

Context

Efficiency first must go from theory to practice

Energy efficiency is one of the five dimensions of the Energy Union. To emphasise the prominent role of energy efficiency, the European Union adopted the principle of **E1st** as part of the **Clean Energy for All package**. This concept is to **prioritize** demand-side resources over investments in energy infrastructures, acknowledging that energy efficiency can contribute to meet **multiple objectives** and is closely linked to all Energy Union dimensions.

In practice, putting efficiency first represents a **paradigm shift**. To date, E1st has been defined in general terms. Policymakers and market actors now need guidelines for words to materialize into actions. Implementing E1st implies to adapt decision paths with a **holistic view**: taking into account society's perspective, as well as investors'. This means **embedding E1st** across our energy system models, impact assessments, funding and infrastructure decisions, into all energy and climate policies.

The EU and its Member States must now make **critical investment decisions**. E1st is about ensuring that opportunities to **value the most beneficial options** are not missed, and that today's decisions will not undermine achievement of long term climate goals.

enefirst.

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MAKING THE EFFICIENCY FIRST PRINCIPLE OPERATIONAL

Efficiency First (E1st) is not just
another name for energy efficiency.

Efficiency First gives priority to **demand-side resources** whenever they are more **cost-effective** from a societal perspective than investments in energy infrastructure in meeting policy objectives. It is a decision principle that is applied **systematically** at any level to **energy-related investment planning** and enabled by an **"equal opportunity" policy design**.

enefirst mission

Our mission through enefirst is to make the efficiency first principle operational in the EU.



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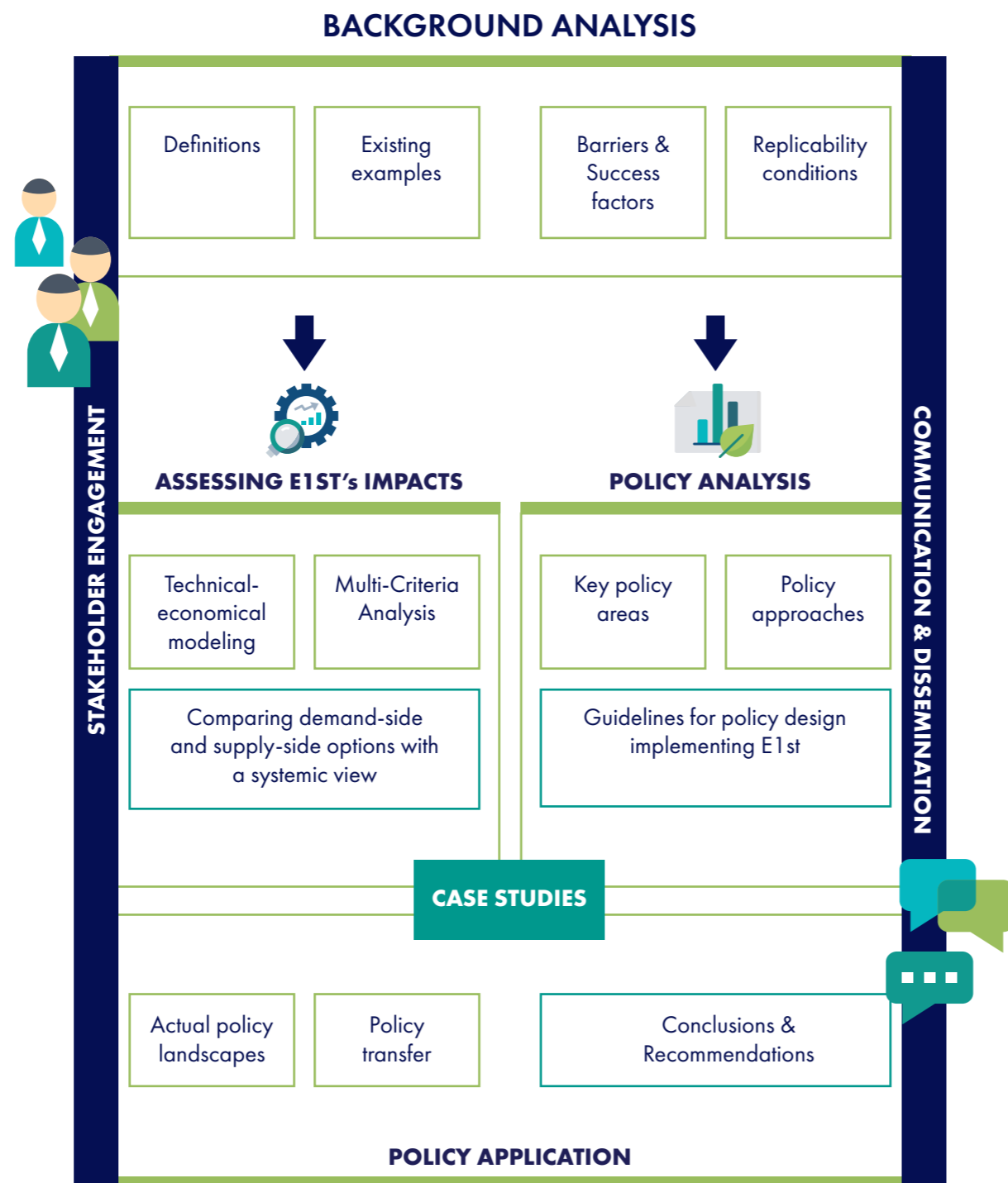


The objectives of enefirst are:

- To **define** the principle of E1st in practical terms
- To **map** how E1st has been applied internationally and in the EU
- To **assess** the value of applying E1st across different policy areas and to **quantify potential impacts** for buildings' end use
- To develop **policy proposals** for the implementation of E1st in the EU buildings sector

The methodology of enefirst is based on three pillars:

- 01 IDENTIFICATION** of the most relevant **policy areas** where the E1st principle can be applied to achieve the highest impact in terms of energy system benefits
- 02 APPLICATION** of E1st in **existing policy instruments**, through assessing the applicability & transferability of international E1st approaches and quantifying the impacts of E1st
- 03 ENGAGEMENT** with stakeholders to apply E1st through the **design of new policy instruments** and analyse their application in country case studies



Partners

- IEECP – Institute for European Energy and Climate Policy
- RAP – Regulatory Assistance Project
- BPIE – Buildings Performance Institute Europe
- Fraunhofer ISI – Fraunhofer Institute for Systems and Innovation Research
- TUW – Technical University of Vienna
- IREES – Institute for Resource Efficiency and Energy Strategies
- CEU – Central European University

The progress of the project is followed closely by an Expert Advisory Board, ensuring scientific quality and relevance for stakeholders.

