

## Call for Expression of Interest for DECIDE Replicants

### The DECIDE H2020 project

DECIDE (Developing Energy Communities through Informative and collective actions) is a Horizon 2020 project that started in May 2020 and lasts until May 2023. DECIDE project aims to better understand how energy communities and collective energy actions are established and managed. Within the project our social scientists work with pilot projects to identify which kind of communications and interactions work best to **encourage participation** in energy communities and collective actions for specific types of individuals and groups, and to test and **transfer knowledge in pilot projects across Europe**. In addition, our partners follow, analyze and influence development of enabling frameworks (regulation, business models, stakeholder engagement etc.) for energy communities and collective actions across EU, with special focus on countries<sup>1</sup> where our seven pilots are located.

The DECIDE project's objective is to contribute to an **increased uptake of energy services, measures and products** that can be applied within energy communities or collective actions in EU. This objective will be reached via **active transfer of expertise** and supporting material, from existing initiatives and pilot sites to the already operational diverse emerging initiatives that will **replicate DECIDE activities, DECIDE Replicants** and followers.

### Announcement of the Call for Expression of Interest for DECIDE Replicants

The DECIDE project is pleased to announce a **Call for Expression of Interest for DECIDE Replicants**. The Call for Replication has been launched on 8 April 2021 and will close on 4 May 2021 at 17.00 h CEST.

A complete application includes application form, Letter of Support, Memorandum of Understanding and the result of the self-assessment tool. **Late or incomplete applications will not be considered**. The purpose of the call, application process, qualification process and evaluation criteria are explained below.

### Purpose of the Call

The aim of this Call for Expression of Interest for DECIDE Replicants is to apply successful approaches and lessons learned from the existing seven DECIDE pilot sites to other interested initiatives in order to widen implementation of energy communities and collective actions across EU. The focus lays on fostering and supporting replication with interested parties willing to collaborate and support above identified DECIDE objectives.

The DECIDE Replicants will have the chance to participate in DECIDE project through:

- Collaboration with their peers in the existing seven pilots
- Receiving dedicated, tailored advice and expertise of the project partners with application and uptake of the knowledge gained in the pilots
- Participating in capacity building workshops and webinars aimed at awareness raising on best practices for user engagement, regulatory framework and business models.

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<sup>1</sup> Belgium, Estonia, Greece, Germany, Austria, France, Netherlands.



- Participation in an online collaboration tool to exchange good and bad practices and experiences with other DECIDE pilots, replicants and followers through DECIDE Coffee Shop<sup>2</sup> and Knowledge Hub<sup>3</sup>.
- Co-Creation of the Coffee Shop to fit the needs of the Replicants and Pilots
- Implementation and testing of lessons learned to help improve understanding on optimal enabling framework for implementation of energy communities and collective actions across EU.

The complete list of possible benefits and expected activities of Replicants in DECIDE project is given in the example Memorandum of Understanding.

The call is open to any energy community or collective action established in an EU Member State or an associated EU country. Existing DECIDE practices and lessons learned are focused on energy communities and collective actions from our seven pilots as detailed below. With this call we are looking forward to apply this knowledge to Replicant initiatives to help them grow their energy communities or collective actions and create examples that can be further replicated as well.

#### The DECIDE pilot sites:

OurPower<sup>4</sup> is an emerging energy cooperative in Austria<sup>4</sup> operating a peer-to-peer marketplace for RES electricity generated by its members. OurPower promotes collective financing, citizen engagement and addresses two different customer segments: private homeowners with solar PV and communities of citizen financing solar, wind, and biomass projects.

ThermoVault<sup>5</sup> offers a software and hardware solution of electric energy services of residential thermal appliances, unlocking cost-effective energy storage and allowing for the integration of more renewables through aggregation. Its retrofit solution for existing water and space heaters results in direct energy savings for residential customers. The pilots selected here include communities of social housing apartment buildings.

ENBRO<sup>6</sup> provides energy brokerage, guidance, advice, development and structuring of solutions that reduce the energy bill to residential, commercial, industrial and public consumers through a better balance between production and consumption. The pilot sites in 4 cities include mostly social housing, but is open to all residential clients, public as well as commercial buildings.

TREA<sup>7</sup> is energy agency located in Tartu, Estonia, providing services to citizens, SME-s and municipalities. The pilot area is connected to district heating and comprises a range of residential buildings needing renovation. A cooperative approach has been designed for energy that is scalable towards the whole district with similar housing blocks and replicable to several Eastern European countries with similar districts.

In Hindelang<sup>8</sup> the cooperative EWH was founded in the 1920's by citizens for their village's electricity supply, now counting 330 members (including SMEs and municipality). EWH puts strong emphasis on local sustainable energy production (close to 100% RES), organizes energy supply to ca. 5.000 inhabitants and operates the grid. Now they strive for more efficiency, to use excess electricity for heat pumps and run mobiles.

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<sup>2</sup> Coffee shop is an online platform for exchange of best practices, discussion and knowledge transfer among pilots, Replicants and followers.

<sup>3</sup> Knowledge Hub is an online platform for exchange of existing publication and practices related to energy communities and collective actions across EU, from H2020 projects, EU and national initiatives, not exclusive to DECIDE project findings.

<sup>4</sup> <https://decide4energy.eu/the-pilots/austria>

<sup>5</sup> <https://decide4energy.eu/the-pilots/belgium>

<sup>6</sup> <https://decide4energy.eu/the-pilots/belgium-france-germany-netherlands>

<sup>7</sup> <https://decide4energy.eu/the-pilots/estonia>

<sup>8</sup> <https://decide4energy.eu/the-pilots/germany>



HERON<sup>9</sup> is the largest independent electricity retailer, and a rapidly developing natural gas supplier in Greece owning a customer portfolio, consisting of more than 150000 subscribers. The target for DECIDE include 200 electricity consumers with real-time power meters for consumption & 15 electricity prosumers with real-time power meters for consumption and production from local RES (net metering).

DomX<sup>9</sup> offers a unique retrofit solution for the automation of legacy gas-based heating systems. The system brings several advantages to end-consumers, including: improved heating efficiency (up to 40%), smart and remote control, improved comfort and direct participation in flexibility aggregation services. Through DECIDE, 50 residential end consumers of HERON's portfolio are covered, while exploitation will focus on more to come.

## Application Process and Schedule

Call opening	8 April 2021
Explanatory webinar which will be published on DECIDE Youtube channel <sup>10</sup> to explain the details of the call and respond to questions	15 April 2021, 14:00 CEST
Deadline for registration of Expressions of Interest and Submission of the Application form and relevant documentation	4 May 2021, 17:00 CEST
Evaluation period of applications by the DECIDE consortium based on the qualification criteria and proposition of best-ranked candidates to the DECIDE General Assembly	5 May 2021 – 16 May 2021
Selection of 15 replicants at the DECIDE General Assembly	17 May – 18 May 2021
Replicants will be informed about the decision	June 2021
Involvement in DECIDE activities until the end of DECIDE project	June 2021 – May 2023

## The Qualification Criteria

### THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To qualify as a DECIDE Replicant, an applicant needs to fulfil the following qualification criteria:

1. Applicant organization and activities under energy community or collective action are located in EU Member State or in a country associated to Horizon 2020.
2. Is active either as energy community (Renewable Energy Community<sup>11</sup>, Citizen Energy Community<sup>12</sup>) or as collective action based on the self-assessment tool and information provided in the application (such as collective generation and trading of electricity, energy cooperative, generation-consumption communities, collective residential & industrial self-consumption, municipal utilities, financial aggregation and

<sup>9</sup> <https://decide4energy.eu/the-pilots/greece>

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYDGz3jATbn28TCMgi-HREQ?app=desktop&view\\_as=subscriber](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYDGz3jATbn28TCMgi-HREQ?app=desktop&view_as=subscriber)

<sup>11</sup> [Directive \(EU\) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the Promotion of the Use of Energy from Renewable Sources](#)

<sup>12</sup> [Directive \(EU\) 2019/944 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on common rules for the internal market for electricity and amending Directive 2012/27/EU](#)



investment, cooperative financing of energy efficiency, collective service providers, and others). We provide a self-assessment tool<sup>13</sup> (compulsory to use) to check if your initiative is identified as an energy community or collective action<sup>14</sup>.

3. Energy community or collective action provides the capacity and willingness to actively participate in the DECIDE project, Knowledge Hub and Coffee Shop as indicated in the MoU. Signed MoU with indicated contact person is part of the application.

## THE ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Energy community or collective action applicant would be given priority if:

Based on the following scoring system, the applicants will be ranked. The 15 top ranked applications will be presented to the General Assembly for confirmation. The evaluation process will take into account that the 15 selected Replicants present **geographical and technologically diversity**.

Each of the criteria is evaluated from 0-3.

	Criteria	Weighing
1	Its activities benefit a target community. Applicant provides 1-2 Letter(s) of support from local public entity or other stakeholders representing the interest of the local community.	50%
2	It offers a business or technology solution that is already on the market or uses technology that has a high maturity or a high market readiness level <sup>15</sup> .	20%
3	It does not already benefit from financial support or incentives.	10%
4	It has less than 300 members. <sup>16</sup>	10%
5	It is already established.	10%

## More Information and Advice

For more information and advice for preparing your Expression of Interest, please contact Valeria Eirin from the DECIDE project via mail: [info@decide4energy.eu](mailto:info@decide4energy.eu) or have a look on our FAQ<sup>17</sup>.

<sup>13</sup> <https://agatasmok.typeform.com/to/PryKlzlT>

<sup>14</sup> We know that your state is still drafting the regulations, our definitions for energy community is based on the RED II and EMD EU directives.

<sup>15</sup> TRL8/MRL8 or higher <https://www.cloudwatchhub.eu/exploitation/readiness-market-more-completing-software-development>

<sup>16</sup> Our offers are targeted towards small EC/CA to help them upscale their activities.

<sup>17</sup> <https://decide4energy.eu/replicators>

