

ShareRES



# ShareRES Interregional Event 3 Dossier

SHARE 



PP02 - Riga Planning Region  
(Latvia)

April 2024

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## Aim of the document

The aim of the Interregional Events' Dossier is to summarise the main interregional activities held during the event for publication and dissemination in the project website.

The document includes the agenda, a description of the main activities developed, conclusions of the interregional learning and event photos.

## Project identification

Acronym:	ShareRES
Title:	SHAring REnewable eneRgy through Energy communitieS
Project ID:	01C0212
Project duration:	48 months + 3 months for project closure
Core Phase:	From 01/03/23 until 28/02/2026.
Follow-up Phase:	From 01/03/26 until 28/02/2027.
Closure Phase:	From 01/03/27 until 31/05/27

## Partners / associated policy authorities

### Project partners

- LP01 - Consortium Extremadura Energy Agency – AGENEX (Spain)
- PP02 - Riga Planning Region (Latvia)
- PP03 - Donegal County Council (Ireland)
- PP04 - Alba Iulia Municipality (Romania)
- PP05 - Nicosia Development Agency (Cyprus)
- PP06 - BSC, Business support centre L.t.d., Kranj (Slovenia)

### Associated policy authorities

- APA01 - Directorate General for Industry, Energy and Mines - Regional Government of Extremadura (LP01)

## Project summary

The involvement of citizens and communities is vital to successfully achieve a clean energy transition. Although it is recognized that community energy projects have significant social, economic and environmental benefits, citizens around Europe are still facing many challenges. Legal restrictions, administrative burdens and punitive tariffs are just some of the obstacles and barriers currently faced.

The main objective of ShareRES is to improve the policies that enable an active participation of citizen communities in the energy market by generating, consuming, sharing and selling electricity; as well as providing flexibility to the grid through demand-response and storage. These improvements will achieve a democratic, sustainable and inclusive energy system, in which energy communities will be key for the energy transition.

Among the project's results will be the development of collective and citizen-led initiatives, the increase in public acceptance of renewable projects and the attraction of private investment. Among the benefits and territorial impacts for the regions are the increase in energy efficiency, the reduction of energy costs and, most importantly, the creation of local jobs.

ShareRES will analyse policies and provide insights for policymakers in 6 EU regions: Riga Region (Latvia) in the North; Donegal County (Ireland) in the West; Gorenjska (Slovenia) and Alba Iulia (Romania) in the East; and Nicosia (Cyprus) and Extremadura (Spain) in the South of Europe.

There will be 6 policy improvements developed and implemented throughout the project thanks to an intense core phase that will include several learning events and activities defined in the project work plan. Over 90 people involved in the project will increase their capacity and knowledge of energy communities and renewable community energy projects, from a technical and financial point of view. Over 15 good practices will be identified, allowing them to be transferred within the partnership.

# 1. Event Agenda



Co-funded by  
the European Union

ShareRES

**SH**aring **RE**newable ene**R**gy through **E**nergy Communities**S**

## AGENDA Third Interregional Event

Tuesday 24th October 2023, Ballyliffin, Co Donegal, Ireland (F93 XR25)

## Third Interregional Event in Riga, Latvia

16th & 17th April 2024

**Venue:** Hilton Garden Inn Riga Old Town, Grecinieku 25, Riga, Latvia

<https://www.hilton.com/en/hotels/rixrlgi-hilton-garden-inn-riga-old-town/>

### Agenda Day 1 (Tuesday 16th April)

- 09:00 - 09:30     **Registration**
- 09:30 - 09:40     **Introduction** - Welcome from Riga Planning Region  
[Ilgvars Francis, Project Manager at Riga Planning Region](#)
- 09:40 - 10:00     **Outline of the agenda:** [Ilgvars Francis, Project Manager at Riga Planning Region](#) / Recap of ShareRES Project with [Lead Partner, Beatriz Rico, Extremadura Energy Agency](#)
- 10:00 - 10:30     **Renewable energy support mechanisms and community energy regulation in Latvia**  
[Gunārs Valdmanis, Director, Energy Market Department – Ministry of Energy and Climate of the Republic of Latvia](#)  
An outline of the Community Energy Enabling Framework in the Republic of Latvia
- 10:30 - 11:00     **Sustainable urban energy development** – an outline of renewable energy and climate policy and community initiatives in the City of Riga  
[Valdis Ratniks, Head of Energy Efficiency Information Centre, municipal agency “Riga Energy Agency”](#)
- 11:00 - 11:30     **Coffee break**
- 11:30 – 11.50     **Overview of the potential of energy communities for residential buildings** [Dr Oļegs Borščevskis – Institute of Physical Energetics, Smart Grid Research Centre](#)
- 11:50 - 13:30     **Peer review-workshop** - Regional Self-Assessments and Good Practices
- 13:30 - 14:30     **Lunch**
- 14:30 - 16:30     **ShareRES Project Steering Committee meeting**

19:00 - 21:00 **Project dinner** – Restaurant Gutenbergs <https://restaurant-gutenbergs.lv/en/gutenbergs-terrace/>

### Agenda Day 2 (Wednesday 17th April )

09:00 - 09:15 **Meeting point, pick-up at Hotel Reception, bus travel to Salaspils municipality**

09:45 - 10:40 **Study visit No 1** – “Salaspils Siltums, Ltd” district heating projects - renewables (solar / biomass)  
<https://salaspilssiltums.lv/>

10:40 - 11:00 Bus travel to Ogre municipality

11:00 - 12:00 **Study visit No 2** – Ogre Municipality Central Library: circular economy in practice – zero energy public building (<https://www.ocb.lv/>)

12:00 – 12:40 Bus travel to Mārupe municipality

12:40 - 13:30 Lunch at the Urban Cafe Mārupe <https://www.facebook.com/Urbancafemarupe/>

13:30 – 14:30 **Study visit No 3** Meeting at the Municipality of Mārupe / Update from local Sustainable Energy Communities at Mārupe municipality  
[Agnese Jankuna, Chief executive, municipality of Mārupe](#) / [Raivis Šķērstens, energy expert, local activist](#)

14:30 Partner departures

## 2. Summary



The 3rd ShareRES Interregional Event took place on April 16th and 17th, 2024, in Riga, the capital of the Republic of Latvia. Ilgvars Francis, a project expert at Riga Planning Region, opened the event and welcomed the 20 attendees. Each of the partners and stakeholders was invited to introduce themselves to the group. Ilgvars Francis gave a brief overview of the ShareRES activities and objectives in Latvia and invited the project manager, Beatriz Rico, from the lead partner, Consorcio Agencia Extremeña de la Energía (AGENEX), to address the group.





### 3. Presentations by Guest Speakers

The first guest speaker of the day was Gunārs Valdmanis. Gunars is the director of the Energy Market Department at the Ministry of Energy and Climate and is directly responsible for the development of regulations for the operation of energy communities in Latvia. Gunārs presented Latvia's approach to sustainable energy communities and briefly discussed the future regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers, which will be officially submitted for public consultation in May 2024. Within the framework of ShareRES activities, the Riga Planning Region cooperates with the national ministry to promote the public consultation process, for example, by organizing discussions and gathering the opinions of interested parties. This was followed by a questions-and-answer session from the group.



Next on the agenda was a presentation by Valdis Ratniks, Head of the Energy Efficiency Information Centre of the municipal agency "Riga Energy Agency." Valdis' presentation focused on the renewable energy and climate change mitigation activities carried out by the municipality of Riga. The Riga Energy Agency is the first municipal energy agency in Latvia. It has competences and expertise in all issues related to sustainable urban development: sustainable transport, energy efficiency, and the and the introduction of renewable energy sources. They advise local decision-makers and residents on sustainability issues.

After the presentation, Valdis answered questions from the audience and elaborated on some specific activities that the Riga Energy Agency implements in order to strengthen cooperation with resident communities.



The third and final presentation of Day 1 was given by Dr. Oļegs Borščevskis, who provided an overview of the potential of energy communities for residential buildings. He presented the models developed by the institute's researchers for the implementation of sustainable energy community projects in Latvia. The developed models include not only the evaluation of legal restrictions for the implementation of energy community projects but also show what technical solutions are possible for clusters of single-family buildings, terraced houses, and multi-apartment residential buildings.

His main conclusion is that Latvia has sufficiently good prerequisites (legal framework and metering system for electricity production or consumption) for the development of sustainable energy communities. After the approval of the new regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers, which is expected by the end of 2024, it will be possible to start the implementation of the first community energy projects.





## 4. Peer review workshop - Regional Self-Assessments and Good Practices

During the event, a workshop was held on regional self-assessments and examples of good practice. The main objective was to fine-tune the methodology for the Good Practices identification, the criteria, and the main characteristics to consider a regional example as an interregional good practice. In addition, experts discussed the content of regional self-assessments. The development of these reports will be finished and presented at the next interregional event.

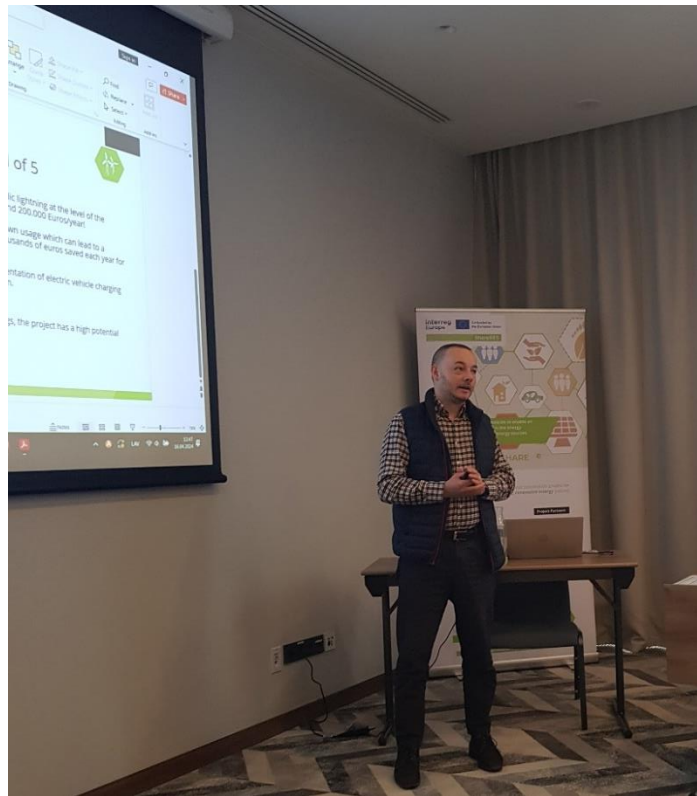
Workshops on Good Practice Learning followed, and a number of partners shared examples, including: Donegal County Council (Ireland) - Community Climate Action Programme (a presentation by Con McLaughlin).



Consortium Extremadura Energy Agency – AGENEX (Spain) - EnVerde, Extremadura Energy Cooperative (a presentation by Francisco Javier Márquez Pocostales).



Alba Iulia Municipality (Romania) – Photovoltaic Park and Photovoltaic Power Plants at the Level of 5  
(a presentation by Tudor Drambarean)



Nicosia Development Agency (Cyprus) – the Phaethon photovoltaic park (a presentation by Panayiotis Mountoukos)



## 5. SC Meeting

The final activity of Day 1 was the partners attending the second steering committee meeting, which was led by Beatriz Rico, project manager.

The focus of the meeting was on the project reporting deadlines, deliverables, new good practices, terms of reference for regional self-assessment, next partner meeting, and communication commitments that all partners are required to meet. Partners had an opportunity to raise any concerns that they were experiencing, and the lead partner clarified any issues raised.



## 6. Study Visits

The second day of the partner meeting (April 17) was dedicated to visiting various existing projects. This included three study visits.

### STUDY VISIT 1 – *Salaspils Siltums* district heating project.

Day 2 commenced with a site visit to the *Salaspils Siltums* district heating project to see some of the renewable technology introduced by the municipality of Salaspils.

*Salaspils Siltums*, a municipal district heating company, is known for being the first company in the Baltics that uses solar energy in the district heating system. After the implementation of the solar project, it is planned to produce at least 90% of thermal energy using only renewable energy resources - wood chips and solar energy. The project has received international recognition for its contribution to environmental sustainability.

Commissioned in 2019, the project consists of a 21,672 m<sup>2</sup> solar field, a wood chip boiler, and an 8,000 m<sup>3</sup> storage tank to meet 90% of the demand from the local district heating network. Within 7 years, the Salaspils municipality made a complete transition from the use of fossil sources to renewable energy.



This site visit demonstrated how a municipality can use renewable energy from biomass woodchip boilers and solar power to offset rising energy costs. The *Salaspils Siltums* district heating project can certainly be considered a success story in Latvia.



### **STUDY VISIT 2 – Ogre Municipality Central Library: circular economy in practice – zero energy public building**

The second site visit took place at the Ogre town Central Library, which is the largest public wooden structure in Latvia and fits into the category of passive or zero-energy buildings. The building's façade and interior show many wooden pieces; wood is the primary material used in the design of this building. In 2023, Ogre Central Library won the award for the most energy-efficient public building in Latvia. The structure is also known for its carefully considered smart heating and cooling solution. For this purpose, there is a powerful water-to-air heat pump that uses the city's sewage system as a source of energy. Electricity for the pump is provided by a system of solar panels, while rainwater ensures the functioning of the building's green ecosystem.

Deputy director of the library Aija Bremšmite introduced the ShareRES team to the building and emphasized the important role of the library in strengthening the local community.

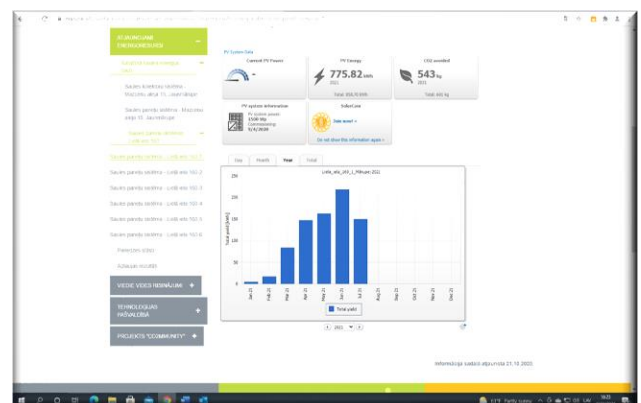




### STUDY VISIT 3 - Update from local Sustainable Energy Communities at Mārupe municipality

The third and final site visit took place at the Municipality of Mārupe, one of the greenest municipalities in Latvia, which has put forward ambitious plans in the field of renewable energy use and mitigation of climate change.

In cooperation with the national energy policy makers and ShareRES partner in Latvia, Riga Planning Region, the municipality has initiated and, since 2020, successfully implemented a small-scale community energy demonstration project at Marupe that can be considered one of the very first community energy projects in Latvia. The goal of the pilot project was to demonstrate how the prosumer approach can be applied in practice and how renewable energy communities can operate within the existing, underdeveloped regulatory framework.





The final presentation of the day was delivered by Agnese Jankuna, Chief Executive of Mārupe municipality. She talked about what the municipality has done in the field of energy efficiency and also briefly outlined the community projects to demonstrate that citizen-driven initiatives can be based on cooperation between authorities and local communities or individuals. The pilot projects prove that the approach used at Mārupe can become a model for similar initiatives elsewhere.



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*Dossier compiled by Ilgvars Francis, ShareRES expert at Riga Planning Region*