



# SMEPlus

Interreg Europe



European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund

## Final Event - Province of Groningen

**Brussels**

...

January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023

# The policy instrument

## Province of Groningen Energy transition program 2016-2019

Total budget € 6 mio

3 action lines:

1. Energy efficiency
2. Sustainable energy
3. Changing the energy system

€ 1,1 mio for energy efficiency in SME's and industry

Goal: 1,5% energy efficiency per year

# Good practice

Most important instrument for SME's:

Law enforcement based on the National  
Environmental law:

*Take energy efficiency measures with roi < 5 years*

Only possible for SME's with:

- 50.000 kWh electricity or
- 25.000 m<sup>3</sup> natural gas equivalents

Lists of measures available: national database

# Good practice: results

Law enforcement: results:

700+ SME's visited bij law enforcer

- With info and advice about duties and possibilities

310 energy saving plans/reports received and assessed

Costs per SME: € 1.500 (15 hours per SME)

Total cost € 1,0 mio

*(we paid 60%, municipalities paid 40%)*

# Good practice: results

20 environmental permits improved on energy efficiency.

- Submit energy efficiency plans
- Take measures with r.o.i. of 5 years and less.

Cost per permit € 3.000

Total costs € 60.000

# Good practice: overall results

700+ biggest energy users in 'action mode'.

These will (have to) take measures in the next years.

Concrete CO2 reduction not yet visible...

# The intention: action plan

## Creating energy networks and an energy measures tool

Main objective:

*Improve our policy instrument to better help SME's to take more energy efficiency measures by:*

### Sub-action 1:

Creating energy networks: groups of SMEs who are on a business park together or otherwise geographically connected and who work and learn together in taking energy efficiency measures.

### Sub-action 2:

Creating a tool to combine data from different databases regarding energy efficiency measures.

# Implementation of actionplan

**Unfortunately none of the actions have been implemented or even started.**

**Due to:**

**Policy changes on national and regional level**

- Less budget
- Other priorities

**Covid and energy crises**

**No staff**



# Why

Since the start of SMEPlus:

- Provincial elections in 2018;
- Dutch National Climate Agreement (2019)
- National elections in March 2021
- New national policies implemented and planned
- 2020-2021: Covid crisis
- 2022: energy crisis and staffing shortage

# Regional effects

Provincial elections in 2018;

- policy and priority change: 60% less budget for staffing and projects

New national policies implemented and planned

- Environmental agency gets extra tasks but already short on staff

2020-2021: Covid crisis -> other priorities

2022: energy crisis and staffing shortage

- Focus on quick wins; advice for individual SME's, no time to invest in starting energy networks

# National policy changes

## Focus even more on law enforcement;

- **€ 56 million extra money to Environmental Services.**
  - Write proposal
  - Find staff
- **Extra money to energy efficiency on Businessparks**
  - Provinces to write proposal.
  - € 65.000 subsidy -> to be matched
- **Extra money for stimulation and advise on energy efficiency**
  - Province to write proposal
  - Find staff (coaches and advisors)



# Near future in our region

Provincial elections in March 2023

- New policy again

Probably focus on executing national programs:

- Stimulation and advice through GWS
- Energyefficiency on businessparks -> GWS

Because: co-financed by national government

***Groningen Works Smart will become more important***





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# Thank you!

Questions?

