

## Emilia-Romagna, Italy Energy Fund (Multyscope Regional Fund of public financing)

### DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

It is a Financial Instrument, according to the previous art. 37 of the EU Reg. n.1303/2013, set up with public resources on the ROP ERDF of ERR 2007–2013. The Fund is a revolving fund of soft loan financing, privately-funded for the purpose of providing loans at a reduced rate.

**FINANCIAL CAPACITY** Energy Fund of about € 23,750,000 (public 9,5 MI, Private 14,25 MI Euro)

**Beneficiaries:** SMEs and large companies (registered in the Register of Companies operating ONLY in the sections of the economic activity (ATECO 2007 - B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, L, M, N, R, S) with local units in which the investment project is implemented (ERR) active at the time of submission of the application provided they are not "Undertaking in difficulty" complying with the European Guidelines on State aid for rescuing and restructuring non-financial firms in difficulty (2014 / C 249/01)

During the implementation phase the fund was not attractive for SMEs therefore it was modified by increasing the public share to 70% and the private decreased to 30%  
The Fund provides:

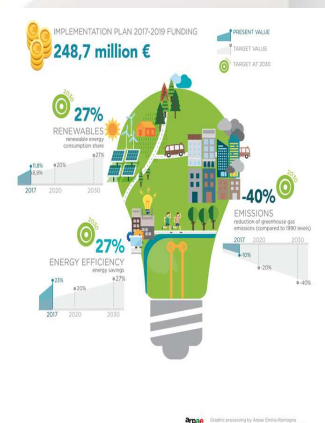
- New unsecured-loans at reduced rates with mixed provision resulting partly from the public share (70%) and partly from the private share (30%) for each admissible project.
- Every single funding covers 100% of the project

**Time period: 2013 - 2014**

**Key results (2015):**

**47 projects financed with an estimation of:**

- **Renewable energy: 23.246 MWh**
- **Reduction of energy consumption of 11.113 TOE/Y**
- **Reduction of GHG emissions of 26.001 TCO2 equi/Y**





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The amount of funding must be between of a min. of € 75,000 and a max. of € 300,000

The duration of the amortization period is between a min. of 36 months and a max. of 96 months (including any pre-amortization period of up to 12 months).

The facilitation is determined by:

- an interest rate equal to 0% on the part of the public share of the Fund (70%)
- a rate on the private portion (30%) calculated on the basis of the EURIBOR 6 months plus a maximum spread of 4,75%

### Eligible initiatives

- Interventions addressed to improve energy efficiency and to reduce gas emissions causing climate change
- Interventions to produce energy from renewable sources, favouring those in self-consumption, as well as high efficiency cogeneration plants, complying with the EU Directive 2012/27 (EU Parliament and Council)

### Eligible costs

- a) Works on buildings: expansion and / or restructuring, works functional to the project
- b) Purchase and installation, machine adjustments, plants, equipment, hardware
- c) Acquisition of software and licenses
- d) Technical and targeted consultancy services for the investment project
- e) Costs to preparing an energy audit and / or project development design to carry out the intervention submitted in the application

## Success factors

- the choice to use a revolving fund is rewarding in terms of sustainability. In general, in fact, the refunds allow to refinance funds;
- the combination of loans and training is winning. Provide training on different aspects on the business development improves entrepreneurial skills, increasing the chances of creating jobs and reducing the risk failures;



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### Non Repayable grants

The company may, at the time of submitting the application, require a non-repayable grant to be charged on technical costs such as energy audit and / or project, which are necessary for the submission of the investment project. This contribution, which covers up to a maximum of 100% of the aforementioned expenditure, taking into account the chosen aid scheme and the ceiling on the same amount of expenditure, will still be eligible for a maximum of 12,5% of the public funding admitted (up to 8.75% of the funding). In the grant communication, the manager will indicate the amount of the actually disbursed non-repayable grant, specifying the modalities and the timing for the delivery of it. The reimbursement of the expenses will be paid only after the final project finalization, after its verification. In the event of a difference between the intervention granted and the actual intervention, the deferred grant will be remodeled in order to respect the maximum permissible percentages

### Documents to submit for the application phase

- Pre-Banking Resolution
- Budget Estimates
- State aid statement
- Energy audit or project
- If available, the last two full balance sheets

### Grant benefit and aid regime

The public share of funding, allocated at zero rate and the non – repayable grant create a public benefit for the beneficiary which will be granted on the basis of the choice made by the requesting party and in accordance with the regulatory constraints under the provisions of the “de minimis” regime according to the EU Regulation 1407/2013

### PARTNERS INVOLVED

- **Unifidi Emilia-Romagna**  
<http://www.unifidi.eu/>
- **Fidindustria Emilia-Romagna**

## BARRIERS ENCOUNTERED

- **Low level of EE knowledge of financial operators**
- **EE awareness and information efforts not reaching some target groups**
- **Complicated bureaucratic procedures and limited support to potential beneficiaries**
- **Lack of permanent initiatives/programme to capitalise knowledge and experience**



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### Preparation of the energy intervention

At the request of the chosen financial aid, an Energy audit will have to be provided, stamped and signed by a qualified technician, and drawn up in accordance with UNI CEI EN 16247 - (parts 1 a 4)

- Definition of ENERGY AUDIT: "A systematic procedure aimed at obtaining an adequate knowledge of the energy consumption profile of a building or group of buildings, one industrial or commercial activity or plant or of public or private services, to identify and quantify cost-effective energy saving opportunities and report the results "
- Where the Energy audit procedure is not applicable, it will be necessary to attach to the request of the aid selected the project of the intervention, stamped and signed by qualified technician, which can be:
- A Feasibility Study / Preliminary Project / Final Project / Executive Project which shall, however, consist of the following elements:
  - a) Technical report
  - b) Graphic documents
  - c) Analysis of project cash flows, where relevant

## FINANCING

<b>Investment costs</b>	<b>13.460.000 EUR</b>
- Own sources	-
- Subsidies	
- Public	<b>6.350.000 EUR</b>
- Private	<b>7.110.000 EUR</b>
- Loans	-
<b>Annual operational costs (salaries, repairs, maintenance and other specific costs)</b>	<b>500.000 EUR</b>



## DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTION

### Examples

Hereafter an indicative/not exhaustive list of possible and eligible interventions to reduce the Energy consumption:

- Thermal insulation
- Replacement of transparent closures and fixtures
- Replacement of winter air conditioning systems
- Redevelopment of lighting systems
- Installation of automatic management and control technologies for thermal and electrical installations
- Installation of solar thermal collectors
- Installation of photovoltaic systems
- Industrial heat recovery
- Efficiency of refrigeration systems
- Efficiency and replacement of machinery
- Efficiency of the electric engine park of the production site
- Energy Reduction of compressed-air compression plant
- Savings in pumping systems
- Cogeneration plants

### Ways to deal with barriers

- **in order to reach the widest amount of beneficiaries, it is important to highlight the activities communication, both in terms of results and opportunities offered by the Funds;**
- **it is necessary to assure stability and certainty over the time to the financial instrument.**
- **offering to the beneficiaries a counseling and tutoring service and accompaniment for the first year of activity, in order to guarantee a more effective use of financial resources;**
- **simplify documents preparation**

CONTACTS:  <http://www.fondoenergia.unifidi.eu/>