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LIFE-BECKON

Report on replicators activities

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List of acronyms

Project title

LIFE-BECKON - Boosting Energy Communities massive deployment by equipping local authorities with comprehensive technical assistance cookbook, integrated services and capacity building

Project partners

R2M R2M Solution SL (Project Coordinator)

CA Climate Alliance European Secretariat

ENoLL European Network of Living Labs

WEG WEglobal

KK City of Copenhagen

PP(s) Project Partner(s)

SOF Sofia Energy Agency (SOFENA)

DAV Diputación de Ávila

TAMK Tampere University of Applied Sciences

Commonly used terms

APEA Avila Province Energy Agency

BG Bulgaria

BRP Balance Responsible Party

DK Denmark

DSO Distribution System Operator

EC(s) Energy Community(ies)

ES Spain

KER Key Exploitable Result

OSS One-Stop-Shop (OSS)

TA Technical Assistance

TAO Technical Assistance Office

TSO Transmission System Operator

Executive Summary

This deliverable presents the activities carried out in Task 5.3 ‘Engage and support public authorities to replicate support mechanisms in their areas’ which is part of the WP5 ‘Mass-replication, exploitation, dissemination and communication’ workpackage.

Specifically, Task 5.3 concerned the **establishment of a network of 15+ LIFE-BECKON replicators** (local and regional authorities, regional energy agencies and relevant actors) which received soft technical assistance to support the establishment of mechanisms to deploy energy communities.

21 LIFE-BECKON replicators have been selected, and they received **tailored capacity building** based on [LIFE-BECKON One-Stop-Shop platform](#) and **progress and results on demonstration areas**.

Specifically, the replicators received 6 training online webinars/workshops and +10 hours of technical support according to their schedule and needs.

This deliverable presents all the actions and the organization procedure that was followed for the establishment of the LIFE-BECKON replicators community as well as the engagement and selection procedure developed.

It also includes a **summary of the technical support package offered**, and a **synthesis of the progress made by replicators** on the development of supporting mechanisms for energy communities in their area.

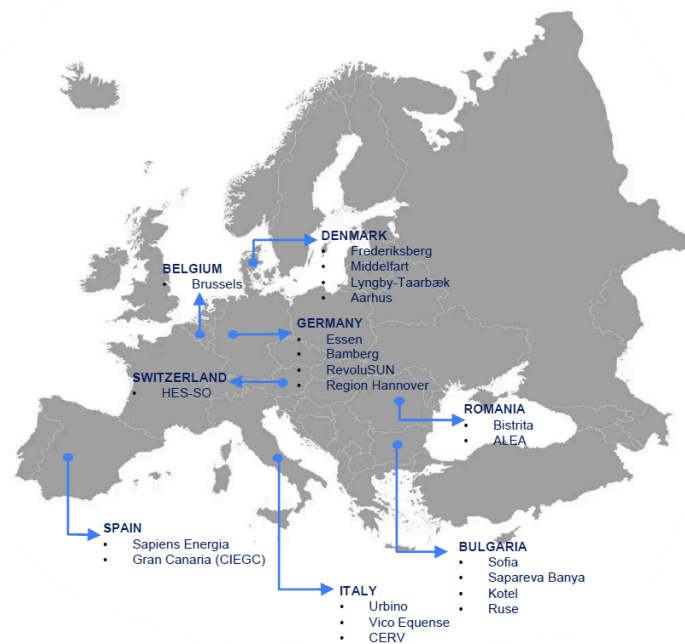


Figure 1. LIFE-BECKON community of replicators.

1. A few words on LIFE-BECKON

The [LIFE-BECKON project](#) (November 2022, April 2026) is **funded by the European Commission through the LIFE program**, which is one of the EU's financing instruments for environment and climate action. It belongs to the Life Clean Energy Transition sub-program.

LIFE-BECKON stimulates and boosts the **deployment of Energy Communities across Europe** by developing and delivering **comprehensive support mechanisms** for public authorities, promoters and Local Action Groups to better equip them to facilitate the creation of Energy Communities.

LIFE-BECKON provides public authorities with the following support services, tested and validated in three **demonstration areas** such as **Copenhagen (Denmark)**, **Sofia (Bulgaria)**, and **Province of Ávila (Spain)**:

- ✓ **Technical Assistance cookbook**, to equip Technical Assistance Offices of public authorities and relevant stakeholders with knowledge and learning material covering all the steps for the development of energy communities (initiation, design, implementation, operation).
- ✓ **Capacity Building program**, developed via Train-the-Trainer approach.
- ✓ Integrated **One-Stop-Shop (OSS) web platform**, a digital platform designed to connect citizens, municipalities, and suppliers to support the creation and growth of local energy communities. Key functions include (i) information and guidance on how to form or join an energy community; (ii) knowledge sharing through training resources and community discussions; (iii) funding and financial opportunities for renewable energy and efficiency projects; (iv) supplier and expert matchmaking to connect demand and service providers.

Besides the three demonstration areas, LIFE-BECKON already engaged a **community of 21 replicators** – composed mainly by municipalities, cities, energy agencies and relevant actors – receiving capacity building and soft technical assistance to apply LIFE-BECKON approach, knowledge and tools at the local level.



Figure 2. LIFE-BECKON partners.

2. LIFE-BECKON Call for replication

2.1 Introduction

LIFE-BECKON supports a wider range of local authorities, energy agencies and energy communities in starting out or proceeding in their efforts to support collective energy actions. Therefore, LIFE-BECKON launched an open call for replication, with the goal to enable local authorities to set up Technical Assistance Offices and to familiarize them with the concept of energy communities, empower them to create spaces for such citizen-centred energy projects and support them.

Local authorities, municipalities in cooperation with energy communities and energy agencies have been invited to apply for the open call for replication to receive the following support and service package and come on a learning journey with LIFE-BECKON project partners:

- Access to the LIFE-BECKON One-Stop-Shop (OSS) platform providing guidance to information, documents, templates needed for specific needs; access to LIFE-BECKON pilots community and experts.
- Participation in workshops to learn from LIFE-BECKON pilots how to run a successful OSS and about adequate business models, legal frameworks etc.
- Webinars, trainings and direct one-hour mentoring sessions on how to use OSS.
- Access and exchange with the networks of the Climate Alliance, the Covenant of Mayors and the Climate Pact.

2.2 Methodology

Task 5.4 focused on the organisation and execution of a call for replication projects to spread and implement the LIFE-BECKON approach and solutions in at least 15 public authorities and relevant actors across the EU.

Preparing the ground. First activities included an internal workshop with project partners on 17 May 2023 during the GA2 meeting, followed by the task online kickoff meeting with project partners on 4 July 2023 (M9). Those activities were crucial to delineate and co-design the overall organization and materials of the call for replication, such as: target groups, timing, steps, call description, activities offered to replicators and partners' role, selection criteria, evaluation process, application process, application template, communication materials, communication and dissemination strategy. Each component is described in the following.

Target groups:

- local and regional authorities
- inter-municipal authorities/networks
- local agencies (public or semi-public organisations and energy agencies)
- intermediaries (to spread the call, to engage replicators)

Key steps of the application process	
Description	When
1. Call for replicators officially launched (news in website, poster, promotional video)	16 Oct 2023
2. Explanatory meetings/webinars to explain the details of the call, to present the replicable approach and outcomes (and answer to questions)	Jan 2024 – Feb 2024
3. Deadline for submission of the application form and relevant documentation	15 Feb 2024
4. Evaluation period of applications by the LIFE-BECKON consortium based on the qualification criteria and identification of best-ranked candidates	Mar 2024
5. Selection of >15 replicators	Mar 2024
6. Replicators will be informed about the decision	Mar 2024
7. Involvement of replicators in LIFE-BECKON activities until the end of LIFE-BECKON project	Mar 2024 – Oct 2025

Selection criteria. 5 selection criteria have been agreed by Climate Alliance (CA) and all partners (PPs).

- i. Applicants are located in EU
- ii. Applicants can either be municipalities, municipalities in cooperation with energy communities, local/regional authorities by themselves or in cooperation with energy communities and local or regional energy agencies
- iii. Applicants describe with a sufficient level of details the local activities they would like to carry out by participating as replicators
- iv. Applicants are able to engage with local key stakeholders to support energy communities or set up a local TAO
- v. Applicants are able to participate in replication activities conducted in the English language.

Evaluation process: Applications received have been evaluated by CA, exclusively on the basis of the above listed criteria. Each criteria evaluated as correct will score a mark of 1, otherwise it will be awarded a score of 0. The total score is calculated as the sum of all criteria values. Only applicants with a total score of 4 and 5 are selected.

2.3 Call for replication promotion

Call description. CA developed a brief and easy to read call description with all details of the support offered to replicators and foreseen activities. The call description is accessible by a landing page both on the LIFE-BECKON OSS Platform (<https://www.oss-energy-community.eu/replication-call/>), and on CA website (<https://www.climatealliance.org/activities/projects/life-beckon/call-for-replication-20232024.html>).

Application template. Developed by CA using a dedicated Google form (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScRVgN08JvfT2kUXJFb7Cqc_yOtLesz-PUQ4IHmqcUeACuBHQ/viewform)

Tailored communication and dissemination strategy to promote the call for replication. Developed by CA, consisting of:

- Communication package, containing a promotional video and complementary materials. All communication materials will be uploaded on the LIFE-BECKON OSS Platform following the release schedule.
 - Call description (<https://www.oss-energy-community.eu/replication-call/> - <https://www.climatealliance.org/activities/projects/life-beckon/call-for-replication-2023-2024.html>)
 - Animated short video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OvFVdR1QAfg>)
 - Poster
- Organization of promotional and explanatory webinars: CA, with the support of R2M, KK and SOF, organized two tailored webinars, targeting relevant local and regional actors across EU (potential beneficiaries of the call) to present the call for replication and the support package offered.

Name	Date	Attendance	YouTube viewers *	Recording	Link
BECKON Lunch talk webinar: Setting up Technical Assistance Offices for Energy Communities in your city	01/02/2024	15	33	recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RqJc2N1oV7g	https://www.climatealliance.org/events/events/events-detail/setting-up-technical-assistance-offices-for-energy-communities-in-your-city.html
BECKON Lunch talk webinar: Setting up Technical Assistance Offices for Energy Communities in your area	13/02/2024	18	31	recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3TTm6H8Hlcg	https://www.climatealliance.org/events/events/events-detail/setting-up-technical-assistance-offices-for-energy-communities-in-your-area.html

* As of 18.03.2026

- Wide promotion. All partners distributed the call through their contacts, networks, communication channels as well as activities and events in which they got in touch with the identified target groups.

2.4 Applications received

On 15 February 2024, CA received **in total 24 applications** submitted through the dedicated Google form (see table 7), with a very good variety and distribution of possible beneficiaries in terms of (i) location (9 EU Member States and associated countries), (ii) organisation type (small and medium municipalities, cities, regional governments, energy agencies, and public authorities in collaboration with EC), and (iii) types of action proposed (TAO set-up, capacity building for internal staff, etc). Main results of the applications are:

- Applications received: 24
 - Eligible applications: 22
 - Not-eligible applications: 2

Applicants can either be municipalities, municipalities in cooperation with energy communities, local/regional authorities by themselves or in cooperation with energy communities and local or regional energy agencies). Not complying with these criteria were a private company interested in promoting its private business linked to energy communities, and a private person interested in climate action in developing countries out of Europe.

- Countries: Bulgaria (4), Denmark (4), Germany (4), Italy (3), Spain (2), Romania (2), Belgium (1), Latvia (1), Switzerland (1)
 - Not eligible: Kenya (1), Spain (1)
- Types of applicants: Municipalities (8), Cities (6), Public authority in collaboration with EC (4), Region (1), Energy Agency (3)
 - Not eligible: Private company (1, not eligible), Private person (1, not eligible)

#	Legal name of applicant	Type of organisation	Country	Eligibility check						ELIGIBLE
				In EU	Type	Actions	Stak. eng.	Eng. lang.	Total score	
1	Essen	City	Germany	1	1	1	1	1	5	YES
2	Comunità Energetica Rinnovabile Vallevisone (C.E.R.V.)	PA in collaboration with EC	Italy	1	1	1	1	1	5	YES
3	Sapiens Energia Coop.V	PA in collaboration with EC	Spain	1	1	1	1	1	5	YES
4	Middelfart	Municipality	Denmark	1	1	1	1	1	5	YES
5	Lyngby-Taarbæk	Municipality	Denmark	1	1	1	1	1	5	YES
6	Aarhus	City	Denmark	1	1	1	1	1	5	YES
7	Bistrita	PA in collaboration with EC	Romania	1	1	1	1	1	5	YES
8	Brussels	City	Belgium	1	1	1	1	1	5	YES
9	Urbino	Municipality	Italy	1	1	1	1	1	5	YES
10	Region Hannover	Region	Germany	1	1	1	1	1	5	YES
11	Consejo Insular de la Energía de Gran Canaria	Energy agency	Spain	1	1	1	1	1	5	YES
12	Liepāja	City	Latvia	1	1	1	1	1	5	YES
13	HES-SO Valais Wallis	Energy agency	Switzerland	1	1	1	1	1	5	YES
14	Alba Local Energy Agency	Energy agency	Romania	1	1	1	1	1	5	YES
15	Bamberg	City	Germany	1	1	1	1	1	5	YES

#	Legal name of applicant	Type of organisation	Country	Eligibility check						ELIGIBLE
				In EU	Type	Actions	Stak. eng.	Eng. lang.	Total score	
16	RevoluSUN	PA in collaboration with EC	Germany	1	1	1	1	1	5	YES
17	Vico Equense	Municipality	Italy	1	1	1	1	1	5	YES
18	Sapareva Banya	Municipality	Bulgaria	1	1	1	1	1	5	YES
19	Kotel	Municipality	Bulgaria	1	1	1	1	1	5	YES
20	Ruse	Municipality	Bulgaria	1	1	1	1	1	5	YES
21	Sofia	City	Bulgaria	1	1	1	1	1	5	YES
22	Frederiksberg Municipality	Municipality	Denmark	1	1	1	1	1	5	YES
23	xxxxxx xxxxxx	Private company	Spain	1	0	0	1	1	3	NO
24	xxxxxx xxxxxx	Private person	Kenya	0	0	0	1	1	2	NO

2.5 Replicators selected

#	Replicator	Organisation type	Country
1	Brussels	Local authority	Belgium
2	Sofia	Local authority	Bulgaria
3	Sapareva Banya	Local authority	Bulgaria
4	Kotel	Local authority	Bulgaria
5	Ruse	Local authority	Bulgaria
6	Frederiksberg	Local authority	Denmark
7	Middelfart	Local authority	Denmark
8	Lyngby-Taarbæk	Local authority	Denmark
9	Aarhus	Local authority	Denmark
10	Essen	Local authority	Germany
11	Urbino	Local authority	Italy
12	Vico Equense	Local authority	Italy
13	Comunità Energetica Rinnovabile Valleignale	Energy community	Italy
14	Bistrita	Local authority	Romania
15	Sapiens Energia Coop.V	Local cooperative	Spain
16	Bamberg	Local authority	Germany
17	RevoluSUN	Local company	Germany
18	Region Hannover	Regional authority	Germany
19	Consejo Insular de la Energía de Gran Canaria (CIEGC)	Energy agency	Spain
20	Alba Local Energy Agency (ALEA)	Energy agency	Romania
21	HES-SO Valais Wallis - Energy Living Lab	University	Switzerland

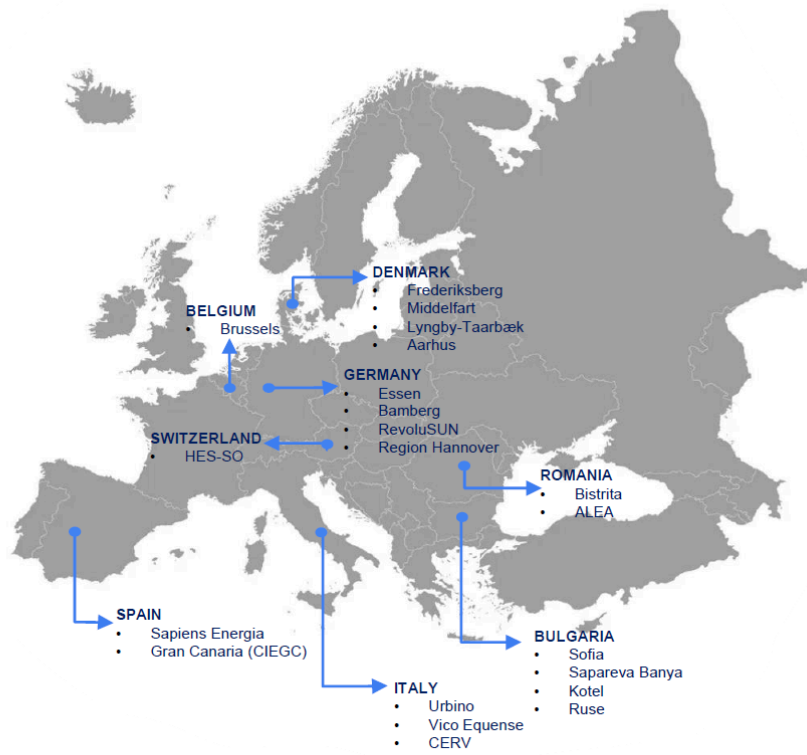


Figure 3. LIFE-BECKON community of replicators.

2.6 LIFE-BECKON Technical Support Package for Replicators

During the KoM with selected replicators, specific contents and knowledge required by replicators were discussed to properly shape the activities and tailor them to the real need of target groups, distinguishing between the local (cities, municipalities) and regional (regions, energy agencies) levels.

The most relevant topics of interested selected were:

- Governance schemes for public authorities to support the establishment of ECs
- Business models for ECs
- Stakeholders and Community engagement for ECs
- Financing sources for ECs
- Renewable Energy Sources for Energy Communities
- LIFE-BECKON One-Stop-Shop

Below the **list of capacity building activities developed for replicators**, including sources to materials and recordings.

Activity	Type	Date	Materials	Recording
Kick off meeting with selected replicators	Webinar	30/04/2024	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mslSrLJE_277FWiGnD0qU9OTp_23volg?usp=sharing	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GuxNSgTMFIU
Webinar - Governance schemes for public authorities to support the establishment of ECs	Webinar	12/09/2024	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Jxqa4-vOW1K2iTk1r6lxf_c8eUAw1tI8?usp=sharing	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UcXTSiOeLMo
Workshop - Business models for ECs	Workshop	29/10/2024	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1wIO_IRLDMsqWu9O_dp42RSaaGOZYBaZV?usp=sharing	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9p8gDNsOTIQ
Workshop -			Figure 4. Miro board developed to identify the most relevant topics to shape the technical support package - local and regional levels	
Stakeholders and Community engagement for ECs			https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1a-_YC8LAfmO3HTRp8f-hJ6CY7J-FFRZj?usp=sharing	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0UJgFhM3dTw
Workshop - Financing sources for ECs	Workshop	05/03/2025	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1eN1uJkzARXmP2XqxP22sB4Hw9mKFyFzY?usp=drive_link	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RpQ7u4FJ6Js
Virtual Showroom - Renewable Energy Sources for Energy Communities	Workshop	13/05/2025	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DIPEl2Gu7esGBwikLzYw_aT_CCdI5koRB?usp=sharing	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rEOqsopHBxs
Hands-on practical webinar on LIFE-BECKON One-Stop-Shop	Webinar	17/02/2026	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1iwpi8zh1fyM8hOnZYdr5URm9-EkOf23?usp=drive_link	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PQtmuKVv7LY&feature=youtu.be

3. Replicators in action - Development of supporting mechanisms for ECs

This chapter presents the concrete actions undertaken by the LIFE-BECKON replicators to develop and implement supporting mechanisms for the development of energy communities within their local and regional contexts. Even building upon the capacity-building activities and soft technical assistance provided through the LIFE-BECKON project, replicators have translated acquired knowledge into practical initiatives that reflect their specific territorial needs, governance structures, and levels of maturity.

The diversity of the replicators - ranging from municipalities and cities to energy agencies and cooperatives across Europe - has resulted in a **wide spectrum of approaches and progress**. While **some have already established operational energy communities or launched pilot projects, others are in earlier stages**, focusing on stakeholder engagement, feasibility assessments, or the development of governance and business models. This variety highlights both the adaptability of the LIFE-BECKON support framework and the different starting points and challenges faced across regions.

The chapter provides an overview of the activities carried out by the community of replicators, showcasing how the LIFE-BECKON technical support package has contributed to strengthening local capacities and enabling the creation of enabling environments for ECs.

The reported information has been collected and provided by replicators and they are included in this report with their consensus.

The reported experiences demonstrate how replicators are not only adopting but also contextualizing the project's tools and methodologies, thereby fostering the replication and scaling-up of energy communities across Europe.

#	Replicator	Organisation type	Country	Summary of activities	Summary of LIFE-BECKON support
1	Brussels	Local authority	Belgium	NA	NA
2	Sofia	Local authority	Bulgaria	Established 1st EC in Sofia Metropolitan Area	Technical support at all steps of the process
3	Sapareva Banya	Local authority	Bulgaria	Preparation of a business model for an EC - the local school and the municipal building	Trainings of the municipal staff
4	Kotel	Local authority	Bulgaria	Engagement of local citizens in topics for using RES	Training of the municipal staff
5	Ruse	Local authority	Bulgaria	Engagement of citizens in municipal projects for installation of solar panels	Training of the municipal staff

#	Replicator	Organisation type	Country	Summary of activities	Summary of LIFE-BECKON support
6	Frederiksberg	Local authority	Denmark	NA	NA
7	Middelfart	Local authority	Denmark	NA	NA
8	Lyngby-Taarbæk	Local authority	Denmark	NA	NA
9	Aarhus	Local authority	Denmark	Exploring and defining the potential establishment of ECs.	Gained skills and inspiration through capacity building activities.
10	Essen	Local authority	Germany	NA	NA
11	Urbino	Local authority	Italy	Trying to establish 1 st EC, PV systems on public buildings (650 kw).	Gained skills and inspiration through capacity building activities.
12	Vico Equense	Local authority	Italy	Exploring and defining the potential establishment of a REC.	Gained skills and inspiration through capacity building activities.
13	Comunità Energetica Rinnovabile Vallevignale	Energy community	Italy	The Vallevignale REC involves 12 households (5 prosumers and 7 consumers).	Gained skills and inspiration through capacity building activities.
14	Bistrita	Local authority	Romania	Pilot sites and potential stakeholders have been identified. Detailed discussions have been initiated. OSS established.	Gained skills and inspiration through capacity building activities.
15	Sapiens Energia Coop.V	Local cooperative	Spain	NA	NA
16	Bamberg	Local authority	Germany	Stakeholder workshops with representatives from the housing, energy sectors and social organizations to explore the potential for establishing an EC.	Gained skills and inspiration through capacity building activities.
17	RevoluSUN	Local company	Germany	Together with Bamberg.	Together with Bamberg.
18	Region Hannover	Regional authority	Germany	NA	NA
19	Consejo Insular de la Energía de Gran Canaria (CIEGC)	Energy agency	Spain	NA	NA

#	Replicator	Organisation type	Country	Summary of activities	Summary of LIFE-BECKON support
20	Alba Local Energy Agency (ALEA)	Energy agency	Romania	Supporting local authorities with capacity building and technical assistance. Supporting the establishment of a local EC in multi-apartment buildings.	Gained skills and inspiration through capacity building activities.
21	HES-SO Valais Wallis - Energy Living Lab	University	Switzerland	Launch of a programme called COPÉR - Living Lab de l'énergie , HES-SO also received funding for pilot projects.	The LIFE-BECKON capacity building programme helped to understand the issues at a European level. Examples and case studies were useful for sharing barriers and constraints. Contacts made during the programme such as with Energie Partagé, were later integrated into webinars with the energy and environment working group of the European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL). Contacts made in Spain were also useful for the oPEN-Lab project in Pamplona.

Sofia (Bulgaria)

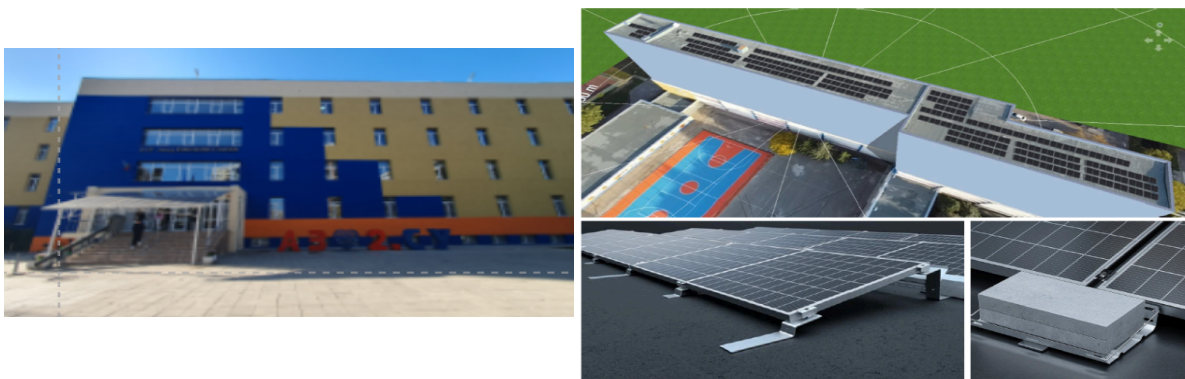
Sofia Municipality has the goal to establish 30 energy communities on its territory until 2030 (<https://www.raionvitosha.eu/bg/energiyna-obshtnost>). This ambition is connected to activities laid in the [Action Plan for Climate Neutrality of Sofia 2030](#) developed within the [NetZeroCities](#) initiative.

The EC established under the LIFE-BECKON project will be used as a replicable format for the other 29 communities. The potential is quite good as in Sofia Municipality there are more than 860 municipal buildings and they can be used for PV installations as most of them are already renovated and with flat roofs (e.g. schools, hospitals, kindergartens, etc).

There is only one TAO, which is part of the municipal structure and it is quite insufficient for the territorial scope of the municipality. So the establishment of more TAOs is currently under discussion.



LIFE-BECKON trainings for the Energy Community in Sofia (Source: own picture)



The public school building in Sofia with PV installations (Source: own pictures)

Sapareva banya (Bulgaria)

In Sapareva banya the first municipality in Bulgaria with an energy manager within the structure of the municipality has been established ([link](#)).

The energy manager is working together with 2 experts from the municipal administration, and they compose a TAO unit within the municipality. The team has prepared several plans and programs for developing energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources on the territory of the municipality.

The hottest geyser (103 degrees C) on the Balkan peninsula is situated there and the hot water is used for heating of the school, the kindergarten, the administrative building of the municipality and the local museum. The aim is to establish an energy community with these buildings. The municipality is also part of the 3 coal regions in Bulgaria that will be supported within the Just Transition Fund for establishing energy communities.



LIFE-BECKON trainings in Sapareva banya (Source: own picture)



Left - The building of the school in Sapareva banya (the heating system uses hot water from geyser)



Right - The building of the municipal administration in Sapareva banya (Source: own pictures)

Kotel (Bulgaria)

The municipality is currently working mainly in the sphere of energy efficiency in buildings and street lighting (<https://kotel.bg/programi-i-proekti/tekushti-proekti/proekt-izgrazhdane-vei-05112024/>).

Some of the municipal buildings in the villages have already been renovated and are suitable for using RES. PV installations were done on 2 municipal buildings between end 2025 and early 2026.

The City Council of Kotel has the ambition to establish a TAO unit within the municipality and to include 2 civil servants from the internal staff. According to the Bulgarian legislation each municipality has to organize such a unit for technical support of the citizens in using RES. The staff participated in the training organized within the LIFE-BECKON project and the TAO is under establishment at the moment.



The municipal building in one of the village of Kotel municipality (Source: own pictures)

Ruse (Bulgaria)

The municipality of Ruse is in the very beginning of the process for establishing energy communities on its territory (<https://obshtinaruse.bg/strategii-planove-i-otcheti>). With a big amount of municipal buildings - over 400 - the potential is huge. More than 50 municipal buildings have already been totally renovated and could be used for solar panel installations.

Under the LIFE-BECKON project SOFENA organized training of the staff and presented the basic steps for establishing an energy community and a TAO. There are more than 35 solar parks in the villages surrounding the city. This energy is connected to the grid and it is not included in communities but this is also a possibility for the region. The administration is in contact with the investors and discusses different ideas.



The municipal building in Ruse (Source: own pictures)

Aarhus (Denmark)

Aarhus municipality has not yet established a formal Technical Assistance Office for energy communities.

However, the topic of energy communities and local energy engagement has increasingly gained attention as part of the municipal strategy on the green transition.

Aarhus municipality has been exploring the potential for local energy initiatives, including energy sharing concepts and community-based approaches, particularly in connection with Positive Energy Districts and local solar PV developments. In this context, inspiration from EU projects such as LIFE-BECKON has been useful in shaping municipal understanding of possible organisational and support models.

While activities are still at an early and exploratory stage, there is growing interest and potential for further development in the coming years.



City of Aarhus ([Photo by Erika on Unsplash](#))

Urbino (Italy)

The Municipality of Urbino is promoting a set of measures to save energy costs while protecting the environment, promoting PV with electricity sharing. This will be achieved by establishing the first renewable energy community (REC) in Urbino, with the installation of six photovoltaic systems (650 kw) on public buildings owned by the municipality (public swimming pool and public sports hall) and connected with two electricity transmission substations, involving small and large local businesses and local action groups.

Complementary energy efficiency measures are to be applied in the two buildings. The overall investment is estimated at EUR 375,000, and the setting up of the REC is embedded in the implementation of the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) of the municipality.



Urbino historical centre ([Photo by Marian Luzi on Unsplash](#))

Vico Equense (Italy)

The Municipality of Vico Equense, together with the Municipality of Piano di Sorrento, has embarked on a participatory co-design process aimed at exploring and defining the potential establishment of a REC in their respective territories. This initiative has been conceived and organised by the European project ENTRACK (“Empowering local and regional authorities to design clean Energy Transition plans through Capacity and Knowledge building actions”) in close collaboration with the European project COMANAGE (<https://comanage.spindoxlabs.com/post/2185>).



Vico Equense overview (Source: <https://www.sorrentoreview.com/vico-equense.html>)

CER Vallevignale (Italy)

EnGreen promoted and developed a pilot project in Notaresco (Italy), a small rural village in Abruzzo region, aiming to regenerate a small neighborhood in a zero emissions district through the establishment of an energy community (<https://engreen.world/it/cer-vallevignale/>).

A renewable energy community (REC) was established in December 2021. Thanks to national funding, solar panels (32 kW) have been installed, together with electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, lithium storage batteries (75 kWh) and residential heat pumps. The Vallevignale REC currently involves twelve households. Five of them are prosumers (they produce, consume and share energy produced from renewable sources), and seven are consumers (users who take advantage of the low-cost energy produced by other REC members).

Future objectives include the development of a district heating network powered by a biomass plant, which will be integrated with the local oil supply chain, using olive pomace as fuel



Overview of Notaresco (Source: <https://www.abruzzoturismo.it/de/reiseziele/notaresco>)

Bistrita (Romania)

In Bistrita, the concept of community energy is still very new. The trust in collective initiatives and the involvement of citizens needs to be strengthened. Moreover, the legislative framework is little supportive of energy community projects. There are no existing energy communities at the moment, but Bistrita is planning to take actions to engage and motivate local groups to take part in municipal energy projects. The city tries to gather citizens around this topic and, with the support from the national energy cooperative Cooperativa de Energia, it explores realistic options for community led energy. The planned projects range from installing solar panels on local schools and on blocks of flats, and fostering prosumership amongst citizens to a citizen-led LED-lighting project in a retrofit project (<https://energy-cities.eu/want-energy-communities-push-the-loop-button/>).

The absence of EC in Bristica does not reflect a lack of effort or engagement, but rather highlights the complex context and structural barriers that still need to be overcome at the national and local levels. A significant barrier remains the legislative context in Romania, which does not yet permit individual households to independently use the energy generated by shared PV systems. This legal limitation has made it extremely difficult to persuade residents to invest further in renewable infrastructure, even when the long-term benefits are evident. The lack of direct access to the energy generated by solar panels discourages financial participation and personal ownership, stalling local momentum.

Despite the absence of operational projects so far, substantial groundwork has been laid to support future success. Pilot sites and potential stakeholders have been identified, and detailed discussions have been initiated with schools, industrial park tenants, residential building associations, and NGOs. While these efforts have not yet resulted in fully installed systems, they represent important first steps in the project pipeline, which can be reactivated as soon as legislative or financial conditions become more favourable.

The establishment of the One-Stop Shop and continued development of the <http://www.maiverde.ro> platform provides an ongoing structure for citizen engagement. These platforms have already played a central role in disseminating information, gathering interest, and building trust. They will continue to be used to promote future citizen-led renewable initiatives, especially once enabling legislation is adopted.



Aerial view of Bistrita

(Source:https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bistri%C8%9Ba#/media/File:Bistri%C8%9Ba_de_sus.jpg)

Bamberg and RevoluSUN (Germany)

The local authority held a stakeholder workshop with representatives from the housing and energy sectors and social organizations to explore the potential for establishing an energy community. After this,

a citizen workshop (with a small number of participants) took place. They developed several plans—particularly in cooperation with the local citizen energy cooperative to operate a solar park with energy sharing. In addition, they received European funding for the development of a business plan.

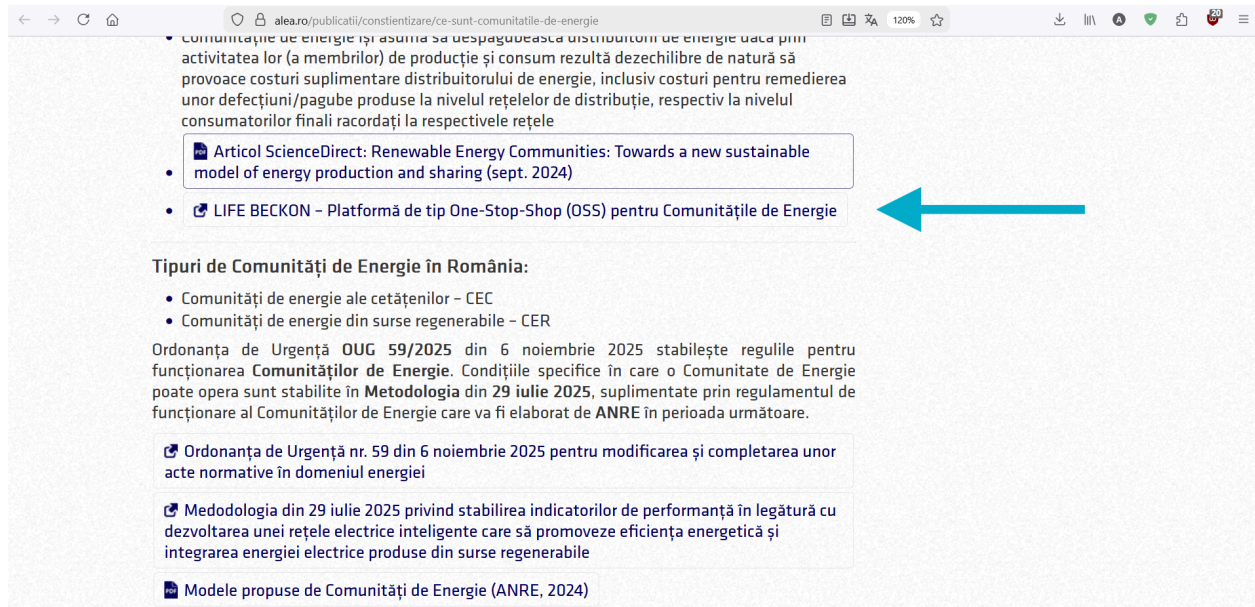


Old Town Hall in Bamberg ([Photo by Markus Spiske on Unsplash](#))

Alba Local Energy Agency - ALEA (Romania)

ALEA is supporting local authorities in establishing energy communities mainly offering capacity building and technical assistance. In 2025, ALEA created a dedicated landing page in their official website to support emerging ECs in Romania ([link](#)). The webpage is continuously updated with new resources at the national and subnational level relevant for ECs in Romania.

The LIFE-BECKON OSS platform is suggested as an online tool to support the establishment of ECs.



ALEA promoted Energy Communities and prosumers RES equipment and services at annual RES fair called Alba Green Energy that is organised by ALEA and Alba County Council: <https://albagreenenergy.ro/>

Furthermore, ALEA is supporting an emerging NGO as a local Energy Community in multi-apartment buildings called "CETATEA VIITORULUI" involving 2 buildings bl. B11 and B13 from Alba Iulia.

HES-SO Valais Wallis - Energy Living Lab (Switzerland)

The university department launched a programme called COPÉR - Living Lab de l'énergie (<https://energylivinglab.com/fr/departments/coper/>). In addition, they received funding for pilot projects.

COPÉR is a Community of Practice for renewable energy sharing . The Community aims to create a space for learning, experimentation, and exchange regarding the various forms of renewable energy sharing in Valais and French-speaking Switzerland with the following objectives:

- To foster dialogue among citizens, local authorities, producers, startups, grid operators, and researchers
- To share concrete experiences, practical tools, and best practices from existing projects on the technical, legal, financial, economic, social, and environmental aspects of energy sharing in Valais.
- To identify avenues for collective action toward the energy transition and propose a support framework for energy sharing in Valais.



COPÉR - COmmunauté de Pratiques pour le partage d'Énergies Renouvelles