

D3.3.1 Software solution with installation instructions for RECs

To the activity A.T.3.3 Development of technological
solution for RECs involved in the project for a more
resource and cost-effective operation

ETMEC Installation + Manual + Manual



Project NRGCOM:

**Creating appropriate operational conditions for renewable energy communities in the
Danube Region**

This project is supported by the Interreg Danube Region Programme, co-financed by the European Union
and the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic

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1. Baseline data on task performance

Organizer and guarantor of activity processing: PP12 NEK – Slovakia

Objective of the activity:

The submitted and resolved activity A.T.3.3 falls into the SO3 task group in the NRGCOM project for the 2nd and up to 5th updated periods of the NRGCOM project, for the period from 01.07.2024 to 30.06.2026.

SO3: Enhancing production and use of renewables through pilot testing in potential and existing RECs

A.T.3.3: Development of a technological solution for RECs involved in the project for a more resource and cost-effective operation

The authors named the proposed SW tool for management and decision-making of energy communities in the workplace as: "Expert tool for the Management of Energy Communities" acronym: „ETMEC “.

"Expert Tool for the Management of Energy Communities"



The presented and solved activity falls into the group of tasks SO3 in the NRGCOM project for the period of the 2nd period from 01.07.2024 to 31.12.2024, however, due to the importance of the professional output, this activity A.T.3.3 was continuously updated and supplemented with the results and specific relevant activities throughout the implementation of the NRGCOM project and the authors of the WS tool gradually incorporated this acquired knowledge and results into the database and improved the ETMEC solutions up to this resulting published 5th period of NRGCOM.

A separate professional output of the project D.3.3.1 is a software tool developed by the authors of the activity A.T.3.3, which also transfers the results mainly from related activities, namely A.T.3.2, A.T.3.4 and A.T.3.5, but also other tasks of the NRGCOM project, and here are complete instructions for project partners and their users for the final testing and supplementation of their own databases and solutions for the future after the completion of the NRGCOM project.

2. Analysis of individual data and inputs from the countries of the project partners

2.1 Brief description of the solution according to the NRGCOM project assignment

Within the framework of the parallel activities A.T.1.2 and A.T.1.4, the partners sought solutions for sustainable energy savings and efficient energy management. The partners proposed, through a questionnaire assessment, recommendations and in-house analyses for a software solution applicable to the target energy communities to help them overcome technical barriers and improve their efficient operation.

The partners' ideas were further developed and transformed into a final physical solution. PP12-NEK, which has significant experience in developing software to increase the energy efficiency of institutions, was responsible for developing innovative technological software and providing instructions for the solution, which was subsequently tested in selected energy communities and operated RECs.

The aim of the software tool is to prioritize mapping, data processing and monitoring of alternative and critical inputs in order to improve efficient energy management and simplify the daily operation of the participating RECs. The tool functions as an expert advisory system - as a ready-made expert module for management control, evaluation and assessment of internal parameters and correction of measured inputs and the related state of the energy economy of the given organizations/members within the given studied tested affected energy community.

To ensure more efficient operation, the ETMEC software, after several detailed corrections and updating of the knowledge and information database for decision-making, provides solutions, such as a set of identification of currently available technical, energy, environmental, social and economic data and their processing by analytical methods into the input database for the given environment, a comparative set of statistical and operational data on production, consumption and redistribution of energy resources based on the participation of energy records from the environment of large national and international administrators and distributors of energy networks and systems, a set of criteria for internal operation of the software and comparative levels for evaluation, taking into account the statistical significance and at the same time the probability of changes and fluctuations in energy caused by the external environment.

The project partners have continuously tested the SW equipment with regard to the specific circumstances, conditions and emerging expenses of the target countries/regions. In addition to the PP12-NEK software, a manual for the installation and use of the software has also been prepared. NEK will continue to share the software with the relevant partners STRIA, JAIP, KSENA and FORSCHUNG, who will be involved in the activity and have better knowledge of the REC operational activities and technological solutions that could be used to improve their efficiency. The solution has been continuously tested over the past 4 periods with the aim of contributing to increasing the resource and cost efficiency of RECs operated in: Luča in Slovenia, Burgenland in Austria, South Bohemia in the Czech Republic and the Bratislava Region in Slovakia.

D3.3.1 Software solution with installation instructions for REC PP12-NEK. NRGCOM developed the software solution with final implementation in this 5th period of the project as an updated professional output D3.3.1 and provides it with instructions to project partners, who can further test it in practice in Slovenia, Austria, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, as well as in other project member countries.

2.2 Methodology of activity processing A.T.3.3

1. The aim of the software tool was to map, process data and monitor alternative and critical inputs to improve efficient energy management and simplify the daily operation of involved RECs. The tool functions as a ready-made management and control expert module for monitoring and correcting the measured/detected inputs and the related energy efficiency status of the given organization/members within the concerned energy community
2. The software provides solutions such as a set of identification of simultaneously available technical, energy, environmental, social and economic data and their processing by analytical methods into the input database for the given environment and a comparative set of statistical and operational data on production, consumption and redistribution of energy resources based on the participation of energy records from the environment of large national and international administrators and distributors of energy networks and systems.
3. It is actually a set of criteria for the internal operation of the software and comparative levels for evaluation, taking into account the statistical significance and at the same time the probability of energy changes and fluctuations caused by the external environment.
4. In practice, the PP of the NRGCOM project will have the opportunity to test the equipment realistically in their own conditions, taking into account the specific circumstances, conditions and incurred expenses of the target company/country/region.

3. Conclusion

3.1 Overview of results and findings from the creation of activity A.T3.3

The presented overview documents the initial values from the questionnaire survey in the 2nd period of the A.T.3.3 activity and subsequent gradual adjustments according to the results and recommendations presented in this table, which the PP12-NEK research team updated in subsequent periods of the NRGCOM project and incorporated into the resulting final SW expert tool ETMEC.

Brief summary of content	The analysis and presented results of the task A.T.3.3 contain an overview of the current development of energy communities in selected partner countries with regard to the application of renewable energy sources in their local and regional operation. At the same time, they point to the available organizational structures and initial capabilities of individual partners in individual countries of the implemented sphere of this NRGCOM project. The analysis includes an analysis of 30 questions specially created by the guarantor of the task NEK to provide an overview of the issue, as well as a summary and opinions of individual partners on the knowledge addressed. The following was found - a brief summary of the essential findings from the questionnaire according to the question groups: The evaluation and significance of the individual answers and statements of the partners of the activity A.T.3.3 are summarized and marked according to significance as follows: A- crucial for SW B - variable parameter C - irrelevant for SW
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	The general question group (questions no. 1 to 15) has the following results: Questions no.: 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 15 are in the result group A Questions no.: 3, 4, 7, 9, 12, 13, 14 are in the result group B Questions no.: 10, 11 are in the result group C The operational question group (questions no. 17 to 24) has the following results: Question no. 24 is in result group A Questions no.: 17, 20, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28 are in result group B Questions no.: 18, 19, 21 are in result group C The question set (questions no. 25 to 30) for management has the following results: No question is in result group A Questions no.: 27, 28 are in result group B Questions no.: 26, 29, 30 are in result group C Note: Question no. 16 was not included and answered in the questionnaire.
Evaluation of goal and activity fulfillment A.T.3.3	The objective of the activity, defined in part 1. The initial data on the fulfillment of the task of this document, namely the creation of a database of analytical data on possible and legislative, operational and product options for energy communities, their creation and development, was successfully fulfilled in this activity A.T.3.3. The solution to the task A.T.3.3 was managed by fulfilling the partial tasks assigned by the PP12 – NEK processor, namely: 1. Research on the issue and mapping the current state of the topic from the perspective of the addressed partner countries. 2. Extensive theoretical research and mapping of the situation in individual countries participating in the project based on internal information from individual PP partners in the form of an overview table with a questionnaire with 10 questions. 3. Development of the professional output of task A.T.3.3, namely D3.3.1 Creation of an expert SW tool for energy community management with instructions for subsequent testing by partners JAIP, FORSCHUNG, STRIA, NEK, KSSENA These partial tasks were fulfilled in the document.

	Despite the fact that the building of energy communities and companies, especially with an emphasis on the implementation of renewable energy sources in their production and distribution to end consumers and community members themselves, is generally only in its early stages, it is obvious that a high level of professional organizational activity already prevails for the successful development of this issue, which will also have an impact on the application itself and subsequent updates of the proposed SW tool for practice within the NRGCOM project. Looking at any known methodology or management tool, if even the most sophisticated model of the organization's functioning is analyzed, there are still perceptions and feelings as if something is missing. As the authors of this analytical and implementation work within the framework of the processing of task A.T.3.3 of the NRGCOM project, but especially our long-term professional research, business and consulting activities in connection with our own comprehensive research, we see promising areas of application and development of this topic in management consulting operating models of energy communities in the future as: 1. Research into models of organizational systems and structures based on the innovative and inventive capacity of energy communities and the enterprises and organizations involved in them, especially from the SME environment, specifically in the area of designing and applying RES to an appropriate extent in the production and energy economy of energy communities and the production and distribution of energy within their scope. 2. Creation of inspection and management databases and subsequently expert systems for identifying and quantifying innovative and product qualities in the energy operating system of enterprises in energy communities.
	Several partners are only at the beginning of building energy communities, and therefore do not have the opportunity to obtain an external expert and information database, but they have effectively and very successfully used a similar structure of possible knowledge from the field of industrial production of energy based on RES, mainly in SMEs.

Recommendations and suggestions	To ensure the effective and sustainable development of community energy, the following steps can be defined: Financial and technical incentives: Adequate financial incentives for participants and founders of the ES and ES to optimize production facilities and effectively prepare for project operation. This also includes the application of such a tool and management control tool as the SW called ETMEC in practice. Flexibility in connection: Involvement of production plants/members of the energy community in such a way that they reflect the actual required reserve power of the network, so that oversizing does not occur and efficient energy distribution is ensured. Quality Assurance: Emphasis on the competence and quality of SW installation and consulting companies involved in the preparation and creation of energy communities in order to ensure reliable and efficient operation. The participation factor indicates the percentage of consumption or production of a member in the ES that it contributes to the community. It determines the maximum percentage of generated electricity that can be supplied to the energy community, or the maximum percentage of electricity consumption covered by the energy community. Participation in multiple energy communities allows for an increase in the share of surplus electricity sold or purchased from energy communities. This is a very suitable innovation factor for managing the energy economy not only of the given community, but also of the managed region or locality. Adjusting the participation factor within the energy community can help limit high consumption, making dynamic allocation more attractive. Participation in multiple energy communities allows members to better manage electricity supplies and promote the use of renewable energy. Aggregators of flexibility are a solution to reduce the costs of consumers for electricity and at the same time the carbon footprint. They can optimize and manage the operation of flexible devices of consumers and producers in real time. The task of the aggregator will be
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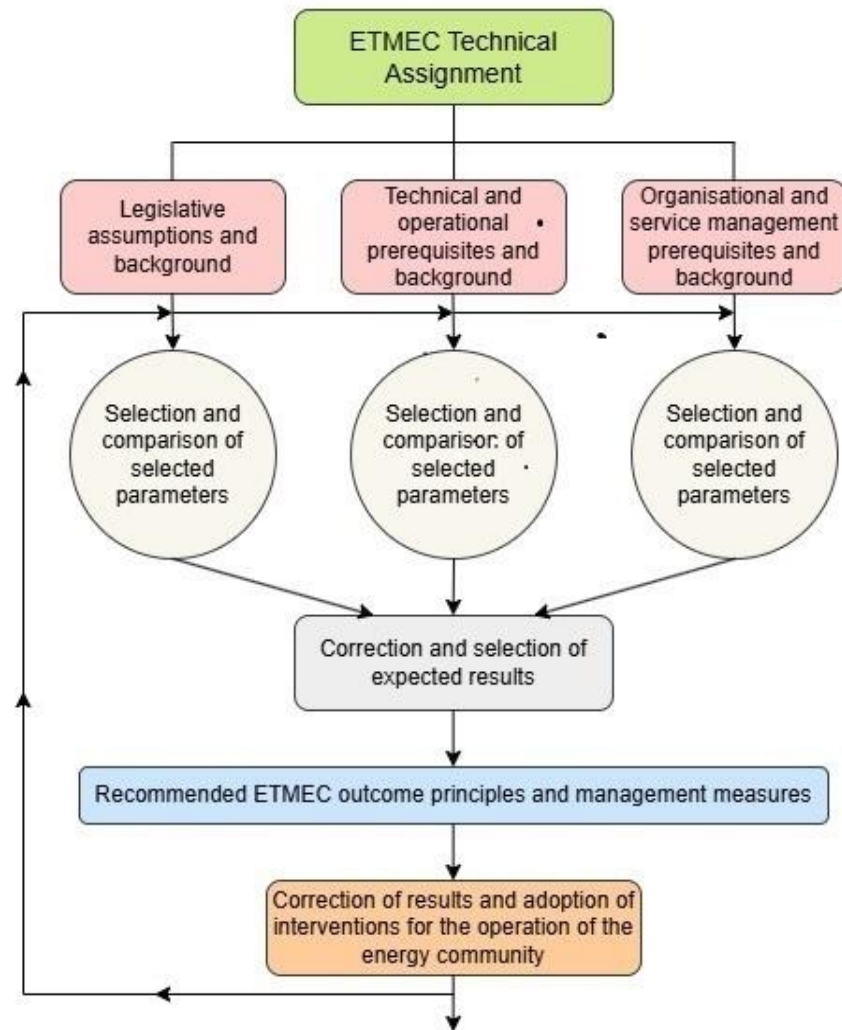
	to aggregate unnecessary electricity from consumers and smaller providers and then provide it to the transmission system Recommendation 1: Finish and repeatedly assess the synergy of the results of activities A.T.1.1, A.T.1.2 and A.T.1.3 and connect with the currently resolved results from activities A.T.2.2, A.2.4, A.T.3.1 and especially activity A.T.3.5. At the same time, the implementation of activity A.T.3.4 in the next period of the NRGCOM project will also be crucial for the implementation and verification of the ETMEC SW tool. Recommendation 2: In the next step of the NRGCOM project, analyze in more detail the internal methodology for creating organizational structures and managing ECs and focus on a modern method of process and project management of these ECs in practice and, in particular, transfer this to the flow chart of the concept and the architecture of the SW tool for management. Recommendation 3. Inform all project partners LP, PP to PP13 in detail about the content of this activity and its results and ensure awareness, a User Manual and, especially, instructions for testing in practice. A suitable form for awareness and education of project members - an international NRGCOM conference under the guarantee of NEK and subsequent promotion on social networks, etc. In doing so, it is essential to comply with the rules of authorship and protection of the ETMEC product exclusively for the needs of NRGCOM project members.
Contribution to the sustainability of project results	The recommended overall procedure for the creation of an EC at the local or regional level can be determined from the overall documentation of activity A.T.3.3, in particular as: - Mapping of legislative, self-governing, economic and operational aspects and financial possibilities in the catchment region of the establishment and functioning of the given energy community - Mapping of local energy potential and energy consumption at a

	defined location. - Starting preparations for the construction of new own energy sources around the location with an emphasis on RES in order to best and most advantageously cover the consumption of the entire defined area. - Maximizing the use of subsidy programs and possible financial resources for construction solutions and the necessary infrastructure. - Creating a suitable environment and ensuring personnel and managerial professional capacities for the energy community. - Preparing for the creation and establishment of an energy community in a given location. - Creation of an internal organizational system and sales techniques in the energy community - Methodology of community customer care and crisis and problem resolution - Audit of the internal energy economy of individual energy suppliers - community members in the production and distribution of energy based on RES. A significant contribution to the sustainability of energy systems based on RES in the application of ES and ES activities is the knowledge and summary of operating models and the management and control system of energy communities and the application of relatively universal business models for managing these communities.
Concept of the proposed expert SW tool ETMEC	It is important to know the specification and specific content of the created SW tool itself for expert management and decision-making of energy community management in the creation and building of energy communities and at the same time in the real operation and production of energy economy. The ETMEC concept is built on three separate groups of SW architecture and activities and assessment of individual steps and questions for successful assessment and determination of the real state of a given energy community. The following overview briefly describes the main attributes of the architecture of the solved SW tool and details are contained in the document D3.3.1 Software solution with instructions for installing REC in the form of a separate Expert tool for management of energy

	communities ETMEC.
Working model for designing an expert tool for managing energy communities ETMEC	The author collective of the solvers of the activity A.T.3.3 - ambassadors, experts and stakeholders, built for the needs of designing ETMEC this clear working model describing the individual components and the architecture of the created SW tool for energy community management. This consists of three separate levels, namely: Level I: Determination of the technical task, needs and expectations of managements and future users from ETMEC and subsequent specification of the available information in individual countries and regions of the energy community's scope on legislative assumptions and starting points, but also technical and operational requirements and limitations and own organizational and service management and personnel assumptions. Level II: It consists of the selection and comparison of selected parameters based on a gradually created and updated database of information, individually for each area of the SW tool in connection with the previous level I. The result is the correction and selection of expected results and their professional formulation, preferably in the form of specific statements and values / data. Level III: It is the so-called decision-making expert level and provides recommended resulting interventions and measures for the management of the energy community. This is followed by the correction of these results and the adoption of evaluation interventions and measures for the management and subsequent monitoring of the operation of the energy community.

Figure 3: ETMEC design model

Source: created by the team of authors PP12-NEK



**Defining the needs
and expectations
of ETMEC
software users**

1. Is there a need to create an energy community in a given region?
2. Is there sufficient technical, energy and professional management background for establishing an energy community?
3. Are the basic prerequisites for the effective functioning of an energy community given?
4. Are the energy potentials of the members of the energy community given for the production and distribution of energy in a given region?

	5. Does the management of the energy community have the ability and knowledge to successfully manage and monitor activities? 6. Is there sufficient legislative and financial background in the given country of jurisdiction for the functioning of the energy community?
Defining the expected outputs and recommendations of EMTEC software	The decisive value of the solved expert SW tool for management and decision-making of energy communities ETMEC is the knowledge of possible potential results and setting parameters for expert advice on specific steps carried out through the resulting recommendations of the software to energy community managers, especially future users, namely: 1. Does the energy community meet the conditions and parameters for the establishment and launch of activities in a given region and country of operation? 2. Do the economic parameters and energy potential opportunities in the area of operation enable the effective functioning of the energy community? 3. Do the operational and organizational factors of the energy community enable its functioning and successful operation in a given state, environment and under given circumstances? ETMEC should in all circumstances be able to determine at least an approximate measure of whether the answer to the given expected outputs is YES or NO, or UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS (proposed measures or return to repeated self-assessment in the SW by the given management. Final note: The details will be specified by the ETMEC management expert tool itself and the related manual for implementation within the substantive output D3.3.1 Software solution with REC installation instructions.

4. Updated addendum to the final version



Manual for SW ETMEC

Introductory Section

This software is designed to assess the basic conditions for the construction of an Energy Center (EC) and to evaluate the key factors that influence the success of the project. Based on the answers, further steps required for the realization of the project will be identified.

4.1. Description of the ETMEC Community Advisor digital assessment tool

****Q1 — Mapping, Monitoring & Management:****

The tool delivers a complete mapping-to-management pipeline for the pre-operational and early-operational phases. Sections 1–2 map the EC's identity, location, and stakeholder landscape; Sections 3 and 5 assess monitoring infrastructure (smart meters, EMS, KPIs); the export engine produces management-ready documentation. Real-time operational monitoring remains a future development direction.

****Q2 — Everyday Operations:****

The tool diagnoses the *preconditions* for smooth daily operations — metering, EMS, defined cost allocation, coordinator appointment — rather than directly managing them. This is the correct scope for a readiness tool; communities that score Low on these receive targeted fixes before going live.

****Q3 — Data Categories:****

Five domains are fully covered: Technical (RES mix, grid capacity, metering, EMS, coverage ratio), Economic (savings, costs, funding diversification, revenue, business model), Social (citizen engagement, stakeholder diversity, social innovation), Environmental (RES type selection, benefit declarations), and Institutional (legal entity, KPIs, management strategy, barriers).

****Q4 — Analytical Methods:****

Three encoding methods — categorical mapping (radio buttons with expert-defined score tables), proportional multi-select (selections ÷ maximum), and binary presence (text fields) — feed a transparent weighted-average formula. The methodology is deterministic and auditable, which is the correct design for a public-sector instrument.

****Q5 — Comparative Statistics:****

The tool's Excel export is designed for multi-EC comparison. The production-to-consumption coverage ratio, revenue bracket, and funding diversification score are the three most powerful comparative metrics. Aggregating exports across communities reveals systemic regional weaknesses requiring policy-level intervention.

****Q6 — Network Integration:****

Current integration is through structured self-reporting (grid capacity status, smart meter installation, DSO barrier identification). Future versions should implement API connections to national DSO platforms, ENTSO-E, day-ahead price feeds, weather/irradiance services, and the EU Guarantees of Origin EECS system.

****Q7 — Evaluation Criteria:****

Thirteen operational indicators are implemented and explicitly scored, from self-sufficiency ratio and EMS deployment (highest weight, S3 at 25%) to citizen engagement and social innovation (S7 at 10%). Six additional quantitative KPIs are recommended for future versions: carbon intensity, peak demand coverage, member retention, grid injection rate, energy poverty alleviation index, and operational cost per kWh.

****Q8 — Statistical Significance & Variability:****

RES diversification scoring (multi-select ÷ 6) directly rewards variability mitigation. The "Unknown" penalty for uncharacterised energy environments incentivises communities to engage with external data sources. Statistical validity increases through repeated assessments over time and cross-EC aggregation.

****Q9 — Expert Control Module:****

The current module consists of a rule-based recommendation engine (7 colour-coded recommendation cards) plus the NRGCOM Expert Consultant Directory link (certified advisors in 12 countries). Future extensions: automated threshold alerts, optimisation scenario modelling, seasonal adjustment protocols, and peer-benchmarking notifications.

****Q10 — Long-Term Sustainability:****

Supported through economic viability scoring (S4), the 50% profit reinvestment recommendation, diversification incentives in all multi-select questions, integration of 13 EU programme links (2021–2027 timeframes), the 10 Success Factors framework, and the strategic action plan captured in Section 8. The natural evolution of the tool is toward a full REC lifecycle management platform with phase-specific modules.

The following image illustrates a preview of the initial start page of the ETMEC SW tool after its installation and before starting to work with it.

ETMEC contains 8 assessment sections, 38 questions to answer and 5 scoring areas:
It is necessary to know the expected results for energy community managements, namely:

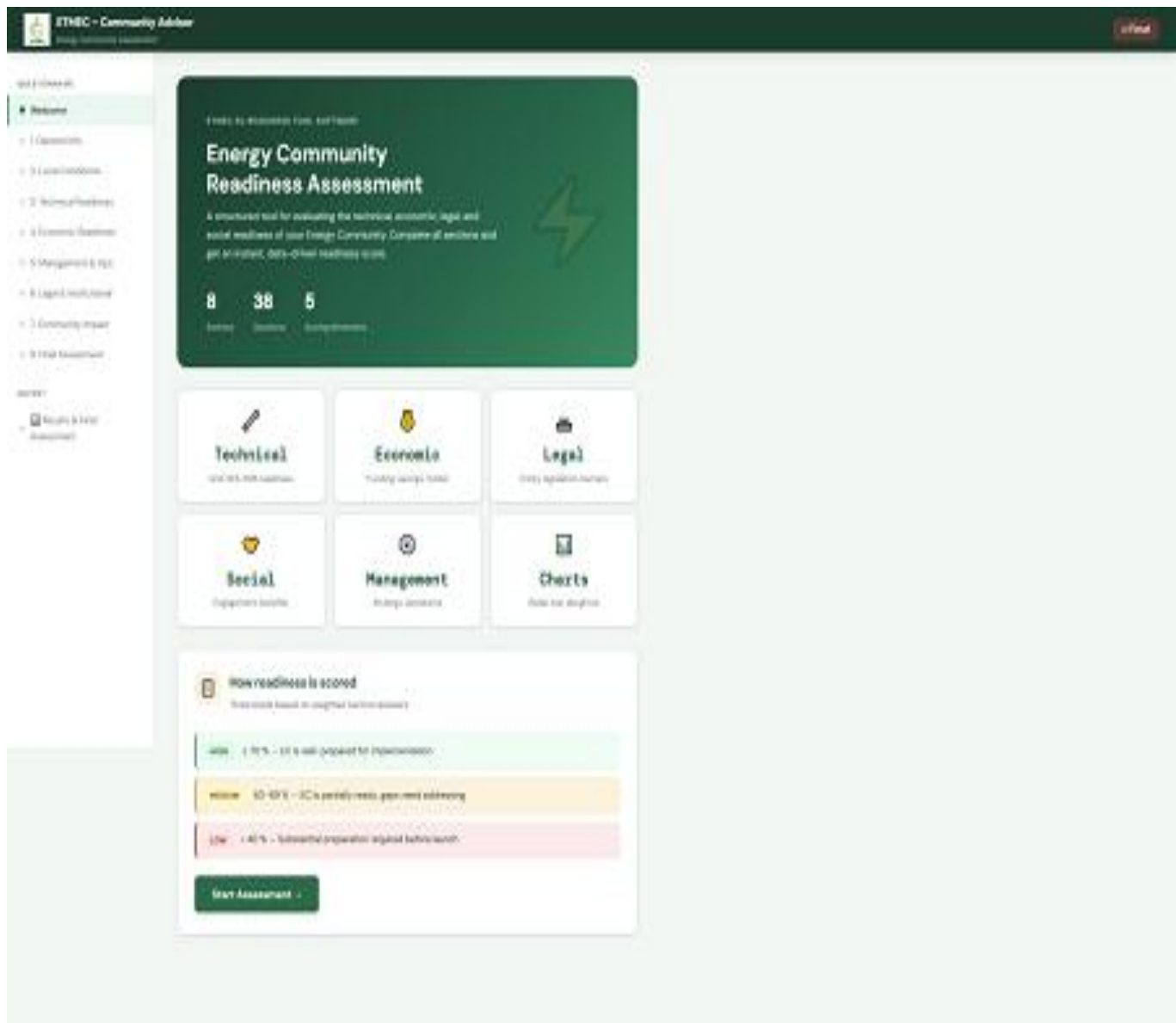
How is readiness assessed ?

Three levels based on weighted answers to the sections:

HIGH $\geq 70\%$ — EC is well prepared for implementation

MEDIUM 40–69% — EC is partially prepared; gaps need to be addressed

LOW $< 40\%$ — EC is about to start and significant preparation is needed



Conclusion:

This expanded manual for ETMEC helps to better understand the answers to each question and determines the next steps required for the successful construction and operation of an Energy Community. Based on these steps, the project can be further developed and optimized according to market needs and available resources.

Designed and approved by PP12-NEK National Energy

4.2. Application prerequisites and minimum installation requirements

This extended guide for ETMEC helps to better understand the answers to each question and identifies the next steps necessary for the successful construction and operation of an energy community. Based on these steps, the project can be further developed and optimized according to market needs and available resources.

The author's research team of the activity A.T.3.3 of the NRGCOM project hereby presents the general conditions and requirements for HW and related installation and viewing SW equipment and the minimum technical background for users of the ETMEC SW tool in management practice in monitoring, evaluating and managing energy communities within the framework of the NRGCOM project outputs:

Minimum HW equipment	Description
Personal computer with accessories	Minimum computer operating system capacity: Windows 10 (not applicable for MAC OS, APPLE and others); Minimum computer capacity reserved only for the functioning and application of the ETMEC SW - not relevant; Printer with scanner + Internet connection.
Necessary SW support tools for the ETMEC application	Windows 10 and above
Installed browser type: Downloaded support files for the user:	Browser name: not relevant; Name of the SW on which ETMEC will run: ETMEC Advisor; User manual from the NRGCOM project; Database of general information from selected professional outputs of activities A.T.1.2, A.2.1, A.T.3.2, A.T.3.3, A.T.3.4 and A.T.3.5 available to users through national partners of the NRGCOM project; Own domestic database of data and information on the state and operation of energy, RES and EC in the user's country.
Procedure for installing ETMEC on the user's computer	1. Open Microsoft Store by logging in via Microsoft account;2. Search for the ETMEC application/software, or launch it directly; 3. Click to launch the application.
Provided SW tool ETMEC to the user on a USB drive	1. Download the installation file to disk; 2. Launch the installation (software protection update required); 3. Ignore security messages and launch it anyway.

4.3. Software solution with installation ETMEC

Project Access link PP12-NEK for partners to verify knowledge of expert SW tool for energy communities. Part of document D3.3.1

Software Instalation Link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/14UQEMU7LQXrLcwcrcn037Vml6y8PKgx/view?usp=sharing>

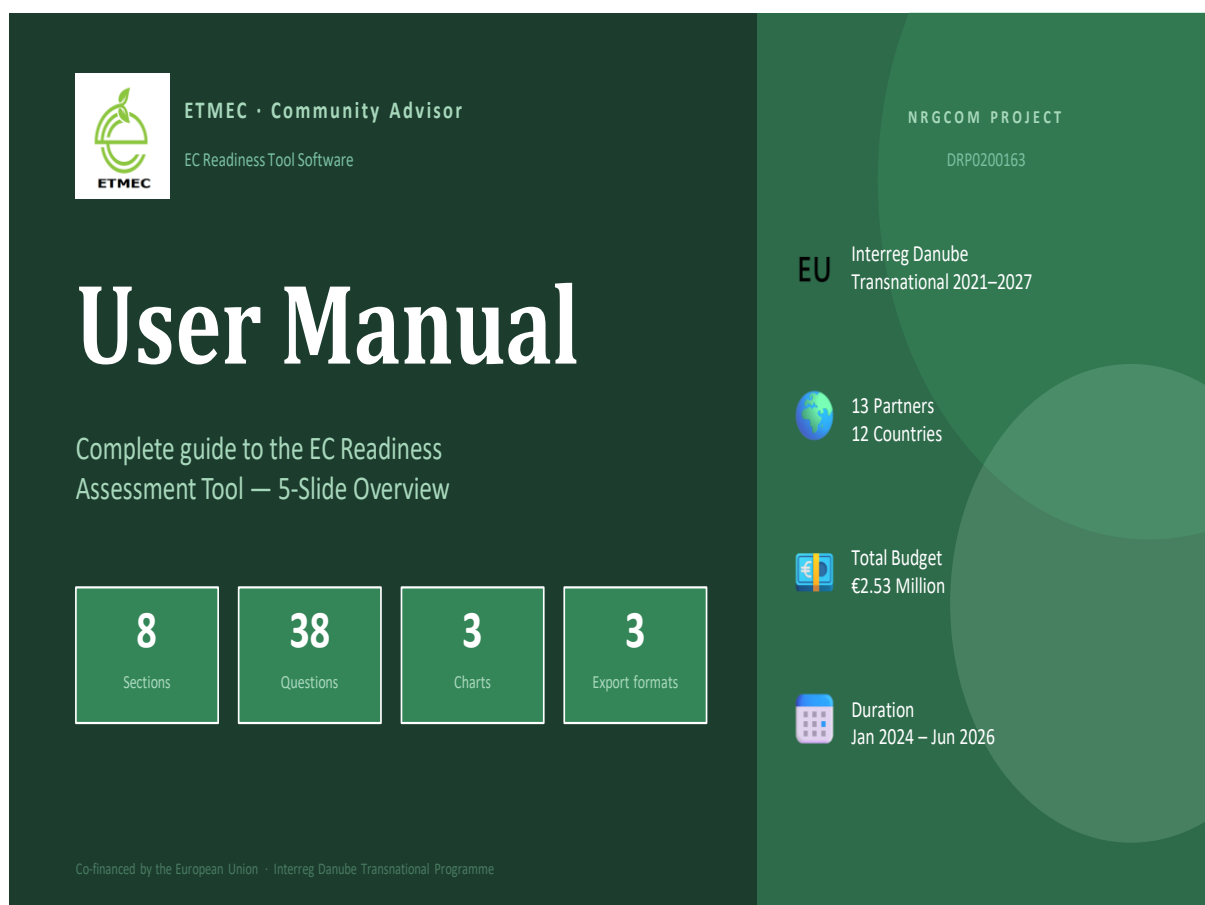
Warning: !!!

After clicking on this link, the SW background database will be displayed and therefore it is necessary to download this file to your own computer by clicking on the download mark in the upper left display bar. Then, after downloading, it is necessary to open the file and save it as your own file for further work.

Software User Manual:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/19ALYKB1G8Rj1toI1-9CGmmKwj7xwB4ct/view?usp=sharing>

4.4 Illustrations of selected images of the implementation of individual steps of the expert SW tool ETMEC in practice.





What is ETMEC Community Advisor?

Chapter 02 — Application Overview & Navigation

02

A browser-based digital assessment tool that scores the readiness of an Energy Community across 7 weighted dimensions. No installation, no login — all data stays on your device.



38 Questions

Across 8 structured sections covering every EC readiness dimension



Live Charts

Radar, bar & stacked bar charts auto-generated from your answers



3 Export Formats

PDF report, Excel workbook, and plain-text clipboard copy

How to Navigate



Top Bar

View Results · PDF · Excel · Reset



Left Sidebar

Progress dots + live % per section; jump to any section



Footer Bar

Back / Next buttons + answered-question counter



Non-linear

Complete sections in any order — answers are preserved

⚠ Data Notice: All answers are stored in browser memory only. Export your results before closing the tab — no server, no cookies, no database.



The 8 Assessment Sections

Chapters 04–11 · How each section is structured, what it measures, and its weight in the final score

03

01		General Information	8%	02		Local Conditions	10%
		Org name, country, EC stage, legal model				Location, stakeholders, authority support	
03		Technical Readiness	25%	04		Economic Readiness	20%
		RES types, grid, smart meters, EMS, production				Savings, costs, funding, business model, revenue	
05		Management & Ops	15%	06		Legal & Institutional	12%
		Strategy, KPIs, partners, on-time delivery				Legal entity, coordinator, barrier types	
07		Community & Social	10%	08		Final Self-Assessment	Qual.
		Citizen involvement, benefits, social innovation				Self-rating, challenges (text), support needed	

★ Section 03 Technical (25%) and Section 04 Economic (20%) carry the highest weights — these are the most critical EC readiness factors.



Exports, Funding & Next Steps

Chapters 15–21 · Export formats · Funding landscape · Key links · Expert support



PDF Report

Branded A4 report · Score bars per section · Key answers table · Auto page breaks



Excel Workbook

Sheet 1: Summary scores · Sheet 2: All Q&A answers · Suitable for project reporting



Copy Summary

Plain-text score summary · Paste to email or docs · Toast confirmation



Always export before using Reset — all data is permanently cleared

EU Funding for Energy Communities



Interreg Danube
interreg-danube.eu



REScoop.eu
rescoop.eu



EUCF Grants (€60k)
eucf-facility.eu



EIB Energy Loans
eib.org/en/energy



Horizon Europe
research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu



LIFE Programme
lifeprogramme.eu

Key Links



NRGCOM Project

interreg-danube.eu/projects/nrgcom



Danube Strategy

danube-region.eu/nrgcom



RED II (Art. 22)

eur-lex.europa.eu · RECs



Dir. 2019/944

eur-lex.europa.eu · CECs

Need Expert Assistance?

The NRGCOM project maintains a directory of certified EC consultants across all 12 Danube Region partner countries. Access it directly from the Results page, or scan the QR below.



Find an Expert in Your Country →

13

verified
references

ETMEC Community Advisor · User Manual v1.0 · NRGCOM DRP0200163 · Co-financed by the European Union

13 Partners from AT · BG · CZ · DE · HR · HU · MD · ME · RO · RS · SI · SK



Scoring Methodology & Reading Results

Chapters 12–14 · How scores are calculated, readiness levels, and chart visualisations

04

How Scoring Works

Radio

Each option mapped 0–100%

Multi-select

Selected ÷ max options

Text field

Blank = 0%, Filled = 60%

Score Formula

$$\frac{(S1 \times 8\%) + (S2 \times 10\%) + (S3 \times 25\%) + (S4 \times 20\%) + (S5 \times 15\%) + (S6 \times 12\%) + (S7 \times 10\%)}{\div 100} = \text{Overall \% (0–100\%)}$$

6

results
content
areas

Score banner · Section cards · Answers table
Recommendations · Final Assessment · Export panel

Readiness Levels

≥ 70%

HIGH

Well-prepared. Proceed with formal setup and funding applications.

40–69%

MEDIUM

Partially ready. Improve lowest-scoring sections with expert support.

< 40%

LOW

Substantial preparation required. Address legal and technical gaps first.

3 Auto-Generated Charts



Radar

Section balance



Bar

Section scores



Stacked

Gap to 100%

Appendix:

ETMEC Community Advisor Comprehensive User Manual

Interreg
Danube Region



Co-funded by
the European Union



ETMEC Community Advisor Comprehensive User Manual

Version 1.0 | 2024-2026 | NRGCOM Project DRP0200163

Interreg Danube Transnational Programme | 8 Assessment Sections | 38 Questions Total

A step-by-step guide to assessing the readiness of your Energy Community using the ETMEC EC Readiness Tool Software - developed within the NRGCOM project, co-financed by the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme.



Project NRGCOM:
Creating appropriate operational conditions for renewable energy communities in the Danube Region

This project is supported by the Interreg Danube Region Programme, co-financed by the European Union and the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic

Interreg
Danube Region



Co-funded by
the European Union



Chapter 01 - Introduction

The ETMEC Community Advisor is a structured digital assessment tool designed to evaluate the readiness of an Energy Community (EC) across seven key dimensions. It was developed as part of the NRGCOM project - "Creating Appropriate Operational Conditions for Renewable Energy Communities in the Danube Region" - co-financed by the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme 2021-2027.

Purpose of This Tool

Energy Communities are a key instrument of the EU's green transition, defined under the Renewable Energy Directive (RED II, Art. 22) and the Internal Electricity Market Directive (2019/944). This tool provides a structured, evidence-based readiness score so that municipalities, organisations, and community leaders can identify strengths, gaps, and priorities before or during the establishment of their EC.

Primary Audience

Municipalities, local authorities, energy agencies, cooperatives, NGOs, and community leaders in the process of establishing or scaling a Renewable Energy Community.

Geographic Scope

Designed for all 14 Danube Region countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Moldova, Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Ukraine.

Project Context

Developed under NRGCOM (DRP0200163), led by the South Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency (STRIA), with 13 partners from 12 countries. Budget: EUR 2.53M. Duration: Jan 2024 - Jun 2026.

Legal Foundation

Assessment criteria are aligned with EU Directive 2018/2001 (RED II) and Directive 2019/944 on the Internal Electricity Market, as well as national transpositions across Danube Region countries.

INFO: This document covers every screen, input type, scoring mechanism, and output of the ETMEC Community Advisor. Read it from start to finish for first-time users, or jump to a specific topic.

Chapter 02 - Application Overview

The ETMEC Community Advisor runs entirely in your web browser - no installation, no login, no server required. All data stays on your device until you choose to export it.

Key Features at a Glance

38 Questions: Structured across 8 sections covering every dimension of EC readiness.

Weighted Scoring: Each section carries a different weight reflecting its strategic importance.

3 Live Charts: Radar, bar, and horizontal stacked bar charts generated instantly from your answers.

Readiness Level: Automatic classification: High ($\geq 70\%$), Medium (40-69%), or Low ($< 40\%$).

PDF Export: Formatted assessment report with scores, charts summary, and key responses.

Excel Export: Two-sheet workbook: Summary scores + full answers for further analysis.

Application Structure

1. Welcome Screen: Introduction to the tool, readiness level definitions, and a Start Assessment button. No data is collected on this screen.
2. Sections 1-8: The Questionnaire: Eight sequential sections of questions. Navigate freely between sections using the left sidebar. Progress is tracked per section.
3. Results & Final Assessment: Your overall readiness score, section breakdowns, three visualisation charts, answers summary table, personalised recommendations, funding landscape, legal framework guidance, and NRGCOM project references.
4. Export: Download results as a branded PDF report or a structured Excel workbook. Copy a plain-text summary to clipboard.

WARNING: All answers are stored in your browser's memory only and are lost when you close or refresh the page. Always export your results before closing the application. The tool does not use cookies, databases, or external servers to store your responses.

Chapter 03 - Navigation Guide

The interface has three navigation areas: the top bar, the left sidebar, and the bottom footer bar. Understanding all three lets you move through the questionnaire efficiently.

Top Bar

View Results: Appears after you leave the Welcome screen. Jumps directly to the Results section at any point - even before all questions are answered.

PDF / Excel buttons: Visible only when the Results section is active. Click to immediately download your assessment report.

Reset button: Clears all answers and returns to the Welcome screen. A confirmation dialog appears first to prevent accidental data loss.

ETMEC Logo: Clicking the logo always returns you to the Welcome screen from any position.

Left Sidebar

The sidebar lists all 10 navigable views. Each section shows a coloured progress dot and a live completion percentage that updates as you answer questions.

Grey dot: Not started - no questions in this section answered yet.

Green glowing dot: Active - the section you are currently viewing.

Solid green dot: Complete - all answerable questions responded to.

% badge: Shows the completion percentage for each section, e.g. "67%". Updates live.

Bottom Footer Bar

Visible on all screens except the Welcome page. Provides sequential navigation.

Back button: Goes to the previous section. Disabled on Section 1.

Centre counter: Shows "X / Y answered" for the current section.

Next button: Advances to the next section. On Section 8 reads "Calculate Results". On Results reads "Back to Start".

TIP: You do not need to complete the sections in order. Click any section in the sidebar to jump directly to it. Your answers in other sections are preserved.

Chapter 04 - Section 1 - General Information

Weight: 8% | 5 questions

Name of municipality / organisation

[Text field] Enter the full official name. Appears in PDF and Excel exports as the report header.
Required field.

Country / Region

[Text field] Enter your country and region, e.g. "Slovakia / Nitra Region". Used in the exported report subtitle.

Current stage of the Energy Community

[Stage selection] Initial idea / Planning phase / Pilot implementation / Operational EC

Preferred legal model

[Single choice] Association/NGO / Cooperative / Company structure / Citizen-based partnership / Other

Existing ECs within 50 km

[Single choice] Yes scores highest as it suggests a supportive regional ecosystem.

Chapter 05 - Section 2 - Local Conditions & Stakeholders

Weight: 10% | 4 questions

Where is the EC planned?

[Multi-select] Residential area / Industrial zone / Public buildings / Mixed-use area / Other. Score = selections / 4.

Which local stakeholders are involved?

[Multi-select] Municipality / Schools / SMEs / NGOs / Citizens / Energy experts. Score = selections / 6.

Is there support from local authorities?

[Single choice] Strong support (100%) / Partial support (50%) / No support (0%).

Estimated number of participants

[Single choice] Up to 5 (20%) / 5-20 (60%) / 20-50 (85%) / More than 50 (100%).

Chapter 06 - Section 3 - Technical Readiness

Weight: 25% | 7 questions

Renewable energy sources available

[Multi-select] Solar PV / Heat pumps / Wind / Biomass / Hydro / Geothermal. Score = selections / 6.

Preferred installation location

[Multi-select] Rooftops / Agricultural land / Industrial areas / Brownfields.

Grid connection capacity

[Single choice] Sufficient (100%) / Limited (50%) / Insufficient (0%) / Unknown (30%).

Smart meters / digital monitoring

[Single choice] Fully installed (100%) / Partially installed (60%) / Planned (40%) / No (0%).

Energy Management System (EMS)

[Single choice] Yes (100%) / Planned (50%) / No (0%). An EMS optimises energy distribution among EC members.

Planned renewable energy production

[Text field] Enter estimated daily or annual production, e.g. "500 kWh/day" or "180 MWh/year". Included in exported report.

Local production vs consumption coverage

[Single choice] Less than 25% (10%) / 25-50% (50%) / 50-100% (85%) / More than 100% (100%).

INFO: Technical Readiness carries 25% weight - the highest of all sections. Without adequate grid capacity, installed or planned RES, and metering infrastructure, even the best-governed EC cannot operate. The NRGCOM project identified technical barriers as the most common obstacle to EC establishment in the Danube Region.

Chapter 07 - Section 4 - Economic Readiness

Weight: 20% | 5 questions

Expected savings estimated for members?

[Single choice] Yes (100%) / Partially (50%) / No (0%).

Operational costs & energy sharing fees defined?

[Single choice] Yes (100%) / Partially (50%) / No (0%). Clear cost structures are essential for trust and governance.

Expected funding sources

[Multi-select] Public grants / Municipal budget / Private investment / Bank loans / Community funding. Score = selections / 5.

Sustainable business model in place?

[Single choice] Yes (100%) / In preparation (50%) / No (0%).

Expected annual economic performance

[Single choice] Less than EUR 100k (40%) / EUR 100-300k (70%) / More than EUR 300k (100%) / Unknown (10%).

Chapter 08 - Section 5 - Management & Operations

Weight: 15% | 5 questions

Most important management aspects

[Multi-select (max 3)] Software support / Easy implementation / Fast decision-making / Innovation support / Low operating costs / External consulting / Clear methodology / Rapid problem solving.

Is the EC management strategy clearly communicated?

[Single choice] Yes (100%) / Partially (50%) / No (0%).

Are measurable indicators (KPIs) used?

[Single choice] Yes (100%) / Partially (50%) / No (0%). KPIs enable evidence-based performance tracking.

Cooperation with major consumers / energy partners?

[Single choice] Yes (100%) / Partially (50%) / No (0%).

Are innovative solutions implemented on time and within budget?

[Single choice] Usually yes (100%) / Sometimes (50%) / Rarely (0%).

TIP: The "management aspects" question uses a hard limit of 3 selections. If you attempt to check a fourth option, a toast notification appears: "Select up to 3 options only". This is by design, to force prioritisation of management focus areas.

Chapter 09 - Section 6 - Legal & Institutional Readiness

Weight: 12% | 4 questions

Legal entity prepared to operate the EC?

[Single choice] Yes (100%) / In preparation (50%) / No (0%). Required to enter contracts, receive grants, and operate as an EC under national law.

Project coordinator or energy manager appointed?

[Single choice] Yes (100%) / Planned (50%) / No (0%). A dedicated coordinator is a strong predictor of project success.

Legal or administrative barriers identified?

[Single choice] Yes (70%) / Partially (50%) / No (100%). Note: "No barriers" scores highest because absence of barriers is the best scenario.

Main barriers

[Multi-select] Grid connection / Financing / Legislation / Administrative procedures / Lack of expertise / Stakeholder coordination.

Chapter 10 - Section 7 - Community & Social Impact

Weight: 10% | 3 questions

Citizens actively informed or involved?

[Single choice] Actively involved (100%) / Information campaign planned (60%) / Limited involvement (30%) / No involvement yet (0%).

Expected benefits

[Multi-select] Lower energy costs / Energy independence / Environmental protection / Social inclusion / Local economic development / Increased resilience. Score = selections / 6.

Social innovation activities included?

[Single choice] Yes (100%) / Partially (50%) / No (0%). Strengthens the EC's community mandate and eligibility for certain EU funds.

Chapter 11 - Section 8 - Final Self-Assessment

Weight: 0% (qualitative) | 4 questions

Overall readiness level (self-assessment)

[Single choice] Low / Medium / High. Compare against the calculated score in the results.

Main challenges

[Free text] Describe the key obstacles your EC faces. Appears in the PDF export and is a key input for the expert consultant recommendation.

Main support needed

[Multi-select] Technical support / Legal support / Financial support / Organisational support / Training and education.

Recommended next steps

[Free text] Describe the concrete actions you plan to take. Appears in the PDF report as your action plan.

Chapter 12 - Scoring Methodology

The scoring system translates your answers into a single overall readiness percentage using a weighted average of seven section scores. Section 8 is qualitative and does not affect the numeric score.

Section Weights

General Info: 8% - Foundational identity - important but not directly predictive of success

Local Conditions: 10% - Location context and stakeholder base shape the EC's operating environment

Technical Readiness: 25% - Highest weight - without technical infrastructure an EC cannot function

Economic Readiness: 20% - Financial viability determines long-term sustainability

Management & Ops: 15% - Good management is a key differentiator between successful and failed ECs

Legal & Institutional: 12% - Legal structure is prerequisite but can be established relatively quickly

Community & Social: 10% - Social mandate defines the EC's public value and community trust

Final Assessment: 0% - Qualitative only - enriches the report but does not affect the score

How Individual Question Scores Are Calculated

Radio buttons (single choice): Each answer option is mapped to a score between 0.0 and 1.0. For example, "Strong support" = 100%, "Partial support" = 50%, "No support" = 0%.

Checkboxes (multi-select): Score = number of items selected / the maximum possible selections. For example, 4 out of 6 RES types selected = $4/6 = 67\%$.

Text inputs: Score 0% if left blank, baseline score of 60% if filled in. Text primarily enriches the exported report.

Section score: Average of all question scores in that section. Unanswered questions contribute 0 to the average but still count in the denominator.

Overall Score Formula

Overall Score = $(S1 \times 0.08) + (S2 \times 0.10) + (S3 \times 0.25) + (S4 \times 0.20) + (S5 \times 0.15) + (S6 \times 0.12) + (S7 \times 0.10)$

Divided by total weight (1.00) x 100 = percentage (0-100%)

Readiness Level Thresholds

HIGH (70-100%): Well-prepared for implementation. Proceed with formal registration. Pursue EU and national funding. Scale operations.

MEDIUM (40-69%): Partially ready. Focus on the lowest-scoring sections. Seek expert support. Develop missing components.

LOW (0-39%): Substantial preparation required. Consult NRGCOM experts. Address legal and technical prerequisites first.

Chapter 13 - Reading Your Results

The Results & Final Assessment page is generated automatically from your answers. It contains six distinct content areas.

1. Overall Readiness Banner

Shows your total score as a percentage, the readiness level label (High / Medium / Low), your organisation name and country, and a one-sentence interpretation. Banner colour changes: green for High, amber for Medium, red for Low.

2. Section Score Cards

Seven cards - one per scored section - each showing the section icon, percentage score, a coloured mini bar, and a HIGH/MEDIUM/LOW badge. Cards are colour-coded independently.

3. Answers Summary Table

A complete table listing every question and the response you gave. This is the main reference table in the exported PDF and Excel workbook. Unanswered questions show "-".

4. Section-by-Section Recommendations

For each of the 7 scored sections, a personalised recommendation card explains what the score means and what to do next. Cards are colour-coded green (High), amber (Medium), or red (Low).

5. Final Assessment Content

A comprehensive reference section covering: legal forms for ECs, NRGCOM assessment narrative, EU and Danube Region funding landscape with live links, 10 key success factors for green energy producers, and 13 verified references.

6. Export Panel

Three export options: PDF Report, Excel Workbook, and Copy Summary.

Chapter 14 - Charts & Visualisations

Three charts are generated automatically using Chart.js when you open the Results page. They render from your actual answers - no static images.

Radar Chart - Section Radar

Shows all 7 section scores on a hexagonal radar. A compact, balanced shape indicates uniform readiness. Spikes and dips reveal your strengths and weaknesses at a glance. Each point is colour-coded by its readiness level.

Bar Chart - Score by Section

A vertical bar chart with one bar per section, colour-coded green/amber/red. The y-axis runs 0-100%. Use this to quickly compare section performance.

Horizontal Stacked Bar - Readiness Profile

A wide horizontal chart showing each section as a row. Each bar is split into two parts: the coloured portion (your score) and a grey portion (the gap to 100%). Ideal for spotting which sections have the most room for improvement.

TIP: Charts re-render every time you open the Results page. If you go back and change answers, return to Results and the charts will update automatically.

Chapter 15 - Exporting to PDF

The PDF export produces a formatted, print-ready report named ETMEC-Community-Advisor-[OrgName].pdf. It uses the jsPDF library and runs entirely in your browser - no file is sent to any server.

How to Export to PDF

1. Navigate to the Results & Final Assessment page via the sidebar or the footer "Calculate Results" button.
2. Click "Download PDF Report" - this button appears in the Export Results card at the bottom of the Results page, and also in the top bar when Results is active.
3. Your browser downloads the file automatically. Check your Downloads folder.

PDF Contents

Page 1 - Header & Overall Score: Dark green header with organisation name, date, and a coloured overall score banner.

Section Scores with Progress Bars: Each of the 7 sections listed with its name, score percentage, readiness level label, and a colour-coded horizontal progress bar.

Key Responses Table: EC stage, legal model, authority support, grid capacity, smart meters, business model, legal entity, citizen involvement, challenges, and next steps.

Auto page breaks: The report automatically adds new pages if content exceeds the A4 page height.

WARNING: The Organisation Name field (Section 1) is used as the PDF filename and in the report header. If left blank, the file will be named ETMEC-Community-Advisor-Energy-Community.pdf

Chapter 16 - Exporting to Excel

The Excel export produces a two-sheet .xlsx workbook named ETMEC-Community-Advisor-[OrgName].xlsx, suitable for further analysis, archiving, or integration into project reporting systems. On the Results page, click "Export to Excel" in the Export Results card, or click "Excel" in the top bar. The file downloads immediately.

Workbook Structure

Sheet 1 - Summary: Report title, date, organisation name, country. One row per section: Section name, Score %, Readiness level, Weight %. Final row: OVERALL SCORE.

Sheet 2 - Answers: Two columns (Question | Answer) covering every question from all 8 sections. Multi-select answers shown as comma-separated list. Unanswered questions shown as blank.

Chapter 17 - Copy Summary

A quick way to share your assessment results without a file download. Copies a plain-text summary to your clipboard that you can paste into emails, documents, or project management tools.

Click "Copy Summary" on the Export Results card. A toast notification confirms: "Summary copied to clipboard!"

The copied text includes: organisation name, date, overall score, and all 7 section scores with their readiness level labels.

Chapter 18 - Resetting the Form

The Reset function clears all answers and returns the application to its initial Welcome screen state. Use this when starting a new assessment for a different organisation or EC project.

How to Reset

1. Export your current results first. Reset permanently erases all answers.
2. Click the "Reset" button in the top bar. A browser confirmation dialog appears.
3. Click OK to confirm. All answers are cleared and the application navigates to the Welcome screen.

WARNING - NO UNDO: There is no undo function. Once you confirm the reset, all answers are permanently deleted from the browser memory. Always export your results before resetting.

Chapter 19 - Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I save my progress and come back later?

A: Not automatically. The tool stores answers in browser memory only. If you close or refresh the browser tab, all answers are lost. To save progress, export to Excel mid-session and keep the workbook as a reference for re-entering answers in a future session.

Q: Do I need to answer all questions to get a score?

A: No. The score is calculated from whatever has been answered. Unanswered questions contribute 0 to that section's average, which will reduce your score. For the most accurate result, answer as many questions as possible.

Q: Why does the Legal section score lower when I say "Yes, barriers are identified"?

A: Having no barriers is the best possible situation (100%). Having identified barriers is still good (70%) because awareness precedes resolution. Having only partial awareness (50%) scores lower. The system rewards awareness of obstacles.

Q: Can I use this tool for an EC that is already operational?

A: Yes. Select "Operational EC" in Section 1. The assessment will then serve as a gap analysis of your current EC against best-practice benchmarks, helping you identify areas for improvement and scaling.

Q: Why is Technical Readiness weighted 25%?

A: Technical infrastructure is the single most critical prerequisite for an EC. The NRGCOM project found that technical barriers (grid capacity, metering, RES availability) are the most common reason EC projects stall.

Q: The PDF looks different from what I see on screen - why?

A: The PDF is generated programmatically using text only (not a screenshot of the page). It is intentionally simplified for print and document management. Charts are described through score bars rather than the graphical charts shown on screen.

Q: Can I translate the tool into my language?

A: The current version is in English. If you need the tool in one of the 12 NRGCOM partner country languages, please contact the NRGCOM project team via interreg-danube.eu/projects/nrgcom

Q: Who should I contact for expert help with my EC?

A: The NRGCOM project maintains a directory of certified consultants in all 12 partner countries. Access it at the bottom of the Results page under "Find an Expert in Your Country".

Q: Is the tool accessible on mobile devices?

A: Yes. The tool is responsive and works on smartphones and tablets. On mobile, the left sidebar is hidden; use the footer navigation arrows to move between sections.

Q: Can I complete the assessment for multiple EC projects?

A: Yes, but one at a time. Complete the assessment for your first project, export the results, then click Reset and begin a new assessment. Each exported file will have a unique name based on the organisation name you entered.

Chapter 20 - Score Reference Table

Complete reference of how every radio-button answer is scored. Multi-select questions score as (selections / maximum options).

Question / Answer	Options	Score
Legal model	Association / NGO	100%
Legal model	Cooperative	100%
Legal model	Citizen-based partnership	90%
Legal model	Company structure	80%
Legal model	Other	50%
Nearby ECs within 50 km	Yes	100%
Nearby ECs within 50 km	No	50%
Nearby ECs within 50 km	Unknown	30%
Authority support	Strong support	100%
Authority support	Partial support	50%
Authority support	No support	0%
Participants estimate	More than 50	100%
Participants estimate	20-50	85%
Participants estimate	5-20	60%
Participants estimate	Up to 5	20%
Grid capacity	Sufficient	100%
Grid capacity	Limited	50%
Grid capacity	Unknown	30%
Grid capacity	Insufficient	0%
Smart meters	Fully installed	100%
Smart meters	Partially installed	60%
Smart meters	Planned	40%
Smart meters	No	0%
Energy Management System	Yes	100%
Energy Management System	Planned	50%
Energy Management System	No	0%
Production vs consumption	More than 100%	100%
Production vs consumption	50-100%	85%
Production vs consumption	25-50%	50%
Production vs consumption	Less than 25%	10%
Savings estimated	Yes	100%

Savings estimated	Partially	50%
Savings estimated	No	0%
Operational costs defined	Yes	100%
Operational costs defined	Partially	50%
Operational costs defined	No	0%
Business model	Yes	100%
Business model	In preparation	50%
Business model	No	0%
Annual revenue estimate	More than EUR 300k	100%
Annual revenue estimate	EUR 100-300k	70%
Annual revenue estimate	Less than EUR 100k	40%
Annual revenue estimate	Unknown	10%
Legal entity	Yes	100%
Legal entity	In preparation	50%
Legal entity	No	0%
Coordinator appointed	Yes	100%
Coordinator appointed	Planned	50%
Coordinator appointed	No	0%
Barriers identified	No (none exist)	100%
Barriers identified	Yes (identified)	70%
Barriers identified	Partially	50%
Citizen involvement	Actively involved	100%
Citizen involvement	Campaign planned	60%
Citizen involvement	Limited involvement	30%
Citizen involvement	No involvement yet	0%
Social innovation	Yes	100%
Social innovation	Partially	50%
Social innovation	No	0%

Chapter 21 - Useful Links & Resources

All external resources referenced in the ETMEC Community Advisor tool, verified as of June 2026.

NRGCOM Project

NRGCOM Official Project Page

<https://interreg-danube.eu/projects/nrgcom>

Interreg Danube Region Programme - DRP0200163 - 2024-2026

NRGCOM - Danube Strategy Flagship

<https://danube-region.eu/nrgcom/>

EU Strategy for the Danube Region - Flagship Project

NRGCOM - DDRIU Partner Profile

<https://www.ddriu.hu/en/nrgcom/>

Full partner list, budget breakdown, and project objectives

Expert Consultant Directory

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1gS8r1_Xg1-TVctclePNW0ldJQ8DWiGhK/edit

Find a certified EC consultant in your country

Interreg Programmes

Interreg Danube Region Programme (main site): <https://interreg-danube.eu/>

Interreg Danube - How to Apply: <https://interreg-danube.eu/how-to-apply>

Interreg Europe Programme: <https://www.interreg-europe.eu/>

Interreg Central Europe Programme: <https://www.interreg-central.eu/>

EU Funding & Support

European City Facility (EUCF) - EUR 60k grants for municipalities: <https://www.eucityfacility.eu/>

REScoop.eu - European Federation of Citizen Energy Cooperatives: <https://www.rescoop.eu/>

European Investment Bank - Energy Sector: <https://www.eib.org/en/projects/sectors/energy/index.htm>

Horizon Europe - Research & Innovation Funding: <https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/>

LIFE Programme - Environment & Climate Action: <https://www.lifeprogramme.eu/>

EU Innovation Fund - Low-Carbon Technologies: https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/innovation-fund_en

EU Legal Framework

Renewable Energy Directive (RED II) - EU 2018/2001 - Art. 22: RECs: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32018L2001>

Internal Electricity Market Directive - EU 2019/944 - Art. 16: CECs: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32019L0944>

Interreg Danube DRP - Climate-ADAPT Programme Profile: <https://climate-adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/mission/funding/opportunities/interreg-danube-transnational-programme>

NOTE: This manual covers software version 1.0. The ETMEC Community Advisor is developed under the NRGCOM project (Jan 2024 - Jun 2026). For questions or to report issues, contact the project team via interreg-danube.eu/projects/nrgcom

ETMEC - Community Advisor | User Manual v1.0 | Co-financed by the European Union | Interreg Danube Transnational Programme
NRGCOM Project DRP0200163 | interreg-danube.eu/projects/nrgcom



Project implementation date: 01/2024-06/2026 Project implementation date 5th period: 01/2026-06/2026
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ETMEC Community Advisor

Comprehensive User Manual

Version 1.0 | 2024-2026 | NRGCOM Project DRP0200163

Interreg Danube Transnational Programme | 8 Assessment Sections | 38 Questions Total

A step-by-step guide to assessing the readiness of your Energy Community using the ETMEC EC Readiness Tool Software - developed within the NRGCOM project, co-financed by the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme.



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Municipalities, local authorities, energy agencies, cooperatives, NGOs, and community leaders in the process of establishing or scaling a Renewable Energy Community.

Geographic Scope

Designed for all 14 Danube Region countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Moldova, Montenegro, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Ukraine.

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Green glowing dot: Active - the section you are currently viewing.

Solid green dot: Complete - all answerable questions responded to.

% badge: Shows the completion percentage for each section, e.g. "67%". Updates live.

Bottom Footer Bar

Visible on all screens except the Welcome page. Provides sequential navigation.

Back button: Goes to the previous section. Disabled on Section 1.

Centre counter: Shows "X / Y answered" for the current section.

Next button: Advances to the next section. On Section 8 reads "Calculate Results". On Results reads "Back to Start".

TIP: You do not need to complete the sections in order. Click any section in the sidebar to jump directly to it. Your answers in other sections are preserved.

Chapter 04 - Section 1 - General Information

Weight: 8% | 5 questions

Name of municipality / organisation

[Text field] Enter the full official name. Appears in PDF and Excel exports as the report header.
Required field.

Country / Region

[Text field] Enter your country and region, e.g. "Slovakia / Nitra Region". Used in the exported report subtitle.

Current stage of the Energy Community

[Stage selection] Initial idea / Planning phase / Pilot implementation / Operational EC

Preferred legal model

[Single choice] Association/NGO / Cooperative / Company structure / Citizen-based partnership / Other

Existing ECs within 50 km

[Single choice] Yes scores highest as it suggests a supportive regional ecosystem.

Chapter 05 - Section 2 - Local Conditions & Stakeholders

Weight: 10% | 4 questions

Where is the EC planned?

[Multi-select] Residential area / Industrial zone / Public buildings / Mixed-use area / Other. Score = selections / 4.

Which local stakeholders are involved?

[Multi-select] Municipality / Schools / SMEs / NGOs / Citizens / Energy experts. Score = selections / 6.

Is there support from local authorities?

[Single choice] Strong support (100%) / Partial support (50%) / No support (0%).

Estimated number of participants

[Single choice] Up to 5 (20%) / 5-20 (60%) / 20-50 (85%) / More than 50 (100%).

Chapter 06 - Section 3 - Technical Readiness

Weight: 25% | 7 questions

Renewable energy sources available

[Multi-select] Solar PV / Heat pumps / Wind / Biomass / Hydro / Geothermal. Score = selections / 6.

Preferred installation location

[Multi-select] Rooftops / Agricultural land / Industrial areas / Brownfields.

Grid connection capacity

[Single choice] Sufficient (100%) / Limited (50%) / Insufficient (0%) / Unknown (30%).

Smart meters / digital monitoring

[Single choice] Fully installed (100%) / Partially installed (60%) / Planned (40%) / No (0%).

Energy Management System (EMS)

[Single choice] Yes (100%) / Planned (50%) / No (0%). An EMS optimises energy distribution among EC members.

Planned renewable energy production

[Text field] Enter estimated daily or annual production, e.g. "500 kWh/day" or "180 MWh/year".
Included in exported report.

Local production vs consumption coverage

[Single choice] Less than 25% (10%) / 25-50% (50%) / 50-100% (85%) / More than 100% (100%).

INFO: Technical Readiness carries 25% weight - the highest of all sections. Without adequate grid capacity, installed or planned RES, and metering infrastructure, even the best-governed EC cannot operate. The NRGCOM project identified technical barriers as the most common obstacle to EC establishment in the Danube Region.

Chapter 07 - Section 4 - Economic Readiness

Weight: 20% | 5 questions

Expected savings estimated for members?

[Single choice] Yes (100%) / Partially (50%) / No (0%).

Operational costs & energy sharing fees defined?

[Single choice] Yes (100%) / Partially (50%) / No (0%). Clear cost structures are essential for trust and governance.

Expected funding sources

[Multi-select] Public grants / Municipal budget / Private investment / Bank loans / Community funding. Score = selections / 5.

Sustainable business model in place?

[Single choice] Yes (100%) / In preparation (50%) / No (0%).

Expected annual economic performance

[Single choice] Less than EUR 100k (40%) / EUR 100-300k (70%) / More than EUR 300k (100%) / Unknown (10%).

Chapter 08 - Section 5 - Management & Operations

Weight: 15% | 5 questions

Most important management aspects

[Multi-select (max 3)] Software support / Easy implementation / Fast decision-making / Innovation support / Low operating costs / External consulting / Clear methodology / Rapid problem solving.

Is the EC management strategy clearly communicated?

[Single choice] Yes (100%) / Partially (50%) / No (0%).

Are measurable indicators (KPIs) used?

[Single choice] Yes (100%) / Partially (50%) / No (0%). KPIs enable evidence-based performance tracking.

Cooperation with major consumers / energy partners?

[Single choice] Yes (100%) / Partially (50%) / No (0%).

Are innovative solutions implemented on time and within budget?

[Single choice] Usually yes (100%) / Sometimes (50%) / Rarely (0%).

TIP: The "management aspects" question uses a hard limit of 3 selections. If you attempt to check a fourth option, a toast notification appears: "Select up to 3 options only". This is by design, to force prioritisation of management focus areas.

Chapter 09 - Section 6 - Legal & Institutional Readiness

Weight: 12% | 4 questions

Legal entity prepared to operate the EC?

[Single choice] Yes (100%) / In preparation (50%) / No (0%). Required to enter contracts, receive grants, and operate as an EC under national law.

Project coordinator or energy manager appointed?

[Single choice] Yes (100%) / Planned (50%) / No (0%). A dedicated coordinator is a strong predictor of project success.

Legal or administrative barriers identified?

[Single choice] Yes (70%) / Partially (50%) / No (100%). Note: "No barriers" scores highest because absence of barriers is the best scenario.

Main barriers

[Multi-select] Grid connection / Financing / Legislation / Administrative procedures / Lack of expertise / Stakeholder coordination.

Chapter 10 - Section 7 - Community & Social Impact

Weight: 10% | 3 questions

Citizens actively informed or involved?

[Single choice] Actively involved (100%) / Information campaign planned (60%) / Limited involvement (30%) / No involvement yet (0%).

Expected benefits

[Multi-select] Lower energy costs / Energy independence / Environmental protection / Social inclusion / Local economic development / Increased resilience. Score = selections / 6.

Social innovation activities included?

[Single choice] Yes (100%) / Partially (50%) / No (0%). Strengthens the EC's community mandate and eligibility for certain EU funds.

Chapter 11 - Section 8 - Final Self-Assessment

Weight: 0% (qualitative) | 4 questions

Overall readiness level (self-assessment)

[Single choice] Low / Medium / High. Compare against the calculated score in the results.

Main challenges

[Free text] Describe the key obstacles your EC faces. Appears in the PDF export and is a key input for the expert consultant recommendation.

Main support needed

[Multi-select] Technical support / Legal support / Financial support / Organisational support / Training and education.

Recommended next steps

[Free text] Describe the concrete actions you plan to take. Appears in the PDF report as your action plan.

Chapter 12 - Scoring Methodology

The scoring system translates your answers into a single overall readiness percentage using a weighted average of seven section scores. Section 8 is qualitative and does not affect the numeric score.

Section Weights

General Info: 8% - Foundational identity - important but not directly predictive of success
Local Conditions: 10% - Location context and stakeholder base shape the EC's operating environment
Technical Readiness: 25% - Highest weight - without technical infrastructure an EC cannot function
Economic Readiness: 20% - Financial viability determines long-term sustainability
Management & Ops: 15% - Good management is a key differentiator between successful and failed ECs
Legal & Institutional: 12% - Legal structure is prerequisite but can be established relatively quickly
Community & Social: 10% - Social mandate defines the EC's public value and community trust
Final Assessment: 0% - Qualitative only - enriches the report but does not affect the score

How Individual Question Scores Are Calculated

Radio buttons (single choice): Each answer option is mapped to a score between 0.0 and 1.0. For example, "Strong support" = 100%, "Partial support" = 50%, "No support" = 0%.

Checkboxes (multi-select): Score = number of items selected / the maximum possible selections. For example, 4 out of 6 RES types selected = $4/6 = 67\%$.

Text inputs: Score 0% if left blank, baseline score of 60% if filled in. Text primarily enriches the exported report.

Section score: Average of all question scores in that section. Unanswered questions contribute 0 to the average but still count in the denominator.

Overall Score Formula

Overall Score = $(S1 \times 0.08) + (S2 \times 0.10) + (S3 \times 0.25) + (S4 \times 0.20) + (S5 \times 0.15) + (S6 \times 0.12) + (S7 \times 0.10)$
Divided by total weight (1.00) x 100 = percentage (0-100%)

Readiness Level Thresholds

HIGH (70-100%): Well-prepared for implementation. Proceed with formal registration. Pursue EU and national funding. Scale operations.

MEDIUM (40-69%): Partially ready. Focus on the lowest-scoring sections. Seek expert support. Develop missing components.

LOW (0-39%): Substantial preparation required. Consult NRGCOM experts. Address legal and technical prerequisites first.

Chapter 13 - Reading Your Results

The Results & Final Assessment page is generated automatically from your answers. It contains six distinct content areas.

1. Overall Readiness Banner

Shows your total score as a percentage, the readiness level label (High / Medium / Low), your organisation name and country, and a one-sentence interpretation. Banner colour changes: green for High, amber for Medium, red for Low.

2. Section Score Cards

Seven cards - one per scored section - each showing the section icon, percentage score, a coloured mini bar, and a HIGH/MEDIUM/LOW badge. Cards are colour-coded independently.

3. Answers Summary Table

A complete table listing every question and the response you gave. This is the main reference table in the exported PDF and Excel workbook. Unanswered questions show "-".

4. Section-by-Section Recommendations

For each of the 7 scored sections, a personalised recommendation card explains what the score means and what to do next. Cards are colour-coded green (High), amber (Medium), or red (Low).

5. Final Assessment Content

A comprehensive reference section covering: legal forms for ECs, NRGCOM assessment narrative, EU and Danube Region funding landscape with live links, 10 key success factors for green energy producers, and 13 verified references.

6. Export Panel

Three export options: PDF Report, Excel Workbook, and Copy Summary.

Chapter 14 - Charts & Visualisations

Three charts are generated automatically using Chart.js when you open the Results page. They render from your actual answers - no static images.

Radar Chart - Section Radar

Shows all 7 section scores on a hexagonal radar. A compact, balanced shape indicates uniform readiness. Spikes and dips reveal your strengths and weaknesses at a glance. Each point is colour-coded by its readiness level.

Bar Chart - Score by Section

A vertical bar chart with one bar per section, colour-coded green/amber/red. The y-axis runs 0-100%. Use this to quickly compare section performance.

Horizontal Stacked Bar - Readiness Profile

A wide horizontal chart showing each section as a row. Each bar is split into two parts: the coloured portion (your score) and a grey portion (the gap to 100%). Ideal for spotting which sections have the most room for improvement.

TIP: Charts re-render every time you open the Results page. If you go back and change answers, return to Results and the charts will update automatically.

Chapter 15 - Exporting to PDF

The PDF export produces a formatted, print-ready report named ETMEC-Community-Advisor-[OrgName].pdf. It uses the jsPDF library and runs entirely in your browser - no file is sent to any server.

How to Export to PDF

1. Navigate to the Results & Final Assessment page via the sidebar or the footer "Calculate Results" button.
2. Click "Download PDF Report" - this button appears in the Export Results card at the bottom of the Results page, and also in the top bar when Results is active.
3. Your browser downloads the file automatically. Check your Downloads folder.

PDF Contents

Page 1 - Header & Overall Score: Dark green header with organisation name, date, and a coloured overall score banner.

Section Scores with Progress Bars: Each of the 7 sections listed with its name, score percentage, readiness level label, and a colour-coded horizontal progress bar.

Key Responses Table: EC stage, legal model, authority support, grid capacity, smart meters, business model, legal entity, citizen involvement, challenges, and next steps.

Auto page breaks: The report automatically adds new pages if content exceeds the A4 page height.

WARNING: The Organisation Name field (Section 1) is used as the PDF filename and in the report header. If left blank, the file will be named ETMEC-Community-Advisor-Energy-Community.pdf

Chapter 16 - Exporting to Excel

The Excel export produces a two-sheet .xlsx workbook named ETMEC-Community-Advisor-[OrgName].xlsx, suitable for further analysis, archiving, or integration into project reporting systems.

On the Results page, click "Export to Excel" in the Export Results card, or click "Excel" in the top bar. The file downloads immediately.

Workbook Structure

Sheet 1 - Summary: Report title, date, organisation name, country. One row per section: Section name, Score %, Readiness level, Weight %. Final row: OVERALL SCORE.

Sheet 2 - Answers: Two columns (Question | Answer) covering every question from all 8 sections. Multi-select answers shown as comma-separated list. Unanswered questions shown as blank.

Chapter 17 - Copy Summary

A quick way to share your assessment results without a file download. Copies a plain-text summary to your clipboard that you can paste into emails, documents, or project management tools.

Click "Copy Summary" on the Export Results card. A toast notification confirms: "Summary copied to clipboard!"

The copied text includes: organisation name, date, overall score, and all 7 section scores with their readiness level labels.

Chapter 18 - Resetting the Form

The Reset function clears all answers and returns the application to its initial Welcome screen state. Use this when starting a new assessment for a different organisation or EC project.

How to Reset

1. Export your current results first. Reset permanently erases all answers.
2. Click the "Reset" button in the top bar. A browser confirmation dialog appears.
3. Click OK to confirm. All answers are cleared and the application navigates to the Welcome screen.

WARNING - NO UNDO: There is no undo function. Once you confirm the reset, all answers are permanently deleted from the browser memory. Always export your results before resetting.

Chapter 19 - Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I save my progress and come back later?

A: Not automatically. The tool stores answers in browser memory only. If you close or refresh the browser tab, all answers are lost. To save progress, export to Excel mid-session and keep the workbook as a reference for re-entering answers in a future session.

Q: Do I need to answer all questions to get a score?

A: No. The score is calculated from whatever has been answered. Unanswered questions contribute 0 to that section's average, which will reduce your score. For the most accurate result, answer as many questions as possible.

Q: Why does the Legal section score lower when I say "Yes, barriers are identified"?

A: Having no barriers is the best possible situation (100%). Having identified barriers is still good (70%) because awareness precedes resolution. Having only partial awareness (50%) scores lower. The system rewards awareness of obstacles.

Q: Can I use this tool for an EC that is already operational?

A: Yes. Select "Operational EC" in Section 1. The assessment will then serve as a gap analysis of your current EC against best-practice benchmarks, helping you identify areas for improvement and scaling.

Q: Why is Technical Readiness weighted 25%?

A: Technical infrastructure is the single most critical prerequisite for an EC. The NRGCOM project found that technical barriers (grid capacity, metering, RES availability) are the most common reason EC projects stall.

Q: The PDF looks different from what I see on screen - why?

A: The PDF is generated programmatically using text only (not a screenshot of the page). It is intentionally simplified for print and document management. Charts are described through score bars rather than the graphical charts shown on screen.

Q: Can I translate the tool into my language?

A: The current version is in English. If you need the tool in one of the 12 NRGCOM partner country languages, please contact the NRGCOM project team via interreg-danube.eu/projects/nrgcom

Q: Who should I contact for expert help with my EC?

A: The NRGCOM project maintains a directory of certified consultants in all 12 partner countries. Access it at the bottom of the Results page under "Find an Expert in Your Country".

Q: Is the tool accessible on mobile devices?

A: Yes. The tool is responsive and works on smartphones and tablets. On mobile, the left sidebar is hidden; use the footer navigation arrows to move between sections.

Q: Can I complete the assessment for multiple EC projects?

A: Yes, but one at a time. Complete the assessment for your first project, export the results, then click Reset and begin a new assessment. Each exported file will have a unique name based on the organisation name you entered.

Chapter 20 - Score Reference Table

Complete reference of how every radio-button answer is scored. Multi-select questions score as (selections / maximum options).

Question / Answer	Options	Score
Legal model	Association / NGO	100%
Legal model	Cooperative	100%
Legal model	Citizen-based partnership	90%
Legal model	Company structure	80%
Legal model	Other	50%
Nearby ECs within 50 km	Yes	100%
Nearby ECs within 50 km	No	50%
Nearby ECs within 50 km	Unknown	30%
Authority support	Strong support	100%
Authority support	Partial support	50%
Authority support	No support	0%
Participants estimate	More than 50	100%
Participants estimate	20-50	85%
Participants estimate	5-20	60%
Participants estimate	Up to 5	20%
Grid capacity	Sufficient	100%
Grid capacity	Limited	50%
Grid capacity	Unknown	30%
Grid capacity	Insufficient	0%
Smart meters	Fully installed	100%
Smart meters	Partially installed	60%
Smart meters	Planned	40%
Smart meters	No	0%
Energy Management System	Yes	100%
Energy Management System	Planned	50%
Energy Management System	No	0%
Production vs consumption	More than 100%	100%
Production vs consumption	50-100%	85%

Production vs consumption	25-50%	50%
Production vs consumption	Less than 25%	10%
Savings estimated	Yes	100%
Savings estimated	Partially	50%
Savings estimated	No	0%
Operational costs defined	Yes	100%
Operational costs defined	Partially	50%
Operational costs defined	No	0%
Business model	Yes	100%
Business model	In preparation	50%
Business model	No	0%
Annual revenue estimate	More than EUR 300k	100%
Annual revenue estimate	EUR 100-300k	70%
Annual revenue estimate	Less than EUR 100k	40%
Annual revenue estimate	Unknown	10%
Legal entity	Yes	100%
Legal entity	In preparation	50%
Legal entity	No	0%
Coordinator appointed	Yes	100%
Coordinator appointed	Planned	50%
Coordinator appointed	No	0%
Barriers identified	No (none exist)	100%
Barriers identified	Yes (identified)	70%
Barriers identified	Partially	50%
Citizen involvement	Actively involved	100%
Citizen involvement	Campaign planned	60%
Citizen involvement	Limited involvement	30%
Citizen involvement	No involvement yet	0%
Social innovation	Yes	100%
Social innovation	Partially	50%
Social innovation	No	0%

Chapter 21 - Useful Links & Resources

All external resources referenced in the ETMEC Community Advisor tool, verified as of June 2026.

NRGCOM Project

NRGCOM Official Project Page

<https://interreg-danube.eu/projects/nrgcom>

Interreg Danube Region Programme - DRP0200163 - 2024-2026

NRGCOM - Danube Strategy Flagship

<https://danube-region.eu/nrgcom/>

EU Strategy for the Danube Region - Flagship Project

NRGCOM - DDRIU Partner Profile

<https://www.ddriu.hu/en/nrgcom/>

Full partner list, budget breakdown, and project objectives

Expert Consultant Directory

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1gS8r1_Xg1-TVctclePNW0ldJQ8DWiGhK/edit

Find a certified EC consultant in your country

Interreg Programmes

Interreg Danube Region Programme (main site): <https://interreg-danube.eu/>

Interreg Danube - How to Apply: <https://interreg-danube.eu/how-to-apply>

Interreg Europe Programme: <https://www.interreg-europe.eu/>

Interreg Central Europe Programme: <https://www.interreg-central.eu/>

EU Funding & Support

European City Facility (EUCF) - EUR 60k grants for municipalities: <https://www.eucityfacility.eu/>

REScoop.eu - European Federation of Citizen Energy Cooperatives: <https://www.rescoop.eu/>

European Investment Bank - Energy Sector: <https://www.eib.org/en/projects/sectors/energy/index.htm>

Horizon Europe - Research & Innovation Funding: <https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/>

LIFE Programme - Environment & Climate Action: <https://www.lifeprogramme.eu/>

EU Innovation Fund - Low-Carbon Technologies: https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/innovation-fund_en

EU Legal Framework

Renewable Energy Directive (RED II) - EU 2018/2001 - Art. 22: RECs: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32018L2001>

Internal Electricity Market Directive - EU 2019/944 - Art. 16: CECs: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32019L0944>

Interreg Danube DRP - Climate-ADAPT Programme Profile: <https://climate->

adapt.eea.europa.eu/en/mission/funding/opportunities/interreg-danube-transnational-programme

NOTE: This manual covers software version 1.0. The ETMEC Community Advisor is developed under the NRGCOM project (Jan 2024 - Jun 2026). For questions or to report issues, contact the project team via interreg-danube.eu/projects/nrgcom

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