

Rural Pact Conference

15-16 June 2022



Community driven sustainable energy action in rural villages

Welcome and introduction





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Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub



Why energy communities are key to advancing the European Green Deal

- The European Green Deal sets out to make Europe the first climate neutral continent by 2050.
- A key component of this goal is the decarbonisation of the EU energy system via the Clean Energy Package.
- **Energy communities** have an important role in this transition: renewable energy production and supply, building renovation, and the promotion of energy efficiency and flexibility.
- Provide active **citizen engagement and boost positive social norms**, thus combatting energy poverty and fostering solidarity to assure a just and inclusive energy transition.
- Recent crises like the COVID-19 pandemic and Russian invasion of Ukraine further underline the necessity to assure energy accessibility, **resilience and security**, especially at the local level.



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Rural energy communities: an understanding and their particularities

Renewable energy communities (Article 2(16) Recast Renewable Energy Directive) and **citizen energy communities** (Article 2(11) Recast Internal Electricity Market Directive), have been defined in several pieces of EU legislation, which commonly describe them as:

- A legal entity, based on open and voluntary participation
- Controlled by members or shareholders, those being natural persons, municipalities or small enterprises
- Have the primary purpose of providing environmental, economic or social community benefits
- Engages in generation, distribution, and consumption of renewable energy



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Rural energy communities: an understanding and their particularities

Rural energy communities are especially important in relation to the EU's climate objectives

active participation
of local authorities
and citizens

ensure rural areas
are not left behind

operationalisation
of local
development plans

Input to common agricultural
policy, rural development, and
farm modernisation

However they face a **variety of challenges and barriers:**

- Physical constraints and interconnectivity limits
- Socio-economic
- Technical
- Knowledge sharing
- Engagement with right actors or institutions



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Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub



What the Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub is for

The Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub is an initiative of the European Commission, which aims to **accelerate the development of sustainable energy community projects in European rural areas**.

The main activities of the initiative will be

- **Identification of best practices**
- **Provision of technical assistance**
- **Networking opportunities** to the energy communities and local stakeholders selected to participate.

Building on the work of the Energy Communities Repository and the Covenant of Mayors



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What the Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub is for

Identification of best practices - Objectives

Collection of information through survey and interviews in relation to energy communities and policy landscape supporting rural development in the Member States.

Identification of barriers, key action drivers and recommendations

Development of case studies to be distributed through the website and which will support energy communities and local authorities to tackle some of the identified barriers

Main outputs

- **Database on energy communities** across MS in collaboration with the Energy Communities Repository
- **Development of 20 case studies**
- Report on rural energy communities' and rural actions and activities' landscape in the EU



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What the Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub is for

Provision of technical assistance - Objectives

To prepare and implement calls for proposal to select the most relevant and meriting beneficiaries developing rural energy communities at local, municipal and regional level;

To provide technical assistance to beneficiaries for the development and implementation rural energy communities.

Launching of two calls for proposal – Between September and December 2022.

Main outputs

- **Provision of up to 40 activities of technical assistance**
- **Three types of technical assistance provision:**
 - extensive support (> 20 days)
 - concise support (up to 5 days)
 - extension support (up to 5 days)



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Launch of the Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub

The launch event will take place just after the Rural Pact conference.

The event is **open to any interested stakeholder**, including energy communities representatives, national and regional politicians, local authorities and social and economic stakeholders involved in rural development.

When - Friday 17 June 2022, 9.00 - 12.00 (CEST)

Where - Tours & Taxis

The **Rural** Energy
Community
Advisory Hub



Registration page →

https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/launch-rural-energy-community-advisory-hub-2022-jun-17_en



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A scenic landscape featuring rolling hills, a small village, and distant mountains under a cloudy sky. The text "Thank you" is overlaid in the center.

Thank you

Thank you

