

Harnessing Renewable Energy Communities for a Greener, More Resilient Europe



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Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform

Energy Communities for a Greener, More Resilient Europe

- Promote local **renewable energy production** to reduced carbon emissions and overcome social resistance
- Members can benefit from **lower energy prices** from ownership of generation technologies
- Usually have a social mission and can be used to **tackle energy poverty**
- Increase local resilience, support **local jobs**, boost community investment, and stimulate local economies
- Enhance **social cohesion** through strengthened community bonds and shared sustainability mission

Challenges for Energy Communities

- High initial costs in infrastructure and technology, with limited access to funding or subsidies
- Often not clearly defined in law, difficult to navigate local and national regulations or secure connection to the grid
- Communities often lack technical knowledge and skills in energy management, technology, and project coordination
- Gaining and maintaining active participation from all members can be challenging
- Ensuring the financial and operational viability of the energy community over time

Interreg Europe **Projects**



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SIRENERGY

Social Innovation in Renewable Energies



Co-funded by
the European Union

LEEWAY

LEading coopERation toWARds energy communities policies tackling energy poverty



Co-funded by
the European Union

ShareRES

SHARing RENewable eneRgy through Energy communities



Co-funded by
the European Union

REC4EU

Renewable Energy Communities for EU regions



Co-funded by
the European Union

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



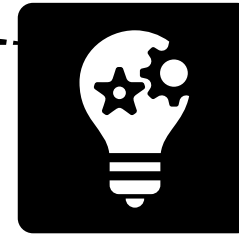
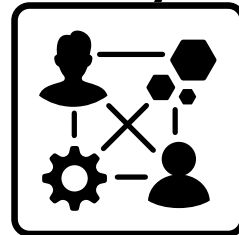
Supporting energy efficiency and renewable energy in European islands and remote regions

The platform services in a **nutshell**

Policy-learning opportunities through **access** to:

People

Meet our community



Knowledge

Find policy solutions



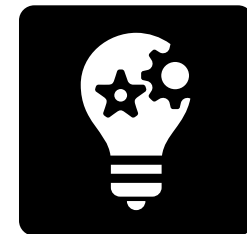
Expertise

Get policy advice

www.interregeurope.eu/policylearning

Energy Communities in the Policy Learning Platform

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 (capacity 1 MW and more) make payments for installed total capacity for developm. of local community

23 May 2024 | By project BIOWIND
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 Participation






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 BIOWIND
Expert approved

Policy Learning **Resources**

[Interreg Europe](#)

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[Approved projects](#)
[Get policy advice](#)
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POLICY BRIEF



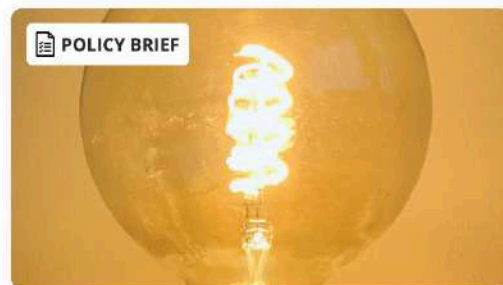
Empowering Citizens for Energy Communities

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



Tackling energy poverty with

WEBINAR

Webinar recording: Jobs and skills for the energy transition

Discover how regions can support the emergence of new jobs and skills to make the energy transition a success in this webinar recording, that took place on 29 April 2021. You'll discover good practices and policy recommendations.

[Read more](#)

30 April 2021

PEER REVIEW

Supporting the development of Renewable Energy Communities

Read about recommendations made by peers from across the EU on the topic of developing and implementing Renewable Energy Communities

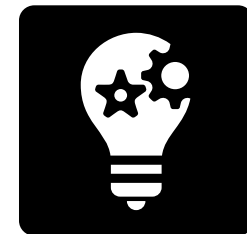
[Read more](#)

03 May 2023 · Spain

WEBINAR

Renewable energy financing for the public sector

Watch the recording and access the key learnings of the webinar on renewable energy financing for the public sector that took place on 28 April 2022.

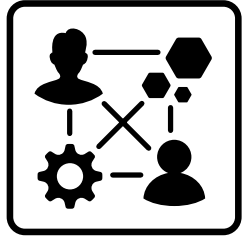


Knowledge

Find policy solutions



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



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Help & contact



Simon H.
Thematic manager

EVENT

Energy Communities

Programme Participants Practical information



Energy Communities

An Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform
workshop on building citizen engagement in
Energy Communities

4 December 2024

Budapest, Hungary



SCAN ME

Peer learning in practice

📍 **83 peer reviews** implemented since 2019

📍 **44 matchmaking** sessions

1700+ organisations supported



Peer Review

Municipality of Ascó, Spain

Peer review: **Supporting the development of Renewable Energy Communities**

► **Municipality of Ascó, Spain**



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The Problem

Municipality of Ascó, in Catalonia, Spain has an advantageous location placement for wind farm installations. However;

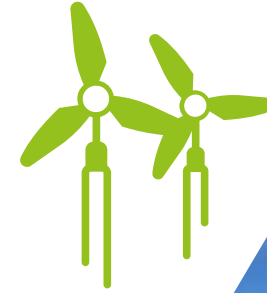
- Uncertain how to support energy communities, with no unified concept of energy community (but several types of energy communities that are given different names)
- No specification of how that differs from a single home self-consumption further contributing to citizens' confusion and rejection
- Difficulties in bringing all necessary actors together

Peer review: **Supporting the development of Renewable Energy Communities**

► Municipality of Ascó, Spain

The Peer Review – 28-29 March 2023

- **Peers from experienced regions** - Belgium, Italy, Spain, United Kingdom
- Energy community managers, policy-makers and academics
- **Local participants and stakeholders**
- Mayor & Councilors, EU Finance & Project Experts, Municipal Experts, Local Citizen & Business Representatives



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28-29 March
2023

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Peers

Peer review: **Supporting the development of Renewable Energy Communities**

► **Municipality of Ascó, Spain**



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The Recommendations

Based on the Peer Review, Ascó will implement top-down and support bottom-up actions to enable energy communities:

- **Engage citizens** with simple to understand materials, meet with local experts to engage them and arrange meetings with citizens to find first-movers for an energy community;
- **Install a pilot REC:** Take the lead in identifying a pilot site to deploy a REC and co-ordinate its development, as well as calculating the overall energy generating capacity and requirements of the site
- **Update their SEAP** to integrate targets and support for RECs
- **Reassess their governance framework:** discuss with relevant ministries to adapt grant and subsidy schemes so that they can support energy communities

Peer Review

Cyprus Energy Agency

Peer review: **Fast tracking Renewable Energy Communities**

► **Cyprus Energy Agency**

The Problem

- CEA secured funding under the Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) to support municipalities in SECAP development
- Many of them identify energy communities as an important part of the effort, and new national framework enables local authorities to invest in them
- However, no energy communities operate at present in Cyprus – no examples to learn from or to illustrate the potential
- Needed examples of how local authorities can support energy communities, as well as successful financial mechanisms and business models



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Peer review: **Fast tracking Renewable Energy Communities**

► **Cyprus Energy Agency**

The Peer Review – 23-24 May 2023

- **Peers from experienced regions** – Austria, Belgium and Germany
- Associations, energy agencies and energy communities
- **Local participants and stakeholders**
- Energy, Environment & Economy Ministries, Energy Regulator, Development Agencies, European Commission DG REGIO



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Peers



23-24 May
2023

Peer review: **Fast tracking Renewable Energy Communities**

► **Cyprus Energy Agency**

The Recommendations

Based on the Peer Review, the Cyprus Energy Agency will

- Build a taskforce of politicians, citizens, entrepreneurs and associations to act as a front-runner group
- Act as project implementor in a pilot site/project of small-scale PV as an easier technology to work with
- Gather a local supply chain of technology providers, installers and maintainers to prepare them for roll out of energy communities
- Prepare communications materials and guidelines for all value chain actors, and use the pilot for communication
- Reach out to local media to implement a communications campaign



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Peer review: **Fast tracking Renewable Energy Communities**

► **Cyprus Energy Agency**

The Peer Review Follow-Up – 23-24 April 2024

- CEA established an internal team to lead work on energy communities and started to identify pilot sites, but needed more details on business models and legal forms
- Follow-up meeting held at Bodensee/Lake Constance
- Front-runner region; site visits to four different models to see real examples of how local authorities have developed or supported energy communities



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Takeaways & Next Steps

Takeaways

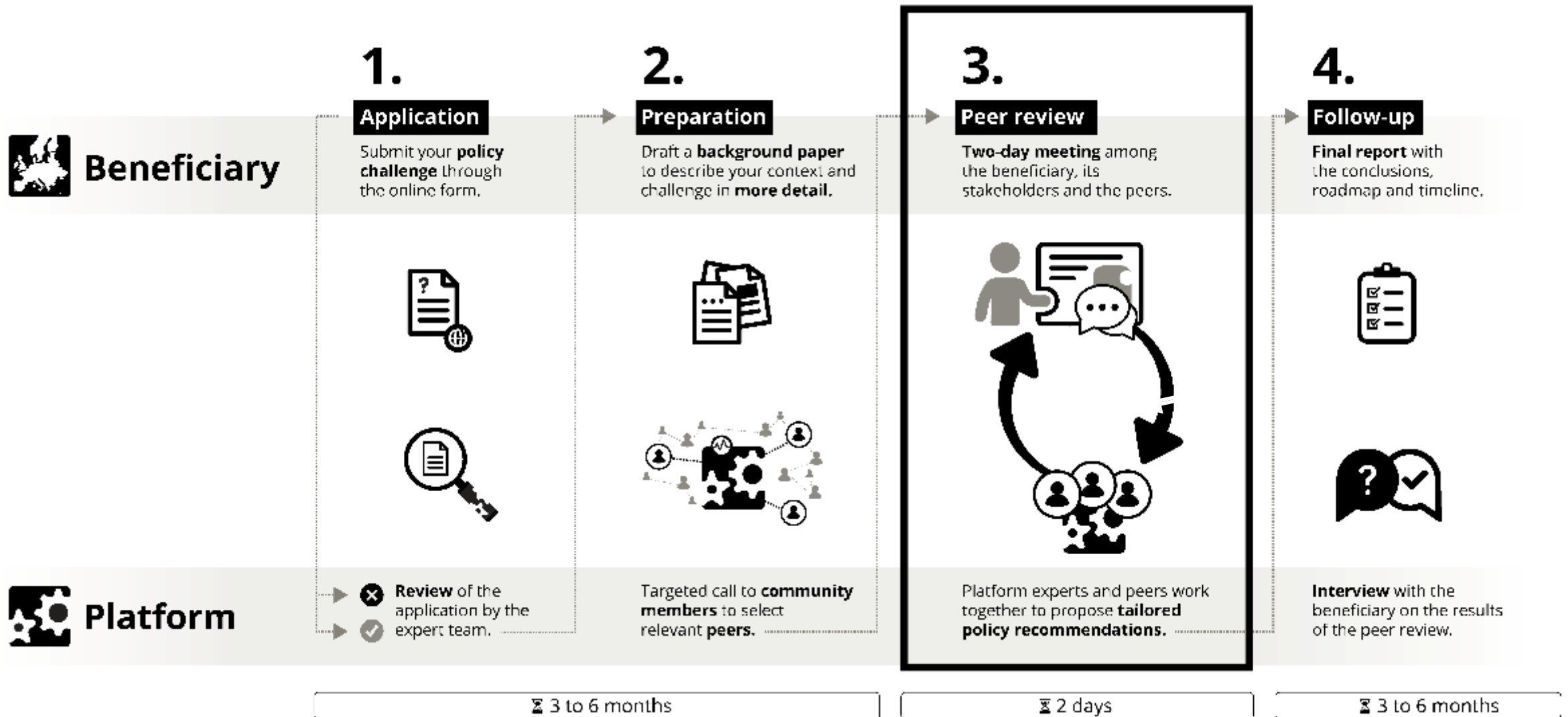
- Energy Communities will be a core of the transition also providing **socio-economic benefits**
- Municipalities see the benefits of energy communities, but often **don't know where to start**
- Incomplete transposition of RED II is a major (mental) barrier – as in Ascó and Cyprus, legal insecurity holds back public action
- Public Authorities should play an **active part in their development** – communicate the benefits, provide guidance and technical support, act as a congregator and implement pilots
- There are lots of challenges to overcome – but also lots of proven solutions – so **learn from those who've already walked the road**

Next Steps

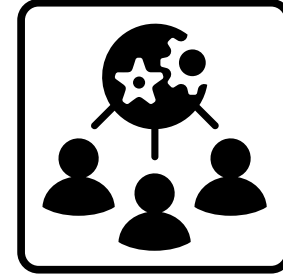
- Check out our materials in the the **Renewable Energy Communities Collection**
- Explore the **Peer Review** service and success stories
- Join us our **Workshop in Budapest on 4 December** to meet our projects, discover good practices and learn from peers
 - Apply for a **Matchmaking on Energy Communities**
 - Join European Commission DG Energy's **Citizen Energy Forum** on 5 December



Peer review **STEP-BY-STEP**



Ask for your **PEER REVIEW!**



- Contact the Platform experts
- Apply any time
- Assessment of your application within 1 month
- Expertise tailored to **your needs!**
- Costs are covered by Interreg Europe

<https://www.interregeurope.eu/peer-review>

All the **BENEFITS!**

- Increase your own **skills and knowledge**
- Hands-on **advice and inspiration** from practitioners to practitioners
- A **piece in the puzzle** shaping your policies
- Opportunities for **future collaboration!**
- **Fun!**



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