



E.6 Search for public support and funding

Every country has different mechanisms for supporting energy efficiency and renewable energy measures, as well as energy audits. Subsidies can also vary depending on what is made available from local and regional authorities. Keeping up-to-date with all available mechanisms is time consuming and frustrating, as information in these regards is seldom centralized. Also, often times the bureaucratic load required to get access to such public funding can be substantial, and significantly different from the day-to-day business of SMEs.

The Trusted Partner can support SME in these regards by acting as advisor in the process. The Trusted Partner can, for instance, help the SMEs by providing a clear overview of what public support systems exist, and how they can be used. Some local authorities, for instance, provide direct funding for performing energy audits. Others subsidize energy efficiency measures. Also local solar generation is often supported by, for instance, ensuring a minimum energy price for the energy sold to the grid.

Also, the bureaucratic effort required to access such subsidies can be substantial. The Trusted Partner can also provide support in these regards, helping the SMEs in gathering the required documentation, in guiding them through the procedures, and acting as in-between with local authorities in case of need.