

Enabling Energy Communities: Regional & Local Frameworks



Introduction

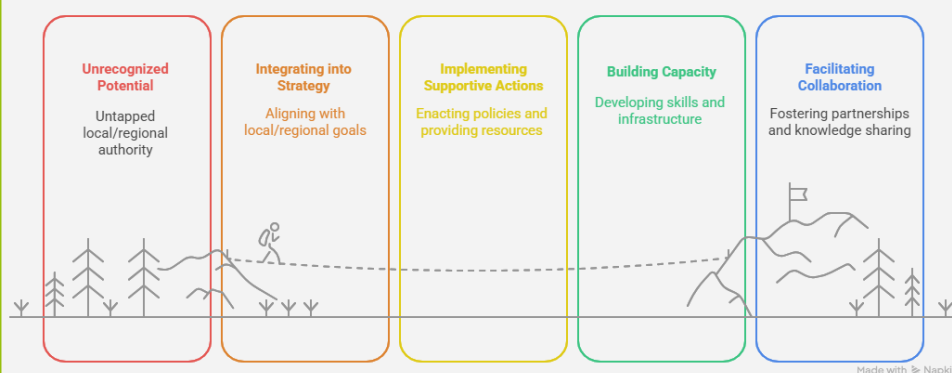
Deliverable 4.3 investigates how regional and local authorities can create supportive frameworks for energy communities — citizen-driven initiatives key to Europe’s energy transition. Through literature review, stakeholder input, and regional analysis in five EU countries, it identifies barriers and highlights best practices. The findings inform strategies to empower municipalities and citizens to collaborate in meeting climate and energy goals.

What This Deliverable Achieves

- Assesses the current state of local and regional frameworks supporting energy communities.
- Identifies fields of action where municipalities can

- actively foster citizen-led energy initiatives.
- Highlights barriers and opportunities across five European regions.
- Provides a foundation for developing future guidance (“Whitebook”) and One-Stop-Shops (OSSs).
- Offers actionable insights and recommendations for policy and practice at sub-national levels.

Framework Creation Pathway



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How We Developed This Framework

The deliverable’s methodology combined literature review, best practice analysis, and a detailed survey among ECOEMPOWER partners across five regions.

- Review of EU guides and municipal practices on energy community support.
- Identification of six fields of action through expert consultation.
- Questionnaire distributed to regional stakeholders (France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Czech Republic).
- Analysis of feasibility and frequency of actions in local contexts.

Insights from Our Research

- Most supportive actions are legally possible but seldom implemented, due to limited resources and competing priorities.
- Financial support is among the most common actions, especially grants for renewable installations.
- Organizational capacities (trained staff, innovation consultants) are least common, highlighting the need for OSSs.
- Providing access to public land and facilitating collaboration are relatively more frequent practices.
- Regions vary significantly; Trento (Italy) stands out with the highest engagement across action fields.

- For Policymakers: Strengthen capacity-building initiatives and mandate supportive actions where feasible.
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Discover More and Get Involved

For a deeper understanding of these findings and to explore practical steps for supporting energy communities, access the full deliverable at: www.ecoempower.eu or contact the project coordinator at cmorisco@fbk.eu.

ECOEMPOWER 

Real-World Impact: Applying This Framework

- For Local Authorities:
Integrate energy community support into long-term strategies and plans.
- For Community Groups:
Engage municipalities to access public land, funding, and technical support.