



2nd Thematic Workshop and Policy Lab Civic energy

Date: 10.11.2022

Version: 1



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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Thematic Workshop

The Horizon 2020-Project COME RES

COME RES - Community Energy for the uptake of renewables in the electricity sector aims at connecting long term visions with short-term actions to facilitate the market uptake of renewable energy sources (RES) in the electricity sector. The project has a specific focus on target regions in Belgium, Germany, Italy, Latvia, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, and Spain, where community energy has the potential to be further developed and model regions where community energy is in a more advanced stage of development. COME RES covers diverse socio-technical systems including community PV, wind (onshore), storage and integrated community solutions. The project is coordinated by the Environmental Policy Research Centre (FFU), Freie Universität Berlin (FUB) and with 16 European partners in the consortium.

Minutes of the thematic workshop meeting

2nd Thematic Workshop and Policy Lab were held on 10.11.2022. The meeting was attended by 8 stakeholders, with representation from energy and innovation agencies/competence centres, SMEs, community energy initiatives/energy cooperatives, NGOs and network organisations and research organisations. During the meeting, the subject of the meeting was presented and then a discussion took place.

The main topic of the event was "Civic energy".

The workshop began with Anna Dyląg presenting the Come Res project's activities and results to date, as well as the current situation of energy communities in Europe (based on activities provided by Come Res partners) and Poland in particular. As of November 2022, 2 functioning energy cooperatives have been identified (EISALL energy cooperative from Raszyn and Nasza Energia energy cooperative from Mszana) and a dozen planned ones.¹

Joanna Furmaga from the Polish Green Network then took the floor and discussed the planned assistance for energy communities in Poland. It is expected that in the first quarter of 2023, financial assistance will be introduced in Poland for newly established and operating energy clusters and energy cooperatives. The Program will provide pre-investment support, investment support and horizontal support in the form of consultations, expertise, opinions, training, workshops and study visits. This Investment Program can be considered as a potentially strong engine for the development of energy communities. Another form of subsidy is also envisaged - a "RES grant" aimed at owners and managers of multi-family buildings for the construction of renewable energy sources. This assistance could

¹ <https://www.kowr.gov.pl/odnawialne-zrodla-energii/spoldzielnie-energetyczne/zatwierdzenie-w-wykazie-spoldzielni-energetycznych/wykaz-spoldzielni-energetycznych>

contribute to the development of collective prosumerism. As for the aspect of collective prosumerism, it was stressed that currently there is no awareness campaign on the subject, as well as no clear regulations regarding settlement with the DSO.

During the discussion, opportunities for the development of energy communities in the context of the upcoming election campaigns were discussed. It is anticipated that activities for energy clusters and energy cooperatives may become an argument for politicians to convince the public.

Discussions of the barriers that delay the formation of energy communities highlighted the problems of connecting these organizations to the electricity grid and the lack of tools for energy cooperatives to account to the DSOs. It should be mentioned that the regulation on settlement between energy cooperatives and DSOs appeared in the first quarter of 2022.

After the analysis of civic energy, the assumptions of the Policy Lab's operation and expectations for the creation of an action plan were presented. During this meeting, a region was selected – Małopolska Province, for which an action plan will be created.



Figure 1 – Slide from the presentation during Thematic Workshop and Policy Lab

Concluding discussions and mingling

The thematic workshop yielded 4 conclusions, including:

- the energy crisis is activating the movement in efforts to minimize energy costs, thus civic energy is one of the tools that can mitigate the energy crisis;
- the current situation in the civic energy sector in Poland is delayed due to the lack of available tools for billing energy communities to the DSOs;

- energy communities may be considered as an element of election campaigns in the upcoming elections;
- financial assistance to energy communities, planned for the first quarter of 2023, will provide a significant boost to the development of these organizations.

Table 1 - Agenda of Thematic Workshop and Policy Lab.

Time	Activity
14:00-14:05	1. Welcome: Anna Dyląg (KAPE)
14:05-14:30	2. The COME RES project results: Anna Dyląg (KAPE)
14:30-15:30	3. Current situation in the civic energy: Anna Dyląg (KAPE)
15:30-15:50	4. Planned financial support: Joanna Furmaga (Polish Green Network)
15:50-16:30	5. Action plan for Małopolska Province Anna Dyląg (KAPE)
16:30	6. Final summary and conclusion: Anna Dyląg (KAPE)



Figure 2 – Picture from Thematic Workshop and Policy Lab

COME RES Project

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