



WORKSHOP

How to promote in Portugal: Transfer of Good-Practices and Action Plan

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ABSTRACT

Promoted by INEGI under the COME RES project, the initiative targeted all entities and actors involved and/or interested in the implementation of Renewable Energy Communities in Portugal, including energy communities, cooperatives, municipal entities, associations and interest groups, public authorities and other political and energy market actors.

Having as main objective the promotion of community energy initiatives in Portugal, the event promoted the discussion on actions and policies to ongoing or planned to promote the implementation of the concept, as well as the sharing of experiences of implementation of Renewable Energy Communities ~in other European countries. The event ended with an interactive session dedicated to the validation of a draft version of the action plan to promote RECs in Portugal, with a focus on the Norte region.

AGENDA

14:15	Welcome <i>Isabel Azevedo (INEGI)</i>
14:30	Policies and actions for the promotion of RECs in Portugal <i>Filipe Araújo (Municipality of Porto)</i> <i>Bruna Tavares (FELPT)</i> <i>Manuel Casquicho (ADENE)</i> <i>António José Baltazar (DGEG)</i>
16:00	Good practices – Success cases in Europe <i>Sophie Loots (ZuidtrAnt, BE)</i> <i>Sergio Olivero (Energy City Hall, IT)</i>
16:30	Action Plan – Interactive session <i>Isabel Azevedo (INEGI)</i>

PARTICIPATING ENTITIES

- ADENE – Agência para a Energia
- AdEPorto – Agência de Energia do Porto
- Advanced Way
- Águas e Energia do Porto, E.M.
- Aicep Global Parques
- Âmago – Energia Inteligente
- APREN – Associação Portuguesa de Energias Renováveis
- Capwatt
- Câmara Municipal de Esposende
- Câmara Municipal do Porto
- CME – Construção e Manutenção Electromecânica, S.A.
- Construsteel – Estruturas e Energias
- Coopérnico
- DGEG – Direção Geral de Energia e Geologia
- dstsolar
- Ecoinside
- EDP Comercial
- Elergone Energias
- Energia em Conserva
- EnergyCon
- HolaLuz
- HyLab – Green Hydrogen Collaborative Laboratory
- IHG – InterContinental Hotels Group
- INEGI – Instituto de Ciência e Inovação em Engenharia Mecânica e Engenharia Industrial
- INESC TEC – Instituto de Engenharia de Sistemas e Computadores, Tecnologia e Ciência
- Infinita Energia – Energias Renováveis, S.A.
- IPL – Instituto Politécnico de Leiria
- ISEL – Instituto Superior de Engenharia de Lisboa
- JAF Renováveis
- KLC – km low cost
- Lactogal Produtos Alimentares, S.A.
- LIPOR - Serviço Intermunicipalizado de Gestão de Resíduos do Grande Porto
- Magnum Cap – Electrical Power Solutions, Lda.
- MCA Grupo
- Openplus, Lda.
- Pierenergy – Eficiência Energética, Lda.

- Politecnico de Torino
- RdA Climate Solutions
- REN Redes Energéticas Nacionais
- Renault Portugal
- Renewing – Synergy to Transform
- Rolear Mais
- Rosseti Engenharia
- STCP – Sociedade de Transportes Colectivos do Porto
- Tecneira – Novas Energias, Sgps, S.A.
- Teixeira & Lima, Sgps, S.A.
- Triple Watt
- Universidade Católica Portuguesa
- Universidade Lusíada
- Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro
- UTIS – Ultimate Technology to Industrial Savings
- Vanguard
- Veolia Portugal
- ZuidtrAnt.be

MAIN OUTCOMES

Despite the significant advancements in establishing an enabling framework favourable to the implementation of Renewable Energy Communities, there are still significant barriers that need to be overcome in order to ensure a wide deployment of the concept. These include complexity and lack of clarity of existing regulation, lengthy and complex licensing procedures, administrative barriers and lack of acceptance of the concept by the local communities.

The event revealed promising policies and actions already being implemented and/or planned at different governance levels, from national to local. These could be crucial to support citizens and local SMEs in the promotion of RECs, and are strongly aligned with the action plan proposed in the scope of the COME RES project activities.

A brief summary of the workshop is presented here, focusing on the main outcomes and conclusions.

OPENING – Welcoming and COME RES Project

The workshop started with a brief presentation of the COME RES project by Isabel Azevedo, responsible for the coordination of the Portuguese contribution in the project, along with the

SESSION I – Policies and Actions for the Promotion of RECs in Portugal

The first part of the workshop was dedicated to the topic "Policies and Actions for the Promotion of RECs", providing insights on what is being done and/or planned by different policy makers regarding the promotion of RECs. This session served also to stimulate the discussion on what is still missing.

Filipe Araújo, Vice-President of the Municipality of Porto, presented the perspective of the municipality of Porto on the promotion of RECs and other energy community initiatives. The role of cities and municipalities as promoters of RECs was referred along with the potential contribution of renewable energy initiatives towards the local targets for carbon neutrality. The Municipality of Porto is planning the implementation of incentives, as reduction of municipal taxes, in order to complement the programmes promoted at national level. A local support desk is already in place, with the support of the local energy agency, to support local citizens as well as to promote the improvement of energy literacy.

This intervention was followed by a presentation by Bruna Tavares, Member of Future Energy Leaders Portugal (FELPT), who provided the FELPT's perspective on the role of RECs for the future energy system.

Manuel Casquicho, Director of ADENE's Programmes and Initiatives Department, gave some insights on the most recent actions promoted by the national energy agency as well as foreseen initiatives. ADENE has recently implemented a dedicated line of communication for those who require support in the establishment of a REC, with a dedicated webpage and email. There are also several information

sessions planned, as well as dedicated training. Manuel Casquiço also referred to “Guide for Self-consumption and Renewable Energy Communities”, recently published with the objective of assisting citizens in the implementation of these initiatives.

António José Baltazar, Head of DGEG’s Licensing Division, gave the last intervention of this first session. The presentation included a description of the status quo in terms of ongoing licensing procedures for self-consumption and RECs, as well as some of the most recent actions promoted by DGEG to accelerate and simplify the licensing procedure applicable to RECs and collective self-consumption. It was evident the progress that was done since 2019, in order to simplify and accelerate the licensing procedures. A list of foreseen actions and policies was also presented.

SESSION II – Good-Practices: Success cases in Europe

The main goal of this session was to disseminate good-practices from other European countries, including the experience from ZuidtrAnt (Belgium) and Comunità di Energia Rinnovabile di Magliano Alpi (Italy).

Sophie Loots, Member of the Energy Cooperative ZuidtrAnt, Belgium, presented an overview of this energy community initiative in terms of stakeholders involved and their main motivation. She also presented the history of the cooperative, and showed how they have grown over time, by increasing their scope of action. Moreover, Sophie Loots also referred to the importance of the partnership with the local municipality, as a lever to the implementation of the initiative.

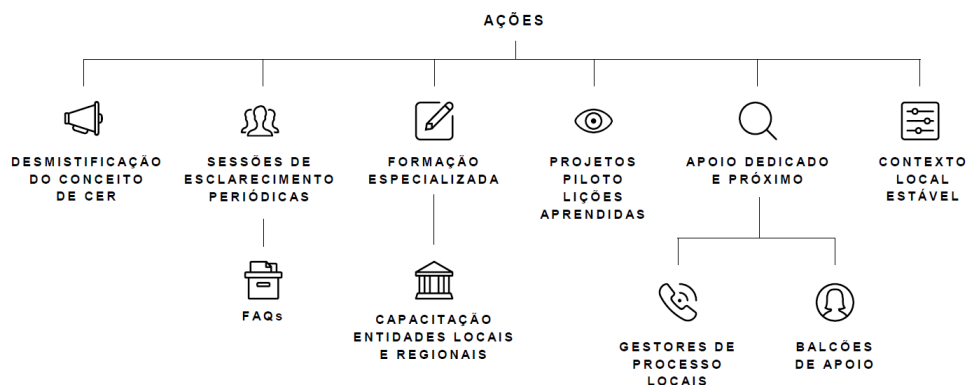
Sergio Olivero, President of the Scientific Committee of Comunità di Energia Rinnovabile di Magliano Alpi (Italy), ended this session with his experience. The energy community initiative of Magliano Alpi is a well-succeeded experience, where the municipality acted as a promotor, with the support of the Politecnico of Torino. The REC is currently promoting the development of a knowledge network, with other local authorities, with the goal of supporting the implementation of RECs in other municipalities in Italy.

SESSION III – Action Plan

The event ended with an interactive session aiming at the validation of the draft action plan developed by the small group of stakeholders in the previous week, and the identification of priorities among the different actions.

As a starting point for the interactive session, Isabel Azevedo (INEGI) briefly presented the main barriers and drivers identified in task 2.3 and task 3.4 of the COME RES project, as well as all the actions resulting from the brainstorming session with the smaller group of stakeholders. Figure 1 was shown to the participants, as an overview of the proposed actions.

Plano de Ação: CER em Portugal (Norte)



COMERES Project

Figure 1 – Overview of actions proposed as part of the Action Plan

Once the participants were acquainted with the draft action plan, including potential lead actors, they were asked to participate in the identification of priority actions, as well as of the key actors for the promotion of RECs. The participants interacted via the *slido* application, being asked the following questions:

- (1) What entity/entities is/are crucial for the promotion of RECs?
- (2) Order by level of priority the actions necessary for the implementation of RECs in Portugal
- (3) What is still missing to ensure a large-scale dissemination of RECs and other renewable energy communities?

As shown in Figure 2, the answer to the first question, on the relevant actors to be involved in the promotion of RECs, highlighted the importance of DGEG as well as ADENE, at the national level, and the local authorities, at the local level. The role of the national regulatory authority and of local energy agencies was considered relevant by a smaller share of the participants.

Qual a entidade que considera ser crucial na promoção das CER?

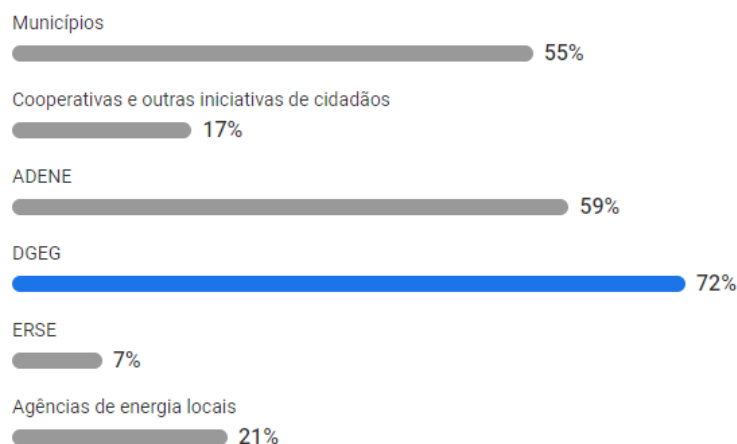


Figure 2 - Responses from participants in the interactive session to the question „What entity/entities is/are crucial for the promotion of RECs?“

The answer to the second question was important to identify, among the proposed actions, priorities and actions that could be postponed. Here, as shown in Figure 3, the training and capacity building of local and regional authorities was ranked first, followed by the information sessions, dedicated support desks and demystification of the concept.

Ordene por nível de prioridade as ações que considera necessárias para a implementação de CER em Portugal

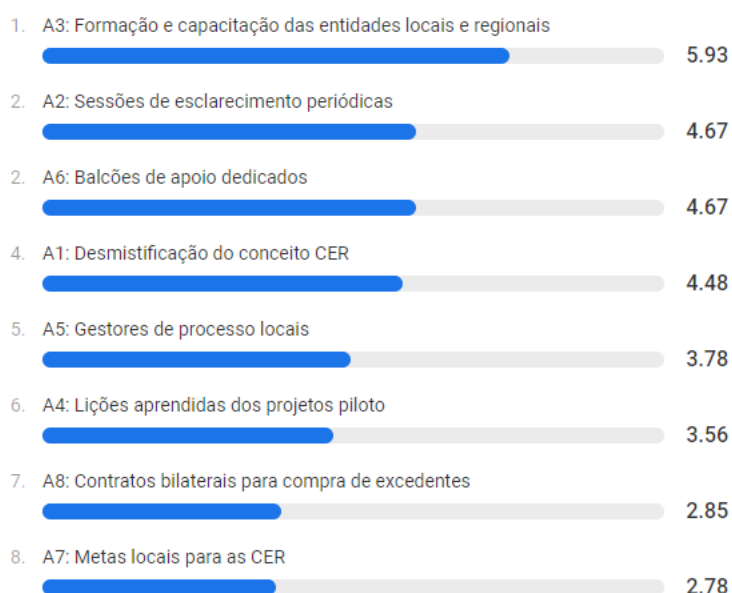


Figure 3 - Responses from participants in the interactive session to the question „Order by level of priority the actions necessary for the implementation of RECs in Portugal?“

Finally, participants were asked to write, in few words, what is missing to ensure the dissemination of RECs in a large-scale. As shown in Figure 4, words as “Digitalisation”, “Local/Municipal initiatives” and “Streamline processes” were highlighted.

O que falta para que a disseminação de CER e outras iniciativas comunitárias de energia em larga escala?



Figure 4 - Responses from participants in the interactive session to the question „What is still missing to ensure a large-scale dissemination of RECs and other renewable energy communities?“

The event ended by opening the floor to participants who wanted to propose additional actions, to be included in the action plan, or the adjustment to some of the already proposed actions. Nonetheless, no additional actions were proposed.

CONTACT

COME RES Portugal (INEGI)
iazevedo@inegi.up.pt

COME RES Project
info@come-res.eu
www.come-res.eu

PARTNERS



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