






Both citizen energy cooperatives and local authorities have been frontrunners of the energy transition. However, there are still many obstacles when it comes to fully unlocking a 100% community-led renewable energy transition. Due to many factors many municipalities do not yet give enough priority to clean community energy. As a result, they develop too little renewable energy infrastructure, internal capacities, and provide insufficient support to others.

On the other hand, the community approach is not always valued by citizens, especially in the South-Eastern part of Europe. The LIFE LOOP project connects local and regional governments and energy cooperatives. Together they'll set up community energy projects in their neighbourhoods.

What are energy communities?

An energy community is a group of people and organisations who decide together to produce their own clean energy. By pooling their resources, community members can invest in renewable energy technologies like solar panels or wind turbines and share the benefits of the energy generated.

Advantages of community-owned energy

-  Producing one's own renewables production reduces reliance, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and supporting the transition to a low-carbon economy.
-  Lower energy bills and less energy poverty in the local area.
-  Higher social acceptance of renewable energy and increased awareness of energy and climate issues.
-  Spaces for education and community engagement.
-  Keeps money in the local economy and contributes to a more circular economy.

A diverse team behind LIFE LOOP

European networks



RESCOOP.EU

Energy cooperatives



Cooperativa de Energia



Local authorities & agencies



Center for Social Innovation



Δήμος Λευκωσίας
Nicosia Municipality



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LIFE LOOP
supports cities
and citizens
in creating their
energy community

lifeloop
local ownership of power

LIFE LOOP objectives



Build capacity, empowering local and regional governments, their residents and others to engage in new partnerships and projects around clean community energy.



Reduce regulatory hurdles for community energy.



Ensure people of all genders and abilities are empowered to participate on equal terms in energy communities.



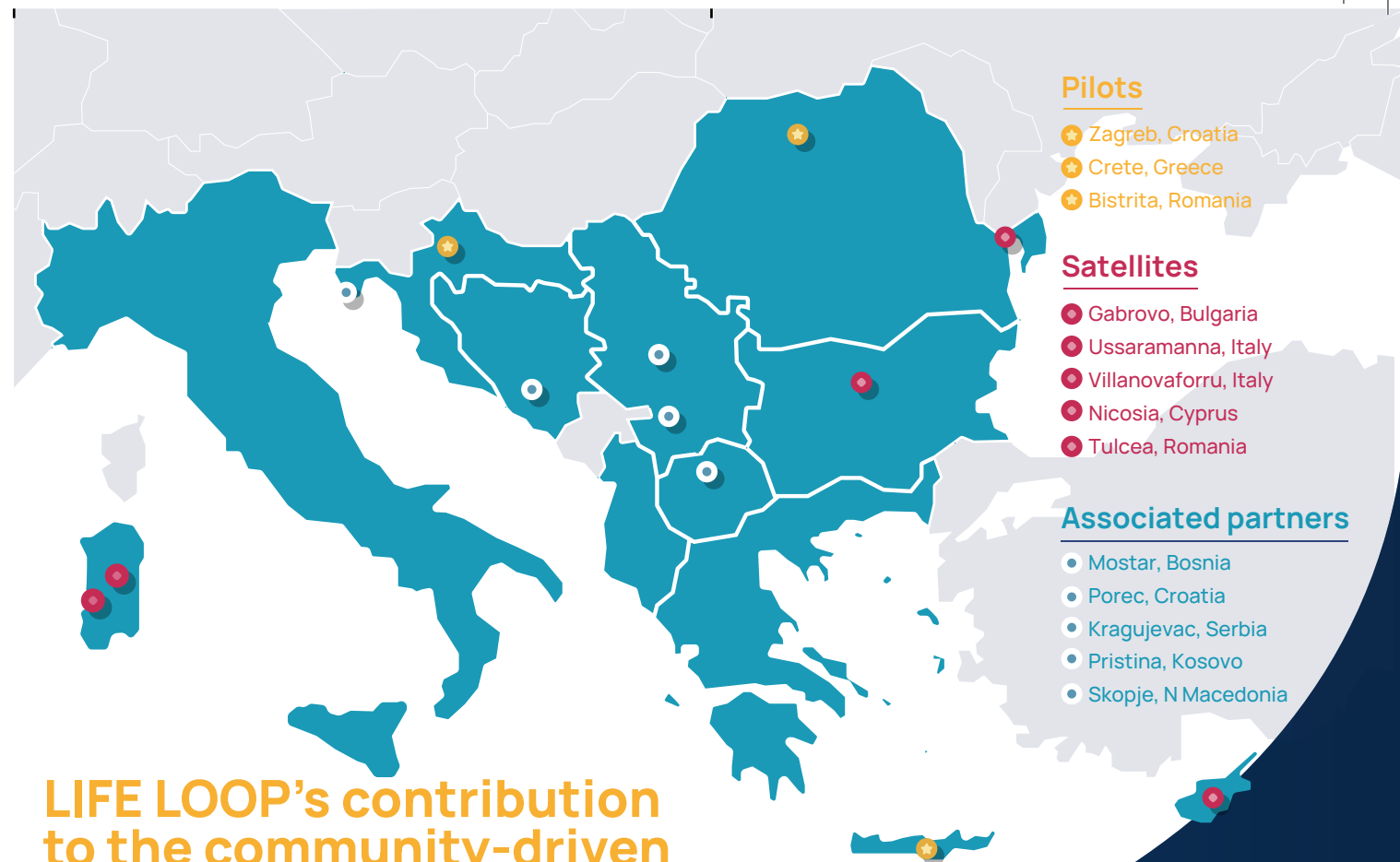
Focus on community solar and energy efficiency whilst exploring opportunities for wind, biomass, micro-hydro and clean transport.



Secure funding to create new community energy initiatives.



Wider participation through a community energy-friendly training and award programme for municipalities, a resource library and match-making tools.



LIFE LOOP's contribution to the community-driven transition

11.7 GWh
clean community-led energy

25,650
people involved

35
new community energy projects

950
officials equipped with new skills

16.8 m €
investment in community energy

14 ^{first} **50** ^{then} **500** ^{then}
authorities accredited as "community-friendly city"

We want to foster city-citizen collaboration in those parts of Europe where community energy is still in its infancy. LIFE LOOP will first take shape in three pilot areas: Zagreb, Bistrita and the island of Crete. Through local campaigns they will raise awareness and mobilise citizens for community-owned renewable energy.

The three pilots will then share their experience with Gabrovo in Bulgaria, Ussaramanna and Villanovaforru in Italy, Nicosia in Cyprus and Tulcea in Romania. Those "satellites" will closely follow the pilot activities and will be supported in setting their own community energy targets and making their own projects come true. And in order to spread the community energy fever even further, LIFE LOOP will work with associated partners in Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia, Kosovo and North Macedonia.