

REPORT OF DECIDE TRAININGS HELD

Deliverable 4.3



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ABSTRACT

In the DECIDE project the capacity building played a central role and it was realized mainly by means of webinar, workshops and materials addressing different types of stakeholders at different stages of their journey toward collective energy actions. This deliverable is divided in two main parts: in the first one it takes the reader through the general approach taken by the project in organizing its trainings, in terms of both identifying a suitable format and defining relevant content. In the second part, the deliverable provides an overview of the trainings held by the DECIDE project between May 2020 and May 2023, with the respective links to track their content.

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INTRODUCTION

In the DECIDE project, the capacity building activities are a component of major importance. Through online and in-person webinar and workshop learnings, the experiences and knowledge gained by the project has been made available to a wide public, triggering the interest of those who are new to this topic and providing support to those who are, to varying extents, already informed about collective energy actions.

The objective of the DECIDE trainings is to share the learnings of the project and the project partners, as well as make sure those are received by interested stakeholders. In fact, to put information out is not a guarantee that the work done will not gather dust on a shelf and a more pro-active approach is needed to make it useful, easy to understand and relevant.

These activities build capacities to then boost replication of the many collective energy actions presented or, more in general, provide the tools to pass from theory into practice. Trainings can be a nudge to action by sharing inspiring examples, suggesting alternative paths to implementation, providing initial answers to common problems, among others.

The outbreak of COVID affected considerably the planning and design of activities. In its lifetime, DECIDE produced a total of 21 sessions, 10 webinars and 11 workshops, out of which 3 were in person and 3 in a hybrid format. At the time of the report one webinar is still planned to take place back to back with the European Sustainable Energy Week 2023.

All trainings were presented within a dedicated article on the DECIDE website and promoted via social media. After each event, activity summaries, links to session recordings and presentations or other content were made available online via the [DECIDE website](#) ([one article under news](#) in each session) as well as in the [Knowledge Hub](#).

1. CONCEPTUALIZATION OF THE CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

All the DECIDE learning products and activities have been designed in such a way as to ease access to information in order to have impact. Moreover, the live experience make it possible to open discussions. Unlike the many documents and deliverables produced by DECIDE, in fact, the capacity building activities allow for a dialogic exchange where the content is first of all explained and then put on an open table for discussion that enriches not only participants but also organizers and the project itself.

To achieve these objectives, particular attention was placed on the iterative identification of the topics, the overall conceptualization of the format, as well as on the design of each activity and the collaborative approach with other projects.

IDENTIFICATION OF TOPICS: AN ITERATIVE PROCESS

The more one observes, the more one realizes that there is no one single approach to respond to the many knowledge gaps contributing to slowing down the advance of a community-centred de-localized energy system. Although in Europe experiences of collective energy actions have existed since the early 19th century, the topic is rather new for many people. In the last couple of years in particular, energy communities have become a buzz word and policies at EU and member state levels have been changing at a fast pace to encourage and facilitate the possibility for individuals and groups of people to take a more active role within the energy system, albeit with significant differences between countries. As a consequence, more and more organizations, institutions and citizens have been looking for information and guidance to help them understand the continuously evolving landscape.

Aware of these conditions, DECIDE started from a first screening of knowledge gaps but kept this list always open to continual change and periodically reviewed these with an active and iterative approach that was maintained throughout the project.

An initial assessment of knowledge needs was conducted during the project design phase, when the following key elements were identified for inclusion in the capacity building campaign:

- how to start and set up an energy community or collective action
- how to accelerate an already existing initiative
- challenges and opportunities provided by existing regulatory frameworks
- successful business models for implementation and upscaling of energy communities
- methodologies for engaging consumers/prosumers

- examples from across Europe covering different technologies/governance structures/business models.

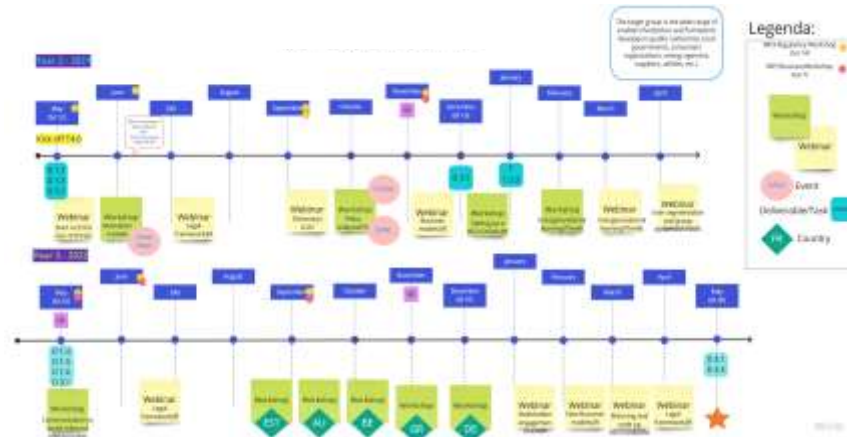


Figure 1: Second version of the DECIDE planning of trainings (April 2021)

Since the start of the specific task on capacity building in May 2020, the initial lists of topics were periodically reviewed by the project partners. Every six months the latest version of the plan was internally shared for comment on both the timing and content identified in the previous review. This approach guaranteed that the scope of the activities synchronised well with the project’s development, and therefore ensured the high quality and clarity of the content provided. Importantly, however, topics were fine tuned and adjusted based on the ongoing experience of colleagues, which guided the definition of priorities.

The deep engagement of technical and knowledge partners was key to ensuring the project captured a wide array of needs, whilst the pilots, with their first-hand experience, were instrumental in grounding proposals for capacity learning activities within real-world contexts and requirements.

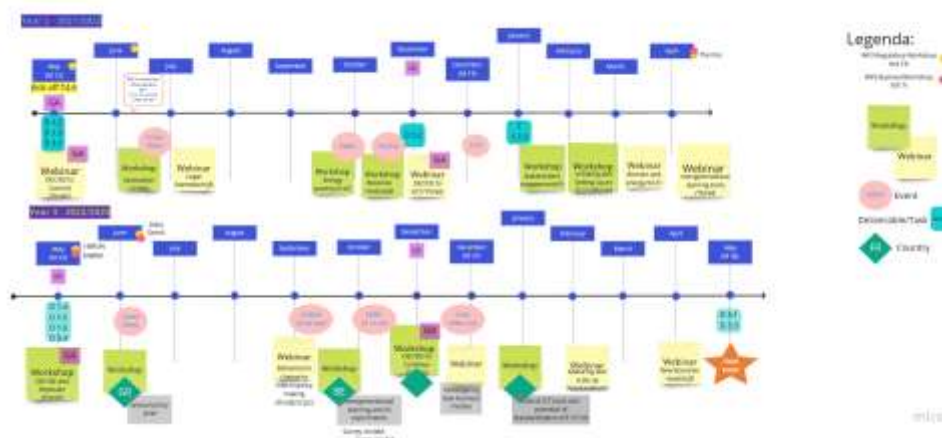


Figure 2: Seventh and last version of the DECIDE planning of trainings (March 2022)

DEFINITION OF FORMATS

Particular attention has been put to identifying suitable formats for all the DECIDE training sessions. In doing so, the key target was to convey the information in an effective manner and ensure that end-users benefit from participating.

In order to define an optimum standard of training for the project, DECIDE considered many elements such as the plurality of perspectives, levels of interactivity, average attention span of users and achieving balance between frontal and dialogic. Defining such a standard was important as it helped the project establish its identity and build trust amongst participants who were then more easily able to focus on the content given the consistency achieved across all trainings. At the same time, standards needed to be flexible enough to be adjusted and adapted to the specific requirements of the topic or audience addressed. Finally, it was important that standards remain open to ongoing improvement based on the feedback of colleagues and participants. In this sense, the iterative process mentioned above, was also responsive to any format adjustment needed.

The two formats adopted for the project and accordingly formalized, were **webinar** and **workshop**. The main difference between the two lay on their objectives (sharing Vs discussing), levels of interactivity (lower Vs higher) and overall duration (shorter Vs longer). The following image depicts these differences:

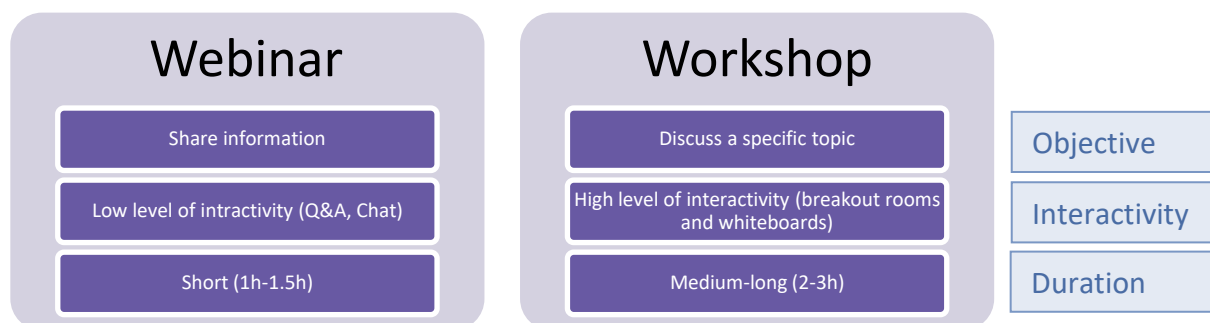


Figure 3: Difference between Webinar and Workshop in DECIDE

It must be remembered that the project ran from September 2021 to May 2023 where a large part of this period corresponded to the outbreak of the COVID19 pandemic, resulting in the need to organize activities in a purely virtual format. Out of the over 20 trainings held, only two took place in-person and two were organized in a hybrid format. Some reflections on the virtual session are included in the box below:

FULLY VIRTUAL

Limitations on in-person events that in many EU countries had put in place from March 2020 until June 2022 greatly affected the initial design of the DECIDE trainings requiring significant effort to reshape the activities in a manner that could retain objectivity whilst still remaining interesting for participants. It is evident that physical presence is impossible to replace. Nevertheless, COVID forced us to be more creative and to rethink how we organize online events.

The decide team managed to work around the difficulties, successfully organizing 7 online workshops.

Lessons learned from this experience included:

- Level of attention are lower online, reduce session lengths with plenty of breaks
- With online attendance, people are more tempted to look at their emails/message systems and become distracted, to reduce risk avoid long introductions and get straight to the point
- Online it is easier to be passive, ask participants to turn on their camera and in discussions call participants by their names inviting them to share their perspective
- To keep engagement levels high, make use of online collaboration tools and be sure to collect participants' inputs
- Where collaboration tools are used, make sure instructions are clear and kept simple you may take more time to explain how to use it than actually using it.

LIAISON WITH PARTNERS

Project partners were fundamental to the development of all the capacity building activities and materials. According to their expertise, their role in the project and the resources available, colleagues greatly guided the definition of agenda, speakers and suitable experiences to be profiled from the DECIDE project and beyond – which has been a constant in all the webinars and workshops.

The initial planning of the trainings changed and was adapted not only in accordance to the new priority of certain topics but also to the new partnerships and opportunities arising along the way. Thanks also to the

facilitation of the project coordinator and the respective project partners, DECIDE established a fruitful synergy with the group of EU-funded projects working in the same space, as well as other relevant actors and initiatives. This resulted also in the project's successful presence at events such as Enlit Europe, the Green Week and the European Sustainable Energy Week.

2. OVERVIEW OF TRAININGS

At the end of the project, the DECIDE project finalized and made publicly available on its website and Knowledge Hub a total of 21 trainings that covered a variety of topics and target groups. One additional webinar is scheduled to take place on 12 June 2023, as side event to the European Sustainable Energy Week. The full list of trainings is laid out below, followed by a short description of each, except for the final training which has yet to take place. The presentations and recordings for each of the trainings is available on the [Knowledge Hub](#), as well as linked in the post event article published [on the news page of the DECIDE website](#).

Table 1: Overview of DECIDE trainings held from May 2021 to May 2023

Title	Date	Type	Place	Targeted audience	Participants
Exploiting the potential of local flexibilities: the role of Energy Communities	19/11/2019	Workshop	Online	Expert in EC/CA	n/a
DECIDE and COMMIT	17-18/05/2021	Webinar	Online at DECIDE General Assembly	Expert in EC/CA	81
Acting together! Enhance participation in Community Energy initiatives	10/06/2021	Workshop	Online at EU Green Week	Junior & Expert in EC/CA	48
After the transposition deadline: characteristics and needs of energy communities in Eastern Europe	02/07/2021	Webinar	Online	Junior & Expert in EC/CA	35
How can cities alleviate energy poverty through energy communities and citizen engagement?	14/10/2021	Workshop	Online at European Week of Regions and Cities	Junior in EC/CA	59

Existing and emerging business models for energy communities and collective energy actions	28/10/2021	Workshop	Online	Expert in EC/CA	42
DECIDE to ACT	05/11/2021	Webinar	Hybrid at DECIDE General Assembly	Expert in EC/CA	29
Engaging with Stakeholders to develop collective energy actions and overcome regulatory barriers	26/01/2022	Workshop	Online	Junior in EC/CA	46
On the road to a successful Energy Community: Identifying and overcoming potential barriers and challenges	15/02/2022	Workshop	Online	Junior in EC/CA	85
Engaging women to DECIDE on energy transition	08/08/2022	Webinar	Online	Junior & Expert in EC/CA	49
From setting up energy communities to making them thrive. What are the tools available?	26/04/2022	Workshop	Online	Junior in EC/CA	96
DECIDE to REPLICATE	24/05/2022	Webinar at the General Assembly	Hybrid at DECIDE General Assembly	Junior & Expert in EC/CA	72
Beyond energy communities: Collective energy actions for a faster, inclusive and diverse energy transition	01/09/2022	Webinar	Online	Expert in EC/CA	83
Towards energy aware behaviours: how studies on young generations can inform better policy design	29/09/2022	Webinar	Hybrid at European Sustainable Energy Week	Junior & Expert in EC/CA	182
1 Municipality – 1 REC, can it be done?	30/09/2022	Workshop	Onsite Energy day	Expert in EC/CA	50
Energy Collective Actions for Energy Poverty & Carbon Neutrality	07/10/2022	Workshop	Onsite	Junior & Expert in EC/CA	15
DECIDE to PROGRESS	18/11/2022	Workshop at the General Assembly	Onsite at DECIDE General Assembly	Expert in EC/CA	25

Community ownership in climate & energy effective participatory approaches across mitigation adaptation	24/11/2022	Webinar	Online	Junior & Expert in EC/CA	50
Social and behavioural science for energy communities and collective actions: Methods and results from DECIDE and other European projects	26/01/2023	Webinar	Online	Junior & Expert in EC/CA	88
Designing inclusive and scalable collective energy action	03/05/2023	Webinar	Online	Junior & Expert in EC/CA	10
Discover the strengths and weaknesses of your energy initiative!	11/05/2023	Workshop	Online	Junior & Expert in EC/CA	24
Accelerating the clean energy transition	12/06/2023	Webinar	Online	Junior & Expert in EC/CA	n/a

TRAININGS DESCRIPTION

1. Exploiting the potential of local flexibilities: the role of Energy Communities

Discussion of the potential of local flexibilities in relation to Energy Communities and the sounding out of possibilities for closer cooperation between the projects of the DECIDE, edgeFLEX, Platone, and FEVER consortia.

Presentations:

- The status of HEMRM process | Ercole De Luca, Areti, Platone project
- Different approaches and potential standards on exploiting local flexibilities
 - Platone | Antonello Monti, RWTH, Platone project coordinator
 - edgeFLEX | Gianluca Lipari, RWTH, edgeFLEX technical manager
 - FEVER | Ilias Lamprinos, ICOM, FEVER project coordinator
 - DECIDE | Ludwig Karg, B.A.U.M. Consult, DECIDE project
- Energy Communities as catalysts for harvesting flexibility: EU directives and national transposition, integration and role setting in the electricity market -
- Andreas Türk, Joanneum Research, BRIDGE taskforce and X-Flex project
- Approaches to flexibility management in other EU and ERA- Net SES funded projects - Kirsten Glennung, E.DSO, Platone project and Michele de Nigris, RSE, JPP Era-Net SE Knowledge Community

2. DECIDE and COMMIT

This webinar presented a space to engage with other projects, professionals and energy communities across Europe. Led by Th!nk E, with important contributions from all project partners, the webinar focused on the regulatory and social aspects of organizing energy communities and collective energy actions. The event picked up on the results of the BRIDGE working group and ERA-NET initiatives, deepening the experiences of DECIDE pilot best practices and integrating suggestions drawn from the EU projects COMPILE, co2umunnity, COME-RES and UP-STAIRS on how to overcome them.



Figure 4: Visual created for the DECIDE and COMMIT event (credits: Agata Smok, ThinkE)

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

- **Keynote speech** - Josh Roberts, Senior policy advisor, REScoop on behalf of the BRIDGE Working Group
- **Roundtable Discussion: An Open Conversation on Policy across EU**
 - Dorian Frieden, Joanneum Research, COMPILE project
 - Henner Busch, Lund University, co2munnity 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 into 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

3. Acting together! Enhance participation in Community Energy initiatives

This workshop, led by the colleagues leading on the investigation of the social and behavioural aspects of energy collectives, reflected on how barriers and the motivation of potential stakeholders are fundamental to successfully engaging stakeholders. Highlights from this workshop are contained within the document entitled: “Guidelines for characterization, segmentation and group dynamics” (May 2021).

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]

Room 1: OurPower coop



Figure 5: Outcome from one of the breakout rooms at the DECIDE workshop Acting Together!...

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

The webinar offered an overview of the work carried out across EU member states and included the national legal contexts of RECs with a particular focus on Eastern European countries. A primary source of insight for this webinar lay in the research carried out within DECIDE to draft the [first DECIDE Policy brief on regulation](#) (released in July 2021) as well as in the various contributions of experts from Bulgaria, Czech Republic and Croatia.

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]

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



This interactive workshop, organized together with the EU projects PowerPoor and COME RES, showcased how cities are already reaching out to vulnerable citizens and supporting them through energy communities.

Figure 6: Participants discussing in one of the breakout rooms at the DECIDE workshop How cities can alleviate energy poverty...

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 Thlink 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]

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

This interactive workshop presented various existing and emerging business models used by energy communities and collective actions. The observed model varieties were arranged into seven primary types, each characterized by a different set of activities, stakeholders involved and enabling factors. The aim of the workshop was to open up discussion on categorization.

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 a peer-to-peer market* - Ulfert Höhne, CEO & Co-founder, OurPower (Austria) [min 37:30]
- *Collective residential self-consumption and collective financing* - Niccoló Primo, Project developer, Coopérnico (Portugal) [min 49:30]
- *Residential collective self-consumption involving an energy poor community* - Vasilakis Athanasios, ICCS, Rafina, Greece [min 01:01:00]

7. DECIDE to ACT



Figure 7: Picture from DECIDE to ACT in Thessaloniki

DECIDE brought together projects and initiatives that had been working with energy communities and collective energy actions to discuss the main factors affecting their business models, including organisational and governance structures, social aspects, regulation and incentives. The hybrid discussion was enriched by experts from the NEWCOMERS H2020 project, the Citizen led Renovation project and Genervest, the fundraising initiative powered by Greenpeace Greece.

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

8. Engaging with Stakeholders to develop collective energy actions and overcome regulatory barriers

Different organizations and countries informed different engagement strategies and approaches. Drawing on these experiences, participants learned how to build relationships and start a dialogue with relevant actors to support the establishment of energy communities, increase the uptake of new energy solutions, and influence energy regulation.

Presentations:

- *A Utility's perspective* - Athanasios Papakonstantinou, PhD, Procurement officer, HERON [min 15:30]
- *Are citizens ready?* - Santi Martínez, Founder, Km0 Energy [min 23:30]
- *Reconstruction can bring renewable energy communities to life, but how to connect them to the 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]

9. On the road to a successful Energy Community: Identifying and overcoming potential barriers and challenges

Participants learned about different challenges, hardships, barriers and setbacks but foremost, to ask questions and receive tips on how to take the first steps towards creating an energy community or collective action.

Presentations:

Two Stories of Energy Communities. Insights from two experiences along the road to forming an energy community.

1. *The introduction: What were the first big challenges? Where did they find support and help, and what was surprisingly easy to accomplish?*
2. *Overcoming the bigger challenges: How did they continue after the first setbacks? What helped them?*
 - Hanna Rasper, ECOPA (Energia. Colletiva. Palermo)
 - Gerhard Meindl, Stadtwerke Wunsiedel

10. Engaging women to DECIDE on energy transition

This webinar highlighted the importance of the role played by women in the European energy transition. Gender equality must be considered if a just and inclusive shift towards a decentralized and more sustainable energy system is to be achieved. The webinar was enriched by the contributions of the EU projects [PowerPoor](#) and [W4RES](#).

Presentations:

- *The role of women in the European Energy transition* - Ioannis Konstas - Q-PLAN on behalf of W4RES project
- *How is energy poverty affecting women?* - Alis-Daniela Torres, ICLEI Europe on behalf of PowerPoor
- *Overcoming the bigger challenges* - Sonja Klingert - University of Mannheim, Mona Bielig – Privatuniversität Schloss Seeburg

11. From setting up energy communities to making them thrive

This event, organized by eight projects working on the topic of energy communities ([EC²](#), [BECoop](#), [DECIDE](#), [eCREW](#), [UP-STAIRS](#), [COME RES](#), [NEWCOMERS](#), [W4RES](#) and [POWERPOOR](#)), showcased 15 tools designed to help those who are setting up, managing, or growing their energy communities. A 2-pager with short descriptions of each of the tools and projects is available [here](#).

Presentations:

- *Inform yourself* – prior to starting a community energy initiative – tools to understand the basic concepts, and to help with your research and information gathering
- *Test your market, ideas, and technologies* – organising and planning a community energy initiative – testing which technologies to use, which business models and legal frameworks suit your market, and how others have been successful in that market

- *Let's act: get people involved and grow* – growing and improving an existing community initiative – getting more people involved, engaging different social groups, sharing data and energy, creating one-stop shops



Figure 8: Visual created for the joint event From setting up energy communities... organized by DECIDE together with 8 sister projects (credits Marta Beldarrain, ICLEI Europe)

12. DECIDE to REPLICATE

Community energy initiatives could reach into this toolbox and choose puzzle pieces that fit their purpose and build their community. A call to become a DECIDE Replicant and thereby be supported by the project's team in testing successful approaches and lessons learned from the existing seven DECIDE pilots.

Presentations:

- *Enabling frameworks to support replication* - Keynote speech from Andreas Tuerk, Joanneum Research, Austria
- Discussion - Heading in the same direction
 - eCREW – Johannes Slacik, JKU Austria
 - Renenergetics, Michael Niederkofler, Energie kompass, Germany
- *How to guide new initiatives to grow?* - Silvia Assalini, ICLEI Europe
- *Discussion - How information and knowledge fostered replication and growth:*
 - Athanasios Papakonstantinou, HERON, Greece
 - Erica Svetec, ZEZ, Croatia
 - Marten Saareoks, TREA, Estonia
 - Márton Fabók, Co-Founder Community Energy Service Company (CESCO), Hungary
- *What have we learned about motivating user engagement?* - Mona Bielig, Seeburg University, Austria
- *Discussion - How user engagement helped grow and replicate your initiative:*
 - Georgios Martinidis, CluBE, Greece (joined online)
 - Rainer Rosegger, SCAN, EC Stanz, Austria
 - Tom Verheyen, ThermoVault, Belgium

- Ulfter Höhne, OurPower, Austria
- *How enabling frameworks and business models affect replication?* - Lucija Rakocevic, Th!nk E
- *Discussion - How enabling frameworks and the shaping of business models help replicate your initiative:*
 - Andreas Klär, Hindelang, Germany
 - Lukas Albert, eCREW, Germany
 - Stratos Keranidis, DomX, Greece
 - Tim Taylor, Alpine Pearls, Italy
- *The way forward for the DECIDE project* - Lucija Rakocevic, Th!nk E

13. Beyond energy communities: Collective energy actions for a faster, inclusive and diverse energy transition

This webinar provided an overview of different EU member state approaches to the transposition of RECs and CECs to deepen understanding of *collective energy actions*, a broader concept that encompasses energy communities but also many other initiatives that do not entirely fulfil the requirements of energy communities as per the EU's current definition. Based on the position paper of the DECIDE project, experts and the audience discussed optimal ways to provide enabling frameworks for all collective energy initiatives.

Presentations:

- *Overview of the status of the transposition of the EU directives in EU member states* - Andreas Türk, Joanneum Research
- *Integration of collective actions in the Clean Energy Package* - Lucija Rakocevic, DECIDE coordinator, Th!nk E
- *Discussion of the integration of collective action with the energy communities policy*
 - Achille Hannoset, Directorate-General for Energy, European Commission
 - Leen Peters, Th!nkE, Belgium
 - Laurène Provost, ClientEarth, Belgium
 - Ludwig Karg, B.A.U.M. Consult, Germany
 - Giulia Torri, KmO Energy, DECIDER, Spain
 - Tim Taylor, Korimako/Thriving Communities, Slovenia

14. Towards energy aware behaviours: how studies on young generations can inform better policy design

Speakers joined a panel of policymakers, youth and consumer representatives focusing on how to design policies that can favour large-scale change in how we produce and consume energy and how to include youth in energy policies at various levels. An after event briefing can be found [here](#).

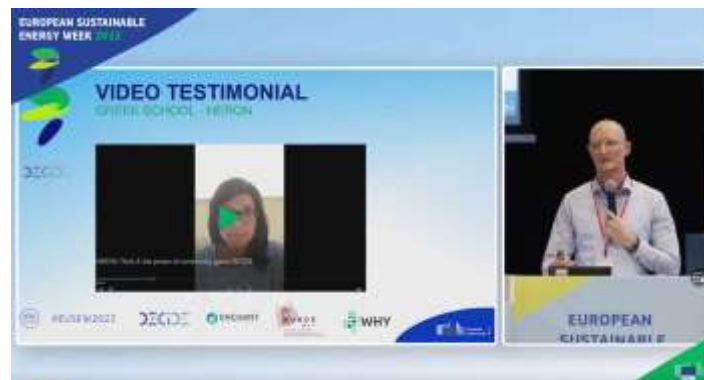


Figure 9: Screenshot from the live event Toward energy aware behaviours... co-organized by DECIDE together with four sister projects

Presentations:

- *Behaviour aspects related to energy consumption and production – what have we learned?* - Peter Conradie, Senior researcher at imec-mict-UGent
- *How can we feed these learnings into better policy measures targeting younger generations?* - Leen Peeters, Th!nKE, DECIDE project coordinator
- Panel discussion with focus on including youth in energy policymaking at various levels
 - Guri Bugge, Climate Coordinator, Viken County, Norway
 - Sofia Magopoulou, Coordinator, EU Youth Parliament
 - Federico Barbieri, President at European Youth Energy Network (EYEN)

15. 1 Municipality – 1 REC: can it be done?

The event enhanced policy dialogue around the transposition and implementation of the European Commission's Renewable Energy Directive and focused on how enabling frameworks for RECs can be boosted in line with the urgency instilled by the EU Solar Strategy and the REPower EU Plan. A more detailed report on the session is available in the COME RES [summary of European policy roundtable and policy session at EUSEW 2022](#)

Presentations:

- *Keynote: REPowerEU & EU Solar Strategy: what role for citizens?* - Achille Hannoset, Policy Officer, European Commission, DG ENER
- *Comparative Assessment of Enabling Frameworks for RECs in Europe: what is still missing?* - Michael Krug, Researcher, Freie Universität Berlin
- *The Round Table: How close are we to achieving 1 REC per Municipality and what can be done to boost enabling frameworks?*
 - Achille Hannoset, Policy Officer, European Commission, DG ENER

- Dimitris Tsekeris, Climate Justice & Energy Campaigner, Friends of the Earth Europe Coordinator, Community Power Coalition
- Dörte Fouquet, Lawyer, Becker Büttner Held
- Dries Acke, Policy Director, Solar Power Europe
- Interactive Marketplace: Pitch Your Transferable Good Practice for Enabling RECs (5 min each)
 - Inês Reis, Project Manager, Porto Energy Agency (AdEPorto)
 - Filip Koprčina, Founder of Energy Shift
 - Bart Martens, Environmental Policy Advisor, City of Antwerp
 - Bob D`Haeseleer, Officer, ICLEI Europe (sharing City of Eeklo's experience)
- Rounds of discussions
 - *How to increase building renovation through better policies for renewable energy communities?* Emmanuelle Causse, Secretary General, Internal Union of Property Owners; Eleni Kanellou, Research Associate, National Technical University of Athens
 - *The transformative power of energy citizenship - How can energy citizenship inform better policy making? How can policies enable and support active energy citizens and energy citizenship?* - Daniel Botha, Junior Officer, Governance & Social Innovation, ICLEI Europe; Silvia Assalini, Officer, Climate Policy & Energy Governance, ICLEI Europe

16. Energy Collective Actions for Energy Poverty & Carbon Neutrality

This workshop served as a platform for Greek municipalities, energy communities and energy service providers to brainstorm together and come up with feasible solutions for concrete and future-proof ways to counteract energy poverty and achieve carbon neutrality through energy collective actions, energy efficiency services and other renewable solutions.



Figure 10: Picture from the DECIDE workshop Energy collective action... organized in Athens

Presentations:

- Setting the Scene

- *DECIDE & Energy Collective Actions* - Athanasios Papakonstantinou, Heron and Stratos Keranidis, DomX, both DECIDE pilot
- *Energy Poverty & Carbon Neutrality at EU level* - Eleni Kanellou, National Technical University of Athens, POWERPOOR
- *Energy Poverty & Carbon Neutrality at Greek municipality level* - Giannis Georgizas, Sustainable City Network, POWERPOOR
- Local Ambitions & Plans
 - Vasileios Balachtsis from CluBE – on behalf of Municipality of Kozani
 - Harris Kalliaras from Municipality of Trikala
- *Interactive brainstorming on challenges and opportunities experienced through tackling energy poverty and achieving carbon neutrality* - Moderated by Maya Andreou & Eleni Kanellou

17. DECIDE to PROGRESS

DECIDE to Progress was the final working meeting of the DECIDE project partners. The meeting goal was to summarize lessons learned within DECIDE and what can still be done to shape those learnings into tools (guidelines, tool cards, games, software tools, etc.) that energy communities and collective actions can use to make progress individually, but also within the context of the energy crisis and energy transition.

Presentations:

- *Business models of energy communities and collective actions* - Andreas Tuerk, Joanneum Research; Ludwig Karg, B.A.U.M. Consulting
- *Governance and the legal framework of energy communities and collective actions across Europe* - Lucija Rakocevic and Marta Veronesi, Th!nk E
- *The level of involvement* - Mona Bielig, Seeburg University; Sonja Klingert, University of Mannheim
 - Theory & Tools
 - Interactive Behaviour Science Surgery

18. Community Ownership in Climate & Energy Effective Participatory Approaches across Mitigation & Adaptation

This event discussed community participation across both mitigation and adaptation streams, what it means to have “ownership” over local climate change measures, forms of citizen participation and ownership, how they can be baked into long-term climate & energy planning, and what public participation and community ownership of local climate & energy measures can thrive.

Presentations:

- How to design effective participation measures? Insights from the DECIDE Toolbox - Dr. Sonja Klingert, Researcher, University of Mannheim, Mona Bielig, Researcher, University of Seeburg
- Examples from signatory cities:

- *Cooperation between City of Mechelen and the Klimaan Energy Cooperative* - Ighor van Vyer, Project Manager, Mechelen Klimaatneutraal
- *Co-creation and ownership in the Stiemer Valley* - Mien Quartier, Project Leader, City of Genk
- *Las Naves Brillen: a social solar plant on a public building in the City of Valencia* - Laurie Barriol, R&D Technician on the EU Project MATchUP, City of Valencia

19. Social and behavioral science for energy communities and collective actions: Methods and results from DECIDE and other European projects

Participants had the opportunity to learn more about the designs of surveys, field studies and social experiments conducted by DECIDE, RENERGETIC and EC2, to test hypotheses that identify which methods and underlying social mechanisms can support energy communities and collective actions. The session was complemented by a deep dive into how to design effective communications.

Presentations:

- Experience from DECIDE project:
 - *Social norm intervention for technology acceptance* - Mona Bielig, University of Seeburg
 - *Postcard experiment for EC engagement* - Florian Kutzner, University of Seeburg
- Experience from RENERGETIC project:
 - *Heat-demand response trial in Gent* - Sonja Klingert, University of Stuttgart
- Experience from EC2 project
 - *Measuring energy citizenship* - Johanna Held, University of Graz
- Aware communication. How to do it? – Valeria Eirin, ICLEI Europe



Figure 11: Screenshot from the DECIDE webinar Social and behavioural science...

20. Designing inclusive and scalable collective energy action

The webinar focused on how inclusivity and scalability can be embedded into collective energy actions through conscious contract design. Participants also initiated a discussion on the importance of Key Performance Indicators to monitor the progress and impact of any initiative.

Presentations:

- *Design of contractual agreements within collective energy* - Gosia Matowska, Th!nk E
- *Making collective energy actions inclusive to all* - Jens Lowitzsch, Kelso institute, Berlin
- *Monitoring inclusivity and scalability through KPIs* - Michael Brenner-Fließer, Joanneum Research

21. Discover the strengths and weaknesses of your energy initiative!

Starting from the study of KPIs, DECIDE upgraded a tool created by the COMPILE project that examines the key factors in determining the maturity and scalability of a collective energy action. In the

workshop, the tool, which also provides recommendations for how an initiative can be strengthened, was presented and discussed.

Presentations:

- Presentation of the maturity and scalability tool:
 - Testing the tool
 - Feedback on the tool
- Breakout Session - Working Groups
 - Discussion of the performance indicators
 - Collecting ideas on the maturity and scalability of energy initiatives

22. Accelerating the clean energy transition

The event, organized by [Powerpoor](#), [eCREW](#), [BECoop](#) and [W4RES](#), has two main objectives: firstly, it will highlight initiatives that aim to include energy poor consumers and tackle energy poverty; secondly, it aims to empower policy makers, energy experts, energy communities and local authorities to increase the inclusivity of the energy sector through the development of skills and the use of tools.

Presentations:

- Keynote speaker - Véronique Marx, Team Leader Just transition and energy poverty, DG Energy, European Commission
- How to include vulnerable consumers, reduce the burden of energy costs and tackle energy poverty:
 - Aitor Ossa Rissanen, GOIENER
 - Véronique Marx, Team Leader Just transition and energy poverty, DG Energy, European Commission
 - Anamari Majdandžić, Senior Expert at Društvo za oblikovanje održivog razvoja (DOOR)
 - Tom Meeuws, Mayor, City of Antwerp (tbc)
 - Miriam Rodriguez Ruiz or Dimitris Kitzikopoulos, Electra Energy Cooperative (tbc)
- Women as agents of change to drive a clean energy transition:
 - Sonja Klingert, Senior Researcher, University of Mannheim
 - Katharina Habersbrunner, WECF
 - Alice Corovessi, Managing Director at INZEB
 - Laurence Gillois, Director a.i. at UN Women Brussels Office (tbc)

PARTNERS



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