

Energy Communities

Building Citizen Acceptance

and Engagement



GREEN

Katharina KRELL & Simon HUNKIN

Thematic Experts for a Greener Europe
Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform

**Interreg
Europe**




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Agenda

- 9h00 – 9h20
- Welcome & Introduction from Interreg Europe**
- Opening words – *Katharina Krell, Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform*
 - Welcome and introduction to Interreg Europe and the Policy Learning Platform – *Verena Priem, Interreg Europe Joint Secretariat*
 - Energy Communities in Interreg Europe – *Simon Hunkin, Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform*
-
- 9h20 – 9h30
- Ice Breaker**
-
- 9h30 – 10h15
- Keynotes**
- Europe's Policy Framework and Support for Energy Communities – *Achille Hannoset, European Commission, DG Energy*
 - Energy communities: typology and key features – *Dirk Vansintjan, REScoop.eu*
-
- 10h15- 10h40
- Coffee Break**
- 

Agenda

10h40 –
12h40 Good Practice Sessions & Interactive Work

Building social acceptance for energy communities

- Increased Awareness and Consensus Building Among Stakeholders – *Michalis Karakonstantis, University of Patras, Greece (BIOWIND – Interreg Europe)*
- Engagement path for stakeholders – *Mathieu Bourgeois, Energie Commune, Belgium (REC4EU – Interreg Europe)*
- Communication Strategy for Energy Communities – *Ágnes Szalkai-Lőrincz, Friends of the Earth Hungary (SHAREs – Horizon 2020)*

Engaging citizens in energy communities

- ENLUCES: a Germinator of Energy Communities for Extremadura – *Beatriz Rico Sánchez & Ana Martínez Pinilla, Extremadura Energy Agency, Spain (ShareRES – Interreg Europe)*
- EKIOLA: Energy Community Citizens involvement – *Iñigo Sagasti, Basque Energy Agency & Leire Arrizabalaga, Leartibai Foundation (SireENERGY – Interreg Europe)*

Agenda

12h40 – **Networking Lunch**
14h00

14h00 – **Interactive Training Session**

15h45

Moderation: *Dirk Vansintjan & Óscar Güell, REScoop.eu*

- The Socio-Dynamic Mapping & the Circles of Engagement
 - Theory of member engagement, the engagement plan, working with a tool (*Óscar Güell, REScoop.eu*)
 - The LICHT Approach
 - Example of how to set up energy communities from scratch in your municipality/region (*Dirk Vansintjan, REScoop.eu*)
-

15h45 – **Coffee Break**
16h05

Agenda

16h05 –
17h00

Success Stories of Energy Communities

- Bürgerenergie Pfaffenhofen Cooperative – *Holger Klos & Helmut Muthig, Citizen Energy Cooperative and ESV of Pfaffenhofen, Germany (LEEWAY – Interreg Europe)*
- Kistelek Energy Community – *Csaba Pesti, Kistelek Energy Community, Hungary*
- Regional funding for local advisors to support citizens' initiatives (CIRENA) – *Anaïs Cognacq, ALEC Gironde, France (REC4EU – Interreg Europe)*
- Community Energy – *Ákos Éger, Community Energy Service Provider Nonprofit Ltd, Hungary*

17h00 –
17h30

Wrap-up & Conclusions

17h30 –
19h00

Networking Cocktail



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Interreg Europe in a nutshell

Verena Priem
*Senior Policy Officer
Interreg Europe*

4 December 2024

Energy Communities – Platform workshop



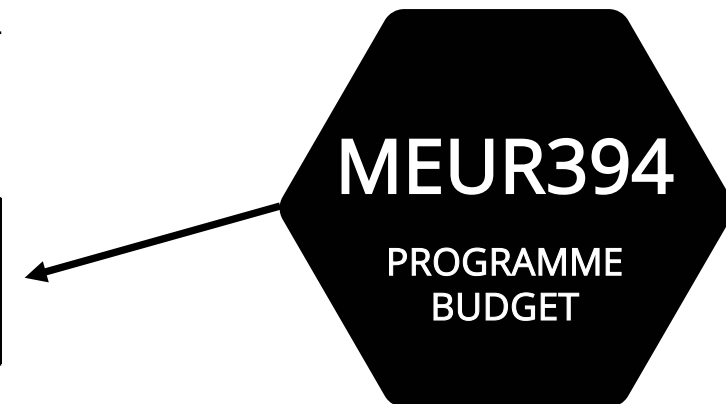
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Cohesion policy & Interreg programmes

- 4 strands, each strand with its own scope and objectives
- 86 programmes, 10 billion euros ERDF

A	Cross-border	64 programmes EUR 6.7 billion	
B	Transnational	13 programmes EUR 2.3 billion	
C	Interregional	4 programmes EUR 560 million	Interreg Europe Urbact, Interact, Espon
D	Outermost regions	5 areas EUR 330 million	



Interreg Europe **objective**

To improve **regional development policies** through the identification and transfer of good practices among EU regions

Helps policymakers to find new solutions to their challenges

- Primarily dedicated to **policymakers**
- Focus on **exchange of experience**



Different from cross-border or transnational cooperation

Programme area

36 Partner States

All EU + Norway & Switzerland

7 new countries joined in 2024

- Albania
- Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Moldova
- Montenegro
- North Macedonia
- Serbia
- Ukraine



The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the European Union concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.
Kosovo: This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.

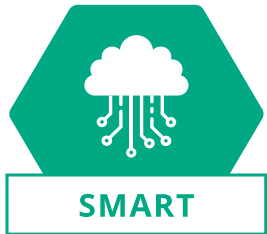
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Programme scope

1 priority on capacity building



All topics of Cohesion policy eligible



Two actions



Projects

Limited number of regions exchanging and transferring experience on a shared regional development issue



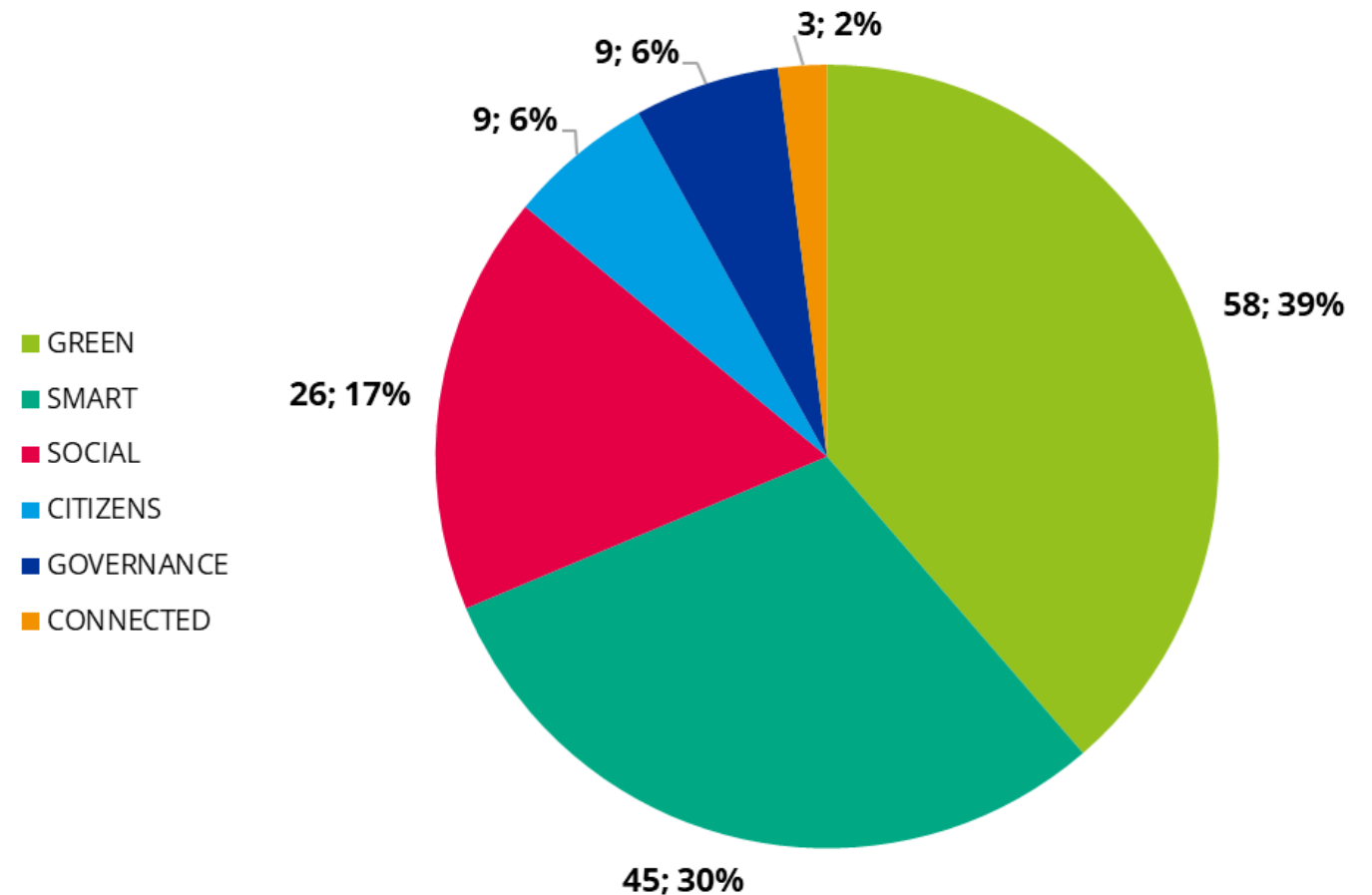
Policy Learning Platform

Further exploiting projects' achievements and opening up the programme benefits to all

Overview of projects approved so far

150 running projects

- 1,297 partners
- 35 countries represented



Calls for proposals – state of play

First call (5 April – 31 May 2022)	
134	project proposals
72	approved projects
54%	success rate
EUR 102 million	Interreg funds allocated

Second call (15 March - 9 June 2023)	
146	project proposals
78	approved projects
53%	success rate
EUR 112 million	Interreg funds allocated

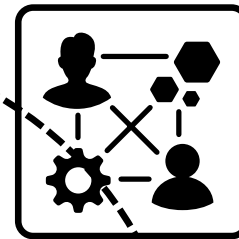
More than 60% of projects' budget already allocated.
 Third call closed on 7 June 2024 – evaluation ongoing

Platform in a nutshell

Policy-learning services through access to:

Knowledge

Find policy solutions
*(good practice database,
thematic publications)*



People

Meet our community
(thematic events, webinars)



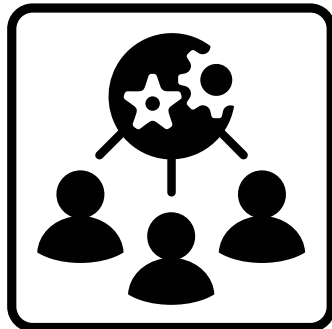
Expertise

Get policy advice
*(peer reviews, matchmakings,
policy helpdesk)*

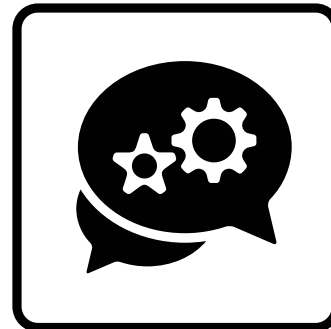
Access to **EXPERTISE**



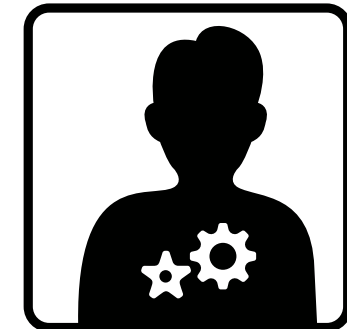
Policy advice services from our thematic experts



Peer reviews
in-dept analysis and
peer recommendations



Matchmakings
Ideas on how to resolve
a policy challenge



Policy helpdesk
Ideas on how to resolve
a policy challenge

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/get-policy-advice>

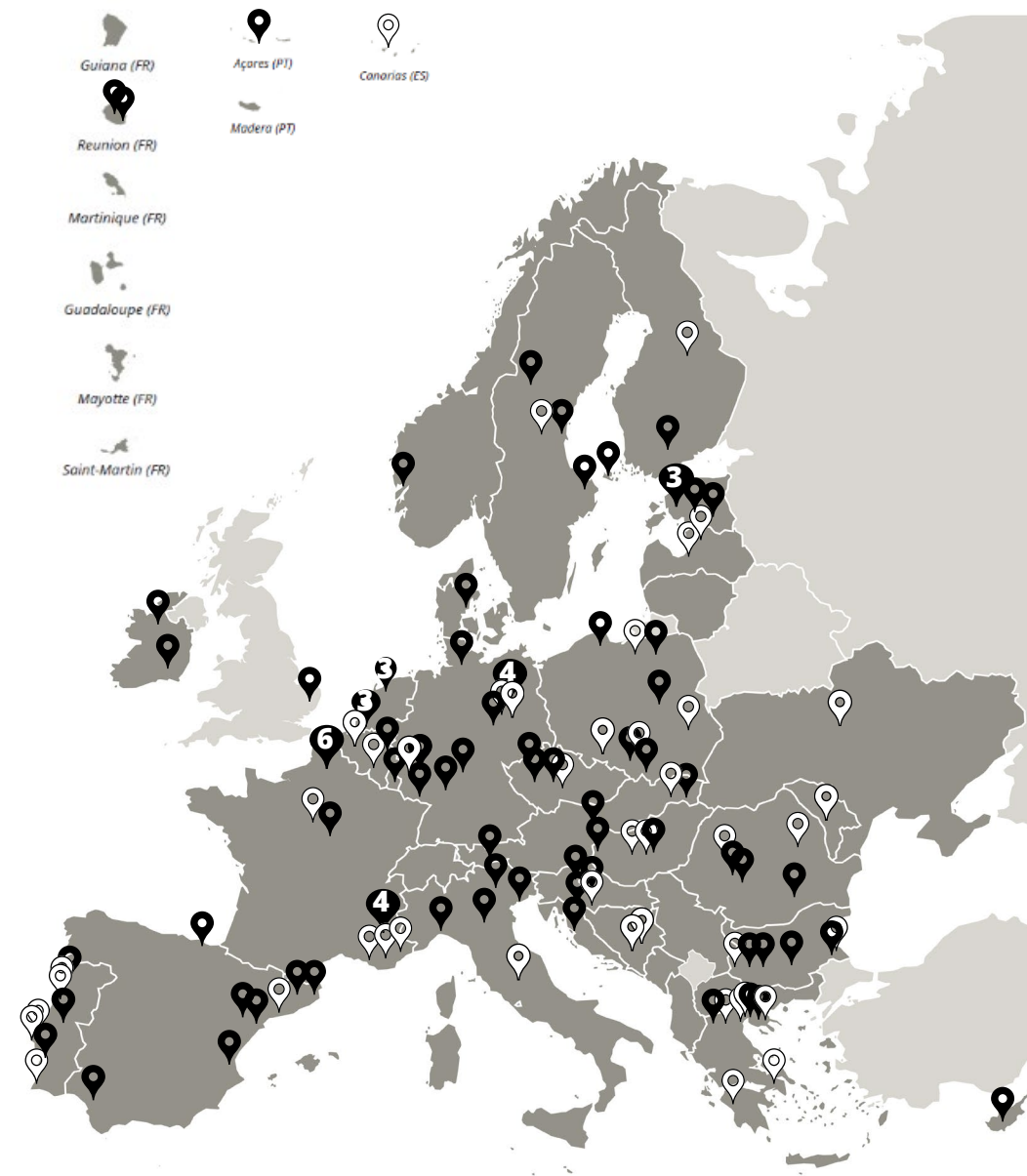
Peer learning in practice

📍 89 peer reviews implemented since 2019
15 peer reviews in the pipeline

📍 51 matchmaking sessions

Apply to benefit from expert support any time

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/get-policy-advice>



The platform team



Marc Pattinson



Arnault Morisson



Luc Schmerber



Erik Gløersen



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Mart Veliste



Astrid Severin



Magda Michalíková



Thorsten Kohlisch



Elena Ferrario



Karine Gevorgyan



Mario Vade pied



Valentine Dufaye



Lotte van Meijel



Vladimir Sestovic



Antoine Duquennoy

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Energy Communities in Interreg Europe



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Interreg Europe **Projects**



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SIreENERGY

Social Innovation in Renewable
Energies



Co-funded by
the European Union

LEEWAY

LEading coopErATION toWARds
energy communities policies
tackling energy poverty



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ShareRES

SHAring REnewable eneRgy
through Energy communities



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the European Union

REC4EU

Renewable Energy Communities
for EU regions



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BIOWIND

Increasing social acceptance for
wind energy in EU regions
through environmental and
community based planning



Community owned and led
energy for security climate
change and employment



Renewable energies for
vulnerable groups

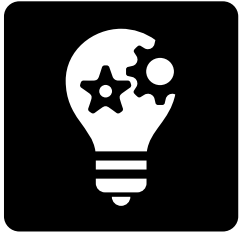


Financial Instruments for
Renewable Energy Investment



Supporting energy efficiency
and renewable energy in
European islands and remote
regions

Good Practice Database



Knowledge
Find policy solutions

Project Finance

Sustainable Energy Communities Programme supported by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

The investment by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland SEAI (the Irish state) in resourcing the Sustainable Energy Communities programme.

29 Feb 2024 | By project ShareRES
Expert approved

Technical Advice/PDA

Regional funding for local advisors (CIRENA) to support citizens' initiatives

Cirena offers methodologica support to project owners re the creation and lifespan of Communities, in Nouvelle Ac region.

01 Jul 2024 | By project REC4EU
Expert approved

Awareness Raising & Networking

Community Energy England

2014 - 2020

Umbrella organisation for community energy support and advice

APPEL A PROJETS Projets participatifs et citoyens pour la Transition énergétique

Regional Call For Proposal to support Participative and Citizen Projects for the Energy Transition

The Nouvelle Aquitaine Region supports the citizen initiatives in its territory at the different phases of the projects.

20 Aug 2024 | By project REC4EU
Expert approved

Call for projects to support electricity sharing through the creation of energy communities

The call aims to support the development of energy communities & energy sharing, a region-wide expertise on the topic and to raise awareness about them.

10 Jul 2024 | By project REC4EU
Expert approved

Electricity Market Law of Latvia

Amendm. of 01.05.2024 Article 22.1 foresees to wind power plants(capacity1MWand more)make payments for installed total capacity for developm. of local community

23 May 2024 | By project BLOWIND
Expert approved

Legislation, Regulation & Frameworks

ENLUCES: a Germinator of Energy Communities for Extremadura.

EnLuces is a germinator of Energy Communities for Extremadura. Its purpose is to promote a sustainable and socially-inclusive energy transition.

11 Mar 2024 | By project ShareRES
Expert approved

ct COALESCE

EKIOLA: Energy community Citizens involvement

Objective: to build PV power plants to fulfil cooperative members 'consumption and to allow citizenship to participate in the generation and management.

05 Mar 2024 | By project SireNERGY
Expert approved

SUN Nordhessen: Local Financing and Involvement of Private Capital

SUN is building and operating wind and solar power plants in Northern Hessen, afterwards it transfers its shares to local citizen energy cooperatives.

29 Nov 2019 | By project FIRESPOL
Expert approved

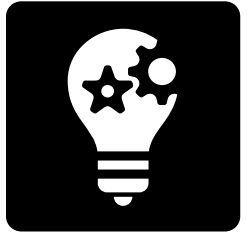
Citizen Investors

Open participation offer to local investment while developing the Aeolic project

The Catalan Government's renewable energy decree allows local stakeholders to own 20% of wind farms.

04 Jul 2024 | By project BLOWIND
Expert approved

Policy Learning Resources



Knowledge
Find policy
solutions

POLICY BRIEF

Empowering Citizens for Energy Communities

In this policy brief, you will discover how regional authorities can support the emergence of energy communities with a set of good practices and guidance drawn from the Interreg Europe community.

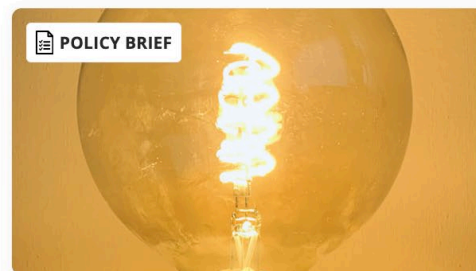
[Read the policy brief](#)

07 November 2022 | By Platform



Increasing the social acceptance of wind energy

Explore several examples of how European regions build social acceptance of the use of



Tackling energy poverty with low-carbon interventions

In this policy brief, you will explore approaches as to how your region can tackle energy poverty

WEBINAR

Webinar recording: Jobs and skills for the energy transition

On 29 April 2021, the Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform hosted a webinar on Jobs and Skills for the Energy Transition. The webinar came at a particularly timely moment given the deal just reached on the first-ever European Climate Law that increased to at least 55% the EU economy-wide target on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and gave a legally binding ch...

[Read more](#)

30 April 2021

PEER REVIEW

Supporting the development of Renewable Energy Communities

On **28 and 29 March 2023**, the Policy Learning Platform organised a **peer review** for the benefit of **the municipality of Ascó**, Spain. with a focus on renewable energy communities.

[Read more](#)

03 May 2023 · Spain

WEBINAR

Renewable energy financing for the public sector

On 28 April 2022, the Policy Learning Platform held the first of its two Renewable Energy Finance (REF) webinars, on the topic of renewable



<https://www.interregeurope.eu/collections/energy-communities>

Peer review: Supporting the development of Renewable Energy Communities

► Municipality of Ascó, Spain

Peers from: Belgium, Ireland, Italy, Spain

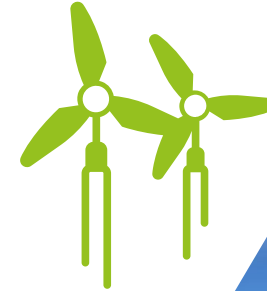
Recommendations:

- **Methods for engaging citizens** with simple to understand materials
- Taking the lead, as the municipality, in identifying a pilot site to deploy a REC and coordinating its development
- **Updating their Sustainable Energy Action Plan** to integrate targets and support for RECs
- **Reassessing their policy framework** to adapt grant and subsidy schemes so that they can support energy communities

More information available [here](#)



Expertise
Get policy
advice



28-29 March
2023

5

Peers

Peer review: Fast tracking Renewable Energy Communities

► Cyprus Energy Agency

Peers from: Austria, Belgium, Germany

Recommendations:

- Local authorities are natural allies for local RECs: they can express political support, and use power of tendering
- As the project initiator the Energy Agency can identify pilot village
- RECs can help keep electricity generation and consumption at local level

More information available [here](#)

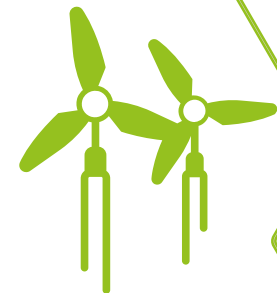


Expertise
Get policy
advice



4

Peers



23-24 May
2023

Conclusions

- Municipalities understand the benefits of energy communities, but often **don't know where to start**
- There are lots of challenges to overcome – but also lots of proven solutions – so **learn from those who've already walked the road**
 - Investigate the **Interreg Europe Projects on Energy Communities**
 - Check out our materials in the the **Renewable Energy Communities Collection**
 - Explore the **Peer Review** service and its success stories – and feel free to speak to us in the breaks!



<https://www.interregeurope.eu/collections/energy-communities>

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Katharina KRELL & Simon HUNKIN
Thematic Experts for a Greener Europe

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Coffee Break

10h15 – 10h40

Group Work – Session I

At your tables, discuss the following points and write down the answers relevant for your own territory

- What kind of stakeholders would you need to engage to build an energy community in your region?
- How and where can you reach your target groups? What communication channels would you use?
- What key messages could work to motivate the stakeholders in your territory?

15 minutes discussion and consideration – then 3-5 people to volunteers to share their answers with the plenary

Group Work – Session II

At your tables, discuss the following points and write down the answers relevant for your own territory

- Which are the advantages and drawbacks of each of the two approaches? What would you consider more suitable for your territory / for the type of renewable energy project you would like to see in your territory?
- What stakeholders and resources would you need to replicate this approach?
- Where do you see the main challenges in your territory?

15 minutes discussion and consideration – then 3-5 people to volunteers to share their answers with the plenary

Lunch Break

12h40 – 14h00

Coffee Break

15h45 – 16h05

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Next steps

Mario Vadepied
Policy Learning Platform Assistant

4 December 2024

Budapest, Hungary



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<https://www.interregeurope.eu/user/register>

- Sign up to our **newsletter**

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/#block-newsletterblock>

Policy learning **events** ahead



E-workshop: Islands – testbeds for innovation?
9 December | [Registrations are open](#)



Citizen science for policy
10 December | [Registrations are open](#)



Youth employment
19 December | [Registrations are open](#)

Please give us your **feedback!**



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Energycommunities>