



DECIDE results: Barriers and recommendations

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DG ENER, Hybrid meeting of DG ENER and DECIDE consortium



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What are the barriers to large scale uptake of energy communities and collective actions?

Key barriers

- ① Great attention to only energy communities
- ② Lack of systematic approach to energy communities on Member State level
- ③ Vague benefits and poor diversity management of energy communities
- ④ Regulatory framework is not impact based
- ⑤ Fostered business models lack resilience and are subsidy dependent

Recommendations developed within DECIDE

1 Great attention to only energy communities

Bring attention to all Collective Energy Actions, not only energy communities

Collective energy actions:

- Broader concept that includes energy communities
- Helps reach wider scope of consumers
- Allows utilization of wider scope of business models / participation in energy sector

Member States should receive guidance on how to operationalize collective energy actions, including energy communities within Clean Energy package concept

Recommendations

[Position paper on Collective Energy Actions](#)

[Infographic](#)

② Lack of systematic approach to energy communities on MS level

- Many MS lack registry of energy communities and especially collective energy actions
- Lack of structure for systematic and targeted support (lack of knowledge, diversity etc.) and information collections

Support formation of umbrella organisations on sub-national level.

Umbrella organisations should:

- Be independent/neutral associations (not advocacy organisations)
- Help mainstream procedures (templates, forms) and provide legal support - Ex. [Ireland](#)
- Provide guidance and clear and correct info (energy topics, diversity, inclusiveness)
- Training for staff (and municipalities)
- Financial advice and support – helping de-risk investments
- Lessons learned and best practice examples

*Use Associations of SMEs as example and to integrate lessons learned in the process

3 Vague benefits and poor diversity management of energy communities

- Energy communities addressed more emotionally than rationally
- Benefits are often not measured, quantified or monitored over time, especially when it comes to **energy justice and social capital**

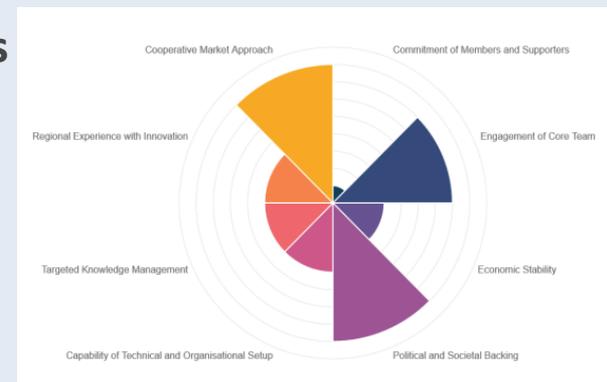
Benefits of collective energy actions should be measures, quantified and monitored through defined set of KPIs (also towards other elements and members of the energy system)

Developed set of 55 KPIs organized in 8 thematic groups

Developed publicly available

KPI Maturity and Scalability tool:

- Beneficial to compare initiatives based on same parameters
- Evaluate the initiative and indicate areas of improvement
- Quantify and Monitor progress
- Could be used to warn of challenges in implementation



[KPI report](#)

[KPI Maturity & Scalability tool](#)

Recommendations

3

Vague benefits and poor diversity management of energy communities



Recommendations

To upscale collective energy actions need to:

- Be built on existing local structures (e.g. clubs, previous actions etc.)
- Pre-empt social and political polarization by strategic diversity management (incl. age, gender, political orientation, socio-economic status)
- Be more widely known – within and outside of energy sector
- Demonstrate the need for non-technical skills

4 Regulatory framework is not impact based

- Legal & regulatory framework support various (changing) aspects/types of collective energy actions in MSs
- Support mechanisms are provided without detailed analysis of long-term effect and impact on energy sector

Policy and regulation for energy communities should align with other sector policies not only energy to decrease barriers in implementation (taxes, labor, etc.)

Regulation for incentives and support should be based on adequate impact studies

Policy should enable value stacking for collective energy actions – regulation for allowing collective energy actions to provide flexibility and other services

Policy & regulation should foster inclusiveness and diversity

5 Fostered business models lack resilience and are subsidy dependent

- Dependency on subsidies and funded projects make initiatives vulnerable
- Self-consumption is typically the most promoted business model (due to lack of information/knowledge/support)

Enabling framework should support and allow use of multiple business models to make initiatives more resilient

Regulation should require proof of basic knowledge (business, energy markets, res) for starting an energy community – ex. regulation for starting an SME

Through umbrella organisation guidance can be provided on how to manage an initiative in time of crisis and what to do in case of bankruptcy or end of initiative

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