FACILITATING THE CREATION AND OPERATION OF ENERGY COMMUNITIES

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WP2

MAIN INSIGHTS

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Project's objectives



To develop technical and social innovations to empower traditional energy consumers and to make them active agents of collaborative energy communities, paving the way towards a new energy market paradigm



To **configure a standardised and sound cyber-security infrastructure** so the active citizens are protected against cyber-attacks, at the same time that privacy is defended in accordance with the revised EPBD and the GDPR law



To create user-centric solutions that based on participatory approaches such as co-creation and naturally accelerate citizens' involvement



To propose new business strategies and incentive mechanisms that activate the reactions of market participants craving for business opportunities that imply energy use and cost reduction



To **demonstrate the applicability and replicability of** methodological, technical, and business **innovations in a variety of**

real-life pilots in different geographical locations, with heterogeneous social and economic environments and different regulatory/administrative frameworks



To ensure wide reaching impact and use of project methodological, business, and technological outcomes among different stakeholders' categories

Understanding ECs

within the project's framework

We consider ECs as a multidimensional concept, where legal, economic, social, and technological aspects match up with the aim to reinforce collaboration towards energy transition at the local level.

Social dimension

Technological dimension

Regulatory and business dimension

EC TRIANGLE CONCEPT

Distinction between Energy Community and other energy active citizen intitiative

Initiative's scope and the legal form

An energy community can be defined as a legal entity where members collaborate to generate benefits for the community



Renewable Energy Communities & Citizen Energy Communities



EU policy framework



Key aspects of RECs & CECs

EU policy framework

Main features	Renewable energy community (REC) Directive (EU) 2018/2001 (RED II)	Citizen energy community (CEC) Directive (EU) 2019/942	
Membership Status	Open and voluntary involvement; the shareholders or members are individuals, micro, small or medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) or local authorities	Open and voluntary involvement ; members or shareholders are individuals, local authorities, including municipalities, or small enterprises	
Autonomy	Autonomous	Not Autonomous, (restricted decision making of large energy companies in EC)	
Management of EC	Efficiently managed by shareholders or members that reside close to the renewable energy projects which owned and constructed by the renewable energy community (REC)	Efficiently managed by members or shareholders; the decision- making abilities should be limited to those members that are not connected with large-scale commercial activity	
Geographical limitation	Reside close to renewable energy community (REC)	No limitation	
Primary purpose	To deliver environmental , economic or social benefits to EC's members or shareholders instead of focusing on financial gains	To deliver environmental , economic or social benefits to EC's members or shareholders instead of focusing on financial gains	
Activities	Generation, distribution, energy supply, consumption, energy storage, aggregation and <u>distributing energy-related</u> services	Generation, distribution, energy supply, consumption, energy sharing, aggregation, energy storage, <u>energy-efficiency</u> services and EV charging-services	



ECs in the national frameworks

Pilots countries of the project





Pilot country	EU directives transposition level	Financing/supporting policy measures	Regulatory limitations
ITALY	EU Directives fully transposed in 2021 , The two Legislative Decrees adopted the EU definition of REC and CEC as legal entities	Targeted incentives (EUR 100-110/MWh) for shared energy among members + compensation of grid tariff for instantly self-consumed energy (9 €/MWh). Direct revenue for energy injected into the grid 2.2 billion€ in the Italian Recovery and Resilience Plan in 2021 including the promotion of ECs in small towns with less than 5,000 inhabitants	Proximity rules (EC members must be connected to the main grid through the same primary substation or be part of the same market zone) Limitation on installed capacity (1MW) Regions can legislate (see Piedmont regulations)
FRANCE	The RED II and the IEMD directives have been transposed by Ordonnance n° 2021-236 which replaced the previous definitions provided by the French Code of Energy. The French law takes over the same terms and criteria as the EU directives for both REC and CEC	 Bureaucracy simplification (EC don't need any authorisation from the State or local authorities) Incentives depending on EC size (feed-in tariffs or feed-in premium mechanisms) Different (lower) grid connection tariffs (for all RES installations under a capacity of 500 kW) Participatory bonus in calls for tenders 	Proximity rule (distance between injection and consumption points to 2 km Limitation on installed capacity (3 MW in urban areas and 0.5 MW in rural areas)
SWEDEN	Collective self-consumption is permitted by the Sweden law since 2019. No transposition of EU directives . Since 2021, the two EC models suggested by the EU directives, i.e., REC and CEC, now converge under the Swedish Law on Economic Association	ECs are economic association that can profit from state incentives through tax relief and reduced real estate tax as all others micro- producers of RES	Households need to be connected to the same grid point of delivery Prosumers are exempted from some grid connection fees or are subject to lower rates than larger energy producers and suppliers
TURKEY	Turkish energy legislation does not directly address RED II and IEMD definitions and regulations. However, community-driven collective energy generation and consumption has been allowed since 2016	Bureaucracy simplification (EC does not need obtain a license from the Energy Market Regulatory Authority) Turkey provides feed-in-tariff mechanisms for RES generation to both licensed and unlicensed power plants. Additional support is provided if plant components are manufactured in Turkey	Proximity rule (ECs are limited to natural or legal persons or cooperatives in the same tariff group system and using the same connection point, or those whose electrical energy consumption can be monitored with a single common meter) The unlicensed privilege is limited to energy cooperatives that exceed 5 MW of power installed capacity

Understanding ECs

within the project's framework

We define ECs as an innovative sustainable business model that redefines both the organizational form and the concept of value, aiming to cover both social and environmental aspects, by giving an active role to citizens in the energy market



Energy communities also focus on the use of energy production systems, generally sustainable and green, for subsequent use, with the main objective of sharing the energy generated within the community

hardware and production infrastructures are needed

Main devices

involved in ECs

MAIN ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

Generation

E.g. Solar panels, wind generators, biomass, geotermal, hidroelectric, ...

Storage

E.g. Batteries, ...

Distribution

E.g. grid energy flows, ...

SMART MANAGEMENT INFRASTRUCTURE

Hardware elements IoT gateways, smart meters, actuators or hardware from upper box Software elements Cybersecurity solutions

FINAL CONSUMER DEVICES

HVAC Electrical applicances Litghtining systems EV chargers Elevators DHW

•••

Barriers of EC

preliminary identifications

Barriers of EC



Regulatory + Finance







Regulatory + Finance





Regulatory + Finance





Enrolment journey

Designing the path

Engagement journey

Enrolment journey

Designing the path

The **path to enrolment** in an **EC** is a **dynamic and multifaceted journey**, characterized by several distinct stages that **individuals traverse on their route to becoming active participants**.



THE IMPORTANCE OF PROFILING

Profiling assumes a significant role in the journey

It gives us valuable insights into diverse profiles and groupings amongst members within the community. This allows us to create messages and nudging strategies that resonate most effectively with each specific type (or cluster), thereby facilitating their progression towards enrolment.

Engagement journey

Designing the path

The **engagement journey** is a structured process. It **starts** with **onboarding new members** to energy-conscious habits, followed by boosting mechanisms to empower them. Then, **members transform into active participants**. During this phase there are active members who evolute into influential figures called "**Influencers**." These **influencers contribute** to the **growth and sustainability of the EC.**



WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE 'INFLUENCERS' IN THE EC ECOSYSTEM?

- They act as **guides, mentors, and catalysts** for the onboarding process of new members and the progress of innovation in the EC.
- Influencers possess a **pivotal presence and leadership** within the EC.
- They inspire the smooth integration of newcomers.
- They **encourage** higher levels of **innovation**, **collaboration**, **and sustainable energy practices** within the entire EC ecosystem.

Identified technologies

Understanding technologies as methods, tools and/ or mechanisms



Identified technologies

Understanding technologies as methods, tools and/ or mechanisms







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