



## Press release

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### Handbook for an integrated GEAR@SME methodology

Addressing energy use and increasing energy efficiency in SMEs can be of great benefit to both the SMEs and to society: SMEs, can save energy and reduce energy cost and the society benefits from the mitigation of CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions. The GEAR@SME project addresses the challenge of scaling up energy efficiency and renewable energy in SMEs and now published a handbook which describes its methodology developed within the project.

The handbook is designed to help any organization or individual who wants to support SMEs in their efforts to improve energy efficiency. The handbook explains a coordinated approach for addressing energy efficiency in SMEs, and aims to inspire and provide practical insights on this approach. “The handbook is useful for all organizations that want to address energy efficiency in collaboration with SMEs”, says Ingrid Nyström from the consortium partner CIT (Sweden), such as SME associations, energy authorities, (local) governments, NGOs or research organizations, but also for local clusters of SMEs, business park managers, industry associations, local energy and climate advisors, or energy auditors.

The methodology described in the handbook starts from the hypothesis that SMEs can benefit from energy efficiency actions but have limited time and resources to implement them.

“We follow a collective approach, in which a local SME energy collective is supported by a Trusted Partner (a neutral actor like for example a commercial park operator), who also provides a linkage to Energy Service Suppliers and Multiplier Organizations and is vital for initiating activities and supporting the Trusted Partners”, explains Ingrid Nyström, “Further support will be provided by the EnergyEfficientSME portal.” Here organizations can find a network, material and tools linked to the methodology ([www.energyefficientsme.eu](http://www.energyefficientsme.eu)- to be launched in Q3 of 2021).

The GEAR@SME handbook can be downloaded here:

<https://www.gearatsme.eu/handbook-for-an-integrated-gearsme-methodology/>

#### Project Communication

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<https://www.gearatsme.eu/>