

Recommendations for public policies aimed at improving the formation and functioning of Energy Communities

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NRGCOM

CREATING APPROPRIATE OPERATIONAL CONDITIONS FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMUNITIES IN THE DANUBE REGION (DRP0200163)

NRGCOM partners are **reviewing existing legislation and the functioning of Energy Communities, collecting good practices & developing public policy recommendations.**

The project team will carry out **education and outreach activities** to make citizens more aware of the Energy Communities importance.

<https://oer.ro/proiect/nrgcom/>



The project is developing a network of Energy Community Ambassadors to support the implementation of these initiatives.

1. The Energy Cooperative
2. Greenpeace Romania
3. Between Neighbors
4. Association of Prosumers and Energy Communities



Energy Communities – Legal framework



- Romania has transposed the Directive on common rules for the internal electricity market (2019/ 944), regulating the definition and rights of **Citizen Energy Community (CECs)**
- Additionally, the Directive on promoting the use of energy from renewable sources (2018/ 2001) was transposed, regulating the definition and rights of **Renewable Energy Communities (RECs)**
- **The National Authority for Energy Regulation (ANRE)** is the public institution responsible for elaborating, approving and monitoring binding energy regulations

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Energy Communities – Legal framework



- **Energy Communities (EC)** have the potential to **transform Romania's energy landscape** by promoting efficiency and sustainability
- However, it is crucial to address existing barriers, such as **unclear regulations** and **lack of financial support**, to realize this potential
- **Implementing the proposed recommendations** will support Energy Communities' development and efficient operation, **contributing to a fair and sustainable energy transition**

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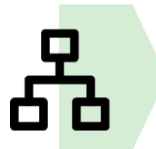
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Identified bottlenecks and areas of intervention



An incomplete and ambiguous definition of EC can pose challenges to their formation and operation



The complex and unclear administrative procedures are hindering the development of the EC



Lack of trust and knowledge at social level



- Clarifying the distinction between different types of EC to fully align with EU norms
- Regulating alternative concepts of EC (local, physical, virtual etc.) is also essential



- Creating One-Stop Shops to provide guidance and streamline administrative procedures
- Offering personalized support mechanisms for EC
- Clarifying how municipalities can contribute to EC



- Conducting awareness and education campaigns
- Providing resources and training for a better understanding of the benefits and functioning of EC
- Facilitating access to expertise to contribute to building confidence in these initiatives

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Identified bottlenecks and areas of intervention



Insufficient funding for the development of Energy Communities



- Creating dedicated funding programs, including access to European and national funds
- Using public funds to support overcoming financial barriers
- Providing financial incentives for community projects



Lack of clear legislation on microgrids and municipal contributions, which hampers the development of EC



- Regulating microgrids for new urban neighborhoods
- Clarifying the conditions under which municipalities can contribute capital and resources/ better integration of municipalities into EC



Lack of a favorable environment for innovation, testing, and learning



- Creating conditions that support experimentation and the implementation of innovative solutions
- Providing support for emerging initiatives, thereby contributing to the progress of this sector.

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Recommendations for a favorable EC framework in Romania



Freedom to choose flexible and customized methods for distributing electricity



Installing a legal deadline of 2-4 months for installing smart meters



The restriction of the number of members or imposition of strict territorial restrictions must be eliminated



Encouraging local energy sharing by reducing distribution charges for energy shared through the low-voltage grid



Consumer protection is essential, allowing members to leave the community with reasonable notice



Sharing should only be allowed for electricity from renewable sources

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Thank you for your attention!



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