

DECIDE Training material for knowledge Hub

For energy communities and collective actions to develop and advance

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Abstract

The present document aims to provide an overview of the knowledge products created by DECIDE to foster the development and enhancement of energy communities and collective actions. This specific outline is connected with the general training material offered by DECIDE and part of its capacity building campaign to boost replication of good practice of energy communities and collective actions. This document includes an overview of all selected materials and a short description of each one of them to guide and ease their uptake based on interest and needs of the reader. Moreover, the report describes the objectives, targets and format of the knowledge material as well as if applicable the methodology on how to use them most effectively.

Project information and Disclaimer

DECIDE - Developing Energy Communities through Informative & Collective actions, is an Horizon 2020 project which runs under the coordination of Th!nk E for a total of 36 months (02/06/2020 – 02/06/2023).

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Introduction

This report forms part of the general training material that consists of collected and produced knowledge within the DECIDE project, making sure it is shaped in a way which is easy to understand for a variety of stakeholders. The main goal is to provide more information and clarify concepts relative to the Energy Community and Energy Collective Action sphere with a series of knowledge products which style and format is sized to the different level of understanding that recipients might have about the topics. Hence, the target group of the materials created, includes the wide range of users, enablers and facilitators of energy communities and collective action, from local governments to consumers' organizations, from energy agencies to energy suppliers, utilities and start-ups, from NGOs to individuals that are interested in learning more about this opportunity.

Until now, 15 diverse training items are publicly available. This outline has the aim to summarize the materials created as well as to guide and match them best to the readers' interest and needs. Of course, publishing this summary also does not mean that the production of products stops. The project will continue its effort and further populate the DECIDE Knowledge Hub¹ with relevant and complementary training material, including amongst others case studies and in-depth example of good practice, presentation packages, brochures and infographics.

The DECIDE project foresees still a considerable number of workshops and exchanges between experts and practitioners to take place. These activities will naturally create new, valuable information, which will be reworked in language and format to benefit the different stakeholders most effectively. Thus, DECIDE will continue to work towards a user-friendly and easy to navigate systematization of knowledge produced for energy communities and collective action in Europe.

All materials so far produced are available on the Knowledge Hub, which is understood as DECIDE's central engine to actively transfer knowledge and build capacity on energy communities and collective actions. This gateway enables potential initiators of both activities to assess existing and other emerging initiatives most suited to their needs, providing links to repositories, marketplaces, databases, platforms, projects, and videos, amongst others. The training resources can be filtered by language or type, or found using the platform's search engine. The training materials can be seen as a sequence that takes the interested users through different levels, although each learning item work as a stand-alone piece.

¹ The Knowledge Hub is an online space created by DECIDE with the aim of collecting all information produced around the topic of energy communities and collective action. It serves as gateway that, by means of filtering options, can guide interested stakeholders across the resources already available, whether these have been produced by DECIDE or not. It is available at the following link: <https://knowledge4energy.eu/>

The focus of the materials will mirror the advancement of the DECIDE project, providing useful information for all stages of the energy community or collective action development: from its set up and motion to its established functioning with a strong attention on practical aspects of the solutions, approaches and methods presented and the possibility to replicate them widely across Europe. The final goal is for DECIDE to support the uptake of initiatives that will last beyond the project end.

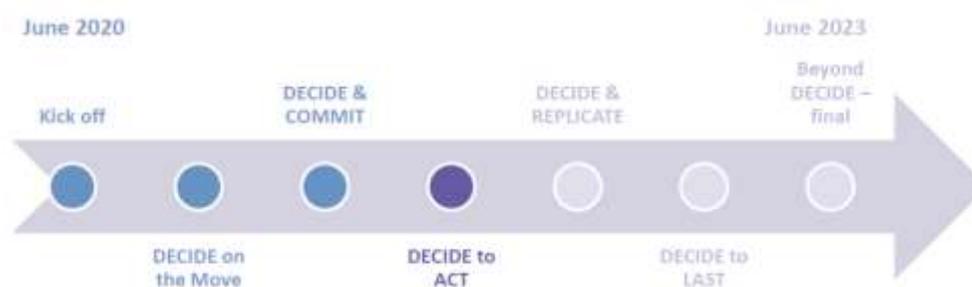


Figure 1: Overview of the DECIDE project implementation plan

Methodology of work

Selected project partners with experience in developing and implementing relevant capacity building activities were firstly involved to draft the structure and content of the knowledge materials. They have been invited to reflect upon the content in the respective field of investigations and, most important, to consider further views received during the interaction with the Pilots of DECIDE. Knowledge gaps have thus been identified making the structure and material as help- and meaningful as possible and complementary to information already available.

In parallel, it has been conducted a mapping exercise to determined further different knowledge products based on the research activities outcomes of DECIDE. Based on that, a series of standard knowledge products and formats have been created with the double folded purpose to ease the process of creation of materials and to ensure consistency to the series that have been produced.

Subsequently, an interactive review round took place within the consortium combined with bilateral follow-ups with each partner to validate the proposed plan. Ultimately the following formats have been created:

- DECIDE Guide: around 4 pages to present direct project results by responding to a “How to” question. The guide corresponds to an easy to digest breakdown of a process in a series of flexible steps.
- DECIDE Factsheet: around 2 pages with a more graphical emphasis that clarifies specific concepts with the objective of increasing the general knowledge of the audience.
- DECIDE Case Study: around 2 pages of in-depth analysis of a specific experience. It addresses the “who” and “how” questions. It can substantiate the content of the guide or suggest a practical example out of the toolkit.

- **DECIDE Tool Card**: initially conceived as one-pager to present a specific tool or methodology, it adopted the format of the cards developed within the DECIDE Coffee Shop² because of their synthetic and appealing design.

Moreover, the development of the knowledge materials has been brought forward together and in close connection with the activities organized as part of the DECIDE Capacity building campaign to boost replication of good practices for community-centered energy initiatives. In fact, the webinars and workshops organized within that framework, are designed in a way that inputs and feedback on social, regulatory and business aspects of energy communities and energy collective action are collected from a wider audience to inform the definition of topics to be deepened in the following activities as well as the approach to the knowledge materials both in format and content.

Overview of the knowledge products

At date, the DECIDE project finalize and made publicly available on its website and Knowledge Hub a total of 16 knowledge products that covers a variety in terms of topic, target group and format. The full list of the product is reported below, followed by a short description of each one of them.

Table 1: Overview of the DECIDE knowledge products published

Title	Date of publication	Type	Level of expertise of target audience
DECIDE and COMMIT	18 May 2021	Webinar	Expert in EC/CA
Acting together! Enhance participation in community energy initiatives	10 June 2021	Workshop	Junior & Expert in EC/CA
After the transposition deadline: characteristics and needs of energy communities in Eastern Europe	2 July 2021	Webinar	Expert in EC/CA
DECIDE explanatory video on energy communities and collective actions (English + captioning in 5 languages)	July 2021	Video	Junior in EC/CA
How can cities alleviate energy poverty through energy communities and citizen engagement?	14 Oct 2021	Workshop	Junior in EC/CA

² The DECIDE Coffee Shop is a virtual environment exclusive for DECIDE pilots and DECIDERS, that allows them to mutually benefit from their experiences favouring knowledge exchange, blended learning and informal networking. Its goal is to foster and accelerate initiatives that institutionalize collective approaches to a future sustainable energy supply and consumption system. More details available at the link: <https://decide4energy.eu/coffee-shop>

Existing and emerging business models for energy communities and collective energy actions	28 Oct 2021	Workshop	Expert in EC/CA
DECIDE to ACT	05 Nov 2021	Webinar	Expert in EC/CA
Interview with Mohamed Ibrir, Waste Manager, Abattoir - hub for start-ups in the food industry, Brussels (Belgium)	December 2021	Podcast	Junior & Expert in EC/CA
Factsheet benefit for policy makers	January 2022	Factsheet	Junior in EC/CA
Factsheet benefit for individuals	January 2022	Factsheet	Junior in EC/CA
Factsheet "What is an energy community"	January 2022	Factsheet	Junior in EC/CA
Interview with Khatera Shamal, gender and diversity expert, City of Antwerp (Belgium)	January 2022	Podcast	Junior & Expert in EC/CA
Engaging with Stakeholders to develop collective energy actions and overcome regulative barriers	26 January 2022	Workshop	Junior in EC/CA
The Power of Community Game	January 2022	Tool card	Junior & Expert in EC/CA
Energy Game	January 2022	Tool card	Junior & Expert in EC/CA
Stakeholders mapping	January 2022	Tool card	Junior & Expert in EC/CA

MATERIALS DESCRIPTION

DECIDE and COMMIT

This webinar was the first DECIDE open virtual event and created a space to engage with other projects, professionals and energy communities across Europe. Led by Th!nk E, with important contributions of all project partners, the webinar focused on regulatory and social aspects of organizing energy communities and collective energy actions integrating results from the BRIDGE working group and ERA-NET initiatives while deepening the experiences of the decide pilots in Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Germany, Greece and the Netherlands.

Moreover, the event included a panel discussion on barriers

to implementation, best practices and suggestions drawn from COMPILE, co2umunnity, COME-RES and UP-STAIRS on how to overcome them. The recordings of the event is available on the [Knowledge Hub](#).



Figure 2: Screenshot of DECIDE and COMMIT participants on 18 May 2021

Presentations:

17 May 2021

- [Keynote: intelligent ways of managing energy supply and demand](#) – Job Swens, J-OB, University Groningen
- [On replication](#)
 - [Why is it important?](#) - Franziska Wirth, Consultant, B.A.U.M. Consult
 - [How human connection drives change](#) - Florian Kutzner, Professor of business psychology, Mannheim University
- [Getting involved](#)
 - [Opportunities to learn, engage and exchange](#) - Carsten Rothballer, Coordinator, ICLEI Europe
 - [Getting involved: The Coffee Shop](#) - Ludwig Karg, Senior expert, B.A.U.M. Consult
 - [Getting involved: The DECIDE Knowledge Hub](#), Julia Kittel, Communication expert, ICLEI Europe

18 May 2021

- [Keynote speech](#) - Josh Roberts, Senior policy advisor, RESCoop on behalf of the BRIDGE Working
- [Roundtable Discussion: An Open Conversation on Policy across EU](#)
 - Dorian Frieden, Joanneum Research, COMPILE project
 - Henner Busch, Lund University, co2muntnity project
 - Isabel Azevedo, INEGI & Arthur Hinsch, ICLEI Europe, COME-RES project
 - Vanda Barsic, IERC, UP-STAIRS project
- [Let's talk about what stops us: regulatory BARRIERS in the middle of a pandemic](#)
 - Austria: Ulfert Höhne, OurPower
 - Belgium: Eryk Masiak, Thermovault
 - Estonia: Marten Saareoks, TREA
 - Germany: Andreas Klär, Elektrizitätswerke Hindelang e.G. (EWH)

- Greece: Stratos Keranidis, DomX, and Konstantina Medesidi, Heron
- [Deep dive to the regulations in different countries](#)
 - Andreas Tuerk, Senior Researcher, Joanneum Research
 - Leen Peeters, Senior expert, Th!nkE
 - Ludwig Karg, Senior expert, B.A.U.M. Consult

Acting together! Enhance participation in Community energy initiatives

In the workshop, colleagues leading on the investigation of social and behavioral aspect of energy collective action shared some of the highlights included in the document “Guidelines for characterization, segmentation and group dynamics” (May 2021) stressing the great importance of engagement of local stakeholders to realize projects at local level and sharing the findings on the social aspects behind the motivation, the barriers and dynamics that moves individuals to join energy communities and collective actions initiatives.

Joining the workshop, participants had the chance to learn about the importance of elements such as a transparent communication, clear goals and path to reach those, involve communities that already exist, take time to understand the stakeholders involved and consider rebound effects thanks also to three real experiences in Austria, Italy and Croatia.

Presentation and recording are available on the [Knowledge Hub](#) while the deliverable is uploaded on the [website](#) and the [Knowledge Hub](#). Relevant initiatives have been included in the Knowledge Hub database.

Presentations:

- *Set the scene: What Makes People Participate in Energy Communities?* - Sonja Klingert, Project manager, University of Mannheim [min 22:00]
- *Engagement in OurPower* - Ulfert Höhne, CEO and co-founder, OurPower Coop, Austria [min 34:00]
- *What is DOOR?* - Daniel Rodik, Senior Expert, Door, Croatia [min 42:00]
- *The GE.C.O project* - Francesco Tutino, Senior expert, Energy department, City of Bologna [min 54:00]

After the transposition deadline: characteristics and needs of energy communities in Eastern Europe

Right after the deadline for Member States to transpose the Recast of the European Renewable Energy Directive (RED II) which recognize as legal entity the Renewable Energy Communities, the webinar aimed at providing some clarity on what the transposition should have implied and at giving an overview of the status of advancement of different member states in this regard, with a specific focus on East-Europe countries where, overall, renewable energy is less common than in Western Europe. The webinar finds his main source in the research carried out within DECIDE to draft the [first DECIDE Policy brief on regulation](#) (released in July 2021) and had the contribution of experts from Bulgaria, Czech Republic and Croatia. Targeting policy makers, NGOs active in the energy sphere but also anyone interested in the policy development regardless from its experience thanks to its simple language, the event recording and presentations has been made available on the [Knowledge Hub](#).

Presentations:

- *Overview of the transposition of the EU directives in EU member states* - Andreas Türk, Joanneum Research [min 10:30]
- *Community energy in Bulgaria- public attitudes and prospects for future development* – Ass Prof. Mariya Trifonova, Sofia University [min 28:00]
- *Perspectives from the Czech Republic* - Jiří Karásek, Senior consultant, SEVEN [min 41:30]
- *Emerging regulatory framework in Croatia* - Goran Cacic, Senior Expert, Green Energy Cooperative [min 53:00]

DECIDE explanatory video on energy communities and collective actions

DECIDE produced a video that in around 2 minutes introduce the concept of energy communities and collective action in the current European context and how DECIDE meant to investigate them. The short animation is sized to an audience that do not have a technical knowledge of the community-owned energy initiatives, nor on energy in general, working as



Figure 3: Screenshot of the DECIDE introductory video to energy communities and collective actions

a perfect “ice-breaker” to approach and engage new-comers to the topic. The brief definitions touch upon all basic concepts that related to energy communities, inviting the viewers to look for more information in the DECIDE Knowledge Hub and website. To widen the outreach, the English-speaking voice over of the video has been accompanied by captions in [Greek](#), [French](#), [German](#), [Dutch](#) and [Estonian](#), created with the support of the project partners.

How can cities alleviate energy poverty through energy communities and citizen engagement?

Energy communities and energy collective action has been put in relation with energy poverty in this workshop organized together with the EU projects [PowerPoor](#) and [COME-RES](#). The event focused on the role that cities might have in promoting the roll out of energy communities and leverage on them to reduce energy poverty in their territory showing three concrete cases where municipalities started such kind of initiative involving disadvantaged households. The event, addressing local governments, local energy agencies and NGOs that works on the topic of energy poverty, produces a recording and a set of presentations that are available in the [Knowledge Hub](#).

Presentations:

- *Keynote speech* - Kata Tüttö, Member of the Committee of the Regions PES Group, ECON and ENVE Commissions [min 04:00]
- *Why are energy communities important for a just energy transition?* - Michael Krug, Research Associate, Freie Universität Berlin [min 12:00]
- *How does energy poverty materialize and how can vulnerable citizens be included in the energy transition?* Eleni Kanellou, Research Associate, NTUA & Lucija Rakocevic, Research and Development Manager at Th!nk E [min 30:00]
- *Case Study 1: Municipality of Hernani, Spain* - Oier Etxebarria, Community Energy Promoter at Goiener [min 51:30]

- *Case Study 2: Municipality of Tartu, Estonia* - Marek Muiste, Energy Expert at Tartu Regional Energy Agency [min 1:06:00]

Existing and emerging business models for energy communities and collective energy actions

Based on an extensive literary review, integrated by data collected through an online survey, the workshop presented the state of art with regard to existing business models for energy communities and collective actions. The variety observed, has been organized in seven main different types of business models, each one characterized by a different set of activities, stakeholders involved and enabling factors to make them possible. The workshop aimed at opening the discussion on the categorization proposed and, more in general, on the different economic organization that an energy community or collective action might adopt and which are the factors that influence this decision. Recording and presentations of the event are available on the [Knowledge Hub](#).

Presentations:

- *Existing and emerging business models of Energy communities and other collective energy actions* – Andreas Tuerk, Senior policy advisor, Johanneum Research [min 11:30]
- *Collective self-consumption through peer to peer market* - Ulfert Höhne, CEO & Co-founder, OurPower (Austria), [DECIDE pilot](#) [min 37:30]
- *Collective residential self-consumption and collective financing* - Niccoló Primo, Project developer, Coopérnico (Portugal), [DECIDE replicant](#) [min 49:30]
- *Residential collective self-consumption involving energy poor community* - Vasilakis Athanasios, ICCS, Rafina, Greece, [COMPILE project](#) [min 01:01:00]

DECIDE to ACT

As a follow up of the workshop on business models, the discussion held in the public part of the general assembly, was focused on the factors influencing business models of energy communities and collective actions. In particular, with experts from NEWCOMERS H2020 project, Citizen led Renovation project and Genervest, the fundraising initiative powered by Greenpeace Greece, participants deepened the many different factors that might affect business models of energy communities and collective energy actions including financing, regulation, incentives, and local socio-economic context. Recordings and presentations are available on the [Knowledge Hub](#).

Presentations:

- *Experiences with energy communities on Greek islands* - Petros Markopoulos, Senior expert, DAFNI (Network of Sustainable Greek Islands)
- *Panel discussion on key aspects affecting business models*
 - DECIDE project – Andreas Tuerk, Senior policy advisor, Johanneum Research
 - NEWCOMERs project – Jacob Barnes, Researcher, Environmental Change Institute

- Citizen Led Renovation project - Almut Bonhage, Director, Stefan Scheuer Consulting
- Genervest (invest ethically and socially) - Ignacio Navarro, Climate & Energy Campaigner
- *Example from a project on organisational structure and user engagement: issues and lessons learned*
 - *Hyperion (Energy Community)* - Sandy Fameliari, Community manager
 - *HERON (DECIDE Project Pilot)* - Athanasios Papakonstantinou, Procurement officer, HERON

Podcast series

Starting from December 2021, DECIDE's coordinator ThInkE started producing a series of [podcasts](#) interviewing people that are involved in energy communities or collective energy action to share their learnings and inspire listener to become active in the energy market, in particular trying to explore participation in the energy transition of people beyond the usual stakeholder group. Due to its format easy to enjoy, podcasts are becoming more and more popular and a good channel to reach out to a wide audience. To increase this potential of outreach, the podcasts will be recorded in different languages so to deliver the message to not English speaker listener.



Figure 4: Image produced by ThInk E to sponsor the Podcast series

The protagonist of the first podcast, in French, is Mohamed Ibrir from the DECIDE replicant Abattoir in Brussels, Belgium about energy transition, food waste and climate change. The second podcast, in Dutch, explores with Khatera Shamal from the city of Antwerp, Belgium the relation between energy transition and the Afghan community of the city.

Factsheet benefit for individuals

Picking up with inputs received by organization and individual that are advocating for a more citizens-centred energy system, ICLEI, together with the partners University of Mannheim and University of Seeburg, drafted two factsheets that summarizes in an easy and catchy form, the many advantages that an energy community or collective action can bring to the local community where this is established.

Two main recipients have been identified for the development of this concept and therefore, two different version were produced to better respond to the respective needs: from the one hand side individuals that, thanks to this factsheet might become aware of the potential of such initiatives and, from the other hand side, local decision makers, that would find, in the document arguments for the local administration to support their establishment.

Factsheet what is an energy community

The factsheet has the objective to clarify the concept of energy community in a very easy manner having as a target audience a reader that has no background knowledge about the topic. Drafted as a flowchart, it presents in a concise

way the policy context, what novelty it brings to the energy market and ultimately the meaning that it has in relation to the life of each person living in Europe.

Engaging with Stakeholders to develop collective energy actions and overcome regulative barriers

Lead by the DECIDE partner Prospect Institute, the workshop explored who and how best to engage in order to create a favorable environment for energy communities and collective action to flourish. DECIDE pilots and replicants from Spain, Estonia and Greece, shared how they linked up with relevant actors at local, regional and national level to clear the way to the development of their energy projects. The recording of the workshop can be found on the [Knowledge Hub](#).

Presentations:

- *A Utility's perspective* - Athanasios Papakonstantinou, PhD, Procurement officer, HERON [min 15:30]
- *Are citizen ready?* - Santi Martínez, Founder, Km0 Energy [min 23:30]
- *Reconstruction can bring renewable energy communities to life, but how to connect them to grid?*- Marten Saareoks, Expert, Tartu Regional Energy Agency [min 34:00]
- *Smart energy services through cost-effective heating controllers* – Stratos Keranidis, R&D Director, DomX [min 44:30]

Tool cards: power of community game, energy game and stakeholder mapping

Adopting the captivating design developed by BAUM for the Coffee shop, three tool cards has been developed to present, in a very straightforward manner, some of the tools or methodologies that has been developed or studied within DECIDE. Without claiming of being exhaustive, these cards are intended to trigger interest in the reader with a short description; references are included to the Knowledge Hub to find more information about the different topics.

Among the first cards developed there are two dedicated to the games developed by DECIDE the [Power of community game](#), which is linked with transgenerational learning, and the **Energy Game** that give the possibility to participants to imagine their ideal collective energy initiative. A [third card](#) has been created to explain the basic concept of what is a stakeholder mapping and which are the benefits for an initiative to carry out this exercise, whether they are already experienced or just about to start their activities. This is intended to be a preparatory card to the analysis that DECIDE developed around the more complex concepts of stakeholder segmentation.

Final note

The design of knowledge products will continue until the end of the DECIDE project in May 2023. In the upcoming months, the project partners will continue producing materials to enhance the understanding of the relevant stakeholders about energy communities and collective actions.

Among the documents that are currently in the pipeline there is a factsheet to clarify the concept of energy collective action, case studies on selected DECIDE pilots and DECIDERS, infographics and guidelines that can support individuals, civil society, organizations, businesses and municipalities to orientate themselves in the rapidly emerging sphere of the community-led energy transition.

PARTNERS



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