



Fostering the uptake and social impact of the energy transition through citizen engagement



Oct. 10, 2024
h 9:30-10:30



Albert Borschette Congress Center
room AB-2A

Despite growing recognition of the **critical role citizen engagement plays in the energy transition**, there remain **significant barriers and challenges** to the effective involvement of communities and individuals in decision-making processes and actions related to this transition. These challenges include individual barriers such as a lack of awareness to information and resources, sociocultural and socio-economic disparities, insufficient mechanisms for meaningful participation, lack of expertise and skills (motivation) and risk-aversion of citizens.

Overcoming these obstacles is essential not only for ensuring an equitable, inclusive, and socially impactful energy transition but also for achieving citizen acceptance to enact lasting change. Such acceptance is pivotal for **maximizing the potential to address climate change and promote sustainable development**.

Policymakers and local authorities can play a significant role in addressing these barriers and facilitating a just energy transition through empowering citizens to play a more proactive role.

Hence, this workshop aims to provide policymakers and stakeholders with actionable insights and strategies to **overcome barriers to citizen engagement** at local level and **foster a collaborative approach** towards achieving a sustainable and just energy future, to **enhance greater social impact and acceptance**.

SPEAKERS

- **Michael Brenner-Fliesser**, BRIDGE Citizen and Consumer Engagement Working Group Chair; Scientist, Joanneum Research
- **Vaggelis Marinakis**, President of DAEM - City of Athens and Assistant Professor, NTUA
- **Minna Kuivalainen**, BRIDGE Citizen and Consumer Engagement Working Group Member; Behavioural Scientist, Smart Innovation Norway

MODERATOR

Meline González Piloyan, Project Coordinator and Policy Advisor – NetZeroCities, EUROCITIES

SESSION COORDINATOR

Eva Martínez Cruz, Technical Expert of the BRIDGE Citizen and Consumer Engagement WG; Senior Social Innovation Officer, ICONS

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