Community energy capacity-building programme

lifeloop
local ownership of power

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STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

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PROJECT INFORMATION

- Project name: LIFE LOOP - Energy Communities – Local Ownership of Power
- Grant agreement number: 101077085
- Project duration: 2022-2025
- Project coordinator: Energy Cities

Contents

Introduction

It is undeniable that more capacity needs to be built for the development of energy communities through the collaboration between citizen energy initiatives and local municipalities. A capacity-building program for community energy should involve a variety of activities and resources to support the development of community energy projects and the involvement of local municipalities and citizens. There is also no doubt that the more tailored and needs-based the capacity building effort, the better the results. Moreover, a range of resources and support should be provided to enable the successful development and implementation of community energy projects. This report builds on the results of LIFE LOOP's Barriers and Opportunities survey (D2.3) as well as the completed pilot assessment (D2.2).

The purpose of the capacity building programme is to support the further development and implementation of the community energy vision of the pilot regions, focusing especially on the achievement of the pilots' individual contribution to the impact of the LIFE LOOP project. These impacts involve the initiation of new citizen-led energy projects, the number of additional citizens involved and informed about community energy, increased energy savings and renewable energy generation, increased investment in community energy, and triggered carbon savings, among others (see table A in Annex).

The modules proposed on the next pages will be performed in parallel with the sessions on (1) stakeholder mapping and pilot analysis; (2) matchmaking, and (3) community energy roadmaps.
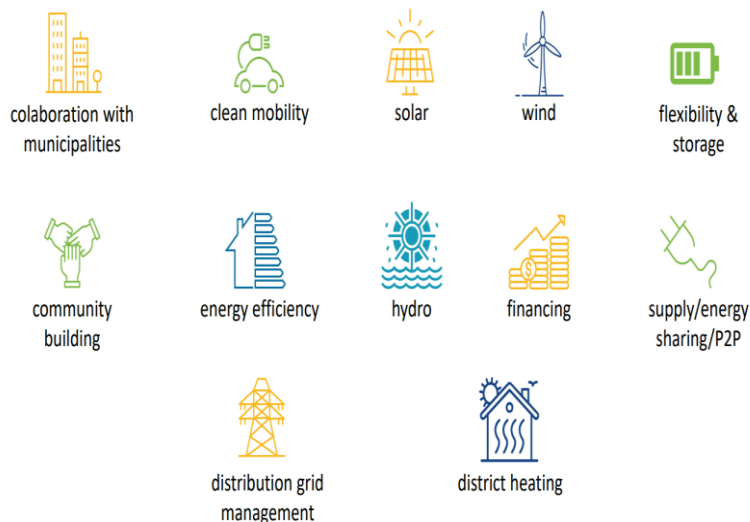

Figure 1. The different capacity building areas of LIFE LOOP

The training and workshop modules should be considered as one important pillar of the overall LIFE LOOP capacity-building methodology. The different elements of the LIFE LOOP approach are:

1. **Training and Workshops**: The program offers training sessions and workshops on various topics related to community energy, such as renewable energy technologies, energy efficiency, financing models, community engagement, and project management. These sessions will be delivered in-person or online and are tailored to the specific needs of the participants. The details of these training sessions are listed below.

2. **Coaching and Mentoring:** Through the ongoing conversations and LIFE LOOP activities performed by our project partners, coaching and mentoring services are offered to our pilots and satellites to develop and implement their community energy projects.

3. **Networking and Matchmaking**: The LIFE LOOP programme facilitates networking and matchmaking opportunities to connect community energy initiatives with potential partners, such as local municipalities, investors, and other community groups. The details of the matchmaking programme will be elaborated in D5.3.

4. **Knowledge Sharing and Resources**: The program will provide access to resources and information on community energy projects, such as case studies, best practices, and toolkits. These resources will be collected in the LIFE LOOP toolbox.

5. **Pilot Projects**: The LIFE LOOP program offers support for pilot community energy projects to help participants gain hands-on experience and test new ideas. Our pilot projects will serve as models for scaling up community energy initiatives in the future.

The overview that follows includes a short description of the different capacity-building modules recommended, the concrete goals of these modules, and some indicative resources that will be used to meet these goals. These span from online material and tools to some targeted coaching and training formats already applied by the REScoop.eu and Energy Cities team.

Capacity building programme for Bistrita, Romania

Context

The municipality of Bistrita has already developed a long-term strategy to address climate change and has demonstrated its commitment to renewable energy , and reducing its energy consumption. However, the city requires targeted support to increase citizen engagement and participation in the local energy transition.

Overarching aim

The LIFE LOOP capacity building programme in Romania aims to increase citizens' and local municipalities' awareness and understanding of community energy and citizen involvement in local energy projects. The program provides the relevant social, financial, and technical background on energy communities. Another objective is to enhance the skills of civil servants and other relevant local actors, and empower them to prepare for the establishment of city-citizen collaborative energy projects, and ideally an energy community with the involvement of the municipality

Module	Goal	Time	Indicative Resources
Useful resources for all modules:			
A Best Practise Guide for South-East Europe and the Balkans, featuring various cases of energy communities in the region, as well as their various business models: https://www.rescoop.eu/toolbox/best-practice-guide-for-southeast-europe			
A community energy overview guide in 9 different languages on energy communities, including best practises from across Europe: https://www.rescoop.eu/toolbox/community-energy-a-practical-guide-to-reclaiming-power			

| Introduction to Community Energy | This module aims to help participants get acquainted with the concept of community energy, learn and get inspired by some existing initiatives in the region and beyond. Participants will also be introduced to the main legal provisions on community energy in Romania. | 4 h | A comprehensive video about the 7 cooperative principles with examples from energy cooperatives: https://youtu.be/xjlHRDWqOCo

A documentary on community energy across various European countries produced by Patagonia (various subtitles available): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75A9WGxoUn8&t=10s

BENG Energy Cooperative Germany https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8vVA0M0zb4

Hyperion – Electra Energy Cooperative Greece https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Opjz2shuhZk&t=305s

Green Energy Cooperative ZEZ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WuYBYCW-L3c

Citizen.Power.Energy Germany https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFmJOEtw3Xo |
| Storytelling and community mobilisation | This module will support participants to get more visibility for their energy community. It will enable them to learn how to make their | 2h | Community energy communications guide: https://energycommunityplatform.eu/resources/community-energy-community-energy-communications-at-the-local-level/ Success stories REScoop.eu: an overview of on the ground success |

	community energy narrative impactful and powerful.		stories of community energy projects showing that people all over Europe are accelerating the movement towards a cleaner and democratic system: https://www.rescoop.eu/news-and-events/stories
Community building and engagement, coalition building and networking	This module will enable participants to learn and apply techniques to understand the community around them and create a (members) engagement strategy to attract new people and keep them on board. Special attention will be given to inclusivity issues and tools for the involvement of vulnerable households. Women mobilisation and engagement in energy communities will also be addressed.	5h	The LICHT approach https://www.rescoop.eu/uploads/rescoop/downloads/LICHT-methodology.pdf Local stakeholder and networks https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_1veeo7a2w&list=PLtExF_IVZd8gPeZckPbRR1basX9Rvo3fZ&index=11 Ambition statement of REScoop.eu's Gender Power working group: https://www.rescoop.eu/news-and-events/news/ambition-statement-of-our-gender-power-working-group Women empower energy communities: EUCENA launches its gender and energy sessions: https://www.rescoop.eu/news-and-events/news/eucena-launches-its-gender-and-energy-sessions

| | | | Tools and instruments for gender-just energy communities. EUCENA Gender and Energy Session #2: https://www.rescoop.eu/news-and-events/news/tools-and-instruments-for-gender-just-energy-communities-eucena-gender-and-energy-session-2-as-it-happened

Gender targets and gender tools for energy communities. EUCENA Gender and Energy session #3: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QMXrSbZSne4

EUCENA Gender Training and Awareness Raising https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qZByb-cntMs

EUCENA Women Empowerment Program: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GxxVREMhH_k

Gender survey of energy cooperatives – A summary with recommendations: https://www.rescoop.eu/toolbox/gender-survey-of-energy-cooperatives-a-summary-with-recommendations |
|---|---|---|---|

| Renewable energy production, collective self-consumption, energy sharing, energy efficiency, shared e-mobility | The main objective of this module is to make sure that local stakeholders have relevant information to decide what specific project they want to focus on. | 3h | Technical Components https://citizenenergy.academy/course/course-7-technical-components/

The Currency of Renewables: kW and kWh https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pUz463nycL4

Renewable energy production https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9BdB9J9IAbU

On-site consumption, feed-in-tariff and energy sharing https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dkQscwzSNNo

Collective self-consumption: 1st Community in Greece https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JjYRiaMVtyM

Storage, stationary and neighborhood batteries, batteries on wheels https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YYxe996Nar8

Electric mobility and car sharing https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b03nNPgMdMA |
|---|---|---|---|

			Cooperative Local E-Car Sharing and the European Network https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6AFMZ6dgmK8
Financing and funding for energy communities	This module will introduce participants to the potential public and private financing challenges and opportunities for energy communities in Europe.	3h	A financing guide for energy communities, with available resources and tools, as well as best practice examples from across Europe: https://energycommunityplatform.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/SCCALE203050_financingguide_energycommunities.pdf
			A guide designed for managing authorities on how to design procurement criteria around energy communities: https://www.rescoop.eu/toolbox/procurement-guide-for-community-energy
			A short guide for banks on financing community energy https://www.sccale203050.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/SCCALE203050_Financing-community-energy_A-short-guide-for-banks.pdf
			Crowdfunding https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x-IyrLRwhJQ

			Crowd-lending & Micro-loans https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZW4ypg7tzRc A comprehensive guide on available tools that energy communities can leverage for financing: https://www.rescoop.eu/toolbox/compile-toolkit-financing-guide A briefing by REScoop.eu, CAN-EU and BankWatch on how public funds (Cohesion, Recovery & Resilience, Modernization) should be leveraged to promote energy communities https://www.rescoop.eu/toolbox/briefing-public-financing-opportunities-for-energy-communities-in-europe Main opportunities and barriers to finance for energy communities : a report by Friends of the Earth Europe. https://friendsoftheearth.eu/publication/eu-energy-communities-barriers-opportunities-financing/
Community energy Roadmaps	Community energy roadmaps can help strengthen the collaboration between cities and citizen energy initiatives and guide the project	4h	How cities can back renewable energy communities. Guidelines for local and regional policy makers: https://energy-cities.eu/publication/how-cities-can-back-renewable-energy-communities/

	development process. In this module good practices and tips on how to develop a community energy roadmap will be shared		Local energy and climate roadmaps: Five city vision for 2050: https://energy-cities.eu/publication/local-energy-and-climate-roadmaps

Community Energy Municipal Guide SCCALE 203050: https://www.sccale203050.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/SCCALE-Municipal-Guide-Final-view.pdf

TOMORROW's toolbox provides the inspiration and guidance necessary to develop your city's transition roadmaps. Get inspired by innovative energy transition practices and remarkable transition roadmaps in different cities in Europe! https://www.citiesoftomorrow.eu/resources/toolbox/ |

Capacity building programme for Zagreb, Croatia

Context

ZEZ has a track record of developing small-scale donation-based and investment-based energy projects. However, even these small projects require supporting mechanisms for successful implementation.

Overarching aim

The LIFE LOOP capacity-building programme in Croatia aims to support the involvement of public authorities, especially local municipalities, in the local energy community, following the cooperative principles. The capacity-building sessions will focus on raising awareness on energy communities and their benefits, particularly through collaboration with local municipalities. Special attention will be given to community building and citizen involvement, with a particular emphasis on engaging women.

Module	Goal	Time	Indicative Resources
Useful resources for all modules: A Best Practise Guide for South-East Europe and the Balkans, featuring various cases of energy communities in the region, as well as their various business models: https://www.rescoop.eu/toolbox/best-practice-guide-for-southeast-europe A community energy overview guide in 9 different languages on energy communities, including best practises from across Europe: https://www.rescoop.eu/toolbox/community-energy-a-practical-guide-to-reclaiming-power			
Establishing the ground for collaboration: public procurement	This module will help participants learn and get inspiration and advice from cities that have already experience with	2h	A guide designed for managing authorities on how to design procurement criteria around energy communities: https://www.rescoop.eu/toolbox/procurement-guide-for-community-energy

	public procurement tailored to citizen-driven energy initiatives, such as the city of Strasbourg in France and the city of Eeklo in Belgium		A comprehensive guide on available tools that energy communities can leverage for financing: https://www.rescoop.eu/toolbox/compile-toolkit-financing-guide A briefing by REScoop.eu, CAN-EU and BankWatch on how public funds (Cohesion, Recovery & Resilience, Modernization) should be leveraged to promote energy communities https://www.rescoop.eu/toolbox/briefing-public-financing-opportunities-for-energy-communities-in-europe
Rising awareness on the benefits of energy communities		2h	Mapping the social impact of energy communities https://www.rescoop.eu/uploads/rescoop/downloads/Mapping-the-Social-Impact-of-Energy-Communities.pdf
Storytelling and community mobilisation	This module will support participants to get more visibility for their energy community. It will enable them to learn how to make their community energy narrative impactful and powerful.	2h	Community energy communications guide: https://energycommunityplatform.eu/resources/community-energy-community-energy-communications-at-the-local-level/ Success stories REScoop.eu: an overview of on the ground success stories of community energy projects showing that people all over Europe are accelerating the movement towards a cleaner and democratic system: https://www.rescoop.eu/news-and-events/stories

Municipal community energy targets and support from citizen driven energy initiatives	Cities have already set their municipal targets for renewable energy. This module will provide knowledge and build capacity on how local municipalities and civil servants can reach their goals by linking with local citizen initiatives	2h	"Collective mobilisation is the key to success in tackling the climate crisis" What we can learn from 6 cities that are designing their energy transitions from the bottom up https://energy-cities.eu/collective-mobilisation-is-the-key-to-success-in-tackling-the-climate-crisis/ Community Energy Municipal Guide SCCALE 203050: https://www.sccale203050.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/SCCALE-Municipal-Guide-Final-view.pdf Community Energy: A practical guide to reclaiming power – summaries on the role of local authorities https://www.rescoop.eu/toolbox/community-energy-a-practical-guide-to-reclaiming-power-summaries-on-the-role-of-local-authorities ENGAGE Campaign guidebook for cities Involve local actors … and achieve your energy & climate objectives https://energy-cities.eu/publication/engage-campaign/
Community energy Roadmaps	Community energy roadmaps can help strengthen the collaboration between cities and citizen energy initiatives and	4h	How cities can back renewable energy communities. Guidelines for local and regional policy makers: https://energy-cities.eu/publication/how-cities-can-back-renewable-energy-communities/

| | guide the project development process. In this module good practices and tips on how to develop a community energy roadmap will be shared | | Local energy and climate roadmaps: Five city vision for 2050: https://energy-cities.eu/publication/local-energy-and-climate-roadmaps

Community Energy Municipal Guide SCCALE 203050: https://www.sccale203050.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/SCCALE-Municipal-Guide-Final-view.pdf

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Capacity building programme for Crete, Greece

Context

Minoan Energy Community has attracted significant citizen participation and has established strong partnerships with several municipalities in Crete. The supporting legal framework enabled Minoan to successfully develop nearly 1,500 kW of community-owned solar PV.

Overarching aim

The LIFE LOOP capacity-building program in Greece aims to further involve municipalities in local energy communities following the cooperative principles. Special attention will be given to community building and citizen involvement, with a particular emphasis on engaging women. The capacity-building sessions will also provide information on technical possibilities and alternative business models for energy communities.

Module	Goal	Time	Indicative Resources
Useful resources for all modules: A Best Practise Guide for South-East Europe and the Balkans, featuring various cases of energy communities in the region, as well as their various business models: https://www.rescoop.eu/toolbox/best-practice-guide-for-southeast-europe A community energy overview guide in 9 different languages on energy communities, including best practises from across Europe: https://www.rescoop.eu/toolbox/community-energy-a-practical-guide-to-reclaiming-power			
Introduction to Community Energy	This module aims to help participants get acquainted with the concept of community energy, learn and get inspired by some	3h	A comprehensive video about the 7 cooperative principles with examples from energy cooperatives: https://youtu.be/xjlHRDWqOCo

	existing initiatives in the region and beyond. Participants will also be introduced to the main legal provisions on community energy in Greece.		A documentary on community energy across various European countries produced by Patagonia (various subtitles available): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75A9WGxoUn8&t=10s BENG Energy Cooperative Germany https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8vVA0M0zb4 Hyperion – Electra Energy Cooperative Greece https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Opjz2shuhZk&t=305s Green Energy Cooperative ZEZ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WuYBYCW-L3c Citizen.Power.Energy Germany https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFmJOEtw3Xo
Community building and engagement, coalition building and networking	This module will enable participants to learn and apply techniques to understand the community around them and create a (members) engagement strategy to attract new people and keep them on board.	5h	The LICHT approach https://www.rescoop.eu/uploads/rescoop/downloads/LICHT-methodology.pdf Local stakeholder and networks https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_1veeo7a2w&list=PLtExF_IVZd8gPeZckPbRR1basX9Rvo3fZ&index=11

	Special attention will be given to inclusivity issues and tools for the involvement of vulnerable households. Women mobilisation and engagement in energy communities will also be addressed.		Ambition statement of REScoop.eu's Gender Power working group: https://www.rescoop.eu/news-and-events/news/ambition-statement-of-our-gender-power-working-group

Women empower energy communities: EUCENA launches its gender and energy sessions: https://www.rescoop.eu/news-and-events/news/eucena-launches-its-gender-and-energy-sessions

Tools and instruments for gender-just energy communities. EUCENA Gender and Energy Session #2: https://www.rescoop.eu/news-and-events/news/tools-and-instruments-for-gender-just-energy-communities-eucena-gender-and-energy-session-2-as-it-happened

Gender targets and gender tools for energy communities. EUCENA Gender and Energy session #3: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QMXrSbZSne4

EUCENA Gender Training and Awareness Raising https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qZByb-cntMs

EUCENA Women Empowerment Program: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GxxVREMhH_k |

			Gender survey of energy cooperatives – A summary with recommendations: https://www.rescoop.eu/toolbox/gender-survey-of-energy-cooperatives-a-summary-with-recommendations
Renewable energy production, collective self-consumption, energy sharing, energy efficiency, shared e-mobility	The main objective of this module is to make sure that local stakeholders have relevant information to decide what specific project they want to focus on.	3h	Technical Components https://citizenenergy.academy/course/course-7-technical-components/ Renewable energy production https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9BdB9J9IAbU On-site consumption, feed-in-tariff and energy sharing https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dkQscwzSNNo Collective self-consumption: 1st Community in Greece https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JjYRiaMVtyM Storage, stationary and neighborhood batteries, batteries on wheels https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YYxe996Nar8 Electric mobility and car sharing https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b03nNPgMdMA

			Cooperative Local E-Car Sharing and the European Network https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6AFMZ6dgmK8
Demand Response	This module aims to clarify the opportunities and the challenges that flexibility-related business models may bring along.	2h	Flexibility services for energy cooperatives https://www.rescoopvpp.eu/blog/brand-new-report-on-flexibility-services-for-energy-cooperatives
Financing and funding for energy communities: public procurement	This module will help participants learn and get inspiration and advice from cities that have already experience with public procurement tailored to citizen-driven energy initiatives, such as the city of Strasbourg in France and the city of Eeklo in Belgium	2h	A financing guide for energy communities, with available resources and tools, as well as best practice examples from across Europe: https://energycommunityplatform.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/SCCALE203050_financingguide_energycommunities.pdf A guide designed for managing authorities on how to design procurement criteria around energy communities: https://www.rescoop.eu/toolbox/procurement-guide-for-community-energy A comprehensive guide on available tools that energy communities can leverage for financing: https://www.rescoop.eu/toolbox/compile-toolkit-financing-guide

			A short guide for banks on financing community energy
			https://www.sccale203050.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/SCCALE203050_Financing-community-energy_A-short-guide-for-banks.pdf
			A briefing by REScoop.eu, CAN–EU and BankWatch on how public funds (Cohesion, Recovery & Resilience, Modernization) should be leveraged to promote energy communities https://www.rescoop.eu/toolbox/briefing-public-financing-opportunities-for-energy-communities-in-europe
Community energy Roadmaps	Community energy roadmaps can help strengthen the collaboration between cities and citizen energy initiatives and guide the project development process. In this module good practices and tips on how to develop a community energy roadmap will be shared	4h	How cities can back renewable energy communities. Guidelines for local and regional policy makers: https://energy-cities.eu/publication/how-cities-can-back-renewable-energy-communities/ Local energy and climate roadmaps: Five city vision for 2050: https://energy-cities.eu/publication/local-energy-and-climate-roadmaps Community Energy Municipal Guide SCCALE 203050: https://www.sccale203050.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/SCCALE-Municipal-Guide-Final-view.pdf

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Annex

	Bistrita, Romania	Zagreb, Croatia	Crete, Greece
New citizen-led initiatives	5	5	5
(Municipal) actors with increased skills	175	150	200
Investment triggered (€)	5 580 000	3 000 000	4 000 000
CE energy savings (GWh)	6.00	0	0.80
Additional CE RE (GWh)	4.68	3.90	1.30
Authorities replicating	5	10	10
Citizens involved	700	10 000	10 000
Citizens informed	90 000	100 000	108 930
Carbon savings (tCO$_2$)	2 937	1 073	578

Table A1. Expected Impact of pilot areas (from LIFE LOOP proposal)