Final Report

OCTOBER 2024

Table of Contents

SCCALE Final Report

Introduction

About this publication

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the key actions, outputs and impacts of the SCCALE 203050 project, running from June 2021 to November 2024. You will also find recommendations and lessons learned that we wanted to share with future projects.

The main aim of the SCCALE 203050 project has been to support and enhance the growth of energy communities from the bottom up, and to help remove some of the remaining legislative and contractual stumbling blocks.

Who are we ?

2 Cities

Grad Poreč - Parenzo
Città di Poreč - Parenzo

5 Energy Cooperatives

ELECTRA ENERGY.

enercoop
L'énergie militante

energie samen
buurtwarmte

2 European Networks

ZEZ
Zelena Energetska Zadruga

Ecopower cv

RESCOOP.EU

ENERGYCITIES

1 University

TUDelft

Key Objectives

- Develop a **step-by-step guide** for potential community leaders to support the creation, maturation and replication of energy communities.

- Build a **monitoring tool** for community leaders and municipalities to assess and track the maturity and growth of the energy communities in their territories.

- Gather proven **technical tools and financing models** suited for citizen collective action. Develop financially stable models for innovative community projects relating to energy efficiency and building renovation (addressing split incentives).

- Identify viable **models and recommendation** for inclusive energy communities and collaboration with other stakeholders.

- Encourage the proliferation of energy communities across Europe via a **network of practitioners** (including municipalities, SMEs, NGOs and academic institutions) to support new and existing energy communities.

- Support policy makers at the European, national and local level to identify **barriers and suitable policies** to foster the growth of energy communities in Europe through recommendations and discussions with policy makers.

What we wanted to achieve

- Significantly contribute to reducing both institutional, regulatory and procedural barriers

- Create roadmaps, networks and tools to facilitate the development of existing energy communities

- Develop and implement specific collective models to trigger positive behaviour changes for European consumers and their communities

- Significantly increase the number of Energy Communities built across Europe

- Provide specific tools for local actors, municipalities and citizens to build collective action schemes

- Provide durable infrastructure to support the continuous growth of the energy communities across Europe

"We aim to build at least 26 energy communities, trigger the creation of 34 community projects, and develop a comprehensive methodology for the creation of energy communities that can be replicated in Europe and beyond. The methodology will be tested and validated in 5 pilot communities."

Impact
Beyond ticking boxes

SCCALE 203050 managed to advance community energy projects and foster collaboration between citizens and municipalities through so-called energy communities. The key learnings of our pilots in BE, NL, FR, GR and HR were shared in a "community of practice" operating both at EU and at national level allowing for exchange, learning and successful replication. Furthermore, the project allowed to build missing tools to encourage the market uptake of energy communities which we shared through in-person workshops in RO, SRB, EE, IT and ES. Finally, the tools were gathered in an online library called the "Energy Community Platform" managed by REScoop.eu and making them accessible to a network of energy communities across the EU.

Daan Creupelandt

Project Coordinator

 www.sccale203050.eu

Some highlights

- Energy communities are featured in the Dutch national heat law

- National development fund for energy communities engaged in district heating (NL)

- Foundation of a national coalition for energy community heating & trainings in the context of community-owned district heating (NL)

- Buurtwarmte Services organisation for development and exploitation stage of community district heating projects (NL)

- Professionalisation of the Energie Samen Academy (NL)

- Opening of the Poreč Sunny Office: a physical place where citizens can get free of charge technical/advisory support and guidance through the process of installing their own PV power plant (HR)

- The operation of the Poreč Sunny Office will be maintained beyond the project lifetime with expanded educational capacity (HR)

- 500 kwp solar park completed, and metering has started happening in members' energy bills (GR)

- Collaboration with two Municipalities to identify 9 energy vulnerable households, which were included for free in the park and will receive free electricity for 25 years (GR)

- Development of an energy sobriety game & organisation of a series of events around it, awareness-raising activities (FR)

- New volunteers improved their proficiency on energy sobriety with the game, leading to more tailored and enjoyable sessions (FR)

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1. Research & Academic Validation

© Photo: Gerard Stolk

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Objectives

- Gain a better understanding of collective citizen actions at the neighborhood level by analysing, monitoring and evaluating experiences of collective citizen action and community engagement in the domains of sustainable energy (i.e. renewable energy, energy efficiency, and energy conservation)
- Analyse how digital technology is used to support collective citizen actions

Literature study

The literature study does not only provided the conceptual basis for SCCALE monitoring tool (see section 3), it also describes the overall monitoring process and sets forth the guidelines for practical deployment. The report has been updated to accommodate for new and relevant academic publications in this field of research.

Pilot Assessment

The Pilot Assessment has been based on the Monitoring Tool. For each collective citizen action, data has been collected on action perspective, implementation process, goals (achieved), impact, effectiveness, side effects, cost, information on performance on selected KPIs, and defining conditions under which implementation of the collective citizen action was considered most likely to generate the intended impact.

Five qualitative interviews per pilot (15 overall) were conducted. The first results of the data-collections were presented at the project meeting in Utrecht. According to TU Delft, the first assessment reveals that you can actually see progression and growth of our pilots which is a good sign. These insights are described in the final report.

Support to other partners in preparing replications

The results of the Pilot Assessment have been used to support the development of the SCCALE 20 30 50 Toolkit and Method as well as the replication strategy. The first members of the Community of Practice have received coaching in a cross-border validation workshop. The workshop involved a demonstration of the use of the Monitoring Tool to train future community leaders and coaches.

TU Delft organised a first validation workshop in Spring 2023. Amongst the participants were project partners including the pilot leaders, a member from the advisory board and a good set of international researchers relevant in this context.
A second validation workshop was organised in Spring 2024, mostly aiming for practitioners. This second and final validation workshop allowed TU Delft to make the current tool lighter and more tailored to the needs and aspirations of starting energy communities. The report of the second validation workshop was delivered in May 2024.

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2. Pilot Deployment

sccale203050.eu

Objectives

- Support the development of the pilots of the project.

- Support the core group's activities to organise the community, with the goal to create a successful collective action scheme.

SCCALE 20 30 50 deployed 5 pilot energy communities in France, Belgium, Netherlands, Croatia and Greece. Each pilot aimed to tackle a different market segment, implementing a community building strategy adapted to the local context and specific collective action.

PILOTS & REPLICATIONS

Belgium | Netherlands | France | Croatia | Greece

- RES production

- Collective self-consumption

- District heating

- Energy sobriety & behavioral change

- Building renovation

Meetings and study tours at EU level

Gatherings at national level

001 Parentium / 002 Licht Leuven / 003 Buurtwarmte
004 Les Économes / 005 Hyperion II

Buurtwarmte, the Netherlands

Focus on: District Heating Deployment

Efforts for Community owned district heating network led by Grunneger Power faced major challenges

Alternative activities:

- Created User council to have some control over decision making
- Private houses connected to the district heating system in De Larix neighbourhood
- More than 60% provisional participation in Selwerd-Zuid neighbourhood

Position of Buurtwarmte in the local governance system

The energy community managed to represent the neighbourhoods in all four stages of development: initiation, design, construction, and exploitation stage.

The residents exert influence over the district heating system by means of

- Project teams during initiation and design stages

- Strategic meetings with main stakeholder

- User council in exploitation stage
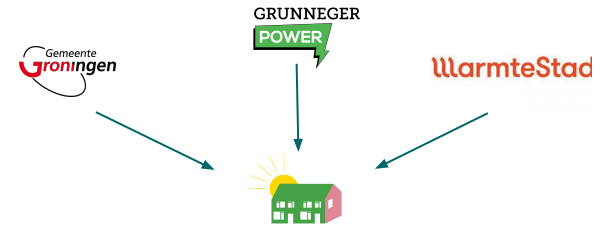
Challenges, Successes & Lessons learned

- Lack of legal recognition of energy communities hindered equal collaboration with the municipality

  - Energy communities are now put into the new national heat law

- Development stage of an energy community district heating system requires significant financial means

  - A development fund for energy community engaging in district heating systems has been established

- Operation of district heating requires mature organizations

  - New national organisation Buurtwarmte Services will cover services for operating district heating systems

- Citizen engagement is not considered a main component for developing renewable heating projects

  - Foundation of a national coalition for energy community heating

- Gained knowledge needed to be shared to the outside world

  - The Energie Samen Academy has been professionalised

- Gained knowledge on energy community project management needed to be shared to next generation of project managers

  - New trainer development programme in collaboration with a university of applied sciences

Parentium, Croatia

Focus on: Cultural heritage public building renovation

The voucher model concept:
Parents of kids at kindergarten invest in the refurbishment of the building and the installation of PVs on the roof thereby saving money on energy bills
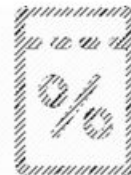
Yet...
Bureaucratic procedures and legal barriers: how can this presented in the financial books to be acceptable?

Alternative activities:

- Educational activities and technical support within the Porec Sunny office to citizens for the installation of solar PVs (inspiration for joining energy communities)
- Info Sunny Days for citizens and entrepreneurs
- Regional workshops for cities, municipalities and public entities
- Regional round tables
- Policy recommendation papers
- Toolkit dissemination activities
- High level advocacy (Croatian/EU parliament)

PARENTIUM COMMUNITY VOUCHER MODEL CONCEPT

PUBLIC CALL

COMMUNITY MEMBERS BUY VOUCHERS THAT CAN BE EXCHANGED FOR SERVICE(S) PROVIDED BY PUBLIC INSTITUTION(S)

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS COLLECT ADITIONAL FUNDING FOR INVESTMENT IN RES / DEPLOYING ENERGY EFFICIENCY MEASURES

PUBLIC INSTITUTION(S) SAVE MONEY ON ENERGY GENERATED BY RES, PAY LOWER BILLS AND CONTINUE TO PROVIDE PUBLIC SERVICE(S) TO CITIZENS

CITIZENS (PARENTS) USE VOUCHER BENEFITS AND SAVE MONEY ON PUBLIC SERVICE(S) / FEES WHILE CONTRIBUTING TO THE COMMUNITY

Achievements

- Engagement activities (formal and informal live meetings) with the potential voucher users (parents of the children that use the kindergarten services)
- Refurbishment of the Kindergarten (unfortunately, without citizen's participation)
- The model is featured in the official opening of the national environmental fund
- Poreč sunny office, a citizens one stop shop for solar energy
- Development of internal documentation for implementation of the voucher model
- First collective self-consumption scheme in a multi-apartment building in Zagreb.
- Replication of voucher model in other municipalities
- 3 Replication sites: Cres, Križevci, Prelog
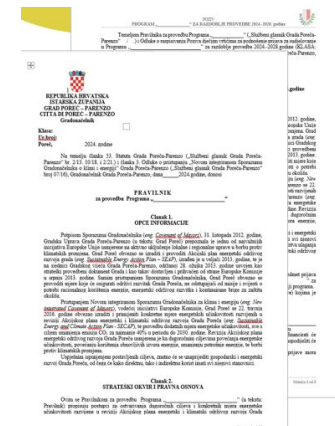
Hyperion, Greece

Focus on: Collective self-consumption schemes

Hyperion project: 125 households got access to clean energy from their own solar project

Challenges:

- Bureaucracy: DSO & supplier contracts
- Despite the solar parks being ready and electrified for months, the actual metering was not happening in the bills (for more than 12 months)
- Frequent changes in legislation, creating uncertainty on project development

Advocacy

- Letter to the Greek Ministry & Energy Regulatory Authority together with 14 other Energy Communities, including all the Greek replication sites
- Big media outreach
- Promotion of the SCCALE 20 30 50 policy Recommendations

Credit: George Kourounis
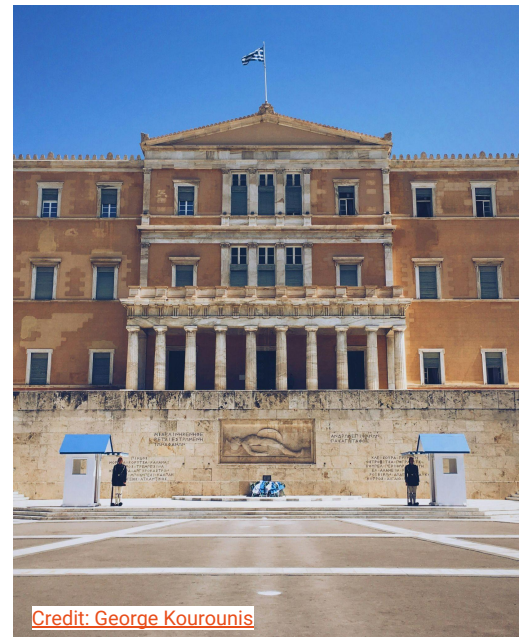
Achievements

- Pilot fully implemented: 500 kwp solar park completed, and metering has started happening in members' energy bills

- Collaboration with two Municipalities to identify 9 energy vulnerable households, which were included for free in the park and will receive free energy for 25 years

- Internal working groups on energy poverty, legal, new technologies, outreach

- Leaflet on energy savings / demand response

- Replication sites significantly advanced:
  ➔ Minoan (Crete) -> completed collective self-consumption projects (only now started receiving negative energy bills)
  ➔ CommonEN (Ioannina) -> completed collective self-consumption projects (only now started receiving negative energy bills)
  ➔ Collective Energy -> 2x electrified solar parks
  ➔ Ad hoc advice to other energy communities (e.g., template statutes, comms campaigns, legal questions)

LICHT Leuven, Belgium

Focus on: Building renovation and PV production

Energy scans, energy monitoring, citizen engagement, renewable heating and a solar energy

Challenges:

- Community engagement

Efforts to find and recruit people with good ideas or projects. - challenging to engage people and keep them onboard

- Quantifying energy savings

Exploring strategies and tools to accommodate this

Achievements

- 290 kWp Solar installed on 5 non residential roofs
- 54 solar installations on residential roofs and 505 free energy scans by ECoOB
- 40 households connected to a district heating network
- An energy sobriety ambassador program:
  - ☐ 338 citizens joined the digital community on energy monitoring + 28 Leuven schools
  - ☐ 1.800 citizens are using the free service version of EnergieID
- Actively involving 454 people in the process via information sessions

5 replication sites

Antwerpen

Asse

Eeklo

Kalmthout

Ranst

Les Économes, France

Focus on: Energy Efficiency, sufficiency and collective purchasing of equipment

Challenges

- Maintaining engagement and commitment among members (turnover and difficulty in finding replacement)
- Need for new tools and engagement strategies
- Continuously recruiting new members
- Relying only on volunteers, who often have a professional activity outside their commitment
- Ensuring effective post-event communication to attract new members and sustain momentum

Achievements

- Creation of the association : drafting of articles of association, training time, shared governance, Charter of Les Économes

- Use of new recruiting platforms to find volunteers outside Enercoop's members network

- Transitioning from monthly meetings to bi-monthly meetings and working groups short online sessions between on-site meetings

- Expanded outreach through stands at fairs, getting in touch with social housing agencies.

- A website to be better known and to present the actions

- Strengthened partnerships with the city of Paris and the Académie du Climat (recurring game sessions)

- Introduction of "the wheel of fortune" tool, which added a playful element to sessions and facilitated engagement.

- An educational game: "Pète les plombs"*, a serious game adapted from 1000 Bornes

- A series of events: around the game, awareness-raising activities are a way towards individual and collective energy sobriety

- Volunteers improved their proficiency with the game, leading to more tailored and enjoyable sessions (e.g. work on the outline of a game session, including introduction on sobriety).

*Literally: "blow the fuse"

3. Tools & resources

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SCCALE 20 30 50 Toolkit

A Collection of practical examples and hands-on information

An interactive presentation of each tool in English, Dutch, French, Croatian and Greek

1. Methodology Guide
2. Monitoring Tool
3. Finance Guide for Energy Communities
4. Finance Guide for Bank Representatives
5. Inclusivity Guide
6. Municipal Guide
7. Policy Recommendations
8. Library
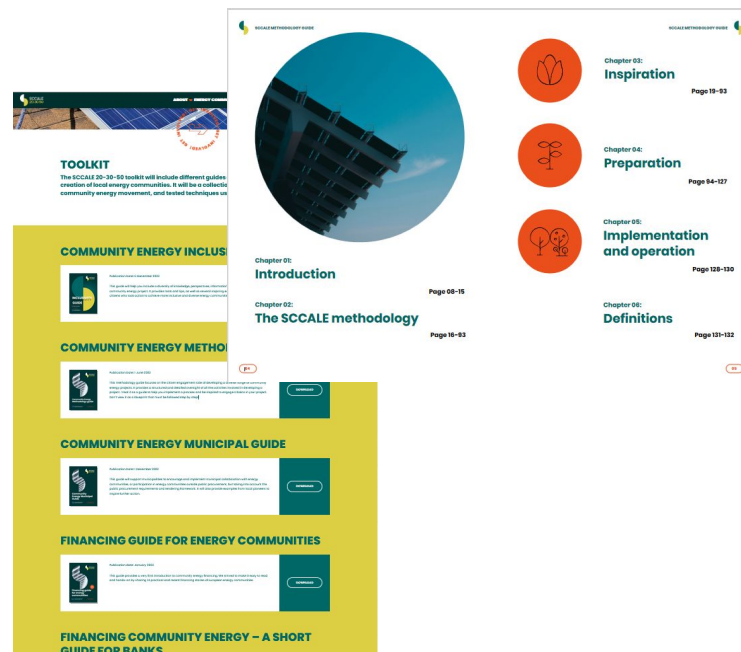
Community Energy Methodology Guide

The SCCALE 20 30 50 Methodology Guide outlines the journey for collective citizen action schemes to become successful energy communities. 2 co-creation sessions were organized to finetune it.

*This methodology guide focuses on the **citizen engagement** side of developing a diverse range of community energy projects. Community energy is renewable energy that is developed and owned by the community. Community energy offers fair and equitable projects from which all in the community benefit.*

*In community energy, the **citizens** are the ones that develop the project themselves. They are the key initiator and owner of the project. This means they are also the decision maker for most decisions in the project. This creates a whole new dynamic in the development process.*

The guide covers **inspiring stories, relevant capacity building material and hands-on tips and tricks.**

- Focus on the citizen engagement side of developing a diverse range of community energy projects.
- Structured and detailed overview of all the activities involved in developing a project.
- Not a blueprint, but an inspiration

STAGE	1 INSPIRATION	2 PREPARATION	3 IMPLEMENTATION	4 OPERATION
MILESTONE	A Starting document	D Design plan and organisation	G Contracting	J Operational plan
MILESTONE	B Community energy organisation with clear goal	E Proposition to the community	H Construction	K Optimisation
MILESTONE	C Community energy project plan with commitment of citizens and stakeholders	F Investment/ organisation plan committed by citizens and stakeholders	I Takeover by community	L Replacement

Four project stages

Inspiration
Preparation
Implementation
Operation

The methodology focuses on the inspiration and preparation stages.

Chapter 03:
Inspiration
Page 19-93

Chapter 04:
Preparation
Page 94-127

Chapter 05:
Implementation and operation
Page 128-130

Three milestones per stage

STAGE	1 INSPIRATION	2 PREPARATION	3 IMPLEMENTATION	4 OPERATION
MILESTONE	A — Starting document	D — Design plan and organisation	G — Contracting	J — Operational plan
MILESTONE	B — Community energy organisation with clear goal	E — Proposition to the community	H — Construction	K — Optimisation
MILESTONE	C — Community energy project plan with commitment of citizens and stakeholders	F — Investment/ organisation plan committed by citizens and stakeholders	I — Takeover by community	L — Replacement

Activities lead to achieving the milestones

Activity 2 — Defining vision, scope and goals

Activity 5 — General technical plan

Activity 4 — Contact with the municipality

Activity 1 — Setting up a core team

Activity 3 — Analysing stakeholders

Activity 6 — Community meeting: networking within the community

Activity 8 — Starting document community energy project

Activity 7 — Action plan for reaching milestone B

Activity 9 — Financial commitment for next milestone

MILESTONE A — STARTING DOCUMENT

The activities are themed in four workflows

Citizen engagement and communication

Technology and business case

Partners and authorities

Organization and financing

Activity

Activity 4: Contact with the municipality

As a citizen initiative, a good relationship with the municipality at this initial stage is crucial. In one way or another, the local municipality will be your partner in issuing permits, obtaining subsidies or supporting your ideas with their knowledge and network. The initiative's core group needs the municipality to allow the initiative to grow. On the other hand, the municipality needs initiators in the community to help achieve the climate and other local goals that have been set. The approach is to work towards a full-fledged partnership with the municipality as equals, in which the citizen initiative represents the local residents who support the initiative. At the start, local citizens have not yet given that mandate to the citizen initiative. But the potential is there, because the group taking the initiative consists of local citizens who can serve both their own interests and the interests of their neighbours.

It is important to identify and reach the right people and department in the municipality, those who have a say, the power to decide, the motivation, and the

ability to influence the municipality structure to help community energy grow. Each municipality has a different dynamic. Community members probably already know municipality procedures and how communication between the various departments work.

In the conversation with the municipal official(s), you will share the goals and scope of your community initiative and discuss how it currently ties in with existing policy and partnerships in the municipality. You may even ask for the relevant policy documents, project plans and budgets. At a later stage, when your own plans become more detailed, you will look even more carefully at how they relate to the spatial frameworks and the obstacles and opportunities that arise from them. In the conversation with the municipal official(s), you will also discuss your activities for the coming period and explore the possibilities for financing. Perhaps the municipality wants to make the community centre available free of charge for a community meeting, or they want to help with communication about the community initiative. For inspiration on roles that a municipality can play in supporting the financing of community energy, have a look at the chapter Support in financing projects in the Municipality Guide, and the Financing Guide (Chapter 3.4 'Local authority or municipal support').

What is the result of activity 4?

- A start has been made with the relationship with the municipality by announcing the citizen initiative and having talks with municipal official(s).
- The cooperation of the municipality in the (planned) community activities has been explored.
- You know how to obtain financing for the next activities.

After this activity is finished, answer the following questions in the development tool and monitor your progress toward a successful energy community.

- How is the relationship with local authorities?
- How would you describe the relationship with the local authority?

Pilot example: Buurtwarmte - Groningen, the Netherlands

The municipality of Groningen received a subsidy from the national government within the framework of Programma Aardgasvrije Wijken (PAW, Natural Gas-Free Neighbourhoods Programme). This subsidy allowed the district, of which Selwerd-Zuid is a part, to experiment with alternative heating system technologies, with the aim of drawing lessons from the experiences.
Initially, municipal heat supply company Warmtestad was unwilling to participate in the project. It usually only undertakes projects to connect non-residential buildings and apartment blocks with block heating to their district heating network. Supplying heat to 200 private homes was considered too complex and did not fit with their existing activities.
After Grunneger Power joined the project and took responsibility for the communication and participation processes with the residents of Selwerd-Zuid, Warmtestad was able to focus on implementing the district heating network and exploiting the heat sources.

23

Monitoring Tool

The Monitoring Tool - or progress development tool - is defined as a self-test for energy communities allowing them to identify their stage of development and think-through what would be the next steps in their overall journey. Using insights from the literature study, based on the work of the COMPILE project (Maturity Scale) and the Interreg 2 Seas SHIFFT project, further informed by the data collection processes of the Energy Communities Repository and the COMET project, the tool assesses progress, impact and effectiveness of different types of collective citizen actions.

Relevant KPIs assess energy communities on dimensions related to:

- social factors (local community, board & personnel), socio-democratic characteristics,
- organisation & strategy,
- financial & economic characteristics,
- policy & politics,
- technology & learnings.

Financing Guides

- Financing Guide for energy communities: for starting energy communities
- Short Guide for banks: to support negotiations with the bank
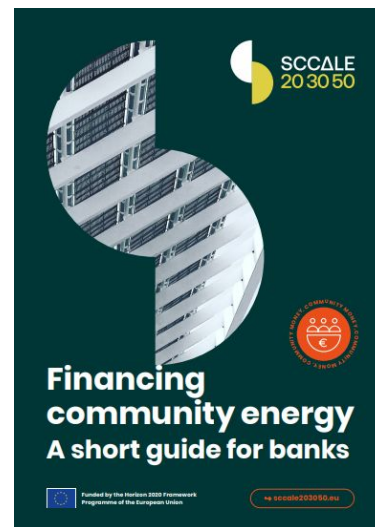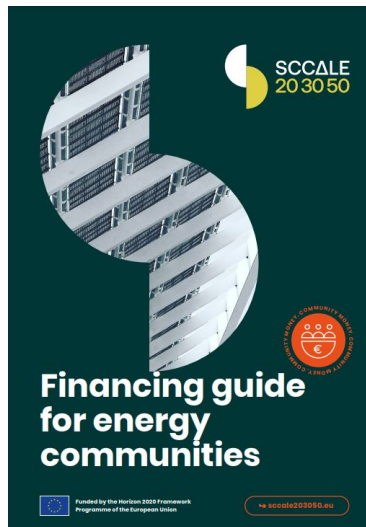
Financing Guide for energy communities

- Equity financing
- Debt financing
- Grants
- Donations
- Municipal support

Eeklo windmill, (c) Ecopower
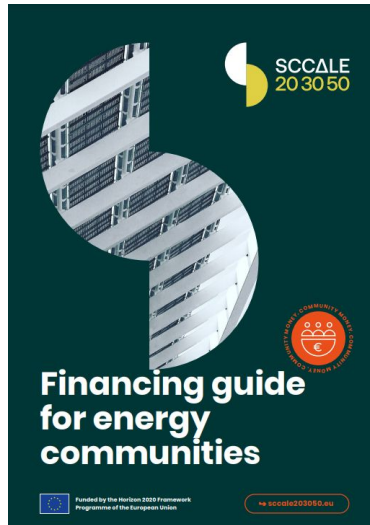
Financing Guide for bank representatives

Community energy as a stable and yet future oriented field of activity:

- How does it work?
- Why does it matter?
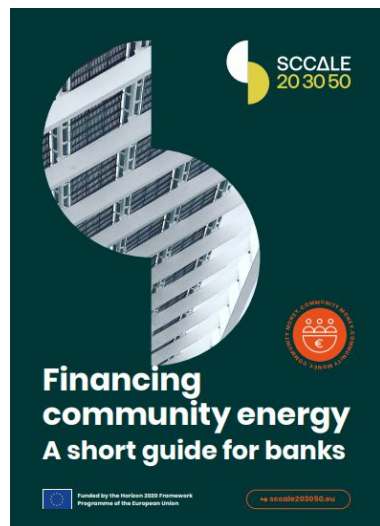
Inclusivity Guide

- Supports energy communities in including a diversity of knowledge, perspectives, information, and ideas in their projects.
- Tools and tips
- Inspiring examples from cities and citizens who took action to achieve more inclusive and diverse energy communities

Inclusivity guide

Step 1
Mapping & Analysing the problem

Step 2
Taking Action: corrective & preventive measures

Step 3
Comms & Engagement

Step 4
Organisation & Partnerships

Step 5
Technology & business models
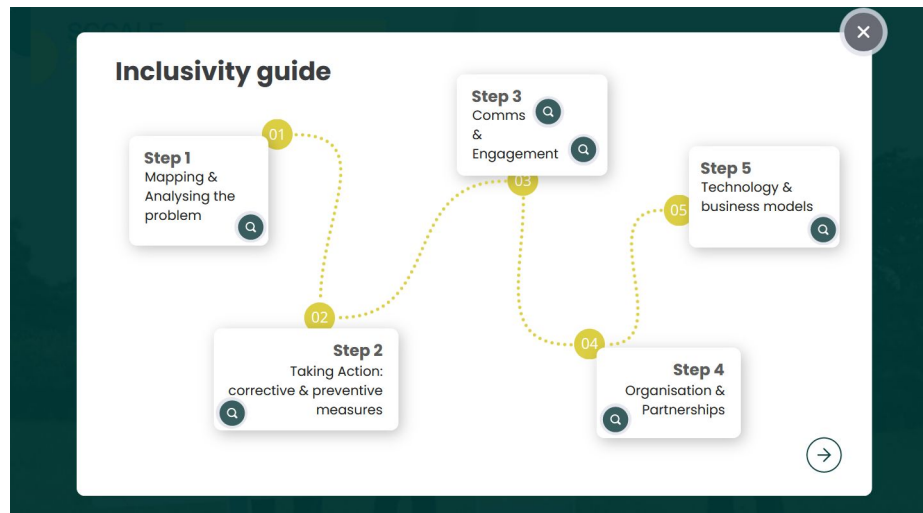
Municipal Guide

How can municipalities can get involved in and support energy communities? The guide presents the many different options available (outside public procurement) and provide a great number of best practices of development of energy communities with municipal involvement from all over EU.

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101033676. The sole responsibility for the content of this document lies with the SCCALE 203050 project and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Union.

SCCALE Final Report

47

Policy Recommendations

- Context for energy communities in SCCALE 203050 pilots countries
- Cases and stories from our project and network
- What works well
- What still needs further improvement to unleash the full potential of community energy.

Library

- SCCALE tools
- 40 tools and capacity building resources detected and described
- All available at
  www.energycommunityplatform.eu
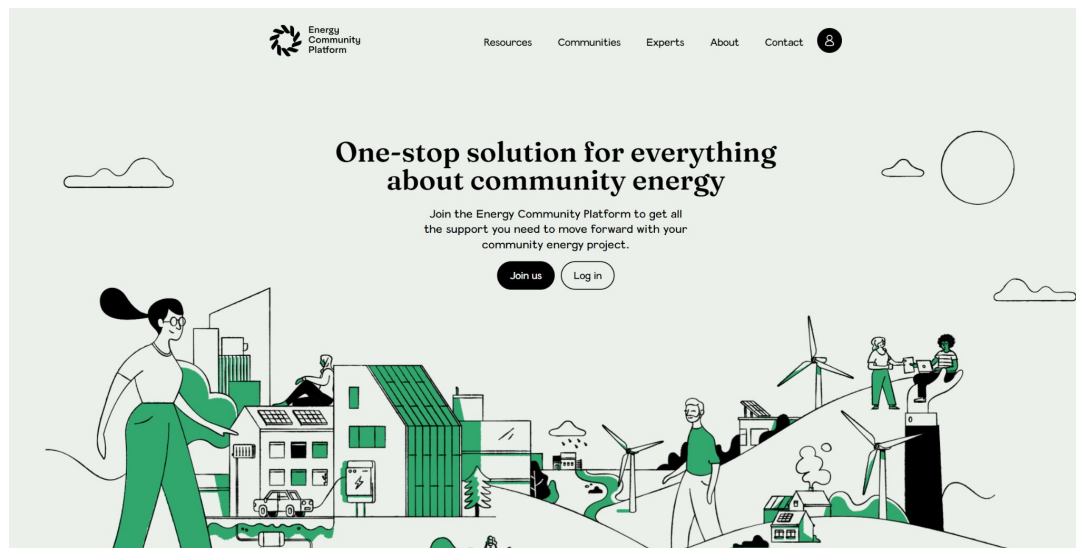
Dissemination of the tools

- In-person workshop for starting energy communities

- Webinar 'All you need to know about SCCALE 20 30 50'

- Webinar 'How to engage citizens in community heating projects'

- Webinar 'Supporting the development of energy communities: which role for local and regional energy agencies?'

- Webinar '"Supporting and facilitating the development of community-energy initiatives at local level'

- Webinar 'Unlocking your city's renewable energy future – Play and learn with Leuven and Poreč'

- Summary and recordings are available
- 6 teaser videos for dissemination on social media, one on each tool

4. Replication and scaling up

Objectives

- Support the replication of the SCCALE pilots and developed Toolkit by Consortium partners providing a framework to help strengthen their work and monitor the impacts of the replication activities
- Demonstrate the potential for replication and upscaling of the SCCALE approach developed

Activities with replication communities

✔ 3 replication visits

- Leuven (April 2022)

- Paris (September 2022)

- Utrecht (April 2023)

✔ A total of 117 participants

✔ Collaboration with another Horizon2020 project: Mpower

✔ 21 Memorandums of Understanding by replication site leaders

SCCALEE 20 30 50 Community of Practice

Lead by a "Helpdesk Committee" operated by REScoop.eu, Energy Cities, Ecopower, Energie Samen and Enercoop, along with the other project pilots in Greece and Croatia.

We want to rely on local people who have the experience to help others set up their own energy communities – that is what the energy community helpdesk is about

Daan Creupelandt, coordinator of SCCALE 20-30-50 Project

Replicating the approach in other energy communities

- Monthly online replication meetings: to provide the replication sites with support, steering and advice on how to overcome challenges and take the next steps in their development (Electra).
- For the check-ins with replication sites the pilot leaders rely on the SCCALE toolkit and other related tools published onto the www.energycommunityplatform.eu.
- 5 National workshops gathering national replication site leaders gathering more than 360 participants

Monitoring the replication projects

Validation workshops coordinated by Enercoop:

- First familiarization with the monitoring tool
- Second tailored to the needs of practitioners

Monitoring tool used to assess their overall progress

5. Empowering communities across Europe

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Objectives

- Exploit and disseminate the SCCALE approach through capacity building on a wider scale, reaching out to a wider target group interested in the SCCALE methodology and tools
- Focus on increasing the range and adoption of the tools within the project, enabling their market-uptake during and beyond the project.
- Encourage additional local communities to launch similar dynamics by widely disseminating the results of the toolkit across other cities/communities throughout Europe and showcase the advantages of the innovative models deployed.

Empowerment and exploitation strategy

The exploitation strategy captures the proactive work involved in planning and carrying out 5 capacity building workshops in: Spain, Italy, Estonia, Serbia and Romania.

Mapping of key contacts or organisations & cities working in the field of community energy

(This work has not been published)

SCCALE Capacity Building Tour

- Brasov, Romania (September 2023)
- Kragujevac, Serbia (September 2023)
- Modena, Italy (October 2023)
- Tallinn, Estonia (November 2023)
- Madrid, Spain (February 2024)

Engaging a total of 167 citizens and public officials thanks to a collaboration with national organisations.

Providing support to starting energy communities in Europe

A decentralized helpdesk model:

1 – REScoop.eu manages a **network of national experts at European level**, provides capacity-building material and activities (i.e. guides and tools, online trainings), responds to general questions, redirects specific requests to:

2 - National experts (from national federations of energy communities) provide **advice adapted to the local context**, opportunities and barriers in their native language, put starters in touch with relevant actors

6. EU Communication and advocacy

Reinforcing the "community power" narrative

- By promoting the SCCALE approach at the European level
- By raising awareness among policy makers at the European level about the opportunities and obstacles linked to the market uptake of community energy services
- Via dedicated communication channels to reach out to the local communities in the identified deployment sites

YOU CAN SHAPE THE ENERGY TRANSITION

GET INVOLVED! GET INVOLVED! GET INVOLVED!

City stories podcast – SCCALE 203050 Series

Different perspectives on community energy

1. **Balancing unjust power relations through energy communities**
2. **How can we become energy citizens?**
3. **Living well with less energy**
4. **Governments should listen and learn from energy communities**
5. **How to combine historic richness with innovative energy projects?**
6. **How to give birth to an energy cooperative?**
7. **Financing**
8. **Czech Energy Transition**
9. **The incredible power of energy communities**
10. **Public procurement and community energy**
11. **Inclusive Power**
12. **An emerging heat community in the Netherlands**
13. **Energy Communities and Degrowth**
14. **Community energy strategies in a small paradise in Croatia**
15. **Facing opposition to community energy projects**

Dissemination to relevant stakeholders and initiatives

Participation to more than 60 events at EU-level and national/regional level.

NEWS ARTICLE | 7 December 2022

Community Energy Municipal Guide - SCCALE 20-30-50

The Community Energy Municipal Guide will support municipalities to encourage
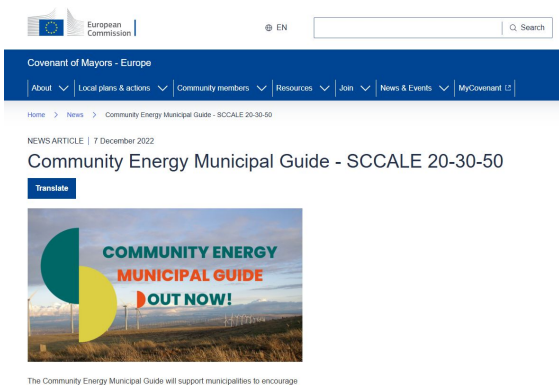
SCCALE will be presented at CINEA's Green Talks 2022.

Local authorities supporting energy communities : Sharing experience on citizen engagement

WORKSHOP
Monday
June 19th
2:00PM - 4:30PM
Brussels

Come and share your expertise !
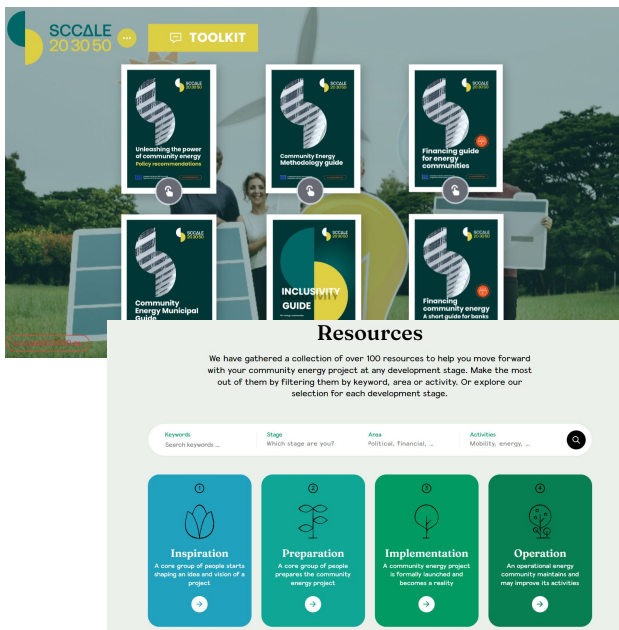
Communicating the toolkit

An [interactive presentation of the toolkit](#) is available to the public.

Highlight of key content for each tool in 5 languages (English, [Dutch](#), [French](#), [Croatian](#) and [Greek](#)).

All guides are also featured on the SCCALE website and the Energy Community Platform.

Advocacy to European policy makers

4 high level policy events at the EU
Sustainable Energy Weeks

- Hundreds of participants
- Key areas: investment, just transition, energy system transformation

Meetings with EU policy makers

7. Learnings for future projects

Key takeaways

- The first step towards collaboration between municipalities and energy communities is to build trust. A crucial prerequisite for innovation is also the provision of space for experimentation.
- The time has come to broaden our focus from community renewable *electricity* projects to community *energy* projects, also including community-owned district heating solutions as well as energy saving measures. Combining energy saving awareness measures with energy generation in energy communities has yielded positive results.
- To enable their active participation in the energy transition, citizens should be supported and relieved of administrative burdens. The implementation of replication projects may benefit from the collaboration of citizens with relevant energy professionals.

- The success of the capacity building activities at the local level is often influenced by the availability of tools and resources in local languages that can be used by the local communities. For specific target groups, self-learning capacity building materials are also considered beneficial. Therefore, EU funding institutions should support the translation and local adaptation of the tools generated by EU-funded projects.
- Projects like SCCALE, focusing on capacity building, should also ensure parallel work on policy co-creation (e.g., through country desk formats). In this way, policies can evolve and keep pace with the technical and regulatory aspects of the project's pilots.
- As the energy community sector continues to grow and mature, REScoop.eu and its network are solicited by an exponentially increasing number of stakeholders looking to understand the EU policy context, how to apply it to their national context, and how to implement projects and/or acquire financing. REScoop.eu, the Energy Community Platform and the tools developed in the context SCCALE can and will make a significant contribution to that mission.

- Supporting EU and national policy makers in developing strong legislative and policy frameworks for energy communities will remain crucial in the following years to increase the deployment of renewable energy and energy savings projects while strengthening local economies and citizen participation.
- REScoop.eu acts as a channel between civil society and the EU institutions by providing coordinated policy input in the areas of energy & climate action. National federations shall follow that same example and act as channel between their civil society and their national authorities at national level. Capacity building activities with a particular focus on strengthening national federations will be crucial in that regard.

Recommendations

1. EU and national programmes shall put emphasis on supporting energy communities and the development of One Stop Shops with enhanced capacity-building activities related to policy/advocacy as well as project development and financing.

2. EU and national programmes shall continue to foster collaboration between local actors including citizens, municipalities and SMEs. Energy agencies shall be considered as an important actor who can bridge the gap between citizens and municipalities and foster collaboration with SMEs.

3. EU and national programmes shall emphasise the development of blueprints and schemes with a high potential for replication and market uptake by Member States and lower levels.

CONTACT

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