable energy



## **Coordination between Member States**

To refill our gas stocks in time for next winter & step up action to ensure the supply of fuels, including for planes



## **Protecting consumers & industry**

Practical steps to tackle price shocks:

- energy vouchers for low-income households
- financial supports for energy-saving products
- national campaigns to promote energy efficiency



## **Accelerating electrification & clean, homegrown energy**

To phase out fossil fuels and electrify industry, transport, heating systems and buildings



## **Upgrading and fundamentally transforming our energy system**

Improving the way we plan our energy infrastructure and speed up the roll-out of grids & interconnections



## **Boosting investments**

Unlocking EU, national, private funding for the clean energy transition



# Boosting Energy Efficiency Financing (March 2026 Package)

The **Energy Efficiency investment gap** to deliver on the 2030 energy efficiency targets amounts to **EUR 170 billion per year**.

## The Strategic Framework: *Clean Energy Investment Strategy (CEIS)*

- **Mobilising Capital:** Strategy launched **March 10, 2026 (COM/2026/116)** to drive private investment with **€75 billion** in EIB support over three years.
- **De-risking Innovation:** Stepping up support for next-generation clean technologies and energy efficiency through **InvestEU**.
- **New Pilot Scheme:** A **€500 million** initiative to accelerate the uptake of "**Energy Efficiency as a Service**" models.

### Expected Impact for Stakeholders:

- 1) **Scale:** Transition from grants to repayable financing and blended solutions.
- 2) **Accessibility:** Deployment of project development assistance and investment aggregators.
- 3) **Simplification:** Streamlined renovation journeys to raise awareness and stimulate market demand.



# Energy Efficiency Financing Support Package support EED and EPBD implementation

Package composed of Report to co-legislators (EED Art. 30 and EPBD Art. 9) and two Guidances on unlocking private investments (EED Art. 30) and one-stop shops services (EED Art. 22 and EPBD Art. 18)



## 1. Report to co-legislators on Energy Efficiency Financing in Europe

### What it is

Assessment of the effectiveness of public funding in leveraging private investments in energy efficiency

### Expected Impact

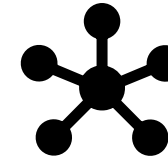
- Reflect on **state of EE financing** to bridge **investment gap**
- Inform discussions on **future EU and national programmes**
- Importance of **public budget support** and use of **financial instruments**



## 2. Guidance on unlocking private investments in Energy Efficiency

Guidance which provides recommendations and examples to help Member States and market actors to accelerate energy efficiency

- Scale-up **blending financing solutions** and **financial instruments**
- Remove barriers and enable **uptake innovative financing and energy services**
- Deployment of **project development assistance** and **investment aggregators**



## 3. Guidance on One- Stop Shops OSS

Guidance to make OSS, a central instrument at local/regional level to support Member States and stakeholders

- Support **MS in establishing OSS services** in line with EED/EPBD
- Make easier **investment and renovation journey** for citizens and enterprises
- **Raise awareness** and **stimulate demand** for energy efficiency and energy renovations

# Report to co-legislators on Energy Efficiency Financing

**Legal Basis: Energy Efficiency Directive (Article 30) and Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (article 9)**



## Data Sources

- Internal data from relevant European Commission for this ISG
- Data at national level collected from Member States (via the EED Expert Group) and contractor
- Call for evidence

## Main Findings

- Important progress in financing for energy efficiency, notably from the EU budget, from EUR 21 bln (in MFF 2014-2020) to EUR 144.7 bln (in MFF 2021-2027+ NGEU), mostly from RRF (73.8% of increase) being phased out.
- Limited use of blended and repayable financing schemes (25% of surveyed schemes)
- Financial instruments and blended financing provide higher leverage but used to a limited extent.
- Dedicated EU programmes/initiatives for energy efficiency are effective but remains small in relative terms.
- Standardized data and reporting on energy efficiency are lacking. Difficult to assess/compare impact of public budget

## Conclusions

- Public funding (incl. RRF) covers only 15% of the investments needs to meet 2030 EED targets.
- Member State to increase the use of financial instruments and blended financing, incl in next-MFF
- Need to maintain and scale-up existing EU programmes and initiatives such as LIFE CET and ELENA.
- New Accelerator Instruments essential to catalyze the uptake of Energy Efficiency markets (link CEIS)
- Public-private partnerships and cooperation with financial institutions are key (EEEFin Coalition)



# Guidance on Unlocking Private Investments in Energy Efficiency

## Legal basis:

- Commission tasked with providing guidance on unlocking private investments: Art 30(10) EED



## Guidance on Unlocking Private Investments in Energy Efficiency

**12 recommendations with Annex** providing details on measures, key elements and good practices:

Divided into **two main areas of action**: Activate demand, Improve financing supply/offer and de-risk investments

National/regional specificities: tailor solutions/measures to the existing national and regional energy efficiency and governance framework

### Main types of measures:

- Promote the role of **National Energy Efficiency Fund** and **equivalent facilities** with mandate to support energy efficiency investment
- Scale-up use of **financial instruments** and **blended financing solutions** as default approach (avoid “stop and go” with public grants programmes)
- Double-down on **project development assistance facilities** and broader aggregators, including one-stop shops
- Promote **energy efficiency financing via service agreements**, OPEX investment
- **Remove barriers to innovative financing schemes** for energy efficiency to enable market development
- Promote development and uptake of **Energy efficiency lending products** and private financing via **credit agreements**
- Deploy **long-term public guarantees** and other de-risking tools, and promote **re-financing opportunities** and favour development of a **secondary market for energy efficiency**



# Practical Guidance on OSS services

## Legal basis:

- Commission tasked with providing guidance on one-stop shops: Art. 22(6) EED and Art. 18(1) EPBD



## Guidance on One-Stop Shops services

No one-size fits all solution: **different models of OSS services**, they should be anchored on national constitutional framework, energy efficiency governance, (and culture too!)

- OSS support public authorities in providing **support to homeowners and enterprises throughout their investment journey** – can be **Service of General Economic Interest (SGEI – State aid)**.
- OSS services to go **beyond generic advice only**, invest in **interpersonal skills and staff management**, ensure **on-site presence** (office, home visits) and rely on **quality standards and monitoring** frameworks
- Involve (local) commercial actors to tailor support to solutions/technologies available, favour market development and **competitiveness of EU clean tech solutions**
- OSS as entry point for financing solutions: private Banking/energy efficiency lending, implementation of national programmes, innovative financing instruments (energy services, on-tax, on-bills, others)
- Systemic thinking and national approaches: Encourage a **strategic reflection on role of OSS** in delivering on energy efficiency objectives, EED and EPBD implementation, so that support could be streamlined, and anchor OSS in national strategies, NECPs and NBRPs

# EIB Energy Efficiency for SMEs Initiative

## Rationale

### Energy Efficiency

- **EE first:** cleanest, cheapest and safest energy
- COP 28 **Global pledge** (doubling energy efficiency by 2030) and **EU targets:** EUR 275 bn annual investments
- Clean Industrial Deal: joint **decarbonisation** and **competitiveness** agenda

### for SMEs

SMEs are the **backbone of the EU economy**. But... they face specific challenges:

- **Higher energy spending** to turnover ratio
- **Spend less on energy efficiency** measures because of lack of resources (human and finance)

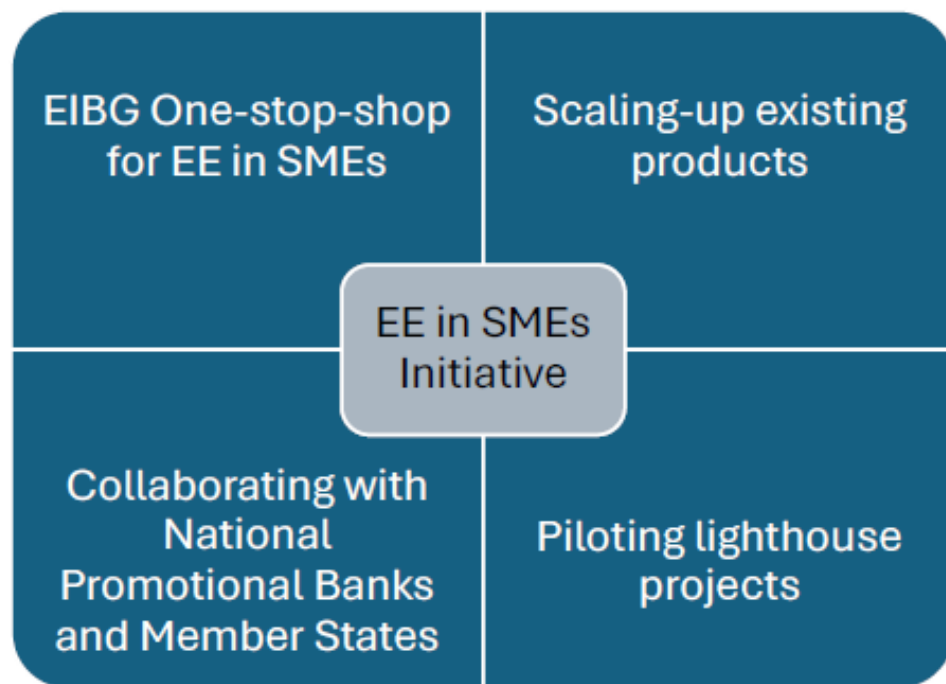
### Initiative

- EIB Group initiative supported by the European Commission
- **EIB Group:** scaling up existing products and developing pilot operations
- **EC:** existing instruments under InvestEU and LIFE CET (guarantees, PDA...)



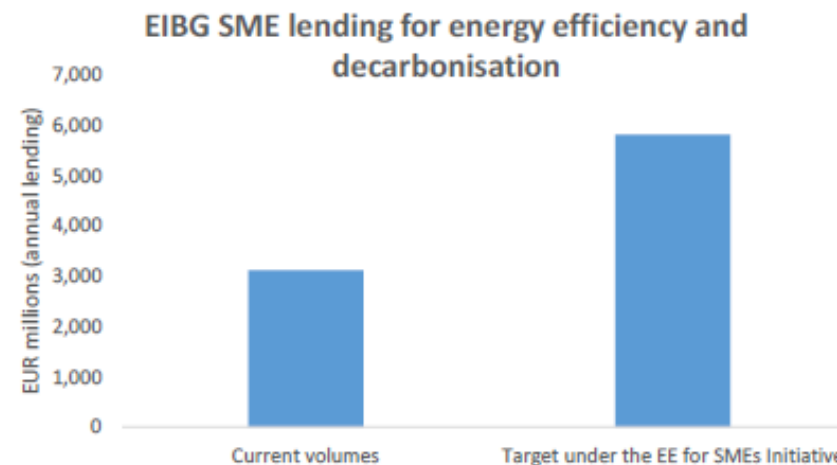
# Energy Efficiency for SMEs Initiative

## Main features



EIB Group pledges €17.5 billion to support energy efficiency improvements by small and medium-sized European businesses

Expected to benefit more than 350,000 companies over next three years, nearly doubling EIB Group financing





Thank you for your attention

