Stream-lined and adapted online Resource Library

Summary

LIFE LOOP

Working Package 5 (D5.1)

Updated Version: V2.1

lifel∞p
local ownership of power

Project Information

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	Public
Responsible Partner	Electra Energy Cooperative

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Introductory Remarks

The overall objective of WP5 is to simplify and enhance tools and develop new resources to make the development of community energy projects as easy and effective as possible for all stakeholders. This initiative is designed to make the process as straightforward and efficient as possible for all involved stakeholders, ensuring that they can easily access the necessary support and information.

In alignment with this goal, we have curated and developed a comprehensive Resource Library. This library encompasses a wide array of existing resources covering various pertinent topics, all unified by a common aim: to bolster the development of community energy projects. By developing and providing this centralized repository of knowledge, we aspire to empower municipalities and energy communities, fostering collaboration and the formation of synergistic partnerships. The Resource Library is intended to serve as a pivotal tool in bridging gaps, enhancing communication, and promoting the seamless integration of efforts across different entities involved in community energy initiatives.

Methodology and Analysis

In preparation for the Resource Library, the starting point was a thorough research and examination of all the existing resources included in relevant websites and toolkits produced not only by the project's partners but also by other EU-funded programs with similar scope and targets. This was done to ensure the resources selected and included in this library are relevant, high-quality, and useful for the objectives and actions planned for our pilots, satellites, and associated partners in the context of the LIFE LOOP project.

A significant and valuable source was the toolkit from the Energy Community Repository website, as well as the material gathered on the One-Stop Shop Energy Community Platform website. Through our collaboration with representatives and partners responsible for the aforementioned tools, the sources included in this library were selected and included.

1. Needs Assessment

An initial needs assessment was conducted to identify the key areas where resources were required in the context of the LIFE LOOP project. This involved consultations with the technical partners of the LIFE LOOP project, as well as with the project's pilots and satellites, to collectively review existing material and its relevance to the project's objectives. Specifically, aiming to facilitate the implementation process of the LIFE LOOP project and enhance the know-how of the project's pilots, satellites, and associated partners, the existing resources were examined, categorized, and ultimately selected based on their practicality and usefulness in relation to the actions, goals, and parameters set within the framework of the program.

In this direction, we took into account the needs primarily observed among the project's pilots, who are tasked with the majority of actions and measurable goals. Specifically, besides the general objective of the project, which is to strengthen synergies among energy communities, citizen-led initiatives, and local authorities, emphasis was placed on sources and materials that could facilitate the creation of energy communities, the development of community projects, best practices, strategic planning – creation of community energy roadmaps, communication issues, gender equality issues that horizontally govern these actions, and energy poverty issues.

2. Selection Criteria

The selection criteria for the resources included in the Resource Library were meticulously developed to ensure the highest relevance, practicality and quality. The criteria were based on the following key factors:

a. **Relevance to LIFE LOOP project objectives:** Resources were chosen based on their alignment with the specific goals and actions outlined in the LIFE LOOP project. This included supporting the creation and development of energy communities, fostering collaboration among citizen-led initiatives and local authorities, developing community energy projects, developing communication plans and community energy roadmaps and addressing issues of energy poverty and gender equality.

b. **Practicality and Usability:** The practicality of the resources was a primary consideration. Resources needed to provide actionable insights and practical guidance that could be applied by the project's pilots, satellites, and associated partners. This included guides, templates, best practices, good examples and case studies that offer clear, step-by-step guidance.

c. **Quality and Credibility:** The credibility of the sources was ensured by selecting material from reputable sources, including established EU-funded programmes, recognised organizations and recognised experts in the field. Resources were verified for accuracy, completeness and reliability.

d. **Comprehensiveness:** Resources were evaluated for their thoroughness in covering the necessary topics. Comprehensive resources that address multiple aspects of community energy projects, from initial planning, best practices in the Balkans and stakeholder engagement to technical implementation and long-term sustainability, were prioritized.

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3. Resource Collection – Detailed List of Resources

The selected resources were categorized into five main areas. These categories were chosen based on the thematic areas identified during the primary needs assessment as well based on the following discussion among consortium's partners and their interest on specific topics and areas:

No	Selected Resources	Reason for Selection (Relevance and Effectiveness)
1	Islands Transition Handbook – How to Develop your Island's Clean Energy Transition Agenda _Clean Energy for EU Islands	Practical Guidance to Energy Communities and Local Authorities in Developing their Community Energy Roadmap
2	Communication Guide – Community Energy Communications at the Local Level _REScoop.eu and Energy Cities	Practical Guidance to Energy Communities and Local Authorities in Communication Activities
3	Report on Municipal Roadmaps & Action Plans_LIFE LOOP Project	Good practical examples that can be replicated by other similar community energy projects
4	Report on municipal roadmaps & action plans–The Croatian Roadmap_ LIFE LOOP Project	Good practical examples that can be replicated by other similar community energy projects in Croatia
5	Report on municipal roadmaps & action plans–The Romanian Roadmap_ LIFE LOOP Project	Good practical examples that can be replicated by other similar community energy projects in Romania
6	Report on municipal roadmaps & action plans–The Greek Roadmap_ LIFE LOOP Project	Good practical examples that can be replicated by other similar community energy projects in Greece
7	Local Energy and Climate Roadmaps_5 City Visions for 2050_Energy Cities	Practical Guidance to Energy Communities and Local Authorities in Developing their Community Energy Roadmap
8	Financing Guide_Compile EU Project	Guide for the construction of the initiatives' financing plan.

9	*Emerging Business Models, Associated DR Strategies and Standard Contracts Templates_FlexCoop EU Project*	*Best practices and guidance for activities related to energy saving targets.*
10	*Structured overview of existing and emerging business models, related contractual conditions and recommendations for energy communities and collective actions_DECIDE EU Project*	*Offer insights into different existing and emerging approaches for business models that Energy Communities could use.*
11	*Handbook on Investment schemes for REScoop projects_REScoop 20-20-20*	*Practical Cases and Examples for Investment Schemes that could be utilized for financing community energy projects.*
12	*Community Power Financing_ Mobilization of public-private financing for community based sustainable energy projects in Central and Eastern Europe_Community Power – CEE – FEBEA*	*Entails good practices on the mobilization of public-private financing for the development of community energy projects.*
13	*Guidelines on renewable energy production business case: How to do, what to take into account_POWER UP EU Project*	*Covers the economic, technical and legal aspects related to the set-up of renewable energy installations by energy communities.*
14	*Report on organizational and legal forms and business models for RECs_COMERES EU Project*	*Entails existing and functioning organizational and legal forms, as well as business models that are already applied in Energy Communities.*
15	*REScoop Business Models_ REScoop 20-20-20*	*Offer insights into different existing and emerging approaches for business models that Energy Communities could use.*
16	*Financing Community Energy–A Short Guide for Banks_SCCALE203050*	*Helpful resources for advocacy actions for financing mechanisms and support measures at local level.*
17	*Financing Guide for Energy Communities_ SCCALE203050*	*Provides a very first introduction to community energy financing.*

18	*BEST PRACTICE GUIDE FOR SOUTHEAST EUROPE_Inspiring Community Energy Initiatives_EUCENA Project*	*Best Practices for Inspiring Energy Communities*
19	*Unleashing the power of community energy-Policy recommendations_SCCALE203050*	*Inspiration for Policy Recommendation and Advocacy at Local Level*
20	*Creating value and engaging citizens in the energy transition_The Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub*	*Guide for Developing Energy Communities*
21	*Joining or setting up a rural energy community_The Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub*	*Guide for Developing Energy Communities*
22	*The Social Impact of Energy Communities in Creece_HBS Thessaloniki, Electra Energy, REScoop.eu*	*Presentation of the impact of energy communities*
23	*How Cities can Back RECs_EnergyCities*	*Inspiration for Policy Recommendation and Advocacy at Local Level*
24	*The Municipal Guide_Compile EU Project*	*How Municipalities can support directly or indirectly energy communities and community energy projects*
25	*Community Energy Municipal_ SCCALE203050*	*Provides an overall presentation of how cities and energy communities can collaborate*
26	*Procurement Guide for Community Energy_ REScoop.eu*	*Means of Collaboration between Energy Communities and Municipalities*
27	*Municipalities and renewable energy communities – a perfect match_COMERES EU Project*	*Best practices of partnership between Energy Communities and Municipalities*
28	*Gender Just Climate Solutions_ WECF*	*Guide in developing strategies for inclusivity into the energy communities*
29	*GENDER EQUALITY TRAINING_ EIGE*	*Advancing gender equality into Energy Communities and Municipalities.*
30	*EU GENDER ACTION PLAN III_EU Commission*	*Inspiration*
31	*Gender Survey of Energy Cooperatives_ EUCENA Project*	*Provides recommendations based on existing practices in energy communities from a gender perspective.*

32	Towards a Gender- Transformative Organisation_ WECF	Toolkit for an assessment of organizational gender policies and practices
33	Horizon Europe Guidance on Gender Equality Plans_ EU Commission	Guide on the development of Gender Equality Plans of ECs
34	Inclusivity Guide_ SCCALE203050	Practical and Best examples of hos to make ECs more inclusive
35	RENEWABLE ENERGY: A GENDER PERSPECTIVE_ IRENA	Analysis on Women in Renewable Energy Inspiration
36	Women in Community Energy Through Openness to Diversity_WWEA, LEE NRW	Useful study on Women in Community Energy
37	Business models with a value proposition to vulnerable households: Exploration in 5 pilot cities_ POWER UP EU Project	Business models with a value proposition to vulnerable households – Inspiration
38	Are renewable energy communities a vehicle to mitigate the energy crisis and lift people out of energy poverty?_ 10 EU Projects	Provides recommendations based on existing actions of energy communities trying to mitigate energy poverty
39	Report on the European legal and regulatory environment for energy communities and energy poverty _ CEES EU Project	Overview of existing legislation and policy initiatives on energy poverty and energy communities,
40	Engaging with Vulnerable Households – A Practical Toolkit _ POWER UP EU Project	Practical Toolkit
41	How can RECs relieve Energy Poverty_ FoE	Ways and means of tackling energy poverty with energy communities
42	We the Power Documentary_Patagonia	Inspiration

4. Categorization of the Selected Resources

No	Category (Thematic Area)	Selected Resources
1	Community Engagement – Roadmaps	Islands Transition Handbook – How to Develop your Island's Clean Energy Transition Agenda _Clean Energy for EU Islands
		Communication Guide – Community Energy Communications at the Local Level _REScoop.eu and Energy Cities
		Report on Municipal Roadmaps & Action Plans_LIFE LOOP Project
		Report on municipal roadmaps & action plans–The Croatian Roadmap_ LIFE LOOP Project
		Report on municipal roadmaps & action plans–The Romanian Roadmap_ LIFE LOOP Project
		Report on municipal roadmaps & action plans–The Greek Roadmap_ LIFE LOOP Project
		Local Energy and Climate Roadmaps_5 City Visions for 2050_Energy Cities
2	Business Models and Financing Community Energy Projects	Financing Guide_Compile EU Project
		Emerging Business Models, Associated DR Strategies and Standard Contracts Templates_FlexCoop EU Project
		Structured overview of existing and emerging business models, related contractual conditions and recommendations for energy communities and collective actions_DECIDE EU Project
		Handbook on Investment schemes for REScoop projects_REScoop 20-20-20
		Community Power Financing_ Mobilization of public-private financing for community based sustainable energy projects in Central and Eastern Europe_Community Power – CEE – FEBEA
		Guidelines on renewable energy production business case: How to do, what to take into account_POWER UP EU Project

		Report on organizational and legal forms and business models for RECs_COMERES EU Project
		REScoop Business Models_ REScoop 20-20-20
		Financing Community Energy-A Short Guide for Banks_SCCALE203050
		Financing Guide for Energy Communities_ SCCALE203050
3	Capacity Building	BEST PRACTICE GUIDE FOR SOUTHEAST EUROPE_Inspiring Community Energy Initiatives_EUCENA Project
		Unleashing the power of community energy-Policy recommendations_SCCALE203050
		Creating value and engaging citizens in the energy transition_The Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub
		Joining or setting up a rural energy community_The Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub
		The Social Impact of Energy Communities in Greece_HBS Thessaloniki, Electra Energy, REScoop.eu
4	Match-making Linking Energy Communities with Municipalities	How Cities can Back RECs_EnergyCities
		The Municipal Guide_Compile EU Project
		Community Energy Municipal_ SCCALE203050
		Procurement Guide for Community Energy_ REScoop.eu
		Municipalities and renewable energy communities - a perfect match_COMERES EU Project
		Gender Just Climate Solutions_ WECF
		GENDER EQUALITY TRAINING_ EIGE
		EU GENDER ACTION PLAN III_EU Commission
		Gender Survey of Energy Cooperatives_ EUCENA Project
		Towards a Gender- Transformative Organisation_ WECF

5	Creation of (Gender) Inclusive Energy Communities	*Horizon Europe Guidance on Gender Equality Plans_ EU Commission*
		Inclusivity Guide_ SCCALE203050
		RENEWABLE ENERGY: A GENDER PERSPECTIVE_ IRENA
		Women in Community Energy Through Openness to Diversity_WWEA, LEE NRW
6	*Energy Poverty*	*Business models with a value proposition to vulnerable households: Exploration in 5 pilot cities_ POWER UP EU Project*
		Are renewable energy communities a vehicle to mitigate the energy crisis and lift people out of energy poverty? _ 10 EU Projects
		Report on the European legal and regulatory environment for energy communities and energy poverty _ CEES EU Project
		Engaging with Vulnerable Households – A Practical Toolkit _ POWER UP EU Project
		How can RECs relieve Energy Poverty_ FoE

- ❖ Energy Poverty

- ❖ Creation of (gender) Inclusive Energy Communities

- ❖ Business Models and Financial Management

- ❖ Community Engagement-Roadmaps

- ❖ Match-making/Linking Energy Communities and Local Authorities

- ❖ Capacity Building

Next Steps

Furthermore, following the completion of the capacity building programme organized under WP2 (D2.2) during the 2nd year of the project, we will proceed with the selection of the top (10) resources. This selection will be based on feedback from the pilots and workshop participants, evaluating the usefulness and effectiveness of the proposed resources on each topic. The chosen top 10 resources will then be translated into the local languages of the pilots, such as RO, GR, and HR.

Lastly, the translated resources will be shared on the Life LOOP's website and on the websites of the consortium partners (ENC, RESC, ZEZ, ELEC, CdE).

As the needs and the challenges of building and developing community energy projects are constantly changing, while the difficulties and the impediments differ in each country, we decided to enrich this Resource Library during the implementation of the project, based on the arising needs of the Consortium partners.

Conclusions

The streamlined and adapted online resource library provides a valuable repository of information, structured to meet the identified needs of the consortium. The selection process ensures that each resource is relevant, high-quality, and user-friendly.