

National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs)

Understanding the legislation and
the Dialogue Platform concept

NECPlatform



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Understanding the legislation



Regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union

The Regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union has redefined how the European Union (EU) and its Member States (MS) **plan and deliver on the EU's energy and climate goals**. It has also established a **governance mechanism** that should ensure that the EU complies with its commitment to the Paris Agreement.

The Energy Union Governance framework will **enable the EU to track MS' progress in implementing the 5 pillars of the Energy Union strategy**: (1) decarbonisation, (2) energy efficiency, (3) energy security, (4) internal market and (5) research and innovation.



Article 11

Under Article 11 of the regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action, the EU stresses that MS shall establish a multi-level climate and energy dialogue to deliver on the clean energy transition and the European Green Deal.

Within these dialogues, local and regional authorities, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), businesses, investors, other stakeholders and the public are enabled to engage and discuss the different scenarios for national and climate policies in the short and long-term and review progress made, including the integrated NECP.



NECPs

Under this regulation, all MS are required to develop **National Energy and Climate Plans (NECP)** covering the period from 2021 to 2030. These plans have been submitted in 2020 and will be updated in 2023 (draft) and 2024 (final version). The NECPs are a key pillar to delivering on the EU's 2030 climate targets and driving forward the implementation of the EU Green Deal and the climate neutrality objective by 2050. The implementation of the EU Green Deal is not only dependant on the Energy Union but on a wide range of policy processes and legislations at EU (such as the Fit-for-55 package), national (such as Long-Term Renovation Strategies - LTRS and National Recovery and Resilience Plans), and local levels (such as Sustainable Energy Climate and Action Plans) that are interdependent. Achieving a climate-neutral EU implies complex governance arrangements due to the multi-actor and multi-level dimensions of the challenge.

Assessment of the final NECPs submitted in 2020

In its assessment of the final NECPs submitted by EU MS, the EC recognised that this is not yet visible at national level, most notably in the submitted national plans. In its analysis of the NECPs, Energy Cities found that **most EU countries fail to leverage cities' key role and view the role of local authorities in a top-down process**.

Local authorities are mostly referred to for their need to get higher and financial capacities and their key role in implementing national laws and programmes. In addition, MS mostly ignored Article 11 on multi-level energy and climate dialogue. The EC recommended that nearly all MS should start leveraging the multi-level energy and climate dialogue for their NECPs.



Guidelines for the next draft of NECPs

In the latest Guidance to Member States for the updates of their NECPs, published in December 2022, the European Commission emphasises the need to provide a platform “to discuss with stakeholders the different scenarios envisaged for energy and climate policies and achieving the EU's climate-neutrality objective set out in the Climate Law”, mentioning the NECPlatform Project.

Understanding the Dialogue Platforms

Multi-level Governance

Rather than just a top-down approach, in which national representatives draft and decide on policies with which sub-national actors must align, Multilevel Governance (MLG) builds on:

- ▶ **Vertical integration** to enhance higher-level decisions and align them to sub-national needs;
- ▶ **Horizontal integration**: engage peers at the same level to ensure synergies and avoid overlaps.

MLG not only requires institutional arrangements (dialogue platforms), but also information-sharing and capacity-building across all governance levels. It is necessary that the national level provides the necessary information, resources and tools that specifically strengthen the actions of local actors.

In this project, a vertical and horizontal integration will be facilitated at different stages of climate policies at EU, national and local levels:



Planning: adopting coordinated and harmonised energy and climate objectives and priorities considering the sub-national needs to foster shared ownership;



Implementation: coordinated and combined implementation of energy and climate-related actions by EU, national, regional and local authorities to maximise their impact and ensure synergies;



Monitoring: results and lessons learned from local and regional authorities are captured, shared and integrated into ongoing decision-making and upcoming revision of national policies (e.g. national governments should leverage good practices from local authorities by identifying, disseminating and fostering their replication when possible).

Climate and Energy Dialogue Platforms (CEDs)

The Climate and Energy Dialogue Platforms – that will be implemented in the 6 focus countries – will bring together a wide variety of participants ranging from different administrative levels (e.g. local, regional) to other stakeholders (e.g. industry, finance, civil society) who are already or should be involved in the NECP policy cycle.

The mission of the platform is to establish and strengthen a dialogue between relevant national Ministries, lower levels of administration (including local authorities), national and/or local and regional energy and environment agencies, and representatives of civil society and other relevant stakeholders.



The aim is to facilitate vertical and horizontal integration of energy and climate policies and help MS comply with Article 11 of Governance Regulation resulting in ambitious updated NECPs.

The platform will also facilitate exchange of information and capacity development among relevant stakeholders to ensure coordination and synergies between various levels.

The platforms will be led by national project partners in cooperation with the Ministry in charge of the NECP in each participating country. After the end of the project, the Ministries in charge of NECPs will become the actual lead of the platforms.

[See here](#) how the Platforms are being implemented in each focus country