# DECIDE FOR TOP-NOTCH ENERGY COMMUNITIES

What can you do today to be part of the sustainable future?

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## A JOINT CONTRIBUTION

The energy transition is a huge effort that requires all actors to contribute and adapt. Citizens, local businesses, public authorities and other stakeholders could do so individually, or team up to jointly contribute to increased energy efficiency, reduced emissions, and an increased amount of renewable energy. The diversity of actions one could take is immense. Think about jointly planting trees, organising electric car sharing, co-investing in solar panels for the roof of the local school, or putting together the money needed for a wind turbine.

### LEEN PEETERS, TH!NK E

Leen Peeters is civil engineer and holds a PhD in the field of heating and cooling of buildings. After her PhD, she was professor in thermodynamics, heat transfer and building physics at the Vrije Universiteit Brussels during three years while doing a post-doc at the University of Texas in Austin focussing on convective heat transfer and indoor air quality.

In 2011, Leen started Th!nk E with as the main focus indoor air quality and energy in buildings. Th!nk E has grown into an engineering and consulting SME focusing on various aspects of energy transition in Belgium and across Europe. While the new European directives, the Renewable Energy Directive and the Electricity Market Directive, introduced definitions for energy communities, the narrow definitions should not hold anyone back from developing an initiative.

The definitions merely enable community projects in member states where this was previously not allowed. But in many member states various forms of community energy projects and collective actions have long been established. Many of those projects emerged, some stayed and others were dissolved for various reasons, not only on energy but just as well on food or health services.

Collective actions and energy communities can be shaped in diverse ways and be designed to align with diverse goals. While the new view is that the communities should not strive for financial profit, it is clear that a lot of people join because of access to cheaper energy or financial return on invested capital.

There is no rule on what defines the success of a community or collective action, aside from one: the actions and activities you do should not induce or strengthen a Matthew effect.

The Matthew Effect refers to a pattern in which those who begin with advantage accumulate more advantage over time and those who begin with disadvantage become more disadvantaged over time. It is sometimes summarised as "the rich get richer and the poor get poorer".

Matthew effects are in a lot of the ideas that emerged on energy communities: think about building a private grid for a new development, or subsidies linked to investments in specific technologies and paid by the distribution grid operator through the collection of charges and levies on everyone's electricity bill.

Vulnerable consumers often cannot join a membership-fee based project, nor can they invest in a heat pump, .... However, no one is to judge on the validity or success of your community or collective action as long as the care is taken to avoid a Matthew effect.

Inspiration can be found in many projects, some of them are presented in this booklet. Exploring inspiring examples can be enriching, but the simple rule applies:

### If something is too good to be true, it is generally not true.

Translated to examples on community and collective projects: **if an inspiring example has never been replicated, there is something that prevents it.** This could be linked to exceptional funding or financial guarantees, or regulatory sandboxes. In DECIDE you will therefore see a lot of different examples, and a sometimes critical view on cases as well as tools:

#### We'd rather get you a realistic image that challenges you towards a robust sustainable and subsidy-independent design, than create an image that is not reachable nor replicable.

The DECIDE project encourages you to explore what the options are, and design your energy community or collective action according to your preferences and needs. It also inspires you with a broad range of examples, and guide you to make sure you work towards a sustainable model.

S Go to the Renewable Energy Directive □

So to the Electricity Market Directive





FOR TOP-NOTCH ENERGY COMMUNITIES

## MADE IN OUR BACKYARD

Energy Communities and Collective Energy Actions have a strong social component. They not only help to create positive economic and ecological impact for community members, but also aim at an active social innovation movement driven by citizens. Social motivators were found to be key for people to participate in Energy Communities and Collective Energy Actions, leading communities to increase their societal power and scope.

### MONA BIELIG, SEEBURG UNIVERSITY

Mona Bielig is currently working as a research fellow in two Horizon2020 funded EU Projects which consult and develop collective energy actions and energy communities.

After finishing her M.Sc. in Psychology at University of Heidelberg with focus on organisational behaviour and adaptive cognition, she recently started her PhD with research concentrating on collective sustainable energy actions, examining both collective and individual decision-making for more sustainable energy use.



But which psychological concepts can help to enable and support Energy Communities? What motivates people to join, and which practices foster the social benefits expected from them?

Research from this field shows the relevance of social identities, trust and social norms when building up Collective Energy Actions and Energy Communities.

These insights are also reflected in exemplary research within our project.

**Social identity.** In a study we conducted about how to best attract prosumers for a cooperative, using postcards with a regional framing was the best working approach. This demonstrates the relevance of one's regional social identity.

**Trust.** Through a gamified survey, we asked participants to visualise their priorities for a local energy transition. Most people indicated to vision their Energy Community together with their neighbours or existing clubs and organisations, and set both regional value creation and social community as highly prioritised motivators.

**Social norms.** In a Collective Energy Action field study about the acceptance of a technical efficiency solution, we found that additional information about how many people in the neighbourhood already benefit from the solution led to a higher percentage of people accepting it.

These examples show, how engagement, participation and a strong social community can foster local energy transition movements. Being 'part of something bigger' can furthermore strengthen a sense of collective efficacy, supporting people in their belief that as a community, they can align forces and contribute more to the energy transition than individually.

For a successful, collective energy transition, we need to equip citizens with the opportunity, the motivation and the ability to design their energy transition in their own backyard(s) – together.

### DECIDE

#### DELIVERABLE NUMBER: D1.2

DELIVERABLE TITLE: Guidelines to optimize energy-efficiency information campaigns and citizen participation for collective action and energy communities with practical views and methods, based on first year research

Deliverable due date: 01/06/2021 Submission date: M - 31/05/2021

2020 35. decide4energy.es

#### **Further reading:**

Guidelines to optimise energy-efficiency information campaigns and citizen participation for collective action and energy communities with practical views and methods, based on first year research

The Guidelines to optimise energy-efficiency information campaigns and citizen participation for collective action and energy communities are intended to provide a coherent summary of approaches to communication, information, and intervention campaigns for establishing and shaping Energy Communities, with a strong focus on the behavioural science perspective. Therefore, this document contains a practical approach instead of theoretical considerations. The main goal of this document is to offer recommendations for a structured stakeholder engagement, to provide concrete tools and to classify them from a psychological perspective. Lastly, we give recommendations tailored to DECIDE's pilots.

▷ Download the guidelines in a PDF format

## ORGANISING SELF ORGANISATION

Valuable designs are those, that bring together user needs, technical and regulatory options, ethical considerations, and a post-funding economic feasibility. All of these are part of the DECIDE project with a great focus on enabling participating energy communities and collective actions to selflearn and organising their advance on their own, even beyond the funding phase.

One important building block for this is the Coffee-Shop and its long-term structure that we iteratively implemented in DECIDE.

### PHILIPP HARTMANN, B.A.U.M. CONSULT

Philipp Hartmann is a mechanical engineer with a M.Sc. in the field of energy and process engineering.

After starting his career planning heating, ventilation and air conditioning for commercial buildings – mainly schools and hotels – he decided to dedicate his work to something with more impact on the climate crisis and started working for B.A.U.M. Consult as a sustainability consultant in the beginning of 2020.

In the past two years Philip has worked with municipalities, smaller and bigger companies towards a greener future and tackle their biggest problems and emission sources.



Originally, the Coffee-Shop was a gamification-based construct. It was envisaged to happen throughout multiple seasons with different roles, objectives and meetings. The seasons were intended to last three-months each. At the end of each season everyone shared their advancements and others could learn from their experiences.

We got inspired by the SCRUM Guide and Cardboard-Game Manuals to make the Design of the Coffee shop easy to understand, self-sustainable and able to be selforganised by the community.

What we learned pretty early on is, that one of the most important aspects of organising to self-organise is a low entry barrier. The initial construct proved to have too much content and structure to cater to the needs of every participating energy community and collective action.

The key to solve this was a reduction of complexity, to enable more flexibility and provide a leaner meeting -framework, that does not overwhelm participating stakeholders. Now, the DECIDE Coffee-Shop manual provides a lean full-service manual for organising and hosting short meetings every three months.

In a mix of structured and unstructured settings<sup>1</sup>, participants have the chance to exchange ideas, stories and learnings. The Coffee-Shop provides an opportunity to get to know like-minded people and have a tool-kit to help energy communities and collective actions to structure their road forward. We reduced the gamification but still kept one important insight:

People can't play a game and organise themselves if there is no clear set of rules and roles – but if the game manual is too complex, the game won't be played at all.

1 Take a look at our website to find the cards we made available for download here: decide4energy.eu



#### **Further reading:**

#### The DECIDE Coffee Shop

A virtual environment and a self-moderated process exclusive for DECIDE project pilots and DECIDERs, that allows existing and evolving communities and collective actions to mutually benefit from their experiences.

This process of knowledge exchange, blended learning and informal networking shall accelerate the process and boost the quality of initiatives that institutionalise collective approaches to a future sustainable energy supply and consumption system.

### **LEAN AND MEAN**

ThermoVault is an energy service company that organises a collective action with housing and social housing associations. Local communities use their solution to improve efficiency of their heating systems and to provide flexibility on the market. In the process of collaborating with the communities We explain what some of the opportunities and challenges are that Thermovault faces.

### TOM VERHEYEN THERMOVAULT

Tom has a technical education (IT) but was never active in this field. His interest in technology and related fields however remained.

After his education, his career in the energy sector started at Luminus, an energy supplier.

During his 16 years at this energy supplier, he had several positions in retail, strategy and innovation departments before he accepted a challenge at ThermoVault as a product manager.

The end goal for ThermoVault is to use these assets to create a virtual power plant in order to keep the transport and the distribution grids stable at an affordable price.

The straightforward message we use in a B2B context is however not that easily re-used when preparing for the installations at the end-user's premise. Although the end-user is not charged for these services it might be a surprise for most of us that it is difficult to plan (make an appointment) and execute (door remains closed even if there is an appointment) the physical installations with a high degree of success.

This success rate can be boosted by spending considerable time on explaining the solution, proving the benefits based on comparable situations, involving people closest to the end-users. Explaining these concepts are even more challenging when interacting with the vulnerable people we often encounter.

When the solution is installed, it is key to keep the endusers engaged so they can promote the solution to new tenants or to re-install the solution when the heating device has broken down. This is another challenge in its own right.





#### **Further Watching:**

#### ELIA short corporate movie about Thermovault

An introduction to how ELIA came across Thermovault in their daily work and how it has influenced the social housing organisation context.

Watch on YouTube

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## LEARNING BY ASKING

It applies to different countries and different initiatives; stakeholder engagement allows you to gather information that otherwise could be missed or underestimated. It's the power of co-creating knowledge with the people around you and asking them the right questions to discover the 'unknown'.

### MATTEO VANZINI PROSPEX INSTITUTE

Matteo Vanzini is a junior consultant with a background in international development and a passion for decentralisation.

Experienced in design thinking and co-creation, he works in European projects engaging with stakeholders on issues related to sustainability and innovation.



With experience you learn that an effective method to get the input from all parties involved is twofold.

First, systematically map out all the stakeholders around your organisation or initiative to make sure you don't interact only with the 'usual suspects'.

Define well your criteria, the type of stakeholders that can influence or be impacted by what you are trying to achieve.

Only then think about who can represent these groups and get them involved in an open dialogue.

Second, develop an engaging process that empowers people and welcomes their inputs whatever they may be.

Be an active listener and let them share their feelings, needs and the challenges they face.

Show you are interested and communicate how you are going to use the information you collect from them.

Stakeholder engagement is not only about understanding your community or the issue you address, but it is also a tool for decision making laying the foundation for a greater impact.



#### Solution Further reading:

#### **DECIDE Tool Card on Stakeholder Mapping**

The DECIDE tool cards have been designed to provide some practical inputs that can improve the development of an energy-related community initiative.

It is a handy and catchy format to present the tools and methodologies investigated by the project and make them accessible to a wide audience, despite the knowledge background on the topic. Each card can be seen as a stand-alone piece of information related to the complex panorama of energy communities in Europe. The reader is free to choose and deepen the ones that are more relevant to its experience and context.

Solution Download the card in a PDF format

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## **CRITICAL MAKING**

Solidarity, cohesion, trust and above all the same will to improve and drive something forward. Discussing, exchanging, deciding together to ultimately benefit is probably the right way for a first-class energy community.

### ANDREAS KLÄR ELEKTRIZITÄTSWERK HINDELANG

Andreas Klär works for Elektrizitätswerke Hindelang e.G. (EWH) cooperative founded in the 1920's by citizens of Hindelang for the electricity supply of their village. Since then 330 citizens and SMEs (plus municipality) are members of the cooperative, an energy community that puts a strong emphasis on sustainable energy production and service towards its clients.

EWH generates electricity from local resources, organises local energy supply to ca. 5.000 inhabitants and operates the grid of Bad Hindelang.

While today Hindelang has a close to 100 % RES electricity supply for the village (60 % from local sources), few customers are active in reducing consumption or turning into a RES based heating of their homes and businesses.



In Hindelang, the desire for electricity in the community was the driving force that created a community about 100 years ago.

The funding body was particularly impressed by our cooperative approach with 320 members and the local conditions in a small mountain community in the south of Germany.

Here in Bad Hindelang we have all the possibilities to develop an energy community and to work out a solution in harmony with nature.

We are looking forward to these challenges and are proud to be a part of DECIDE and to be able to support with our circumstances.

## ENERGY COMMUNITIES: FROM EUROPEAN LEGISLATION TO LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION

Many community-led energy initiatives sprouted across Europe way before the concept of "energy community" was officially adopted by the European Commission. Thanks to these successful pioneers, policy-makers at the EU level started to investigate the many benefits of actively engaging individuals in the energy production and energy services provision.

### SILVIA ASSALINI, ICLEI

Silvia is a Climate Policy & Energy Governance Officer at ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability.

With a MSc in Sociology and Social Research, in the past years Silvia focused her work on RES and the key role that Energy Communities can play in the energy transition. Advocating for the central role that cities and regions can have in this journey, she has been leading in the definition of capacity building programmes, interactive workshops and co-creation processes.

Lately Silvia started also deepening youth and women's active engagement in EC and climate policy.

Realising the potential but also the difficulty to create a safe space for Energy Communities to establish themselves and grow, European Directives have been designed, discussed and reassessed in the past few years with the goal of fine-tuning the concept and its boundaries.

The most important pieces of legislation in this regard are the Internal Energy Market Directive ((EU) 2019/944) and the Renewable Energy Directive ((EU) 2018/2001).

Each one of them introduces a new actor in the energy market: the Citizens Energy Communities in the former and the Renewable Energy Communities in the latter. With slight differences among the two concerning the stakeholders that can be engaged and the sources of energy that can be used, both of these legal forms of collective action have the same mission:

to bring environmental, social and economic benefits of energy projects at the local level where they are set up.

Not just a simple sum of individuals, but a powerful tool, these locally owned initiatives can bring benefits at all levels, such as fostering democracy, tackling energy poverty, strengthening the social bounds, supporting job creation, and making the energy system overall less prone to shocks, all while reducing negative environmental impact. Through these benefits these collective actions serve to complement and balance existing and new centralised energy infrastructure.

Each Member State should have transposed the directives already. This would entail including the definition of Energy Community in the national legislation, aligning it with the existing framework and assessing existing barriers in order to identify where support and facilitation is needed so as to set a level playing field. Almost one year after the deadline<sup>1</sup>, we see that this has happened in a great variety of approaches with varying degrees of success.

Despite the variety of (un)clear regulations that hinder prospective engagement and investments, civil society and local governments are moving ahead by testing how these concepts can be expressed in concrete terms.

These experiences are fundamental to guide the proposed legal frameworks in many of the Member States, unlocking the potentials for diverse local energy action. The feedback loop from these experiences to regulators is important and needed for a good policy development.

At the same time, the EU should continue to support favourable framework conditions for Energy Communities, civic aspirations and engagements to flourish.

<sup>1 &</sup>quot;almost one year ago" is an approximation as the deadline set to member states to transpose the two directives were different: 31 December 2020 for IEDM and 30 June 2021 for RED II.



#### **S** Further reading:

#### Yearly policy briefs on regulation 2021

This is the first of a series of **"Energy Community Monitors"** that will provide an overview of regulatory developments related to Energy Communities in all EU 27 Member States (MS).

EU Member States had to transpose the provisions related to Citizen Energy Communities (as set in the Electricity Market Directive (EMD) by 31.12.2020 and the provisions for Renewable Energy Communities (as set in the updated renewable energy directive (REDII)) by the end of June 2021.

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### CROWDSOURCING

Europe is currently transitioning its energy systems to ensure it achieves climate neutrality by 2050, with more renewable energy being produced and consumed now than ever before. Alongside the transition to clean energy, a shift in how energy production is managed is taking place. Citizens are seizing control, both individually and collectively, of energy production by creating democratic communities that help decide the future of local energy. In this sense, energy communities operate based on the concept of crowdsourcing, a process that has been growing in popularity in both political and business circles over the past decades.

## VALERIA EIRIN, ICLEI

Valeria Eirin is a Senior Officer for Events & Stakeholder Engagement at ICLEI Europe's Communications & Member Relations team. She has been involved in in the communication and dissemination of several H2020 projects and European Commission initiatives, and has a large experience in the private sector, mostly in governmental and institutional affairs. After finishing a BA in International Relations she pursued a MSc in Organisational Communication Management.

Crowdsourcing is when a group of people come together to use the best of their individual abilities to achieve a common goal; this could be the creation of knowledge, but also a shared business opportunity in the form of the production of goods or services.

The concept of crowdsourcing was introduced by Jeff Howe in an article published by Wired Magazine in 2006 titled 'The Rise of Crowdsourcing', in which he describes how scientists, engineers, business professionals and artists, among others, are using this method to uncover inspirational ideas, content and possibilities for innovative collaboration.

Regardless of how crowdsourcing is defined, one particular aspect remains constant: crowdsourcing is like a colourful mosaic of interlocking pieces of glass (or bricks) in which each person is able to contribute something unique and meaningful, and together the pieces create a bigger picture or solve a shared problem.

Successful international companies and organisations have all used crowdsourcing to build their businesses or promote key actions. So, why not crowdsource energy production? Energy communities organise their collective energy actions through open democratic governance, with the aim of providing social, environmental and economic benefits to their members and local communities. Participation is open to a wide group of stakeholders, including citizens, local governments, public entities and companies.

Nevertheless, decision-making powers are monitored to avoid the monopolization of the energy community by larger enterprises active in the energy sector.

The appearance of energy communities as a result of crowdsourcing initiatives is not a new phenomenon in Europe. Some date as far back as the 1970s, and examples of successful communities, such as Sande in Denmark, Sifnos in Greece and Eeklo in Belgium, demonstrate the viability of these types of initiatives. Existing energy communities' development has also been accelerated by the European Green Deal and new and revised European Union legal frameworks.

DECIDE works with energy communities and collective actions across Europe to explore the social, legal and regulatory frameworks needed to successfully start, manage and ultimately grow communities' membership.

Seven energy communities are part of the consortium and act as pilots to transfer and exchange experiences with DECIDERs, a group of selected initiatives which replicate existing approaches. Overall, this provides the project with a diverse geographical and topical distribution, e.g., energy management in buildings, sustainable mobility, collective selfconsumption, sustainable heating system, and "power farming".



#### **Further reading:**

#### **DECIDE Training material for the Knowledge Hub**

The present document aims to provide an overview of the knowledge products created by DECIDE to foster the development and enhancement of energy communities and collective actions. This specific outline is connected with the general training material offered by DECIDE and part of its capacity building campaign to boost replication of good practice of energy communities and collective actions. This document includes an overview of all selected materials and a short description of each one of them to guide and ease their uptake based on interest and needs of the reader.

Moreover, the report describes the objectives, targets and format of the knowledge material as well as if applicable the methodology on how to use them most effectively.

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## HOW CAN LOCAL CLIMATE POLICY AMBITIONS HELP TO BUILD YOUR ENERGY COMMUNITY?

In the last five years, we have observed a dramatic increase in the urgency of how political commitments and climate targets are formulated at the local level. In Europe alone, 893 City Councils have already declared a climate emergency. Additionally, 377 cities have expressed their interest to be a part of the EU Mission to become climate-neutral by 2030. At the same time, local authorities' own greenhouse gas emission are commonly less than a twentieth part of the overall emissions of a city.

### CARSTEN ROTHBALLER, ICLEI

Carsten Rothballer is Coordinator within the team of Sustainable Resources, Climate and Resilience at the European Secretariat of ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability.

Thus, cities not only need to move quickly, comprehensively and across all sectors, but most of all collaboratively to achieve their climate and energy ambitions. For most economic sectors, technologies are already available which, if implemented, would drastically reduce their carbon footprint.

Therefore it would be a political and organisational failure if Europe has not reached its net-zero goal by 2050. However, in many countries, the local level does not have a sufficient mandate, nor resources, to support such a bottom-up aspiration. Insufficient public investments and skilled craftspeople are just some of the immediate challenges to accelerating efforts.<sup>1</sup>

Activating and organising collective actions and energy communities is not a silver bullet, but a very effective solution to the present challenges and an important part of the just energy transition.

Local governments understand that their citizens are some of their closest allies in the mission to realise energy projects and scale them up throughout their cities. Their ideas are diverse and touch all relevant sectors, enabling them to tap into known and unknown potentials of sufficiency, efficiency, and renewable energy.

Public authorities recognise, foster, and support collective energy action and communities as a strategic component of their climate action.

Three diverse examples:

The metropolitan borough of Kirklees in England initiated the 3-year Kirklees Warm Zone project in 2007. Free home insulation was offered to all inhabitants, either attic or cavity wall insulation.

Over 166 000 households were visited, 136 000 energy assessments were completed, and 51 000 homes were insulated. The total investment was 20.9 million £ on top of time of the council staff to manage and direct the project. Estimated annual energy savings accounted for 106 GJ, and over 1000 households were supported out of energy poverty. The award-winning project was however not replicated due to national cuts in local authorities' budgets for projects as well as for staff.

Solar Together is an initiative supported by councils all around Sussex (UK), with the goal of reducing emissions. A group solar panel purchasing scheme enables residents to buy solar panels and battery storage at lower prices collectively without missing quality or warranty.

Another initiative is Sun4All in which four cities across Europe elevate vulnerable households from energy poverty by making them co-owners of local photovoltaic installations at no cost. While Almada (Portugal) is specifically targeting social housing buildings, Barcelona (Spain) has enacted the scheme as part of a Neighbourhood Plan closely linked to the city's Climate Action Plan.

Cities are pressured to deliver on their promises<sup>2</sup>. Many have already involved their citizens and local energy community groups as part of an integrated approach to collectively achieve climate neutrality.

Many more local authorities should actively facilitate, nurture, and incorporate community groups in their strategies, plans and projects for an accelerated and just transition. Likewise these citizen groups should continue to pro-actively enter into dialogues with their local authorities to strategise prosuming concepts and multiply efforts through collective action. DECIDE Project aims to understand the role local governments have played in existing collective actions and how this could be improved over time.

Build your next energy community together with your city.

<sup>1</sup> Explore the possibilities, shape your project ideas, and close a deal for launching your solutions with support of the Smart Cities Marketplace: smart-cities-marketplace.ec.europa.eu

<sup>2</sup> European Commission announced on 28 April the 100 cities that will participate in the Cities Mission.



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Structured overview on optimised energy-efficiency interventions for Energy Communities and Collective Actions

This document serves as an overview for the recommendations to optimise energy-efficiency intervention and information campaigns for energy communities and collective energy actions in the framework of DECIDE and beyond.

For this purpose, first a general overview of potential tools for information and intervention campaigns within engagement and communication strategies is given. This serves as a "toolbox" to give the broadest possible impression of potential tools. In addition, specific recommendations for optimising intervention and information campaigns, tailored to the respective pilots in DECIDE, are provided in the second part. In both overviews, a strong focus is placed on the social science perspective: Underlying models and principles are thus introduced to ensure the acceptance and success of the interventions presented.

Solution Download the overview in a PDF format

# TOOLS

FOR TOP-NOTCH ENERGY COMMUNITIES

## LESSONS LEARNED FROM DECIDE AND AVAILABLE TOOLS

Two years into the DECIDE project, interacting with the research team, 21 collective actions and energy communities involved in the project and many more that have been researched and interviewed across Europe and through collaboration with more than ten H2020 sister projects, there is many lessons we take away.

### LUCIJA RAKOCEVIC, TH!NK E

Lucija Rakocevic has been working in the sustainable energy field for more than ten years. As a technical consultant for renewable energy and energy management she has worked with both public and private sectors, as well as international organisations, with focus on the Balkans and Western Asia.

She has working experiences in the US and Belgium. From 2015 to early 2020 Lucija was involved in industry oriented research of new solar cell technology for integrated and customised applications for smart cities at imec/EnergyVille, Belgium.

In 2020 she became part of Th!nk E, Belgium testing innovative technologies and solutions as well as creating enabling frameworks for their implementation in order to enable sustainable energy transition in the European member states.

**Main lesson** we learned is that each initiative involving community, be it an energy community or a collective action, has its own recipe for success dependent on the involved community, national regulation, choice of technologies and business models. Our main job in supporting the roll-out of community energy initiatives is to create easy to use and access **toolbox of possible solutions**, with practical examples, guides and software tools. Community energy initiatives could reach into this toolbox and choose tools that fit their purpose and can help them build their energy community or collective action.

Tools developed within DECIDE include:



#### Review of tools for structured stakeholder engagement

The main goal of this document is to offer recommendations for a structured stakeholder engagement, to provide concrete tools and to classify them from a psychological perspective.



#### Tools for information and intervention campaigns

This document provides overview of potential tools for information and intervention campaigns within engagement and communication strategies is given. This serves as a "toolbox" to give the broadest possible impression of potential tools.

Solution Tools for information and intervention campaigns"

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#### The Energy Vision game

The game helps understand, communicate and co-create community energy initiative by identifying priorities of different members when it comes to members involved, priority actions and motivators.

👒 Play the Energy Vision game



#### **Energy Revolution Online podcast**

The podcast provides insights into what specific communities find important when it comes to energy transition and how they could see their involvement in an Energy Community.

👒 Listen to the podcast



#### The Power of Community game

A fun board game that teaches kids about clean energy, energy communities concepts, and their operation. It provides a possibility for intergenerational learning between children and their caretaker, and helps improve knowledge and possibly initiate behavioural change.

 $\boxtimes$  More about the Power of Community game



#### Community energy initiative implementation plan

The implementation plan helps initiatives identify social and technical goals, set timing and monitor implementation.

To join the webinar about **Community energy initiative implementation plan** follow our website news.

🛚 DECIDE website news



#### **Energy Communities Hub**

The hub provides accessible information on regulation on the national level for collective actions and provides comparison with other countries.

℅ Energy Communities Hub online



#### **Business model categories**

The document identified 7 business model categories that energy communities or collective actions can use to build their own business models. The business models are used to generate benefits for the involved community.

▷ Download the "Business model categories"



#### The Knowledge Hub

This platform brings in one place sources from DECIDE and any other project or initiative that is relevant for energy communities and collective actions. It includes reports, guidelines, knowledge hubs, media, platforms etc. Information can be found in different languages. If you have any relevant material let us know and we can include it.

👒 Visit the Knowledge Hub



#### **Tool cards**

Tool cards to help foster exchange of experiences and knowledge among energy communities and collective actions.

Solution Visit DECIDE resources to download



#### **Coffee Shop**

Coffee Shop for exchange of experiences and ideas among EC/CA.

Coffee shop uses tool cards and other means to foster collaboration among different initiatives. The DECIDE initiatives connect through LinkedIn group, as well.

Solution № More about the Coffee shop



### Online tools and soft skills for getting stakeholders engaged

Recorded on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May 2021 during DECIDE workshop on intelligent ways of managing energy together, the presentation called "Getting involved: Opportunities to learn, engage and exchange" with Carsten Rothballer from ICLEI Europe.

🛯 Watch the recording

In addition DECIDE, in collaboration with other projects, has reviewed existing publicly available software tools that energy communities and collective actions can use:

From setting up energy communities to making them thrive: WHAT ARE THE TOOLS AVAILABLE?
******
Any store setting up an energy community?     What if the to pion one bud dear house where to find it or where to start?     Those are part of a community energy initiatives and want to find boat to Many pay whereas, manage and pays?
Cr. Aquil 35, 3022. 1 projects shawd insights into the work day profet to expense plantary year a community many activities. Exercise in this behavior of tools and support measures available.

#### Review of 18 tools from nine projects

From setting up energy communities to making them thrive: what are the tools available? On April 26<sup>th</sup> 2022, nine projects shared insights into the tools they provide to organise/plan/grow a community energy initiative. Discover in this briefing all tools and support measures available.

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### LECSEA tools and methods for emerging energy communities

In the" Tools and methods for emerging energy communities" Leen Peeters and Christina Protopapadaki from Th!nk E present and discuss 14 available tools and methods to support the initiating of energy communities.

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