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Dear reader,

The project is already getting close to the last months of activities; we will have our Project partners meeting at the end of this month to give the final touch and to start finalising the last steps of the project.

Until now all the partners have been working on developing the project with enthusiasm and we now can see the results of our efforts: we achieved to complete more than 60 audits, 29 in footwear companies and 37 in tanneries across 6 countries. The audit is the first step to identify which are the initial energy performances of companies. According to the audit results, the companies are able to take appropriate decisions to reduce the energy consumption and CO2 emissions.

More than 250 inventories have been collected among footwear companies and tanneries in Europe. This inventory helps companies to know and understand their energy patterns and then decide taking actions needed to produce more sustainable and greener articles.

Thanks to the 140 technological solutions identified in the WP3 (Technical support actions), those companies who were already involved in the project audits and other new ones could benefit from it and save energy and money. Besides the proper energy efficiency solutions identified within the project, partners also have listed more than 10 “low cost” energy saving measures, these mean a very small investment / change that companies in the footwear and tanning sector can make to start using energy in a more efficient way.

Every Indeco partner is also working to identify financial solutions in order to make easier the access to funds for those companies who decide to invest in energy efficiency. At the moment we have registered more than 100 solutions, both at national and European level among grants, banks, ESCO's, crowdfunding platforms, private programmes, etc.

Finally, I would also like to share with you that we produced a disseminating [video](#) for explaining the purpose of the project and getting more companies on board.

Macarena Gonzalez, Cotance

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Energy efficiency, a support for the industry:

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The Earth is a closed and limited ecosystem. The growth of the population means a growing need for resources to meet the needs to be more of the world's population. This underscores the need to be more efficient in human activities in order to achieve the expectations of the population using fewer resources (principle of producing more with less).

The European Union faces important economic and environmental challenges, as set out in this "European for 2020" paper, amongst which are the current international economic situation, climate change and competition with emerging economies. For this reason, the EU encourages policies and legislative initiatives to support tools that reward a more sustainable development of the activities in the sectors of agriculture, industry and services.



Moreover, the European industrial sector is experiencing a gradual increase in its production costs as a result of the constant increase in the price of energy being used (mainly in the form of fossil fuels from outside Europe). These fuels are responsible for large amounts of CO₂ atmospheric emissions. Therefore the European Union's different research programmes seek actively to improve energy efficiency and the efficiency of industrial processes, as a measure to:

- ∞ Improve European industry's productivity and competitiveness and thus ensure economic growth and jobs.
- ∞ Make an efficient use of resources so as to slow down climate change and mitigate other negative effects on the environment.
- ∞ Ensure the supply of raw materials and make the European economy less vulnerable to future increases in the price of energy.

The price of energy has destroyed the fragile paradigm which made it possible to provide energy services to society, as well as enabling the agricultural, small business and final industrial development with which we have raised our standard of living. If the majority of today's medium and small industrial processes are not energy efficient it is because the economy and society do not know how to combine successfully, whether with energy or with



industry. The paradigm doesn't work (the meaning of which is "the set of all the inflected forms of a word or a systematic arrangement displaying these forms").

It is the *interests of industry to reduce the energy bill. Paradoxically, it does not really understand why it costs what it does and is even less interested in knowing whether it could consume less.* It demands energy regulations which give it, in a globalised world, the advantage it loses on, for example,

environmental regulation, or else it demands subsidies (which end up going into the dark hole of governmental cuts). Let me repeat, and we state our personal interest here, the expression “in the interests” with the same “interest” with which we measure the return on money that has been lent or invested. If those of us who use the creativity of technology and scientific reasoning can learn anything for the economy it is that something should generate an interest. **Is the industry interested in knowing how much its energy costs it ... and how much it could save if it knew what and how it consumes?**

The “efficiency” as applied to an energy technology would be equivalent to the concept of energy “performance”, that is the relationship between useful energy and energy consumed. In the case of vector energy measuring and calculating a variable, a percentage, a relationship which we can study sensitivities, look for improvements will be ... but always using energy units (the joule, the calorie, the kilowatt hour, the therm, the ton of oil equivalent –TEP-, etc.). In a production process with inputs of raw materials, process development and production of final products, is necessary to perform a detailed analysis of the relevant aspects that determine the operating costs of the process and study improvement options allowing you to increase the efficiency of processes.



Industry, energy and efficiency: they are key and fundamental words, whose mutual relationship permits endless permutations of results. *Will profitable industry, sustainable industry, organised industry, creative industry or the established industry survives?* Perhaps the adjective “efficient” is the one that discerns the wise combination of all the characteristics that enable industry to survive ... and perhaps also the survival of our society’s model, where a step back in time is not possible.

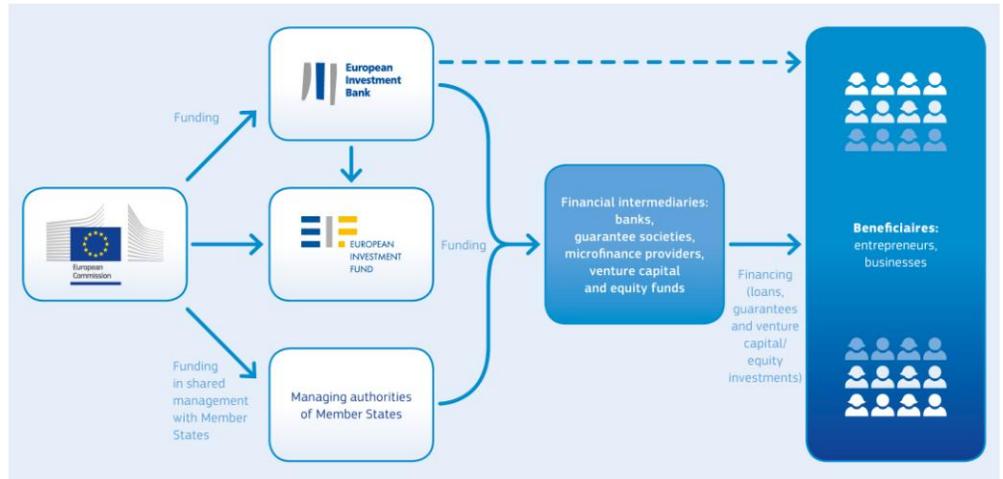
Obviously, those who have done their homework, and with great interest, are the energy industry and the energy-intensive industries. And they continue to do it, although now this is a road to perfection: effort, concentration and research for less result, less profitability but one which still justifies the investment. They don’t need help or promotion, whether from the private sector or from the administration; they have taken the knowhow in-house, the mastery, management and control of their energy. **Investing in what is important, in a major qualitative value despite its temporarily modest quantitative value, is a long term strategy.** Energy and industry understand one another and combine perfectly in the long term. **What do the medium and small industries and companies to get on the “train”?**

Suggestion: Join the Indeco project!



COSME agreement will boost funding opportunities for SMEs:

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Europe will soon have access to up to € 25 bn of additional finance, as a result of an agreement signed today between the European Commission and the European Investment Fund (EIF). Thanks to the € 1,3 bn allocated in the COSME budget for SME financing, it will be possible to mobilise up to € 25 bn via leverage effects from financial intermediaries over the next seven years. The agreement paves the way for providing equity and debt financing for SMEs under the EU Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs (COSME) programme by the end of 2014.



How it works?

The decision to provide a loan, guarantee or venture capital/equity financing will be made by the local financial institution. The exact financing conditions - the amount, duration, interest rates and fees - depend on the financial institution. To find your local financial institution check this link: http://europa.eu/youreurope/business/funding-grants/access-to-finance/index_en.htm

ENERGY EFFICIENCY FINANCING SCHEME BY SIEMENS

Investment in energy efficient equipment makes sound business and environmental sense, especially with the Energy Efficiency Financing scheme provided by the Carbon Trust and Siemens Financial Services.

Energy Efficiency Financing is available to a wide variety of organisations and could help you to save money, reduce your energy costs and ultimately become greener. There are a number of affordable financing options available from Siemens Financial Services which can deliver increased energy savings and earnings from the very beginning. The scheme has been designed so that financing payments are offset by anticipated energy savings, therefore new equipment should pay for itself.

