



2nd Status Meeting of the German Country Desk 23.11.2022

SUMMARY REPORT

Date: 26.11.2022

Version: 0



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 953040. The sole responsibility for the content of this document lies with the COME RES project and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Union.

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AGENDA

Renewable Energy Communities in Times of Multiple Crises

Moderation: Dr. Bettina Knothe, Beraterin für Teilhabeorientierte Nachhaltigkeit

I Begrüßung und Einführung

09:50	Eröffnung des Konferenzraums, Technikcheck
10:00	Begrüßung <i>Dr. M. Rosaria Di Nucci, Freie Universität Berlin, Forschungszentrum für Nachhaltigkeit</i> <i>Prof. Dr. Dieter Sell, Thüringer Energie- und GreenTech-Agentur (ThEGA)</i>
10:10	Ziele des Statustreffens und Einführung in die Veranstaltung <i>Dr. Bettina Knothe, Beraterin für <u>Teilhabeorientierte Nachhaltigkeit</u></i>

II Aktuelle Ergebnisse des COME-RES-Projektes

10:20	Abschließende Aktivitäten und vorläufige Bilanz des COME RES-Projektes <i>Dr. M. Rosaria Di Nucci, Freie Universität Berlin, Forschungszentrum für Nachhaltigkeit</i>
10:40	Kurzstatement: Transfer des niederländischen Konzepts der Multifunktionalen Energiegärten nach Thüringen <i>Prof. Reinhard Guthke, BürgerEnergie Thüringen e.V.</i>
10:50	Umsetzung der RED II und Entwicklung eines Regulierungsrahmens für EE-Gemeinschaften in den COME RES-Partnerländern <i>Michael Krug, Freie Universität Berlin, Forschungszentrum für Nachhaltigkeit</i>
11:10	Diskussion
11:30	Kurze Pause

III Regulierungsrahmen für Erneuerbare-Energie-Gemeinschaften

11:45	Kurzvideo: Hindernisse bei der Umsetzung von Energy Sharing in Thüringen (MDR)
11:50	Umsetzung von Energy Sharing: Erfahrungen aus Österreich <i>Eva Dvorak, Koordinierungsstelle für Energiegemeinschaften</i>
12:10	Implementing Energy Sharing: Experience from Italy <i>Riccardo Novo, Kelso Institute Europe</i>
12:30	Vorschläge zur Umsetzung von Energy Sharing in Deutschland <i>Malte Zieher, Bündnis Bürgerenergie</i>
12:45	Diskussion
13:15	Mittagspause

IV Politikempfehlungen und Virtueller Runder Tisch mit Vertreter:innen aus Politik, Verwaltung und Verbänden

14:00	<p>Erkenntnisse aus dem COME RES-Projekt und ausgewählte Politikempfehlungen</p> <p><i>Michael Krug, Lucas Schwarz, Dr. M. Rosaria Di Nucci, Freie Universität Berlin, Forschungszentrum für Nachhaltigkeit</i></p>
14:20	<p>Thema: Wie können Energiegemeinschaften zur Bewältigung der aktuellen Energiekrisen beitragen und was sollten EU, Bund, und Länder tun, um die Entwicklung von Energiegemeinschaften zu unterstützen?</p> <p><u>Moderation:</u> Dr. Dörte Fouquet (Becker Büttner Held & European Renewable Energies Federation)</p> <p><u>Teilnehmende des Runden Tisches:</u> MdEP Jutta Paulus (Europäisches Parlament, Fraktion Die Grünen/Freie Europäische Allianz), Viola Theesfeld (Bündnis Bürgerenergie), MdL Markus Gleichmann (Landtag Thüringen, Fraktion Die Linke & Europäischer Ausschuss der Regionen), Angelika Behlig (Ministerium für Energiewende, Klimaschutz, Umwelt und Natur Schleswig-Holstein), Matthias Golle (Energiegenossenschaft Ilmtal, Bündnis Bürgerenergie)</p>

V Zusammenfassung und Ausblick

15:45	<p>Zusammenfassung der Ergebnisse und Ausblick</p> <p><i>Michael Krug, Dr. M. Rosaria Di Nucci, Freie Universität Berlin, Forschungszentrum für Nachhaltigkeit</i></p>
16:00	<p>Ende der Veranstaltung</p>

Executive Summary

Since 1 September 2020 the Environmental Policy Research Centre (FFU) of the Freie Universität Berlin has been coordinating the Horizon 2020 project COME RES, which aims to facilitate the market development of renewable energies in the electricity sector through the advancement of Renewable Energy Communities (RECs) in nine EU countries. So-called country desks have been set up in Germany and the other partner countries. The country desks serve as informal dialogue forums where, in addition to (interim) project results, current topics such as barriers, drivers and development opportunities for RECs are regularly discussed with actors and stakeholders. The country desk in Germany is coordinated by the Environmental Policy Research Centre. The technological focus in Germany is on wind energy (onshore) and integrated approaches (e.g. microgrids, virtual power plants). The regional focus is primarily on Thuringia as target region and on Schleswig-Holstein as model region. However, relevant developments in other federal states are considered.

In addition to thematic workshops on relevant topics, regular country desk meetings are held. On November 23, 2022, the second so-called status meeting was organised online by the FFU in cooperation with the Wind Energy Service Unit of the Thuringian Energy and GreenTech Agency (ThEGA) and moderated by Dr. Bettina Knothe, Consultant for Participatory Sustainability. The purpose of this meeting was to present the preliminary results and final activities of the COME RES project, to inform about the finalised transfer activities and to discuss current policy developments and draw policy recommendations for Germany. The status meeting provided an opportunity for exchange and networking for the 45 participants in a (virtual) space.

The meeting was structured into four sections: First, the preliminary project findings including the analysis of the transposition of RED II in the COME RES countries were presented and discussed. This was followed by a presentation of the Dutch-German transfer activities to implement the so-called Energy Gardens in the target region Thuringia. The third session was dedicated to the state of implementation of Energy Sharing in Germany. Subsequently to two presentation on the Austrian and Italian state of implementation and of the recommendations for energy sharing of Alliance for Citizen Energy (BBEn) addressing national policy actors, participants discussed the future of the energy sharing and the transposition of the RED II and its provisions for RECs in Germany. The meeting was concluded by a round table to which policy makers and public authorities from the ministry of Energy Transition of COME RES model region Schleswig-Holstein, Thuringian Parliament and Committee of Regions, and key stakeholders such as managing director of an energy cooperative and member of the supervisory Board of the German Alliance for Citizen Energy discussing the role of RECs in the current energy crisis and how the EU, the federal government and *Länder* can support their development. A detailed documentation of the workshop in German language including the presentation slides can be found on the COME RES website <https://come-res.eu/stakeholder-desks/germany>.

Highlights of the event

Ramona Rothe (ThEGA) opened the meeting together with Dr. Rosaria Di Nucci (FFU) and highlighted the potential of RECs in the current energy crisis. Dr. Di Nucci then presented preliminary findings and main results of the COME RES project also including the energy community platform. Thereafter, Prof.

Dr. Reinhard Guthke (BET) presented the transfer activities of the Dutch best practice case of multifunctional energy gardens that is being transferred to Thuringia. Closing the first section, Michael Krug outlined the results of a comparative analysis of the RED II implementation in the COME RES countries. Thereafter the participants discussed the biggest barriers for RECs in Germany. One of the biggest problems is considered to be the amount and complexity of regulations regarding RECs, but also the lack of consideration of RECs, e.g. in political measures to fight the current energy crisis (the profit levy for energy companies).

Eva Dvorak (ÖKE, Vienna) and Riccardo Novo (KIE) presented respectively, the Austrian and Italian example for a successful implementation of RECs and Energy Sharing. The foreign perspective on the topic gave insightful inputs for the German stakeholders on concrete steps that are necessary to support the development of RECs. Following, Malte Zieher (BBEn) compared the three presented cases Austria, Italy and Germany and gave recommendations for a successful implementation of energy sharing in Germany. In the following discussion, it became clear that energy sharing is key to enhance the mainstreaming of renewable energy communities in Germany.

In the last session, Dr. Di Nucci, Michael Krug, and Lucas Schwarz (FFU) illustrated a draft of policy recommendations for Germany at national, regional and municipal level derived from the project's findings. An overview can be found [here](#). This was followed by a round table moderated by Dr. Dörte Fouquet (bbh) and engaging Viola Theesfeld (BBEn), Matthias Golle (Energy Community Ilmtal, BBEn), Markus Gleichmann (MdL Die Linke Thüringia) and Angelika Behlig (MEKUN). Dr. Fouquet started the discussion by giving insights into the European policy process with regard to the transposition of RED II and the development of the new RED III and IV. Viola Theesfeld and Matthias Golle both reported an increased loss of trust of REC members due to the windfall profits deriving from the current merit order on the energy market and high gas prices that also affect RECs. In addition, the tender procedure was criticised (again) for discriminating RECs. Angelika Behlig added that, despite some positive developments for RECs on regional level, the main problem remains the tender procedure. At the federal level, there are currently too few licences in the tendering process, meaning that the lacking competition does not lead to a reduction in electricity prices. Currently, there are measures to speed up the procedure, but these only have long-term effect. Most of the participants strongly agreed that the suspension of the tender procedure would be the most effective measure to increase private investments and thus curb the development of RECs in Germany in this energy crisis. From a political perspective, Markus Gleichmann added that the funds for RECs are available in Thuringia, but the policy process is slow and impeding the distribution of the funds. He also underlined the difficult political situation in Thuringia due to the minority government and the strong far right.

Finally, Dr. Di Nucci summarised the main findings of the meeting's discussions together with Michael Krug and highlighted the potential of RECs to solve some of the problems due to the current energy crisis.

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