



# Group 1

## Building and implementing a renewable energy community



### Challenges

Existence of skills/capacities on the ground, mainly volunteers	Lack of political engagement	Access to financing resources	Need for a central place to put in projects
Lack of data to frame correctly practical solutions	Rightly allocated benefits to areas		Local, regional, national, Energy monopolies and price policy
Resistance of local communities	Very low awareness and energy community culture at local level/not always see the added value	Benefit for private players from energy local communities	How to incentivise SMEs to join energy communities?
Balance social and market positions	Which involvement of traditional service providers in energy communities	Not in the interest for national entities to move fast towards energy communities	Social acceptance and role of public authorities to involve/motivate citizens
Communication not adapted to the ground	Big markets players blocking	What about areas who do not have all channels and social capital?	Existence of a lot of actors interfering in energy to coordinate/network
		Lack of legal frameworks to enhance and support energy communities	Laws have not been transposed in all areas yet
			Very different situations in Member States



### Supportive frameworks

Leader to engage more in energy communities	Credit unions (Ireland example)	EU funding for energy communities but to be properly translated at the Member States level for rural areas	Cooperative model to be better transferred between EU MS/regions
	Existing tools to mobilise young actors/activities who are quite open to green (SK experience) "Use energy in energy communities"		



### Practical solutions

EU initiatives supporting networking between communities, rural cities as RECAH, Covenant of Mayors	Not to exclude benefits for private actors but avoid monopolies	Local associations (sport, culture) for mobilising the creation of energy communities to mobilise the population	Use the energy of young activists in the sector of energy communities and create a network between them
Develop cooperation at a multi-level governance	Mobilise the social capital/capacities (even local radio)	Educate better the political level, implement a democratic approach	
Structure of local governance	Private entities very much welcomed, as soon as not dominant and controlling	Make use of what motivated energy communities as an incentive for energy communities	
Knock on doors and have your voice heard loudly (campaigning)	Continuous information using all local media channels	Reporting on percentage of financing energy communities	



### Lessons and recommendations

Active and concrete campaigning rather than media platforms	Involve local associations (shops, sports, youth associations etc)	Use all media channels you can	Improve legal capital and transposing in the areas
	LEADER can be a support as a stakeholder and a financing entity (consistent approach, but adapted to each region)	Guidance/tools to adapt to these new business models of energy communities	
Educate better, incl. on the political level	Centralised place to get support (financial)	Corporate financial models	
One stop shop to help the communities to move forwards but part of a consistent approach and process at all governance levels			
Reinforce financing and access to rural areas, specific tool dedicate for energy projects/communities	Open communication dialogue with farmers to avoid tension with land use		