



ENEFIRST Plus | Putting Energy Efficiency First in Practice

29 May 2026, 11:00-12:30 CET | online

AGENDA

Background and objectives

This workshop aims to share experience with Energy Community Contracting Parties in operationalising the Energy Efficiency First (EE1st) principle¹ in practice – moving beyond its recognition as a policy principle towards its systematic integration into planning, policy and investment decision-making.

Building on insights and tools developed under the ENEFIRST Plus project, the workshop will explore how EE1st can be effectively embedded across interconnected planning processes, including National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs), heating and cooling (H&C) plans, local energy plans (e.g. SECAPs), network development planning and tariff modelling. Particular attention will be given to the need for better alignment of assumptions, data, and methodologies across these processes, as well as to the role of cost-benefit analysis and the design of financial incentive schemes in ensuring that energy efficiency and demand-side solutions are properly considered alongside supply-side solutions.

Through concrete case studies and interactive discussion, the workshop will help participants identify practical entry points for applying EE1st within their institutional responsibilities. We will also discuss the added value that the EE1st principle can bring to planning, policy design or investment decision.

Targeted audience (or invited participants)

The workshop's targeted audience are ministries, agencies, regulatory authorities and energy efficiency funds, with a focus on their complementary roles in planning, regulation and financing.

¹ A 2024 Energy Community Ministerial Council Recommendation (2024/01/MC-EnC) promotes the application of the EE1st principle by the Contracting Parties, including the development of legal and institutional preconditions for the implementation of Article 3 of Directive (EU) 2023/1791, with support and reporting coordinated by the Energy Community Secretariat.



Agenda

(total duration: 1h30)

Time	Item	Speaker (Affiliation)
5 min	Welcome and opening remarks	Energy Community Secretariat
15 min	EE1st in practice: “connecting the dots” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>EE1st as a coordination challenge across planning processes</u> • Linking NECPs, H&C plans, SECAPs, network development planning, tariffs and incentives • <u>Implications for ministries, regulators and EE funds</u> Slido or similar tool to be used to set the scene (EE1st in Contracting Parties)	IEECP
10 min	Case study – Greece: integrating EE1st in heating and cooling planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linking sectoral planning with NECP • Comparing demand- and supply-side options through CBA -> <u>policy (incentive) implications</u> 	CRES
10 min	Case study – Italy: applying EE1st in planning methodologies (SECAPs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Ensuring consistency between local and national planning</u> • Using EE1st to prioritise measures 	ENEA
10 min	Case study – Croatia: EE1st in transmission grid planning and CBA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrating EE1st in infrastructure planning -> <u>connection with NECP</u> • Relevance of CBA 	EIHP
10 min	Case study – Poland: EE1st through demand response and tariff design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of regulators in enabling EE1st • Incentives for flexibility and efficiency 	KAPE
25 min	Interactive discussion: from planning to implementation – applying EE1st in national contexts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aligning planning processes (NECPs, H&C, SECAPs, network plans) • <u>Translating planning into investments, tariffs and financial incentive schemes</u> • <u>Roles of ministries, regulators and EE funds</u> Slido or similar tool to be used to guide the discussion	All participants moderated by the Energy Community Secretariat and ENEFIRST Plus team
5 min	Wrap-up and next steps	Energy Community Secretariat

About Enefirst Plus

Enefirst Plus is a 3-year project (November 2023 – October 2026) co-funded by the EU LIFE programme. Building on the previous Horizon 2020 **Enefirst** project, the aim of Enefirst Plus is to provide key stakeholders in all Member States with the technical support needed to effectively implement Energy Efficiency First across various sectors, particularly focusing on key decision-making processes.

Energy Efficiency First (EE1st) is an overarching principle for planning, policies and major investments having an impact on energy consumption. EE1st is about considering **energy efficiency and demand-response as energy resources** in the energy system, just as supply-side resources (e.g. generation capacities, network infrastructures). Implementing EE1st means that in planning exercises, policy design or decision-making about investments, the options considered include energy efficiency and demand-response, and that these options are compared with supply-side options on a **fair basis**, considering **multiple impacts and a long-term perspective**.

Implementing EE1st is easier said than done. Therefore, the general approach of Enefirst Plus is to complement existing resources to **plug EE1st in the decision making** for investments in energy infrastructure, energy planning, and designing incentives and policies.

Enefirst Plus is testing this approach in four countries (Croatia, Italy, Greece and Poland) and scrutinise the implementation of EE1st with **pilot cases** in each country. Two cycles, with four pilot cases each, will provide a diversity of **real-life examples** addressing typical situations where EE1st should be implemented. The new resources and pilot cases produced by the project, as well as experiences from other countries, serve as foundational elements for capacity building and experience sharing activities, and for the development of a community of practice.

Enefirst Plus' partners



Stay in touch!

Enefirst Plus' platform: <https://ee1st.eu>

Continue the discussions on social media with **#EnefirstPlus**