

*May 2023*

## **KNOWnNEBs Project Newsletter Nr. 1**

We're delighted to bring you Issue 1 of our newsletter!

This first edition will introduce you to the project, outline the work that has been happening since our launch and highlight some of the upcoming publications and events.

KNOWnNEBs is a Life EU-funded project that aims to accelerate the uptake of energy efficiency (EE) measures thus increasing EE investments and sustainable actions. Focusing on the primary tool for identifying and evaluating barriers to energy efficiency – the energy audit - the consortium intends to improve current practices, by quantifying the value of NON-ENERGY BENEFITS (NEBs) and integrating it into energy efficiency calculations.

Current energy audits only report on direct energy cost savings, not considering NEBs, such as improved product quality, space comfort, increased productivity, reduced maintenance-

related downtime, and other significant benefits. This leads to energy audits underestimating the true value of energy efficiency indicators and neglecting impactful measures which could increase EE investments and accelerate the implementation of sustainable actions.

The KNOWnNEBs consortium consisting of experts and academics from 9 European countries is determined to demonstrate the value of NEBs and change the perception of energy auditors, consulting companies, and policy makers by conducting interviews and surveys to find out what needs to be facilitated to adjust the energy auditing practices.

To keep up with the project and be part of the change in methodologies, follow us on our social media channels ([LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#)) our [website](#) or contact [Aiga Barisa](#) directly.

### **Stay tuned for future publications!**

You want to get more information about KNOWnNEBs. Just register [here](#) and mention under "Betreff": KNOWnNEBS Mewsletter.

You will also find the information on our [project website](#):

## Research Findings

### Our first report: Overview about the situation of energy audits in different European countries

We have already finished our first report, which will be available soon on the [project website](#).

The first part of the document gives an overview about European legislative background, precedent research projects on audit methods and applied indicators. The second, more robust part gives country specific analysis about practical implementation of the auditing framework.

In general, it can be concluded that the energy audit systems in all partner countries are well established, following the requirements of the EED Directive. National implementations have resulted in similar solutions, but with some minor differences. Many similarities can also be identified with regard to the operational shortcomings of the audit system.

Starting with the positive aspects, all partner countries have a well-established institutional framework, and the formal implementation of legislation is almost complete.

In general, there is a specific methodology that needs to be followed to issue the certificates, but for the field work, the auditors have freedom to use the methods they want. They are mostly restricted to general guidelines to carry out the audits based on European audit standards. There are no official software tools for energy audits, but in 5 countries there are official tools for issuing Energy Performance Certificates of buildings that can be optionally used for the building domain. Dynamic simulation tools for modelling buildings can be used in 8 countries, but they are rarely applied in practice. For

industrial processes and transport, professionals or companies make their own tools.

The quality check systems are working in the majority of the countries with check rates of 3-8%, however, in 3 partner countries there is no protocol established for the audit procedure nor for the quality control of the data collected. In two countries there is no register for energy auditors, only the obligated companies are checked.

Access to the data collected during the audit is generally highly restricted, although in many countries information is provided upon request, with certain limitations.

Only one country has an audit requirement for SMEs, and only two partner countries have to implement any of the measures recommended by the audit, and even there only a minimum effort is expected.

The robustness of the audits is not always of high confidence. Many companies do not see the added value of a good and detailed audit and therefore their concern is just about complying with the legal framework. However, the impact of the energy crisis seems to have turned the tide in all partner countries: the perception of the usefulness and necessity of audits seems to be improving.

For the project, the most important identifiable gap is the complete absence of a non-energy benefit indicator system, with the exception of carbon dioxide emissions, which is generally applied nearly everywhere.

## Industry news and events

### Thematic workshop on the clean energy transition of the business sector

From 20 to 21 April there was the first LIFE networking meeting in Comet Louise Brussels, organized by CINEA, in order to support the cooperation with projects that are also dedicated to the topic of energy audit.

Our project could present itself with a poster and get in contact with project leaders of other "audit projects". We hope for a good cooperation with them.



Gatis Žogla von Ekodoma is presenting the project KNOWNEBs in Brussel (April 2023).

## The new EED

Not much is known about the new energy efficiency directive yet. However, some facts are already circulating and indicate where the journey is headed.

While energy audits have been mandatory for large companies up to now, in the future it will depend on annual energy consumption. From an annual energy consumption of 2.78 GWh, an energy audit must be carried out. If the consumption is greater than 23.61 GWh

(= 84 TJ), an energy management system (fe. ISO 50.001) must be implemented. It can be assumed that the number of relevant companies that have to undergo an audit or implement an energy management system will rise sharply, although this will also apply to medium-sized companies. In addition, a mandatory action plan is to be drawn up in order to implement each individual recommendation from the audit.

## Meet the Team



EKODOMA, Latvia (Project manager)



e7 energy innovation & engineering, Austria



Technical University Budapest, Hungary



University Coimbra, Portugal



ESCAN, Spain



Chamber of Installation specialists in Bulgaria



KAPE, Polen



CRES, Greece



SOGESCA, Italy



**Co-funded by  
the European Union**

KNOWnNEBs has received funding from the European's Life 21-CER-Audits Programme under grant agreement no. 101076494.

More Information:

<https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/life/publicWebsite/project/details/101076494>