



D5.1 Best Practice Report 12M

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Introduction

This report details the implementation of **Deliverable 5.1 Best Practice Workshops 12M**, a key component of the REEValue project's business outreach strategy as part of WP5.

Businesses identified as being best practice in particular energy areas were invited to share their experience with other businesses. This included detailed presentations on the technical project implemented, sharing how the business identified the opportunity, how it was financed, what considerations needed to be taken for implementation, and what results were achieved. Workshops also included a discussion session, where businesses were able to engage the best practice presenters directly.

D5.1, D5.4, and D5.7 were organized as back-to-back workshops over two days to accommodate the busy schedules of business representatives and enhance the value of participation.

Malta

Workshop Overview

The D5.1 Best Practice Workshop was organised over 19th and 20th September 2024, at the Ghajn National Water Conservation Centre in Rabat, Malta. This workshop brought together business representatives from across the agri-food value chain, including food and beverage manufacturers, importers, distributors, retailers, and logistics companies.

This served as the first opportunity for the Maltese REEValue partners to present the project to a wider audience, beyond one-to-one business meetings, providing an opportunity for valuable knowledge exchange, questions, and peer-learning.

The workshop kicked-off through a presentation to introduce REEValue by EWA Chief Policy Officer (Stakeholder Support) Ing. Charles Buttigieg. He highlighted its goal to support businesses in the food, beverage, and transport sectors in identifying and implementing energy efficiency and renewable energy solutions. He outlined how the project promotes value chain collaboration, bringing together manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers to jointly improve energy performance.

Ing. Buttigieg introduced the upcoming REEValue online platform, which will offer tailored recommendations based on energy data, facilitate access to best practices and funding opportunities, and support the formation of energy communities. Through practical case studies (such as the ice-cream value chain) he demonstrated how changes in production, logistics, and purchasing policies can lead to significant energy savings. His presentation emphasized the importance of coordinated action and knowledge-sharing to drive sustainable transformation across industries.

The two main best practice case studies by businesses were presented by Sammontana and EPTA Refrigeration. Conor Molloy from AEMS also delivered a presentation to showcase the business case behind implementing fuel-saving measures within company fleets, while Prof. Ing. Ivan Ferretti from UNIBS discussed best practices within value-chains to reduce energy consumption and emissions.

Sammontana

During the workshop, representatives from Sammontana, led by Carlo Felice Chizzolini and Andrea Bordignon, presented the company's comprehensive approach to sustainability within the REEValue project framework. They highlighted Sammontana's evolution into a Benefit Company, embedding social and environmental impact into its corporate mission.

The presentation outlined their three-pillar sustainability strategy focusing on health and wellness, a sustainable supply chain, and environmental impact reduction. Notable actions include significant CO₂ emissions reductions, investments in renewable energy systems, and innovations in low-impact logistics and packaging. The team shared detailed case studies

(such as the Barattolino product range) and energy-saving initiatives across their plants, including reverse osmosis water reuse and high-efficiency equipment upgrades.

Epta Refrigeration

EPTA presented its ongoing collaboration with Sammontana as part of its broader efforts to advance sustainable refrigeration solutions for the food and beverage sector. With 11 manufacturing facilities across nine countries and a workforce of 8,000, EPTA highlighted how its expertise in commercial refrigeration supports Sammontana's needs for preserving and displaying various gelato products.

The partnership focuses on integrating EPTA's energy-efficient technologies, such as large display cabinets and Misa cold rooms, to maintain product quality while aligning with environmental goals. EPTA emphasized its Design for Environment initiatives, including life cycle assessments and a 2025 energy efficiency roadmap, which have informed the development of solutions tailored for Sammontana.

Notably, EPTA's advancements in appliance efficiency, achieving up to 49% energy reduction in small chest freezers since 2018, contribute to a shared commitment to reducing carbon footprints, with a total fleet impact of 1.6 GWh saved annually, equivalent to 450 tons of CO₂ emissions. This collaboration exemplifies EPTA's role in supporting food industry partners through technical innovation and sustainability-focused solutions.

AEMS

Conor Molloy delivered a presentation focused on reducing energy consumption and CO₂ emissions in transport, drawing from his extensive experience since 2005 and contributions to initiatives like the Global Logistics Emissions Council and EU transport energy audits. Molloy highlighted the significant environmental and cost-saving potential of optimizing transport operations, referencing his work with Irish freight operators, which achieved 199,915 tons of CO₂e avoided from 2014 to 2023 through data-driven training programs.

He introduced the ECOFleet platform, a five-step program designed to assess and improve fleet efficiency, using practical examples like weekly tyre pressure checks to engage

operators. Polls conducted during the session revealed that 55% of attendees estimated transport costs exceeding 20% of their overall expenses, with fuel costs often comprising 10-30% of transport budgets.

Molloy also discussed the economic advantages of electric vehicles, citing Malta's 2023 data showing lower running costs for EVs compared to diesel and petrol. His presentation emphasized actionable strategies, such as transitioning to Euro 6 vehicles and route re-planning, to reduce fossil fuel use, offering a clear framework for businesses to enhance sustainability in logistics operations.

UNIBS

The University of Brescia's presentation, delivered by Prof. Ivan Ferretti focused on best practices in energy efficiency (EE) and renewable energy solutions (RES) within value chains, particularly in the cold chain logistics sector.

- Emphasizing transport systems and refrigeration improvements, the presentation highlights practices like Consignment Stock (CS) adoption to reduce storage time and energy use by optimizing replenishment lots, optimized travel routes to cut fuel consumption and emissions, and portable refrigerated units (PRUs) for eco-efficient transport in low-volume scenarios, achieving lower fuel use, CO₂ emissions, and refrigerant leakages while preserving food quality.
- Improved truck insulation, including air curtains, can yield up to 40% energy savings, and energy communities and storage systems enable up to 40% energy savings and reduced fossil fuel dependence, though high investment costs and geographical constraints pose barriers.
- By-products exchanges, waste heat recovery, and packaging changes promote circular systems, reducing energy consumption and emissions, while alternative refrigeration technologies like solar cooling and ammonia-based systems lower energy costs and enhance product quality, despite challenges like high costs and weather dependency.

Photos



Ireland

Workshop Overview

The REEValue Best Practice Session took place on Thursday, 24th October 2024 at Republic of Work, Cork, as part of the larger event titled *Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy: Unlocking Sustainable Cost-Saving Solutions*. Organised by Cork Chamber, this session welcomed business leaders from across diverse sectors for a focused exchange of insights and peer-learning on sustainability and energy efficiency in practice.

The best practice session was opened by the Director of Public and International Affairs, followed by a presentation from Cork Chamber's REEValue partner Alicia Mateos introducing the REEValue project and Consortium partners and providing an overview of the event's agenda and panel speakers. Next, Joe Tanti CEO of the Malta Business Bureau provided an international perspective, sharing key takeaways from the Maltese REEValue workshops. These included the need for practical case studies, a supportive policy environment, and industry-led collaboration to foster lasting change. Joe highlighted several sector-specific challenges and successes, noting the benefits of early engagement and peer learning. Next, AEMS partner Conor Molloy presented on the business case for improving fuel efficiency within the logistics sector.

Best Practice – Ballymaloe Foods

The session concluded with a best practice presentation from Ballymaloe Foods, which served as a highlight of the Cork workshop. They outlined the company's sustainability journey, with a focus on their commitment to reducing energy consumption and improving environmental performance across operations.

Ballymaloe Foods shared details regarding their integrated energy-efficient technologies in their production processes and how they enhanced their packaging strategies to lower carbon impact. They also discussed how the business engaged staff in their green transition, fostering a culture of sustainability from the ground up. Through tangible examples, such as upgraded machinery and local sourcing, she demonstrated the effectiveness of embedding sustainability within both strategic planning and daily operations.

Photos





Portugal

Workshop Overview

On April 8, 2025, REEValue workshops were held in Aveiro, Portugal. The theme revolved around decarbonisation and Sectoral Best Practices. This event was organised by AIP and MBB to promote energy efficiency, renewable energy adoption, and value chain collaboration in the agri-food and logistics sectors in Portugal. The workshops brought together businesses, public institutions, and academia to exchange best practices and explore financing and technical solutions to support sustainable transformation.

Introduction

The workshops provided the first opportunity to introduce the REEValue project to a wider national audience in Portugal. They were designed to stimulate dialogue and peer learning across sectors, while presenting real-life case studies from industry leaders and highlighting

tools and funding available through the REEValue platform. Each day featured a theme aligned with specific decarbonisation challenges: technology solutions, sectoral best practices, and financial instruments.

Lactogal

Showcased anaerobic digestion covering 12% of energy needs, 1.2 MWp of installed solar power, and packaging improvements. Outlined goal to reduce emissions by 30% by 2030 from a 2018 baseline.

Casa Mendes Gonçalves

Presented sustainability efforts including 28% reduction in boiler fuel, 55% water reuse, and zero-waste targets. Emphasised integration of LCA in procurement and supplier selection.

Grupo Luís Vicente

Highlighted solar-powered logistics, real-time monitoring of cold chains, and transport route optimisation. Achieved 22% reduction in cold-chain emissions.

Santos & Vale

Outlined low-carbon logistics strategy: 20% electric/biofuel fleet, 12% reduction in fuel consumption per km, and energy efficiency in warehousing yielding 18% savings.

Attendees

The workshops welcomed a diverse group of participants, including representatives from agri-food manufacturers, logistics companies, research institutions, sustainability consultants, and government funding agencies.

Photos





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