



D5.7 Financing Workshops

Report 12M

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Introduction

This report details the implementation of **Deliverable 5.7 Financing Workshops 12M**, a key component of the REEVValue project's business outreach strategy as part of WP5.

These workshops will feature representatives from the financing entities identified in WP2 and WP3, who will present available financing measures to participating businesses. The workshops will include presentations on financing opportunities by managing entities, followed by Q&A sessions where businesses can discuss their projects to ensure alignment with financing requirements. The workshops will focus solely on financial support measures available to businesses in the respective regions.

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 D5.7 Financing Workshop was organised on 19th 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.

Introduction

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 main financial schemes available to Maltese businesses were presented by MBB REEValue Project Manager Timothy Alden.

Financing Schemes

MBB's presentation highlighted funding opportunities for Maltese businesses to advance energy efficiency, green mobility and digitalization. It noted the EU Regulation 2023/2831, effective 2024–2030, which increases the de minimis aid ceiling to €300,000 over three years, up from €200,000. Such a development further facilitates funding opportunities for businesses wishing to invest in sustainability.

The presentation provided a SWOT analysis which identifies strengths such as the diverse funding from Malta Enterprise and open-ended funds, but acknowledges certain bureaucratic hurdles and misaligned grant timelines which are still present. The Green Mobility Scheme supports transitions to Euro 6 vehicles or EVs to cut costs and emissions, while the Digitalise Your Business initiative funds tools like fleet management software for efficiency. With transport costs often exceeding 20% of expenses and fuel comprising 10-30% of budgets, MBB urges businesses to access these funds via mbb.org.mt to stay competitive and sustainable.

Some of the key financing schemes addressed were the Green Mobility Scheme and Digitalise Your Business. The Green Mobility Scheme, part of Malta's Recovery and Resilience Plan, offers non-repayable grants (up to 50% in Malta, 60% in Gozo) under the €300,000 de minimis aid ceiling (2024–2030) to fund electric vehicle (EV) procurement, leasing, recharging infrastructure, and advisory services, targeting reduced emissions and costs for businesses where transport exceeds 20% of expenses, with applications processed on a rolling basis via maltaenterprise.com until at least 2026. The Digitalise Your Business initiative, active until December 2024 with potential extension to 2026, provides grants up to €128,400 (50–60% of costs) for hardware, software, and digital solutions like fleet management systems, prioritizing manufacturing and tourism sectors, with applications evaluated post-cut-off through fondi.eu.

Photos



Ireland

Workshop Overview

During this reporting period, Cork Chamber successfully organised two dedicated Financing Workshops as part of our REEVoice activities. These sessions targeted distinct audiences, tailored to ensure relevance and impact:

- An in-person Financing session held on Day One of the REEVoice Cork events, aimed at local Cork-based SMEs.
- An online Financing Workshop delivered in collaboration with Lidl Ireland & Northern Ireland, specifically designed for their SME supplier network in partnership with their CSR team.

Both events took place in October 2024 and focused on improving SME access to funding and support for energy efficiency, renewable energy upgrades, and broader sustainability initiatives.

Workshop 1 – In-Person Financing Session

This workshop was held on the 24th of October at: Republic of Work, South Mall, Cork. It was embedded into the first day of our REEVoice event titled “Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy: Unlocking Sustainable Cost-Saving Solutions.” The session brought together financial and advisory experts from key national organisations supporting sustainability in Irish SMEs.

Speakers and Represented Organisations:

- Climeaction

Climeaction offers bespoke carbon reduction consultancy services for businesses, supporting them in decarbonisation planning, energy efficiency, and sustainability

strategy. While Climeaction itself does not provide grants, their clients leverage various national schemes such as the SEAI Support Scheme for Energy Audits and Climate Action Fund-backed initiatives. Climeaction supports clients in identifying the most suitable funding pathways for implementation.

- Local Enterprise Office (LEO) South Cork.

They outlined the range of financial supports available through the LEO, including: 'Green for Micro' a fully funded sustainability review for small businesses.

- Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI).

The SEAI stands for the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland. It is Ireland's national energy authority, working under the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. SEAI promotes and assists the development of sustainable energy across Ireland. It supports businesses, communities, and individuals in becoming more energy efficient, adopting renewable energy technologies, and reducing carbon emissions. An overview of SEAI's grant offerings was provided, including: Support Scheme for Energy Audits (SSEA) a 100% funded energy audit for eligible SMEs, Community Energy Grant, funding up to 50% for energy upgrades when done in collaboration with other organisations. Non-Domestic Microgen Scheme, grants for installing solar PV up to 6 kWp and the EXEED Certified Grant for capital investments in energy-efficient projects within larger SMEs.

- Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) Cork / Cork Chamber

The EENergy project is an EU-funded initiative designed to assist small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across Europe in enhancing their energy efficiency. Through the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN), the project offers one-time grants of up to €10,000 to eligible SMEs that implement action plans aiming for at least a 5% reduction in energy consumption. These grants can cover various activities, including investments in energy-efficient equipment, consultancy services, and staff training.

Photos



Workshop 2 – Online Financing Workshop

Date: Thursday, 10th October 2024

Location: Online via Zoom

This workshop was hosted in collaboration with Lidl Ireland and Northern Ireland and Lidl's Supplier Engagement Programme. It was specifically designed for their SME supplier network and aligned with the REEVale project's mission to support businesses in the food, beverage, and logistics sectors to enhance energy efficiency and sustainability within their supply chains.

The session featured the following national and European funding bodies, each presenting practical insights on accessing financial supports for sustainability and energy upgrades.

- Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Cork North and West, providing an overview of the financial supports available to small businesses.
- SEAI Business Decarbonisation Supports Executive, presenting the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland's grants designed to help businesses decarbonise their operations.
- Cork Chamber, introducing the EENergy project, shared guidance on how SMEs can access the EENergy grant and encouraged participants to work with the Cork Chamber EEN team to develop successful applications.

Photo



Portugal

Workshop Overview

On April 9, 2025, REEVale workshops were held, Aveiro, Portugal. 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 REEVale project to a wider national audience in Portugal. Under the title 'financing the transition', the workshops 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 REEVale platform. Each theme is aligned with specific decarbonisation challenges: technology solutions, sectoral best practices, and financial instruments.

REEValue – EWA - Claude Mercieca/MBB - Mario Xuereb

Introduced the REEVale platform's capabilities for diagnostics, tailored recommendations, and support for forming energy communities.

Secretaria Geral do Ambiente (EEA Grants)

Explained grant funding up to 70% for RES/EE projects, with eligible project sizes between €100,000 and €1 million. Emphasised support for SMEs and collaborative actions.

Banco Português de Fomento (BPF)

Detailed green finance tools including ESG Guarantee Facility and Equity Co-Investment for sustainable innovation. Announced €2 billion green finance target by 2026.

COMPETE 2030

Outlined financial support for decarbonisation investments and audits, with co-funding of up to 50% for CAPEX and 85% for diagnostics.

Photos





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