

SPEEDIER, SMEmPOWER efficiency, and E2DRIVER will host a joint workshop at Sustainable Places 2020

- **These three sister initiatives, funded under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme, will present their knowledge acquired to date in terms of energy efficiency. The 4th sister project INNOVEAS will also participate as attendee.**
- **In the workshop, to be carried out online, participants will learn more about the innovative capacity building training approach developed by these projects, while they will be enabled to provide their feedback, sharing needs, and points of view.**

Cork (Ireland), September 29, 2020. The energy efficiency projects SPEEDIER, SMEmPOWER efficiency, and E2DRIVER will organise jointly the “Energy Efficiency Solution for SMEs” workshop, as part of the Sustainable Places 2020 conference to be held online from October 27 to October 30. The 4th sister project INNOVEAS will also participate as attendee.

The aim of the workshop, to be hosted on October 29 from 9 to 10.30 am (CET) hours, will be to draw together the findings from the three projects and present the results of the needs analysis, showcasing the differences and similarities observed between various countries and sectors. Each project will describe how the results are being used in the design of their capacity-building programmes to ensure maximum uptake from SMEs. Likewise, the workshop will include a panel discussion and time for Q&A from the audience. Workshop participants will leave with a deeper understanding of how to successfully engage with SMEs on energy efficiency.

SMEs account for 99.98% of European enterprises and are responsible for approximately 13% of total energy demand. It is clear that SMEs have enormous potential to save energy and contribute towards the ability of the EU 28 to achieve their collective targets under the Energy Efficiency Directive of a 32.5% improvement in energy efficiency by 2030. To date, little of this potential has been realised with studies estimating that only 25% of SMEs in Europe have undertaken an energy audit and a range of studies citing barriers that include lack of time, resource, in-house expertise, finance and the low priority nature of energy efficiency compared to other business needs. It is against this background that the challenges for the SPEEDIER, SMEmPOWER efficiency, and E2DRIVER projects are set.

SPEEDIER is a highly innovative one-stop-shop solution that applies an integrated approach to energy management, providing information, advice, capacity building, energy auditing, financing, implementation of energy efficiency solutions, and monitoring of impacts.

SMEmPower Efficiency will ensure that barriers to energy efficiency projects are removed for the uptake of energy efficiency projects by decision triggering of the teaming between energy professionals and decision-makers, SMEmPower Efficiency trainees experts, SME consulting companies, financing entities and Energy Service Companies (ESCOs), relevant associations and especially industrial professional or patronal associations.

[E2DRIVER](#) main goal is to train SMEs in the automotive sector on energy auditing and energy-saving measures for cost-effective energy efficiency improvements. To overcome the lack of knowledge, skills, and awareness prevalent in the industry, the project's integrative approach aims to boost capacity building programmes on energy auditing by establishing an innovative learning platform.

[INNOVEAS](#) aims to bring energy efficiency to SMEs of the Chemistry, Food and Construction sectors. The project conducted a large survey among European SMEs, and it is currently preparing practical trainings.

[Sustainable Places](#) is a platform for the dissemination of research, workshop hosting, project clustering, and networking between stakeholders around sustainability topics. SP2020 will address the building's environment, as well as district and urban scale that include sustainable transport and energy infrastructures.