

*November 2023*

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## WELCOME

to issue nr. 2 of the KNOWnNEBs newsletter!

This second edition will update you on what's been happening in the KNOWnNEBs project over the past few months and what we planned for 2024.

KNOWnNEBs is a Life EU-funded project that aims to accelerate the uptake of energy efficiency (EE) measures thus increasing EE investments and sustainable actions. Focusing on the primary tool for identifying and evaluating barriers to energy efficiency – the energy audit - the consortium intends to improve current practices, by quantifying the value of NON-ENERGY BENEFITS (NEBs) and integrating it into energy efficiency calculations.

Current energy audits only report on direct energy cost savings, not considering NEBs, such as improved product quality, space comfort, increased productivity, reduced

maintenance-related downtime, and other significant benefits. This leads to energy audits underestimating the true value of energy efficiency indicators and neglecting impactful measures which could increase EE investments and accelerate the implementation of sustainable actions.

We encourage you to share this newsletter with colleagues who might be interested!

To keep up with the project and be part of the change in methodologies, follow us on our social media channels ([LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#)) and our [website](#).

Kind regards,

The KNOWnNEBs Team

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## RESEARCH FINDINGS

Earlier in the KNOWnNEBs project, partners conducted an in-depth analysis on the energy auditing processes in companies and how decisions regarding the uptake of recommended measures are made.

The study included 90 structured interviews across 9 EU countries (Austria, Bulgaria, Spain, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Portugal, Poland, and Hungary), primarily targeting SMEs in the food and beverages sector. Read on for some of the key findings. Full results will be published in our next newsletter.

### Reasons for performing the energy audit

- energy costs reduction
- possibility of attracting EU funds
- legal obligation (for large companies)

Positive experiences from implementing energy efficiency measures	Negative experiences from implementing energy efficiency measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ 3/4 of the respondents considered the processes related to energy efficiency measures as the most important part of the energy audit</li><li>▪ positive impact on employees' energy and environmental awareness</li><li>▪ better understanding of the processes</li><li>▪ recognising the need for regular monitoring of energy consumption</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ lack of basic energy competences of responsible decision makers about energy audit</li><li>▪ financial aspects</li><li>▪ technical or organizational reasons e.g. large space requirement of the new equipment, the long implementation time and associated, or the need to interrupt the production to implement certain measures;</li></ul>

### Opinions on NEBs

- emphasis on positive effect on the company's efficiency (fewer breakdowns, better monitoring of production processes, higher profits, better productivity, more employable workers).
- "green image" is very important
- positive effects on the work environment (better lighting comfort, lower noise level, better air quality)

Most respondents indicated that the energy crisis had a significant impact on changing attitudes towards energy audits for

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### CURRENTLY IN DEVELOPMENT

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The KNOWnNEBs project partners are actively developing the NEBs assessment tool to prepare it for testing in companies. Our aim is to quantify the non-energy benefits of implementing energy efficiency measures in companies. This quantified data on NEBs will be added to the already quantified data on energy savings potential shown in the current company energy audits.

## INDUSTRY NEWS AND EVENTS

NEWS FROM OUR PARTNER IN SPAIN

### Food industry facilities visited to participate in the KNOWnNEBs project



Over the last few months, several visits have been made to five food companies to involve them in the KNOWnNEBs project, promoting Non-Energy Benefits (NEBs). Located in the region of Castilla y León, in Spain, the companies process different types of food and beverages, such as, pre-cooked meals, wine cellars, coffee, etc.

After presenting the project, the facilities were visited and inspected to identify potential EEMs, such as improving the efficiency of equipment or installing photovoltaic panels or biomass boilers instead of using fossil fuels.

Companies that had already carried out an energy audit were also invited to contribute to the analysis of EEMs through energy efficiency measures that were being or had been implemented in the facilities.

Europe's industry, impacted by climate goals and crises, needs transformative change for deep decarbonisation and global competitiveness. The European Green Deal emphasises energy efficiency, but real transformation requires decarbonized processes and renewable investments.

The Zero Carbon Industry event will explore strategies for rapid, fundamental industrial change to meet decarbonisation targets and ensure sustainability in the face of global challenges.

[Find out more...](#)

INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRY EVENT

### eceee's Zero Carbon Industry 2024

30–31 January  
Antwerp, Belgium



NATIONAL INDUSTRY EVENT

### 18. Symposium Energieinnovation 2024

14–16 February  
Graz, Austria



Europe grapples with challenges: BRICS discuss new gold-based currency, global SDG efforts and Russia-Ukraine conflict disrupts energy supply. Last winter's uncertainties and energy price rises are having an impact on the economy. The central question is how Europe's energy industry should evolve for security, affordability and the environment.

The symposium aims to explore solutions involving science, research, business, NGOs, politics, and administration.

[Find out more...](#)



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