

Citizen

Empowerment Kit



Good practice (related to the energy sector):

RESCOOP gender Working Group:

The REScoop.eu team launched a Gender power working group, with the aim of mainstreaming gender-just energy communities. The role of the working group is to map the needs and challenges that energy cooperatives face and to provide space for discussion and for the exchange of good practices. It represents a platform where tools and instruments are shared, to help energy communities diversify their boards and membership base, therefore reflecting the principle of gender justice. One of the achievements of the working group is the Ambition Statement, open for signature by all REScoop.eu members.



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Good practice (related to the energy sector):

Special legal forms:

WEnCoop is the first Energy Female Social Cooperative for women entrepreneurs and their businesses in Greece. It is a “broad-based” energy cooperative created by women from diverse backgrounds and cultures - from crafts to services, commerce and hotels. This is an initiative of the Greek Association of Women Entrepreneurs – S.E.G.E. which aims to develop and promote women’s entrepreneurship, through which its members will be able to operate in the energy sector, utilising clean energy sources.



Good practice (not related to the energy sector):

European Network of Ambassadeurs for #DiversityinTransport!

Everyone can become an Ambassador, reaching out to people at all levels, increasing societal awareness and taking a role in community building.



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Good practice (not related to the energy sector):

UK government: Interventions to enhance employability for “stay at home” Ethnic Minority women:



Commitment to participation is gained by providing a social situation and engaging participants in social activities, such as sewing and tai chi classes or lunch/dinner outings. These activities are designed to aid integration in wider society and build confidence outside the household environment: those attending are encouraged to build relationships with the others, to speak English and build commitment towards the activities and the group. Basic employment related topics (such as specific skills or job market facts) , as well as administrative information, are gradually introduced so that participants do not lose interest and drop out.

Good practice (related to the energy sector):

Legal forms and administrative steps

In Austria it is possible to establish an energy community in the form of an association. The necessary information is prescribed by law and the founding members or representatives must notify the competent association authority. Within a period of four weeks the authority must evaluate the request, and if no notice is issued by this timeframe, the association comes into existence with no further legal act required by the authority. The fees amount to approx €25. This legal form is a very simple and inexpensive model for founding an energy community. Other benefits of this legal form include: very easy to join and leave the association; the members can determine the organisational matters themselves; the personal liability of the members is limited.



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Good practice (related to the energy sector):

Central point/website for information:

In Austria, the Federal Ministry for Climate Protection has set up the so-called "Coordination Office for Energy Communities". The aim of this office is to optimise the framework conditions for the energy community model and to provide assistance with the establishment of community energy initiatives. One website provides information necessary for the establishment and operation of an energy community in a concise and easily comprehensible language (and also in short videos). There is even a step-by-step guide and a comprehensive Q&A section that answers a variety of questions on many aspects (organisation, grid operation, subsidies, legal matters).



Good practice (related to the energy sector):

In-group identification:

By first activating the common group as parents, for example, the norms or the shared goal of creating a future worth living for one's own children can be targeted. This can serve as an additional motivation to participate in an EC.



Good practice (related to the energy sector):

Consent of the other condominium owners for installation:

In Italy, an individual condominium owner may also install a photovoltaic plant on the roof of the building. The Italian Civil Code provides that the installations for individual housing units are permitted on suitable common areas. The co-operative board cannot deny a condominium owner installation on the common roof. It may only prescribe reasonable alternatives for carrying out the installation or impose precautions for stability, safety or architectural decorum if it involves a change to the common parts of the building. This applies, provided the rights of the other housing units owners to use the same area for the same purposes are not affected.



Good practice (related to the energy sector):

Energy Community Platform:

The Energy Community Platform is a one-stop solution for everything about community energy. REScoop.eu, the European federation of citizen energy cooperatives, teamed up with several EU projects to make things easier and compile the resources available and scattered on the internet into one single place. The platform offers tools and resources, experts network and energy communities mapping, to support citizens developing a community energy project along all the phases.



Good practice (related to the energy sector):

Allocation of responsibilities and management activities:



In Poland, many housing co-operative boards take on the role of an organiser and manage the energy community within individual apartment blocks. As a result, additional effort and time commitment of the residents are limited to the necessary minimum. Some examples can be found in Wrocław: SM Wrocław Południe (739MWp on 35 buildings), Spółdzielnia Mieszkaniowa Energetyk (870MWp), Spółdzielnia Skarbowiec (46 MWp), Wrocławski Dom Housing Cooperative (40MWp), SM Śródmieście Prasa (32MW), SM Kopernik in Toruń (272MWp on 21 buildings).

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Good practice (related to the energy sector):

1) Virtual prosumerism:

In Spain, the idea of a virtual prosumer is offered by Solar Pack (a multinational company specialised in solar PV projects) as part of the Click and Go offer. Inhabitants with no technical capabilities for PV micro installations and tenants of apartments have the opportunity to participate in photovoltaic farms by renting several PV modules appropriately to the energy consumption. Users of this solution can utilise the energy produced in several locations, and they can also change the locations of energy consumption over time. According to the offer, it is possible to reduce electricity bills by 35%. Participants also could sell surplus energy.



Good practice (related to the energy sector):

2) Virtual prosumerism:

The virtual prosumer solution was introduced in Lithuania in 2019. Lithuanian citizens can either invest in an individual PV installation in a location other than their own or buy shares in a photovoltaic installation built by another entity. As a result, every citizen, regardless of whether s/he has the technical ability to generate energy in their place of residence, can be an active energy citizen.



1) Reducing the complexity of community energy initiatives:



A private Polish organisation Coop Tech Hub, specialising in social initiatives, established the Energy Community Incubator (financed by a grant from the Foundation Open Society Institute). As part of the support package for future communities, there is a guide on how to conduct the process of creating a community, a 48-hours cycle of workshops, optimisation tools for energy management, and calculation tools for accounting for revenues and costs.

Good practice (related to the energy sector):

2) Reducing the complexity of community energy initiatives:



An alternative to typical energy communities established on the initiative of grassroots residents is hybrid solutions, in which the grassroots initiative of a group of residents is supported by a specialised organisation. An example is the Spanish Aldea Energy, that after acquiring a group of residents with access to a suitable roof, deals with the entire organisation of the project for residents located in the proximity of the energy source. Depending on the financial capacity of the residents, Aldea offers low cost subscription options and investments variants.

Good practice



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Good practice



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Good practice



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Good practice



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Good practice



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Good practice



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