

Good Practice Factsheet

Case study presented by Bulgaria

Core Theme and topic	How to make better use of European financing sources (SCF, EIB) in combination with national schemes for energy efficiency
Name of work programme	Bulgarian Energy Efficiency for Competitive Industry Financing Facility (BEECIFF)
Project scope and description	
Short description of the programme & what it hopes to achieve	<p>The Programme is a joint initiative between the Ministry of Economy, Energy and Tourism (MEET) and the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to promote sustainable energy solutions for SMEs. The objective of the Programme is to improve the (energy) efficiency and productivity of environmentally friendly technologies utilised by SMEs.</p> <p>This Programme is innovative because it combines EU Structural Funds grants (up to 50%) with commercial bank lending in one process. The grant component is provided by MEET as the Managing Authority from the OP "Competitiveness". The loan component is managed by the EBRD and provided to local commercial banks to on-lend to SMEs.</p>
What is the scope of the project? e.g. - National/regional/local - Building type/owner	<p>The project has a national scope. It applies to hundreds of energy efficiency measures in SMEs</p>
Who are the key people involved? e.g.: - Installers - Local Authorities	<p>The programme is managed by MEET and EBRD Commercial banks on-lend the EBRD funds External consultants are contracted by EBRD (for programme design, marketing and capacity building) and MEET (for project assistance and verification)</p>
Who was the target audience?	Bulgarian SMEs
How was this work programme/ project financed?	<p>The grant component comes from the Structural and Cohesion Funds The loan component comes from EBRD</p>
What was the cost of the work programme/project?	For the on-going call for proposal, the total amount of grants is up to €150 million and the total amount of EBRD loans is up to €150 million
When did it start and end?	The call for proposal was published in June 2012 with no deadline for application
Project Outcomes & Communication	
What were the key achievements?	Still the programme is at an early phase of implementation and no results are available. However a similar programme operative since 2004 indicates high interest of SMEs, a low administrative burden, and overall spending efficiency.
What were the outcomes and expected benefits?	Still the project is at an early phase of implementation and no results are available. It is expected that the programme will lead to high absorption rates of the SCF for energy efficiency in SMEs.
What were the key lessons learned?	Still the project is at an early phase of implementation and no results are available.
Is there anything you would do differently in future?	It is too early to conclude about it.
What makes this a good practice	This scheme facilitates loan financing and decreases the risk that projects

example?	cannot be implemented due to a lack of funding. Additionally, the Managing Authority receives from EBRD external technical assistance and external confirmation of the financial eligibility of applicants. Overall, these result in a higher absorption rate of SCF.
Web links to further information	http://beeciff.org
Contact details of named person for further information	Angel Nikolaev, Black Sea Energy Research Centre, angel@bsrec.bg
Please indicate if you can give a short (15 minute) presentation at a Plenary Meeting or other event	Yes
Please indicate if this case study can be made available to the public?	Yes