



# D5.10 Deep Dives Report 1

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# Malta

## Introduction

On 20 September 2024, a deep dive workshop was held, bringing together representatives from the REEVale project consortium and a carefully chosen group of stakeholder businesses covering food & beverage manufacturers, logistics providers and wholesalers and retailers. The workshop featured a presentation on Value Chain Thematics by Ing. Ivan Filletti from the University of Brescia, a presentation on Operational Logistics by Conor Molloy from AEMS, a presentation by Carlo Chizzolini from Sammontana on Operational Perspective and a presentation by Timothy Alden from MBB on Value Chain Resources. The presentations were followed by a Q&A session facilitated by Green Mentor Joe Tanti from MBB, which focused on exploring the cost implications and growth potential of energy efficiency measures within the logistics operations of participating businesses.

## Key Outcomes

### Synergies Identified

Participants identified several potential areas for collaboration to reduce energy consumption and costs. These included:

- **Route Optimization:** Several participants highlighted the need for more efficient route planning, with some businesses often operating return journeys with no load. A representative from Gelateria Granola mentioned that their focus was on route planning with specific order deadlines, with return journeys usually empty.
- **Shared Logistics:** The prospect of sharing logistics options was raised, with World Express Logistics being interested in exploring these opportunities. This was also supported by a representative from Foster Clark who also suggested sharing the costs of such logistics/route planning programmes.
- **Temperature Control:** A representative from Alf Mizzi & Sons, who conducts frequent short trips with multiple stops, highlighted a challenge in maintaining temperature control during such trips. A suggestion to investigate the use of van compartments to maintain the temperature of different deliveries was mentioned. The possibility of more collaborative arrangements in transport was also mentioned by James Caterers.
- **Shared Cooling/Refrigeration:** Participants also discussed opportunities to address energy use in refrigeration and cooling throughout the logistics chain.

## Challenges and Barriers

Participants also highlighted challenges and barriers that are currently preventing them from fully realizing collaborative energy-efficient opportunities. These included:

- **Maintaining Temperature:** As highlighted above, maintaining temperature control during short trips was noted by Alf Mizzi and Sons. A representative from Maypole highlighted the need to minimise time, cost and other factors when carrying out daily deliveries from central hubs.
- **ESG compliance:** Several businesses stated they were facing challenges meeting CSRD (Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive) compliance and suggested that the authorities should provide more guidance and information on this, with a representative from Foster Clark raising the issue.
- **Lack of Resources:** Businesses also acknowledged the limitations in their internal expertise and resources required to effectively engage with projects, or the adoption of new technologies.
- **Availability of Financing:** Several participants raised the issue of the availability of relevant financing options to support their energy transition.

## Specific Examples

The discussions were enriched by practical examples from participants that offered clear insights into the operational realities within the food logistics sector.

- **James Caterers** reported shipping to New Zealand as part of their export operations, highlighting the scale of their logistical challenges and the need to look for solutions in this area.
- **Maypole**, a major food delivery company in Malta, reported that they undertake many daily deliveries from their main hub and undertakes daily deliveries to Gozo, which provides a clear example of logistical constraints related to geographical factors.
- **The Gelateria Granola** representative discussed how the return journey is usually empty, highlighting potential inefficiencies if this is common across the sector.
- **Golden Harvest's** representative suggested that using taxi-hailing services as a model could reduce journeys with no load, offering an innovative solution to some logistical challenges. The same representative also encouraged challenging the status quo and the need for employee involvement in finding solutions.

## Conclusion & Next Steps

The workshop provided valuable insights into the potential for value chain collaboration and provided a clearer picture of the challenges that stakeholders face in pursuing energy efficiency and renewable energy opportunities.

Key takeaways include:

- There is a strong interest amongst food logistics stakeholders in collaborating to achieve a more sustainable supply chain, but this is often hampered by a lack of information and resources.
- Route optimization and consolidation of deliveries is a common area of interest, yet barriers remain with regards to temperature control, financing, and operational resources.
- Businesses need further guidance, financial support and technical assistance to fully embrace value-chain energy optimization.

Based on the findings, the following steps are recommended for the REEVValue project:

- Further research is required to better understand the complexities of the current food logistics environment, with special emphasis on identifying barriers to collaboration. This will be addressed on D7.2 by UNIBS, due in M18.
- Follow-up discussions in the form of one-to-one and group meetings to further explore the challenges mentioned and identify those businesses which are willing to enter into value chain collaboration agreements.
  - One-to-one meetings were held with 15 businesses, commencing in October 2024.
  - Meetings are now being set up in January 2025 with the remaining businesses, led by new MBB CEO and Green Mentor Mario Xuereb and AEMS Director Conor Molloy.
  - Following the identification of the businesses interested in setting up value chain collaborations, group meetings shall be organized to define the terms of this collaboration and any required written agreements.
- Engage with relevant financial entities to understand the specific options available to businesses in the participating Member States.

# Ireland

## Introduction

On the 25th October 2024, a REEValue deep dive focus group was held at Cork Chamber, bringing together representatives from the project consortium and key stakeholders from the food, logistics, and manufacturing sectors. This was the second day of our REEValue Cork workshops, following a successful larger event the day before.

In our previous one-to-one meetings with these REEValue collaborating companies, it became evident that the concept of value chain collaborations is still in its infancy in Ireland. This workshop served as the first stepping stone in fostering this action within the project.

A select number of companies were carefully chosen and invited to attend, taking into account our boardroom's capacity limitations. The workshop aimed to introduce the concept of value chain collaborations and provide mentoring on energy efficiency and sustainability actions.

The agenda for the day included:

- A welcome address by our Green Mentor Joe Tanti, followed by Alicia Mateos introducing Cork Chamber and outlining the day's objectives.
- A presentation by Ivan Ferretti (University of Brescia) on the principles of value chain collaboration, delivered virtually.
- A session by Climeaction, who presented on carbon footprinting and Scope 3 emissions, emphasising their role in sustainable business practices.
- ENSO shared insights into ESG strategies and the importance of effective communication of sustainability initiatives.
- A mentoring session facilitated by Joe Tanti, with contributions from all speakers and participating businesses, allowed companies to discuss their sustainability challenges and opportunities for value chain collaboration.
- Testing of the REEValue platform was conducted to gather feedback on its features and utility for businesses.

The event concluded with a facilitated discussion to reflect on the day's learnings and future actions, followed by closing remarks by MBB and Cork Chamber.

## Key Outcomes

Our deep dive meeting on the second day narrowed the focus to businesses with strong potential for value chain energy collaboration, including food logistics (Barnett-Hall, FoodCloud) and manufacturing (Ballymaloe Foods, 9 White Deer and Green Saffron Spices). In addition to this, we had initially invited The English Market to participate in the workshop; however, they instead invited us to visit their building the day before as a site visit. During the visit, the REEVaL team discussed energy efficiency potentials, value chain collaborations across their vendors and explored financing avenues for their planned roof retrofit including solar PV installations.

- **Collaboration Challenges:** Several participants noted the difficulty of aligning schedules and infrastructure for collaborative efforts.
- **Actionable Steps:** Ballymaloe Foods and 9 White Deer expressed interest in developing renewable energy systems and sharing their learnings to inspire broader collaboration efforts.
- **Sustainability reporting:** All businesses highlighted their interest in training and advancing towards compliance and CSRD but they emphasised the need for guidance and accessible information.
- **Resource constraints and access to finance:** One participant highlighted their staff capacity time-wise and lack of funds, and proactively asked for guidance navigating different funding streams.
- **REEVaL Platform User Experience:** Following a demo of the platform, the businesses collectively praised its design and innovative concept, recognising its potential as a valuable tool. They also expressed enthusiasm about being featured as best practice case studies on the platform.

## Conclusion & Next Steps

The Cork workshop provided invaluable insights into the current landscape of energy efficiency and value chain collaboration in Ireland. While the concept of value chain collaboration is still in its early stages, the workshop marked a significant first step toward fostering this approach among Irish businesses.

Key takeaways include:

- **Collaboration Potential:** Businesses expressed strong interest in renewable energy systems and sharing knowledge, demonstrating their commitment to advancing sustainability practices. We will follow up with these companies to explore opportunities for collaboration and share insights on successful initiatives.

- **Challenges to Collaboration:** Participants identified challenges in fostering value chain logistics collaborations within the Irish context. However, they indicated a willingness to rethink their strategies and adapt their approaches with suppliers to address these issues. We will continue to support these businesses by facilitating discussions and offering guidance on overcoming these obstacles.
- **Resource & Financial Constraints:** Limited staff capacity in SMEs, along with difficulties accessing funding, are significant barriers to adopting energy efficiency measures and renewable energy projects. We will engage with relevant stakeholders to provide resources, guidance, and information on available funding opportunities to support these businesses in overcoming these constraints.
- **REEValue Platform:** Businesses expressed eagerness to be featured as best practice case studies, recognising the potential of the REEValue platform to inspire and guide wider adoption of sustainability practices. We will follow up with these companies, if appropriate, to highlight their successes and share their stories through the platform to encourage others to take similar steps.



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