



## E.1 Knowledge building on energy efficiency and energy management

It is not uncommon that SMEs lack basic knowledge about energy and energy efficiency, since this is not part of their core business. Such knowledge would be beneficial for SMEs to improve their energy efficiency and competitiveness.

Improving knowledge and understanding about energy issues is an important requirement to encourage energy-saving solutions and/or actions in SMEs. The low level of SMEs' engagement with energy issues is often due to unawareness about the potential of energy-related actions, and the influence of effective energy management on the company's performance.

Hence, it is vital to develop an integrated understanding of energy literacy in order to create connections between knowledge, choices of energy measures and interventions. Therefore, *knowledge* should not be underestimated as a means of improving the prospects for informed decision-making in companies.

There are many types of tools that can provide support to the Trusted Partner in meeting this need. For example:

- National Energy Efficiency Agency websites can help the Trusted Partners find general information about energy efficiency in SMEs.
- National sector studies/guidelines/online courses can help the Trusted Partner to find out more about energy efficiency in SMEs; from the reasons why energy efficiency is important in companies, to knowing and understanding the benefits of working systematically with energy management

In addition, information can be derived from already documented case studies within various countries.