Interreg Danube Region

Co-funded by the European Union

NRGCOM

D2.4.1 Assessment of the pilot action

A2.4 Launching of an awareness raising pilot action to assess and increase the engagement of stakeholders through professional trainings

About the activity

Activity 2.4 description

Based on the motivational programme, PPs implemented awareness raising pilot actions to increase the commitment of key actors to create energy communities. The tutors were the 'Renewable energy community ambassadors', REC members and other professionals. The invitees – potential REC members - participated at professional trainings to increase their knowledge and dispel their doubts related to energy communities. The trainings were open and free of charge to all interested parties, subject to pre-registration. For equal access and no-discrimination purposes, the registration platform was shared online on the partners' websites and social media platforms.

The willingness of the participants was measured before and after the training and the results of the experience will be included in the engagement strategy (O2.1) and contribute to the awareness raising toolkit (O.2.3).

All partners implemented the awareness raising pilot action for engaging the stakeholders and STRIA, the activity leader assessed the results.

Deliverable D2.4.1 Assessment of the pilot action

STRIA is in charge of assessing the outcomes of the awareness raising pilot action aimed at enhancing the engagement of stakeholders (A2.4). The assessment is presented in English.

Output 2.2

2 types of awareness raising campaigns conducted by each PP via public events and online seminars/trainings to address the general public, enterprises and various authorities, with the contribution of the REC ambassadors and REC members. The events supported through an extensive on-line social media campaign. The pilot actions will be realised on the basis of the engagement strategy. The results of the pilots will be processed when compiling the toolkit (O.2.3).

The trainings were implemented by June 2025. All partners submission the national reports to STRIA by 30 June 2025.

Summary of results – What is the impact of the traning?

Based on the national reports, the number of implemented training sessions and the number of participants is presented in the following summary table.

	NUMBER OF TRAININGS	NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS
LP1 STRIA PP2 IMRO	1	16
PP3 JAIP	1	74
PP4 FORSCHUNG BGLD	1	42
PP5 IRENA	3	75
PP6 KSSENA	2	7
PP7 PRA	1	24
PP8 REDASP	1	24
PP9 OER	2	57
PP10 FORS Montenegro	2	30
PP11 DIT	5	84
PP12 NEK	2	20
PP13 AEER	2	82
SUM	31	601

The willingness of the participants was measured before and after the training with pre- and post-questionaries. Based on the comparative analyses by countries, we have summarized the results of the questionnaires below in terms of the impact of the trainings.

Increasing Knowledge and Understanding

Across all participating countries, participants reported a substantial improvement in their knowledge of renewable energy communities (RECs). Before the training, many respondents had a general understanding but lacked depth in areas such as legal frameworks, governance structures, and financial mechanisms. Post-training data indicate that participants were better equipped to understand and explain the principles of RECs. Several countries highlighted that participants could now identify key actors,

describe operational procedures, and distinguish RECs from other renewable energy initiatives.

Changes in Participants Status - From passive observation to active participation

Prior to the training, most individuals identified as passive observers with limited engagement. The training facilitated a shift in perception, with many now considering active involvement. In several regions, respondents expressed willingness to either join or initiate an REC. This transformation was particularly notable in areas where community-level engagement had previously been low. The training enhanced participants' sense of agency and readiness to engage in energy-related community activities.

Motivation and Expectations

Pre-training motivations were generally centred on environmental consciousness and a desire for energy independence. Post-training responses reflect a broader and more nuanced motivation, including financial savings, social benefits, and enhanced control over local energy resources. Expectations became more grounded and practical. Participants showed increased interest in understanding regulatory obligations, funding mechanisms, and administrative challenges. In multiple countries, the training led to specific follow-up actions, such as planning local meetings or initiating partnerships.

In conclusion, the A2.4 training sessions across the 12 countries resulted in a demonstrable increase in awareness, engagement readiness, and practical motivation. The structured format of the sessions, focused on legal, technical, and participatory dimensions of RECs, played a significant role in shaping the post-training attitudes of participants.

Summary of conclusions and recommendations

In line with the project's objectives, training sessions were organized on the following key topics:

- Joint design of the appropriate conditions with stakeholders to create energy communities;
- Engagement of stakeholders to set up energy communities;
- Increasing the knowledge and dispelling doubts of stakeholders regarding RECs;
- Improvement of the functioning of existing RECs.

Based on the results of the questionnaire and the conclusions drawn by PP's introducing their experiences in organizing the training sessions in each country, we can summarize the following points regarding the four key topics.

Joint design of the appropriate conditions with stakeholders to create energy communities

Several countries emphasised the need for an enabling legal environment. It is necessary to create a simple and practical legal form of REC, especially in those countries where the legal and regulatory framework is still missing. The lack of a stable legal framework as a core barrier. In order to improve the situation necessary to clear identification of roles, training of municipal staff, and introduce standardised procedures are recommended. These observations underline the need for foundational regulatory clarity and institutional support.

Engagement of stakeholders to set up energy communities

Potential members need to understand their benefits and responsibilities". In order to establish appropriate relations and communication with the community the proactive approach, accessible language and open communication are key to gaining trust and involvement. Raising awareness and informing is crucial for the involvement of stakeholders, reinforcing the idea that engagement requires both transparency and strategic communication.

Increasing the knowledge and dispelling doubts of stakeholders regarding RECs

There are many countries where is a great interest in this topic, but at the same time there is also a lot of uncertainty". Targeted trainings and good practices can help reduce mistrust, while clarity and legal certainty to proceed with concrete actions. These findings

show that knowledge transfer and legal transparency are central to strengthening stakeholder confidence.

Improvement of the functioning of existing RECs

Several project partners observed that for long-term stability, communication and regular meetings between members are needed. Some of them pointed to the need for transparency and feedback mechanisms within community operations. Responses highlighted that appropriate governance models are essential to avoid internal conflicts and ensure equitable participation. These conclusions demonstrate that operational stability depends on structured communication and inclusive governance.

In Activity 2.4, key training topics - defined in line with the project objectives - covered the most important areas based on the survey results.

As regards the training methodology and recommended tools, based on the results of the questionnaire and feedback from training organizers, it is recommended that the following be taken into account in future.

A common emphasis across all contexts was the need for tailored and accessible educational content to **adapt training tools and language to target groups**, stressing that communication must be adjusted in tone and form to fit various community profiles. Another report noted that "information materials and visual elements should be tailored to each target group" and supported by "easy-to-understand content to increase engagement and comprehension". This was echoed by the observation that "potential members must be informed about their roles, benefits and risks in a targeted way".

It was recommended to "**raise awareness about the benefits and obligations of energy communities**", particularly by expanding on legal content within training curricula to address questions and uncertainties observed among participants. Complementary suggestions highlighted the need for "**comprehensive training materials covering legal, technical and financial aspects**" especially where national regulatory frameworks are not yet fully developed.

A strong focus was placed on the importance of practical, step-by-step guidance. One contribution advised that "**trainings should include simplified instructions for founding and operating RECs**" combined with user-friendly legal and administrative checklists. Another reinforced the necessity of "**concrete steps for REC establishment**" suggesting that abstract information should be accompanied by procedural clarity.
To enhance the impact and replicability of awareness-raising activities, it was proposed to support the dissemination of good practices. Several reports suggested to "**share successful initiatives to demonstrate feasibility and motivate engagement**" and promote "**practical, replicable examples**" that communities can follow. The

development of a "**regional knowledge platform**" was also proposed to compile, exchange and disseminate these practices across borders.

Localization of activities emerged as a recurring theme. One recommendation was to "**organize local discussions, in-person community dialogues and thematic debates**" promoting dialogue as a method of building trust. Others stressed the importance of "**locally grounded**" and "**regionally relevant**" content, noting that different municipalities may face different regulatory and infrastructural contexts. Further recommendations included the inclusion of interactive and scenario-based learning elements to "**stimulate the active participation of citizens and local institutions**". Another contribution added that trainings should be accompanied by "**visual aids and infographics**" that illustrate key legal and technical principles. The integration of multimedia tools and gamification elements was also recommended to make content more accessible and memorable, particularly for younger audiences.

Engagement with municipalities and other public actors was seen as essential. One suggestion called for "**dedicated training modules for municipal staff**", while another proposed to "**train local authorities on how to facilitate community energy projects and act as multipliers of knowledge**". The establishment of partnerships between educational institutions and municipalities to jointly deliver community-based trainings was also encouraged.

Finally, the need for continuity and follow-up was underlined. It was advised that "**trainings should not be one-off events, but part of a continuous process**" with regular follow-up workshops and refresher courses. Additional suggestions supported the idea of ongoing mentorship, proposing the establishment of expert pools to accompany communities through the different stages of development.

In conclusion, the recommendations converge around four priorities for future training and awareness efforts: tailoring content to audiences, providing clear and practical guidance, enabling local dialogue and exchange, and ensuring continuity of support. Each partner contributed specific and context-sensitive suggestions to these overarching themes.

Based on participant feedback, the following recommendations should be taken into account when designing future training courses:

Content related recommendations:

- locally case studies
- best practices to illustrate local adaptation
- storage options
- tariff transparency
- app-based tools

- rec integration with heating and gas
- clarity on funding programmes
- community benefits
- legal forms
- cost-benefit analysis
- request for legal templates
- financial mechanisms
- administrative toolkits
- national-level funding options
- guidelines for cost-sharing
- trust-building examples
- community engagement strategies
- improved data collection
- support schemes and institutional support.
- energy literacy tools.

Methodological recommandations:

- visualisation tools
- step-by-step creation guides
- digital dashboards
- handbook-based content
- systemic approaches
- actor mapping
- participatory tools
- mentoring network
- personal consultation
- structured presentations
- space for q&a
- short expert talks
- on-site examples/ study visits
- participant discussion
- hands-on planning
- call for school-level education
- structured training
- tight agenda
- access to mentors.

The table below provides a summary analysis of Activity 2.4 by country, based on the results of the questionnaires. The table shows pre-training knowledge level and barriers, most common training topics and questions, post-training knowledge and confidence level. The table summarise also the content-related and methodological recommendations for future activities from the participants by country.

Country	***Pre-training knowledge & barriers***	***Key training topics & questions***	***Post-training knowledge & confidence***	***Content-related recommendations***	***Methodological recommendations***
Austria	Moderate to good familiarity. Main barriers: economic feasibility, storage issues, legal-administrative uncertainty.	Legal frameworks, financial benefits, best practices. Questions on pricing, coordination, and storage integration.	Improved knowledge in legal, technical and governance areas. Higher confidence in joining RECs.	More case studies, storage options, tariff transparency, app-based tools.	Visualisation tools, best practice sharing, step-by-step creation guides.
Germany	Fragmented awareness pre-training, strong technical orientation. Key barriers: regulation, coordination, trust.	Governance, smart platforms, heating integration. Questions on balancing market access and REC models.	Integrated understanding developed. Strong interest in replication and research applications.	Digital dashboards, REC integration with heating and gas. Handbook-based content well received.	Systemic approaches, actor mapping, participatory tools, mentoring network.
Czech Republic	Low to moderate awareness. Barriers: complexity of legislation, unclear responsibilities, financing.	Legal framework, technical and governance insights. Interest in Czech examples.	Knowledge increased. Readiness to engage improved notably.	Request for step-by-step examples and legal/funding advice.	Personal consultation, structured presentations, space for Q&A.
Slovakia	Moderate familiarity. Barriers: regulatory and policy challenges, high costs.	Legal clarity, role of municipalities, best practices.	Confidence improved to high levels post-training.	Best practices requested to illustrate local adaptation.	Localised examples, short expert talks, visual aids.
Croatia	Limited familiarity, concerns about funding and legal complexity.	Governance of RECs, technical and legal aspects.	Significant improvement in understanding and motivation.	Clarity on funding programmes, community benefits, legal forms.	On-site examples, participant discussion, hands-on planning.
Montenegro	Low awareness, unclear regulation, limited exposure to RECs.	Best practices, legal and technical content, investment return models.	Strong knowledge improvement. Moderate to high confidence post-training.	Call for school-level education, clearer legal path, cost-benefit analysis.	Improved structure, tighter delivery, access to mentors, study visits.

Country	**Pre-training knowledge & barriers**	**Key training topics & questions**	**Post-training knowledge & confidence**	**Content-related recommendations**	**Methodological recommendations**
Hungary	Polarised knowledge levels. Doubts over state support and unclear regulation.	Legal frameworks, practical implementation models.	Improved understanding, but structural gaps remain.	Case studies, examples of current Hungarian RECs.	Short sessions, practical toolkits, visual guides.
Serbia	Moderate knowledge. Legal ambiguity and low institutional readiness cited.	EU-aligned legal models, grid integration, funding.	Marked gains in understanding and motivation.	Request for legal templates, financial mechanisms.	Scenario-based cases, administrative toolkits, community outreach.
Moldova	Low to moderate awareness. Barriers include legislation, infrastructure, information.	Legal status, step-by-step models, successful pilot cases.	Knowledge and benefit awareness increased significantly.	National-level funding options, guidelines for cost-sharing.	Simple legal explanations, hands-on workshops, localised materials.
Bulgaria	Small sample size. Concerns around trust and community motivation.	RECs in Gabrovo and Burgas, practical examples.	Some improvement, but under-represented data.	More practical cases, trust-building examples.	Community engagement strategies, improved data collection.
Romania	Details limited; generally low to moderate pre-training awareness.	Legal frameworks, REC setup basics.	Improved interest and awareness.	Support schemes and institutional support.	Methodology-focused workshops, more local examples.
Slovenia	Low exposure to RECs. Barriers: legal clarity and financial risks.	Legal education, community coordination.	Knowledge increased; motivation grew.	Funding options, energy literacy tools.	Field demonstrations, community mobilisation strategies.

1. METHODOLOGY

The methodology applied for the national reports followed a uniform structure across all participating countries to ensure comparability and coherence. Each report was structured along the following elements.

1.1 General information regarding the event of the professional training

- Event title, date, place, main topics of the event according to the methodology:
- Description of the relevance of selected main topics based on national progress regarding renewable energy initiatives and communities.
- Description of the training method (format, length, presentation/workshop, etc.)

1.2 Event Organization Description that includes, for example:

- Types of stakeholders invited:
- Methods of inviting participants:

1.3 Description of the questionnaires used (before and after the event organized)

1.4 Information about the participants

Number, demographic data, age, level of education, gender, type and place of residence, number of household members, etc.

1.4 Method of data collection

AUSTRIA

General information regarding the professional training event

The training entitled Professional Training on Energy Communities took place on 14 May 2025 in the municipality of Neudörfl, Austria. The event focused on enhancing participants' understanding of the benefits of active user behaviour in renewable energy communities (RECs), particularly the use of energy flexibility and the interpretation of community data platform outputs. These topics were introduced and moderated by NRGCOM ambassador Markus Puchegger. Given Austria's advanced state of development—with more than 6,500 RECs already established—the training specifically addressed long-term sustainability factors such as communication practices, information flow, and member motivation. The session also explored how community members consciously align their energy consumption with renewable availability, which is increasingly common in the Austrian context. The training was held in a workshop format, scheduled as an afternoon event, enabling dialogue and idea exchange.

	Event 1
Event Title	Professional Training on Energy Communities
Date and Place	14 May 2025, Neudörfl, Austria
Main Topics	Advantages of active user behaviour, energy data interpretation, member motivations, information flow improvement in RECs.
Relevance	Aligned with Austria's established ecosystem for RECs, this training supported citizen engagement and the sustainable operation of energy communities.
Training Method	In-person, afternoon session, presentations and interactive discussions led by NRGCOM ambassador Markus Puchegger.
Stakeholders	Private individuals, local industry representatives, community members from Neudörfl and surrounding areas.
Invitation Methods	Email invitations and public notice board announcements.

Number of Participants	42
Information about Participants	No detailed demographic data disclosed due to Austrian data protection regulations , it can be assumed that the audience represented a mix of individual and organisational stakeholders from Neudörfl and nearby municipalities, in line with the invitation approach and thematic focus of the training.
Data Collection	Pre-event (9.8% response) and post-event (19.2% response) questionnaires sent via email; anonymised in compliance with data protection rules.

GERMANY

General information regarding the professional training event

Events focused on enhancing stakeholders' understanding of renewable energy communities (RECs) through knowledge-sharing, student education, applied research dissemination and stakeholder engagement. Events such as the LEEWAY Working Group and the Berlin national workshop provided legal, technical and governance guidance for REC creation, while emphasising cross-border comparability and systemic planning. The Future Expert Workshop Series addressed knowledge gaps among students via digital and thermal REC components. On-site events like the Deggendorf Research Day and the TZE student visit offered tangible demonstrations of innovations such as Power-to-Gas and real-life REC operations. Each initiative was tailored to national and educational contexts and reflected the diversity of participants and methodologies employed, from academic lectures to interactive workshops. All events aligned with NRGCOM's strategic pillars: joint design, stakeholder engagement, capacity building, and REC optimisation.

Event Summary

Professional Tranings	Number of Events	Target Value	Total Reach
Public Event	2	30	34
Expert Trainings	9	10	35
Handbook	3	30	45
Journal Publication	1	-	-
Expert Presentations	1	-	15

Event	Date	Main Topics	Relevance to National Context	Format	Stakeholders	Invitation Method	Participants	Data Collection
LEEWAY WG #8 (Online)	18 Feb 2025	Joint design; stakeholder engagement; knowledge increase; REC improvement	Support for legal/technical harmonisation across EU; addresses fragmented frameworks	Online meeting, presentation & discussion	Industry, government, local organisations, experts	Email, partner network, prior events	Danube region stakeholders; no detailed demographics	Live feedback, Q&A, qualitative observations
Future Expert Workshop Series	Apr–Jun 2025	REC design; digitalisation; heating; stakeholder engagement	Fills education gap; links academic and practical REC models	8x online 2h workshops	Bachelor & Master students in relevant fields	University departments	20–30 yrs; academic background; digital & energy fields	Live polls, reflection, wrap-ups
12th Day of Research (DIT)	25 Feb 2025	Power-to-Gas, innovation in RECs, sustainable systems	Explores non-electric REC strategies; energy autonomy	On-site, impulse talks, poster sessions	Academia, industry, local public	University site, social media, institutional invites	13 people; mix of public & professional	Audience questions, informal feedback
Berlin National Workshop	6 May 2025	Stakeholder communication, systemic planning, case studies	Addresses trust gaps, fragmented stakeholder roles	On-site national workshop	Academia, municipalities, NGOs, cooperatives	Emails, institutional outreach	Mixed; planning-focused professionals	Group work, discussions, qualitative feedback
Student Visit & TZE Presentation	18 Jun 2025	Wildpoldsried case, REC operation, community energy	Bridges theory and practice in education	On-site visit with lecture	University students	Organised via curriculum	25 students; energy/sustainability background	Live Q&A, technical discussions

CZECH REPUBLIC

General information regarding the professional training event

The professional seminar was held on **January 30, 2025**. The training program provided practical insights into legislation, technical solutions, funding opportunities, economic models, and case studies. It was organized by JAIP in cooperation with AKU-BAT CZ and the Solar Association.

Event summary

	Event 1
Event Title	Energy Storage and PV from A to Z
Date and Place	30 January 2025, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, CTU, Prague
Main Topics	Legislation, technical solutions, funding models, economic frameworks, case studies of RECs.
Relevance	Supports practical REC implementation in Czech Republic through applied knowledge-sharing.
Training Method	In-person, one-day seminar with lectures, case studies, and moderated discussion.
Stakeholders	Company representatives, housing associations, municipal staff, schools.
Invitation Methods	Official websites, social media, emails, press release; registration via online form.
Number of Participants	74
Information about Participants	93.7% men, 6.3% women; most aged 36–50; mostly secondary or university education. From companies (58%), SVJs (18%), schools (14%), municipalities (11%). Mainly from Prague and smaller towns.

Data Collection	Pre- and post-training online questionnaires (Google Forms); anonymous, qualitative and quantitative.

SLOVAKIA

General information regarding the professional training event

PP -12 NEK is conducting 2 types of awareness-raising campaigns through public events and online seminars/trainings aimed at the general public, businesses and various authorities, with the contribution of REC ambassadors and REC members. The events were supported by a large-scale online campaign on the web and partner portals and social networks. Pilot actions were already implemented in the results of the 2nd period of the project based on the engagement strategy and processed when compiling the toolkit (O.2.3). PP12 – NEK invited - potential REC members - participated in professional training sessions to increase their knowledge and dispel their doubts about energy communities. In particular, PP12 - NEK implemented a pilot verification and testing of selected participants from Slovakia on the topic within this activity already during the implementation of the 2nd period of the NRGCOM project.

The training were hold 11 and 12.12.2024 as part of the 5th National Workshop in Košice. Subsequently, during the domestic workshop on 17-20.02.2025 (during the 3rd period of the project), ambassadors and experts met with the participants in the survey and testing of this task and together repeatedly discussed and evaluated the results in detail in the discussion

The main topic of the training was selected by the organizer of PP-12 NEK based on national progress in the field of renewable energy initiatives and communities. The training is carried out in cooperation with REC, ASP ambassadors, professional trainers or experts in energy communities. At least 5 national organizations from each country were participated in the training. The training content included the next topics:

- Main bottlenecks;
- Overview of ECs and their benefits;
- National experiences and difficulties of energy communities;
- Legal background and national characteristics
- Best business models and stakeholder management practices, Catalogue of best energy community operating models
- Motivation and inclusion practices introduced in D1.3.1 Collection of best internal operating and management practices of energy communities
- Technologies and Infrastructure (AT.1.4) and Key Findings D1.4.1 Collection of development recommendations to optimize the functioning of energy communities,
- Content and theme of the prepared national policy recommendations;
- Case studies of successful REC initiatives;

- Special attention must be paid to dispelling doubts and myths about energy communities.

	Event 1	**Event 2**
Event Title	Energy Communities and Renewable Energy in Slovakia	Developing Practical REC Models in Slovakia
Date and Place	11-12 December 2024, Košice, Slovakia	18-20 February 2025, Košice Slovakia
Main Topics	Introduction to RECs, Slovak legislation, financing, local community engagement.	Practical models of RECs, governance, technical implementation, case examples.
Relevance	Supported stakeholder understanding of the role of RECs in Slovakia's energy transition and legal challenges.	Focused on translating REC theory into practice with real-life Slovak examples and operational guidance.
Training Method	In-person seminar with presentations and Q&A session.	In-person workshop with expert-led sessions and interactive elements.
Stakeholders	Local authorities, government representatives, energy professionals, civic organisations.	Energy consultants, municipalities, universities, local associations.
Invitation Methods	Email invitations through existing partner and institutional networks.	Direct invitations and local stakeholder networks.
Number of Participants	9	11
Information about Participants	Representatives from public institutions, energy and environmental sectors, and NGOs.	Participants from diverse regions, including academic, technical, municipal and community representatives.
Data Collection	Paper-based questionnaires at the end of the training.	Structured feedback form distributed in person.

CROATIA

General information regarding the professional training event

Professional training has been held on three occasions. As the main goal of the professional training is the setting up of an energy community that will involve citizens, entrepreneurs, local community and as well public buildings managed by the region, first and the last training held on January 10th and April 29th applied more direct approach to the local community.

The conference was conducted using presentations, video materials, and panel discussions. In the introductory part, a video was shown about the benefits that energy communities can provide to their users.

In the panel discussions focus was placed on the current situation and status of the energy communities in Croatia, as well as the barriers to their establishment and operation. The multidimensionality of energy communities was also discussed, as they are not only seen as a concept of the future, but a tool for achieving a more resilient and equitable energy system. Key obstacles and challenges were identified in the complexity of the legislative framework, technical infrastructure, as well as in the level of citizens' energy literacy.

Event organisation description

Trainings were organized with direct, personal approach in the form of the working session was applied as it was detected that the representatives of the local community will need a chance to clarify in more detail questions on the future energy community planned to be set up.

Information about the participants

Types of stakeholders invited: industry partners, government institutions, media representatives, experts and speakers, community and local organizations.

Methods of inviting participants: sending formal invitations via email, posting announcements on the official event website, utilizing social media for information dissemination, directly contacting through phone calls or meetings, using event management platforms for registration.

Method of data collection

The analysed responses were collected before and after the public event titled "Days of Energy Transition of Istria County", held on 16 April, dedicated on the topic covering the establishment and strengthening of energy communities. Public event organised in the form of a conference gathered 72 participants. Responses have been obtained and analysed from 70 of them.

MOLDOVA

The table below presents the summary of the two professional training events organised in Moldova under Activity A2.4. Both events contributed to enhancing awareness and understanding of renewable energy communities (RECs), with a noticeable increase in participants' conceptual and practical knowledge, as reflected in post-training assessments.

Event 1: The selected topics addressed key priorities for Moldova's transition to sustainable energy systems, in line with the national commitments under the EU integration process and the National Climate Action Law. As Moldova progresses towards aligning its legislation and practices with EU climate and energy policies, energy communities are recognized as essential instruments for enhancing energy security, increasing local ownership of renewable energy projects, and fostering citizen engagement in the energy transition. The Agenda of Workshop was dedicated to Legislative framework, Technical and Financial requires, Potential Pilot projects, and Practical examples from Danube region.

Event 2: The selected topics addressed key priorities for Moldova's transition to sustainable energy systems, in line with the national commitments under the EU integration process and the National Climate Action Law. As Moldova progresses towards aligning its legislation and practices with EU climate and energy policies, energy communities are recognized as essential instruments for enhancing energy security, increasing local ownership of renewable energy projects, and fostering citizen engagement in the energy transition. The Agenda of MDCP Covenant of Mayors Signatories included a dedicated presentation regarding the energy community - legislative updates, sharing practical experiences, and highlighting financial instruments that could facilitate the establishment and operation of energy communities in Moldova.

	Event 1	**Event 2**
Event Title	Energy Communities Workshop with Stakeholders	Sustainable Local Development Platform – 4th Meeting
Date and Place	24 Dec 2024, Richland Hotel, Chisinau	15 Apr 2025, Radisson Blu, Chisinau
Main Topics	Joint design; stakeholder engagement; knowledge enhancement	REC conditions; stakeholder engagement; legal & financial instruments
Relevance	Supports Moldova's EU integration; legal/policy gaps addressed	Aligned with Moldova's Climate Action Law & EU convergence
Training Method	3-hour in-person training; presentations and discussions	Full-day in-person event; panels, case studies, Q&A
Stakeholders	Government institutions, energy operators, experts, REC ambassadors	Ministries, municipalities, experts, NGOs, media
Invitation Methods	Email, phone calls	Email, social media, phone, registration platforms
Number of participants	12	70
Information about the participants	Undisclosed demographics; broad sector representation	Broad range; mostly aged 30–60; pre/post questionnaires used
Data Collection	Google Forms (pre/post questionnaires)	Google Forms (pre/post questionnaires)

MONTENEGRO

The three professional training sessions conducted in Montenegro under Activity A2.4 focused on raising awareness and building practical knowledge related to renewable energy communities (RECs).

The invitees – potential REC members - participated at the professional trainings to increase their knowledge and dispel their doubts related to energy communities. The trainings included the following: - - - An online webinar on Energy Communities of Citizens held on 24 April 2025; A workshop on Energy Communities of Citizens held on 30 April 2025; A study visit organised in Croatia on 9-13 June 2025. In addition to that, we have translated and distributed the brochure on 5 steps towards your energy community as a handbook for establishment of the energy communities of citizens.

The first session, held on 24 April 2025 in Nikšić, introduced the foundational principles of RECs. It explored the legal and financial frameworks relevant to Montenegro's energy transition and provided participants with practical insights into community energy models. This event was particularly relevant in the national context, given the early stage of REC development and the need to align with European climate and energy policy objectives.

The second session, organised on 30 April 2025 in Pljevlja, addressed governance structures in RECs. Participants examined roles and responsibilities within energy communities, principles of transparent decision-making, and approaches to managing internal cooperation. This training responded to the national need for improving the institutional capacities required to launch and operate energy communities effectively.

The third session took place on Croatia on 9-13 June 2025 and centred on stakeholder engagement. The training addressed strategies for identifying, motivating, and retaining diverse actors in RECs, with an emphasis on trust-building, inclusiveness, and long-term participation. As stakeholder mobilisation remains a key barrier to energy transition efforts in Montenegro, the session provided tailored tools for local actors to foster sustained community involvement.

Event Summary

	Event 1	**Event 2**	**Event 3**
Event Title	Training on Renewable Energy Communities	Training on Governance of Energy Communities	Training on Stakeholder Engagement – Study visit
Date and Place	24 April 2025, Nikšić, Montenegro	30 April 2025, Pljevlja, Montenegro	9-13 June 2025, Croatia
Main Topics	Basic principles and benefits of RECs; legal framework; community energy potential	Decision-making, roles and responsibilities in RECs; transparency and efficiency	Stakeholder identification, motivation and long-term engagement strategies
Relevance	Raises foundational awareness of RECs; aligns with Montenegro's green transition goals	Supports institutional understanding and good governance in emerging RECs	Addresses critical barrier of stakeholder mobilisation; essential for sustainable RECs
Training Method	On-site, half-day session; presentations and group discussion	On-site, workshop format; expert inputs, interactive dialogue	On-site, half-day training with case studies and Q&A
Stakeholders	Municipalities, NGOs, public sector, academia	Local authorities, REC initiators, energy sector professionals	Policy makers, civil society organisations, community leaders
Invitation Methods	Email, phone calls, local partner network	Email, local stakeholder contact lists	Official channels, phone, email invitations
Number of Participants	31	31	8

Information about Participants	Local professionals; varied backgrounds; aged 30–60; mostly urban residents	Mixed sector experts; higher education; balanced gender ratio	Community stakeholders; regional spread; interest in RECs
Data Collection	Pre- and post-event questionnaires (Google Forms)	Pre- and post-event questionnaires (Google Forms)	Pre- and post-event questionnaires (Google Forms)

SERBIA

Given the early stage of REC development in Serbia, topics below are highly relevant. Although the legal framework formally recognizes RECs, practical implementation is still minimal, with only a few communities existing and their operational effectiveness uncertain. Therefore, there is a strong need for education, clarification of procedures, and encouragement of cross-sectoral collaboration.

The training was divided into four main thematic blocks:

1. **Introduction to renewable energy sources and green transition**, including European and national trends.
2. **Concept and functioning of renewable energy communities (RECs)**, with examples from both EU and domestic contexts.
3. **Legal and institutional framework in Serbia**, providing an overview of current regulations, gaps, and upcoming changes.
4. **Practical steps to establish an energy community**, covering organizational models, technical and financial requirements, and available support mechanisms.

The pedagogical approach combined a classic lecture format with visual aids (PowerPoint presentations), case studies from other countries, and open dialogue with the audience. Practical printed materials including booklet designed by the project 5 steps to establish RECF, were also distributed to reinforce key messages and provide takeaway guidance.
The method was tailored to suit a multi-stakeholder audience by maintaining a balance between expert depth and accessibility, ensuring that both technical and non-technical participants could meaningfully engage with the content.

Event Summary

	Event 1
Event Title	Renewable Energy Communities – Possibilities and Potentials in Serbia
Date and Place	4 June 2025, Business Innovation Center, Kragujevac, Serbia
Main Topics	Joint design of enabling conditions with stakeholders; stakeholder engagement in establishing RECs; increasing knowledge and dispelling doubts; improving functioning of existing RECs.
Relevance	The training addressed the legal recognition but practical underdevelopment of RECs in Serbia. It aimed to educate and foster stakeholder collaboration, aligned with Serbia's decarbonisation and energy goals.

Training Method	Half-day in-person training (10:00–14:00) with expert-led presentations, interactive discussions, Q&A. Materials included visual aids and practical handouts such as the '5 steps to establish REC' booklet.
Stakeholders	SMEs in energy and construction, municipal governments, legal and technical experts, civil society organisations, development agencies, academia, business associations.
Invitation Methods	Formal email invitations, REDASP website announcements, social media dissemination, phone calls.
Number of Participants	24
Information about Participants	Gender: 16 men, 8 women. Age: Mostly 26–65. Education: Majority had higher education. Residency: Mix of urban and rural. Housing: Predominantly family houses and apartments. Represented SMEs, local government, civil society, academia.
Data Collection	Structured pre- and post-training paper questionnaires with both quantitative and qualitative items. Data anonymised and analysed manually.

BULGARIA

Main topics of the event according to the methodology:

- Joint design of the appropriate conditions with stakeholders to create energy communities : Mr. Neven Boyanov “Technical and Economic Analyses for setting up RECs”;
- Engagement of stakeholders to set up energy communities : Mr. Kristiyan Dimitrov: “Municipal grouping for enhanced legislation in RECs”;
- Increasing the knowledge and dispelling doubts of stakeholders regarding RECs – Mr.Pavlin Stoyanov:_”Virtual-net-metering”;

The relevance of selected main topics was analysed in advance together (online meetings and phone calls) with Greenpeace – Bulgaria experts based on their extensive experience in raising awareness about RECs on a national scale and also their involvement in public consultations for enhancing national legislation on RES and RECs. Eventually, they recommended suitable speakers experienced in the REC themes of technical and economic aspects of RECs and legislation/grid limitations for RECs. Additionally, they suggested adding a presentation about a recent Greenpeace-Bulgaria initiative for forming a Municipal grouping for enhanced legislation in RECs in order to motivate participants top join this initiative and become co-legislators.

	Event 1
Event Title	3rd awareness and training online workshop
Date and Place	24 April 2025, online (organised from Pazardzhik, Bulgaria)
Main Topics	Technical and economic analyses for setting up RECs; stakeholder engagement via municipal collaboration; virtual net metering; joint design of enabling conditions for RECs.
Relevance	Addressed national gaps in legal and technical understanding of RECs; supported public participation and municipal involvement in REC legislation initiatives, aligned with national energy transition goals.
Training Method	Online workshop format; PowerPoint presentations, Q&A, and general discussion; lasted 1.5 hours plus 15-minute extension due to audience interest.
Stakeholders	Municipal experts, vice-mayors, Greenpeace REC experts, NGOs, industrial chamber, academia, info centre, SME, and local community representatives.
Invitation Methods	Formal email and letter from regional governor, PRA website announcements, Facebook posts, phone calls, Google Forms for registration.

Number of Participants	24
Information about Participants	Gender: 15 men, 15 women registered; from 12 municipalities in Pazardzhik region, Sofia, Varna, Smolyan, and Blagoevgrad. Participants represented various public, civil, and private sectors.
Data Collection	Pre- and post-training questionnaires via Google Forms

HUNGARY

The training contained prezentaions and an interactive workshop for potencial energy community founders and members. Topics below are highly relevant to Hungary's current status, where despite growing awareness, energy communities remain in an early phase of implementation. National progress is limited due to legal uncertainties, a lack of financial clarity, and low stakeholder coordination. Thus, targeted capacity building was necessary to support local actors with practical tools. Title of the presentations:

- Introduction of the NRGCOM project
- Legal background of community energy initiatives and energy communities in Hungary
- Technological possibilities of community energy use in Hungary
- The role of the community in the application of energy efficiency measures
- Energy community experiences Bábolna Energy Community Nonprofit Ltd., the first registered operating energy community in Hungary
- Possibilities of establishing energy communities

Main topics of „Steps for setting up an energy community" interactive workshop:

- Community cooperation, effective communication
- Effects of passive and aggressive communication
- Assertive communication
- Collaborative winning techniques
- Assertive meeting management and negotiation
- Effectiveness and assertiveness in the communication practice of energy communities
- Assertive feedback
- Conflict management strategies
- Solution-focused communication
- Conflict management with assertive communication
- Conflict management with situational practice

Event summary

	Event 1
Event Title	"Promoting and Encouraging the Establishment of Energy Communities"
Date and Place	28 November 2024, Budapest, Hungary
Main Topics	Joint design of enabling conditions; stakeholder engagement in forming RECs; increasing knowledge and dispelling doubts about RECs; improving the functioning of existing RECs
Relevance	Supports the regional green transition and decarbonisation goals; aligns with national progress on renewable energy community initiatives across all participating countries
Training Method	Free and open in-person, interactive workshop, presentations, and real-life case studies (e.g. Bábolna Energy Community) to provide a hands-on learning experience.
Stakeholders	Industry partners, public institutions, NGOs, media representatives, REC members, local communities
Invitation Methods	Email, social media, official websites, direct contact via phone or meetings, online registration platforms
Number of Participants	16
Information about Participants	Well-educated, professionally experienced, and institutionally diverse group, with a good balance across residential types
Data Collection	Pre- and post-training questionnaires

ROMANIA

In the OER Annual Conference "Exploring New Perspectives: Energy Communities in Romania" session introduced NRGCOM tools supporting REC creation, including best Catalogue of Energy Community Good Practices from the Danube Region and 5-Steps-To-Your-Energy-Community brochure. Corina Murafa highlighted the EMERGE Project's findings from diverse Romanian communities and presented strategic insights. A panel with energy ambassadors discussed recent legislative proposals, financing opportunities and factors essential to the growth of RECs in Romania.

Event summary

	Event 1	Event 2
Event Title	Exploring New Perspectives: Energy Communities in Romania "The City: An Emerging Energy Consumer - Challenges and Solutions for the Future"	Training webinar on Energy Communities
Date and Place	11 March 2025, Brașov, Romania	8 April 2025, Online
Main Topics	Understanding Energy Communities; Romanian legal and funding framework; REC toolkit and best practices.	Energy Community concept, legal frameworks, stakeholder engagement, financing, and accreditation scheme.
Relevance	The event addressed Romania's growing focus on decentralised energy production and community-based energy solutions. Legal and technical tools support the creation of operational conditions for RECs.	Supports Romania's transition by promoting REC creation through awareness and capacity building, especially among municipalities.
Training Method	In-person conference with presentations, expert discussions, and a panel session. Session on RECs lasted around 2 hours.	Online webinar with presentations, group work, interactive exercises. Lasted 90 minutes.
Stakeholders	Local authorities, energy experts, REC ambassadors, NGOs.	Municipal staff, NGOs, local authorities, technical service providers.
Invitation Methods	Email invitations, social media, website announcements, phone calls.	Email via OER network, national municipal associations, and social media.
Number of Participants	40	17
Information about Participants	Various educational backgrounds including university, master's and PhD level; residents from cities, municipalities, and Bucharest.	University-level education, participants from various Romanian municipalities.
Data Collection	Google Form questionnaires before and after the event	Google Form at registration, Mentimeter survey during, post-event questionnaire

SLOVENIA

Two professional training sessions were conducted by KSSENA in the framework of Activity 2.4, aiming to raise awareness and improve stakeholder engagement in the development of Renewable Energy Communities (RECs) in Slovenia. The events took place on. Both events were held as in-person sessions and were free of charge, open to a broad audience of institutional and professional stakeholders. These included public officials, municipal energy managers, local and regional authorities, NGOs, technical experts, and sectoral associations. The main themes aligned with national and regional efforts in implementing the EU Renewable Energy Directive and establishing a legal and operational framework for RECs.

The first session focused on the legal context in Slovenia, practical barriers in establishing RECs, and the available tools provided by the NRGCOM project. The second session was more interactive, with external experts presenting good practice examples, discussion of financial instruments, and moderated exchanges among participants. Both sessions lasted approximately 2.5 hours and were structured with presentations, Q&A rounds, and open discussions.

Event summary

	Event 1	**Event 2**
Event Title	Professional Training on RECs – Ptuj	Professional Training on RECs – Nova Gorica
Date and Place	7 March 2025, Ptuj, Slovenia	6 June 2025, Nova Gorica, Slovenia
Main Topics	Legal context of RECs in Slovenia, barriers, REC tools from NRGCOM project.	REC best practices, financial tools, moderated expert discussion.
Relevance	Supports national implementation of the EU Renewable Energy Directive, providing legal and operational clarity for RECs.	Reinforced understanding of REC feasibility and models applicable to the national context.
Training Method	In-person, 2.5 hours, formal presentations with Q&A and open discussion.	In-person, 2.5 hours, interactive presentations, panel discussion, peer exchange.
Stakeholders	Municipal energy managers, regional authorities, NGOs, consultants, academia.	Energy consultants, NGOs, researchers, municipal actors, civil society.
Invitation Methods	Emails to institutional contacts, distribution via project partners and KLEAS, phone calls.	Partner channels, direct outreach to technical stakeholders, institutional invitations.

Number of Participants	18	15
Information about Participants	Municipal officers, energy agency staff, consultants, academics from various Slovenian municipalities.	Private consultants, NGOs, academia, and municipality representatives from diverse regions.
Data Collection	Printed pre- and post-questionnaires collected on-site, digitized for analysis.	Pre- and post-event questionnaires completed on-site and anonymized.

2. RESULTS AND ANALYSYS OF THE SURVEY

In this chapter, each partner presented the results of the questionnaire-based surveys conducted before and after the trainings, highlighting the changes observed in the areas of Knowledge and Understanding, Status, and Motivation / Expectations.

AUSTRIA

Generally, it can be said that while ecological aspects play a decisive role for many participants, the result of the questionnaires and feedbacks of the workshop also show that economic benefits and independence from traditional energy suppliers are particularly more important reasons for joining an energy community. Below the averange answers of the questionaires are marked **RED.**

Summerized averange feedback from questionnaire:

1. Knowledge and Understanding

1.1. In which of the main areas of energy communities can you classify yourself?

X Legal

O Technical

X Community

o Other:

1.2. What do you expect from the training? What specific knowledge or information would you like to acquire?

Financial aspects, information and guidance, help in regulatory matters

1.3. How familiar are you with the concept of energy communities and their potential benefits? 1 (not familiar at all) - 5 (very familiar)

[ ] 1 [ ] 2 [ ] 3 **[X] 4** [ ] 5

1.4. What do you think are the biggest advantages of community renewable energy management?

X Energy independence

X Environmental impacts

X Economic benefits

- o Local economic growth
- o Social cohesion
- o Other:

1.5. Are you familiar with any energy community initiatives in Austria or in any other Danube Region country

Yes / No

1.6. If yes, could you please mention which one you heard about?

Neudörfl, Raiffeisen, Bad Sauerbrunn, Eisenstadt, St. Margarethen, Rust,....

1.7. How important do you find the creation of energy communities? 1 (not important at all) – 5 (very important)

[ ] 1 [ ] 2 [] 3 **[X] 4** [ ] 5

1.8. Do you have any concerns or uncertainties regarding energy communities?

Yes / No

If yes, please briefly describe your concerns:

Regulations, Smart meter connection, economical benefits, administrative and legal barriers of associations

1.9. Have you previously been involved in energy efficiency or renewable energy projects?

Yes / **No**

If yes, could you briefly describe what was the focus and the funding programme of the project?

Expectations

1.10. What is the primary source of energy in your area of interest?

X Electricity

o Gas

X Renewable

o Other:

1.11. How satisfied are you with the current energy supply? 1 (not at all satisfied) – 5 (completely satisfied)

[ ] 1 [ ] 2 **[X] 3** [ ] 4 [ ] 5

1.12. How frequently do you review your energy bills? 1 (never) – 5 (always)

[ ] 1 [ ] 2 **[X] 3** [] 4 [ ] 5

1.13. What other energy efficiency measures have you implemented in your area of interest?

X Insulation

X Energy-efficient appliances

X LED lighting

o Thermostat
o Timer
o None implemented yet
X Other: PV installations for independent electric energy supply

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2. Motivation

2.1. What obstacles have you encountered in implementing energy efficiency measures?

X High upfront costs

o Lack of awareness or information
X Technical barriers

X Regulatory and policy challenges

o Coordination and planning difficulties
o Other:

2.2. Are you planning any energy efficiency improvements in the near future?

Yes / No

2.3. What additional information would you require to proceed with a potential energy efficiency investment?

Information access, coordination contacts, operational guidance, tariff transparency

2.4. How likely are you to be involved in establishing an energy community in the future? 1 (not likely) – 5 (very likely)

[ ] 1 [ ] 2 **[X] 3** [X] 4 [ ] 5

2.5. To what extent do you see yourself as a potential member of an energy community? 1 (not at all) – 5 (completely)

[ ] 1 [ ] 2 **[X] 3** [X] 4 [ ] 5

2.6. How confident are you in your ability to contribute to the operation of an energy community? 1 (not confident at all) – 5 (very confident)

[ ] 1 [ ] 2 **[X] 3** [X] 4 [ ] 5

Summerized averange feedback from questionnaire:

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1. Knowledge and Understanding

1.1. To what extent has your understanding of energy communities improved as a result of the training?
1 (not at all) - 5 (significantly)

[ ] 1 [ ] 2 [ ] 3 **[X] 4** [ ] 5

1.2. How likely are you to apply the knowledge gained during the training in your professional work? 1 (unlikely) - 5 (very likely)

[ ] 1 [ ] 2 [ ] 3 **[X] 4** [ ] 5

1.3. After the learnings, experiences and best practices demonstrated during the event, how important do you consider the creation of energy communities?
1 (not important at all) – 5 (very important)

[ ] 1 [ ] 2 [ ] 3 **[X] 4** [X] 5

1.4. Has the training provided you with a clearer understanding of the legal and policy frameworks for energy communities?

Yes / No

1.5. Has the training helped you gain a better understanding of the technical aspects of energy communities?

Yes / **No**

1.6. Has the training provided you with a clearer understanding of the community and good governance aspects of energy communities?

Yes / No

1.7. Will you be able to apply the new skills learned in the training in practice? 1 (not at all) - 5 (significantly)

[ ] 1 [ ] 2 [ ] 3 **[X] 4** [ ] 5

1.8. In your opinion, did the best practice introduction and the step-by-step section of the training provide useful practical advice for setting up a potential energy community?
1 (not at all) - 5 (significantly)

[ ] 1 [ ] 2 [ ] 3 **[X] 4** [X] 5

1.9. Which aspects of best practices do you think would be worthwhile for a more detailed presentation in order to embark on establishing an energy community?

Functional energy community, visualization and step by step guide for its creation, main contact and coordination

1.10. Which section of the training did you find particularly valuable?

- o technical
- o community
- **X legal**
- o communication training
- **X best practice**

1.11. Could you please explain why?

Better knowledge how to start, connection points, tariff comparisons, shared experiences from other energy communities

1.12. Have you come across any additional information on renewable energy communities in Austria and in the Danube Region, outside the event? If yes, through which channels?

- **X Articles**
- **X Social media**
- o Podcast
- o Flyers
- **X Other: Austrian Energy Community Platform**

Expectations

1.13. Based on the information presented in this event and the demonstrated practices, do you feel more confident establishing an energy community?

1 (not at all) - 5 (very confident)

[ ] 1 [ ] 2 [ ] 3 **[X] 4** [X] 5

1.14. Based on the information provided and the experiences shared during this event, how likely are you to join an existing energy community?

1 (unlikely) - 5 (very likely)

[ ] 1 [ ] 2 **[X] 3** [ ] 4 [X] 5

1.15. What additional support or information would you need to further advance energy efficiency or renewable energy projects in your sector?

Possibilty offering, direct contact, more information on local/regional possibilities

1.16. What do you think would be essential for promoting the wider adoption of energy communities in Austria?

Desire for an app, more information platforms and more advertising for the communities in order to make the model accessible

1.17. What further information or training would you consider necessary in the future to become better prepared for launching a renewable energy initiative?

Energy storage options, transparent presentation of energy production and consumption, legal conditions and possibilities of energy associations

1.18. Do you have any additional comments or observations?

No

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

The workshop and the survey clearly show that energy communities can make an important contribution to a sustainable energy supply. In Burgenland in particular, the energy communities play already a central role through the use of renewable energies and reducing the purchase of electricity from large energy companies. According to the participants this leads to **greater independence for the participants** of the workshop, which has been pointed out as **main incentive for the participation in energy communities**.

One other interesting result in the discussions is that many participants **have improved their consumption behaviour since joining the community taking part in the training** and are therefore using more energy from the community. Some members have even been able to reduce their electricity costs by participating in an energy community.

In addition to financial benefits, **the environmental aspect also plays a major role**. CO2 emissions can be reduced through the increased use of renewable energies.

Economic factors are also an importance to them. In particular, the long-term economic attractiveness of the communities was questioned. While some members already perceive financial benefits from reduced electricity costs, there appears to be uncertainty regarding pricing and the long-term stability of tariffs. **Financial and electricity-related independence from large energy suppliers is cited as the most important argument for joining, as is the long-term stability of the energy supply**. Here, the desire for more efficient storage systems is particularly important. Some participants have recognized that surplus solar energy often cannot be used directly and has to be fed into the public grid and thus to the large energy suppliers. A higher level of self-consumption could be achieved through the increased use of battery storage at household level or community storage solutions.

The workshop participants also would like to see closer communication within the communities and better information for potential new members. **The desire for an app, more information platforms and more advertising for the communities** in order to make the model accessible to a wider population.

In this regard, it could be that the described factors (Independence, economic benefit, energy storage) are seen as a basic prerequisite for participation in energy communities.

GERMANY

Event 1: LEEWAY Project - Capitalisation Working Group

2.1 Knowledge and Understanding

The NRGCOM presentation enhanced participant knowledge by:

- Clarifying legal definitions and models for energy communities.
- Offering comparative insights into governance structures and their practical implementation.
- Introducing technical optimization strategies for PV, CHP and energy storage integration.
- Participants expressed particular interest in:
    - Legal harmonization across regions.
    - Real-time monitoring and smart metering.
    - Financial and legal tools to enhance REC autonomy.

2.2 Status

Many participants appeared to be at varying stages of REC development:

- Some were exploring foundational steps.
- Others were operational and seeking improvements.
- A few were aiming to scale through community outreach or technical upgrades.
- The session served as a benchmarking exercise, allowing attendees to gauge their progress in relation to the NRGCOM best practices.

2.3 Motivation and Expectations

Participants were highly motivated by the opportunity to:

- Learn from comparative case studies and operational models.
- Engage in technical and legal discussion relevant to their national context.
- Gain access to mentorship structures via the proposed REC Ambassador Network.
- Interest in replicability and local implementation was especially strong.

3. Comparative analysis

Although no pre/post-training surveys were used, the live interaction revealed shifts in understanding and interest:

- Before: Participants displayed fragmented awareness of RECs—some focused only on legal aspects, others on infrastructure without governance clarity.
- After: A more integrated view emerged—legal, governance and technical aspects were understood as interdependent.
- Frequently Asked Questions:
    - How to ensure legal alignment across borders?
    - How to make RECs financially viable?
    - What are the prerequisites for entering balancing markets?
- Popular Topics:
    - Governance transparency
    - Real-time energy monitoring
    - Financial structuring of RECs
- Contribution to Event Objectives: The presentation aligned with the broader goals of the LEEWAY Working Group meeting by:
    - Providing legally-grounded guidance for partners seeking to establish or improve RECs.
    - Sharing standardized models to enable cross-regional comparisons.
    - Offering technical and financial strategies to enhance operational resilience.
    - Encouraging partners to collaborate on identifying speakers and themes for the upcoming Interregional Workshop in Poland.
    - Key Challenges Identified:
        - Fragmented national regulations.
        - Lack of legal or financial expertise at the community level.

Low initial trust or motivation among citizens.

Event 2: Future Expert Workshop Series

2.1 Knowledge and Understanding

General REC Knowledge Gains:

- Conceptual understanding of RECs (governance, legal structures, outreach)
- Technical roles and community participation models.
- Handbook 1 Integration:
    - Workshops 6–7 emphasized digital tools used by Regionalwerke:
    - Smart metering and data portals.
    - Remote control and sensor networks.
    - Digital platforms for energy visualization.
    - Open API access for energy tech innovation.

- Students were particularly engaged with how digitalization enables:
    - Predictive maintenance.
    - Energy data transparency.
    - Community dashboards and mobile apps for participation.
    - Students in IT and data science disciplines appreciated use cases involving AI, digital twins and decentralized trading.
- Handbook 2 Integration:
    - Workshop 5 introduced the heating sector transformation: Solar thermal, biomass, and heat pump technologies.
    - Local heating networks coordinated by Regionalwerke. Economic and ecological benefits for municipalities and households.
    - Discussions emphasized how thermal energy planning fits into broader REC planning.
    - Several students expressed interest in applying renewable heating case studies in their research projects.

2.2 Status

Low initial awareness of both RECs and regional smart heating strategies. Students quickly grasped legal and operational details. After exposure to the handbooks: Students could articulate the role of digital platforms in REC operations. Many understood how to integrate heating technologies into REC proposals.

2.3 Motivation and Expectations

Students appreciated the local empowerment model and wanted to apply what they learned to: Internships at utilities or municipalities. Thesis work on digital tools or heating solutions in community contexts.

3. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Before the Series:

- Fragmented understanding of energy community models.
- No exposure to smart digital tools or renewable heating frameworks.

After the Series:

- Recognized how digitalization (Handbook 1) improves transparency, system control and user engagement.
- Understood the urgent need for renewable heating solutions (Handbook 2), including technical options and community models.
- Students asked how to initiate campus RECs, use Regionalwerke examples in research and simulate heating networks for small communities.
- Common Questions:
    - "Can we integrate smart metering and heating in a university REC?"
    - "What data is needed to plan a local heating network?"

- "How secure is energy data in digital platforms?"
- "What legal forms support cooperative thermal energy systems?"
- Key Skills & Concepts Gained
- Governance frameworks for RECs.
- Smart platform integration and digital transparency tools.
- Heat transition planning at residential and municipal levels.
- Financial and legal foundations for REC infrastructure.

Event 3: 12th Day of Research

2.1 Knowledge and Understanding

The featured impulse talk by Prof. Dr. Raimund Brotsack focused on:

- "Power to Gas Hubs – Wege zur Erzeugung grüner Gase aus erneuerbarem Strom und Bioabfällen in nachhaltigen Energiegemeinschaften"
- Introducing Power-to-Gas (P2G) as a pathway for producing green methane and hydrogen using renewable electricity and biogenic waste
- Demonstrating how decentralized P2G hubs can anchor energy autonomy in communities
- Linking technical innovation to practical REC integration Audience members gained insights into how microbiological methanation and circular waste management can support energy communities at a local level, reducing dependency on fossil fuels.

2.2 Status

Many attendees were unfamiliar with P2G's role in energy communities prior to the talk The presentation shifted perceptions of RECs from "solar panels and sharing" to a broader vision including gas infrastructure, waste recovery, and storage flexibility.

2.3 Motivation and Expectations

Strong interest was observed in how municipalities or regions could adopt P2G hubs as part of local REC strategies. Attendees expressed interest in pilot testing and further collaboration with the TZE (Technology Centre Energie) and research labs. The impulse talk inspired curiosity about integrating P2G with heating, transport, and seasonal storage within RECs.

3. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Before the Presentation:

- Focus on traditional electricity-based REC models
- Limited awareness of sector coupling or gas-based solutions in community energy

After the Presentation:

- Recognition of Power-to-Gas as a strategic pillar for long-term energy resilience
- Audience understood the systemic nature of RECs and the role of innovation in sustainability

Popular Topics:

- Energy autonomy via biogenic methane
- Integration of renewable power and organic waste streams
- Municipal partnerships with technical institutions

Frequently Asked Questions:

- What are the costs and payback periods for P2G hubs?
- How scalable is microbiological methanation?
- What legal or permitting barriers exist for community-operated gas production?

Event 4: Systemanalyse und Stakeholder-Kommunikation bei der Gründung von Energiegemeinschaften: Ein systemischer Ansatz für den Erfolg

2.1 Knowledge and Understanding

- The workshop significantly deepened participants' understanding of: RECs as socio-technical systems, not just infrastructure projects.
- The importance of stakeholder alignment from early stages. Tools for power mapping (e.g. Soziodynamische Analyse, LICHT methodology).
- Communication strategies tailored by actor type and phase of project.
- Participants engaged in group activities that made abstract concepts tangible, demonstrating immediate uptake of the introduced tools.

2.2 Status

Participants came with a mix of experience: Some were new to REC planning. Others were already involved in project planning but lacked structured stakeholder tools. All left with a clearer understanding of social dimensions and planning structures. The exercises helped many identify communication weaknesses in their own projects and potential resolutions.

2.3 Motivation and Expectations

The workshop revealed strong motivation among attendees to:

- Replicate the tools within their own municipalities or energy initiatives.
- Apply for support via the NRGCOM mentoring scheme.
- Participate in the REC Ambassador Network.
- Translate lessons from case studies (e.g. Fuchstal, Passauer Land) into regional action.
- Several were inspired by the case studies' emphasis on trust-building, community-first approaches and governance clarity.

3. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Before the Workshop:

- Participants viewed energy communities largely as technical or legal challenges.
- Few had structured methods for stakeholder communication or mapping.

After the Workshop:

- Expanded understanding of RECs as systemic, human-centered initiatives.
- High appreciation of stakeholder alignment tools and communication frameworks.
- Growing interest in mentoring and knowledge dissemination.
- Popular Topics:
    - Stakeholder Circles of Commitment.
    - The LICHT Methodology.
    - Real-world models (Fuchstal, Regionalwerk Passauer Land).
- Frequently Discussed Challenges:
    - Low engagement from renters and marginalized groups.
    - Mistrust in municipalities with prior failed energy projects.
    - Resistance from incumbent utilities.
- Useful Skills and Knowledge:
- Participatory planning.
    - Visual communication planning.
    - Mapping of social power dynamics.
    - Scenario-based stakeholder engagement.

Event 5: Student Visit & NRGCOM Project Presentation

2.1 Knowledge and Understanding

Key Knowledge Gained:

- Understanding of how RECs are formed, funded and governed.
- Insight into legal and social conditions required for successful REC operation.
- Real-world application of renewable technologies in the Wildpoldsried case.
- Recognition of NRGCOM's strategic contribution to energy transition in the Danube Region.
- Students connected the presented materials with their academic backgrounds, particularly in renewable integration, community engagement and energy system planning.

2.2 Status

Before the visit, many students had limited exposure to community-led energy models. The presentation bridged theory and application, illustrating how RECs function and succeed. The students' active participation and technical questions showed:

- A high level of academic knowledge.

- A desire to understand policy, regulatory, and local engagement aspects of REC development.
- Emerging interest in international collaboration in renewable energy projects.

2.3 Motivation and Expectations

From the discussion and follow-up questions: Students were especially motivated by the Energiedorf Wildpoldsried example. Many expressed interests in the replication of pilot projects in rural areas. Curiosity extended to roles citizens and local governments can play in decentralised systems. Several students indicated they would consider pursuing projects or internships aligned with RECs.

3. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Before:

- Understanding of energy systems mostly centered on infrastructure and efficiency.
- Limited awareness of legal, social, and organizational dimensions of RECs.

After:

- Expanded view of how RECs operate as legal entities and social institutions.
- Appreciation for how cross-sector collaboration (citizens, municipalities, utilities) enables success.
- Popular Topics:
    - The Wildpoldsried case study.
    - Funding mechanisms for local RECs.
    - The interdisciplinary nature of energy community planning.
- Frequently Asked Questions:
    - How do RECs ensure citizen participation and transparency?
    - Can students or universities initiate or support RECs?
    - What are the risks of community-led energy projects?
    - Valuable Learnings:
    - Real-life models of successful implementation.
    - The political and social conditions necessary for trust-building in communities.
    - Pilot replication as a key tool in regional energy transformation.

CZECH REPUBLIC

The questionnaire survey was conducted among **74** participants before the training and among **68** participants after the training. The forms were anonymous and aimed to verify changes in participants' knowledge and readiness.

Summary of selected indicators (scale 1–5):

Indicator	Before (N=74)	After (N=68)
Average knowledge of community energy (1–5)	2.94	3.42
Likelihood of applying insights in practice (1–5)	—	3.82
Readiness to engage in community energy	—	3.61
Overall usefulness of the training	—	4.12
Usefulness of best practice examples	—	4.21

2.1 Knowledge and Understanding

Average knowledge of community energy increased from 2.94 to 3.42 (scale 1–5).
94% stated that the training helped them understand the legal framework.
97% gained better insight into community models and governance.

2.2 Motivation and Attitude

Readiness to engage in community energy post-training averaged 3.61.
Likelihood to apply knowledge in practice reached 3.82.
Most common motivations: interest in PV economics, SVJ/municipal/school projects.
Key concerns: complex legislation, unclear responsibilities, financing, possible community conflicts.

2.3 Evaluation and Usefulness

Overall usefulness was rated at 4.12.
Usefulness of case studies rated 4.21.
Highlights included Czech case examples, legal clarity, technical insights, and space for discussion.

3. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

The training resulted in measurable improvement:

- Knowledge increased by 0.48 points.
- Motivation and readiness to engage improved by over 3.6 points.
- Participants valued step-by-step examples and practical guidance.

Most frequently expressed needs:

- Personal consultation, legal and funding advice, technical project support.

SLOVAKIA

Results obtained from individual questionnaires at the entrance and exit of the survey activity A.T.2.4

Status before training: Introductory questionnaire: Important: The data in the tables are always an

average of the values of the answers in the questionnaire to a given question for all 7 participants of the activity A.T.2.3

1.Knowledge and Understanding		**2. Expectations**		**3. Motivation /**		**4. General Information**	
Question		**Question**		**Question**		**Question**	
	Evaluation		**Evaluation**		**Evaluation**		**Evaluation**
1.1	Technical	2.1	Gas	3.1	Statement/ Yes Regulatory and policy challenges/	4.1	---------
1.2	Undefined, meaningless	2.2	Medium significance	3.2	Statement: Yes	4.2	(6 x Male/3 x female)
1.3	Average value	2.3	High significance	3.3	Support from local authorities, subsidies mostly	4.3	Age 36 – 50 50 -65
1.4	Energy indepence	2.4	Insultation + Energy.efficient appliances	3.4	High significance	4.4	College/university + Postgraduate/Master's degree/
1.5	Statement Yes		Average value	3.5	Average value	4.5	Bratislava+County town+City
1.6	Bratislava, Modravka, Presov, Trenčín			3.6	High probability	4.6	Association + Public institution + SME/
1.7	Average value						
1.8	Statement: Yes						
1.9	Statement: No						

Status after training: Exit questionnaire:

1. Knowledge and Understanding		**2. Expectations**		**3. General Information**	
Question:		**Question:**		**Question:**	
	Evaluation		**Evaluation**		**Evaluation**
1.1	High probability	2.1	High probability	3.1	----------
1.2	High probability	2.2	High probability	3.2	(6 men + 3 women)/

1.3	High probability	2.3	Support from municipalities or active participants, community members, raise public awareness	3.3	Age: 36 – 50 50 -65
1.4	High probability	2.4	No relevant	3.4	College/university/+ Postgraduate/Master's degree
1.5	Statement: Yes	2.5	Negotations and disrupties with feed to tariff connection (distribution grid or network), active measuring of power outputs/	3.5	Bratislava+County town+City
1.6	Statement: Yes	2.6	Statement: No	3.6	Family house+ Apartment building+ Panel building
1.7	High probability				
1.8	High probability				
1.9	best practise				
1.10	Good practice of existing EC´s shows positive and negative aspects of the project in reality				
1.11	Good practice of existing EC´s shows positive and negative aspects of the project in reality Articles+Social media				
1.12	Articles+Social media				

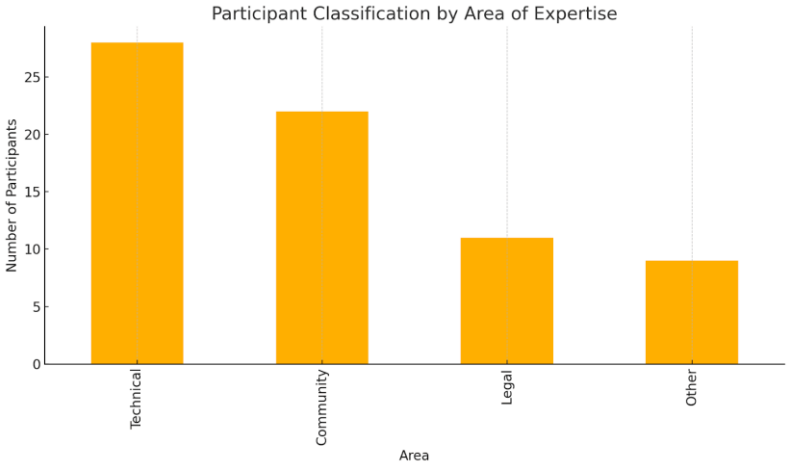
Overall comparison - result table - status before and after the survey and training:

Given that the questions set in the questionnaire filled out at the beginning and at the end of the training and the related results are of different scope and significance, the agenda related to the comparison and evaluation of compliance or gaps and subsequent proposed measures will be carried out by PP12 - NEK only at the beginning of the 3rd period of implementation of this activity A.T.2.4 of the project.

CROATIA

2.1. Knowledge and Understanding

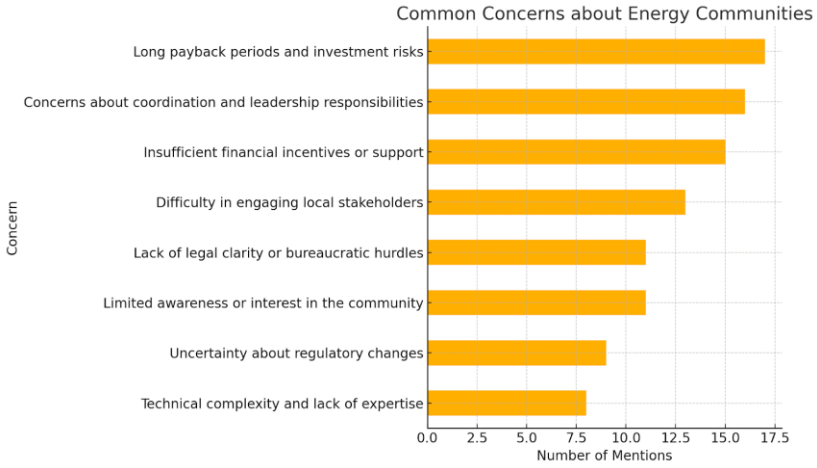
Concerning the main areas in which participants classify themselves, majority (40%) has chosen technical background, a strong share (31%) come from community-focused backgrounds, while legal expertise is less represented (16%). Other responses (13%) suggest participants from diverse fields like education, communications, or policy.



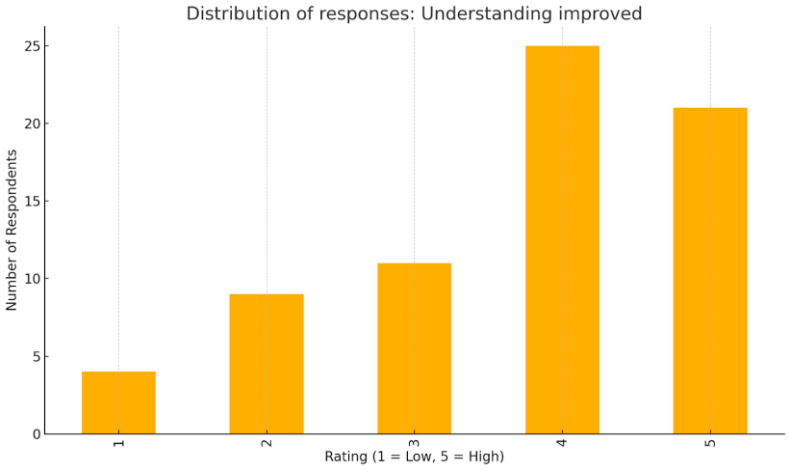
Participants expressed following expectations from the training, where the most interest was focused on the understanding of the governance of the energy communities.

Participants have indicated an limited awareness before the training, with modest familiarity with RECs. Their interest and perceived importance were moderate. Many were not yet confident or ready to actively participate in or initiate RECs.

The top concerns expressed regarding the energy communities were primarily financial and technical character, highlighting the need for clearer incentives and funding programs, capacity-building support for technical understanding and legal and bureaucratic concerns remain a significant barrier to entry.



After the training their understanding on energy communities in general improved. Most respondents rated their understanding between 3 and 5, very few rated 1 or 2, indicating the training was generally effective.



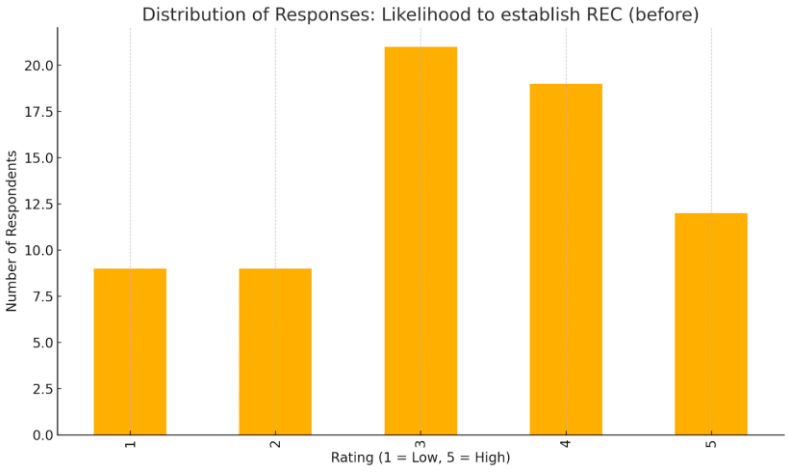
Participants have shown likely to apply gathered knowledge. Majority clustered around 3–5, showing moderate to high willingness to apply what they learned. High importance of RECs was assigned, with most responses in the 4–5 range. Most participants felt confident in applying new skills, with responses peaking at 4. Usefulness of Best Practices was marked with strong positive feedback, primarily scores of 4 and 5.

Indicator	Key Insight
Improved understanding of RECs	85% rated 4 or 5 (high)
Willingness to apply knowledge	Over 70% scored 4 or 5
Clarity on legal frameworks	~70% responded "Yes"
Understanding of technical aspects	~75% "Yes"
Governance awareness	~73% "Yes"

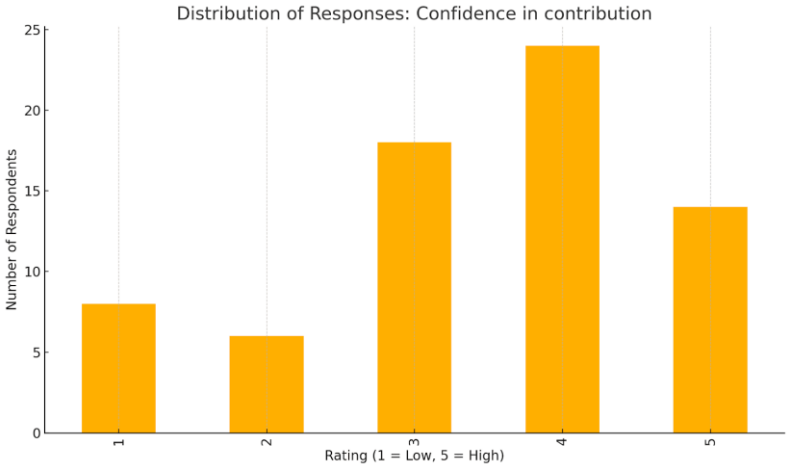
Issues on legal frameworks was more clarified as well as technical aspects and gowernance awareness.

2.2. Motivation / Expectations

When examining participants satisfaction with Current Energy Supply, participants expressed satisfaction rated it mostly from 3 to 4, which indicates some satisfaction but also potential for exploring better or more sustainable options.



Responses were centred around 3 and 4, which shows that responders frequently review their energy bills. Before training likelihood to Establish a REC was primarily rated between 2 and 3., which indicates low to moderate intention to establish RECs.

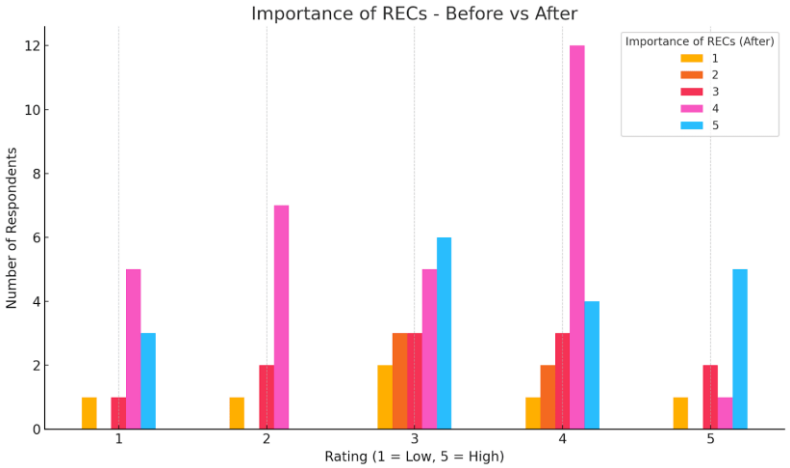


Confidence levels in contribution to REC vary, but lean toward 3, which indicates initial uncertainty in playing an active role.

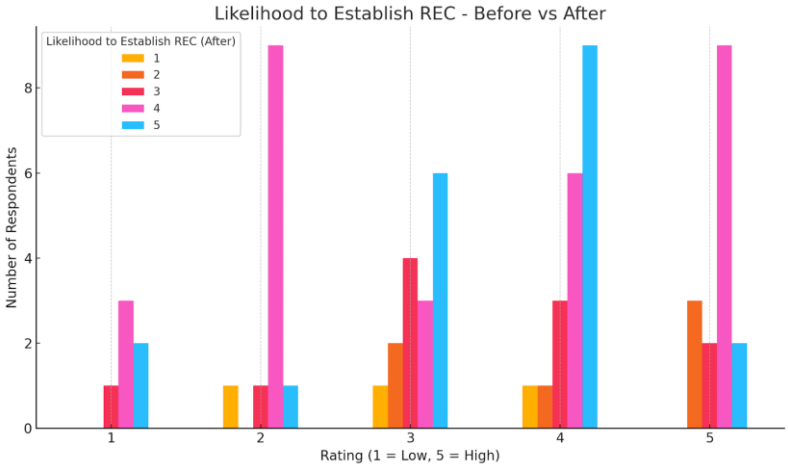
After the training confidence levels to Establish REC are high, skewed toward 5, suggesting the training had a motivational effect. Most participants indicated a moderate to high likelihood to join REC, centering around 3 and 4.

3. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Before training majority of participants rated the importance of RECs between 3 and 4, while after the training a clear shift toward higher ratings was evident, with most participants scoring 4 or 5. Detected score shows that the training has effectively enhanced the perceived societal and environmental value of energy communities.



After the training participants felt more equipped and inspired to initiate community energy projects, as before training scores mostly centred around 3, with hesitation toward active involvement, while after the training there is a noticeable increase in high scores (4 and 5), showing increased initiative and motivation.



The training improved participants' self-efficacy and practical readiness to contribute meaningfully to REC operations, as answers collected before have shown mixed levels of confidence, with a concentration around mid-scale values, while afterwards scores positively shifted to confidence scores of 4 and 5.

Area	Observed Change
Awareness of RECs	↑ Significant improvement
Motivation to take action	↑ Notable increase
Practical confidence	↑ Strengthened across participants

MONTENERGO

EVENT 1

2.1. Knowledge and Understanding

Before the event:

Respondent Expertise Areas:

- Community-related: 15 respondents
- Legal: 2 respondents
- Technical: 2 respondents
- Other: 1 respondent

Training Expectations:

Participants hoped to gain knowledge about energy communities, understand the legal frameworks, learn about energy efficiency improvements, and acquire practical information applicable locally, especially regarding renewable energy use.

Familiarity with Energy Communities and their potential advantages (scale 1-5)

- Rating 1 (Not familiar): 5 respondents
- Rating 2: 12 respondents
- Rating 3: 3 respondents
- Rating 4 and 5: No respondents

Perceived Major Benefits of Community Renewable Energy Management: 8

- Energy independence: 13
- Environmental impact: 13
- Economic benefits: 12
- Local economic growth: 4
- Social cohesion: Not rated

Awareness of Energy Community Initiatives in Montenegro or Danube Region: 20 respondents are not aware of such initiatives.

Importance of Creating Energy Communities:

- Most respondents rated this between 3 and 5, with the majority leaning towards higher importance.

Concerns and Uncertainties: 16 respondents have some concerns and uncertainties:

- Cost-effectiveness and transition costs to renewables
- Insufficient public awareness
- Legal framework clarity and financial sustainability

Previous Involvement in Energy Efficiency or Renewable Projects:

- Yes: 3 respondents (focused on awareness-raising, solar projects, and public building efficiency)
- No: 17 respondents

Estimated Number of Energy Communities by 2030:

- Estimates varied mostly between 2 to 10 communities, depending on enabling conditions.

After the event:

Participants reported a notable increase in their understanding of energy communities as a result of the training:

- 12 participants rated the improvement at the highest level (5), and 6 at level 4, indicating strong impact.

- Most respondents (18 out of 20) stated that the training helped clarify the legal and policy frameworks.
- 19 out of 20 acknowledged improved understanding of both technical aspects and community governance related to energy communities.

However, when it comes to applying the acquired knowledge in professional work, responses were more moderate:

- Only 2 participants rated it as “very likely” (5), while the majority rated it between 3 and 4.

Participants generally felt more informed, but less confident when it came to applying the skills in practice:

- Confidence in practical application of new skills ranged mostly between level 3 (10 participants) and level 4 (7 participants).
- Regarding examples of best practice, 17 out of 20 found them useful, with 7 rating their usefulness at the highest level.

The most valued aspects of the training were:

- Best practice examples (14 participants)
- Legal frameworks (4 participants)
- Technical aspects (2 participants) These examples helped participants:
- Visualize real-life benefits
- Understand the formation process of energy communities
- See practical applications of theory

Outside the event, participants primarily accessed information through:

- Media articles (11 responses)
- Social media (8 responses)
- TV (1 response)

2.2. Status

Before:

Primary Energy Sources of Interest:

- Renewable sources: 15 10
- Electricity: 10
- Gas and other: None specified

Satisfaction with Current Energy Supply: Majority rated satisfaction 3 to 5, with most being relatively satisfied.

Frequency of Reviewing Energy Bills: Majority frequently check bills, with many selecting 5 (always).

Energy Efficiency Measures Applied:

- Energy-efficient appliances: 14
- Insulation: 10
- LED lighting: 4
- Others or none: few

Main Obstacles in Implementing Energy Efficiency:

- High initial costs: 20
- Lack of awareness/information: 8
- Technical barriers: 5
- Regulatory and political challenges: 1
- Coordination/planning difficulties: 1

Plans to Improve Energy Efficiency Soon:

- Yes: 19 respondents
- No: 1 respondent

Additional Information Needed for Investments:

- Cost-benefit analyses and investment returns
- Technical feasibility and detailed cost assessments
- Financing options, subsidies, and co-financing opportunities
- Comprehensive planning and impact assessments

Likelihood to Participate in Energy Community Establishment: Most responses clustered around moderate to high likelihood (ratings 3 to 5). 11

Self-Identification as Potential Energy Community Member: Majority see themselves as potential members (ratings 3 to 5).

Confidence in Ability to Contribute to Energy Communities: Most respondents feel moderately to very confident.

After:

On a scale from 1 to 5:

- Confidence in establishing an energy community: Most responses were between 3 (10 participants) and 4 (5 participants).
- Likelihood of joining an energy community in the future: Again, mostly level 3 (10 participants) and 4 (7 participants).

Participants indicated a need for:

- Clearer financing options and subsidies
- Practical guides, local case studies, and advisory contact points
- Technical support for integrating solar and other systems
- Detailed procedural training (permitting, feasibility studies, grid integration)

Suggestions for Wider Acceptance in Montenegro

Respondents believe that the following are critical for broader adoption of energy communities:

- Public awareness campaigns and municipal support
- Financial incentives and a supportive legal framework
- Education in schools to build long-term awareness
- Ensuring that energy communities are seen as socially and economically beneficial

Additional Observations

- The initiative was generally well received.
- One comment suggested the training could be more structured, focused, and concise in delivery.

2.4 General Information

- Gender: 8 male, 12 female respondents
- Age Groups: Mainly 36-50 (12 respondents), others distributed in younger and older groups
- Education Level: Predominantly university graduates (17), with a few having secondary education or postgraduate degrees
- Residence: Majority from urban areas (15), some suburban (3), and rural (2) Organization Types Represented:
    - Public institutions: 10
    - enterprises: 5
    - Associations: 3
    - Foundations: 1
    - Other: 1

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Comparison of Pre-Training and Post-Training Surveys on Energy Communities

The comparison highlights how the participants' perceptions, knowledge levels, and readiness to engage with energy communities evolved through the course of the program. It also sheds light on remaining gaps, needed support, and areas of highest impact, which can inform future capacity-building efforts.

The analysis is structured across four main categories:

1. Knowledge & Understanding
2. Expectations & Practical Application
3. Barriers & Concerns
4. Value of the Training

1. Knowledge & Understanding

Aspect	Pre-Training	Post-Training	Change/Insight
Understanding of energy communities	Majority rated low: 12 at level 2 (on a scale of 1–5)	Majority rated improvement high: 12 at level 5, 6 at level 4	Significant gain in understanding after the training
Familiarity with legal/policy frameworks	Participants wanted more info on legal frameworks	18/20 said training clarified legal/political aspects	Training effectively addressed legal uncertainties
Technical understanding	Participants requested technical info	19/20 said they better understood technical aspects	Technical content met expectations
Community/governance understanding	Not emphasized in pre-survey	19/20 said training improved their understanding	Added value not previously anticipated

2. Expectations & Practical

Aspect	Pre-Training	Post-Training	Change/Insight
Importance of energy communities	Majority rated it highly: 11 at level 4, 7 at level 3	Slight shift: 10 at level 4, 6 at level 5	Continued strong interest, slightly higher emphasis post-training
Likelihood to join/start an energy community	Mostly mid-level: 10 at level 4, 5 at level 3	Very similar: 10 at level 3, 7 at level 4	No major change; training slightly reinforced commitment
Confidence in applying skills	N/A	Most at mid-level: 10 at level 3, 7 at level 4	Moderate confidence; more support still needed
Plans to implement EE improvements	19/20 said "Yes"	N/A in post-survey	High intention to act already existed pre-training

3. Barriers & Concerns

Aspect	Pre-Training	Post-Training	Change/Insight
Common concerns	Lack of info, unclear regulation, low awareness, cost	Post-survey focused more on actionable support needs (guides, finance, legal procedures)	Concerns evolved into more specific needs for implementation
Barriers to EE	High initial cost (all 20), lack of info (8), technical barriers (5)	N/A	Training aimed to reduce these through knowledge, but financial and regulatory barriers remain top challenges

4. Value of Training

Aspect	Pre-Training	Post-Training	Change/Insight

Most requested training topics	Legal frameworks, technical setups, best practices	Best practices found most valuable (14), then legal (4), technical (2)	Participants most appreciated real-world examples, aligning with their pre-training curiosity
Usefulness of good practice examples	Requested as training outcome	17/20 rated them useful (10 at level 4, 7 at level 5)	These examples had the highest impact and practical relevance

EVENT 2

2.1. Knowledge and Understanding

Before the event:

Respondent Expertise Areas:

- Technical: 9 respondents
- Community-related: 9 respondents
- Legal: 3 respondents
- Other: 4 respondents

Training Expectations:

Participants expressed expectations to:

- Gain an understanding of the legal framework and its application in Montenegro
- Improve knowledge on energy efficiency and renewable energy sources
- Receive practical insights on forming and managing energy communities
- Learn from the experience of other communities
- Enhance both general and domain-specific expertise, particularly legal and technical

Familiarity with Energy Communities and Their Potential Advantages (Scale 1–5):

- 1 (Not familiar): 2 respondents
- 2: 7 respondents
- 3: 10 respondents
- 4: 4 respondents
- 5 (Very familiar): 2 respondents

Perceived Major Benefits of Community Renewable Energy Management:

- Environmental impact: 23
- Energy independence: 10

- Economic benefits: 6
- Local economic growth: 6
- Social cohesion: 2
- Other: 1

Awareness of Energy Community Initiatives in Montenegro or the Danube Region:

- Yes: 7 respondents
- No: 18 respondents
- Mentioned examples: Croatia, Germany, Austria, EPCG-Solar, IRF subsidies, solar plants, solar panel installation

Importance of Creating Energy Communities:

- Rating 3: 3 respondents
- Rating 4: 9 respondents
- Rating 5 (Very important): 13 respondents

Concerns and Uncertainties (6 respondents):

- Lack of clear legal framework
- Perception that people/members do not recognize the benefits of forming communities
- Practical application of existing legal regulations
- Community cohesion and how to ensure functionality

Previous Involvement in Energy Efficiency or Renewable Energy Projects:

- Yes: 12 respondents
- No: 11 respondents

Project focus areas included:

- Renewable energy promotion
- Household energy efficiency
- Environmental impact of renewables
- Subvention programs (e.g., through Eco Fund)
- ESCO models
- Solar panel installation

Estimated Number of Energy Communities by 2030:

Estimates varied: “maybe around 10,” “3,” “20–30,” “up to 20,” “many,” and mentions of communities of both producers and consumers

After the event:

2.1 Knowledge and Understanding

Participants reported a notable improvement in their understanding of energy communities as a result of the workshop:

- 10 participants rated their improvement at the highest level (5), and 11 at level 4, indicating a strong positive impact.
- When asked about the likelihood of applying knowledge professionally, most responses were moderate:
    - 16 participants chose level 4, 5 chose level 3, and only 2 selected 5, indicating interest but some uncertainty regarding real-world application.

Regarding the importance of establishing energy communities:

- The vast majority (24 out of 25) considered this important, with 16 rating it as "very important" (5) and 8 rating it 4.
- 24 participants confirmed the workshop provided a clearer understanding of the legal and policy frameworks.
- All 25 participants reported improved understanding of technical aspects and community governance of energy communities. When it comes to the practical application of new skills:
- Confidence levels were moderate:
    - 13 participants rated their readiness at level 3,
    - 10 at level 4, and
    - 2 at level 5.

The usefulness of best practice examples was well recognized:

- 10 participants rated them as very useful (5), 11 rated 4, and 4 rated 3.

Participants highlighted value in:

- Initial investment to ownership models (prosumers and the grid)
- Country examples (Denmark, Finland, Croatia, Germany)
- Successful regional projects
- Solar panels, LED lights, devices
- Local benefits of energy communities
- Relationship between utilities and communities
- Environmental protection
- Case example from Plužine

Participants identified the most valuable segments of the training as:

- Best practice examples: 16 participants
- Legal frameworks: 8 participants

- Technical content: 5 participants

Preferred channels for further information outside the workshop included:

- Social media: 14 respondents
- Media articles: 8 respondents
- Podcasts: 2 respondents
- Other: Participation in Danube Programme projects

2.2. Status

Primary Energy Sources of Interest:

- Renewable sources: 15
- Electricity: 11
- Other: Waste-to-energy technologies

Satisfaction with Current Energy Supply:

- No specific numerical answers, but responses imply moderate to high satisfaction
- Frequency of Reviewing Energy Bills (Scale 1–5):
    - 1 (Never): 1 respondent
    - -2: 2 respondents
    - 3: 13 respondents
    - 4: 6 respondents
    - 5 (Always): 3 respondents

Energy Efficiency Measures Applied:

- Energy-efficient appliances: 15
- LED lighting: 15
- Insulation: 10
- Thermostats: 4
- Timers: 2
- No measures implemented yet: 2
- Other: Unspecified

2.3. Motivation / Expectations Before the event:

Main Obstacles in Implementing Energy Efficiency Measures:

- High initial costs: 15
- Lack of awareness/information: 10

- Technical barriers: 9
- Regulatory and political challenges: 3
- Coordination and planning difficulties: 1
- Other: 2

Plans to Improve Energy Efficiency Soon:

- Yes: 24 respondents
- No: 1 respondent

Additional Information Needed for Investments:

- Initial costs and technical feasibility
- Network capacity and infrastructure readiness
- Price-to-performance ratio
- Access to subsidies and co-financing options

Likelihood to Participate in Establishing an Energy Community (Scale 1–5):

- 1 (Very unlikely): 1 respondent
- 3: 15 respondents
- 4: 8 respondents
- -5 (Very likely): 1 respondent

Self-Identification as Potential Energy Community Member (Scale 1–5):

- 3: 7 respondents
- 4: 12 respondents
- 5: 6 respondents

Confidence in Ability to Contribute to Energy Community Functioning (Scale 1–5):

- 1 (Not confident): 1 respondent
- 2: 1 respondent
- 3: 9 respondents
- 4: 10 respondents
- 5 (Very confident): 4 respondents

After the event:

On their confidence in establishing an energy community:

- 14 participants chose level 4
- 6 selected 3
- 5 selected 5, indicating growing but varied self-assurance

Regarding the likelihood of joining an energy community in the future:

- 17 participants rated it 4
- 7 participants chose 3
- Only 1 chose 5, indicating high interest but cautious optimism

Additional support or information needed, as expressed by participants:

- Site visits to successful energy communities
- Access to up-to-date technologies
- Continued training and capacity-building
- Clear project guidelines and technical assistance
- Information about available financial support and practical implementation aid

Suggestions for Wider Acceptance in Montenegro

Participants identified the following as crucial for broader adoption of energy communities:

- Public engagement and awareness campaigns
- Empowering citizen initiatives
- Institutional mentorship and support from local governments and NGOs
- Transparent financial mechanisms and subsidies
- Education and school-level outreach
- Concrete action and communication plans by responsible authorities

Training Needs and Suggestions

Future training and support should include:

- Practical project management tools and financial planning
- Clear understanding of regulatory frameworks
- Communication strategies for initiating community campaigns
- Accessible, hands-on courses for all interested citizens

Additional Observations

- The event was positively received overall, with participants describing it as well- structured, relevant, and inspiring.
- Some feedback suggested further focus and tighter delivery would enhance the learning experience.

2.4. General Information

- Age Groups: Mainly 36-50 (15 respondents), others distributed in younger and older groups

- Education Level: Predominantly university graduates (20), with a few having secondary education or postgraduate degrees
- Residence: Majority from urban areas (15), some suburban (8), and rural (2) Organization Types Represented:
    - Public institutions: 5
    - Public enterprises: 4
    - Associations: 3
    - Foundations: 2
    - Other: 11

3. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Comparison of Pre-Training and Post-Training Surveys on Energy Communities

This comparative analysis presents key insights from the workshop on energy communities, based on participant responses collected through pre- and post-training surveys. The data highlights changes in knowledge, expectations, and perceived challenges, as well as the overall effectiveness of the training. The comparison aims to assess learning outcomes and identify areas where additional support or follow-up may be beneficial.

The analysis is structured across four main categories:

1. Knowledge & Understanding
2. Expectations & Practical Application
3. Barriers & Concerns
4. Value of the Workshop

1. Knowledge & Understanding

Aspect	Pre-workshop	Post-workshop	Change/Insight
Familiarity with energy communities and advantages	Majority rated mid-low (10 at level 3, 7 at level 2 or below)	10 rated improvements at 5, 11 at level 4	Strong improvement in conceptual understanding
Aspect	**Pre-workshop**	**Post-workshop**	**Change/Insight**
Legal/policy frameworks	Expressed interest in understanding Montenegrin legal context	24/25 said training clarified legal/policy aspects	Legal clarity significantly improved
Technical understanding	9 participants with technical background; interest in improving technical knowledge	All 25 reported improved understanding	Technical content met needs across the board
Community governance	Highlighted interest in practical functioning	All 25 improved their understanding	Workshop effectively addressed community operation models
Importance of energy communities	13 rated it as very important (5), 9 at 4	16 at level 5, 8 at level 4	Already seen as important; training reinforced this
Awareness of regional initiatives	Only 7 aware of examples	Training introduced examples from multiple countries	Awareness broadened through real-world cases

2. Expectations & Practical Application

Aspect	Pre-workshop	Post-workshop	Change/Insight
Likelihood to join/start energy community	15 rated 3, 8 rated 4, only 1 rated 5	17 at 4, 7 at 3, 1 at 5	Moderate increase; interest continues but cautious
Confidence in contributing	Mixed: 9 at level 3, 10 at level 4, 4 at level 5	14 at level 4, 6 at 3, 5 at 5	Slight increase in self-confidence; still varied
Usefulness of good practice examples	Expected and emphasized	10 rated 5, 11 rated 4	Real-world examples seen as especially impactful
Application of new knowledge	N/A	16 chose 4, 5 chose 3, only 2 chose 5	Participants showed moderate confidence in applying skills
Preferred future learning channels	Not specified	Social media (14), articles (8), podcasts (2)	Preference for informal, accessible learning methods

3. Barriers & Concerns

Aspect	Pre-workshop	Post-workshop	Change/Insight
Main concerns	Legal ambiguity, lack of perceived value, community cohesion	Emphasis on need for clear guidance, financial/practical support	Concerns became more implementation-focused
Barriers to EE	High costs (15), lack of info (10), technical (9), regulatory (3)	Still perceived as major issues	Workshop informed but didn't eliminate structural barriers
Support needed	N/A	Site visits, hands-on training, funding info, mentoring	Participants requested tangible, continued support mechanisms
Wider acceptance obstacles	N/A	Need for campaigns, education, government involvement, clear communication	Broader societal engagement needed for uptake

4. Value of Workshop

Aspect	Pre-workshop	Post-workshop	Change/Insight
Most requested topics	Legal framework, technical insights, best practices	Best practices (16), legal (8), technical (5)	Workshop matched participant interests
Usefulness of examples	Strongly expected	21 rated them useful (4 or 5)	Practical relevance confirmed
Key takeaways	Hoped for technical/legal clarity + community stories	Prosumers, successful projects, country comparisons, environmental links	Multidimensional insights well-received
Event evaluation	N/A	Positive feedback, described as relevant and inspiring	Some suggestions for more focused structure

STUDY VISIT

2.1. Knowledge and Understanding

Before the event:

Respondent Expertise Areas:

- Community-related: 4 respondents
- Legal: 2 respondents
- Other: 2 respondents

Training Expectations:

Participants expressed expectations to:

- Launching renewable energy initiatives in communities, ways of informing the public and raising awareness about the benefits of energy management
- How they work, what obstacles exist, benefits…
- I would like to see how energy communities operate in practice and what challenges they have faced over time
- To see how energy communities function in practice

Familiarity with Energy Communities and Their Potential Advantages (Scale 1–5):

- 1 (Not familiar): 1 respondent
- 2: 4 respondents
- 3: 1 respondent
- 4: 2 respondents
- 5 (Very familiar): no respondents

Perceived Major Benefits of Community Renewable Energy Management:

- Environmental impact: 6
- Energy independence: 6
- Economic benefits: 5
- Local economic growth: 3
- Social cohesion: 2
- Other:

Awareness of Energy Community Initiatives in Montenegro or the Danube Region:

- Yes: 3 respondents
- No: 5 respondents Mentioned examples:
- Initiative in Slovenia where the local community produces solar energy for public institutions and households
- Energy community Križevci in Croatia
- Cres

Importance of Creating Energy Communities:

- Rating 3: 1 respondent
- Rating 4: 2 respondents
- Rating 5 (Very important): 5 respondents

Concerns and Uncertainties (1 respondent):

- Lack of knowledge, local decision makers, Montenegrin Electric Company

Previous Involvement in Energy Efficiency or Renewable Energy Projects:

- Yes: 2 respondents
- No: 6 respondents

Project focus areas included:

- Implementation of more energy-efficient solutions, transition to renewable energy sources in public buildings;
- Learning about energy efficiency and renewable energy sources

Estimated Number of Energy Communities by 2030:

- Estimates varied: “2,” “5,” “15–20,” “10,” “1-2,” “5-10” and “a very significant number as Montenegro goes in that direction”

After the event:

2.1 Knowledge and Understanding

Participants reported a notable improvement in their understanding of energy

- 6 participants rated their improvement at the highest level (5), 1 at level 4, and 1 at level 3, indicating a strong positive impact.
- When asked about the likelihood of applying knowledge professionally, most responses were highly likely: 4 participants chose level 4, 2 selected 5, and 2 chose level 3, indicating significant interest regarding real-world application.

Regarding the importance of establishing energy communities:

- The vast majority (7 out of 8) considered this important, rating it as "very important" (5) and 1 rating it 3.

In terms of specific knowledge areas:

- All participants (8 out of 8) confirmed the study visit provided a clearer understanding of the legal and policy frameworks.
- All 8 participants reported improved understanding of technical aspects and community governance of energy communities. When it comes to the practical application of new skills:
- Confidence levels were moderately high:
    - 5 participants rated their readiness at level 4,
    - 3 at level 3.

The usefulness of best practice examples was well recognized:

- 6 participants rated them as very useful (5), and 2 rated 3.

Participants highlighted value in:

- Energy community and cooperative of Cres Island
- Cooperative of Cres Island, EU
- For the legal aspect, since that is the foundation for establishing an energy community
- Presenting the benefits of the energy community to potential community participants

Participants identified the most valuable segments of the study visit as:

- Best practice examples: 8 participants
- Legal frameworks: 1 participants
- Technical content: 2 participants

The explanations were as follows:

- Participants share their own experiences, benefits, and obstacles they have encountered... they share advice
- Because concrete (important) things are best learned through practical examples
- For inspiration and models to replicate (how others did it) and what challenges they faced
- Because we were able to see firsthand how best practices function in Croatia Preferred channels for further information outside the study visit included:

- Social media: 6 respondents
- Media articles: 2 respondents
- Podcasts:
- Other:

2.2. Status Before the event:

Primary Energy Sources of Interest:

- Renewable sources: 7
- Electricity: 3
- Other:

Satisfaction with Current Energy Supply:

- Rating 3: 6 respondents
- Rating 4: 2 respondents

Frequency of Reviewing Energy Bills (Scale 1–5):

- 1 (Never):
- 2:
- 3: 1 respondent
- 4: 3 respondents
- 5 (Always): 4 respondents

Energy Efficiency Measures Applied:

- Energy-efficient appliances: 7
- Insulation: 5
- Thermostats: 1
- Timers:
- No measures implemented yet: 1
- Other: Unspecified

2.3. Motivation / Expectations Before the event:

Main Obstacles in Implementing Energy Efficiency Measures:

- High initial costs: 7
- Lack of awareness/information: 6
- Technical barriers: 2
- Regulatory and political challenges: 2
- Coordination and planning difficulties: 1
- Other:

Plans to Improve Energy Efficiency Soon:

- Yes: 8 respondents (all)
- No:

Additional Information Needed for Investments:

- All types of information

Likelihood to Participate in Establishing an Energy Community (Scale 1–5):

- 3: 5 respondents
- 4: 2 respondents
- 5 (Very likely): 1 respondent

Self-Identification as Potential Energy Community Member (Scale 1–5):

- 3: 4 respondents
- 4: 3 respondents
- 5: 1 respondent

Confidence in Ability to Contribute to Energy Community Functioning (Scale 1–5):

- 3: 7 respondents
- 4: 1 respondent

After the event:

On their confidence in establishing an energy community:

- 5 participants chose level 4
- 1 selected 3
- 2 selected 5

Regarding the likelihood of joining an energy community in the future:

- 6 participants rated it 4
- 1 participants chose 5
- 1 chose 3, indicating high interest overall

Additional support or information needed, as expressed by participants:

- Legal regulations, economic benefits, impact of discarded panels and wind turbines on the environment, etc.

- Legal regulations, stable financial situation, and familiarizing citizens with the benefits
- Legal and regulatory support, financial mechanisms and incentives, technological challenges and innovations
- Participation in fairs and conferences related to these topics
- Examples of good practice

Suggestions for Wider Acceptance in Montenegro

Participants identified the following as crucial for broader adoption of energy communities:

- Improving citizens' knowledge, simple procedures, explaining the benefits...
- Introducing the broader public, raising citizens' awareness, regulations, and examples of good practice
- Clear legal and regulatory framework, financial support, incentives, as well as education and technical and administrative support
- Media campaign
- Informing and familiarizing citizens with the benefits

Training/information Needs and Suggestions

Future training and support should include:

- All of the above
- Better understanding, i.e., ways of raising awareness and generally promoting energy communities
- Examples of good practices in the countries where they have been successfully established
- Information about legal procedures
- How to establish an energy community from A to Z

Additional Observations

- A great event aimed at raising participants' awareness
- A very interesting and useful event

2.4. General Information

- Gender: 1 male, 7 female respondents
- Age Groups: Mainly 36-50 (6 respondents), others (2 respondents) 50-65
- Education Level: Predominantly university graduates (7), with 1 postgraduate degree
- Residence: Majority from urban areas (6), suburban (2)

Organization Types Represented:

- Public institutions: 3
- Public enterprises: 1
- Associations:

- Foundations: 4
- Other:

3. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Comparison of Pre-visit and Post-visit Surveys on Energy Communities

This comparative analysis summarizes the key findings and insights gathered through a pre- and post-visit survey conducted among participants of the study visit focused on energy communities. The aim of this analysis is to evaluate changes in participants' visit served as an opportunity for participants to explore real-life examples of functioning energy communities, deepen their understanding of legal and technical frameworks, and reflect on the practical applicability of the knowledge gained.

The analysis is structured across four main categories:

1. Knowledge & Understanding
2. Expectations & Practical Application
3. Barriers & Concerns
4. Value of the Study Visit

The results demonstrate a clear improvement in participants' awareness and confidence related to energy communities, as well as a shift in focus from general curiosity to concrete implementation needs. This data can support the development of future educational initiatives and targeted support mechanisms for stakeholders interested in community-based energy projects.

1. Knowledge & Understanding

Aspect	Pre-visit	Post-visit	Change / Insight
Familiarity with energy communities and their advantages	Majority had low to moderate familiarity (5 rated 2 or below; none rated 5)	6 rated level 5, 1 at level 4, 1 at level 3	Marked improvement in conceptual understanding
Legal/policy frameworks	Expressed strong interest in legal clarity and Montenegrin context	All 8 confirmed improved understanding	Legal clarity significantly improved
Technical understanding	Participants lacked experience but expected to learn about technology and challenges	All 8 reported increased technical understanding	Technical content met expectations
Community governance	Expected practical examples and insight into challenges	All 8 confirmed improved understanding	Visit successfully addressed governance models
Importance of energy communities	5 rated it as very important (5), 2 at level 4	7 rated it 5, 1 at level 3	Importance reinforced through real-world exposure
Awareness of regional initiatives	Only 3 aware of initiatives in the Danube region	Examples from Croatia and Slovenia were highlighted	Broadened awareness via real cases (Cres, Križevci)

2. Expectations & Practical Application

Aspect	Pre-visit	Post-visit	Change / Insight
Likelihood to join/start an energy community	Majority rated 3 (5 respondents), only 1 rated 5	6 at level 4, 1 at level 5, 1 at level 3	Clear increase in willingness to engage
Confidence in contributing	7 rated confidence at level 3, only 1 at level 4	5 at level 4, 2 at level 5, 1 at level 3	Significant growth in self-confidence

Aspect	Pre-visit	Post-visit	Change / Insight
Usefulness of good practice examples	Strong expectations for learning from real-life cases	6 rated examples as very useful (5), 2 rated 3	Concrete examples confirmed as highly impactful
Application of new knowledge	All expected to gain knowledge, but limited prior involvement	4 at level 4, 2 at 5, 2 at 3 in terms of likelihood to apply	Participants felt capable of applying knowledge
Preferred future learning channels	Not specified	6 chose social media, 2 articles	Preference for informal, digital sources of learning

3. Barriers & Concerns

Aspect	Pre-visit	Post-visit	Change / Insight
Main concerns	Lack of knowledge, institutional resistance, role of EPCG	Need for legal and financial support, environmental impact concerns	Concerns evolved toward practical implementation needs
Barriers to EE	High costs (7), lack of info (6), technical/policy issues	Same issues persisted: legal gaps, financial insecurity	Structural barriers remain despite new insights
Support needed	Participants wanted more information across all aspects	Requested legal clarity, incentives, good practice examples, technical support	Clear call for systemic and ongoing support
Wider acceptance obstacles	N/A	Need for awareness, simplified procedures, clear communication, regulatory clarity	Emphasis on educating public and simplifying participation

4. Value of the Study Visit

Aspect	Pre-visit	Post-visit	Change / Insight
Most requested topics	Legal procedures, operation of energy communities, obstacles	Best practices (8), technical (2), legal (1)	Training content aligned well with expectations
Usefulness of examples	Strong expectations for practical value	Confirmed: concrete examples were “most valuable” for all	Examples helped bridge theory and action
Key takeaways	Expected practical exposure, technical and legal clarity	Legal frameworks, Cres case, EU practices, prosumer models	Visit delivered multifaceted, applicable insights
Event evaluation	N/A	Described as “very useful”, “interesting”, and “eye-opening”	Training recognized as highly relevant and impactful

MOLDOVA

EVENT1

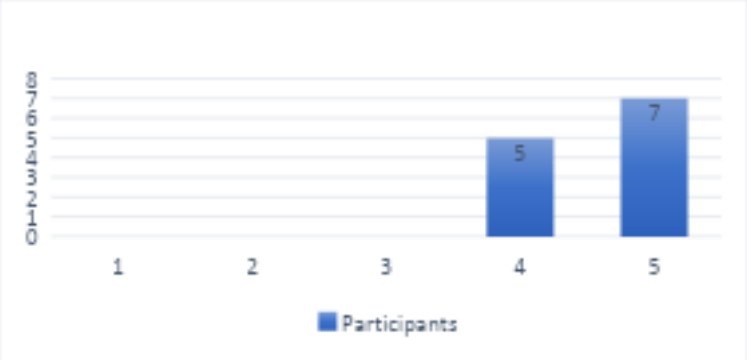
2.1. Knowledge and Understanding

- Before attending the event, how familiar were you with the concept of the Energy Community? (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very much))

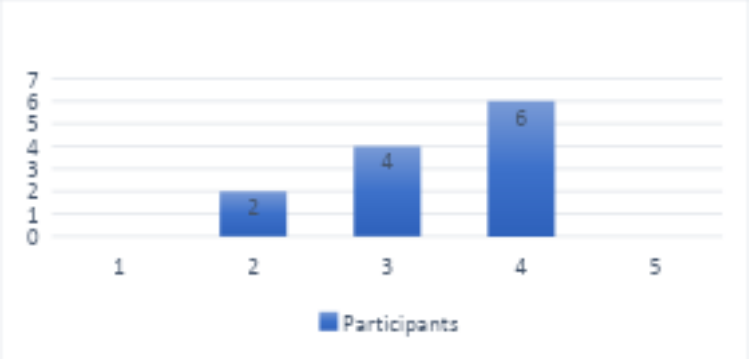
  Average rating (3.83)

- After attending the event, how familiar are you with the concept of the Energy Community? (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very much)

  Average rating (4.58)



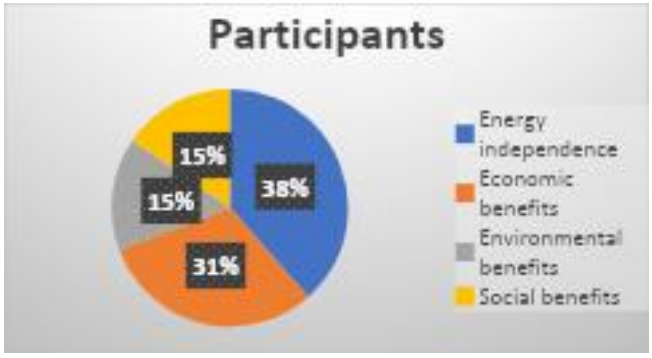
- Before attending the event, how familiar were you with the potential benefits of Energy Communities? (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very) Average rating: 3.3



- After attending the event, how familiar are you with the potential benefits of Energetic Communities? (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very much)

  Average rating (4.25)

- What do you think are the biggest benefits of the Energy Communities?



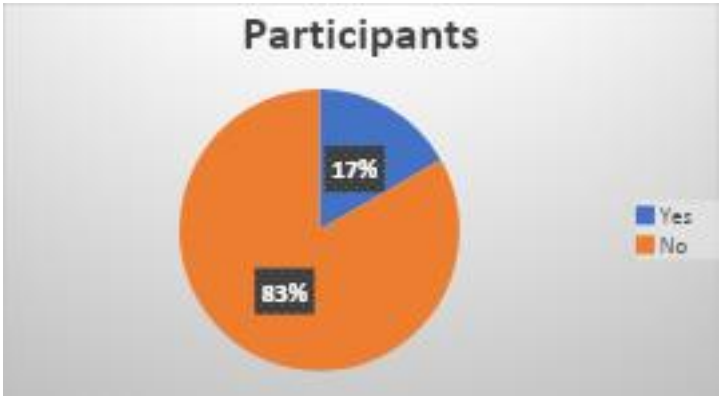
What do you think are the barriers to the development of Energy Communities in Moldova?

- Current legislation limits the ability to sell renewable energy based on individual consumption
- There is a need to implement an energy management system and smart meters for accurate and sustainable consumption management.

- Lack of a smart metering system

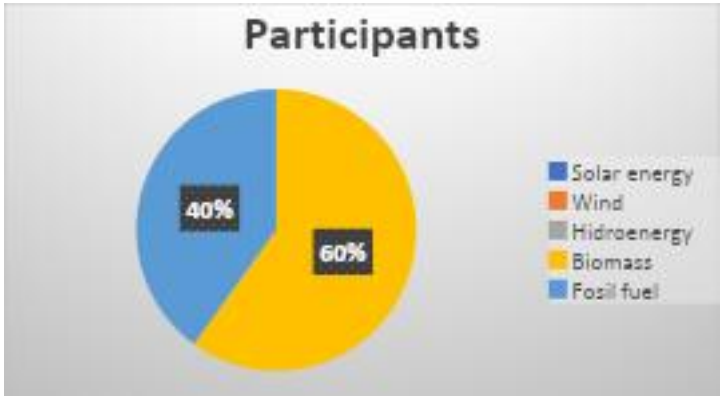
2.2. Status

- Are you part of an Energy Community (be it informal or at an early stage)?



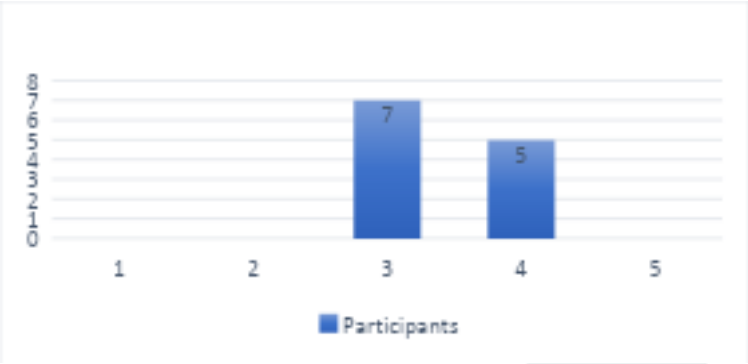
2.3. Motivation / Expectations

- What is the primary source of energy in your area?

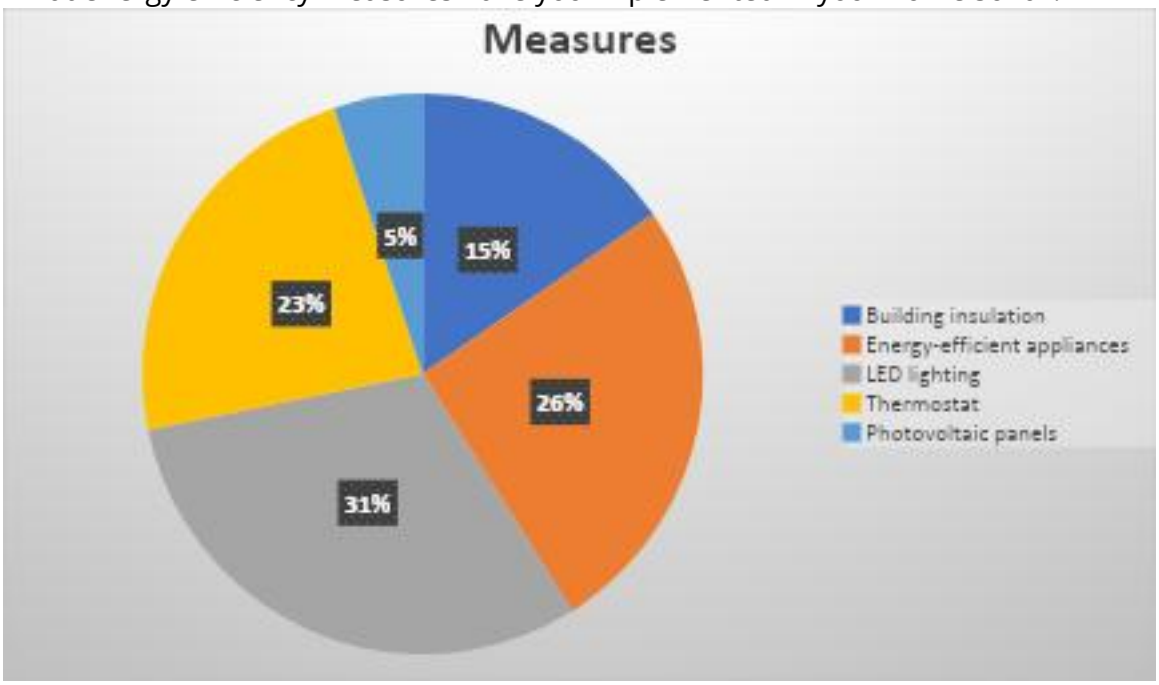


- How satisfied are you with your current energy source? (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very)

  Average rating (3.41)



What energy efficiency measures have you implemented in your home so far?



- How often do you check your energy bills? (1 = Never, 5 = Always)

  Average rating (3.5)

- What information would you need to be better prepared to launch a renewable energy initiative.

A recommended calculation model for cost distribution within energy communities and promoting it as good practice at national level.
Clear, practical steps for implementation
Guidance on creating and operating the EC
EC funding opportunities.
Concrete examples of successful projects implemented in Moldova or similar regions.

3. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

A comparative analysis of the pre- and post-training questionnaires reveals significant improvement in participants' understanding and perception of energy communities:

- **Understanding the concept of Energy Communities:**
    - **Before the training:** Average score was **3.8**, indicating moderate familiarity, but with notable knowledge gaps among many participants.
    - **After the training:** The average increased to **4.52**, reflecting a substantial improvement in conceptual understanding and confidence in discussing energy communities.
- **Understanding the potential benefits of Energy Communities:**
    - **Before the training:** Average score was **3.3**, showing participants were less aware of the benefits and practical value of energy communities.
    - **After the training:** The score rose to **4.25**, suggesting that participants now better understand how energy communities can deliver energy independence, financial savings, environmental benefits, and social cohesion.
- **Most frequently asked questions during the event included:**
    - What financial incentives or support mechanisms are available?
    - How to handle technical and administrative challenges?
- **Most popular topics of the training were:**
    - Legislative framework and policy updates for energy communities in Moldova
    - Practical examples of successful projects and pilot initiatives
    - Technical requirements for setting up renewable energy systems
- **Information, knowledge, and skills found particularly useful:**
    - Clear steps for establishing an energy community
    - Understanding legal provisions and national policy alignment
    - Funding opportunities at national and EU levels
- **Key challenges identified by participants:**
    - Limited financial resources and high upfront costs
    - Insufficient technical expertise at the local level
    - Lack of practical guidelines

EVENT 2

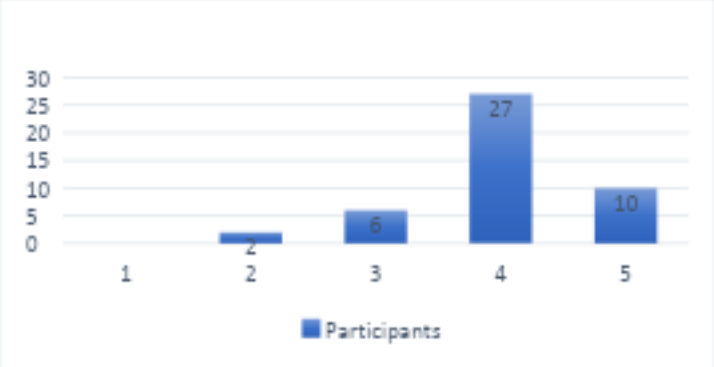
2.1. Knowledge and Understanding

- Before attending the event, how familiar were you with the concept of the Energy Community? (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very much))

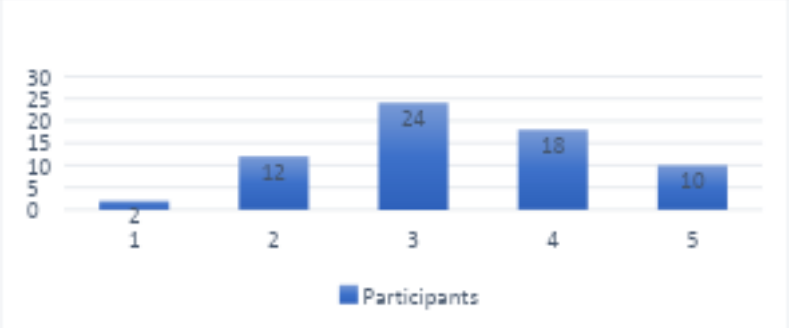
  Average rating (3.5)

- After attending the event, how familiar are you with the concept of the Energy Community? (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very much)

  Average rating (4.5)

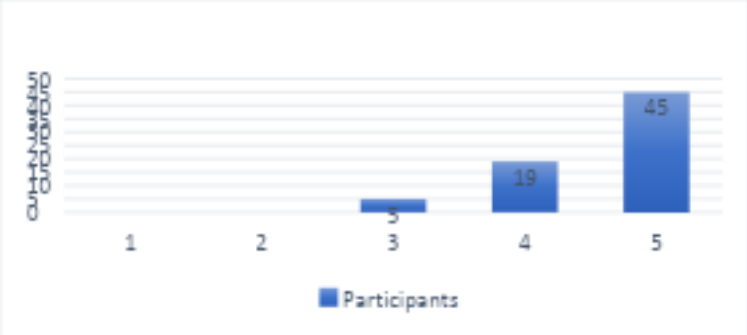


- Before attending the event, how familiar were you with the potential benefits of Energy Communities? (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very) Average rating: 3.3

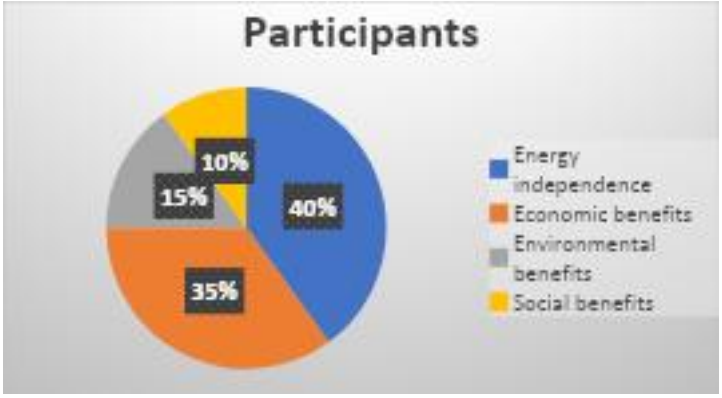


- After attending the event, how familiar are you with the potential benefits of Energetic Communities? (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very much)

  Average rating (4.64)



- What do you think are the biggest benefits of the Energy Communities?

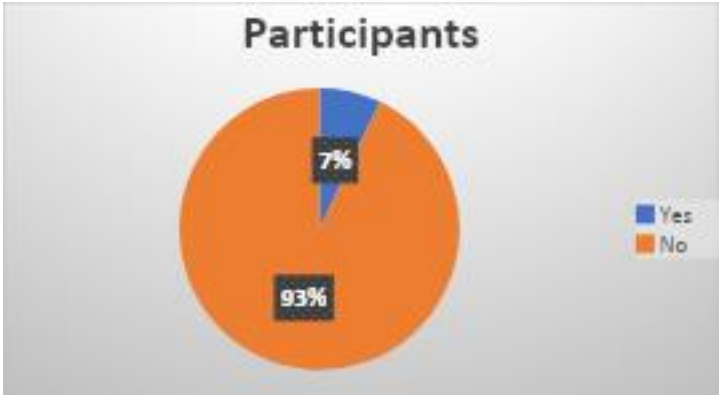


What do you think are the barriers to the development of Energy Communities in Moldova?

- In Moldova, the legislative framework for energy communities is underdeveloped and creates significant financial and administrative burdens.
- There is insufficient infrastructure
- limited public information on the topic.
- Existing laws are in early stages
- No clarity on legal statute of Energy Communities
- Collaboration and public engagement remain key challenges and necessities for progress.

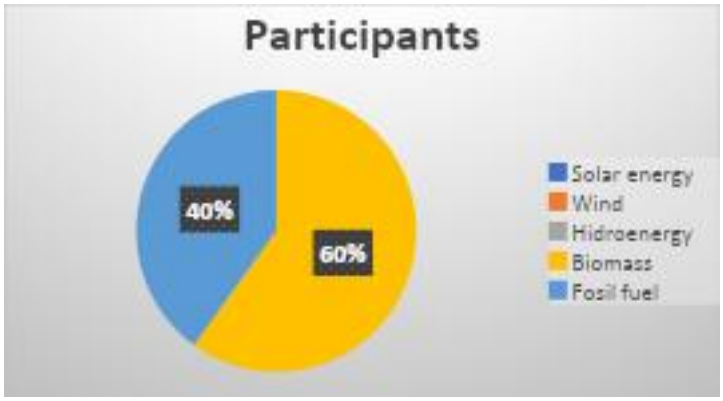
2.2. Status

- Are you part of an Energy Community (be it informal or at an early stage)?



2.3. Motivation / Expectations

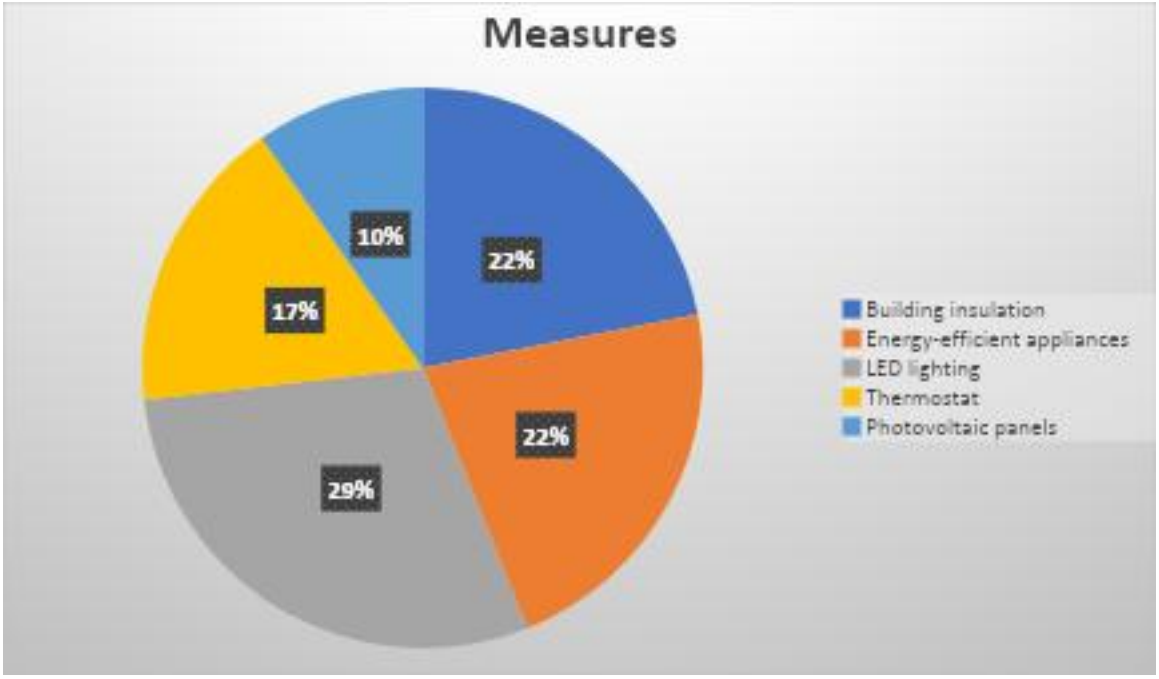
- What is the primary source of energy in your area?



- How satisfied are you with your current energy source? (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very)

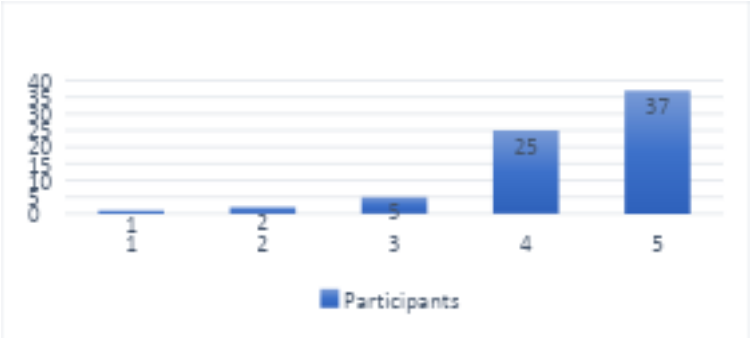
  Average rating (3.5)

What energy efficiency measures have you implemented in your home so far?



- How often do you check your energy bills? (1 = Never, 5 = Always)

  Average rating (4.5)



- What information would you need to be better prepared to launch a renewable energy initiative.

Clear, practical steps for implementation
Understanding of current Moldovan legal provisions relevant to EC.
Guidance on creating and operating the EC
EC funding opportunities.
Concrete examples of successful projects implemented in Moldova or similar regions.

3. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

A comparative analysis of the pre- and post-training questionnaires reveals significant improvement in participants' understanding and perception of energy communities:

- **Understanding the concept of Energy Communities:**
    - **Before the training:** Average score was **3.5**, indicating moderate familiarity, but with notable knowledge gaps among many participants.
    - **After the training:** The average increased to **4.5**, reflecting a substantial improvement in conceptual understanding and confidence to discuss energy communities.
- **Understanding the potential benefits of Energy Communities:**
    - **Before the training:** Average score was **3.3**, showing participants were less aware of the benefits and practical value of energy communities.
    - **After the training:** The score rose to **4.64**, suggesting that participants now better understand how energy communities can deliver energy independence, financial savings, environmental benefits, and social cohesion.
- **Most frequently asked questions during the event included:**
    - What is the legal status of energy communities in Moldova?
    - What steps are required to establish an energy community?
    - What financial incentives or support mechanisms are available?
    - How can municipalities participate in such initiatives?
    - How to handle technical and administrative challenges?
- **Most popular topics of the training were:**
    - Legislative framework and policy updates for energy communities in Moldova
    - Practical examples of successful projects and pilot initiatives
    - Technical requirements for setting up renewable energy systems
- **Information, knowledge, and skills found particularly useful:**
    - Clear steps for establishing an energy community
    - Understanding legal provisions and national policy alignment
    - Funding opportunities at national and EU levels
- **Key challenges identified by participants:**
    - Complexity of technical and legal terminology
    - Limited financial resources and high upfront costs

- Insufficient technical expertise at the local level
- Lack of practical guidelines

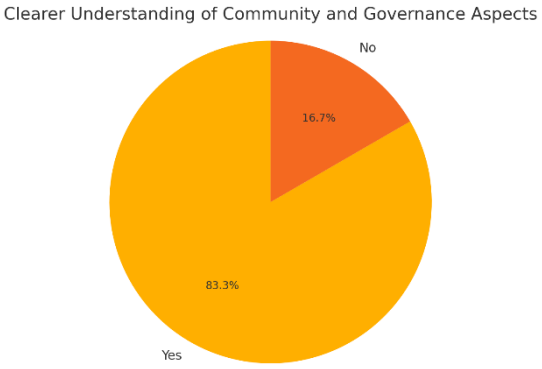
SERBIA

2.1. Knowledge and Understanding

The comparative analysis of pre- and post-training questionnaires reveals a significant improvement in participants' understanding of energy communities (RECs) following the professional training.

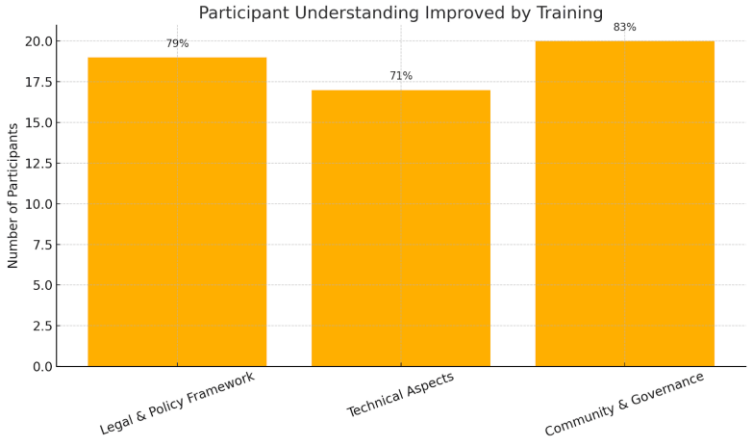
Before the training, participants demonstrated only a moderate familiarity with the concept of RECs, averaging 3.2 on a 5-point scale. The legal framework and technical prerequisites were areas of particular uncertainty, and only a minority had prior exposure to any active REC models, either domestically or internationally.

After the training, knowledge indicators improved across all categories. A total of 19 out of 24 participants (approximately 79%) rated their understanding of energy communities as having improved significantly (scores 4 or 5).

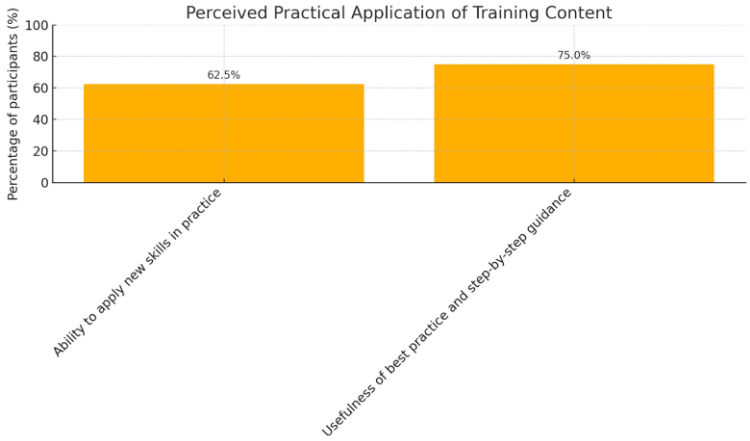


Similarly, 18 participants (75%) stated they were likely or very likely to apply this knowledge in their daily or strategic professional roles.

The training succeeded in clarifying the legal and policy frameworks surrounding RECs for 19 participants (79%), while 17 (71%) reported better understanding of technical aspects such as grid integration and infrastructure requirements. An even higher number—20 participants (83%)—indicated they had gained clarity on the social, governance, and participatory components of REC functioning.



Regarding practical application, 15 participants (62.5%) reported that the skills and information acquired were highly applicable to real-world contexts. Likewise, 18 participants (75%) rated the best practice examples and structured step-by-step guidance as very practical and useful.



Qualitative feedback further emphasized the importance of targeted, scenario-based examples and the inclusion of concrete legal pathways, funding mechanisms, and community engagement strategies. Participants expressed a desire for more detailed case studies and legal templates in future training modules.

In summary, the training achieved its core objective of raising awareness and deepening participants' understanding of RECs. It addressed critical knowledge gaps—especially in legal and technical domains—and laid the groundwork for more confident and informed stakeholder engagement in future REC initiatives.

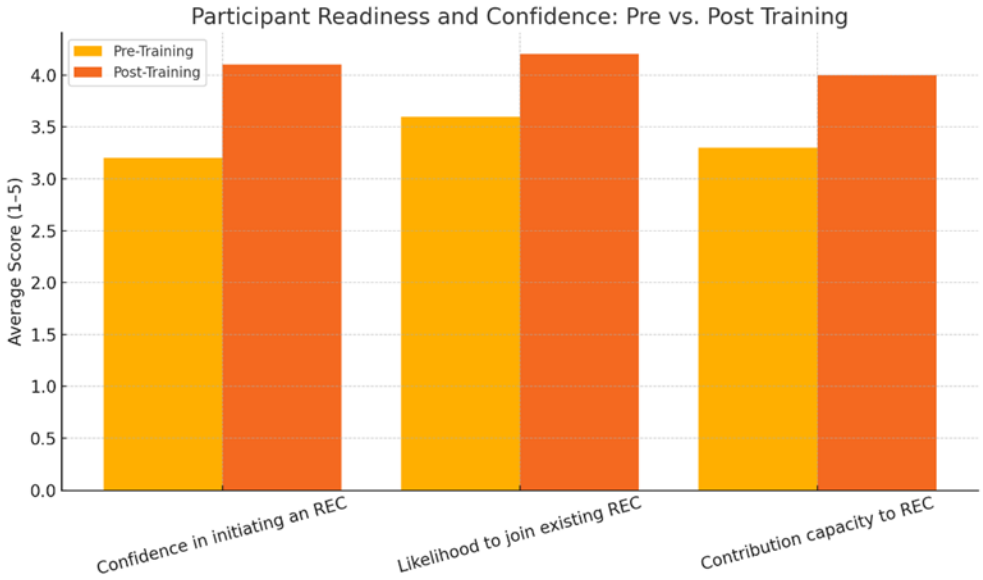
2.2. Status

The comparative analysis of pre- and post-training questionnaires reveals a measurable increase in participants' confidence, perceived readiness, and willingness to engage in renewable energy communities (RECs).

Prior to the training, participants reported a moderate understanding of the REC concept, with limited confidence in their capacity to initiate or join such initiatives. The average self-assessed knowledge score stood at **3.2**, while willingness to participate in forming a REC was **3.6**. Confidence in contributing meaningfully to a functioning community was even lower at **3.3**, underscoring the need for targeted awareness-raising and capacity-building interventions.
Following the training, significant improvements were observed:

- **16 participants** (66.7%) rated their confidence in initiating an energy community at **4 or 5** on a 5-point scale.
- **17 participants** (70.8%) indicated increased likelihood of joining an existing REC.
- These gains were attributed to clearer understanding of the legal framework, exposure to good practice examples from EU Member States, and the practical step-by-step guidance offered during the training.

Importantly, several participants noted that their readiness to take action is closely tied to the **finalisation and operationalisation of relevant secondary legislation**. While the primary legal framework in Serbia formally recognises RECs, the absence of accompanying by-laws and detailed procedures continues to represent a perceived barrier to implementation. This observation aligns with broader findings across the Danube region, where regulatory clarity is often cited as a prerequisite for scaling up REC initiatives.
Participants also emphasized the value of information regarding institutional responsibilities, available financing mechanisms, and technical feasibility—highlighting that their motivation and willingness to engage has increased, provided that enabling conditions continue to evolve in a supportive direction.
In conclusion, the training demonstrably enhanced participants' status in terms of knowledge and practical orientation, and has laid a solid foundation for their further involvement in community-based renewable energy projects, particularly as the national regulatory landscape becomes more conducive.



2.3. Motivation / Expectations

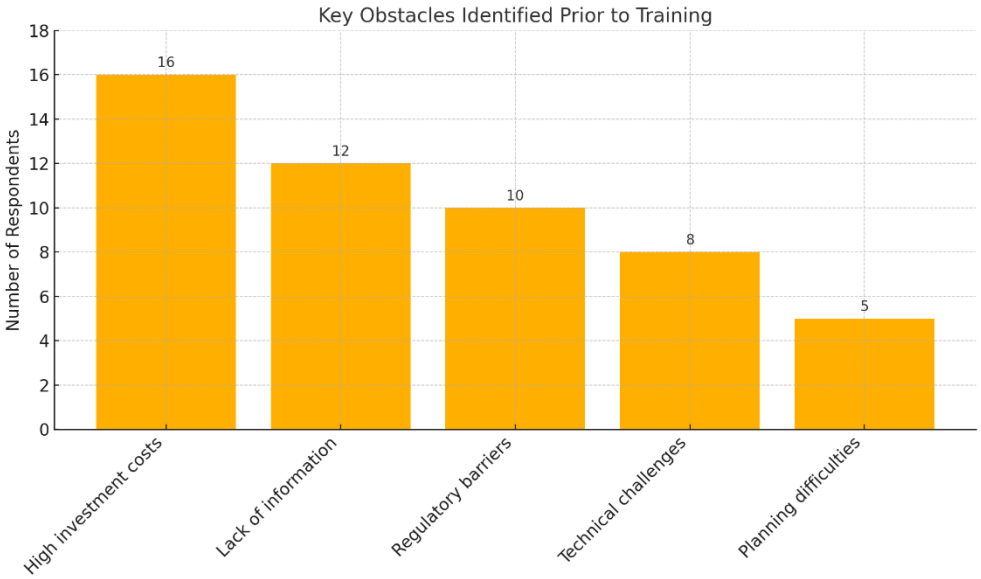
The comparative analysis of pre- and post-training data reveals a notable shift in participants' motivation and readiness to engage in energy efficiency (EE) and renewable energy community (REC)

initiatives. Prior to the training, participants demonstrated a moderate level of interest but reported a range of perceived barriers that hindered their ability to take action.
The most frequently cited constraints included:

- **High initial investment costs** (16 participants),
- **Insufficient access to targeted information** (12),
- **Regulatory and administrative complexities** (10),
- **Technical uncertainties** (8),
- And challenges related to **planning and coordination** (5).

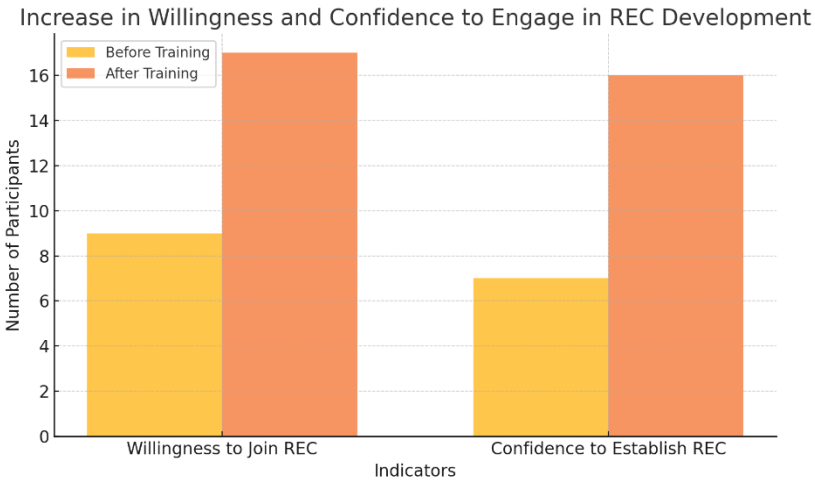
These findings align with broader regional trends, where enabling frameworks and institutional support structures for RECs remain underdeveloped or fragmented.
Only **11 out of 24 respondents** indicated near-term plans for EE investments before the training, underscoring a clear demand for further support mechanisms. When asked what type of information or assistance would be most valuable, participants predominantly requested:

- Transparent and accessible **funding opportunities**,
- **Legal advisory services** to navigate REC-related provisions,
- And concrete **technical guidelines** for implementation.



Following the training, there was a marked increase in participants' self-reported willingness and confidence to engage in REC development:

- **71% (17 participants)** stated they were now likely or very likely to join an existing REC.
- **66% (16 participants)** rated their confidence to initiate an REC at level 4 or 5 (on a 5-point scale), compared to a considerably lower score pre-training.
- Self-perceived **capacity to contribute to REC operation** also improved significantly, with 11 participants now feeling adequately prepared to play an active role.



These results suggest that the training contributed meaningfully to:

- De-risking engagement by addressing regulatory and technical uncertainties,
- Enhancing individual and institutional motivation, and
- Building a foundational understanding of the steps required to initiate and sustain community energy models.

3. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

The comparative assessment of the pre- and post-training questionnaires reveals a measurable and positive shift in participants' knowledge, awareness, and readiness to engage with Renewable Energy Communities (RECs). This change was observed across the core thematic areas of the training: legal and regulatory frameworks, technical implementation, community engagement, and practical establishment steps.

Key Findings:

1. Change in Knowledge and Awareness:

- Participants' familiarity with the concept and operational principles of RECs increased substantially, with an average improvement from a pre-training knowledge rating of 3.2 to 4.4 post-training.
- The proportion of participants reporting a clear understanding of legal and governance structures rose from 25% pre-training to 79% post-training.
- Technical comprehension, including issues related to infrastructure and energy flow, increased from 21% to 71%.
- Awareness of the participatory and governance aspects of RECs showed the greatest improvement, reaching 83% post-training.

2. Change in Motivation and Willingness to Engage:

- Participants' stated willingness to contribute to or initiate an REC improved markedly. Prior to training, only 33% indicated likely participation; post-training, this figure rose to 58%.
- Confidence in contributing meaningfully to an REC increased in parallel, from an average score of 3.0 to 3.8 (on a 5-point scale).
- A majority of participants (75%) found the best practice cases and step-by-step formation process particularly actionable and motivating.

3. Frequently Asked Questions:

- Participants showed particular interest in:
    - Legal registration and administrative pathways for RECs.
    - Interactions with national grid operators and the role of the public energy utility (EPS).
    - Availability of funding mechanisms and co-financing schemes.
    - Long-term sustainability and governance challenges.

4. Most Valued Training Topics:

- Legal framework and policy alignment with EU directives.
- Institutional models and organizational forms of RECs.
- Financial and investment considerations.
- Technical feasibility, especially in the context of Serbia's energy infrastructure.

5. Skills and Knowledge Considered Useful:

- Hard skills: Understanding REC formation procedures, navigating regulatory requirements, and managing energy accounting.
- Soft skills: Community outreach, stakeholder engagement, consensus-building strategies.

6. Identified Challenges and Resources Needed:

- Key barriers remain:
    - Absence of detailed secondary legislation (bylaws and operational rules).
    - Limited institutional capacity at the local level.
    - Grid integration limitations and insufficient coordination with public utilities.
- Suggested enabling factors include:
    - Provision of legal templates and administrative toolkits.
    - Capacity-building for local governments and civic groups.
    - Development of dedicated financial instruments or incentives for early-stage REC initiatives.

BULGARIA

Only 6 participants provided filled-in “before” questionnaires and 3 – “after”. Therefore, it would not be possible to consider these as being representative (25% “before” and 12.5% “after”)

2.1. Knowledge and Understanding

Most of those who provided filled-in questionnaires classify themselves as being in the “Community” area of energy communities. Most didn’t provide their expectations from the training. Since this was the 3rd event in the campaign and most of the participants were present during the first 2, most of them replied they are well or very well familiar with the concept of RECs and of energy community initiatives in Bulgaria (Gabrovo and Burgas). Energy independence and Social cohesion were the preferred choices for advantages of RECs. Most find creation of RECs very important and only a single concern was expressed related to social disunity and lack of trust between potential participants in energy communities- in many cases we observe reserved behaviour, individualism and lack of a sense of common purpose in our local communities. Most don’t mention participating previously in energy efficiency or renewable energy projects – 6.6% (2 respondents) indicated participation in condominium renovation EE projects funded by the municipality and public grants and a geo-thermal heating for schools public funding project.

2.2. Status

Respondents report electricity as primary source of energy and only 12,5% indicate renewables along. Most are generally fairly satisfied with current energy supply and most of them frequently review their energy bills. Reported implemented EE measures are mostly Insulation, EE appliances and LED lighting and only 1 in 6 reports not having any.

2.3. Motivation / Expectations

Obstacles encountered in implementing EE measures are Regulatory and policy challenges, Lack of awareness or information and High upfront costs. 100% are planning energy efficiency improvements and the the majority (except 2 out of 6 fairly likely) are likely to be involved in establishing REC and become potential members of EC being confident to contribute.

3. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Again here we should indicate that only 6 participants provided filled-in “before” questionnaires and 3 – “after”. Therefore, it would not be possible to consider these as being representative (25% “before” and 12.5% “after”) for the purpose of analyses.
Since this was the 3rd event in the campaign and most of the participants were present during the first 2, most of them replied they are well or very well familiar with the concept of RECs).

- Over 65% rated their initial knowledge as 4 or 5 out of 5 point scale (5="very familiar").
- Participants' understanding of the legal, technical, and governance aspects of RECs was notably low but improved as a result of the training.
- Over 60% were aware of operational energy community initiatives in Bulgaria and following the traing - in the wider Danube Region.
- The primary motivations for attending, as expressed in the questionnaires, were to learn about practical examples and best practices.
- Participants predominantly indicated that any further information on RECs would be beneficial for them to learn in the future.
- A key challenge indicated was the lack of trust between potential participants in energy communities.

HUNGARY

2.1. Knowledge and Understanding

Q1 – What is your professional background in relation to the topic of energy communities?

- Community/social field: 50.0%
- Energy service providers – networks: 12.5%
- Legal: 12.5%
- Municipalities: 12.5%
- EU energy project management: 12.5%

Q2 – What do you expect most from the training?

Each response was unique, indicating a broad range of expectations:

- Practical experience, implementation models
- Legal, financial, and technical knowledge
- Technical aspects of energy communities
- How to start an energy community
- Legal framework for establishment
- General basic knowledge
- Solutions to common problems
- Current legal regulation and best practices

Q3 – How well-informed do you consider yourself on the topic of energy communities? (1=not at all, 5=very well)

- Level 2: 37.5%

- Level 4: 37.5%
- Level 3: 25.0%

Q4 – What benefits do you see in energy communities?

Responses included multiple combinations of the following:

- Energy awareness – 62,5% of the responders mentioned it
- Economic benefits – 75% of the responders mentioned it
- Social cohesion – 62,5 % of the responders mentioned it
- Environmental impact – 50% of the responders mentioned it
- Local economic growth – 25% of the responders mentioned it

Q5 – Have you heard of any energy community initiatives operating in Hungary or the Danube Region?

- Yes: 50.0%
- No: 50.0%

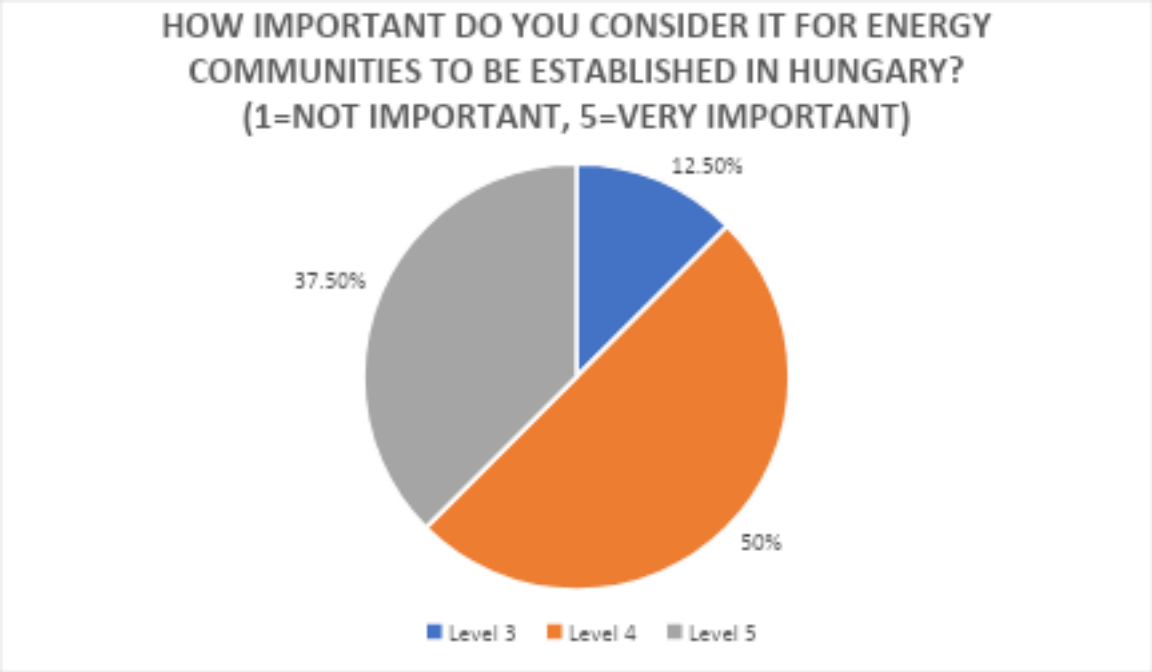
Q6 – If yes, which initiatives are you familiar with?

- Güssing, Pannonhalma, Bábolna was mentioned.
- 37,5% of the responders could name an energy community.

Q7 – How important do you consider it for energy communities to be established in Hungary? (1=not important, 5=very important)

- Level 3: 12.5%
- Level 4: 50.0%
- Level 5: 37.5%

87,5% of the responders consider importan tor very important energy communities to be established.



Q8 – Do you have any doubts or uncertainties regarding energy communities?

- Yes: 50.0%
- No: 50.0%

Q9 – If yes, what are they?

Concerns were diverse, 50% of responders could mention any doubts:

- Weak state support
- Uncertainty in the legal environment
- Lack of clear regulation
- Political doubts regarding genuine national commitment

In summary, respondents said that the uncertain regulatory environment is the main cause of doubts. The analysis of the responses reveals a generally moderate level of knowledge regarding energy communities among participants, combined with a strong interest in enhancing their understanding through targeted training. Half of the respondents come from the community or social field, suggesting that many are involved at grassroots or civil society levels, while the remainder represent energy networks, legal, municipal, and EU project backgrounds, providing a diverse mix of perspectives.
Self-assessed knowledge levels vary, with 37.5% rating themselves at level 2 and the same proportion at level 4, indicating a polarised awareness with both less and more informed participants. A significant share (25.0%) positioned themselves at an intermediate level (level 3). Expectations towards training are diverse, encompassing practical implementation, legal and technical frameworks, and initiation processes, which points to a clear demand for structured and comprehensive knowledge-building.
In terms of perceived benefits, economic advantages were most frequently cited (75.0%), followed by energy awareness and social cohesion (each 62.5%). Environmental and local economic benefits were

less frequently mentioned. Although 50.0% were aware of energy community initiatives in Hungary or the Danube Region, only 37.5% could name a specific example, such as Güssing or Pannonhalma, reflecting partial familiarity with existing models.
There is a strong consensus (87.5%) on the importance of establishing energy communities in Hungary. Nevertheless, half of the respondents expressed doubts, mainly related to regulatory uncertainty, insufficient state support and perceived lack of political commitment. This underscores the need for clearer national frameworks and sustained institutional backing.

2.2. Status

Q10 – Have you previously participated in any energy efficiency or renewable energy project?

- Yes: 75.0%
- No: 25.0%

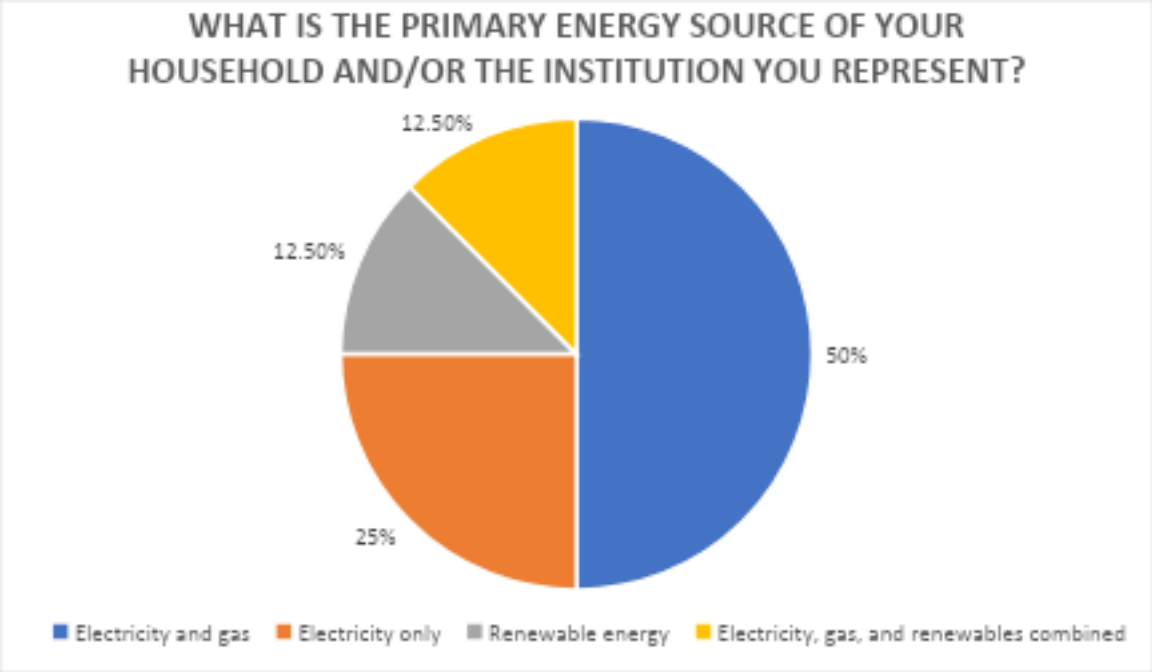
Q11 – If yes, what kind of project did you participate in? Responses were mentioned below:

- KEHOP, GINOP, Interreg projects
- ESINERGY, GreenLine, Rures, RenoHUB, FeedSchools
- Thermal well heating, municipal and institutional energy renovation projects

Q12 – What is the primary energy source of your household and/or the institution you represent?

- Electricity and gas: 50.0%
- Electricity only: 25.0%
- Renewable energy: 12.5%
- Electricity, gas, and renewables combined: 12.5%

Only 12,5% of responders use renewable energy or another 12,5% of responders use combined systems.



Q13 – How satisfied are you with your current energy supply?

- Very satisfied (5): 37.5%
- Satisfied (4): 25.0%
- Neutral (3): 37.5%

Q14 – How often do you check your energy bills as a private individual?

- Annually: 62.5%
- Monthly: 25.0%
- Someone else checks it in the household: 12.5%

Q15 – Which of the following energy efficiency measures have you or your institution implemented to reduce energy consumption?
Each response was unique and multi-itemed. Common measures included:

- Insulation
- Thermostats
- LED lighting
- Smart thermostats
- Solar panels/collectors
- Energy-efficient appliances

The analysis of the responses reveals that participants show a relatively high level of engagement with energy efficiency but a more limited direct commitment to renewable energy or energy community models. A substantial 75.0% of respondents have already participated in energy efficiency or renewable energy projects, demonstrating practical involvement and familiarity with related initiatives. The range

of projects mentioned—including KEHOP, GINOP, Interreg, RenoHUB, and municipal renovation projects—highlights both national and EU-supported frameworks as key drivers of activity in this field.

Despite this prior engagement, current energy consumption patterns still rely predominantly on conventional sources: 50.0% of respondents use both electricity and gas, while only 12.5% rely exclusively on renewable energy. An additional 12.5% use mixed systems combining renewables with traditional sources. This suggests that while awareness exists, full transition to sustainable sources remains limited.

Participants generally reported satisfaction with their energy supply (62.5% satisfied or very satisfied), which may reduce the perceived urgency to change. Moreover, 62.5% review their energy bills only annually, reflecting a relatively low level of active monitoring of consumption.

Nonetheless, several energy efficiency measures have already been implemented by respondents or their institutions. These include insulation, LED lighting, thermostats (including smart versions), solar technologies, and energy-efficient appliances. These actions confirm a practical commitment to reducing energy use, even if broader participation in renewable-based systems or energy communities remains at an early stage.

2.3. Motivation / Expectations

Q16 – What barriers have you previously encountered in implementing energy efficiency measures, or what factors discouraged you?

- High initial costs: 62.5%
- Regulatory and political challenges: 12.5%
- Technical obstacles: 12.5%
- Lack of information: 12.5%

Q17 – Do you plan to carry out energy efficiency improvements in your own household or your represented institution in the near future?

- Yes: 62.5%
- No: 37.5%

Q18 – What kind of information would you need to implement a potential energy efficiency development?

Responses were evenly distributed (each 16.7%):

- Return on investment and technical intervention plans
- Clarification of tax and financial matters related to energy production
- No information needed
- Technical knowledge

- Rules for setting up an energy community and related tax systems
- Product quality evaluation

Q19 – How likely is it that you will participate in the creation of an energy community in the future?

- Very likely (5): 25.0%
- Likely (4): 25.0%
- Neutral (3): 25.0%
- Not likely (1): 25.0%

Q20 – How likely is it that you will join an existing energy community as a member in the future?

- Likely (4): 37.5%
- Neutral (3): 25.0%
- Very likely (5): 12.5%
- Not likely (2): 12.5%
- Very unlikely (1): 12.5%

The pre-training questionnaire responses indicate a moderate to high level of motivation among participants, particularly in relation to energy efficiency improvements. A majority (62.5%) plan to carry out such improvements in the near future, signalling a clear intention to act despite persistent barriers. The most commonly cited obstacle is the high upfront cost (62.5%), followed by regulatory uncertainty, technical difficulties, and a lack of information—each identified by 12.5% of respondents. These barriers underline the need for targeted support to enable implementation.

Participants' expectations ahead of the training are diverse, reflecting a demand for both strategic and operational knowledge. The types of information requested are evenly distributed and range from return on investment calculations and technical intervention planning to tax-related issues, energy community regulations, and product quality evaluation. One respondent reported not needing further information, which suggests that the participant group is composed of individuals with varying levels of expertise and readiness.

As for energy communities, the level of motivation appears more cautious. Only half of the respondents consider it likely or very likely that they will participate in establishing such a community, and a similar share remains neutral or hesitant. Slightly more openness is seen toward joining existing initiatives, but overall, these responses reflect a wait-and-see approach. The training is therefore expected to address not only technical and financial questions but also provide clarity and confidence to increase future engagement.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Comparison of results before and after the training - Identification of changes in knowledge, awareness, and interest grouped by the main topics of the event.

Q1. Do you feel your knowledge about energy communities increased after the training?

- "5": 66.7%
- "4": 33.3%

Most participants felt their knowledge improved significantly, with two-thirds giving the highest rating. This indicates a strong educational impact from the training.

Q2. How likely are you to apply the knowledge gained from the training in your future work?

- "4": 66.7%
- "5": 33.3%

The majority expressed high likelihood of applying what they learned, showing that the content was not only informative but also seen as practically applicable.

Q3. Based on the presented information, experiences, and best practices, how important do you consider the establishment of energy communities?

- "5": 66.7%
- "4": 33.3%

Respondents overwhelmingly viewed energy communities as important, reflecting alignment with the event's strategic goals.

Q4. Which part of the professional training did you find particularly valuable?

- "Good practice example of an energy community": 100.0%

Every respondent selected the good practice presentation, highlighting the clear value of practical, real-life examples in participant engagement.

Q5. Could you explain why you selected that specific presentation/training segment?

- 3 responses split evenly (33.3% each), including: practical insights, first-hand experience, and comprehensive coverage.

Participants appreciated varied, concrete examples addressing real implementation challenges.

Q6. To what extent did the presentation on legal and regulatory frameworks offer new knowledge?

- "4": 66.7%
- "5": 33.3%

Participants largely felt this presentation enriched their understanding, although the highest level of novelty was less often selected.

Q7. Do you feel the presentation helped you better understand the technical aspects of energy communities?

- "5": 33.3%
- "4": 33.3%
- "3": 33.3%

Opinions were evenly distributed, suggesting the technical content was complex and may benefit from further clarification or tailoring.

Q8. To what extent did your knowledge expand on community and good governance practices after the respective presentation?

- "2", "3", and "4": each 33.3%

The segment received mixed evaluations, indicating participants had differing baseline knowledge or expectations.

Q9. Do you feel that the good practice presented by Bábolna Energiaközösség Nonprofit Ltd. inspired you to join a community energy initiative?

- "Yes": 100.0%

The unanimous response shows the power of authentic, local best practices in motivating participants toward action.

Q10. In your opinion, did the interactive workshop on establishing energy communities offer useful practical advice?

- "4": 100.0%

All respondents found the workshop useful, confirming the effectiveness of hands-on learning formats.

Q11. Do you feel the session on improving community communication provided you with new knowledge and skills?

- "4": 66.7%
- "2": 33.3%

Most found it helpful, though one-third saw limited benefit—indicating potential for improvement in content delivery.

Q12. To what extent were you able to acquire new skills in the session focused on conflict resolution?

- "2", "4", and "5": each 33.3%

Feedback was divided, suggesting that while some found the session effective, others struggled to relate it to their own context.

Q13. Do you feel you will have the opportunity to apply the new skills in practice?

- "4": 66.7%
- "5": 33.3%

Participants believe they can make use of the acquired skills, affirming the practical orientation of the training.

Q14. Based on the information and practices presented, how likely are you to participate in creating an energy community?

- "4": 66.7%
- "3": 33.3%

Most respondents are likely to participate actively in founding such initiatives, confirming the event's motivational impact.

Q15. Based on the shared knowledge and experiences, how likely are you to join an existing energy community?

- "2", "3", and "4": each 33.3%

Mixed responses suggest interest exists but may be tempered by doubts or external constraints.

Q16. What further support or information would you need in your field to promote energy efficiency or transition to renewable energy?

Responses split evenly across three detailed suggestions, including access to FAQs, guidance packages, and partner information—showing concrete needs for follow-up resources.

Q17. What else do you think is needed to support the wider spread of energy communities in Hungary?

Awareness-raising, energy supplier support, and energy literacy were each cited by a third of respondents, identifying key systemic areas for policy and communication focus.

Q18. What additional information or training would you need to be better prepared to launch a renewable energy initiative in the future?

Participants requested more examples, learning from functioning communities, and step-by-step implementation guidance, underlining a preference for practical, applied knowledge.

The post-training responses clearly reflect a significant improvement in participants' knowledge and a positive shift in their motivation towards energy communities and energy efficiency.

Compared to the pre-training assessment—where only half of the respondents saw themselves likely to join or initiate an energy community—**participants now demonstrated stronger commitment**, with 66.7% rating their likelihood of founding a community at "4" and 33.3% at "3".

The unanimous inspiration drawn from the Bábolna Energiaközösség Nonprofit Ltd. case further confirms the training's motivational value.

Knowledge acquisition was evident across multiple areas. Two-thirds of participants gave the highest score to the increase in their overall knowledge of energy communities, and the remainder rated it just one point below. This indicates that the training not only met expectations but provided substantial added value. Similarly, respondents affirmed that they were likely to apply what they had learned in practice, with 100.0% selecting either "4" or "5".

Legal-regulatory content and practical workshop elements were especially appreciated, showing a clear preference for actionable and locally relevant content.

Nevertheless, some areas revealed a need for further clarification. **Understanding of technical topics and governance practices received more moderate scores, suggesting that while these sessions offered valuable input, they may require deeper elaboration or more tailored delivery.** Mixed responses to the communication and conflict resolution segments indicate varying relevance depending on professional background.

The training succeeded in strengthening motivation and awareness. Respondents identified key needs for sustaining engagement, including access to step-by-step guidance, real-life examples, and clearer support frameworks. Future initiatives should build on this momentum by offering targeted follow-up tools, policy alignment, and stronger outreach to energy suppliers and communities. The overall trajectory from pre-training caution to post-training commitment marks a clear advancement in both knowledge and motivation.

ROMANIA

EVENT1

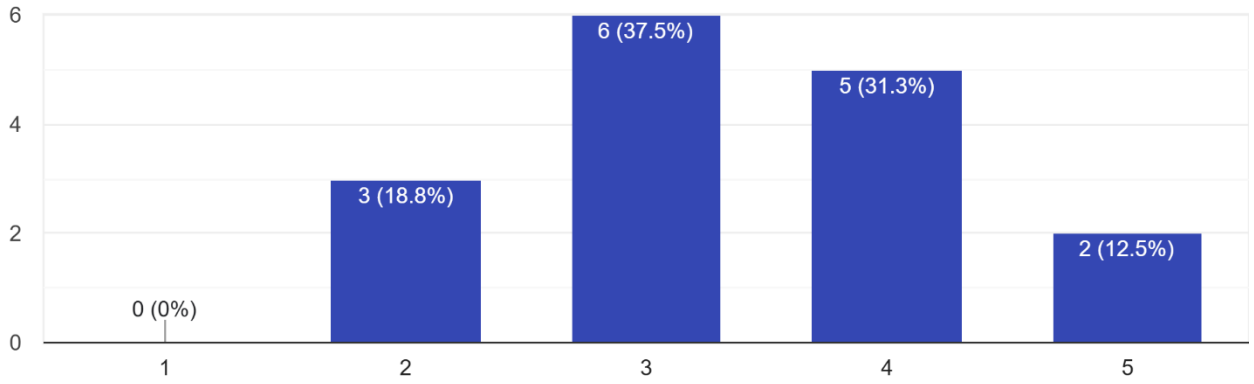
2.1. Knowledge and Understanding

- Before attending the event, how familiar were you with the concept of the Energy Community? (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very much))

Average rating (3.38)

Înainte de participarea la eveniment, cât de cunoscut vă era conceptul de Comunitate Energetică? (1 = Deloc, 5 = Foarte)

16 responses

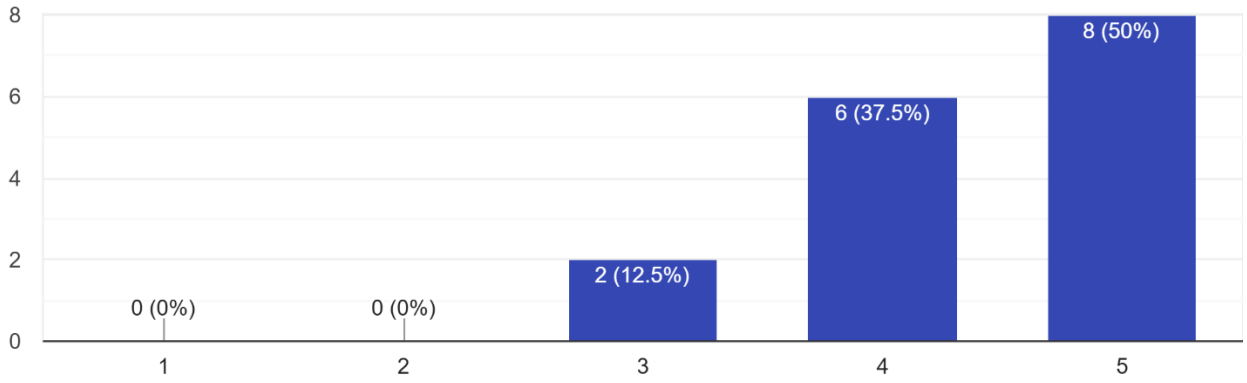


- After attending the event, how familiar are you with the concept of the Energy Community? (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very much)

Average rating (4.38)

După participarea la eveniment, cât de cunoscut vă este conceptul de Comunitate Energetică? (1 = Deloc, 5 = Foarte)

16 responses

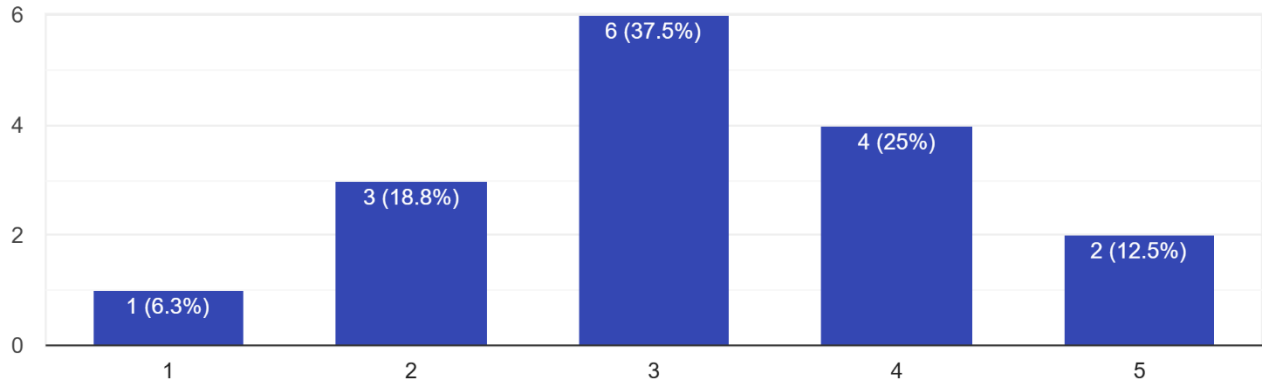


- Before attending the event, how familiar were you with the potential benefits of Energetic Communities? (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very)

Average rating (3.19)

Înainte de participarea la eveniment, cât de cunoscute vă erau potențialele beneficii ale Comunităților Energetice? (1 = Deloc, 5 = Foarte)

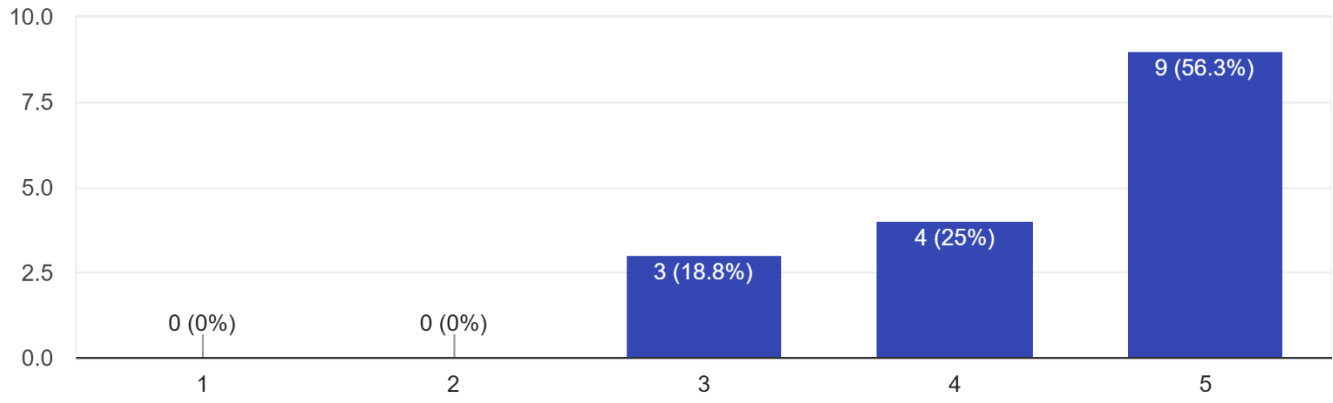
16 responses



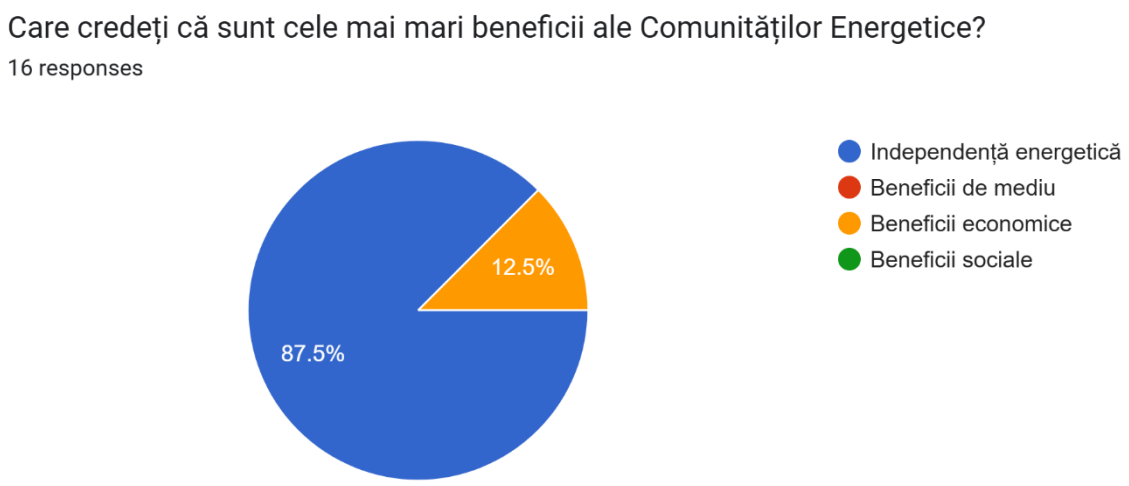
- After attending the event, how familiar are you with the potential benefits of Energetic Communities? (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very much)
  Average rating (4.38)

După participarea la eveniment, cât de cunoscute vă sunt potențialele beneficii ale Comunităților Energetice? (1 = Deloc, 5 = Foarte)

16 responses



- What do you think are the biggest benefits of the Energy Communities?



Energy independence
Economic benefits

- Do you know Energy Communities in Romania or another country in the Danube Region? If yes, please provide us with details (name, country, link to the official website, if available).

a. *Somenergia, Coopernico*
b. *Gabrovo, Bulgaria*
c. *Buteni, Romania*
d. *Nuclearelectrica S.A, Romania, https://nuclearelectrica.ro/cne/*

- What do you think are the barriers to the development of Energy Communities in Romania?
  a. *Legislation.*
  b. *Unregulated legislative framework with excessive financial and administrative burdens.*
  c. *Lack of adequate infrastructure, lack of information and education.*
  d. *Inadequate legislation, lack of interest, lack of knowledge of the field.*
  e. *Early legal framework, limited funding.*
  f. *The ability to understand technical terms, sometimes complicated for some users, distrust in association (the term "cooperative" often has negative resonance, distrust in authorities and energy suppliers, dysfunctional communication, user behaviour (consumption curves in the afternoon/evening), legislative or regulatory issues, unfavourable to the development of energy communities.*
  g. *Collaboration and people working together.*

2.2. Status

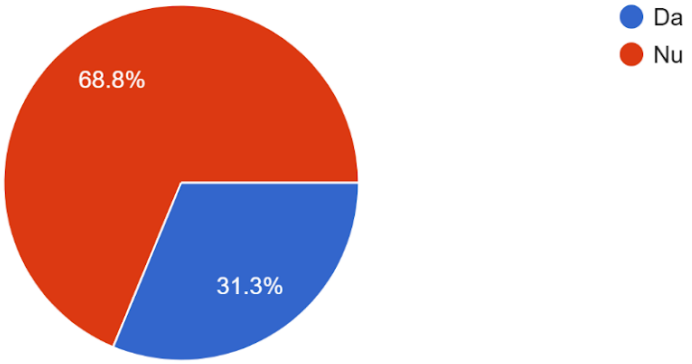
- Are you part of an Energy Community (be it informal or at an early stage)?

Yes

No

Faceți parte dintr-o Comunitate Energetică (fie ea și informală sau într-un stadiu incipient)?

16 responses

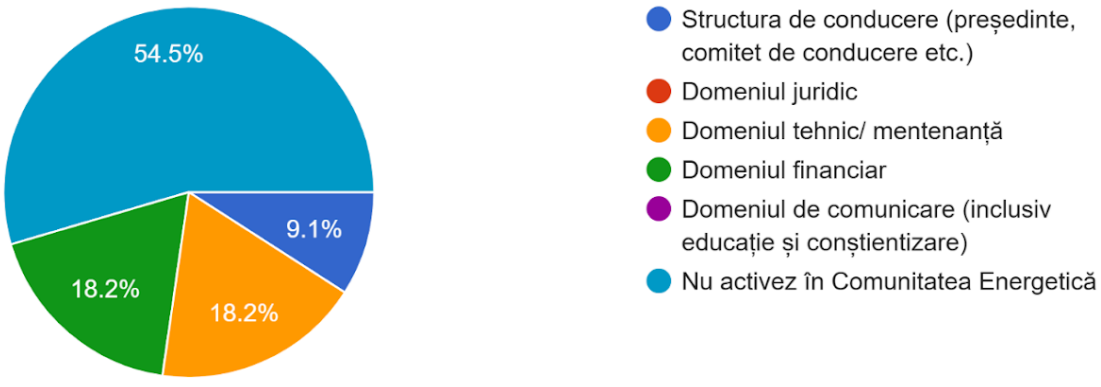


- If you answered "Yes" to the previous question, where would you place your work in the Energy Community?

I am not active in the EC
Management structure
Technical/ maintenance
Finance

Dacă la întrebarea anterioară ați răspuns "Da", unde ați încadra activitatea dvs. în Comunitatea Energetică?

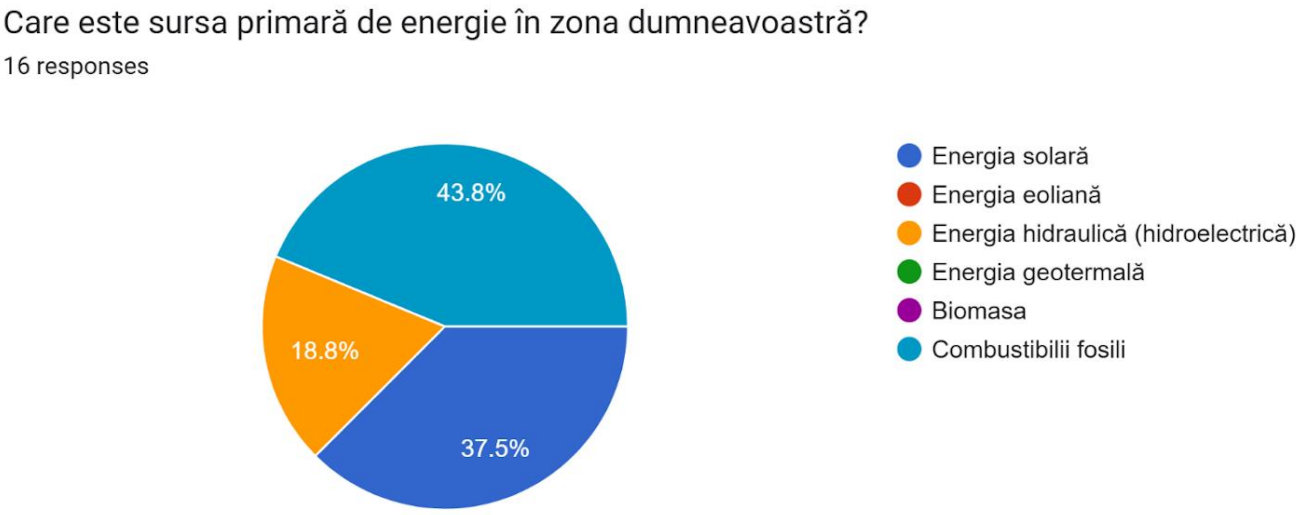
11 responses



2.3. Motivation / Expectations

- Have you been involved in energy efficiency or renewable energy projects before? If yes, please indicate the subject and the source of project funding.
  a. *Support in writing projects for Brasov County Council - PNRR, ADDJB - EUKI – ongoing.*
  b. *Energy efficiency in public and residential buildings, financed by ROP 2014-2020 and PRSM 2021-2027.*
  c. *The municipality of Iasi is implementing numerous energy efficiency projects, relevant to energy efficiency with renewable energy sources such as "Installation of photovoltaic panels at CET II Holboca".*
  d. *Yes. Intelligent Energy Europe (CONURBANT Project - development of PAEDs in 9 LPAs), Horizon 2020 (Padova Fit Expanded - Creation of the first One-Stop-Shop in the field of energy efficiency in Timisoara), Interreg IPA CBC Romania - Serbia (SASEC - Smart and Sustainable Energy Consumption - energy efficiency and energy consumption monitoring, Life Program (Plenty Life).*

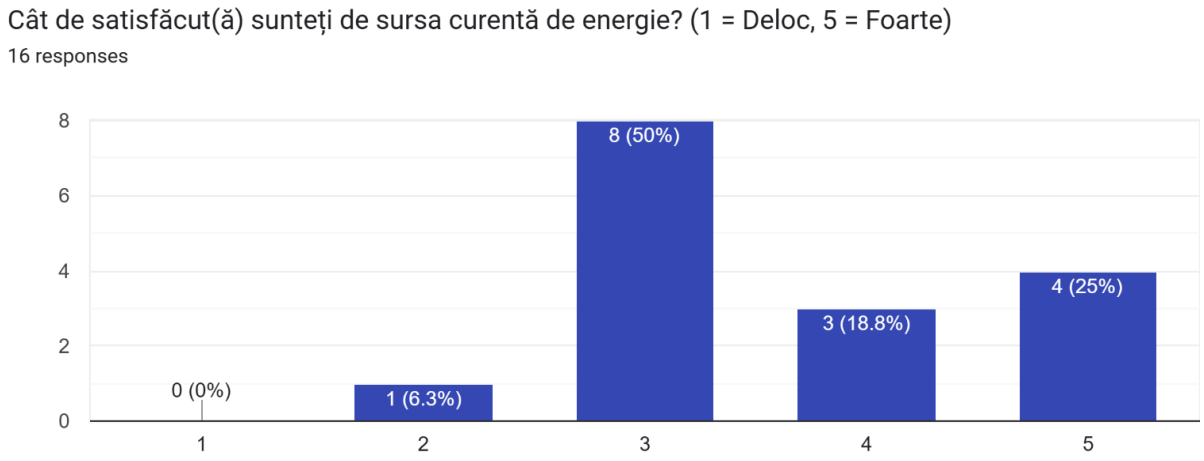
- What is the primary source of energy in your area?



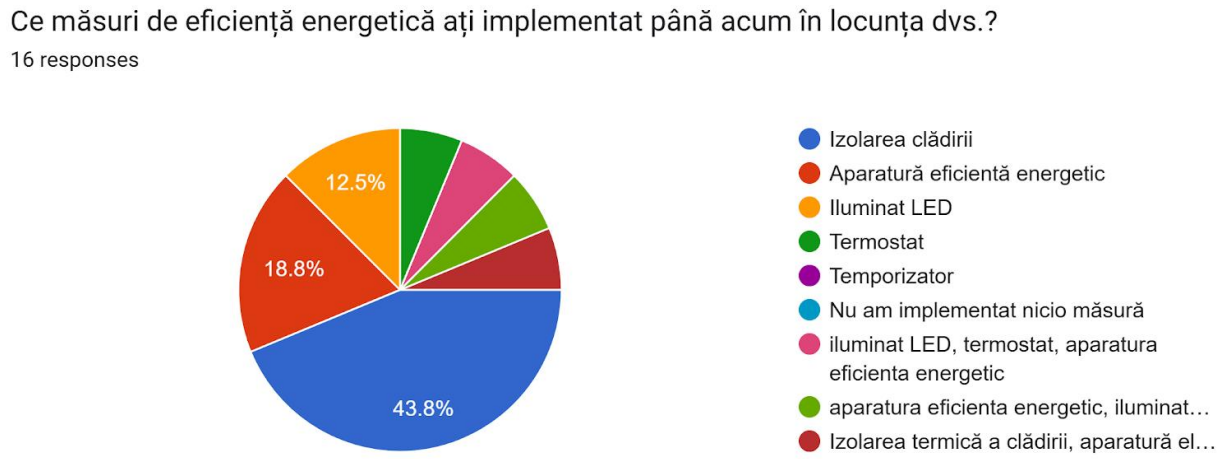
	Fossil fuels
	Solar energy
	Hydropower

- How satisfied are you with your current energy source? (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very)

Average rating (3.63)

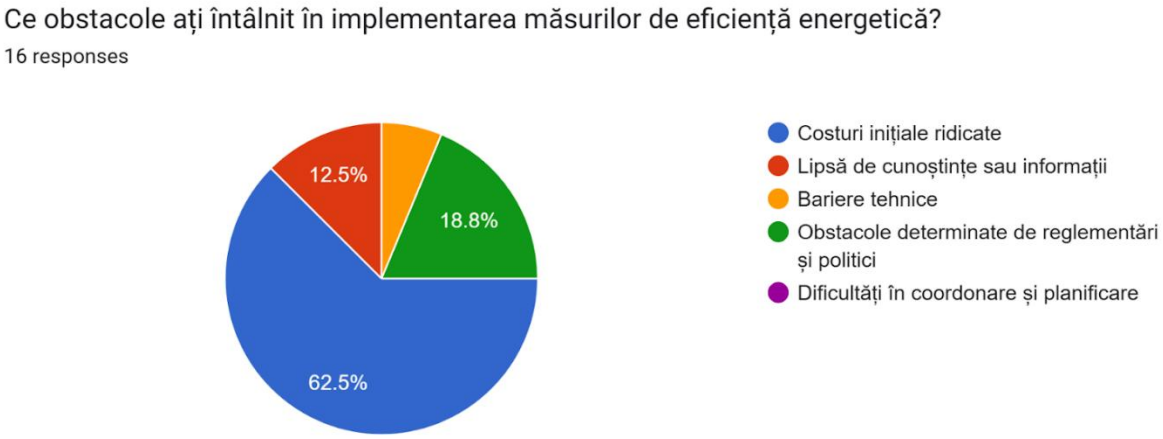


- What energy efficiency measures have you implemented in your home so far?



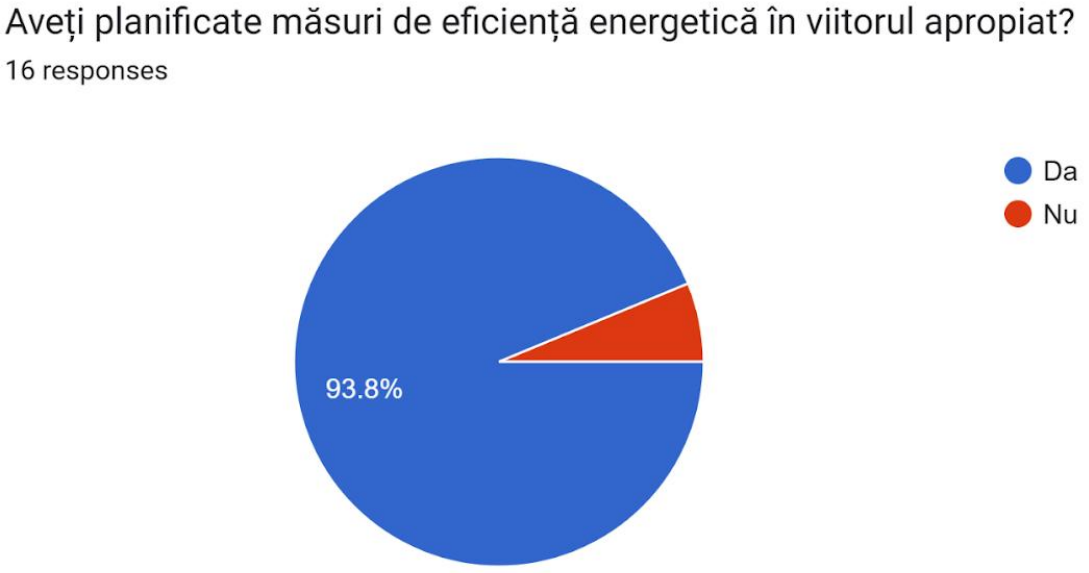
	Building insulation
	Energy-efficient appliances
	LED lighting
	Thermostat
	LED lighting, thermostat, Energy-efficient appliances
	Building insulation, Energy-efficient appliances, Thermostat, LED lighting, Photovoltaic panels

- What obstacles have you encountered in implementing energy efficiency measures?



	High upfront costs
	Lack of knowledge or information
	Technical barriers
	Barriers caused by regulations and policies

- Are you planning energy efficiency measures shortly?



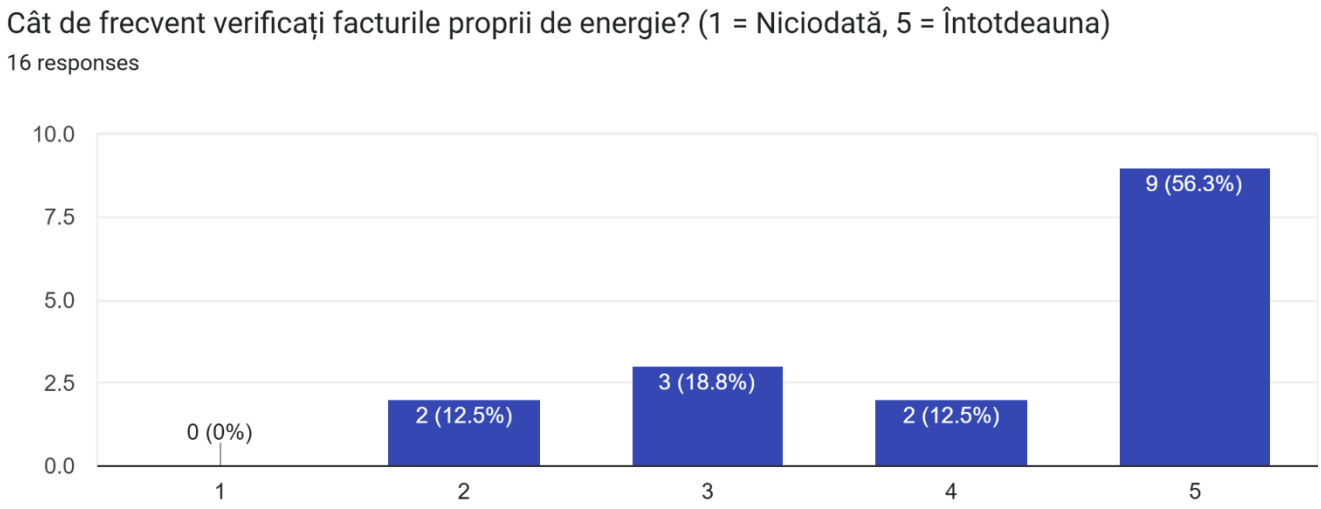
	Yes

No

- What additional information would you need to start an energy efficiency investment?
  a. *I would need legal information and help to implement the project.*
  b. *Investment costs, technical data.*
  c. *More legal and economic information.*
  d. *Financing sources.*
  e. *Existing technologies, effectiveness of energy efficiency measures.*
  f. *Technical and economic information, information on financing sources*
     i. *costs, efficiency.*
  g. *Legal information and financing sources.*
  h. *Access to information on energy consumption, costs, financing possibilities as well as details on legal regulations and implementation strategies.*
  i. *None.*
  j. *Analysis of current energy consumption + An energy audit.*
  k. *No need for additional information, it is abundant in the media and literature.*
  l. *Return on investment depending on the technology used.*

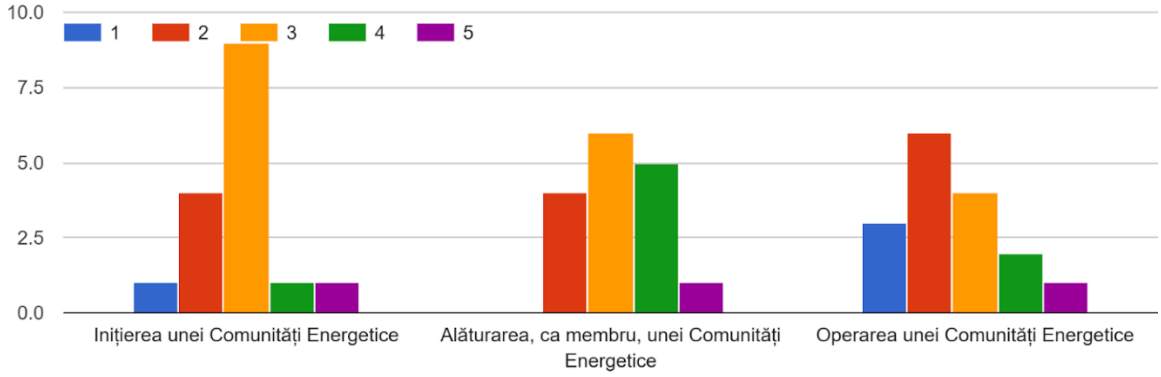
- How often do you check your energy bills? (1 = Never, 5 = Always)

Average rating (4.13)



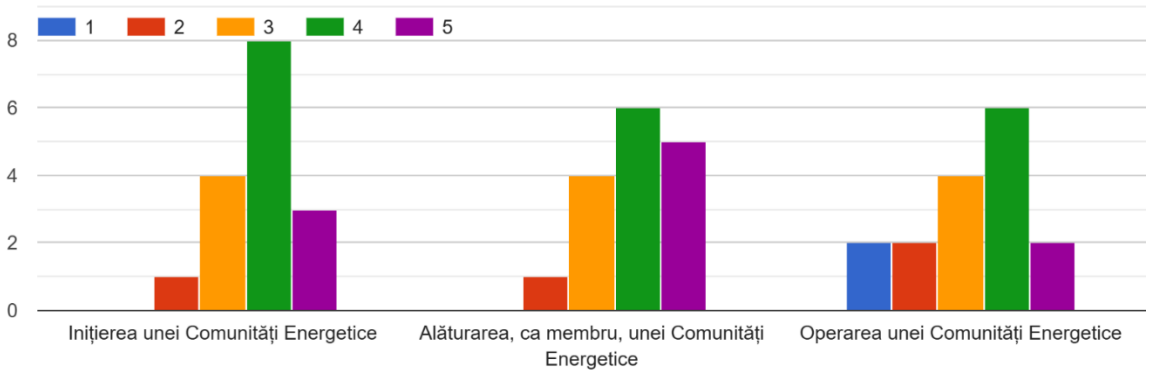
- On a scale from 1 to 5 (1 = Not at all and 5 = Definitely), how would you rate the likelihood of the following situations before attending the event?

Pe o scară de la 1 la 5 (1 = Deloc și 5 = Cu siguranță), cum evaluați probabilitatea următoarelor situații înainte de participarea la eveniment?



- On a scale from 1 to 5 (1 = Not at all and 5 = Definitely), how would you rate the likelihood of the following after attending the event?

Pe o scară de la 1 la 5 (1 = Deloc și 5 = Cu siguranță), cum evaluați probabilitatea următoarelor situații după participarea la eveniment?



Initiating an CE

Joining as a member of an EC

Operating an EC

- What information would you need to be better prepared to launch a renewable energy initiative.
  a. *All information about the cost and time needed to launch an initiative.*
  b. *Concrete steps to implement such an action.*
  c. *Legislative and economical information.*
  d. *Legislation.*
  e. *Applicable legal provisions, organization, dedicated funding sources.*
  f. *Technical and economic information, information on funding sources.*
  g. *Legislative framework.*
  h. *Technical support and financial advice.*
  i. *To be prepared to launch a renewable energy initiative, information is needed on legal regulations, costs involved, financing options, available resources, equipment needed, and implementation and operation plans.*
  j. *None.*
  k. *Analysis of available resources.*
  l. *Co-created examples of good practice.*
  m. *Thinking of optimal solutions and constant engagement towards the jointly agreed direction.*

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Understanding the concept of Energy Communities:

- Before the event (3.38): The average score of 3.38 suggests that participants had some level of awareness or familiarity with the idea of Energy Communities, but it wasn't particularly strong. This could mean that they might have heard of the term or had a basic understanding, but were not fully knowledgeable about what Energy Communities entail—how they function, what they aim to achieve, or the specific components involved.
- After the event (4.38): A significant increase to 4.38 indicates a clear enhancement in participants' understanding. They now have a much better grasp of what an Energy Community is, perhaps including the concept of shared energy resources, community-driven energy production and how these communities can operate. This shift suggests that the event was successful in explaining or clarifying the fundamental aspects of Energy Communities—whether through presentations, examples, or interactive discussions.

Understanding the potential benefits of Energy Communities:

- Before the event (3.19): The lower initial score of 3.19 for familiarity with the benefits shows that, although participants might have had some understanding of the concept, they were less informed about how Energy Communities could directly benefit them or society. They may not have fully understood how these communities could lead to cost savings, sustainability, local energy independence, or other advantages.
- After the event (4.38): The jump to 4.38 indicates that participants left the event with a much clearer and more comprehensive understanding of the potential benefits of Energy Communities. This suggests that the event effectively highlighted specific advantages—such as reduced energy costs, environmental sustainability, resilience in energy supply, and social benefits like community empowerment. The higher increase in this category compared to the concept (4.38 vs. 3.46) may imply that the event spent more time or focus on illustrating the

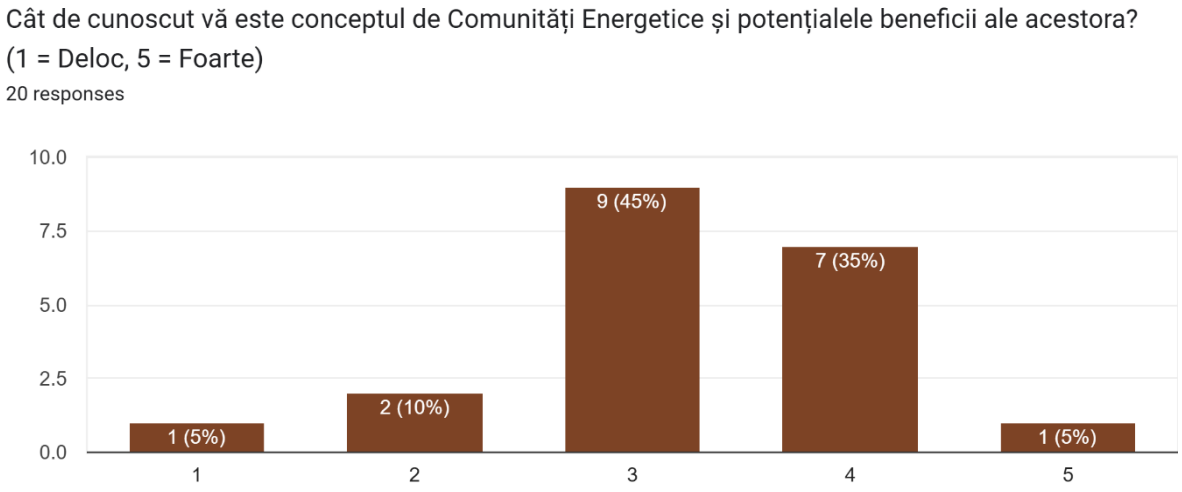
tangible benefits of Energy Communities, making it easier for attendees to connect these benefits to their own lives or communities.

The survey results show that the event effectively enhanced participants' understanding of both the concept and benefits of Energy Communities. The larger increase in familiarity with the benefits suggests the event focused more on illustrating practical advantages, like cost savings and sustainability, making the topic feel more relevant and actionable. This improved knowledge likely increases the likelihood of participants engaging with or advocating for Energy Communities in the future. Overall, the event successfully deepened participants' understanding of how Energy Communities work and their positive impact.

EVENT 2

2.1. Knowledge and Understanding

- Before attending the event, how familiar were you with the concept of the Energy Community? (1 = Not at all, 5 = Very much))
  Average rating (3.25)

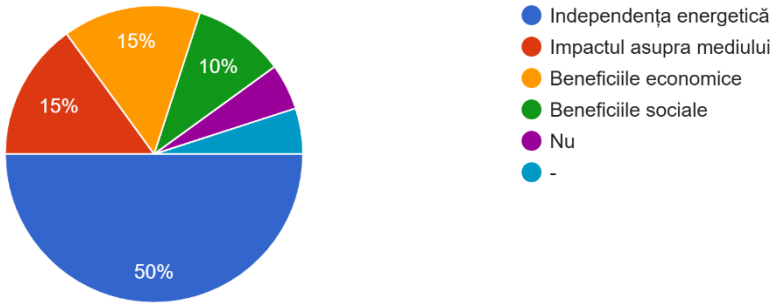


- What do you think are the biggest benefits of the Energy Communities?

	Energy independence
	Economic benefits
	Environment impact
	Social benefits
	I don`t know
	I don`t know

Care credeți că sunt cele mai mari avantaje ale Comunităților Energetice?

20 responses



- Do you know Energy Communities in Romania or another country in the Danube Region? If yes, please provide us with details (name, country, link to the official website, if available).

a. *Cooperativa de Energie, Romania*
b. *Între Vecini, Romania*
c. *https://www.zez.coop/en/*
d. *https://www.enostra.it/*

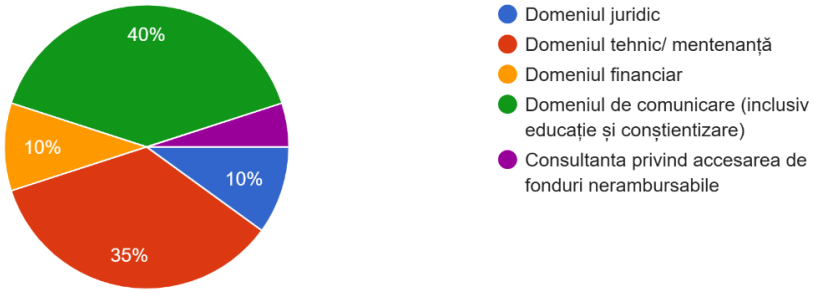
- What do you think are the barriers to the development of Energy Communities in Romania?
    a. *Legislation.*
    b. *Lack of secondary legislation, concrete methodologies for Energy Communities authorization and lack of possibility to share energy between individuals.*
    c. *Lack of information and funding sources for founding Energy Communities, lack of success cases, issues regarding trusting people/ institutions.*
    d. *Bureaucracy and difficult administrative procedures, low degree of awareness.*
    e. *Lack of adequate infrastructure, lack of information and education.*
    f. *Inadequate legislation, lack of financial instruments, lack of field knowledge.*
    g. *Legislative, regulatory and economical barriers.*

2.2. Status

- Where would you place your work in the Energy Community?

	Consultancy on accessing non-reimbursable funds
	Legal
	Finance
	Technical/ maintenance
	Communication (including education and awareness)

În care dintre principalele domenii ale Comunităților Energetice v-ați putea încadra?
20 responses

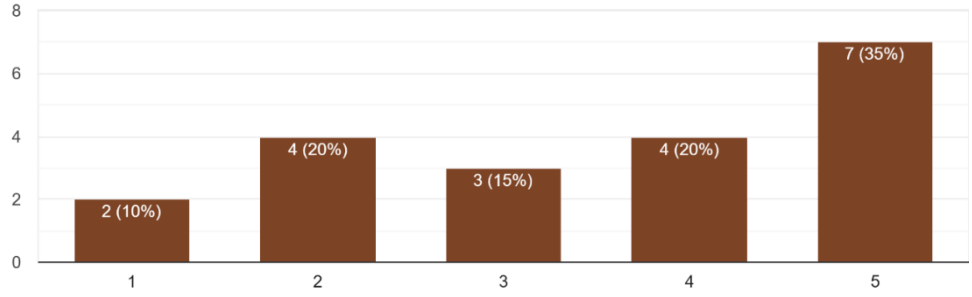


2.3. Motivation / Expectations

- Have you been involved in energy efficiency or renewable energy projects before? If yes, please indicate the subject and the source of project funding.
  a. *EEA Grants, NPRR, Operational Programme for Large Infrastructure*
  b. *PROMOTER – Interreg project focused on sustainable mobility and RES.*
  c. *Modernization Fund, NPRR*
  d. *Support in writing projects for Brasov County Council - NPRR, EUKI – ongoing, OSS.*
  e. *Energy efficiency in public and residential buildings, EEA Grants.*
  f. *Energy efficient rehabilitation of schools, NPRR, Regional Programme – Centru Region.*
  g. *Urban regeneration in the district heating area, Regional Programme North-West Region.*

- How often do you check your energy bills concerning your energy consumption (1 = Never, 5 = Always)?
  Average rating (3.50)

Cât de frecvent vă verificați facturile de energie din punct de vedere al consumului de energie? (1 = Niciodată, 5 = Întotdeauna)
20 responses



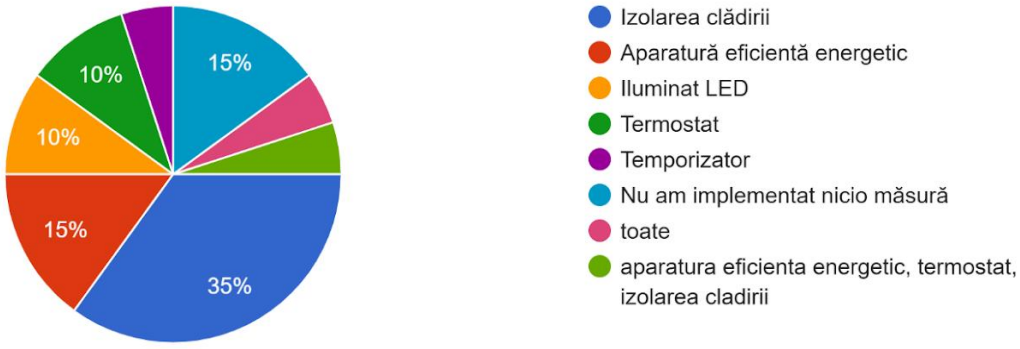
- What energy efficiency measures have you implemented in your home so far?

	Building insulation
	Energy-efficient appliances
	LED lighting

	Thermostat
	Timer
	I did not implement any measure
	All of them
	Energy efficient appliances, thermostat, building insulation

Ce măsuri de eficiență energetică ați implementat până acum în locuința dvs.?

20 responses

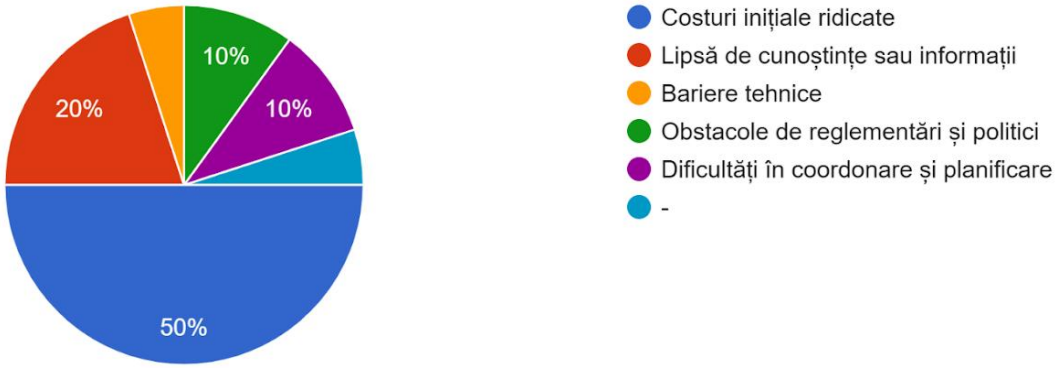


- What obstacles have you encountered in implementing energy efficiency measures?

	High upfront costs
	Lack of knowledge or information
	Technical barriers
	Barriers caused by regulations and policies
	Planning and coordination difficulties
	None

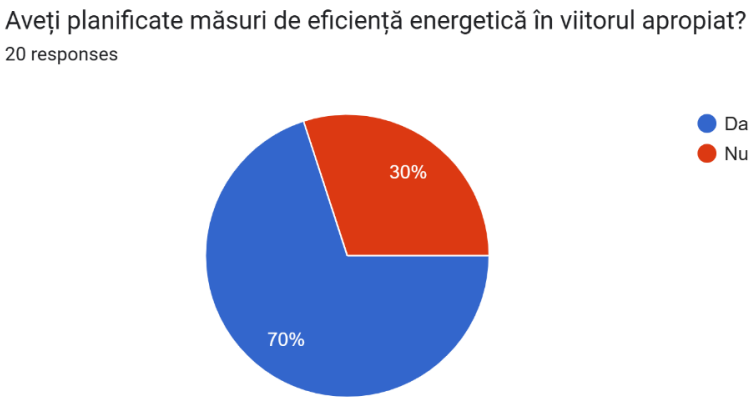
Ce obstacole ați întâlnit în implementarea măsurilor de eficiență energetică?

20 responses



- Are you planning energy efficiency measures shortly?

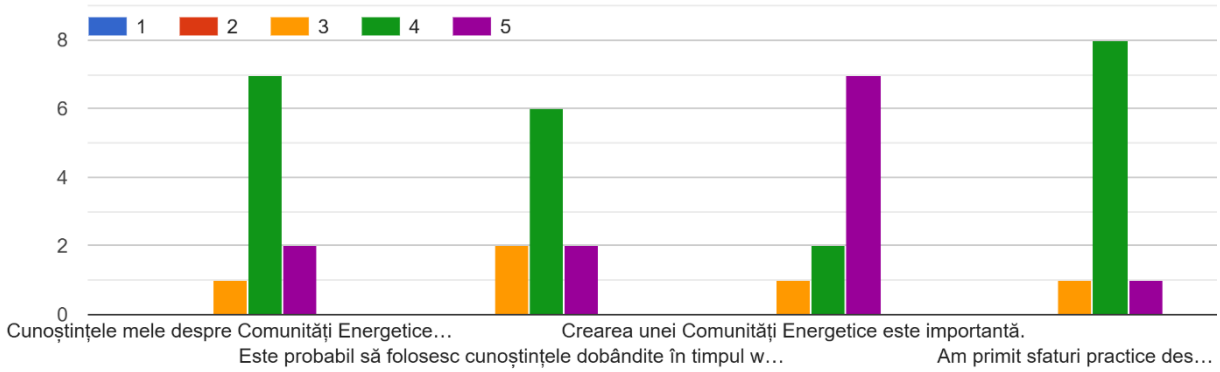
	Yes
	No



- What additional information would you need to start an energy efficiency investment?
  a. *Financing sources.*
  b. *Non-reimbursable funds.*
  c. *What expenses are eligible and which are not.*
  d. *Legislative framework*
  e. *Legislative, technical and financial information.*
  f. *Costs, technical details, corresponding legislation.*
  g. *Initial costs, available funding sources.*
  h. *Information about sustainable and durable materials that can be used for exterior building insulation.*
  i. *Additional data about real energy consumption, assessing the savings potential, initial costs, available funding options, local regulations.*
  j. *Information on the existence of one-stop shops that provide the initiators of such projects with administrative, technical and financial support, as well as capacity-building actions.*
  k. *Funding opportunities, case studies about successful communities.*

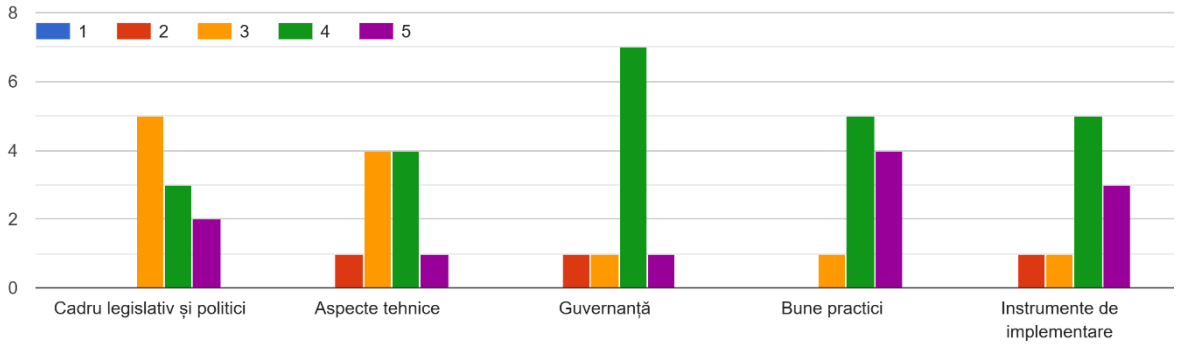
- After the training webinar, on a scale from 1 to 5 (1 = Not at all and 5 = Definitely), how would you rate the following statements?

Vă rugăm să evaluați următoarele afirmații de la 1 la 5 în urma participării la webinar (1 = Deloc, 5 = Foarte mult)



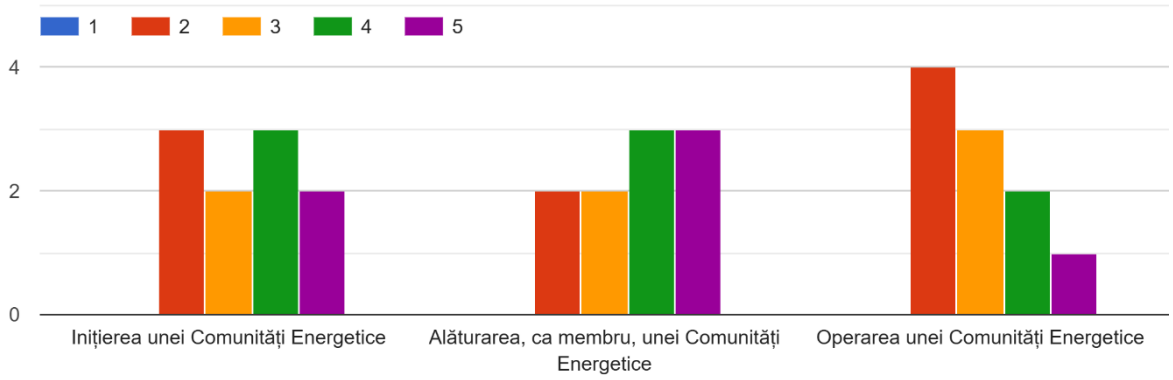
- On a scale from 1 to 5 (1 = Not clear and 5 = Very clear), how would you rate the information received during the training webinar?

Cât de clare au fost informațiile despre Comunitățile Energetice livrate în webinarul de instruire? (1=Deloc, 5=Foarte clare)



- On a scale from 1 to 5 (1 = Not at all and 5 = Definitely), how would you rate the likelihood of the following after attending the event?

Pe o scară de la 1 la 5 (1 = Deloc și 5 = Cu siguranță), cum evaluați probabilitatea următoarelor situații după participarea la eveniment?



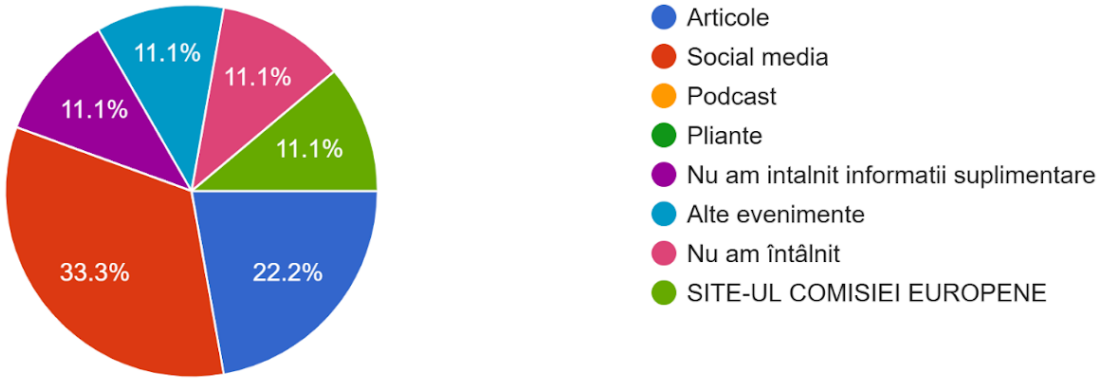
- What success story do you think should be further detailed to begin creating an Energy Community?
  a. *Repowering London.*
  b. *A case that is feasible to be implemented in Romania.*
  c. *A community from Romania.*
  d. *Între Vecini.*
  e. *A case that has information about the procedure to create an Energy Community from scratch.*
  f. *A case where an Energy Community was founded and operates according to the EU principles.*
  g. *Feldheim (DE), Gussing (AT).*

- Have you come across additional information about Renewable Energy Communities in Romania and the Danube Region, outside of the event? If so, through what channels?

Articles
Social media
EU Commission website
Other events
I did not find
I did not find additional information

Ați întâlnit informații suplimentare despre Comunitățile de Energie Regenerabilă din România și din Regiunea Dunării, în afara evenimentului? Dacă da, prin ce canale?

9 responses



- What do you believe would be essential to promote a wider adoption of Energy Communities in Romania?
  a. *Involvement of public authorities.*
  b. *The existence of clear and permissive legislation for Energy Communities.*
  c. *Making people aware that these are beneficial for everyone.*
  d. *Introduction of secondary legislation to allow the legal establishment of an Energy Community.*
  e. *The adoption of Energy Communities in Romania depends on legislative clarity, access to financing, information campaigns and the active involvement of authorities and citizens.*
  f. *Informing owners associations (from blocks of flats).*

- What additional information or training do you consider necessary in the future to be better prepared to launch a renewable energy initiative or an Energy Community?
  a. *More concrete steps in establishing an energy community.*
  b. *Courses and information from different fields, such as technical (ex: green technologies); legislation (ex: the legal framework for establishing an Energy Community); financial (ex: courses on sustainable business models).*
  c. *A guide with practical steps to form an Energy Community.*
  d. *Practical implementation of an Energy Community, from idea to reality.*
  e. *Information and practical courses on renewable technologies, necessary administrative steps, available funding sources and ways to involve the community.*
  f. *Activities for dissemination of results and live visits to successful initiatives.*
  g. *Classes for owners' associations.*

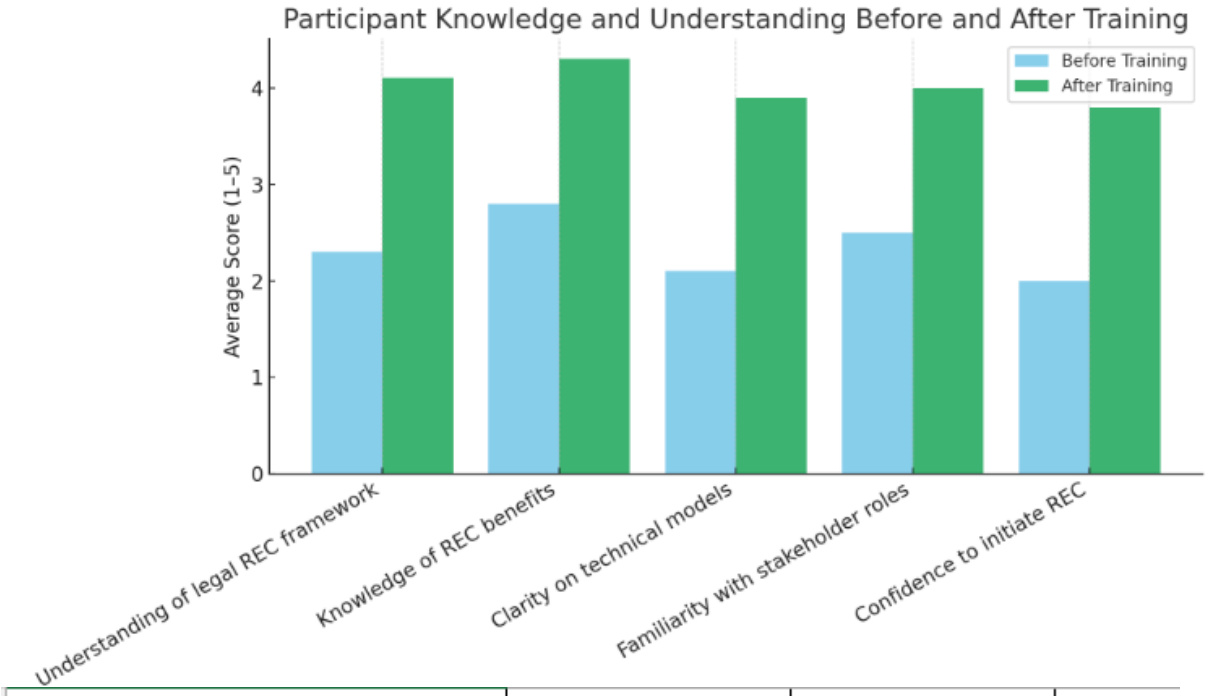
Interreg Danube Region
Co-funded by the European Union
NRGCOM

Before the event, the participants associated the benefits of Energy Communities with energy independence, economic gains, environmental improvements and social impact. The barriers included unclear legislative framework, lack of success stories, insufficient funding sources, not enough information and low degree of awareness. The post-event feedback showed an improvement in understanding and the confidence gained through the knowledge received during the training webinar. There was a higher likelihood of taking action, such as joining or initiating an Energy Community or organizing internal meetings on this subject.
The webinar contributed to improve the participants awareness on Energy Communities, with attendees expressing appreciation for the real-life case studies, particularly the Romanian example of Cooperativa de Energie
Awareness was also elevated, as participants reported a better grasp of the systemic benefits and societal value of Energy Communities. The interactive elements of the webinar, including group work based on the "Circle of Commitment" exercise and testimonials from NRGCOM Ambassadors, played a significant role in fostering engagement.
The participants wish to remain engaged in the project activities and also seek further training in the domain of Energy Communities. Others noted a need for more information but were now enough motivated to explore opportunities for involvement
The change from passive interest to active consideration marks a meaningful shift in stakeholder engagement.

SLOVENIA

2.1. Knowledge and Understanding

The training sessions resulted in a demonstrable improvement in participants' knowledge and conceptual clarity regarding Renewable Energy Communities (RECs). The analysis is based on comparative scores collected via pre- and post-training questionnaires across five core dimensions:



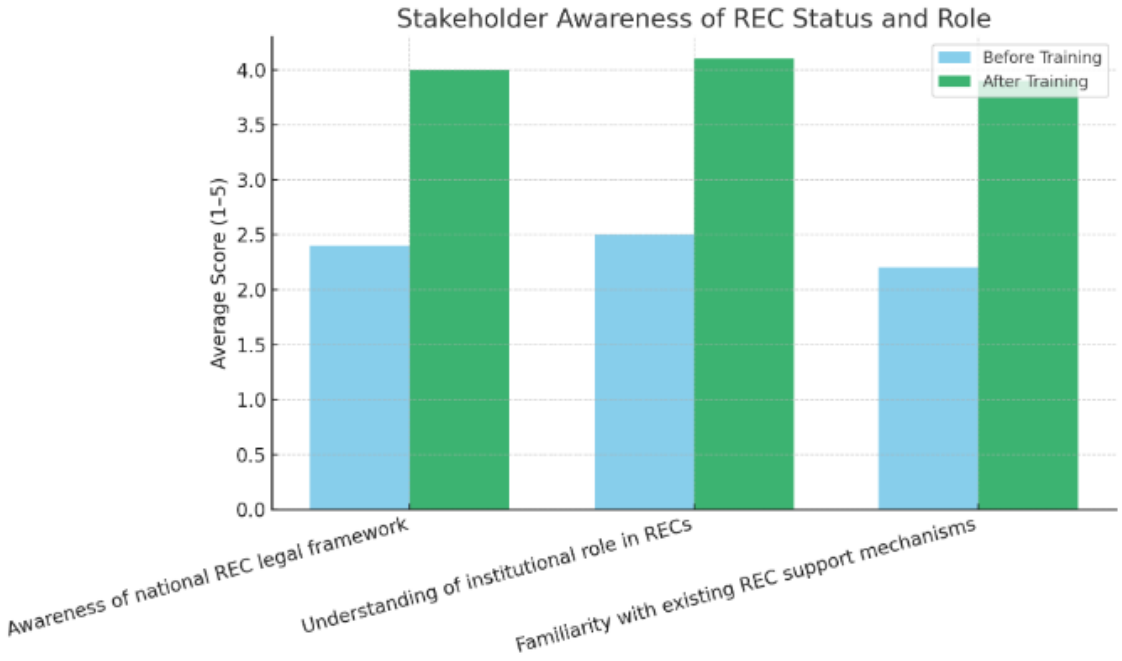
Assessment area	Average score before	Average score after	Change
Understanding of legal REC framework	2,3	4,1	1,8
Knowledge of REC benefits	2,8	4,3	1,5
Clarity on technical models	2,1	3,9	1,8
Familiarity with stakeholder roles	2,5	4	1,5
Confidence to initiate REC	2	3,8	1,8

Before the training, participants commonly expressed limited awareness of the formal legal framework regulating RECs in Slovenia. Some were unclear whether the Electricity Supply Act (ZOEE) provides sufficient guidelines for collective self-consumption, while others had not encountered the concept of a Renewable Energy Community in a legal context at all. Key terms like “active customer,” “aggregator,” or “collective prosumer” were not broadly understood. Participants also expressed uncertainty about the practical implications of RECs—particularly in terms of financial viability, community ownership, and long-term governance. Following the training, there was a clear increase in comprehension and confidence. Participants reported better understanding of how RECs can be initiated under Slovenian law, who can participate, what benefits they generate, and what obligations come with membership. The REC Handbook was highlighted as a valuable tool in clarifying procedures and roles. Examples and case studies presented during the second session in Nova Gorica were particularly appreciated, especially those involving financial models and joint ownership structures. Several respondents noted that understanding “how this works elsewhere” helped them envision its feasibility in their local settings. The five dimensions analysed in this section directly reflect the thematic areas covered by the structured questionnaires administered before and after the training. These dimensions were derived from the key blocks of the surveys developed within the NRGCOM project, ensuring consistency across the assessment and alignment with the project’s methodology. The questionnaires are provided in Annex 6.

2.2. Status

The training sessions also contributed to raising awareness among participants about the current national status and legal foundations of Renewable Energy Communities (RECs) in Slovenia. Through interactive discussions and legal overviews, stakeholders gained clarity regarding the policy landscape, implementation bottlenecks, and administrative procedures necessary for operationalising RECs.
The questionnaire results reveal a noticeable shift in participants' self-assessed understanding of their institutional capacity and role in supporting RECs. The most significant change was observed in the dimension of recognising one's legal mandate or jurisdictional authority to engage in REC development. Participants also reported stronger awareness of available support mechanisms, regional pilot models, and institutional cooperation opportunities.
The analysis is based on two questions from the pre- and post-training questionnaires that explored participants' views on the status of RECs and their role in it. Comparative results are visualised below:

Assessment area	Average score before	Average score after	Change
Awareness of national REC legal framework	2,4	4	1,6
Understanding of institutional role in RECs	2,5	4,1	1,6
Familiarity with existing REC support mechanisms	2,2	3,9	1,7

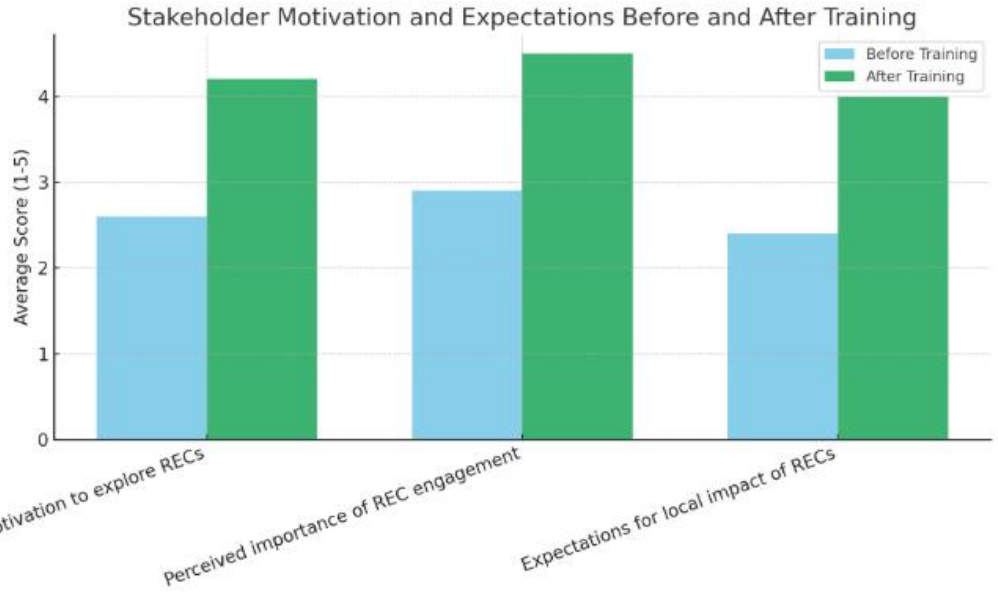


2.3. Motivation / Expectations

The training sessions also contributed to strengthening participants' motivation and clarifying their expectations regarding engagement in Renewable Energy Communities (RECs). This dimension was essential for assessing the perceived relevance of RECs in participants' professional environments, as well as their willingness to initiate or support such initiatives in the future. The pre-training questionnaire showed that many stakeholders were either unsure of the tangible benefits of engaging in RECs or perceived the process as too complex, resource-intensive, or outside their institutional scope. This lack of clarity resulted in low baseline scores regarding confidence, interest, and anticipated professional relevance. Following the training, post-questionnaire results revealed a significant improvement in participants' motivation levels. Respondents demonstrated a clearer understanding of

the added value of RECs – particularly in relation to citizen engagement, energy sovereignty, local development, and the potential for inter-municipal cooperation. They also expressed a stronger willingness to support or initiate REC-related processes and policies. The change in perception was especially strong among local government representatives, who noted the practical applicability of tools such as the REC Handbook. Many respondents stated they felt more equipped to act as facilitators or promoters of community energy.

Assessment area	Average score before	Average score after	Change
Motivation to explore RECs	2,6	4,2	1,6
Perceived importance of REC engagement	2,9	4,5	1,6
Expectations for local impact of RECs	2,4	4	1,6



3. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

The two training events delivered by KSSENA as part of Activity 2.4 shared the common goal of increasing stakeholder knowledge and motivation to engage in Renewable Energy Communities (RECs). However, they differed in scope, structure, and audience composition, which offers valuable insights when comparing their outcomes.

The first event, held on 7 March 2025 in Ptuj, was organised independently by KSSENA. It had a predominantly regional character and included municipal energy managers, public agency representatives, and local civil servants. The structure was more formal, with expert presentations followed by moderated Q&A sessions. Emphasis was placed on explaining the Slovenian legal context, the operational models allowed under national law, and municipal-level planning instruments. Participants were generally less familiar with the concept of RECs, which was reflected in their lower pre-training scores, particularly regarding legal clarity and institutional roles.

The second event, held on 6 June 2025 in Nova Gorica, took place within the framework of the KLEAS consortium and involved a wider range of participants, including private energy consultants, university

researchers, and NGO representatives. The format was more interactive and discussion-based, with case study presentations and a panel involving a guest expert. Participants at this session entered with a higher baseline understanding of RECs but benefited most from the opportunity to explore real-life implementation models, financial mechanisms, and governance solutions. This event scored higher in terms of post-training engagement indicators and perceived usefulness of the training materials.
Key differences observed:

Dimension	Ptuj (7.3.2025)	Nova Gorica (6.6.2025)
Target group	Regional/municipal actors	Cross-sectoral experts
Training format	Structured presentations + Q&A	Case studies + interactive discussions
Pre-training familiarity with RECs	Low to moderate	Moderate to high
Focus areas	Legal framework, planning tools	Governance, best practices
Added value	Clarity on legal and administrative procedures	Peer exchange and strategic approaches

Despite the differences, both events achieved their intended objectives. Participants in both sessions showed significant improvement across all knowledge and motivation dimensions. The diversity in format and audience helped broaden the project's outreach and ensured the inclusion of various institutional viewpoints. The comparative analysis confirms the importance of tailoring professional trainings to the specific needs and background of the target audience, and suggests that hybrid formats combining expert input with peer dialogue are particularly effective.

3. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter presents key findings grouped by the main topics of the event, outlines the impact of the event on participants' awareness of energy communities, and provides recommendations for future activities to enhance engagement among the target groups, including potentially effective training and other methodological approaches.

AUSTRIA

The participants of the workshop have identified some areas with further optimization potential for improving the experience in the energy community. The most frequently mentioned suggestions for improvement relate to the expansion of renewable energy sources, the technical development of infrastructure, communication and networking (App) within the community. Economic aspects such as pricing and increased transparency were also frequently mentioned. In practice, this means **that there must be increased promotion of overall lower energy costs compared to regular electricity suppliers and that this must be regularly adapted.**

Bureaucratic hurdles also sometimes make it difficult to join an energy community. **Simplified framework conditions could be created here. More tax incentives should also be established in order to motivate even more Burgenland residents to participate.**

Other thoughts were that the communities do not own the plants and are therefore dependent on whether owner's energy plants wish to join the energy communities. In addition to energy generation, technical improvements were also mentioned as a relevant topic.

Some participants of the workshop see potential in the fact that energy communities should not only rely on photovoltaics, but should also include wind and hydropower in the energy community. **A diversified electricity mix could increase the security of supply within the community and thus further reduce dependence on external grid electricity,** but this depends on the potential members in the future.

A major challenge for a community is the organizational hurdles, in particular the high costs of setting up an association, the cooperation with network operators and the existing legal uncertainties. The high costs of the latter were largely offset by the legislative framework, which created clear regulatory rules. Nevertheless, effective cooperation with network operators proved to be difficult time and again. This was and is also one of the barriers for interested parties; the costs of setting up a company have risen and therefore deter many potential initiators. **To facilitate access, institutions and advisory bodies should be set up to support the start-up process**. **Tasks relating to administration, applications and the associated legal issues would therefore represent an "all-round carefree package"** for the establishment of an energy community.

In addition to the organizational challenges, social and economic factors also play a very important role.One fundamental question is economic viability: Is the model sustainable in the long term? Does it offer sufficient incentives for members? Can everyone involved benefit from such a system without anyone feeling disadvantaged? In addition to this economic aspect, social justice must also be considered. People with little access to modern technologies or low digital skills should not be excluded from participating.

At the same time, targeted information and education measures are essential to counteract misinformation or prejudices against energy communities. **Transparent communication and low-threshold offer can help to increase social acceptance and participation in energy communities.**

To conclude on the potential for improvement, it can be said that **the members would like to have more detailed insights into the quantities of electricity generated, stored and consumed.** In order to be able to control their own consumption in a more targeted manner. This could be implemented through an **optimized visualization of consumption data in a possible app or currently existing online platforms**. This could also additionally strengthen trust in the functioning of the energy communities and the sense of community within the communities.

GERMANY

Event 1: LEEWAY Project - Capitalisation Working Group

CONCLUSIONS

Key Findings (Grouped by Main Topics):

- Joint Design & Stakeholder Engagement: Legal and structural templates presented can guide tailored REC development in diverse jurisdictions.
- Knowledge Increase & Doubt Dispelling: Participants left with a better grasp of how to start and sustain RECs, including through concrete legal and technical means.
- Functionality Improvement: Governance models and infrastructure optimization strategies offer actionable pathways for existing RECs to enhance performance.
- Impact: The NRGCOM project's structured approach to REC development was recognized as a strong contributor to the Working Group's capitalisation goals.
- Participants were invited to further explore NRGCOM deliverables ahead of the Polish workshop.
- As next steps, project partners agreed to:
    - Nominate potential speakers for the Poland workshop.
    - Share case studies and use cases for replication.
    - Support the rollout of the REC Ambassador network in their region.

RECOMMENDATIONS

For Future Activities:

- Facilitate more hands-on regional mentoring under the REC Ambassador Network.
- Provide multilingual guides and checklists for REC setup and operation.
- Host follow-up thematic sessions on technical systems and policy compliance.
- Effective Techniques: Interactive, question-led formats to address local challenges. Blended virtual-in-person regional workshops for deeper engagement.

Event 2: Future Expert Workshop Series

CONCLUSIONS

Takeaways by Topic

- Joint Design of RECs: Students gained strategic and technical insights through real-world cases in both handbooks.
- Stakeholder Engagement: Importance of digital tools for communication and outreach became clear.
- Knowledge-Raising: Handbook content provided practical anchors to move beyond theoretical learning.
- Improving Functioning: Students saw how digital optimization and heating technologies can increase the efficiency and impact of RECs.
- Handbook Impact

- Digitalization and Smart Technologies (Handbook 1): Provided a vision for data-driven community energy management.
- Highlighted Regionalwerke's role in smart innovation.
- Renewable Heating Solutions (Handbook 2):
- Illustrated how thermal infrastructure change is possible with local partnerships.
- Brought attention to one of the most emission-intensive energy sectors.
- The handbook topics deeply enriched the training, showing students what a functioning, forward-looking energy community can look like in practice.

RECOMMENDATIONS

For Future Student Trainings:

- Capstone projects simulating smart REC planning and heating transitions.
- Mentorships with Regionalwerke staff or REC developers.
- Extend student access to:
- Digital energy planning tools.
- Best-practice case databases.
- Smart system design templates.
- Cross-disciplinary teamwork (engineering + social sciences) to reflect real-world REC development needs.
- Suggested Formats Blended learning (videos + live simulation workshops). Q&A with Regionalwerke engineers, IT developers and municipal partners. REC toolkit demonstration: dashboards, apps, data monitoring and heating calculators.

Event 3: 12th Day of Research

CONCLUSIONS

Key Findings by Main Topics:

- Joint Design: The concept of “Power-to-Gas Hubs” offers a replicable infrastructure module that communities can integrate into their energy planning.
- Stakeholder Engagement: Research events like this foster early interest and future collaboration among municipalities, researchers, and companies.
- Knowledge Raising: Attendees left with a stronger grasp of how renewable gas can be locally produced and managed within RECs.
- Improving Functionality: P2G enables flexibility, seasonal storage, and diversified energy outputs—improving REC stability and long-term viability.
- Impact on Awareness: The impulse lecture significantly enhanced participants’ understanding of energy community innovation, elevating their interest in hybrid, multi-sector REC models.

RECOMMENDATIONS

For Future Activities:

- Include more REC-focused technology talks in research conferences
- Facilitate partnerships between labs and communities to pilot P2G hubs
- Develop multilingual information materials explaining technical solutions like P2G for lay audiences
- Effective Techniques:
    - Use impulse talks and real-world examples to simplify complex innovations
    - Showcase how academic research links to local sustainability goals
    - Combine scientific input with implementation pathways (e.g., funding, regulation, community engagement)

Event 4: Systemanalyse und Stakeholder-Kommunikation bei der Gründung von Energiegemeinschaften: Ein systemischer Ansatz für den Erfolg

CONCLUSIONS

Key Findings by Topic:

- Joint Design: Tools like the Soziodynamische Analyse helped participants reframe project planning around people, not just technology.
- Stakeholder Engagement: The LICHT communication framework offered an effective model for long-term stakeholder buy-in.
- Knowledge Increase: The case studies and hands-on formats revealed practical lessons that participants were eager to adapt locally.
- Improving Functionality: Participants saw how REC projects can be derailed not by technical failure, but by misaligned expectations and poor communication. This workshop gave them tools to mitigate such risks.
- Impact on Awareness: The workshop clearly enhanced awareness of RECs as both technical and social ecosystems, deepening participant confidence to lead or support REC initiatives in their own regions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

For Future Activities:

- Offer train-the-trainer formats to replicate the workshop across other Danube countries.
- Provide localized stakeholder mapping templates in national languages.
- Integrate systemic planning content into REC mentoring schemes.
- Include municipal officers in future sessions to ensure institutional readiness.
- Effective Training Techniques:

- Use fictional but realistic REC scenarios to enable safe experimentation.
- Mix expert input with peer-to-peer group work.
- End with real-life success stories to model feasibility.

Event 5: Student Visit & NRGCOM Project Presentation

CONCLUSIONS

Key Findings by Main Topic:

- Joint Design: Wildpoldsried illustrated how early-stage community buy-in and legal planning can lead to long-term autonomy.
- Stakeholder Engagement: Students learned how municipalities and citizens co-develop projects under shared objectives.
- Knowledge Increase: All participants gained deeper understanding of RECs as part of systemic energy transition pathways.
- Operational Improvement: The discussion highlighted practical barriers (e.g., grid integration, investment models) and strategies to overcome them.
- Impact: The event clearly contributed to raising awareness of RECs and illustrated the intersection of engineering, social engagement and governance.

RECOMMENDATIONS

For Future Events:

- Incorporate more case-based excursions or field trips into academic programs.
- Provide a follow-up module on how students can contribute to REC development.
- Encourage partnerships between universities and pilot communities.
- Effective Techniques:
- Combining site visits with interactive discussions.
- Using real-world projects to contextualize academic theory.
- Involving interdisciplinary student groups for a fuller perspective.

CZECH REBUPLIC

CONCLUSIONS

The seminar significantly increased awareness and practical readiness for community energy involvement. Participants appreciated the structure, depth, and the exchange of experience.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Expand the section on project financing.
Include more interactive elements and time for discussion.
Provide follow-up training and individual consultations.

CROATIA

The NRGCOM training has measurably improved participant attitudes, knowledge, and intentions toward renewable energy communities. This shift indicates strong potential for increased citizen engagement and decentralized energy initiatives in the Danube Region.
To maximize impact, future sessions should build on current strengths while addressing support gaps identified by participants.
Direct exchange of experiences of those involved in energy communities with potential founders and members is worth encouraging. In this way, experiences are transferred first-hand and various opinions and suggestions can be heard. This type of exchange is extremely important in circumstances where there are still many unanswered questions about the issue itself. However, in order to initiate the establishment of energy communities, it is necessary for local and regional authorities to take the initiative and promote the establishment of such initiatives by their own example, which also includes other interest groups. Strong support in the establishment and subsequent management will have to be provided in order to remove all unknowns. In the first phase, support is planned to be provided in the form of partnerships with other members/initiators in order to establish new communities.
These recommendations are designed to extend the impact of NRGCOM training, reduce barriers to participation, and foster sustainable community energy development across the Danube Region.

MONTENEGRO

CONCLUSIONS

Conclusions from the survey before the event:

- The survey indicates a moderate to high interest and awareness of energy communities among respondents, especially in community engagement aspects.
- While legal and technical knowledge is limited, the training was expected to fill these
- gaps.

The primary barriers to implementation remain financial costs and lack of information. However, there is strong motivation and a positive outlook towards future involvement in energy communities and energy efficiency improvements.

The findings suggest that further targeted training, clear legal frameworks, and financial support mechanisms would enhance participation and successful establishment of energy communities in Montenegro.

Conclusions from the survey after the event:

- The training was successful in increasing knowledge—especially regarding legal, technical, and governance aspects.
- Practical confidence remains moderate—participants still request additional tools and support for implementation (e.g., feasibility studies, financing options).
- Best practice examples had the strongest impact and are considered the most effective learning method.
- Core challenges remain financial and procedural, pointing to the need for structured support systems beyond training (e.g., national guidance, advisory centers).

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Organise further trainings and workshops
  - Focus on practical implementation steps: feasibility assessments, permitting, ownership models, grid integration.
  - Use simulations and group activities to build confidence and real-world readiness.
- Develop practical guides and technical tools
  - Create user-friendly brochures, step-by-step guides, and digital tools
  - Include localized case studies and contacts for advisory support.
- Facilitate connections with existing initiatives and mentors
  - Establish a mentor network from countries with mature energy community models.
  - Organize study visits to successful energy communities in the region and EU

- Continue with raising public awareness and building community support
  - Launch local campaigns to educate citizens on the benefits and functioning of energy communities.
  - Integrate energy community topics into school curricula and host public forums.

- Advocate for supportive policy and financial frameworks
  - Engage with local authorities and ministries to promote enabling policies (grants, subsidies, tax incentives).
  - Simplify administrative procedures and establish public support services for citizens and local governments.

EVENT 2

Key Conclusions – Before the Workshop

- Participants had limited familiarity with energy communities, particularly regarding legal frameworks and practical implementation in Montenegro.
- The main expectations included gaining legal clarity, technical knowledge, and examples of good practice.
- Respondents expressed interest in energy efficiency but noted significant barriers, especially high initial costs and lack of information.

- While there was moderate willingness to participate in or establish an energy community, many lacked confidence in their ability to do so. 27
- Awareness of existing energy community initiatives in the region was low, with few concrete examples mentioned.

Key Conclusions – After the Workshop

- There was a clear increase in understanding across all core areas: legal, technical, and governance aspects of energy communities.
- Participants highly valued best practice examples and gained clarity on regulatory and policy frameworks.
- Confidence in applying knowledge and participating in energy communities improved, although further support is still needed.
- The training was seen as relevant and useful, especially in terms of practical orientation and real-world applicability.
- Participants identified actionable next steps and support needs, including access to funding, mentoring, and continued education.
- Broader societal engagement and institutional support were recognized as critical for establishing and functioning of energy communities in Montenegro.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Organise Follow-up Capacity-Building Workshops:** Organize advanced training sessions focused on practical skills such as project management, community engagement, and financial planning for energy communities.
- **Provide Legal and Technical Advisory Support:** Provide ongoing access to expert guidance on navigating the legal framework, grid connection procedures, and technical feasibility assessments.
- **Support Pilot Projects and Mentorship Schemes:** Support pilot energy community initiatives in Montenegro, paired with mentorship from successful examples in the region to guide implementation.
- **Awareness and Communication Campaigns:** Launch public campaigns to promote the benefits of energy communities, using clear messaging and real-life success stories to build trust and understanding.
- **Institutional Support and Coordination:** Encourage municipalities and relevant institutions to take a more active role in enabling energy communities through streamlined procedures and local facilitation.
- **Access to Funding and Incentives:** Improve visibility and accessibility of financial mechanisms, including grants, subsidies, and co-financing tools tailored for citizen-led initiatives.

- **Digital Knowledge Hub:** Create an online platform offering training materials, FAQs, regulatory updates, best practice databases, and opportunities for peer exchange.
- **School and Youth Engagement Programs:** Introduce education modules and awareness activities targeting schools and youth to build a long-term foundation for citizen-led energy transition.

STUDY VISIT

CONCLUSION – BEFORE THE STUDY VISIT

- Prior to the study visit, participants had limited familiarity with the concept of energy communities, with most respondents indicating only a basic or moderate level of understanding. Expectations were focused on learning about how energy communities function in practice, the legal framework, and the main obstacles and benefits involved. Many participants expressed a need for practical knowledge and inspiration, and few had prior involvement in renewable energy or energy efficiency projects.
- Barriers such as high costs, lack of information, and regulatory uncertainty were identified as key challenges, while participants showed moderate confidence in their ability to engage in or contribute to energy communities. Nonetheless, there was a clear interest in taking future steps toward more sustainable energy practices, provided the right support and knowledge were available.

CONCLUSION – AFTER THE STUDY VISIT

- Following the study visit, participants reported significant improvements in their understanding of energy communities, particularly regarding legal frameworks, technical details, and models of community governance. Exposure to best practices from Croatia and Slovenia helped transform theoretical interest into practical insight, reinforcing participants' motivation and confidence.
- Most participants indicated a higher likelihood of joining or initiating an energy community, and their confidence in applying the knowledge gained increased. Still, they emphasized the need for further support in legal, financial, and educational areas to overcome structural barriers. Suggestions for broader acceptance included public awareness campaigns, citizen engagement, and clearer regulations.
- Overall, the visit not only met expectations but also empowered participants with tools, examples, and motivation to become more actively involved in the energy transition process within their local contexts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Share more real-life stories and examples that people can relate to.
- Talk more about why energy communities are useful and how they can help all of us.
- Show how other countries have succeeded, what worked well for them, and what challenges they faced.

- Explain the rules and procedures for setting up an energy community in a simple and clear way.
- Create a step-by-step guide for starting an energy community from scratch.
- Organize workshops and events where people can ask questions, share experiences, and get support.
- Use media and social networks more to spread the word and encourage more people to get involved.
- Adjust the legal framework to specific context and circumstances in Montenegro.
- Provide adequate technical and financial support

MOLDOVA

EVENT 1

CONCLUSIONS

Key findings grouped by the main topics of the event:

- Participants recognized that energy communities offer tangible benefits, particularly regarding energy independence and local economic development.
- Legislative uncertainty remains the primary barrier for many stakeholders, underlining the need for further policy development in Moldova.
- There is strong interest in practical guidance, including step-by-step processes, financial models, and examples of successful projects.
- Technical and financial topics were of high interest, highlighting the demand for detailed, practical knowledge to transform intentions into action.

Impact of the event on awareness of energy communities:

- Participants felt more confident discussing and considering energy communities as a real option for Moldova.
- Networking and knowledge-sharing among municipalities, institutions, and experts fostered new connections and potential collaborations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for future activities for the participating target groups:

- Creation of thermal networks in urban areas
- Development of an integrated smart metering and energy management system
- Permanent communication with distribution system operators for efficient consumption management.

- Adjusting legislation to allow the sale of renewable energy above the ceiling imposed by own consumption.
- Implementing a concrete energy community model, as the concept currently exists only at the legislative level.
- Creating pilot projects to facilitate the understanding and adoption of energy communities among local administrations and citizens.
- Adjusting legislation to allow the sale of renewable energy above the ceiling imposed by own consumption.
- Implementing a concrete energy community model, as the concept currently exists only at the legislative level.
- Creating pilot projects to facilitate the understanding and adoption of energy communities among local administrations and citizens.

Potentially effective training and/or other techniques:

- Case study workshops featuring successful Moldovan or regional energy community projects.
- Creation of an online platform to share tools, templates, and experiences among municipalities and stakeholders.
- Personalized technical assistance and one-on-one consultations for municipalities planning concrete projects.

EVENT 2

CONCLUSIONS

Key findings grouped by the main topics of the event:

- The training successfully increased knowledge about energy communities, as shown by the significant increase in average familiarity scores.
- Participants recognized that energy communities offer tangible benefits, particularly regarding energy independence and local economic development.
- Legislative uncertainty remains the primary barrier for many stakeholders, underlining the need for further policy development in Moldova.
- There is strong interest in practical guidance, including step-by-step processes, financial models, and examples of successful projects.
- Technical and financial topics were of high interest, highlighting the demand for detailed, practical knowledge to transform intentions into action.

Impact of the event on awareness of energy communities:

- The event substantially raised awareness and interest in energy communities among participants from different sectors.

- Participants felt more confident discussing and considering energy communities as a real option for Moldova.
- Networking and knowledge-sharing among municipalities, institutions, and experts fostered new connections and potential collaborations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for future activities for the participating target groups:

- Provide follow-up workshops focused on:
  - Designing business models for energy communities
  - Developing technical skills for energy project implementation

- Organize study visits to municipalities in Moldova or neighboring countries with successful energy community projects.
- Expand outreach to rural and small municipalities, which may require tailored support due to resource constraints.

Potentially effective training and/or other techniques:

- Case study workshops featuring successful Moldovan or regional energy community projects.
- Interactive simulations or exercises to walk participants through the steps of establishing an energy community.
- Creation of an online platform to share tools, templates, and experiences among municipalities and stakeholders.
- Personalized technical assistance and one-on-one consultations for municipalities planning concrete projects.

SERBIA

CONCLUSIONS

Key Findings Grouped by Main Topics

Legal and Policy Frameworks:
The training significantly enhanced participants' comprehension of the legal basis for establishing Renewable Energy Communities (RECs) in Serbia. Although national legislation formally recognizes RECs, the absence of detailed implementing bylaws continues to impede operational clarity. Nevertheless, 79% of participants reported an improved understanding of the legal environment, and the demand for further legal guidance was one of the most frequently expressed needs.

Technical and Infrastructure Aspects:
Participants demonstrated increased awareness of technical considerations such as grid access, infrastructure requirements, and the role of system operators. Many identified a need for more practical tools and technical standards that support the deployment of renewable energy systems within community-led initiatives.

Community and Governance Dimensions:
The training helped clarify the participatory and social governance elements of RECs, with 83% of participants stating they gained a stronger grasp of how communities can collaboratively manage local energy resources. This topic was among the most appreciated aspects of the training and was seen as directly contributing to improved stakeholder alignment and engagement capacity.

Practical Formation and Best Practices:
Real-world case studies and the presentation of step-by-step guidance for REC formation were among the most effective components of the session. These practical insights helped to demystify the process and provided a replicable framework for initiating REC projects locally. Participants particularly valued the examples from EU countries with similar socio-political contexts.

Impact of the Event on Awareness of Energy Communities
The training successfully raised awareness and created momentum among a diverse group of local stakeholders. Through targeted knowledge transfer and open dialogue, the event contributed to a deeper understanding of the value and feasibility of community-led energy initiatives.
Key impacts include:

- A measurable increase in willingness to participate in or initiate an REC project.
- Enhanced cross-sectoral dialogue between municipalities, enterprises, civil society, and academia.
- Identification of concrete support needs (legal, financial, technical) to inform future capacity-building and policy actions.

The event has laid the groundwork for a more informed and engaged ecosystem, aligned with the broader objectives of the NRGCOM project and the EU's green transition agenda. With sustained support and enabling conditions, several of the participants are now positioned to take the next steps toward REC development in their respective communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the feedback collected through the pre- and post-training assessments, as well as observations during the training session itself, the following recommendations are proposed to enhance future engagement and capacity-building efforts aimed at supporting the development of Renewable Energy Communities (RECs):

Recommendations for Participating Target Groups

- **Local Governments and Municipalities**
  Provide structured institutional support to emerging energy communities by adopting local energy strategies that recognize RECs as a tool for sustainable development. Municipalities should also designate focal points to facilitate access to information, coordinate with distribution system operators (DSOs), and assist with permitting and legal formalities.
- **Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)**
  Raise awareness among SMEs about the financial and operational benefits of participation in RECs (e.g., reduced energy costs, reputation, supply chain integration). Tailored training should highlight business models, procurement practices, and potential funding schemes.
- **Public Institutions**
  Encourage schools, hospitals, and public facilities to act as anchor members in RECs. Training content should include practical case studies of how public institutions can initiate or join RECs and leverage national or EU co-financing opportunities.
- **Civil Society and Citizens**
  Broaden outreach activities and ensure inclusive participation of citizens through community forums, local campaigns, and citizen assemblies. Special attention should be given to rural communities and underrepresented groups, promoting equal access and addressing energy poverty concerns.

Training and Engagement Methods

- **Modular Training Programmes**
  Develop and deliver modular, sector-specific REC training programmes, including legal, technical, financial, and community engagement modules, adapted to different stakeholder profiles.
- **Peer Learning and Twinning Activities**
  Foster peer-to-peer exchanges with well-established RECs in the Danube Region and EU to enable transfer of best practices and first-hand insights. Twinning formats can be particularly effective in confidence-building and operational benchmarking.
- **Interactive and Participatory Formats**
  Include simulation exercises, role-playing scenarios, and co-design sessions in future trainings to foster hands-on learning and increase retention of complex information.
- **Digital Knowledge Tools**
  Promote the use of digital platforms, toolkits, and open-access resources such as the Transnational Knowledge Platform (T1.3) to support autonomous learning and encourage follow-up engagement.
- **Targeted Follow-up Support**
  Establish help desks or advisory hubs at regional level to provide legal and technical assistance to emerging REC initiatives, especially in the early-stage planning and registration process.

By implementing these recommendations, the NRGCOM project and its partners can create a more robust enabling environment for REC development, enhance stakeholder readiness, and catalyse practical action aligned with EU energy and climate objectives.

BULGARIA

CONCLUSIONS

- Preliminary Technical and Economic Analyses carried out by reliable experts are key to setting up successful RECs.
- Enhanced legislation in RECs is required in order to ensure stable legal standing for RECs and eventually, envisage specific policy measures to foster their establishment.
- Grid operators should be involved in all awareness rising and training campaigns because their point of view is also very significant for the operation of REC especially considering current infrastructure and legal limitations for grid connection and lacking virtual-net-metering.
- The current event on awareness of energy communities was rated highly impactful by the participants for improving their deeper knowledge on setting-up and operating a REC especially in the national context but also drawing on the examples presented from other Danube region countries.
- Social media and Internet were considered as the main and most accessible source of information on all aspects of RECs

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Further training on improving engagement is considered very important to help building trust and collaboration in local communities
- Up-to-date awareness on currently available and offered funding opportunities and rules for application is also considered an advantage for future REC pilots
- Potentially effective training and/or other techniques considered were physical workshops with national-level speakers with expert experience on various aspects of REC establishments, technical and economic aspects, operational and managerial aspects and communication aspects.

HUNGARY

CONCLUSIONS

Presentations

The event began with a series of professional presentations, during which expert speakers explored the potential of energy communities from legal, technological, and community perspectives. Participants also had the opportunity to learn about the best practices of Bábolna Energiaközösség Nonprofit Ltd., which is the first registered energy community in Hungary.

Pre-event needs assessments revealed that stakeholders consider effective communication and the ability to manage critical situations and conflicts as key success factors for the sustainable operation of energy communities. Therefore, the event included three interactive training sessions aimed at developing participants' communication skills.

Opportunities for establishing energy communities
In the first part of the interactive sessions, trainers encouraged participants to engage in joint reflection, experience sharing, and collaborative planning. The goal of the workshop was to discuss the possibilities for establishing and operating energy communities in Hungary, considering local conditions. Participants also explored actionable steps that could support the advancement of community energy initiatives.

Orientation session
The trainers initiated the discussion with a quick situational assessment, asking participants to express their level of agreement with the following statement: "I firmly believe that it is possible to establish and efficiently operate energy communities in Hungary." The anonymous survey revealed a range of opinions. While some participants had concerns, others were 100% convinced of the feasibility, with the overall sentiment leaning towards optimism. Notably, no one completely dismissed the possibility of successfully creating and operating energy communities in Hungary.

Inspiring collaborative thinking
To inspire collaborative thinking, the trainers invited two experts with experience in successful community initiatives to share their personal stories. They highlighted their motivations and key success experiences.
Key Conclusions:

- Dedicated Leadership: Success requires a committed individual who is fully dedicated to driving the initiative forward.
- Involvement of Local Government: Municipalities must be actively involved in these initiatives.
- Persistence and Patience: Patience and perseverance are essential for overcoming challenges.
- Information Sharing: Open communication and the sharing of information among stakeholders are crucial.

Identifying processes and challenges – small group exercise
During the first reflective session, participants worked in small groups to analyse the process of establishing an energy community in Hungary. They explored the step-by-step journey from concept to official registration, identifying potential bottlenecks and challenges along the way.
Participants visualized the process and key milestones on flipchart boards and then presented their insights to the larger group. The presentations revealed that, despite initial difficulties and a sometimes-bumpy path, there is reason for long-term optimism.

Identifying and prioritizing challenges
During the sharing session, the trainers compiled a table listing the key challenges that arise throughout the process of establishing an energy community. Participants were then asked to prioritize these challenges based on two criteria:
Significance – How critical is the challenge to the success of the initiative?
Influence – To what extent can stakeholders influence or resolve the issue?

Prioritized list of key challenges:

- Identifying and retaining key stakeholders (12 votes)
- Decision-making conflicts within the consortium (10 votes)
- Non-viable initial business model (7 votes)
- Human resistance (7 votes)
- Unsuccessful grant applications or lack of funding (5 votes)
- Changing legal, economic, and technical environment (4 votes)
- Negative attitude from service providers (3 votes)
- Finding the right organizational structure (2 votes)
- Rejection of the feasibility study (1 vote)

Brainstorming solutions – addressing key challenges
After setting the priority order, participants brainstormed solutions and proposed next steps for the top three challenges.

Challenge 1: Identifying and retaining key stakeholders
Proposed solutions:

- Personal networks: leverage personal and professional connections.
- Awareness building: raise awareness and shift perspectives about the value of energy communities.
- Shared goals and communication: establish and maintain alignment on shared goals.
- Conflict prevention and management: use "conflict windows" (periods for addressing potential conflicts early) and develop conflict management strategies.
- Learn from conflicts: view conflicts as learning opportunities.
- Clear role allocation: clearly define roles and responsibilities within the team.

Logical next steps:
Motivation toolbox: develop tools to motivate and engage key stakeholders.
Root cause analysis: identify the reasons behind any setbacks or difficulties in retaining key stakeholders.
Present alternatives: propose alternative approaches to overcome challenges and ensure continuous stakeholder engagement.
Challenge 2: Decision-making conflicts within the consortium
Proposed solutions:

- Develop debate culture: encourage constructive debate and dialogue within the consortium.
- Assign decisions to the right expertise: ensure that decisions are made by those with relevant expertise.
- Continuous communication: maintain consistent and transparent communication among consortium members.
- Effective project management: implement strong project management practices to reduce ambiguity and conflict.

Logical next steps:

- Workshops/training: organize workshops or training sessions focused on decision-making, communication and conflict resolution.
- Elevate issues to execution level: ensure that critical decisions are addressed at the appropriate level of execution.
- Ongoing monitoring of project changes: continuously track and address changes in project scope, resources, or objectives.

Challenge 3: Non-viable initial business model
Proposed solutions:

- Situation analysis: conduct a thorough analysis of the current situation to identify gaps and risks.
- Adopt best practices: Incorporate proven strategies and best practices from successful models.
- Clarification of technical, economic and regulatory realities: ensure clarity on the technical, economic, and regulatory requirements and limitations.
- Logical next steps:
- Review the business model: reassess the initial business model to ensure feasibility.
- Consult with stakeholders: hold consultations with stakeholders to gather input and refine the model.
- Redesign the business model: if necessary, redesign the model to address identified gaps.
- Validation and monitoring: conduct regular checks and validations to ensure the model's ongoing viability.

Community Collaboration and Effective Communication

The communication training block began by identifying the most challenging communication situations faced during the establishment and operation of energy communities. These situations served as the foundation for subsequent practical exercises.
Key Communication Challenges Identified by Participants:

- Differences in beliefs and social acceptance
- Conflicts of interest and diverging values
- Breakdowns in trust between stakeholders
- Reduced capacity to address challenges due to resource or knowledge constraints
- Power dynamics, micromanagement, and excessive bureaucracy
- Limited advocacy skills
- Different technical terminology across fields and the absence of a shared vocabulary
- Absence of clear points of contact or responsible decision-makers at service providers

Communication styles

The next training block focused on understanding different communication styles, emphasizing the harmful effects of passive and aggressive communication. Trainers illustrated these styles with practical example phrases.

Assertive communication

An interactive presentation introduced the elements of assertive communication, highlighting its benefits and practical application. Trainers provided concrete examples to illustrate how assertiveness can be applied in real-world situations.

After the theoretical section, participants practiced assertive communication by addressing the previously identified difficult communication situations. Working in small groups, they developed assertive solutions, requests, and suggestions aimed at improving communication efficiency in energy community settings.

Key elements of assertive communication:

- Clear and direct expression of needs, thoughts, and feelings.
- Respect for one's own rights and the rights of others.
- Use of "I" statements to promote personal responsibility and reduce blame.

Conflict Resolution

The conflict resolution training block introduced the Thomas-Kilmann Model, which defines five distinct conflict management strategies: Competing, Collaborating, Compromising, Avoiding, Accommodating.

Participants identified typical conflict scenarios that arise in energy communities and explored the best strategies to address them. They also examined the relationships between problem-solving, compromise-seeking, and assertiveness, followed by practical exercises where participants applied these strategies to real-life scenarios.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations for future activities for the participating target groups to improving engagement
- Potentially effective training and/or other techniques

Based on the training experience and the evaluation results included in the national report, the following four recommendations are proposed to ensure the success and impact of future awareness-raising trainings on energy communities. These proposals aim to improve both the methodological design and the content relevance of the trainings in line with participants' expectations, needs and feedback.

Recommendation 1 - Prioritise practice-based learning through real-life case studies

Participants consistently rated real-life examples—such as the Bábolna Energiaközösség case—as the most useful and inspiring part of the training. Concrete, context-specific examples not only help translate abstract concepts into practice but also build trust and motivation. Future trainings should

systematically include national or regional case presentations with a focus on operational models, challenges overcome, and measurable outcomes. Case-based learning should be complemented by peer exchanges and interactive discussions with community initiators.

Recommendation 2 - Provide step-by-step guidance for implementation

Participants expressed a clear need for hands-on, process-oriented information that can be directly applied to initiate or join energy communities. Future trainings should therefore include detailed implementation roadmaps, covering administrative, legal and technical steps as well as available support mechanisms. Visual tools, such as process charts or interactive planning templates, can support better understanding and retention. Guidance materials should remain accessible post-training as part of a toolkit.

Recommendation 3 - Clarify legal, financial and governance frameworks

Pre- and post-training feedback confirmed that regulatory uncertainty remains a major barrier. While the legal session was positively received, it should be expanded and tailored to include practical examples, responsibilities of involved actors, and risk management strategies. Likewise, training content should offer a better breakdown of financial models, available subsidies, and ownership structures. Providing sample contracts or governance templates may further support practical understanding.

Recommendation 4 - Improve technical and soft skills content with tailored modules

Participants reported mixed levels of benefit from sessions on technical aspects, community communication and conflict resolution. This suggests that these topics require customisation based on the background of each group. Trainings should include optional breakout sessions or parallel modules to serve different professional needs (e.g. engineers, civil society actors, municipal staff). Enhancing the delivery with more engaging tools—such as role plays, simulations or digital aids—can further increase relevance and learning outcomes.

These methods and topics, if embedded in a coherent training strategy, will help not only improve knowledge but also empower stakeholders to initiate and manage energy communities with greater confidence and long-term engagement.

ROMANIA

EVENT 1

CONCLUSIONS

The Energy Community session at the OER Annual Conference highlighted several key findings regarding the current state and future potential of Energy Communities in Romania. Andrei Crăciun

from Greenpeace emphasized the growth of advocacy efforts, noting a significant increase in the number of signatories for the memorandum supporting Energy Communities. Despite the progress, he also pointed out the legislative challenges, such as the slow implementation of necessary laws and the need for clearer, more accessible regulations. Camelia Sava from Cooperativa de Energie discussed the promotion of Energy Communities through workshops and advocacy, identifying a slow pace of implementation and the importance of a clear legislative framework to support further development. Anamaria Vodă from "Între Vecini" shared success stories of community mobilization, with 55 communities engaged in 21 counties, showing the potential for widespread grassroots involvement. However, participants also identified key obstacles, including delayed legislation, the lack of a national registry for Energy Communities and the ongoing challenge of securing adequate financing.
The session's impact was significant in advancing the conversation on how Energy Communities can thrive in Romania. The discussions underscored the necessity of a robust and accessible legislative framework, as well as the need for visibility of successful models that can inspire further action. Key suggestions for stimulating the growth of Energy Communities included offering additional points for grant applications, integrating storage capacity into new communities and fostering collaboration between Energy Communities and retailers/ businesses. Panellists agreed that the success of Energy Communities relies on collaboration between local authorities, the private sector and citizens. Overall, the session highlighted both the challenges and the opportunities for Energy Communities to act as a model for participatory democracy, showcasing their potential role in Romania's energy transition and the path forward for their development.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recommendations for future activities for the participating target groups to improving engagement
- Potentially effective training and/or other techniques

To improve engagement and foster the growth of Energy Communities in Romania, it is crucial to strengthen legislative support and create a clearer, more accessible legal framework. Future activities should focus on ensuring the finalization of secondary legislation and the establishment of a national registry for Energy Communities, which will help streamline their development. Engaging policymakers to expedite these processes is essential to empower communities to take action. Furthermore, encouraging collaboration among local authorities, the private sector and citizens will be key to fostering the success of Energy Communities. Creating platforms for dialogue and partnerships can open up new opportunities for investment, knowledge sharing and resource mobilization, facilitating the growth of these communities.
In addition, public awareness and education efforts should be a priority, as Energy Communities rely on active citizen participation. Future initiatives should include educational campaigns to raise awareness about the benefits of Energy Communities, offer information on how to participate and provide guidance on energy savings. Financial accessibility also remains a challenge, so exploring alternative funding mechanisms, such as co-financing opportunities and financial products tailored to Energy Communities, would be beneficial. Encouraging local authorities to engage more actively in Energy Community development through memoranda of understanding can further boost local

interest and commitment, ensuring these initiatives become an integral part of urban and rural development plans across the country.

EVENT 2

CONCLUSIONS

The training webinar brought forward several interests as well as barriers that municipalities and other stakeholders face in managing the Energy Communities domain. The presentation held by the NRGCOM Ambassador, Olimpia NICOLAE from Cooperativa de Energie, has given the participants information about what steps to undergo to establish an Energy Community, by starting to build on what do they want to accomplish as well as what legal form they can adopt in Romania or how they can support other initiatives. The main barriers with which they struggle remain the legislative and financial ones. Engagement of citizens and other stakeholders is also vital to the development of Energy Communities in cities, but by continuous delivering the positive message about EC in events or awareness campaigns, the number of interested citizens will grow, collaboration being the key of success.
The training webinar had a positive impact on raising awareness of Energy Communities among participants. Attendees reported improved understanding and recognized the importance of starting such initiatives. While some participants expressed confidence and a willingness to take action—such as organizing internal meetings or supporting EC creation—others indicated they still needed more information. Key barriers identified included the lack of clear legislation, insufficient public awareness, the need for accessible funding and stronger institutional involvement, suggesting a mixed level of readiness among the audience.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To further engage participants and encourage practical steps toward developing Energy Communities, future activities should be tailored to address different knowledge levels. Beginner sessions could focus on foundational concepts, while advanced workshops might offer detailed, step-by-step guidance, supported by real-life case studies. Engagement can be strengthened through the use of local ambassadors, peer-to-peer exchanges and community events led by success stories, even from other cities. Municipalities should also be supported with guidance, promotional materials and interdepartmental task forces. Enhancing public outreach through videos, infographics and social media campaigns would also help broaden the conversation and build grassroots momentum.
Potentially effective training and engagement techniques include continuing interactive exercises for stakeholder analysis, business plan developing or eliminating barriers. Gamified learning, such as simulations and role-plays, can increase retention and participation. Short, focused “microlearning” video modules and toolkits could make the content more digestible and actionable, while short feedback surveys through Mentimeter can help participants assess the information received.

SLOVENIA

CONCLUSIONS

The professional trainings implemented by KSSENA within Activity 2.4 proved to be an effective tool for building awareness, strengthening institutional motivation, and supporting capacity development for Renewable Energy Communities (RECs) in Slovenia.
The two events, though different in format and audience profile, both demonstrated measurable improvements in stakeholder understanding, confidence, and readiness to engage with REC initiatives. Participants showed a clearer grasp of the national legal framework, identified practical pathways for implementation, and recognised their institutional potential to initiate or support community energy actions.
Key takeaways include:

- Relevance of tailored content: Trainings aligned with the legal and operational context of the national environment were most effective. Presenting local examples and regionally applicable models proved particularly valuable for stakeholder engagement.
- Importance of interactivity: The second event showed that discussion-based formats and peer learning significantly enhance engagement and retention of knowledge, especially when technical and policy content is involved.
- Need for follow-up support: Participants in both events expressed the need for further tools, guidance, and institutional backing to proceed with REC-related planning and implementation. These findings will feed into the development of Output O2.1 (Stakeholder Engagement Strategy) and Output O2.3 (Awareness Raising Toolkit).
- Cross-sector participation adds value: The diversity of stakeholders – from public institutions to private consultants and NGOs – created a multi-dimensional learning environment that encouraged cross-sector dialogue and practical insight sharing.

In conclusion, the training events made a substantial contribution to the goals of Activity 2.4. They served as a catalyst for institutional engagement, demonstrated the feasibility of REC development within the current policy framework, and laid the foundation for future stakeholder cooperation in Slovenia's energy transition.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the evaluation of both training sessions and participant feedback, several recommendations can be drawn to further support the implementation and scaling of Renewable Energy Communities (RECs) through stakeholder engagement and capacity building activities:

Adapt future training formats to target groups
Trainings should continue to differentiate between institutional, technical, and civil society audiences. Tailoring the level of detail and focus areas ensures better knowledge retention and active participation.

Include practical examples and case studies

Participants valued real-life examples and case presentations. Future events should prioritise showcasing national or regional REC initiatives to demonstrate feasibility and inspire action.

Enhance opportunities for exchange and peer learning
Cross-sectoral dialogue among public officials, private consultants, and NGOs created added value. Formats that promote moderated discussion and experience-sharing should be strengthened.

Provide post-training support materials and follow-up opportunities
Participants requested access to additional tools, guidance, and expert support after the training. A structured follow-up mechanism, such as consultation hours or thematic workshops, could help sustain engagement.

Clarify institutional responsibilities and legal pathways
Stakeholders often expressed uncertainty regarding their legal competence to act. Clear and accessible guidance on legal mandates, administrative procedures, and REC models under national law is essential.

Integrate REC topics into broader policy frameworks
Training efforts should be aligned with municipal and regional planning processes (e.g. SECAPs, spatial planning), enabling institutional anchoring and long-term impact.

By implementing these recommendations, future capacity-building efforts under the NRGCOM project and beyond can further strengthen the readiness of local and regional actors to lead the development of energy communities.

6. APPENDICES

Assessment of the professional trainings– A2.4 REPORT for Austria

Assessment of the Professional trainings– A2.4 REPORT for Hungary

Assessment of the Professional trainings– A2.4 REPORT for Slovakia

Assessment of the Professional trainings– A2.4 REPORT for Czech Republic

Assessment of the Professional trainings– A2.4 REPORT for Romania

Assessment of the Professional trainings– A2.4 REPORT for Germany

Assessment of the Professional trainings– A2.4 REPORT for Montenegro

Assessment of the Professional trainings– A2.4 REPORT for Slovenia

Assessment of the Professional trainings– A2.4 REPORT for Croatia

Assessment of the Professional trainings– A2.4 REPORT for Serbia

Assessment of the Professional trainings– A2.4 REPORT for Moldova

Assessment of the Professional trainings– A2.4 REPORT for Bulgaria