Designing public financing calls for energy communities

Guidance Document - C4T Working Group on Energy

Cohesion for Transitions (C4T) - Community of Practice

The **Cohesion for Transitions (C4T) Community of Practice** is an initiative supported by the European Commission's DG REGIO to help Member States and regions effectively implement sustainability transitions through Cohesion Policy funds. Its core purpose is to improve the use of EU funds under **Policy Objective 2 (PO2)** – "A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy." The Community provides tailored technical assistance, facilitates knowledge exchange, and mobilises a network of experts to support regional and local authorities in implementing climate and energy investments. It organises annual conferences and forums, and compiles best practices to strengthen capacity and ensure compliance with EU climate objectives.

C4T Working Group on Energy

The **Working Group on Energy** serves as a collaborative forum for Managing Authorities, intermediate bodies, public authorities at all levels, and other stakeholders engaged in implementing ERDF and Cohesion Fund investments for sustainability transitions. Meeting twice a year, it provides a space to exchange good practices, address bottlenecks, and identify solutions for advancing the European Green Deal through Cohesion Policy. The group focuses on priority topics such as the social impact of the energy crisis and transition, accelerating renewable energy uptake in regions with lower potential, and increasing energy efficiency to develop support material to strengthen capacity for utilisation of EU Funds under PO2.

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Agenzia per l'Energia e lo Sviluppo Sostenibile (AESS) *Energy agency of Emilia-Romagna region*	
Alliance of Associations Polish Green Network *Polish NGO organisation member of Bankwatch*	LazioInnova S.p.A. *Intermediary body for the Lazio region in Italy*
Association of Local Authorities of Ida-Viru County *Union of local municipalities of Ida-Viru*	Managing Authority of National Programmes-Environment and Climate – Greece
Autonomous province of Trento *Managing authority for Cohesion policy funding for the Province of Trento*	Mazovia Energy Agency *Energy Agency of Mazovia Region in Poland*
Bohemia EU Planners *Intermediary body for Bohemia region Czech Republic*	Meridaunia Scarl *Local Action Group Apulia Region*
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1. Introduction

Energy communities are rapidly gaining prominence as a key driver of Europe's clean energy transition. By fostering local ownership of renewable energy projects, they deliver not only environmental benefits but also tangible social and economic gains for communities. This guidance document explains why energy communities matter, how they can be supported through EU Cohesion Policy, and provides practical steps for Managing Authorities to design effective funding calls that advance both climate and social objectives.

1.1. Why energy communities?

Energy communities are emerging as a cornerstone of Europe's clean energy transition, combining local ownership with social and economic benefits. Introduced in EU legislation through the Clean Energy for All European Package[1], energy communities are legal entities that enable citizens, local authorities, and small businesses to collectively organise renewable energy generation, consumption, and related services, prioritising environmental and social benefits over profit. Through them, local communities can **secure ownership of renewable energy production** and **shield themselves** from the impacts of high and volatile wholesale electricity and gas prices, in turn increasing their energy security. Energy communities also ensure that local renewables production, and the resulting **economic benefits, stay within the community**, including through the improved access to affordable energy for members[2]. Research in France[3] and Germany[4] shows that locally controlled and financed renewable projects deliver 2 to 8 times more return to the local economy than projects built by external developers. This ownership provides revenue to reduce energy prices, fight energy poverty, support education, and drive local investment in renewables, infrastructure and social initiatives. Furthermore, prioritizing local ownership **builds public acceptance** and ensures further renewables development. From successful projects in wind and solar energy production, to home renovation and district heating, energy communities are well suited to empower citizens, drive significant amounts of private capital[5] and contribute to the EU's reindustrialisation objectives.

Energy communities, as entities that prioritise social and environmental outcomes over profit, often place '**tackling energy poverty**' and improving energy affordability as a foundational purpose. Research has shown[6] that a significant majority of energy communities are actively exploring business models and approaches to tackle energy poverty, but they are hindered by a lack of

[1] Key legislation: 1) Renewable Energy Directive (RED II) – Directive (EU) 2018/2001 sets out the framework for renewable energy communities (REC). 2) Internal Electricity Market Directive (IEMD) – Directive (EU) 2019/944 establishes the concept of citizen energy communities (CEC).

[2] Aligned with the European Commission's Action Plan for Affordable Energy (COM/2025/79).

[3] Energie Partagée (2019). Local Economic Benefits of Citizen Renewable Energy (in French).

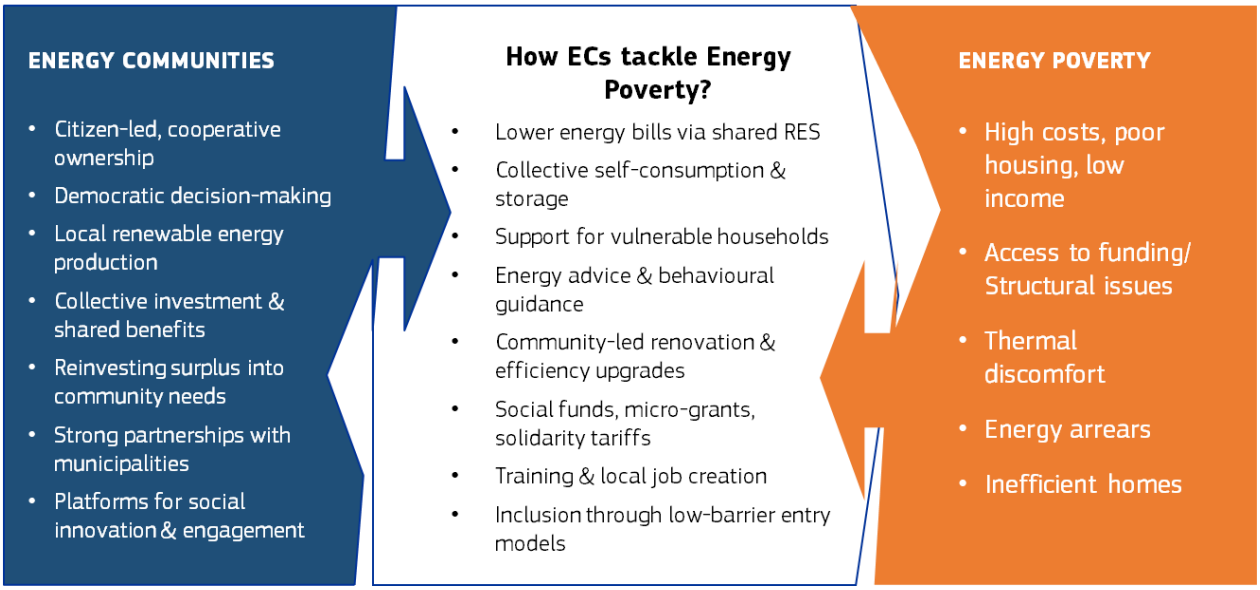
[4] Wilkens, I, and Wetzel, H (2023). Regionale Wertschöpfung in der Windindustrie am Beispiel Nordhessen II– Kurzstudie zur Aktualisierung der Daten (In German).

[5] For example, by 2024 100,000 citizens in the Flemish Region of Belgium had invested in citizen energy projects, mobilising over 36 million euros. https://rescoopv.be/rescoop-vlaanderen-lanceert-eerste-monitor-burgerenergie/

[6] Community Energy for Energy Solidarity project. Available at: https://www.energysolidarity.eu/solidarity-toolkit/

dedicated funding tools. Energy communities can help tackle energy poverty through various means. This includes, inter alia, offering tailored advice through 'energy cafés', home visits, or One Stop Shops, offering free shares for vulnerable households in collective self consumptions schemes, or establishing revolving funds for energy efficiency actions [Figure 1 provides an overview, whereas a more detailed summary of the interface between energy communities and energy poverty can be found in **Annex I**].

Figure 1: How energy communities tackle energy poverty



1.2. Energy Communities in Cohesion Policy

However, to achieve the aforementioned impacts of energy communities, **access to capital can remain a key barrier**, particularly for smaller community energy projects in Member States without an adequate enabling regulatory framework. Therefore, EU funds can play a crucial role in initiating community energy projects, further crowding in private capital down the line. This is particularly the case in Central and Eastern European countries where EU funds drive up to 80% of climate investments.[7] As shown in REScoop.eu's Financing Tracker, Cohesion Funds have not been effectively used to support energy communities in the 2021-2027 programming period.[8] In its mid-term review of Cohesion Policy **the European Commission has recommended that Managing Authorities provide funding and technical assistance to community energy projects**, as a way to promote regional cohesion and price affordability.[9]

[7] https://caneurope.org/content/uploads/2022/08/Final-report_UNIFY_EU-FUNDS.pdf

[8] REScoop.eu (n/d) Financing Tracker.

[9]https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/communication/mid-term-review-2025/communication-mid-term-review-2025_en.pdf

Supporting energy communities through Cohesion Policy relies on **Policy Objective 2**[10] **(PO2)** and its **Specific Objective 2 (SO2)** (*Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Directive (EU) 2018/2001 (REDII)*). In fact, thanks to **RCO 97**, which measures the number of renewable energy communities supported through the European Regional Development Fund and the Cohesion Fund, Managing Authorities can design funding calls that prioritise community-led renewable projects. As such, they not only advance the clean energy transition but also ensure compliance with sustainability criteria under RED II.

Furthermore, beyond PO2 there are positive interlinkages with other Policy Objectives and Common Output indicators. In particular those related to **PO4**[11], with its **SO3** (*Promoting the socioeconomic inclusion of marginalised communities, low-income households and disadvantaged groups, including people with special needs, through integrated actions, including housing and social services*). As measured in **RCO 113** (Population covered by projects in the framework of integrated actions for socioeconomic inclusion of marginalised communities, low income households and disadvantaged groups), Managing Authorities can design specific funding calls supporting energy communities that are addressing the inclusion of marginalised communities facing energy poverty. By following these objectives, supporting energy communities through Cohesion Policy becomes a strategic tool to deliver on the green transition while advancing social inclusion.

1.3. Purpose and Scope of this Guidance

The present Guidance Document is meant to support Managing Authorities (MAs) in designing public financing calls for energy communities, and broader projects that tackle energy poverty.

The document is structured to be clear, actionable, and adaptable. After introducing the concept and policy context of energy communities, two core chapters provide hands-on support:

- **Chapter 2: Proven Tips to Make the Call Simple, Fast and Accessible**

  This chapter offers practical advice for designing calls that are easy to apply for and administratively efficient. It covers strategies for understanding national contexts, clarifying eligibility criteria, and navigating legal and regulatory frameworks such as State Aid rules. It also includes guidance on how to define eligible activities, streamline permitting processes, and ensure broad dissemination so that calls reach the right audience. These recommendations are drawn from successful examples across Member States and are intended to reduce barriers for smaller and less experienced energy communities.

- **Chapter 3: Catalogue of Criteria**

  This chapter provides a comprehensive set of selection and scoring criteria that Managing Authorities can integrate into their calls. The catalogue is designed as a "pick-and-choose" toolbox, allowing flexibility while ensuring alignment with EU priorities. It includes exclusion

[10] Policy Objective 2: A greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy and resilient Europe by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation, risk prevention and management, and sustainable urban mobility

[11] Policy Objective 4: More social and inclusive Europe implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights

criteria to guarantee that only genuine, democratically governed energy communities benefit from funding, and scoring criteria that reward projects for social inclusion, gender balance, environmental innovation, and technical robustness. Each criterion is accompanied by clear reference points, verification methods, and examples from previous calls, making them easy to apply and monitor.

As such, this guidance is aimed at

- Managing Authorities on Cohesion Funds for the remainder of the current Multiannual Financial Framework (2021-2027),
- Managing Authorities implementing the National Social Climate Plans,
- Managing Authorities drafting and implementing calls under the post 2028 EU financing architecture, which will most likely involve “National and Regional Partnership Plans” and an overarching “European Competitiveness Fund”.

2. Proven Tips to Make the Call Simple, Fast and Accessible

Before delving into the Catalogue of Call Criteria we outline a series of steps that Managing Authorities can undertake to ensure that the call is successful, easy to apply to, fits within the national context, and that the funds are ultimately absorbed.

- **Understand the national context for energy communities.** The LIFE European Energy Communities Facility project has published a detailed and interactive map with the national policy framework for energy communities in every Member State.
- **Be explicit about which legal entities are eligible for the call**. In some countries (e.g., Greece, there is a unique and distinct legal entity for energy communities, whereas in others, e.g., Spain, an energy community can take up different legal forms). Only communities **based 100% on renewables** should be eligible for the call.

Which legal forms can energy communities take?

"Regarding legal forms, two trends are noticeable. Some Member States do not specify any legal form, allowing initiatives to choose as long as they comply with the REC or CEC definitions (participation and governance and objectives criteria). Other Member States choose to refer to a number of legal forms, which are often oriented towards those that promote cooperative, social economy, or non-profit objectives. It is important to note that energy communities still need to be able to establish sustainable business models that are capable of generating a financial surplus so that the community is capable of reinvesting and distributing those benefits for the benefit of their members or the local area in which they operate."

- *European Energy Communities Repository*

Different Member States have chosen various legal entities when defining RECs/CECs. An overview for each Member State's policies is available by the European Energy Communities Facility. Other examples can be found in the report: A Roadmap to Developing a Policy and Legal Framework that Enables the Development of Energy Communities.

Navigating State Aid Rules

Based on the EU definitions, SMEs are able to join both RECs and CECs. This raises questions about how to navigate State Aid:

- The Guidelines on State aid for Climate, Environmental Protection and Energy (CEEAG) introduced an exemption from the requirement to allocate aid and determine the aid level through a competitive bidding process for projects that are 100% owned by a REC or Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

- The General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) refers to the schemes of state aid that do not have to be reported, but should be notified to the European Commission. The exemption is significant as it allows for Member States to provide aid directly without prior approval. For RECs GBER exempts projects with an installed capacity or maximum demand below or equal to 6 MW from all renewable sources except for wind energy only, for which aid shall be granted to installations with an installed capacity below or equal to 18 MW. Such measures have been implemented in Ireland, Italy and Slovenia, as detailed in Annex II.
- De minimis is not considered State Aid. In this case Member States do not have to notify the Commission, which does not need to approve the scheme. Aid is considered to be de minimis if the total amount of aid granted per Member State to a single undertaking does not exceed 300,000 EUR over any period of three fiscal years and the other conditions laid down in the de minimis Regulation are respected

A detailed explanation on how to navigate State Aid can be found in REScoop.eu's Guidance Document.

- **Be explicit about which types of activities the call will target**. As also summarised in **Annex I; Table 1**, energy communities can undertake several actions to tackle energy poverty. This can include: organising awareness raising campaigns, bulk procurement of energy efficient appliances, community-led heating and cooling projects (e.g., creating a local district heating network), energy sharing projects, bulk building renovations.
- **Help communities navigate the permitting process.** Establish a relationship with the (local) DSO and/or local One-Stop-Shops[12]. Help applicants navigate the permitting process by giving them access to supportive materials (e.g., online maps showing capacity in local substations or the contact details of employees of the (local) DSO to facilitate immediate contact).[13]
- **Broad dissemination & technical assistance to beneficiaries**. Oftentimes, calls may not be successful due to a lack of dissemination and thus an insufficient number of applications. Managing Authorities should work directly with community energy expert organisations, helping applicants learn about the call and providing them with basic assistance to navigate the application process.

[12] The European Energy Communities Facility developed a map of One-Stop-Shops targeting energy communities

[13] Moreover, it's useful to keep in mind the new provisions on permitting in the revised Renewable Energy Directive: **Article 15b**: Member States must designate Renewable Acceleration Areas by February 2026 **Article 16d, paragraph 1**: permitting for solar production in existing or future artificial structures (excluding artificial water surfaces), must not exceed three months. **Paragraph 2** of the same article highlights that "Member States shall ensure that the permit-granting procedure for the installation of solar energy equipment with a capacity of 100 kWp or less, including for renewables self-consumers and RECs, shall not exceed one month."

- The European Energy Communities Facility, which provides lump sum grants to energy communities, has been hugely successful because it mobilised national experts. These experts (many of them national federations of energy communities), which are all working on community energy, organised national webinars and communications campaigns before the call was opened, to raise awareness, answer basic questions, and help applicants prepare.

- **Pre-financing & partnering with the banks/national development banks for credit lines or 0 interest loans.** The aid needs to be frontloaded: in many cases aid can take many months to be delivered to the beneficiaries. This timeline does not allow for vulnerable participants and smaller RECs to make their project happen as they lack the liquidity. Building financing mechanisms, through partnerships with public or private financing institutions, is a great way to avoid the liquidity issue and to accelerate the delivery of the aid.
- **Simplified financial reporting and timely reimbursements of the costs.** Due to the fact that newly established energy communities often have fragile economic structures and limited liquidity, their cash flows are particularly exposed to delays in the reimbursement of grants. Moreover, these initiatives often lack staff with advanced financial expertise; therefore, it is advisable to provide simplified reporting tools and to foresee training sessions or dedicated helpdesk support for completing the documentation
- **Keep the call open for a sufficient period of time for communities to prepare a solid application**. Ensure relevant communication activities (co-organised with community energy expert organisations - see point above).
- **Use the same website for different funding programs** (e.g., Social Climate Fund, European Regional Development Fund, Just Transition Fund), simplifying access to beneficiaries.
- **Proceed in two steps.** This method can allow a broad range of projects to start out, then the most mature applicants benefit from the second phase:

    - **Step 1 - Feasibility grant (lump sum)**: A first amount of funding to cover personnel costs, the professional costs of undertaking a feasibility study and producing a report to establish the technical and financial viability of a renewable energy or energy efficiency project.

    - **Stage 2 – Development grant (lump sum)**: A second round of funding to cover the costs of developing a project that has been able to demonstrate technical and financial viability. This may include personnel costs, actual infrastructure costs, the legal costs of securing a site, an environmental impact assessment, planning and permitting applications, and development of a business plan.

- The actual required amounts of funding will be specific to each region, but as guidance, similar approaches have used a ratio difference of 1:4 between the two steps.[14]

- **Encourage collaboration between energy communities and frontline workers such as social workers, housing officers, community organisers, and municipalities.** This can help energy communities to first identify households experiencing vulnerability in their neighbourhoods and who might like to benefit from the activities of the energy community. Frontline workers are also trusted intermediaries for such households, which is crucial for establishing first contact and ensuring meaningful engagement with the project.[15]

[14] This two step approach has been used by Managing Authorities in Poland. Ministerstwo Klimatu i Środowiska. Wsparcie Przedinwestycyjne (nabór trwał do 31 grudnia 2023 r.).

[15] The Hyperion Energy Community in Athens, Greece, identified 10 vulnerable households to be included in its collective self consumption project through the social services of two municipalities. The whole process happened anonymously, through the intermediation of the social workers.

3. Catalogue of Criteria

The following catalogue of criteria provides a blueprint for Managing Authorities to pick and choose from. It's important to integrate diverse non-economic criteria in calls, so as to increase social impact and help tackle corporate capture by non-community actors[16]. However, Managing Authorities should remember to balance the use of additional criteria with reducing bureaucratic and administrative burden for the applicant communities. Any evidence requested by the communities should be **easy to obtain and easily verifiable**.

3.1. Exclusion Criteria

The following criteria should be used as a basis for the (dis)qualification of applicants. Meaning that an applicant energy community has to fulfill all of them in order to be able to benefit from the funding:

- The applicant community should be an established legal entity, complying with one of the EU energy community definitions (Renewable Energy Community or Citizen Energy Community). Large companies should not be able to participate in the funding call.
- The applicant community should be able to demonstrate that it has democratic governance processes in place (e.g., one member one vote system) evidenced through its statute or another appropriate document; and that it follows transparency standards (documentation published on applicant's website, decisions consulted with members and communicated to the public). This will ensure only genuine communities are supported, avoiding corporate capture by large companies.
- The applicant community should aim for at least minimum actions to tackle energy poverty.[17] If no actions to tackle energy poverty are present, it should not qualify for funding.
- The applicant should demonstrate the project's sustainability and compliance with the DNSH principle. This verification should be based on a dedicated section of the application form, backed by clear and straightforward guidance that contains: a list of ineligible actions and the evidence to be produced by the applicant. Projects not compliant with the DNSH principle should not be funded.

[16] Corporate capture can be defined as the attempts of private companies to take advantage of public funds destined to community-based projects. Report on the corporate capture of energy communities. Available at: https://friendsoftheearth.eu/publication/report-on-the-corporate-capture-of-energy-communities/

[17] Managing Authorities can refer to the Revised Energy Efficiency Directive's definition of energy poverty, defined as: "a household's lack of access to essential energy services, where such services provide basic levels and decent standards of living and health, including adequate heating, hot water, cooling, lighting, and energy to power appliances, in the relevant national context, existing national social policy and other relevant national policies, caused by a combination of factors, including at least non-affordability, insufficient disposable income, high energy expenditure and poor energy efficiency of homes"

3.2. Scoring Criteria

The following table presents a set of criteria designed to guide the development of evaluation and award criteria in calls targeting energy communities. It proposes evaluation across multiple dimensions, including governance, social impact, environmental performance, economic viability, and technological robustness. This catalogue is supposed to be used as a "pick-and-choose" toolbox that allows for flexibility in application while ensuring alignment with EU priorities. Each criterion is accompanied by a reference point for an objective assessment, a scoring matrix, and a further description grounded in previous calls.

It is important to note that the scoring matrix serves as an initial indication for prioritisation rather than a rigid framework. Local context, such as the funding source used, regional funding priorities, the maturity of energy communities in the region, and specific local (energy) needs, may warrant significant adjustments to the proposed scoring to ensure that the targeted communities are funded.

Criterion Type	Reference Point for Assessment	Scoring Matrix	Rationale / Reference from previous call(s)
Governance			
Project maturity and feasibility	Short document outlining the strategy of the applicant, the timeline of implementation, and the responsible team profiles	Clarity in the concept note about: • Clear organizational model and capacity/expertise of members/staff to implement the strategy - 3 points • Assessment of baseline energy needs, the energy produced and shared, stored • Presence of business plan and own financial resources - 3 points	**Actionable and verifiable** criterion that reduces risks where regulatory approval is a bottleneck; consistent with the logic of the catalogue (pick & choose, simple evidence)

Membership of vulnerable groups	Number or % of households in energy poverty, elderly, young,migrants, minorities or people with disabilities with low income are members of the energy community. Additional points can be given to communities that have vulnerable groups represented in their Board of Directors (or equivalent governing bodies).	• Up to 10% - 3 points • Between 10% and 30% - 6 points • Above 30% - 9 points • Vulnerable groups represented in Board - 2 point for each representative	**Actional and verifiable -** indicator for the level of understanding, acceptance and community work of the energy community References: [1], [2]
Gender policy	Gender balance in the governance structure of the energy community. Specific reference on gender balance and gender inclusions in the community's statute or other official documents.	• Gender balance in governance structure - 5 points • Reference to integration of a gender equality perspective into all stages of operations - 5 points	**Actionable and verifiable** Indicator about the level of understanding of social aspects and EU policies on the topic (gender mainstreaming is horizontal priority for next MFF) Reference [3]
Social			
Existence of a Plan detailing the different actions the community will undertake to tackle energy poverty	Document listing the different actions, including but not limited to: • Provision of free shares into energy sharing/collective self consumption projects	• No planned actions on energy poverty = exclusion • One action on energy poverty = 3 points • Two different actions on energy poverty = 6 points	Energy communities can tackle energy poverty through a peer-to-peer approach, effectively reaching those most vulnerable References: [2], [4], [5], [6]

	• Counseling on renovation and other energy efficiency actions, including through support to cooperative One Stop Shops.18 • % of vulnerable members impacted by the project • Collective purchasing of renovation materials and renewable thermal energy equipment. More examples listed in **Annex I**	• Three different actions on energy poverty = 9 points	
Collaboration with municipalities/regions. **Inclusion in the community energy project of buildings in municipal stock serving public and social purposes**	• Points are granted to projects which include: • Municipal buildings used for purposes of social and assisted housing, • Municipal buildings serving social purposes19 (e.g. elderly houses, kindergarten) • Municipal buildings serving public purposes (e.g. town hall, library, sport facilities) • Number of projects supporting cooperation between citizens and	• The community has established a formal relationship with at least one municipality = 1 point • Inclusion of one municipal building in the community's projects = 3 points • Inclusion of two or more municipal buildings in the community's projects = 6 points	This criterion aims to ensure that energy communities are recognised for including members in energy poverty and incentivise municipalities to join the initiative by incorporating its assets, such as social housing and other buildings serving social or public purposes. Reference: [4]

[18] The LIFE One Stop Shop Renovation Cooperatives (OSR Coop) project has demonstrated how energy communities from different European countries can offer OSS services to facilitate bulk renovations and other energy efficiency renovations.

[19] Additional examples include: Social welfare homes/centres; Night shelters and hostels for people experiencing homelessness; Social service centres / social integration centres; Community and socio-therapeutic day centres; Supported / sheltered / training accommodation; Health and care support; Day care centres and senior clubs; Municipal care and treatment facilities; Municipal health centres (if owned by the municipality); Cultural centres and local activity centres; Youth clubs; Buildings used by non-governmental organisations with social functions (if owned by the municipality)

	municipalities to set up citizen-owned local thermal energy systems, such as district heating.		
Diversification of the energy community's activities. Points will be awarded to an energy community which undertakes local educational actions	Potential actions: a) educational activities about the energy transition and energy democracy, b) participatory processes that include vulnerable groups and young people c) data collection of impact and behavior change, and proactive sharing with members of the energy community/ies, local and national authorities and research institutes. Means of verification: educational actions mentioned in the community's statute and/or in a short document (strategy/summary of activities) provided the community.	• The community plans to organise 1 educational action = 1 point • The community plans to organise 2 educational actions = 3 point • The community plans to organise 3 educational actions = 5 point	This criterion aims at maximising the positive social impacts of the project by incentivising energy communities to undertake educational and/or social activities. Reference: [4]
Environmental			
Rewarding projects that reduce environmental impact through effective spatial planning	Use of grey areas (e.g., parking lots, rooftops), or dual use of land (e.g., agrivoltaics), remediation of degraded land (e.g., closed landfills and waste disposal areas) Solutions for renewable energy or	• Installation of PV plants in grey areas on rooftops and degraded lands = 1 point • Installation of PV plants in a parking areas or with the characteristics and requirements of advanced agrivoltaic systems = 2	By using space effectively, energy communities can reduce their environmental footprint and increase social acceptance. Dual use of land can also produce additional economic benefits for the community.

	energy efficiency on territories with landscape or historical/cultural limits for construction work	points and increased subsidy €/kWh	Proposing innovative solutions in areas with restrictive regimes & higher costs of operation (historical centers, protected cultural heritage sites and landscape protected sites) The Emilia Romagna Region (Italy) in a 2024 call for support for energy communities, has provided greater support for RECs who intend to create PV plants in a parking area or with the characteristics and requirements of advanced agrivoltaic systems. Reference: [7]
Reward projects that promote biodiversity	Short plan of action / statement of intent on the types of interventions that the applicant will implement to boost biodiversity in the site of the project (e.g., creating bird nesting and breeding places, planting native wildflower meadows to support pollinator biodiversity, planting native trees) More Examples can be found in the Nature Conservancy's guide on non-price criteria in	The applicant shall describe the biodiversity projects activated by the energy community: • Installation of bird nesting • Planting native wildflower meadows • Planting native trees **1 point** for the activation of biodiversity projects	In 2024, the Dutch government launched tenders for 4 GW of offshore wind across two sites: Alpha and Beta (2 GW each). Both included non-price criteria such as responsible business conduct and circularity. Site Alpha also introduced strong ecological criteria, which accounted for 45% of the bid evaluation. To meet these criteria, developers were required to: • Implement measures to

	renewables tenders		reduce ecological impacts on birds and marine mammals • Strengthen and restore underwater ecosystems and benthic biodiversity • Contribute to knowledge development to reduce negative ecological effects and strengthen positive ecological effects • Sharing knowledge through the publication of summaries detailing the measures taken and research conducted. Reference: [8]
CO2 emissions	t/year CO2 emissions avoided, as outlined in the project proposal by the applicant. This can be cross-referenced with online data provided by the National Energy Regulatory Authority (or similar institution) on the carbon intensity of the electricity mix	CO2 emissions avoided: • < 8 tCO2y (about 20 kWp) - 1 point • 8-40 tCO2y (between 20-100 kWp) - 2 points • >40 tCO2y (above 100 kWp) - 3 points	
Percentage of self-consumption ensured by the energy community	Feasibility study of the consumption needs of the energy community members and amount of energy produced and shared by the members to ensure increase of the self-consumption and consumption based on renewable	Percentage of self-consumption ensured: • 30-40% 1 point • 40-60% 2 points • >60% 3 points	Reducing the burden on the High Voltage Power Lines transmission and ensuring local level balancing of consumption and production through exchange of energy between the energy community members and

	sources		change of the behaviour that ensure match between production and consumption References: [1], [2]
Economic			
Reinvestment of a portion of the project's profits into local community initiatives that Have a social and/or ecological value	Does the applicant tend to channel part of their profits to local community development?	Reinvesting percentage (= Investments / Revenue): • 0-19,9% - 1 points • 20-39,9% - 2 points • 40-59,9% - 3 points • 60-79,9% - 4 points • >= 80% - 5 points	Energy communities can be drivers of local development, effectively contributing to cohesion objectives, especially in less developed regions. Reference: [2]
Payback of the investment	Expected payback period (considering also the grant contribution) as described in the project application	Profit percentage (= Profit / Costs): • < 0% - 0 point • 0-9,9% - 1 points • 10-19,9% - 2 points • 20-29,9% - 3 points • 30-39,9% - 4 points • >= 40% - 5 points	Reference: [9]
Production and quality of PV panels. Ensuring that the PV panels meet performance, life cycle and safety requirements.	Document check (in technical manual): • which country the product is made in? • which country the producer company is based in? • Is the IEC 61215 license	• PV panel is produced in the EU - 1 point • Manufacturing company is based in the EU - 1 point • Long-term usage: IEC 61215 - 1 point • Safety qualification:	Reference [10]. Hungarian RRF 3.4.1-22 Social production and consumption of renewable energy Based on Article 2.2 of this proposal (technical

	approved for the product? • Is the IEC 61730 license approved for the product? • Is the IEC 61853 license approved for the product?	IEC 61730 - 1 point • Performance standard: IEC 61853 - 1 point	requirements)
Ensuring that the Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) meets performance, life cycle and safety requirements.	Document check (in technical manual): • which country the product is made in? • which country the producer company is based in? • Is the IEC TR 62933 license approved for the product? • Is the IEC IEEE 2836 license approved for the product? • Is the IEC 62109 license approved for the product?	• Battery is produced in the EU - 1 point • Manufacturing company based in the EU - 1 point • Performance and safety: IEC TR 62933- 1 point • Performance testing: IEEE 2836 - 1 point • Safety requirements: IEC 62109 - 1 point	Hungarian RRF 3.4.1-22 Social production and consumption of renewable energy Based on Article 2.2 of this proposal (technical requirements)
Technological			
Hybridity and flexibility. • **Coupling renewables production with flexibility (e.g., storage, smart equipment for demand response)20** • **use of complementary energy sources, e.g. PV and wind/biomethane)**	Business models that couple different components (electricity, heat, efficiency, mobility).	The applicant shall demonstrate that the energy community will generate energy from several sources derived from various renewable energy sources. Points will be awarded as follows: • -the energy community will generate energy from a	Coupling production with flexibility can alleviate congested grids, and increase the chances of the project's successful connection to the grid. The CE Implementa 5 & 6 calls of the Spanish Recovery Facility only provided support to renewables projects that

[20] Examples of storage technologies can be found in the following briefing: C4T Community of Practise, Implementing renewable energy investments with Cohesion Policy to enable sustainability transitions.

• **Combining renewable electricity generation, with renewable thermal energy generation, energy efficiency or electric mobility**		single energy source only - 0 points • the energy community will generate energy from at least two different sources - 2 points • the the energy community will generate energy from more than two different sources - 4 points	included a storage system and/or demand management, including software and equipment costs for real time measurement of energy production and consumption data. Reference: [4]
The project meets minimum technical standards for renewable generation, storage and control, and provides a clear replication package. **The proper capacity (or rated power) and technological specification of the energy storage system**	Minimum installed PV capacity per beneficiary threshold (e.g., ≥1.5 kWp per apartment in multi-family projects) or system sized to supply ≥40% of local annual electricity demand; BESS sizing sufficient for daily peak shifting (e.g., ≥2 kWh per household) and EMS to optimise self-consumption; submission of a replication pack (design templates, M&V plan, governance model). The capacity of the energy storage system (Lithium-Ion Battery) should not be under- or overplanned. Its technological specification and efficiency are also needed to evaluate.	• Photovoltaic (PV) system capacity per beneficiary threshold is 120% of annual peak electricity demand – 1 point • Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) capacity per beneficiary threshold is 120% of daily peak electricity demand – 1 point • PV system is sized to supply 120% of annual local electricity demand – 1 point • BESS sizing sufficient for 120% of daily local electricity demand – 1 point • Installing Energy Management System (EMS) for optimizing self-consumption – 1 point	Hungarian Recovery and Resilience Facility 3.4.1-22 Social production and consumption of renewable energy Based on this proposal (article 2.2) it is needed to certify that the capacity of the storage system does not exceed the daily energy production.
Energy efficiency: The applicant shall take	The applicant shall take measures (e.g. building renovation,	The scoring will be as follows:	This criterion aims at maximising the positive climate

measures to increase energy efficiency, understood as the degree of reduction in final energy demand (FEC) and the degree of reduction in primary energy demand (PEC). The criterion will be verified on the basis of data provided by the applicant in the Development and Action Strategy	installing of smart energy metres) to increase energy efficiency, defined as: • the degree of reduction of final energy demand and • the degree of reduction of primary energy demand.	• less than 10% increase in energy efficiency from the current level - 0 points • 11%-20% increase in energy efficiency from the current level - 1 point • 21%-30% increase in energy efficiency from the current level - 2 points • more than 30% increase in energy efficiency from the current level - 3 points	impact of the project by incentivising reductions in energy demand.

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Annex I: Energy Communities as a Lever for Tackling Energy Poverty

This chapter was created by Mariya Trifanova (Sofia University, member of the C4T Academic Sounding Board) in exchange with the C4T Working Group on Energy.

1. Introduction

Energy poverty remains a persistent challenge across Europe, disproportionately affecting low-income households, rural communities, single-parent families, and the elderly. Rising energy prices, inefficient housing stock, and limited access to capital deepen vulnerability and constrain participation in the clean-energy transition.

Infobox 1: Defining and Measuring Energy Poverty

Energy poverty refers specifically to a household's inability to secure adequate, affordable energy services—such as heating, cooling, lighting, and powering essential appliances—needed for a decent standard of living. It is shaped not only by low income but also by high energy prices, inefficient buildings, poor heating systems, and limited access to clean energy solutions.

Unlike general poverty, which reflects broad economic deprivation, energy poverty focuses on the intersection of household resources, energy needs, and the physical condition of the home. A household may not be classified as poor overall but can still experience energy poverty if it lives in an energy-inefficient dwelling or faces unusually high energy costs.

Because energy poverty is **multidimensional**, it cannot be captured by a single universal metric. Instead, a **basket of indicators** is used to understand both its **extent** (how many households are affected) and **intensity** (how severely they are affected).[21] Different indicators capture different mechanisms: affordability, thermal comfort, expenditure patterns, housing quality, and vulnerability. During 2016–2020, **the EU Energy Poverty Observatory (EPOV**) developed a structured framework for measuring energy poverty across Member States. This approach remains the foundation for current monitoring by the **European Energy Poverty Advisory Hub (EPAH)**.

Against this backdrop, **energy communities (ECs)**—citizen- or municipality-led initiatives that jointly develop and own renewable energy, energy-efficiency, or flexibility projects— are considered being able to offer a powerful pathway for reducing energy poverty while strengthening social resilience. Evidence from academic studies shows that in countries with longer community-energy

[21] Full explanations of how all indicators are defined and calculated can be found in the EU Energy Poverty Observatory 's Methodology Guidebook. This approach remains the foundation for current monitoring by the European Energy Poverty Advisory Hub, which publishes the most recent overview of national progress in the *Energy Poverty National Indicators*.

traditions—such as Germany and the Netherlands—more than half of ECs explicitly engage in addressing energy poverty.

2. How Energy Communities Tackle Energy Poverty

By enabling shared ownership, redistributing energy-related benefits locally, and empowering citizens with decision-making rights, ECsdirectly address the structural drivers of energy poverty and create long-term socio-economic value.

Table 1: How energy communities tackle energy poverty

Mechanism /Approach	Examples from Europe & Beyond	Actions Energy Communities Can Undertake to Tackle Energy Poverty
1. Reducing Energy Bills through Collective Self-Consumption & Shared Generation of RES	• Coopérnico (Portugal): rooftop solar on social-institution buildings; reduces energy bills and delivers free PV systems at end of lease. • Brixton Solar (UK): tenants receive free shares of electricity from community PV.	• Provide free or pre-financed shares to vulnerable households. • Guarantee a reduced electricity tariff for low-income members. • Allocate a % of project output to vulnerable households (free kWh).
2. Generating Social Funds for Vulnerable Households	• Enercoop – Énergie Solidaire (France): micro-donation system (1 cent/kWh) funds NGOs fighting energy poverty. • Brixton Solar (UK): part of revenue goes into an energy-efficiency fund. • Dutch cooperatives	• Create a local solidarity or social-support fund using project revenues (culture, sports, education); Fund for direct periodic financial pay-off • Enable donation schemes from members or producers. • Dedicate a fixed % of annual revenue to vulnerable members • Distribution of vouchers
3. Providing Energy Advice, Audits & Behavioural Support	• POWERPOOR (EU, 8 countries): Energy Supporters advise energy-poor households and help plan efficiency interventions. • ZEZ (Croatia): trained unemployed youth as home energy advisors for low-income households • EcoPower (Belgium) collaborates with local energy desks and social-assistance offices to provide energy advice	• Offer counselling on renovation and energy-efficiency actions. • Provide home energy audits, behavioural advice, and appliance guidance. • Establish a local advisor programme (volunteers or trained staff) • Support understanding the energy bill or applying for subsidies

4. Supporting Renovation and Efficiency Upgrades	• POWERPOOR: helped households secure funding for building upgrades. • ZEZ: advisors help implement low-cost or structural efficiency improvements. • Ecovision (IE) has renovated 960 homes through citizen-led renovations, drastically reducing their members' bills.	• Help vulnerable households access renovation funding (municipal, EU, national). • Organise bulk purchasing for insulation, heat pumps, efficient appliances. • Deliver or coordinate small-scale home improvement services and efficiency upgrades
5. Provide efficient and renewable heating solutions	• ESEK (GR) offers free renewable energy (short-supply chain pellets) to vulnerable households in the region. • Ketelhuis WG (NL) is taking out the individual natural gas boilers of 1200 households in Amsterdam and changing this to an aquathermal district-heating network. It offers stable prices to all members, and special solidarity pricing to vulnerable households.	• Develop renewable thermal energy that directly benefits vulnerable households • Collect residual biomass to create energy efficient bio-pellets for sustainable heating • Engagement and awareness-raising activities to include vulnerable households at discounted rates in local district heating projects
6. Training, Employment & Local Skills Development	• ZEZ (Croatia): training unemployed youth as energy advisors; some hired via public works schemes. • Brixton Solar: internships and youth training programmes. • Energy coaches in Netherlands.	• Develop training programmes for local unemployed or youth. • Prioritise hiring from vulnerable groups. • Offer internships, apprenticeships, or skill-building opportunities.
7. Inclusive Participation Through Low-Barrier Entry Models	• • Ecopower & City of Eeklo (Belgium): city pre-financed cooperative shares for 750 residents with limited means. • Brixton Solar: small investment thresholds for low-income tenants.	• Provide pre-financed, free, or low-cost cooperative shares. • Allow micro-investment options and loans (e.g., €10–€50 buy-in). • Track and report the % of vulnerable members benefiting.
8. Strengthening Social Infrastructure Through Partnerships	• POWERPOOR: combines EC mentors with local welfare actors. • STEP, ENGAGER, CEES, Sun4All, BECoop, SHAREs+, POWER-E-COM : EU projects linking ECs with NGOs, municipalities, social services.	• Build formal partnerships with social-welfare organisations. • Co-design interventions with municipalities, NGOs, housing associations. • Improve outreach to hard-to-reach vulnerable groups.
9. Empowering Vulnerable Consumers Through	• Many ECs studied in H2020 CEES and ENGAGER integrate vulnerable citizens in governance structures.	• Create reserved governance seats for vulnerable-household representatives. • Ensure transparent pricing and democratic decision-making.

Participation & Governance		• Monitor the inclusion rate (share of vulnerable households involved).

3. Barriers Preventing Energy Communities from Effectively Tackling Energy Poverty

Despite their strong potential to deliver fairer, more affordable and community-centred energy solutions, ECs across Europe face a set of intertwined barriers that limit their ability to meaningfully alleviate energy poverty. These obstacles stem from the circumstances of vulnerable citizens, the limitations of ECs themselves, gaps or inconsistencies within institutional and policy frameworks.

First, vulnerable households often face **structural and behavioural constraints** that make it difficult for them to join, set up or benefit from collective energy initiatives. Energy poverty is multidimensional, rooted in the combination of reasons. These conditions are often linked to broader social issues such as marginalization, low education levels, poor health and limited financial resilience, which can create "poverty traps." Living under chronic scarcity reduces cognitive bandwidth, making long-term planning, administrative engagement or investment decisions more challenging. Many households in energy poverty do not perceive energy as their most urgent problem, may not recognize available solutions or distrust new schemes, and often face language barriers or lack access to intermediaries who can help them understand offers. As a result, even well-designed community-energy interventions struggle to reach the very people they aim to support.

Second, **policy and institutional factors can unintentionally exclude vulnerable groups**. While EU legislation recognises ECs, national frameworks often view participation primarily as an investment choice — requiring initial capital, time and risk-taking capacity that many vulnerable households lack. In some countries, joining an energy community may even jeopardise existing welfare benefits, such as unemployment allowances or require ECs members to leave the regulated power market with fixed, subsidized prices for electricity. This misalignment between social and energy policies discourages participation and highlights the need for integrated policymaking that acknowledges the lived reality of vulnerable households. Municipal support is equally crucial: local governments hold key responsibilities in the energy transition, yet many lack capacity, prioritisation or recognition of ECs as legitimate partners, resulting in missed opportunities for cooperation. Very often, local governments view energy-community projects primarily as an opportunity to access low-interest capital for modernising and retrofitting public buildings, rather than as strategic partners in delivering social benefits

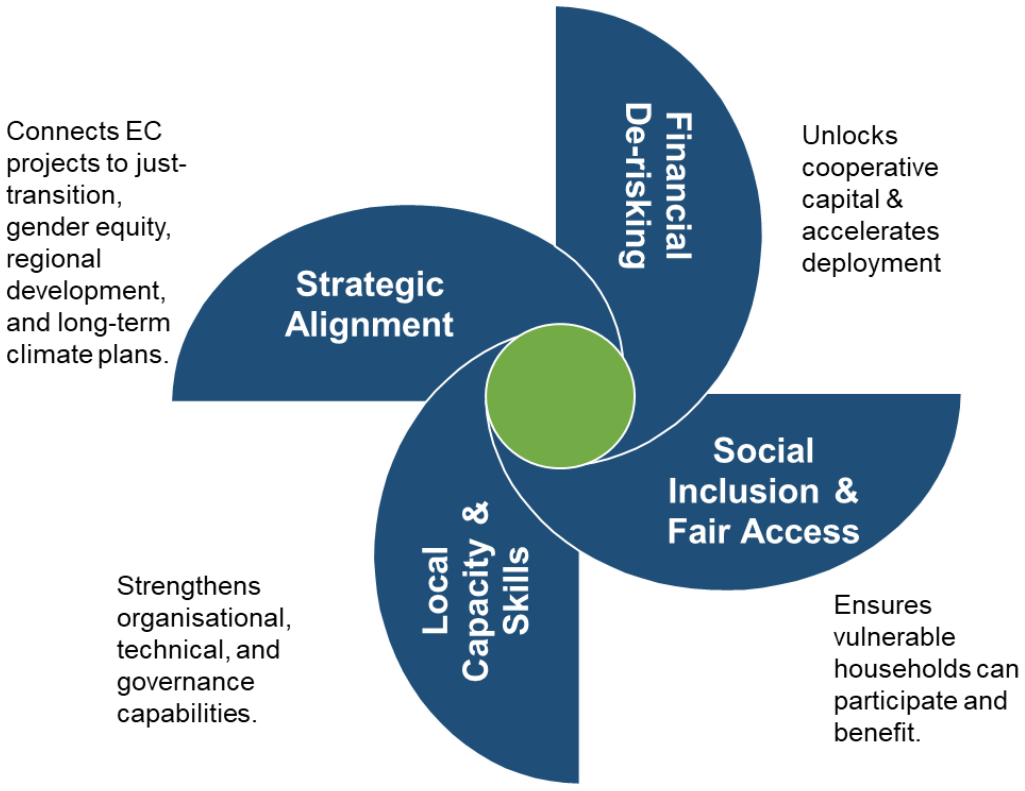
Third, ECs themselves face significant **operational barriers when addressing energy poverty**. Many rely on volunteers and have limited financial resources, insufficient knowledge of energy-poverty issues, and not enough revenue-generating projects to fund solidarity measures. Reaching vulnerable households requires **targeted outreach, trust-building and communication strategies** — activities that many energy communities lack the capacity to perform. Furthermore, effective action often depends on partnerships with social housing providers, welfare organisations and local agencies; when these links are missing, communities struggle to identify needs, coordinate interventions or scale their impact.

Together, these barriers shape a complex landscape in which both vulnerable groups and energy communities face limitations. Overcoming them requires coordinated policy support, stronger municipal engagement, improved cross-sector collaboration, and dedicated resources to help energy communities fulfil their social role in the energy transition.

4. The Catalytic Role of Public Funds

Cohesion Policy funding can play a decisive role in enabling ECs to become an effective instrument for reducing energy poverty and strengthening energy justice across Europe. Energy-community projects often face structural market failures that prevent them from reaching financial close: high upfront capital expenditure, long payback periods, limited liquidity among households, and a fragmented project-development ecosystem. By providing grants, guarantees, technical assistance, and concessional loans, Cohesion funding can de-risk these investments and make otherwise unviable projects bankable. Even modest public contributions—typically as little as 10–20% of total investment costs—can unlock significantly larger volumes of cooperative/ community capital, accelerating deployment of collective renewable energy, shared storage, and community-led renovation schemes.

Figure 2: The Cohesion Policy "Impact Wheel" for energy communities



Beyond de-risking, Cohesion Policy can directly address the risk of exclusion of vulnerable households from community-energy schemes. Without dedicated financial support, low-income

groups may be unable to buy cooperative shares, cover membership fees, or invest in the energy-efficiency improvements needed to fully benefit from participation. Targeted public measures such as vulnerability windows within funding programmes, micro-grants for member participation, subsidised entry shares, and innovation grants for citizen-led renovation models are essential to ensure that energy communities do not become exclusive clubs but remain vehicles for fairness and socioeconomic mobility. Coupling these measures with social-criteria scoring within project-selection processes further incentivises inclusive design and encourages communities to prioritise energy-poor households in their activities.

Cohesion funding is also vital for strengthening the local capacity that energy communities need to operate effectively. Many communities—especially in rural areas, coal-transition regions, or socioeconomically constrained neighbourhoods—lack the organisational, legal, and technical expertise required to plan and implement complex projects. Cohesion funds can support advisory services, feasibility studies, legal and financial counselling, community facilitation, and digital templates that reduce transaction costs. This type of capacity-building is often more important than capital support itself, because it enables community groups to become long-term, self-sustaining actors in the energy transition.

Finally, Cohesion Policy can help anchor energy-community development within broader strategic objectives of the EU and Member States. By aligning investments with just-transition goals, social innovation agendas, gender-equality measures, and regional development strategies, public funds ensure that community-energy initiatives not only deliver local renewable capacity but also contribute to wider policy priorities. This strategic alignment strengthens governance coherence, maximises societal benefit, and ensures that energy communities serve as engines of inclusion, resilience, and territorial cohesion.

Annex II: Examples of Member States Navigating State Aid for Community Energy Projects

Ireland - State Aid SA.54683 (2020/N)

On the 20th of July 2020, DG Competition approved the so-called RESS state aid scheme for Ireland. This revision of the scheme was approved under the exception of the CEEAG.This is the third iteration of the RESS support scheme for Ireland. The first version of the scheme was approved under the EEAG. The following text is based on the analysis of the scheme performed by the team of REScoop.eu in the Transposition Tracker table for Ireland.[22]

The RESS is a support scheme for renewable development awarded through competitive bidding. The measure is an operating aid of a feed-in premium awarded through a competitive bidding auction. The scheme is unique in Europe, as it includes specific provisions to support Community Projects - which are projects involving and owned by renewable energy communities.

The scheme includes 2 measures to support "Community Projects". The first measure is investment aid including a) grants of up to EUR 25 000 per project for feasibility studies; b) development loans of up to EUR 150 000 per project; and c) grants for the cost of professional advice covering all aspects of project delivery (legal, financial and technical). The second measure is an obligation for the winning bid to provide for citizen participation in the project investment structure.

The "community projects" are qualified as 100% owned by a REC either by way of direct ownership of the project's assets or by direct ownership of the shares in the Generator. Furthermore, 100% of the profits, dividends, and surpluses derived from the project must be returned to the REC.

The RESS auction includes a preference category for a minimum of up to 30 GWh / yr (subject to achieving sufficient competition in the auction) of community projects, which is 1% of the potential maximum renewable energy that will be supported in the first auction and could for example be met by 6 x 5 MW solar farms.

If the project qualified, it was not required to submit a Bid Bond or Performance Security. Furthermore, a community-led project didn't need to have planning permission to apply for a grid connection (although it is necessary before a grid connection can be issued).

Two rounds of competition (RESS 1 and RESS 2) have already taken place including a strong pipeline of community projects. The Community projects preference category is removed from RESS 3. Support for communities for the development of renewable projects have now transitioned to the non-competitive Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (SRESS). The first phase of such a scheme will include grant support for renewable self-consumers for solar installations up to 1MW for an interim period up to the end of 2025. Separately, with the introduction of the Clean Export Guarantee (CEG) in 2021, any residual renewable electricity not consumed on the premises of renewable self-

[22] REScoop.eu, Enabling Frameworks Tracker. https://www.rescoop.eu/policy/transposition-tracker/enabling-frameworks-support-schemes/ireland

consumers is also now eligible for an export payment from their electricity supplier, which further supports the investment.

Community Benefit Fund

Ireland's RESS Scheme includes the establishment of a "Community Benefit Fund", which must be set up by a Generator whereby it contributes €2 per MWh to such fund for the benefit of the community. There is a 'Good Practice Principles Handbook' that lays out a range of principles and guidance for Generators in order to ensure the successful operation and delivery of Community Benefit Funds, including the need to ensure community participation in fund decision-making via the establishment of a local committee, which should encourage successful dispersal of funds.

There are additional rules for administration and distribution of funds including:

(a) in respect of Onshore Wind RESS 2 Projects, a minimum of €1,000 shall be paid to each household located within a distance of a 1 kilometer radius from the Onshore Wind RESS 2 Project. The 1 kilometer distance specified is measured from the base of the nearest turbine of the RESS 2 Project to the nearest part of the structure of the household, the location of which is identified in the postal geo-directory;

(b) a minimum of 40% of the funds shall be paid to not-for-profit community enterprises whose primary focus or aim is the promotion of initiatives towards the delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goals 4, 7, 11 and 13, including education, energy efficiency, sustainable energy and climate action initiatives;

(c) a maximum of 10% of the funds may be spent on administration. This is to ensure successful outcomes and good governance of the Community Benefit Fund. The Generator may supplement this spend on administration from its own funds should it be deemed necessary to do so; and

(d) the balance of the funds shall be spent on: (i) initiatives successful in the annual application process, as proposed by clubs and societies and similar not-for-profit entities; and (ii) in respect of Onshore Wind RESS 2 Projects, on "near neighbour payments" for households located outside a distance of 1 kilometer from the RESS 2 Project but within a distance of 2 kilometers from such RESS 2 Project. The distance specified is from the base of the nearest turbine to the nearest part of the structure of the occupied residence, the location of which is identified in the postal geo-directory.

Italy - State Aid SA.106777 (2023/N)

In November 2023 with the Decision SA.106777 (2023/N) the European Commission approved the support scheme proposed by the Italian Government under the basis of the CEEAG.

The aid is offered for the construction and upgrading of renewable production facilities and for self-consumption of renewable electricity. The scheme is made up of 2 measures. The first one targeted

all beneficiaries, the second one focused on small municipalities (less than 50,000 inhabitants[23]). Both measures address jointly acting self-consumers and renewable energy communities. The scheme aims to facilitate up to 5 GW of new renewable power generation capacity, primarily through photovoltaic technology, under the management of the Ministry for Environment and Energy Security and the Gestore dei Servizi Energetici (GSE). The scheme is open to configurations that use the existing distribution grid to share electricity produced by renewable installations with a capacity of a maximum of 1MW per power plant.

The total cost of the scheme is estimated at EUR 5.7 billion, with Measure 1 financed through a levy on electricity consumption and Measure 2 financed by the Recovery and Resilience Facility. Measure 1 aims to support the installation of 5 GW of renewable capacity by 31 December 2027, while Measure 2 targets support for smaller municipalities and must be granted before 31 December 2025.

Measure 1 is a premium tariff for shared or self-consumed electricity acknowledged for a period of 20 years. The premium tariff varies by the size of the installation, encouraging economies of scale, with additional adjustments for PV installations based on regional insolation levels to ensure fair compensation and a level playing field. The premium tariff is determined as follows:

Table 1: Premium tariff by capacity

Capacity	**Premium tariff (EUR/MWh)**
> 600kW	100
> 200kW and ≤ 600 kW	110
≤ 200kW	120

Source: Italian Authorities

[23] [1] In the initial formulation, the threshold was 5,000 inhabitants; it was later raised to 50,000 by MASE Decree 127/2025.

To trigger more development, certain regions are incentivized additionally:

Table 2: Correction factors by geographical zone

Geographical Zone	Correction Factor
Central Regions (Lazio, Marche, Toscana, Umbria, Abruzzo)	+ 4 EUR/MWh
Northern Regions (Emilia-Romagna, Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Liguria, Lombardia, Piemonte, Trentino-Alto Adige, Valle d'Aosta, Veneto)	+ 10 EUR/MWh

Source: Italian Authorities

Measure 2 is an investment grant covering up to 40% of eligible investment costs for renewable production plants in municipalities with less than 50,000 inhabitants[24]. Eligible costs include the installation cost of the renewable source plants, supply and installation of storage systems, machinery, and connection to the electricity grid, among others, with a cap on financing for certain preparatory and consultancy expenses.

Cumulation of aid

Aid under Measure 2 (investment grant) can be cumulated with aid under Measure 1 (Premium Tariff). In this case, the premium tariff is reduced in a way that ensures that the capital grant does not exceed the funding gap. The premium tariff can be cumulated only with capital grants covering up to 40% of eligible costs. In this case, the premium tariff is reduced in proportion to the grant amount to avoid double compensation. These reductions do not apply to installations owned by territorial entities and local authorities, religious entities, third sector entities, and environmental protection entities.

Slovenia - State Aid SA.106613 (2023/N)

The Slovenian government notified the European Commission of a scheme on the 03-03- 2023, financed through the REPOWER EU chapters and approved under the Temporary Crisis and

[24] In the initial formulation, the threshold was 5,000 inhabitants; it was later raised to 50,000 by MASE Decree 127/2025.

Transition Framework. The measure is administered by the Ministry of environment, climate and energy of Slovenia.

The measures support communities focusing on the development of renewable projects (RECs and CECs) and SMEs for the deployment of generation of electricity from photovoltaic or other solar energy, geothermal energy and hydropower with an installed capacity equal to or less than 1 MW, or equal to or less than 6 MW, and the generation of electricity from wind energy with an installed capacity equal to or less than 1 MW, or equal to or less than 18 MW.

The measure deploys an investment grant equivalent to 45% of the total investment cost of the project. The maximum aid intensity may be increased by 20 percentage points for aid granted to small enterprises or by 10 percentage points for aid granted to medium-sized enterprises. The aid amounts up to 25 million euros per undertaking per project. This aid can be modulated based on the 15-year business model of the installation, in determining the eligible costs per technology.