SET Saving Energy in Textile SMEs

SET

The Save Energy in Textile SMEs (SET) project was launched in April 2014 chiefly to enable the European textile SMEs to improve their energy efficiency, achieving tangible and countable economic and resource-efficiency benefits. The SET project also extend its benefit to the whole European textile/apparel industry, a key sector for EU employment and industrial manufacturing (172,000 companies with €162 Billion turnover, 1.6 Million workers). SET started in seven countries: Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Portugal and Romania which counts for 55% of the whole EU textile companies. In a 2nd phase the project also support companies in other European countries with significant amount of textile SMEs, notably Bulgaria, Lithuania and Croatia. The project aims at developing a high quality tool to help company to understand, assess and size the potential of energy efficiency. Thus, the ESET was developed as a comprehensive tool centred around a self-assessment software which builds up on three years of previous research (ARTISAN and SESEC) to the deliver the ultimate instrument for companies. With SET, the company manager or a staff member can find, free of charge, tools to evaluate options and take informed decisions about energy efficiency. This project is a part of Energy Made-to-Measure [1] campaign – an initiative running until 2016 to empower over 300 textile & clothing companies, notably SMEs, to become more energy efficient.

Results

The first SET results have already been achieved. The unique Energy Saving and Efficiency Tools (ESET) for SMEs of the European textile industry were developed by the project partners. SET aims to directly support energy efficiency for 150 companies applying this scheme at companies’ premises, providing training and assistance. More than 70 companies were already involved in the project activities. Moreover, additional 350 of European textiles SMEs will receive all necessary elements (both technical and non-technical) to evaluate their options and make well-informed decisions.

The ESET tools include an overview of the existing and upcoming legal aspects of energy efficiency, which are relevant for textile companies. It covers guidelines and legal requirements which aim at improving energy efficiency and are necessary to comply with at national and EU level. Special attention is paid to energy procurement, production processes and energy infrastructure.

An overview of the current and upcoming options to support textile companies’ investments in energy efficiency is also offered for companies. It provides consideration about how chosen or required investments can be financially supported. The support measures taken into consideration include private or public incentives, grants, support schemes and loans relevant to help companies’ own investments in energy efficiency.

To upgrade a company production processes before investing in energy efficiency, textile SMEs can benefit from the right information, including legal context, best practices and financial incentives.
Lesson learned

After almost two years of work the SET activities widely promoted through the Energy Made to Measure campaign, have shown in most countries a growing interest on energy and finally a growing awareness on Energy Efficiency actual benefits.

The relevance of critical mass as well as the need to cooperate with different type of organisations (e.g. local industry associations, energy experts, companies senior representatives and ESCOs) to enable companies to size the energy efficiency potential has received ample confirmation. However actual setup of cooperations is in many context hard to achieve.

Successfull examples from business peers, media and local support organizations can also play a relevant role to push energy efficiency higher up in the management agenda and trigger action.

Field experiences also show that: most managers are not aware of actual consumption or real saving potential; the path to achieve energy efficiency shall be simplified; best practices, guidance and tools shall be sector-specific as energy features vary greatly both within textile manufacturing and with other industries; benchmarking is only meaningful (and possible) within peer companies and it can really help entrepreneurs to consider and finally profit from the right choices.

Partners and coordinator

- The European Textile and Apparel Confederation [2] Belgium
- Technological Centre for the Portuguese Textile and Clothing Industry [3] Portugal
- The national research and development institute for textile and leather [4] Romania
- German Insitute for Textile and Fiber Research Denkendorf [5] Germany
- Italian National agency for new technologies, Energy & sustainable economic [6] Italy
- Association of textile, Clothing and leather Industry [7] Czech Republic
- Centexbel Belgian Textile Research Centre [8] Belgium

Contact

The European Textile and Apparel Confederation
Belgium

Contact point

Name: Mauro Scalia
E-mail: mauro.scalia@euratex.eu
Tel: +32 2 285.48.91

Name: tba
### Budget

Overall budget: 1.568.503,00 € (EU contribution: 75,00 %)

### Key documents

  
  PDF 940.5 KB

### In brief

Sector: Businesses

Duration: 01/04/2014 to 30/09/2016

Contract number: IEE/13/557/SI2.675575

### Videos and Photos

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