



E4S
ENERGY4SUPPLY

March 2026

WELCOME

to issue No.3 of the Energy4Supply newsletter!

In this issue, we are pleased to share the latest developments from the Energy4Supply project and highlight several important milestones across the consortium. You will find a recap of our recent **Consortium Meeting in Milan**, along with a preview of our upcoming gathering in **Malmö, Sweden**. We also present insights from a **recent PhD thesis** exploring how knowledge-driven approaches and energy efficiency networks can support industrial SMEs in unlocking their energy efficiency potential. In addition, we introduce our **Mission Trips planned for 2027**, which will showcase the project's results and engage companies interested in applying the E4S approach within their own supply chains. Finally, we share updates from Sweden, where the **first E4S Energy Efficiency Networks** have been successfully launched, creating new opportunities for collaboration and knowledge exchange among participating companies.

The Energy4Supply project, funded under the EU LIFE Programme, aims to accelerate the clean energy transition by enhancing energy efficiency among manufacturing SMEs within the upstream value chains of focal companies. A central objective is to collaborate with four focal companies to understand, demonstrate, and drive decarbonization across their manufacturing value chains. This includes introducing a

novel, lightweight certification scheme tailored for SMEs, offering a more accessible alternative to traditional standards such as ISO 50001. The project will implement four energy efficiency network programmes, each associated with a focal company group, facilitating peer learning and sharing of best practices. Upon completion, a centralized resource hub will be developed to support European SMEs in adopting sustainable energy solutions.

In brief, E4S serves as a demonstration project, illustrating how focal companies can proactively plan to decarbonize their supply chains by engaging SME suppliers who are not subject to mandatory reporting. The approach aims to evaluate whether fostering voluntary improvements and creating business models can enhance resilience against energy price volatility in the short, medium, and long term in the upstream value chain.

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

To keep up with the project, follow us on our social media channel on [LinkedIn](#) and our [website](#).

Kind regards,
The E4S Team

PROJECT NEWS

Consortium Meeting in Milan

In October, the Energy4Supply consortium came together in Milan, Italy for a highly productive in-person Consortium Meeting hosted by Politecnico di Milano (POLIMI).

The meeting provided an important opportunity for partners to align on project progress, exchange insights, and jointly plan the next phases of E4S. A key highlight was the **Public Session**, which brought together representatives from industry, finance, research, and policy to discuss how energy efficiency and sustainable supply chains can drive the clean energy transition in Europe.

The session featured valuable contributions from **Alberto Zangarini (Mondadori)**, **Carlos Herce (ENEA)**, **Marco Martorana (Crédit Agricole Banca d'Impresa)**, and **Steffen Helledie (EEnergy Project)**, covering topics such as financial solutions for sustainable value chains, Scope 3 strategies, and practical pathways for SMEs to improve energy efficiency. We were also pleased to welcome our **EU Project Officer from CINEA, Filippo Gasparin**, whose feedback and guidance were highly appreciated.



The E4S Consortium in Milan, Oct 2025

The Milan meeting once again underlined the importance of collaboration and knowledge

sharing at the core of E4S, reinforcing our joint commitment to building more sustainable supply chains across Europe.



Public Session

Next stop: Malmö, Sweden!

Our next Consortium Meeting will take place in Sweden, where project partners will once again come together for an in-person exchange on project progress, results, and next steps. Alongside a dedicated internal working day, the meeting will feature a special excursion to **IKEA** in Malmö. During this visit, **IKEA and Schneider Electric** will share best practices on supply chain sustainability and energy efficiency, building on input from E4S regarding key topics of interest. In addition, E4S focal companies will present their own journeys in advancing supply chain initiatives, including current activities and future plans. The programme will conclude with an interactive workshop, leveraging the expertise of **IKEA and Schneider Electric** to further support focal companies in strengthening their supply chain strategies.

First Thesis within Energy4Supply

Advancing Energy Efficiency Through Knowledge and Networks

A recent PhD thesis within the E4S ecosystem sheds new light on how industrial SMEs can unlock their untapped energy efficiency potential by moving beyond purely technology-driven solutions. The research explores **Energy Efficiency Networks (EENs)** as policy instruments and shows that, while such networks already outperform standalone energy audits, often doubling the implementation rate of energy efficiency measures, they still fall short in addressing deeper organizational and knowledge-related barriers. Based on an extensive qualitative multi-case



The opponent and the grading committee members

study, the thesis highlights that SMEs typically exhibit low energy management maturity, with a lack of internal competence emerging as a more significant barrier than technical constraints. To address this, the work introduces **Lean-based Energy Efficiency Networks**, demonstrating how the integration of Lean principles strengthens knowledge creation and enables companies to independently improve both production and support processes. The research further expands the perspective by framing energy efficiency and multiple energy benefits as **social constructions**, influenced by organizational culture and regional policy contexts. A key takeaway across European cases is that an improved understanding of a company's own energy use is the most valued, underscoring the importance of knowledge-driven impact.

benefit of energy efficiency initiatives, approaches for lasting impact.

The full PhD thesis, by our valued colleague and consortium member Noor Jalo is available online and can be accessed [here](#).

Energy4Supply Mission Trips

Europe keeps paying a premium for energy vulnerability

When energy imports run through volatile global markets and fragile chokepoints, exposure becomes a supply chain problem, not only an energy policy problem ([source](#)).

The answer is not to pause the clean transition. It is to accelerate clean domestic energy and cut demand faster. Energy efficiency is the immediate lever. You do not have to wait. Every kWh saved reduces exposure to disruption and price spikes.

Evidence from analysis of the 2022 gas price shock suggests efficiency gains cushioned the hit to euro area potential output. Without those gains, the loss could have been about two thirds larger ([source](#)).

What companies can do now:

- Conduct targeted energy audits: Measure the power loads in your

operations and identify quick payback efficiency actions.

- Collaborate with companies in network settings: Share knowledge, build capacity in energy management, and learn from peers facing similar challenges.
- Engage strategic suppliers: Help suppliers improve energy data transparency and prioritise efficiency improvements with quick payback.
- Treat efficiency as resilience: Integrate energy efficiency into procurement decisions, not only sustainability reporting.

In our project, we translate this into supply chain practice: fewer wasted kWh, more resilient medium sized strategic suppliers, and lower exposure to external shocks.

In 2027 we will run 12 focal company mission trips. If you are a focal company and you want a visit, we will share interim results and map practical efficiency actions with your teams and key suppliers.

If you want to be considered, [message us](#).

Start of Energy Efficiency Networks

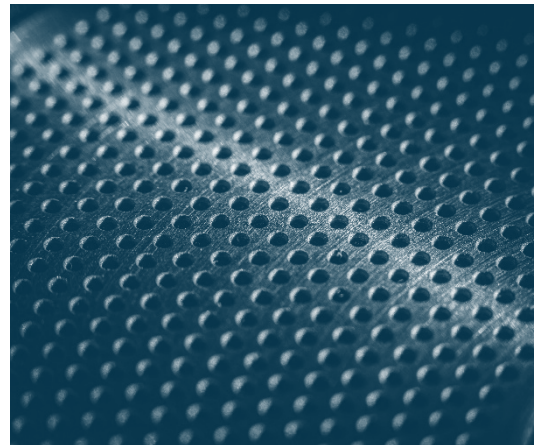
A key pillar of the Energy4Supply (E4S) project is the establishment of Energy Efficiency Networks (**EENs**) that enable companies to collaborate, exchange knowledge, and accelerate the implementation of practical energy-saving measures. In Sweden, this work has recently gained strong momentum with the launch of the E4S network meetings together with **ProfilGruppen**.

The first meetings took place last autumn, and the initiative has continued into the beginning of this year. So far, three sessions have been held, with the most recent meeting hosted on-site at ProfilGruppen's production facilities. Across the sessions, participants have explored topics such as energy management practices, the role of collaborative networks, and practical approaches to implementing energy efficiency in a structured and manageable way.

The on-site meeting provided a particularly valuable opportunity for hands-on learning and peer exchange. During a guided tour of the facilities, discussions focused on technical support processes, with special attention given to compressed air systems an area where ProfilGruppen has extensive experience. The company shared insights into how they manage and optimize compressed air use and presented digital tools they have developed to support improvements in efficiency and monitoring.

These practical insights sparked lively discussions among network participants. Companies exchanged experiences, compared challenges, and explored how some of the solutions implemented at ProfilGruppen could be adapted within their own organisations. Such peer-to-peer learning is exactly what the E4S networks aim to foster: creating a space where companies can learn directly from each other's experiences and accelerate progress together.

To connect these real-world examples with a structured methodology, the session concluded with a presentation on a seven-step model for more effective compressed air management. This



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combination of practical insights, digital tools, and systematic approaches highlighted how technical improvements and structured energy management can go hand in hand.

Looking ahead, the network will continue to grow. The next meeting is planned as an on-site session at **A-lackering**, where participants will dive deeper into the topic of measurement and follow-up, a subject that generated strong interest during the previous discussions. By continuing to build on shared experiences and practical examples, the Swedish E4S network is becoming a powerful platform for collaboration and learning on the path toward more energy-efficient supply chains. Also in our partner countries Austria and Italy, the Networks will start soon, so stay tuned!



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