D6.6 BECoop synergies with similar initiatives - Final

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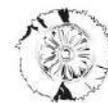
About

Over the last years, the EU has witnessed some remarkable steps in Renewable Energy (RE) deployment. However, at the same time, we see an increasingly uneven penetration of RE across the different energy sectors, with the heating and cooling sector lagging behind. Community bioenergy schemes can play a catalytic role in the market uptake of bioenergy heating technologies and can strongly support the increase of renewables penetration in the heating and cooling sector, contributing to the EU target for increasing renewable heat within this next decade. However, compared to other RES, bioenergy has a remarkably slower development pace in the decentralised energy production which is a model that is set to play a crucial role in the future of the energy transition in the EU.

The ambition of the EU-funded BECoop project is **to provide the necessary conditions and technical as well as business support tools for unlocking the underlying market potential of community bioenergy.** The project's goal is to make community bioenergy projects more appealing to potential interested actors and to foster new links and partnerships among the international bioenergy community.

The project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 952930.

Project partners

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Abbreviations

WP	Work Package
CMS	Content Management System
EU	European Union
H2020	Horizon 2020 programme - EU Research and Innovation programme, funding programme running from 2014 to 2020
RESCoop	Renewable energy cooperative

Executive summary

In a world where the pace of news makes stakeholders' attention difficult to grasp, the idea to gather projects' activities into clustered ones, sharing news and actions to increase outreach, appears as a great one.

BECoop has therefore set as a priority, already while defining the project streams, to create such partnerships, directly from the project start. Early 2021, BECoop started inviting projects to join forces in setting up a group, few answered the call the first months, but over two years later, a strong group of 25 projects then gathered regularly in calls and to organise various actions. It often was challenging motivating people to attend the monthly calls, or spend time in organising actions, but for all we did, restricted groups emerged and carried the work. When setting up the task, IEECP imagined gathering 10 projects would be difficult. Over-exceeding the set-KPI therefore felt really rewarding, with each new project joining the group new ideas for actions emerged, with an average of an action every 2-3 months. The group has inspired many other projects to set up similar collaborations.

The main idea behind this partnership has been to grasp the attention of various audiences while not tiring them with many sources of information. Indeed, the projects have since 2021 combined forces to produce common briefings and papers, organise events presenting results from various projects, or share results and links on their websites, newsletters, social media accounts and more.

The BECoop consortium, believing in the high value to start such partnerships with key projects -often called "sister projects"-, led the activity leading to successful actions throughout the project's lifecycle, described in this document that covers all actions up until October 2023 (M36, the project end). The main actions generated an increased outreach and the potential to work on activities not foreseen in the sister projects' Grant Agreements. The partnership has led to very positive exchanges, interactions and synergies and have proven that sometimes even a small, but motivated team can organise great things.

The report presents the collaborating projects and the undertaken activities, how this synergy has further supported BECoop activities, and which were the benefits from this collaboration for BECoop but also for the other projects.

BECoop partners will surely recommend future projects not to hesitate one second and create such groups with other European projects and initiatives: all partners have learnt a lot and benefitted from the synergies. BECoop, upon concluding the task, has invited projects that were to carry on after October 2023 to take over the coordination of this established synergy/sisterhood, or join other groups that the Dissemination Manager knew of. The IEECP team supported the projects in finding the groups that best matched their topics / interests.

> **In particular, this final version of the BECoop synergies with similar initiatives, in comparison to the interim version, includes the following enhancements:**
>
> ✓ Updated texts in the executive summary, introduction and first chapters
> ✓ An updated enlistment and description of the projects *(Chapter 2)*
> ✓ Updated information on the activities and focus on the projects' final event *(Chapter 5)*

1 Introduction

Many projects compete for attention in a world where work increasingly moved to virtual formats in the past two years with the COVID-19 pandemic yet generate valuable outputs and policy recommendations that need to reach targeted stakeholders. When preparing the BECoop project workstreams, we had the idea that gathering projects / initiatives in a partnership as soon as the project would start would be a solution to ensure we can grasp the attention of our audiences while not tiring them with many sources of information. A dedicated task was therefore added to the communication and dissemination activities, with the aim to gather 10 projects around BECoop (goal achieved).

In a world where the pace of news makes stakeholders' attention difficult to grasp, the idea to gather projects' activities into clustered ones, sharing news and actions to increase outreach, appears as a great one.

Projects gathered in a group can build on each other's strength and knowledge, sharing results or links on their websites, newsletters, social media accounts or organising activities in a collective effort. The BECoop consortium, believing in the high value to start such partnerships with key projects, often called "sister projects", led the activity following several steps and leading to successful activities, described in the document.

The goal to gather initiatives is to share ideas and workforce / outreach for dissemination and communication activities, yet research activities benefit from projects' synergies with the idea to, when possible, combine forces to produce papers, briefings or newsletters together.

This dedicated report presents the collaborating projects, agreed partnerships, activities and ideas, how these synergies can support BECoop activities, and which are the benefits from this collaboration for BECoop but also for the other projects.

This report – and all the activities of the partnership – belongs to task 6.2. This task aims to ensure that, throughout the implementation of the project, the partners will develop, coordinate and benefit from synergies with other relevant initiatives and actions. "*A continuous communication pathway and synergies between these complementary projects will be established by IEECP with the help of other partners when necessary. The synergies and how these may be forged to benefit the BECoop project activities will be decided based on discussions with representatives of these projects (e.g. undertaking joint communication and dissemination activities, provision of feedback on and cross participation in project activities, exchange of contacts and collaboration to reach a higher number of stakeholders participating in BECoop activities, etc.).*"

When we first defined this activity in the project Grant Agreement and in D6.1 – The communication and dissemination plan, we imagined that the main tools used for clustering activities would be **social media** and the **website**. The partnership with over 20 projects has proven that the synergy led to many more than these – organisation of events, production of collaborative briefings, all are described underneath.

This report summarizes the BECoop approach and all activities that have been deployed with a view to create synergies with similar national and international initiatives.

2 Clustering activities: concept and methodological approach

The concept of clustering activities is not new. Many projects have started gathering into so-called sister projects group, for various reasons, the main one being to increase outreach potential. IEECP, as responsible for the task, presented the approach that would be undertaken at the very project beginning, in the kick-off meeting, agreeing with partners on the first steps to be followed. All partners brainstormed and agreed to the following.

2.1 Concept and objectives

Gathering into a group of sister projects is something that has been done for many years, in order not to work on Horizon 2020-funded projects (or projects from other programmes) in isolation. Both outreach potential and research actions can benefit from shared strategies across projects. Focus can be put on a mechanism to create **multiplicative effects by creating synergies** with other projects and initiatives with relevant H2020 projects and related activities under Erasmus +, LIFE, INTERREG and other EU funded initiatives. Competition for attention is tough, especially as more projects get funded and GDPR rules have changed the way organisations work and reach out to target audiences - forbidding the use of organisations' own lists with the need to start gathering databases of contacts from zero for all projects. In addition, the COVID-19 crisis has also moved many activities online, making people more tired of attending digital events, receiving news and it appears more and more difficult to attract recipients.

Therefore, the idea of sharing interesting results between projects and using each project's tools and audience (by including news items from the other projects for instance) is key.

We can summarise the objectives as follows:

- ✓ Discover other projects working on similar topics,
- ✓ Feeding into our literature review and knowledge base,
- ✓ Share ideas and workforce / outreach for dissemination and communication activities,
- ✓ For research, combine forces to produce papers, briefings, or publications together,
- ✓ Supporting each other on specific needs (i.e., a recent example where one project 'lost' a pilot and BECoop helped recruit a replacement).

And in practice? The projects' websites can for instance contain a "Knowledge-sharing" or "Related projects" page, where existing work of other platforms and interesting related projects will be added. Newsletters can include work from other projects, and many more ideas, explored together with BECoop partners and the sister projects. More collaboration areas are exploited, such as organising events together, writing papers or briefs and disseminating policy recommendations as a group. A continuous communication pathway and synergies between these complementary projects is established by IEECP with the help of other partners when necessary.

A potential challenge that could have been encountered was the lack of reaction or involvement from the identified projects and initiatives. However, up to this point, these projects have been participating

in the collaborative activities, even if not all at the same time. If motivation drops, BECoop communication and dissemination manager will be a force of initiative to gather them again.

2.2 Approach and strategy

A first list of projects identified by IEECP was presented to partners in November 2020 at the Kick Off Meeting of BECoop.

The following methodology was presented to project partners:

1. CLUSTERING - Mapping projects and initiatives, identifying synergies (IEECP and all partners, into an Excel document, see figure 1).
2. RESULTS – Projects are identified and contacted, initiating dialogue, and listing potential collaboration activities.
3. ACTIVITIES - Involving partners, if need be, all along the partnership (if collaborative papers, events, etc.). Identification of resources for potential synergies actions.

Table 1 - Actions, responsibilities, and timing

Actions *Which are the planned activities? What do you need from partners involved?*	Who *Partners Involved*	When *Due Date/ Duration*
Listing projects and initiatives	All to provide input and share with IEECP	By December 15, 2020
Contacting them	IEECP, partners who know them	By January 15, 2021
Drafting a short strategy (part of the C&D plan)	IEECP	M3 – by December 31, 2020
Listing potential activities	IEECP	By December 31, 2020

After the KOM, where the methodology was approved by all, partners were invited to feed in the Excel table of sister projects ideas: dates, funding programmes, and indicate existing links with BECoop partners.

Selection criteria included:

✓ projects having the same timeframe, or at least ending from 2022 onwards,
✓ projects working on energy communities mainly, and if possible, on bioenergy,
✓ projects were BECoop partners were also involved being equally a plus.

A first batch of projects was therefore selected based on the above criteria, including **COME RES, DECIDE4Energy, W4RES, COMETS, and mPOWER**. A presentation email was sent early January 2021 to these projects. The DECIDE project suggested inviting more projects - **UP-STAIRS, eCrew, RENergetics and NRG2peers-,** which were in turn contacted. All four projects accepted the invitation and joined the group. The synergies activities were therefore initiated with the 9 projects listed, while keeping the other projects identified in mind, in case we considered adding more.

Figure 1 - Excel file of potential projects

Another listing which helped refine the selection was the table of all projects funded by the same umbrella topic (SC3 Energy - market uptake support) over the last 3 years.

Topic ID	Type	Call for proposal	Funded Projects	Title	Start Date	End Date
LC-SC3-RES-28-**2018**-2019-2020	CSA	H2020-LC-SC3-**2018**-RES-SingleStage	BIOFIT	Bioenergy retrofits for Europe's industry	01/10/2018	30/09/2021
			GEORISK	Developing geothermal and renewable energy projects by mitigating their risks	01/10/2018	30/09/2021
			AURES II	Auctions for Renewable Energy Support II	01/11/2018	31/10/2021
			BIOPLAT-EU	Promoting sustainable use of underutilized lands for bioenergy production through a web-based Platform for Europe	01/11/2018	31/10/2021
			GEOENVI	Tackling the environmental concerns for deploying geothermal energy in Europe	01/11/2018	30/04/2021
			AgroBioHeat	Promoting the penetration of agrobiomass heating in European rural areas	01/01/2019	31/12/2021
LC-SC3-RES-28-2018-**2019**-2020	CSA	H2020-LC-SC3-**2019**-RES-IA-CSA	REGATRACE	REnewable GAs TRAde Centre in Europe	01/06/2019	30/11/2022
			HYPOSO	Hydropower solutions for developing and emerging countries	01/09/2019	31/08/2022
			FarmConners	Paving the Way for Wind Farm Control in Industry	01/09/2019	31/08/2022
			CROWDTHERMAL	Community-based development schemes for geothermal energy	01/09/2019	31/08/2022
			DiBiCoo	Digital Global Biogas Cooperation	01/09/2019	31/08/2022
			MUSIC	Market Uptake Support for Intermediate Bioenergy Carriers	01/09/2019	31/08/2022
			XPRESS	Support for Public Procurements to facilitate the collaboration between SMEs and public sector for the development and adoption in renewables in regions	01/09/2019	31/08/2022
LC-SC3-RES-28-2018-2019-**2020**	CSA	H2020-LC-SC3-**2020**-RES-IA-CSA	DRES2Market	Technical, business and regulatory approaches to enhance the renewable energy capabilities to take part actively in the electricity and ancillary services markets	01/08/2020	31/01/2023
			RE4Industry	100% Renewable Energies for Energy Intensive Industries	01/09/2020	31/08/2023
			RES-DHC	Transformation of existing urban district heating and cooling systems from fossil to renewable energy sources	01/09/2020	31/08/2023
			BIKE	Biofuels production at low - Iluc risK for European sustainable bioeconomy	01/09/2020	31/08/2023
			COME RES	Community Energy for the uptake of RES in the electricity sector. Connecting long-term visions with short-term actions	01/09/2020	28/02/2023
			SolAqua	Accessible, reliable and affordable solar irrigation for Europe and beyond	01/10/2020	30/09/2023
			W4RES	Scaling-up the involvement of women in supporting and accelerating market uptake of renewable energy sources for heating and cooling	01/11/2020	31/10/2023
			LIGHTNESS	market uptake of citizen energy communities enabLing a hIGH peneTratioN of renewable Energy SourceS	01/12/2020	30/11/2023

Figure 2 - Excel of projects funded under same topic

In the meantime, the activity was paused until early July 2021, the communications coordinator being on maternity leave, contacts were re-established early July with 3 new projects joining: **COMPILE, BRANCHES and NEWCOMERS** were then added to the list of projects. NRG2peers offered to join a first event together, at the *Sustainable Places 2021*, which kicked off the collaboration with a first call on July 19, 2021, to discuss this first activity.

3 BECoop and the synergies with other projects

As written in chapter 2, 12 projects replied positively to our call and were gathered in monthly calls from July 2021 on. First actions were discussed, such as participating together in an event (Sustainable Places) and sharing the involved projects' logos on all websites.

This final version of the report includes:

- ✓ An updated projects matrix (Figure 4)
- ✓ An updated description of the projects (Table 2)

3.1 Synergies matrix

The projects who are part of the group, with higher or lower involvement or regularity in the participation to calls and activities, are listed in this chapter, including information about their objectives, work programme and links to their websites.

More projects joined the group, either after being contacted by BECoop by email or on social media, or contacting us themselves directly: EC², RES4LIVE, RHC (and again the week when this report is written: SCCALE203050). They are added in Figure 3. At the end of BECoop, up to 25 projects had been involved in the group, see Figure 4.

Figure 3 - Agreed sister projects logos as of March 2022

Figure 4 - Sister projects logos as of October 2023

Table 2 - Sister projects information (projects gathered until M18)

Sister Projects	Short summary	Website
Projects which joined the group between M1 and M18		
DECIDE4Energy	Developing Energy Communities through Informative and collective actions – the project aims to gain a better understanding of how energy communities and energy efficiency services are established and managed. It also intends to identify which kind of communications and interactions work best to encourage participation in energy communities for specific types of individuals and groups, and to test and transfer knowledge in pilot projects across Europe.	https://decide4energy.eu/
BRANCHES	BRANCHES aims to implement the implementation of new cost-effective technologies; mobilize more biomass and create innovative business opportunities in rural areas by improving and strengthening the links between bioeconomy practice and science. The project will ensure communication through the two-way flow of information for the transfer of ideas and technologies between scientists and professionals from agriculture and forestry in rural areas. The valuable knowledge produced by research and development should always be shared far beyond the scientific community.	https://www.branchesproject.eu/
eCREW	establishing Community Renewable Energy Webs - Rolling out a business model and operational tool creating webs of households that jointly manage energy to improve efficiency and renewables uptake – the project will coordinate the implementation of an innovative scheme of household cooperation in energy management. Specifically, it will develop community renewable energy webs allowing households to optimise energy efficiency and reduce expenditures. It will test the community webs on households, establishing some 200 webs with 15 000 participants.	https://ecrew-project.eu/

Sister Projects	Short summary	Website
	Projects which joined the group between M1 and M18	
	The system will be set up in such a way as to ensure that monetary benefits from the community renewable energy webs are distributed among the prosumers, traditional consumers and administrative entities.	
RENergetic	The project empowers people – engaging them from the beginning – with a higher level of control over the energy infrastructure surrounding them. RENergetic demonstrates that urban energy islands increase the share of renewables in local areas and the energy efficiency of the local energy systems. To reach this endeavour, innovative technologies are considered e.g., AI-based smart control algorithms and digital twins' creation.	http://www.renergetic.eu/
UP-STAIRS	UP-lifting Communities: Structuring collective Action for Sustainable local Transition and Identifying Regulatory Solutions for adopting frontier technologies and disruptive business models.	https://www.h2020-upstairs.eu/
NRG2peers	NRG2peers is a 3-year European project funded under the Horizon2020 framework. We want to establish and run real local energy communities of peer-to-peer energy traders and share lessons in different European Member States. There is a need for clear guidance, education and support for the set-up and take-off of successful energy communities on both local and EU level. The main aim of NRG2peers is therefore to support a next generation of European peer-to-peer Energy Communities. We want to support attractive financially legal and technical viable user-centred energy communities.	https://nrg2peers.com
COME RES	Community Energy for the uptake of renewables in the electricity sector. Connecting long-term visions with short-term actions – is a project under the EU's Horizon2020 programme, aimed at facilitating the market uptake of renewable energy sources (RES) in the electricity sector. Specifically, the project focusses on advancing renewable energy communities (RECs) as per the EU's recast Renewable Energy Directive. COME RES takes a multi- and transdisciplinary approach to support the development of RECs in nine European countries; Belgium, Germany, Italy Latvia, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal and Spain.	https://come-res.eu/
COMPILE	The main aim of COMPILE is to show the opportunities of energy islands for decarbonisation of energy supply, community building and creating environmental and socioeconomic benefits.	https://www.compile-project.eu/
NEWCOMERS	The NEWCOMERS project (New clean energy communities in a changing European energy system) will deliver practical recommendations about how the European Union as well as national and local governments can support new clean energy communities to help them flourish and unfold their potential benefits for citizens and the Energy Union.	https://www.newcomersh2020.eu/
W4RES	WOMEN FOR MARKET UPTAKE OF RENEWABLE HEATING AND COOLING
W4RES #Women4RES is a 3-year-EU-funded project, which aims at scaling-up the involvement of women in the market deployment	https://w4res.eu/

Sister Projects	Short summary	Website
	Projects which joined the group between M1 and M18	
	and uptake of Renewable Heating and Cooling (RHC) solutions via replicable support measures tested and validated across the 8 respective countries.	
RES4LIVE	RES4LIVE will bring into the market integrated cost effective and case sensitive Renewable Energy Sources (RES) solutions towards achieving fossil free livestock farming.	https://res4live.eu/
RHC	The European Technology and Innovation Platform on Renewable Heating & Cooling (RHC-ETIP) brings together stakeholders from the biomass, geothermal, solar thermal, heat pump and district heating and cooling and thermal storage sectors to define a common strategy for increasing the use of renewable energy technologies for heating and cooling and phasing out fossil fuels.	https://www.rhc-platform.org/projects/
EC²	The transition to a low-carbon society needs empowered energy citizens at its centre. EC²'s aim is to discover what it takes for energy citizenship and energy communities to thrive. EC² gathers empirical evidence on how the set-up of energy communities fosters or hinders energy citizenship. Based on an inter- and transdisciplinary conceptualization of energy citizenship, EC²deliberates economic trends, identifies economic conditions, business model innovations, public support policies and legal regulations that are needed for the emergence of energy citizenship and its potential contribution to the low-carbon energy transition.	https://ec2project.eu

Table 3 - Sister projects information (projects gathered from M18-36)

	Projects which joined the group from M18	
ALFA	The ALFA project, funded by the EU through the Horizon Europe program, aims to promote the adoption of biogas systems in the livestock farming sector.	https://alfa-res.eu
CEES	By analysing energy solidarity mechanisms that have been successfully deployed across Europe, CEES will establish their validity to tackle energy poverty more widely.	https://www.energysolidarity.eu/
mPOWER	The project will enable an in-depth, wide-scale and systematic peer-to-peer learning programme among at least 100 local public authorities, in order to replicate innovative best practices in municipal energy and developing ambitious energy transition plans.	https://municipalpower.org/about-mpower/
AgroBioHeat	AgroBioHeat aims to produce a mass deployment of improved and market ready agrobiomass heating solutions in Europe. Agrobiomass is a large, underexploited and indigenous resource, which can support the achievement of the European Energy and Climate targets, while promoting rural development and circular economy.	https://agrobioheat.eu/#

Powerpoor	POWERPOOR aims to develop support programmes / schemes for energy poor citizens and encourage the use of alternative financing schemes e.g. establishing energy communities / cooperatives, crowd funding).	https://powerpoor.eu/
RESCHOOL	RESCHOOL improves the way energy communities operate by enhancing the technology and behaviour of their users. This will help to make these communities more efficient and effective in their use of energy.	https://www.reschool-project.eu/
SCCALE203050	Sustainable Collective Citizen Action for a Local Europe (SCCALE) 203050 intends to bring Europe closer to its citizens by fostering the creation of energy communities, taking full advantage of the favorable EU legal framework on citizen energy. You can be part of the energy transition – get involved!	https://www.sccale203050.eu/
SCORE	The aim of SCORE is to facilitate co-ownership of RE for consumers first in three pilot regions in Italy, Czech Republic and Poland - and later also in various other follower cities across Europe.	https://www.score-h2020.eu/
SHAREs	SHAREs, an EU-funded initiative, supports so-called local heroes in setting up or expanding their energy community and enables them to motivate consumers to participate, including those who do not yet have an affinity to energy or are simply unfamiliar with the concept of energy communities.	https://shares-project.eu/contact
Sun4All	The Sun4All project will test in the EU a support scheme helping vulnerable households to switch to renewable energy while reducing their energy bills. The scheme will be tested by the cities of Almada (PT), Barcelona (ES), and Rome (IT) and by the community of municipalities Cœur de Savoie (FR).	https://sunforall.eu/
WIMBY	WIMBY is an European funded project supporting the adoption and acceptance of wind-power in the European Union. It will develop innovative tools to facilitate citizen and stakeholders' interaction, knowledge sharing, and collaborative evaluation of impacts, conflicts, synergies and social innovation potential.	https://wimby.eu/

3.2 Sister projects and BECoop related workstreams

IEECP led the partnership for BECoop, through the project communication manager.

What did it mean in terms of involvement? IEECP, as task lead, organised the regular meetings, acted as a force of proposal for actions to start as a group, communicated about the action to the consortium. IEECP was also involved in the event presentations (Sustainable Places, tools event moderation, etc.), managed the inclusion of project news into the newsletter, on the website and social media, and led the production of common briefings (coordination, design, and content).

The role of other WP leaders is added in the table below, describing which Work Package(s) are related to the partnership, the type of collaboration activities and increased potential reach (number of followers on social media).

Table 4 - Projects and relation with BECoop

Sister Projects	Relation to a specific BECoop Work Package	Type of collaboration activities	Potential reach
DECIDE4Energy	WP6, WP2, WP5	Adding BECoop results in the DECIDE knowledge hub, sharing results and policy recommendations, organising events	382 Twitter followers, 891 on LinkedIn
BRANCHES	WP6, WP3, WP4	Research exchange on bioenergy	58 followers on Twitter
eCREW	WP6, WP3	organising events, sharing information into communication tools	316 Twitter followers, 209 on LinkedIn
RENergetic	WP6	organising events, sharing information into communication tools	58 Twitter followers, 233 on LinkedIn
mPOWER	WP6	organising events, sharing information into communication tools	1175 followers on Twitter
UP-STAIRS	WP6, WP3	organising events, sharing information into communication tools	254 Twitter followers, 331 on LinkedIn
NRG2peers	WP6	organising events, sharing information into communication tools	265 Twitter followers, 222 on LinkedIn
COME RES	WP6, WP3	organising events, sharing information into communication tools	749 Twitter followers, 374 on LinkedIn
COMPILE	WP6, WP3	organising events, sharing information into communication tools	759 Twitter followers, 1119 on LinkedIn
NEWCOMERS	WP6, WP5	organising events, sharing information into communication tools, sharing results and policy recommendations	467 Twitter followers, 314 on LinkedIn
W4RES	WP6	organising events, sharing information into communication tools	191 Twitter followers, 468 on LinkedIn
EC²	WP6, WP3 and 4	organising events, sharing information into communication tools sharing results and policy recommendations	925 Twitter followers, 404 on LinkedIn
AgroBioHeat	WP6, WP3 and 4	organising events, sharing information into communication tools sharing results and policy recommendations	185 Twitter followers, 755 on LinkedIn
ALFA	WP6	Last projects to join: getting to know each other and passing on the cluster.	50 Twitter followers, 684 on LinkedIn
CEES	WP6, WP3 and 4	organising events, sharing information into communication tools	620 Twitter followers
PowerPoor	WP6, WP3 and 4	organising events, sharing information into communication tools	611 Twitter followers, 696 on LinkedIn

Sister Projects	Relation to a specific BECoop Work Package	Type of collaboration activities	Potential reach
RES4LIVE	WP6	Organising events, sharing information into communication tools	140 Twitter followers, 1097 on LinkedIn
RESCHOOL	WP6	Last projects to join, getting to know each other and passing on the cluster.	49 Twitter followers, 107 on LinkedIn
RHC	WP6	Organising events, sharing information into communication tools	
SCCALE203050	WP6	Organising events, sharing information into communication tools	
SCORE	WP6, WP3 and 4	Organising events, sharing information into communication tools	191 Twitter followers
SHAREs	WP6, WP3 and 4	Organising events, sharing information into communication tools	41 Twitter followers, 54 on LinkedIn
Sun4All	WP6	Production of joint briefings	111 Twitter followers, 133 on LinkedIn
WIMBY	WP6	Last projects to join, getting to know each other and passing on the cluster.	46 Twitter followers, 91 on LinkedIn

3.3 Non-formal partnerships

Some projects are not included as "members", yet were very supportive of all activities, sharing items in their newsletters or on social media. That is the case of the projects listed in table 4, which we could refer to as "supporters".

Table 5 - Supporting projects.

Supporters	Short summary	Website
AcceptH2020	The Core of the ACCEPT project is the concept of "energy communities" with the collective approach to bring citizens, local businesses, and organizations together, to produce and consume locally generated, renewable energy. The EU-funded project intends to develop and deliver a digital toolbox, that allows such energy communities to offer innovative digital services to reduce the dependency on fossil fuels, save energy in the users' households and thus be able to reduce their electricity bill without compromising the quality of living, but ideally increasing the comfort in their homes through smart devices. In ACCEPT, these developed tools will be demonstrated and validated in	https://www.accept-project.com/

| Supporters	Short summary	Website
	four pilot sites in Greece, the Netherlands, Spain and Switzerland involving more than 3.000 people and 750 residences.	
Lightness	The Lightness project aims to empower citizens to generate, share and sell renewable energy and thereby contribute to making the European energy sector more sustainable and democratic.	https://www.lightness-project.eu/
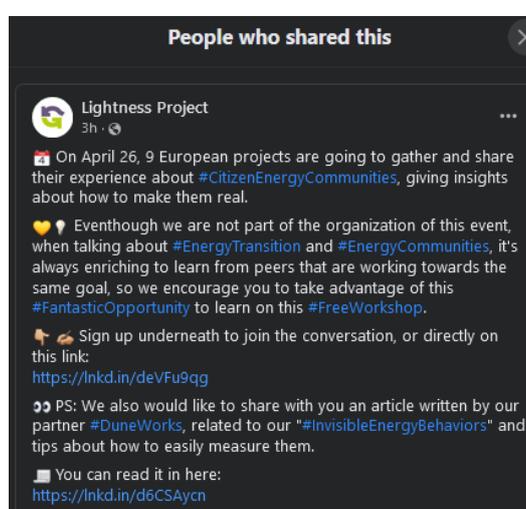
Figure 5 - The Lightness project making a spontaneous share

3.4 Potential projects to increase the group – how did the list grow?

BECoop and the first sister projects regularly discussed in the calls in 2021 to list potential projects to contact, based on:

- ✓ The Excel listings done at the beginning of the partnership,
- ✓ Events where BECoop participated or attended and where new projects were presented,
- ✓ Projects suggested by existing sister projects.

The projects that fit into these 3 categories were regularly contacted, and some of them joined the group.

3.5 Regular calls and updates

A first discovery call

IEECP organised for BECoop, a first discovery call in July 2021 with a few projects participating: DECIDE, RENergetic, NRG2peers and UP-STAIRS. eCREW and COME-RES were not available but mentioned they

would join the following calls. This first call allowed all projects to introduce what they are focusing on, the first months' findings and discuss potential collaboration areas. Other projects who could fit the partnership were also discussed. A group participation in *Sustainable Places* was brought forward by NRG2peers.

The follow up calls

Since then, 18 calls have been organised. Some projects attended all, some joined for a few calls but not all, and some stayed in the group but mostly didn't join the calls. The group calls focused on project updates, coming activities and potential areas for collaboration. BECoop project coordinator also joined some of these calls.

Separate call and emails were organised to discuss specific topics, such as the production of briefings or events' organisation.

The calls' structure generally focuses on introducing new projects / people, important agenda items followed by a round table discussion.

The minutes of each call are stored in our Google drive, created by BECoop for this purpose.

4 Collaborative activities M3-M18

Please note that below chapter (chapter 4) is identical as the one included in D6.5, the draft version of this report. For comprehensiveness of the actions and to have a clear picture of what happened through the whole partnership (M1-36), IEECP preferred to include it again.

The partnership, as described in the previous chapters, kicked off officially from July 2021 with regular calls, and the appeal to join an event collaboratively, Sustainable Places, in a dedicated stream focusing on energy communities.

All activities that were organised since the first invitation email are described in the next sub-chapters, including how calls are led, the events, digital support, and more, until April 2022. The next chapter will present planned and potential activities until the end of the project.

IEECP/BECoop gathers projects into **monthly calls** on TEAMS (and then on Zoom as one project had trouble accessing TEAMS), to present actions and imagine new ones collaboratively. **Minutes** are taken at each event by IEECP. A **Google drive** was set up to host logos, short project summaries, an excel with key contacts, and any other needed material.
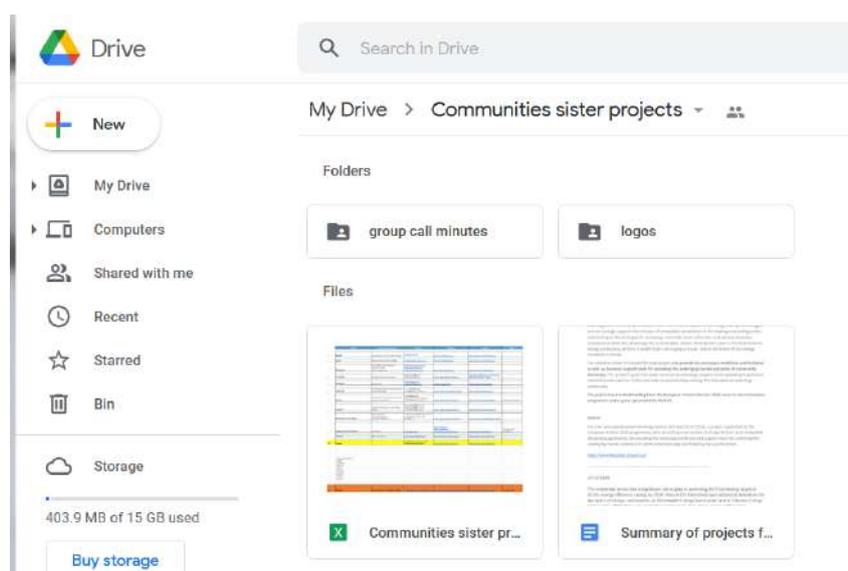

Figure 6 - Sister projects drive

4.1 Events (Sustainable places, presenting BECoop at projects GA, etc)

NRG2peers invited the sister projects to join the Sustainable Places event, as a first collaborative activity. This 2021 yearly event had a dedicated stream on energy communities, with 3 sessions: on business models, where BECoop applied, on enabling technologies, and on social engagement. Many of the sister projects were happy to participate. The stream business models gathered H2020 BECoop, DECIDE, SocialRES, WHY, Drimpac, Newcomers and Compile, which shared a variety of approaches, ideas, and insights. The event was organised from September 28 to October 1, as hybrid due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. We chose to participate digitally. Our session gathered 40 participants.

The recording was then shared on YouTube (46 views as of April 4, 2022), and proceedings were written by participants:

Breukers, S.; Schibline, A.; Pressmair, G.; Barnes, J.; Perrio, M.F.; Calatayud, E.P.; Rakocevic, L. A Business Model Fast Track on Energy Communities—Key Lessons Learned from H2020 EU Projects. Environ. Sci. Proc. 2021, 11, 19. https://doi.org/10.3390/environsciproc2021011019.

All information was shared, including a summary of the event and key findings, in an article for the website.

Figure 7 - Sustainable Places Banner - Energy communities' stream

Figure 8 - Projects participating for each session

Another event where the sister projects combined forces was the eCREW General Assembly and project meeting. BECoop was invited by the project coordinator to join for a dedicated session on sister projects, presenting the partnership, the projects and the actions.
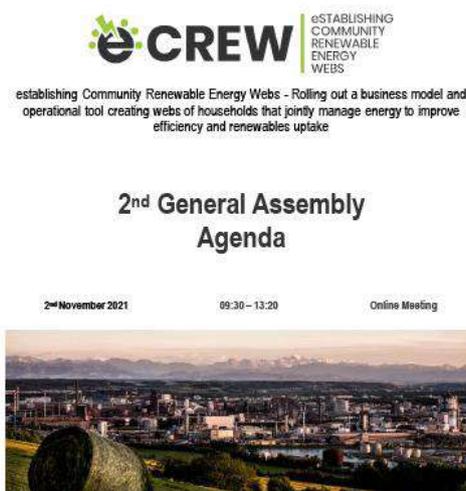
Figure 9 - eCREW 2nd General Assembly

Other events have been planned for the coming months and are described in chapter 5.

4.2 Digital support: websites and hubs, newsletters, social media

The main ideas and objectives behind starting a partnership were to support each other's communication, for instance:

- ✓ including news from the other projects into newsletters,
- ✓ on the websites' news section,
- ✓ following other projects' social media accounts,
- ✓ sharing social media posts,
- ✓ creating joint campaigns,
- ✓ organising collaborative events,
- ✓ applying together at events,
- ✓ And much more!

We describe in these next sections the activities that took place.

Websites

BECoop has shared the idea to host information about all related projects on the partnership websites, and many have responded positively to the call. BECoop also developed such a page.

Some of our sister projects' websites "related projects" pages / sections are listed below:

- https://www.newcomersh2020.eu/related-projects
- https://www.compile-project.eu/energy-communities/
- https://ec2project.eu/resources/related-projects
- https://come-res.eu/related-projects
- https://decide4energy.eu/related-projects
- https://www.becoop-project.eu/resources/related-projects/

Figure 10. BECoop website related projects page

Figure 11 - Example - COMPILE sister projects page

Other inclusions on websites include sharing news into articles or adding specific items into the projects' hubs or platforms.

The DECIDE platform has been used a lot by BECoop to add relevant information for visitors, such as the technical and financial catalogues and factsheets, all project tools, the video, and more. BECoop communication manager regularly shares information with the project partners and has for instance suggested including all sister projects' tools, if relevant, into the BECoop toolkit.
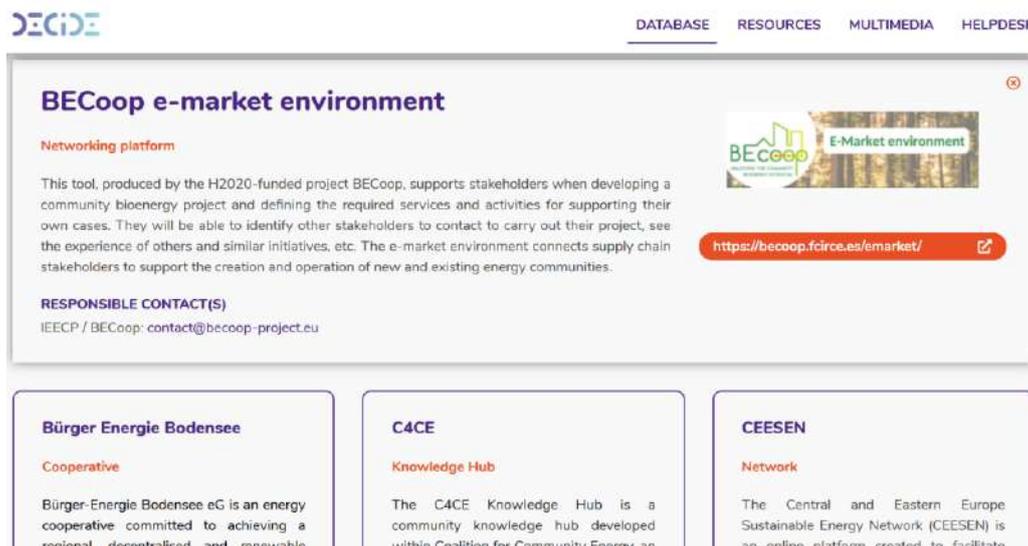
Figure 12 - Insertion of BECoop resources into the DECIDE Knowledge hub

Newsletters

Following the same approach, projects have been keen into sharing each other's results into their newsletters.

BECoop happily includes items from different projects in each issue, as it supports the partnership and allows sharing more relevant news to our readership.

BECoop newsletters have therefore included news from EC², DECIDE, Newcomers, COMPILE: https://www.becoop-project.eu/newsletter/

Figure 13 - October 2021, W4RES newsletter insertion

Figure 14 - March 2022 Newcomers newsletter insertion

Social media

Finally, all projects regularly share content from the partnership on their social media platforms, increasing the potential reach of all posts and ensuring the news reaches more stakeholders, the projects, even though related, having different scopes or approaches and target countries.

Just looking at the project's profiles, one can see the numerous shares, for instance on BECoop's Twitter account: BECoop H2020 (@BecoopH2020) / Twitter

Figure 15 - BECoop latest notifications highlighting projects' involvement

A Twitter list with the energy community projects was also recently created, allowing the users to see all updates from the projects gathered there.
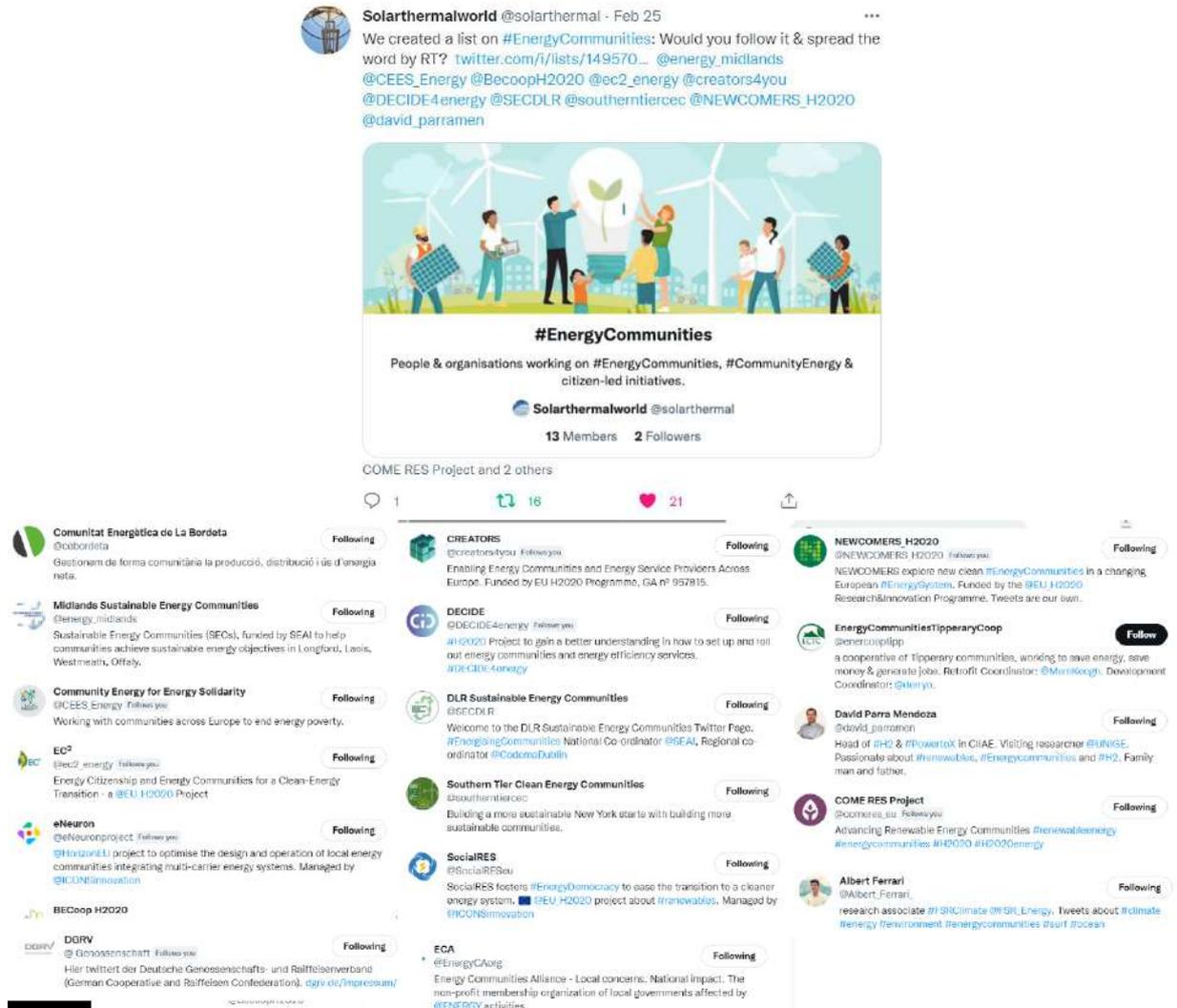
Figure 16 and Figure 17 - Tweet announcing the list and members

5 Collaborative activities M18-M36

As can be seen in chapter 4, in less than a year of partnership many activities have already been organised. We summarise in this new chapter the activities that happened after the first version of this report (D6.4, M18) was prepared.

BECoop continued hosting the monthly calls, taking minutes, and managing the partnership drive, until the end of the project. By the end of 2021, the discussion evolved towards more active collaborations: it was decided to organise an event. Several ideas emerged, including a focus on social and legal approaches and/or all tools supporting energy communities. Eventually, the decision was made to plan the event centered around tools, scheduled for April 2022.

5.1 Energy communities' tools event and after event material (April 2022)

One of the highlights of the partnership was this planned event, organised by all, with a strong core group involving EC², BECoop and DECIDE. The 3 projects organised separate calls and worked on a concept note, agenda, promotional material, and organisational aspects: preparing a template for the presentation, speakers' guidelines, sending information to speakers, arranging a rehearsal session, etc. We include below more information on the event and the storytelling concept chosen.

From setting up energy communities to making them thrive: what are the tools available?

This event, organised by 9 projects funded by the European programme H2020 and working on the topic of energy communities, will showcase in an interactive manner 15 tools they are making available to people setting up / managing / growing energy communities: citizens, future and existing energy communities, policymakers, other projects / initiatives, RESCoops, etc.

Many EU projects work on the topic of energy communities and develop tools useful for various stakeholders at different stages of community energy initiatives and for different end goals (research, policymaking, business models, technology assessment, energy sharing etc.). This event clustered 15 tools in 3 groups (which are also our event sessions), to make sure stakeholders know where to go when they have a need, based on which stage of developing a community energy initiative an actor is:

- ✓ **Inform yourself** – Prior to starting a community energy initiative – understanding the basic concepts, researching and information collection.
- ✓ **Test your market, your ideas, technologies** – Organising and planning a community energy initiative – testing the market, which technologies to use, which business model and legal framework and how others have been doing.
- ✓ **Let's act – get people involved and grow** – Growing and improving an existing community initiative – Getting more people involved, engaging different social groups, data and energy sharing, one-stop shops.

The workshop presented tools in a simple and easy to understand way, in a 3-min pitch format for each tool, ending each session with a discussion with the audience. This was an opportunity to hear from participants and receive valuable feedback for the tool's developers.

The workshop followed a simple storytelling concept. Andrea, a fictional character we follow during the event, is a resident* of the EU who would like to take ownership of her/his energy consumption and production and is interested in starting, better managing, or growing her community energy initiative. Andrea would like to learn which tools are publicly available to help her achieve this goal. *Andrea could be an independent citizen or someone representing a group / working for an entity (municipality, ESCO, supplier) depending on which stakeholder the tool is made for.

The event webpage was: https://www.becoop-project.eu/project-events/from-setting-up-energy-communities-to-making-them-thrive-what-are-the-tools-available/

The agenda was as follows:

- ✓ 9.00-9.15 Welcome + Mapping of projects and tools, Marine Perrio, IEECP
- ✓ 9.15-9.30 Keynote (Community Power Coalition)
- ✓ 9.30-10.30 Inform yourself (knowledge hubs, knowledge sharing tools, etc.) – Panel, each tool pitched, discussion and questions from the audience. Tools from BECoop, UP-STAIRS, NEWCOMERS, EC2, DECIDE and W4RES.
- ✓ 10.30-10.45 Coffee break
- ✓ 10.45 – 11.45 Test your market, your ideas, technologies (business modelling tools, one-stop-shops, regulatory hubs, etc.)– Panel, each tool pitched, discussion and questions from the audience. Tools from BECoop, eCREW, UP-STAIRS, COME RES), DECIDE and W4RES.
- ✓ 11.45-12.15 Let's act – get people involved and grow (user engagement tools, technology assessment tools, etc) – Panel, each tool pitched, discussion and questions from the audience. Tools from BECoop, DECIDE and W4RES.
- ✓ 12.15-12.30 Conclusions from each discussion panel and closing.

The event gathered over 100 participants **on April 26, 2022** (and the recording 59 views), with participants belonging mainly to the following categories:

- ✓ Research and academia.
- ✓ Existing energy community participant / owner.
- ✓ Interested in setting up / joining an energy community.

Massive promotion was done on social media, BECoop also contacted RESCoop.eu, eCREW printed and distributed flyers at the World Sustainable Energy Days taking place during early April that year. To promote further the event, BECoop shared the event information with the following platforms/ newsletters:

- ✓ Construction 21
- ✓ Build UP
- ✓ EU Agenda
- ✓ The Coalition for energy savings news
- ✓ Eceee
- ✓ The Fleishman Hillard Energy Vista
- ✓ Inclusion in IEECP's newsletter

Figure 18 - ICLEI promotion of the event

Figure 19 - Tools event banner

The event was positively received by the sisterhood of projects, their partners, the participants, and the European Commission. They were pleased to see projects uniting forces to create original and informative events.

After the event, IEECP/BECoop prepared:

- ✓ A press release, sent to over 50 media across Europe in May 2022: https://www.becoop-project.eu/project-news/press-release-tapping-the-full-potential-of-community-energy-in-europe-9-eu-funded-projects-join-forces-to-engage-users-in-the-tools-they-developed/
- ✓ A briefing presenting the tools of all projects, developed together with ICLEI and EUREC: https://www.becoop-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/Energy-communities-tools-briefing.pdf
- ✓ A webpage to share the event material: all presentations, the video and the briefing: https://www.becoop-project.eu/project-news/after-event-material-from-setting-up-energy-communities-to-making-them-thrive-what-are-the-tools-available/

Figure 20 - Tools event briefing

Figure 21 – YouTube recording

5.2 EUSEW 2022 (September 2022)

In February 2022, BECoop offered the sistership to join forces and submit a policy conference proposal to EUSEW 2022 (the EU Sustainable Energy Week) organised in a hybrid format on 26-29 September 2022.

EUSEW is a conference organised yearly in Brussels (or digitally in the times of COVID-19) focusing on sustainable energy. That year's theme was *Going Green and digital for Europe's energy transition*. The event is located in the European district, and events selected benefit from free rooms in the EU Commission buildings. The application is for policy conferences: they must focus on sustainable energy issues, and debate new policy developments, best practices, and sustainable energy ideas. Alongside the conference, networking opportunities gather the EUSEW community onsite and online to forge alliances while the EUSEW Awards celebrate outstanding individuals, projects, and ideas. eCREW and W4RES responded positively, whereas the WECF – Women Engage for a Common Future, agreed to co-host the event.

More women in renewables and energy communities: safeguarding an enabling policy framework

Women's representation in the renewable energy sector (RES) and energy communities (ECs) is still too low: the event wants to understand their behaviours and motivations to safeguard an enabling and inclusive legal framework. For the energy transition and EU Green Deal to be realised, they need to be inclusive and participatory. Everybody is talking about engaging more women: we want to make it happen! We will draw attention to women in energy communities and in the Renewable Heating and Cooling sectors, empowering them to reclaim energy. To understand and highlight the barriers they face, especially to enter or be represented in the energy sector, as well as their behaviours and perceptions, we will look at gender equality in RES and ECs from a societal perspective, exploring different survey results and outlining inclusive policies. A first part will explore what obstacles women must overcome and what needs to change, with key figures supporting our discussion. A second panel will examine the legal framework for better gender-balanced policy formulation. Instruments and strategies to draft inclusive supporting policies and ensure an enabling legal framework will be discussed: technical assistance and capacity building, financial support, and the implementation of gender-sensitive work policies. The last part will showcase projects and initiatives that support women in the RES and ECs, examining the need for systems and procedures changes so that power can be shared across all levels of decision-making, implementation and monitoring. We will present ideas on how women can drive the energy transition and how they can improve the community energy consumption. We will discuss the importance of training and programmes in raising awareness and increasing energy literacy. eCREW, W4RES, BECoop and WECF will share survey results with policymakers (at EU, national and local levels), energy utilities and prosumers. The focus will be on women and RHC technologies, bioenergy heating and energy communities. The session incorporates various interactive approaches: a keynote speech, panel discussions, a Q&A session and video testimonials.

Relevance of the topic

Equitable access to and control over sustainable energy services for all is an essential right. This session raises awareness and discusses a supportive framework to put women as cornerstones of the energy transition. Women are agents of change and a key role in behavioural change for energy consumption, reinforcing the need for more integration in RES and ECs. There are, however, a number of factors that

limit their participation. The EU sustainable energy policy agenda (through initiatives such as Fit-for-55 and REPowerEU) is looking for equality and integrating women into facilitating policies: our event will feed into the current policy debate by discussing the barriers, initiatives to overcome them and the needed supporting framework. The organisers will provide insights based on their research, opening the floor to discuss an adapted policy framework. To deliver on the clean energy transition, no one should be left behind: that is exactly the purpose of our session.

The event was announced, as per usual practices, on all channels (of the projects and sister projects' as well as the European Commission / EUSEW channels). An event page was added on the BECoop website, and banners to promote it produced.

We submitted the application in late March and received a response in mid-May 2022. The three projects collectively decided that if we didn't get accepted into the EUSEW framework, the event would be organised independently due to the substantial work completed and the interesting concept. While we were not accepted into the policy program, we were included in the extended program.

AGENDA

- ✓ Welcome Yiannis Konstas, Q-PLAN
- ✓ Keynote Katharina Habersbrunner, WECF
- ✓ A societal approach to gender equality in RES & RECs: perceptions, motivations & needs. Diving into survey results to draft better policies with Katharina Habersbrunner, WECF, Yannis Konstas, Q-PLAN and Johannes Slacik, Energy Institute, JKU Linz.
- ✓ Financial & legal framework status – how can the societal approach feed into better gender-balanced policymaking (We discuss recommendations for policymakers, energy utilities and municipalities on how to integrate women. What measures should support women's involvement? What type of support would be the most relevant?) with Jutta Paulus, EU Parliament, Hemma Bieser, avantsmart – OurPower, Saska Petrova, University of Manchester and Yannis Konstas, Q-PLAN.
- ✓ How can the projects and other initiatives be getting women more present and engaged in RES and RECs? With Hemma Bieser, avantsmart – OurPower, Johannes Slacik, Energy Institute at JKU Linz, Marilys Louvet, Energy, Climate and Gender, Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF) and Yannis Konstas, Q-PLAN
- ✓ Conclusions, Saska Petrova, University of Manchester

The event was attended by over 70 participants **on September 22, 2022**, and the recording, uploaded on YouTube, gathered 61 more views.

After the event, IEECP/BECoop prepared:

- ✓ A briefing presenting key event outputs: https://www.becoop-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/EUSEW-2022-BECoop-et-al.pdf
- ✓ A webpage to share the event material - all presentations, the video and the briefing: https://www.becoop-project.eu/project-news/after-event-material-more-women-in-renewables-and-energy-communities-safeguarding-an-enabling-policy-framework/
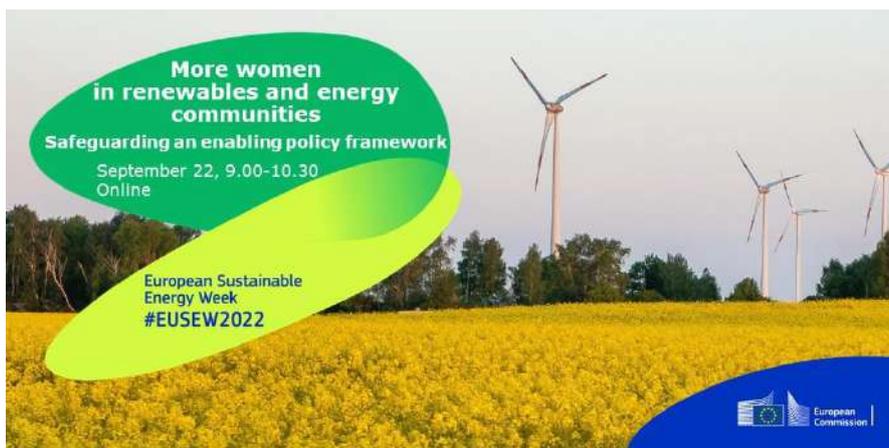
Figure 22 – Banner to promote the event
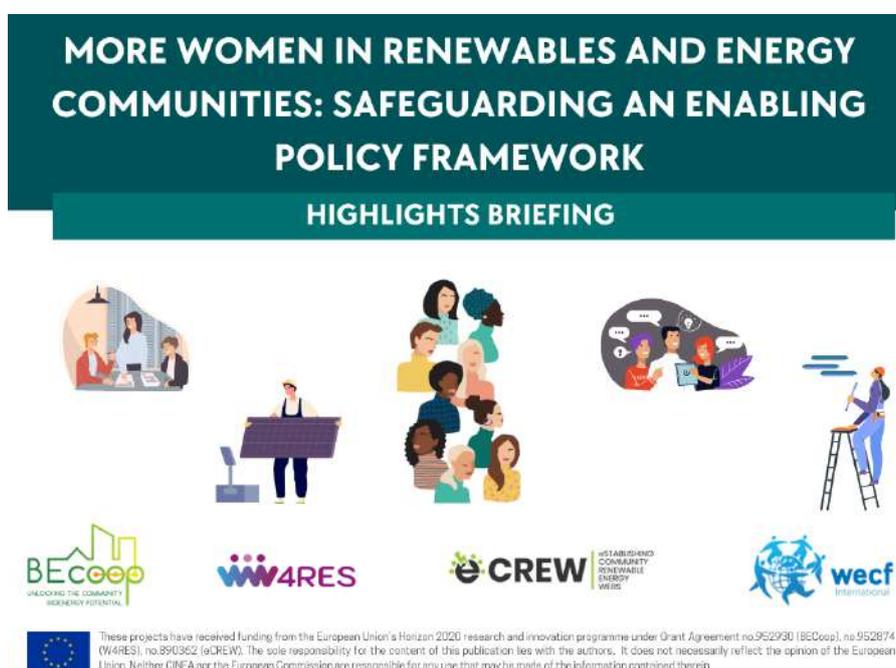
Figure 23 – Banner to promote the briefing.

5.3 Briefing - the missing tool in tackling energy poverty (March 2023)

While the energy crisis impacts can still be felt across Europe with devastating consequences, emergency as well as long-lasting solutions are investigated. In a unique collaboration, 10 EU-funded projects have gathered to produce a comprehensive briefing including recommendations for various stakeholders, on how could renewable energy communities be a vehicle to mitigate the energy crisis and lift people out of energy poverty. Most of the 10 were already part of our cluster, one joined it then (Sun4All).

Realising there was much to share on the topic, and the research they had done in the previous years could benefit a variety of stakeholders, including policymakers who could use its inputs and examples

to draft future EU, national and local policies, BECoop, CEES, PowerPoor, eCREW, W4RES, UP-STAIRS, COME RES, EC2, NRG2PEERS and Sun4All prepared a comprehensive briefing. The ten projects are working on the topics of energy communities and/or energy poverty and looked together at how the two topics relate. The briefing provides some answers and policy recommendations to the question: "*Can renewable energy communities be leveraged as a vehicle to mitigate the energy crisis, with the ability to lift people out of energy poverty? If so, how and under which conditions?*".

What was the process followed to produce and promote the briefing?

IEECP/BECoop started the exchange on producing a briefing among projects back in **October 2022** and brainstorms started on a potential topic that could match most projects' topics and findings. A consensus was found to work on the topic of energy poverty, and to work in the following months to release it in winter. BECoop then led the process and took care of validating the topic and defining with projects headlines for different chapters, integrating all comments and feedback received at various stages, to make it a briefing the 10 projects could agree on and finally preparing a nice layout, writing, and disseminating a press release.

The briefing and press release are available on the BECoop website: they have been downloaded a total of 480 times (check performed on Google Analytics on October 3, 2023).

The briefing was additionally added to several platforms such as Smart Efficiency, shared by the Fleishman Hillard Daily energy news and added to organisational websites such as IEECP's.

Figure 24 – Some pages of the briefing
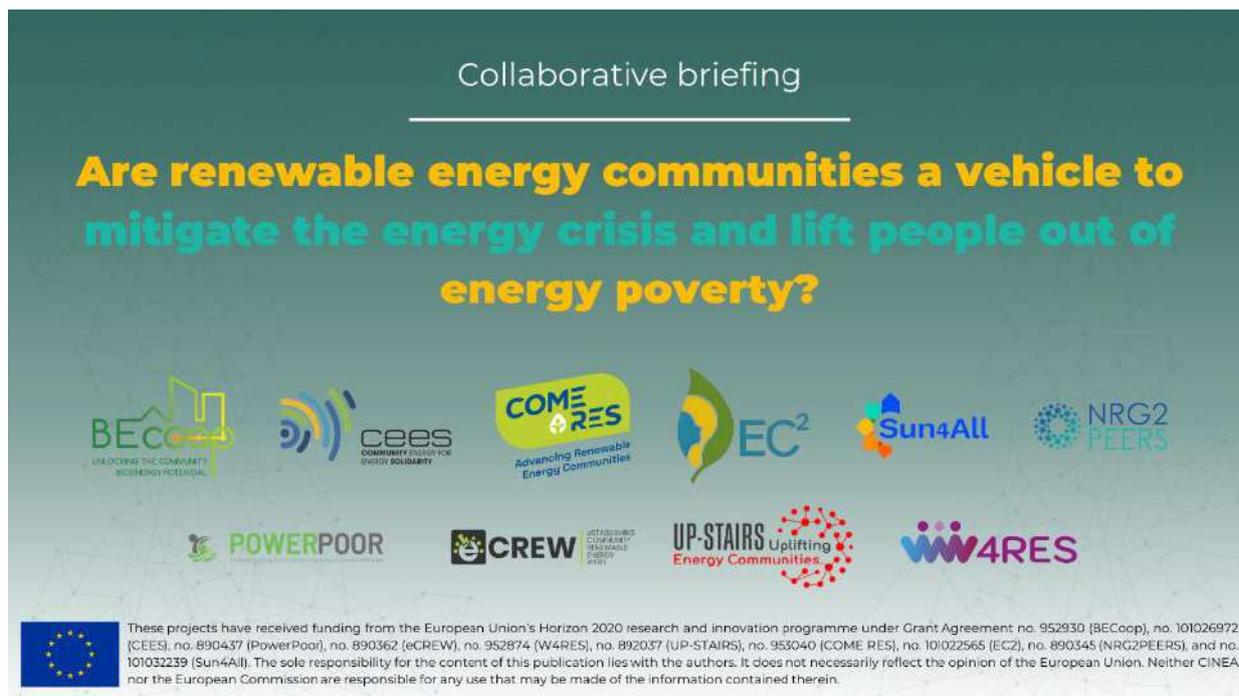
Figure 25 – Banner to promote the briefing

5.4 Just energy toolbox – EU Green Week (June 2023)

Considering the success of previous collaborations, some of the sister projects decided to apply jointly to some events organised at the EU level, among them, EUSEW 2023 and the EU Green Week. BECoop, PowerPoor and W4RES jointly applied to the EU Green Week, which was accepted, and set the date for the event on June 5, 2023. The energy crisis has increased citizens' willingness to reduce their energy bills, improve their understanding of energy efficiency and become active in the energy transition. Several new tools and initiatives have been developed to assist citizens to understand their own energy consumption and adopt behavioural changes and small-scale energy efficiency interventions to lower it, as well as to become prosumers by establishing energy communities. BECoop, POWERPOOR and W4RES, three EU-funded projects, will present their toolkits and recommendations to support citizens in taking part in the just energy transition, alleviate energy poverty and encourage the uptake of energy communities. As usual, an event page was set up and promotion done on social media and projects' channels (newsletters, etc).

Silvia Vivarelli (CINEA/European Commission) started the webinar with a presentation of initiatives and calls for projects to support energy communities and to mitigate energy poverty. She focused on the LIFE programme "Clean Energy Transition". Eleni Kanellou (NTUA/POWERPOOR) explained how to use the Energy Poverty Mitigation toolkit developed within the POWERPOOR project. Jaime Guerrero Belza (CIRCE/BECoop) presented the tool developed by BECoop to help and support the market uptake of the bioenergy communities and energy communities. The project has developed a series of tools, factsheets and catalogues introduced by Jaime. The second part of the webinar focused on gender equality. Following W4RES's presentation, Maya Angelou (Attica Energy Community) gave concrete examples of the opportunities and challenges faced by the Attica Energy Community to empower women in the renewable energy sector. Finally, Yiannis Konstas (Q-Plan/W4RES and BECoop), who moderated the webinar, emphasised the importance of fundings developed by the European

Commission to help energy communities and tackle energy poverty. He also invited the participants and interested stakeholders to use and share the tools as they are very useful for citizens and the energy transition.

The after-event material is available on the BECoop website and includes the presentations and recording (37 views to be added to the over 50 participants of the session).

Figure 26 – Banner to promote the event

5.5 Supporting energy communities in tackling energy poverty and gender inequality: skill up! (June 2022)

As written earlier, BECoop and a few sister projects jointly applied to the EU Sustainable Energy Week 2023 with a policy conference, under the header "Accelerating the clean energy transition – towards lowering bills and enhancing skills". The application didn't go through, yet all involved projects (W4RES, BECoop, eCrew, PowerPoor and DECIDE) decided to keep the event and organise on our own. The chosen date was **June 12, 2023**, in a digital format.

The European Commission supported the event by sharing the information in its "Energy Communities Repository" newsletter and on its website. Adding to the organisers, many other sister projects joined the event as speakers: RESCHOOL, RENergetic and ENPOR. The webinar offered the opportunity to discuss how energy poverty can be tackled by increasing inclusivity and skills. Speakers addressed ways to strengthen inclusion by combining efforts led by municipalities, energy suppliers, civil society organisations and citizens. Experiences from working on the ground with women and vulnerable groups were shared, identifying barriers and opportunities for policy making and enhanced action to alleviate their energy poverty. The event was moderated by Eleni Kanellou, POWERPOOR Coordinator

and PhD Candidate, National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) and included the following speakers:

✓ Véronique Marx, DG Energy, European Commission
✓ Anamari Majdandžić, Senior Expert at DOOR
✓ Aitor Ossa Rissanen Kontaktua, GOIENER
✓ Agnieszka Filipiak, Kelso Institute Europe (description of the "Assisted CSOP" in Slupsk, Poland)
✓ Giulia Torri, Innovation Responsible, Km0
✓ Sonja Klingert, University of Stuttgart, EU Projects RENergetic & DECIDE
✓ Katharina Habersbrunner, WECF
✓ Alice Corovessi, Managing Director at INZEB
✓ Monika Bucha, Kelso Institute Europe

Recording and presentations are available on the BECoop website. In total, online participants and video viewers amount to over 100 persons.

Figure 27 – Banners to promote the events of June 12

Figure 28 – Survey results of the event

5.6 Research and Innovation results portfolio

Following a proposal by email, received from the project CircuBED, BECoop joined another group of projects as beneficiary of the Horizon Results Booster services. This service (here Module A of Service 1) offered by the European Commission), aims at boosting communication and dissemination activities at the cluster level through the creation of a project group, including: Houseful, CircuBED, BECoop, Pop-Machina, Drive 0 and ARV.

CircuBED explored how citizens and urban communities can contribute to the implementation of a circular economy in cities, and how they can be engaged in envisioning possible scenarios for a transition to a circular community. The project thought BECoop could be interested to join our project group and implement dissemination activities together, broadening the outreach and the potential impact of our projects' results and activities. BECoop / IEECP agreed and took the needed step: complete a very brief survey on the HRB platform. ICONS, the communication, dissemination, and exploitation expert appointed by the EU Commission, analysed the data then discussed during a dedicated call during which we also agreed on the following steps.

What was produced? ICONS provided projects with the analysis of joint results as a confidential report summarising target stakeholders and possible common dissemination activities.

Figure 29 – Report cover

5.7 Participation to other projects' activities

BECoop, in addition to all activities described in the previous chapters, was regularly invited by projects to contribute with articles for their newsletters, or present at events.

The two most important events were the POWERPOOR brokerage event, on November 30, 2022 in Brussels and the DECIDE final event in June in Brussels (a day prior to the EUSEW start).

✓ The POWERPOOR brokerage event was an opportunity for BECoop to demonstrate the lead taken in organising activities with sister projects with the following slot:

"Enhancing synergies between EU-funded projects: Are renewable energy communities a solution in the energy crisis and energy poverty?"

A summary article was prepared by the organisers.

✓ The DECIDE final event was hosted in Brussels on June 19, under the headline "Ways forward for Collective Energy Actions". IEECP's Esther Hardy presented in the **Breakout 2 - Diversify your opportunities through collective action // Topic: Business models and financing for Energy Communities and other Collective Actions**.

Figure 30 – Event cover

Figure 31 – Photo from the brokerage event

34

Figure 32 – DECIDE final event.

Finally, while a Zenodo community was created by the Newcomers project to share scientific publications on the topic of energy communities among the group of projects, a Twitter/X group on the topic was also created, by the EU Commission this time, to share relevant posts. It gathers 17 projects.
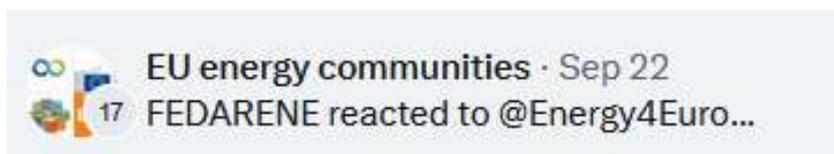
Figure 33 – EU energy communities' group on Twitter/X

5.8 The final dissemination event (October 2023)

The process

A year prior to writing this report, discussions started between projects to organise something together for some of the projects' final events. Some were naturally "excluded" as they ended earlier (PowerPoor, DECIDE) and some, even if ending later, decided to go ahead and join forces. Early 2023 we therefore agreed with the following projects to have a day focused on energy communities:

- W4RES: https://w4res.eu/
- UP-STAIRS: https://www.h2020-upstairs.eu/
- NRG2peers: https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/nrg2peers/

As IEECP is leading communication work for other projects with similar end dates, the idea quickly came to make the event a 2-day event around sustainable energy, adding a day on energy demand and multiple impacts of energy efficiency with:

- NUDGE: https://www.nudgeproject.eu/

- newTRENDs: https://newtrends2020.eu/
- MICAT: https://micatool.eu/micat-project-en/

The event was now officially a 2-day event, on **24-25 of October**, in Brussels.

Other important decisions were made in April and May 2023:

✓ The event would be **in-presence only**.
✓ Yet, **video producers** would be hired to film the whole event and make a short summary video. As the event was organised by 7 projects, costs were reduced, and more actions could be planned.
✓ The 24/10 would start with an **event organised by CINEA** for some projects related to the topic, and end with a **cocktail**.
✓ The 25/10 would end with the **visit to an energy community** in Brussels, organised by NRG2peers.
✓ Both days were planned to integrate many **external speakers** and avoid a project-focused event with long presentations.
✓ Quotes were asked to few places and Brussels and the decision was made to organise the event in the Brussels EU district, in **Atelier29**.
✓ We invited other projects to submit **posters**, as there was the possibility onsite to attach 16 of them.
✓ **41 speakers** agreed to join the event in **8 panels**!
✓ Finally, we also **left space in the agenda** for people to discuss and question project partners, test our tools, etc. The final event agenda is included in the annexes.

Communication about the event

It was decided to launch the first save the date before summer, from June onwards, and open quickly registrations. All 7 projects intensely promoted the event, with posts on social media, in newsletters, on websites, etc. Several networks were also leveraged including:

✓ The EU Commission newsletters
✓ The Fleishman Hillard energy daily news
✓ RESCoop.eu newsletter
✓ Eceee website and newsletter
✓ The Coalition for energy savings newsletter
✓ Organisations websites and socials: IEECP, Wuppertal Institute, Cittadinanzattiva, Housing Europe, White research, UIPI, etc
✓ Projects websites: NUDGE, W4RES, Smartspin, MICAT, UP-STAIRS, etc
✓ And many more!

The event was declared full, and registrations were closed a week before the end of September. Therefore, we created a new registration form to allow people to receive updates about the event and, in case seats became available again, to be placed on a waiting list. We have allocated a 30% overbooking allowance as there are typically some dropouts at events.

Figure 34 – Banner for the final event
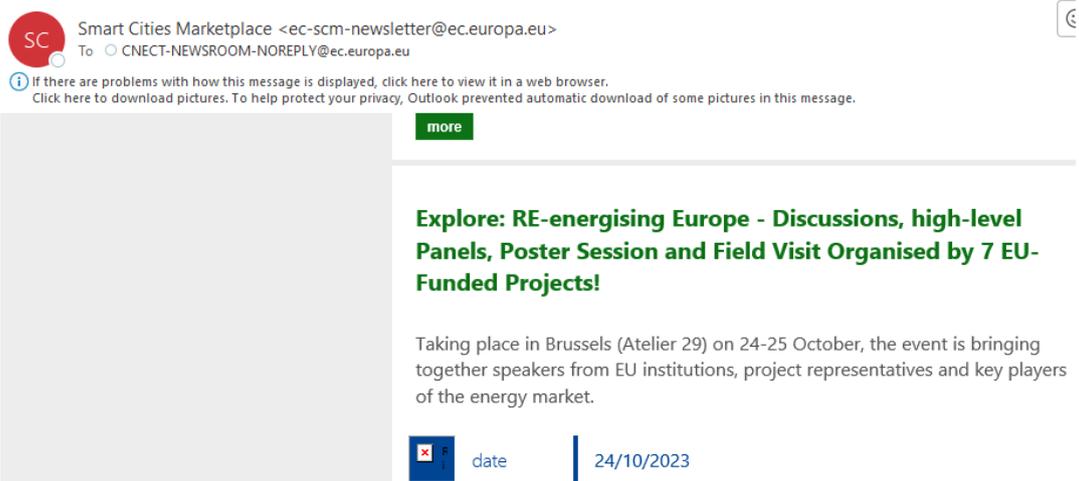
Figure 35 – Event promoted in a newsletter from the EU Commission

What's next?

The event hasn't yet happened as of the time of writing this report, yet we can already mention a few key aspects for the "after".

- ✓ A welcome package is discussed these days with participating projects, to include in a bag some of the most important results (policy briefs, posters in A4 format, and more).
- ✓ Usual thank you emails to speakers and participants will be planned.
- ✓ The event recording and material will all be available on the 7 projects' websites and shared on social media and through the last project newsletters.
- ✓ Updated information (number of participants, etc) will be added in the projects' final reports.

6 Exploitation of the established synergy group

The sisterhood of projects, as has been described in the report, was clearly a successful initiative and led to many events and publications, and the BECoop consortium, as well as sister projects, agreed it would be a pity not to build on it / exploit the group.

After successfully establishing a synergy with 25 projects and acknowledging the challenges and hurdles we stumbled upon, we recognised that it wouldn't be efficient to always start a synergy from scratch when important foundations have already been put in place by already completed projects. This is why we further explored the sisterhood's sustainability given that it could potentially be coordinated by representatives of newly emerged projects in the same domain.

Therefore, as the end of BECoop was approaching, we began discussions regarding the legacy of the sisterhood over the summer 2023.

In September and October 2023, IEECP organised the last two calls, with 'older' projects having slowly phased out of the group as they ended (COME-RES, PowerPoor, DECIDE), others ending soon (BECoop, W4RES, NRG2peers, eCrew and UP-STAIRS) and few new ones demonstrating a lot of interest (WIMBY, ALFA, RESCHOOL).

The three projects mentioned their potential interest to take over the group or find new ones that would follow a similar approach in clustering activities.

After an open discussion and a reflection on the theme of the group, it appeared the three remaining projects had very different concepts and objectives (acceptance of wind energy, energy communities and biogas plants), so an alternative solution was offered:

- ✓ ALFA and WIMBY will join another existing group, created these past months by IEECP and NTUA, under the slogan "Smart energy cluster" and gathering 23 LIFE and Horizon-funded projects.
- ✓ RESCHOOL will join the group EC², one of the sister projects, had on the side with other energy citizenship-focused projects such as GRETA.

IEECP – and based on the discussions from the last project meeting in Greece in September 2023, all partners too – agreed that the initiative was a success and should be replicated in future projects. This is a learning that all partners will take with them when preparing proposals for future projects.

7 Sister projects outside task 6.3

In addition to the sister projects presented in this report, and the actions organised together, it is worth noting that our Polish partners OBS and WUELS organised knowledge exchange meetings and presentations regularly with additional projects.

Project short summary

- BioTrainValue - Biomass torrefaction is used to produce high-level solid biofuels. BioTrainValue will develop and test new technologies and equipment for biomass torrefaction with the application of superheated steam for high-value innovative bio-based products at the European scale. The project will provide new methodologies and experimental data for innovative small-scale reactors and agro-energy technology for treated solid biofuels with increased calorific value, reduced biodegradability, increased bulk and energy density, and cheaper transport and storage. BioTrainValue will also result in direct bio-products, such as biofuels, fertilisers with better characteristics and biocarbon as an additive to fertilizers for agriculture and activated carbon for the chemical and energy industries.

Figure 36 – BioTrainValue, Superheated Steam Torrefaction for high-level solid biofuels

The BECoop Polish team was invited to the BioTrainValue Kick off Meeting, from which followed a regular cooperation, including invitations in webinars (on BECoop's biomass valorisation methods and BioTrainValue's webinar on biogas). The two projects consulted their results (especially BECoop's as the project was at a more mature stage), in the field of:

✓ Methods of biomass conversion for professional energy purposes in Poland and the EU (technological aspects of pyrolysis, torrefaction, and gasification processes).

✓ Economic aspects of biomass valorisation processes such as torrefaction and pyrolysis for the purposes of using these technologies on a large scale in distributed energy.

The cooperation was made easy as themes overlap and due to the presence of WUELS in both.

- **RENALDO**, a EUKI initiative project, focused on rural renewable development. See a short video - link to the action – read more. Short summary: As a first step, the project developed a handbook on setting up and operating energy cooperatives; based on good practices from Poland, Germany, and other EU Member States and will be tested in two pilot communities in the provinces Podlaskie and Kuyavian-Pomeranian. A second step aimed at further refining the intervention and implementing additional energy cooperatives in four other communities in Podlaskie and Kuyavian-Pomeranian. In parallel, RENALDO supported the selected communities in the development of business plans ensuring the profitability of an energy cooperatives. Third, a session with the relevant stakeholders served to analyse the lessons

learned from setting-up energy cooperatives. The findings supported adjustments of the regulatory and institutional setting and good practices disseminated to other Polish regions.

- **POWERTY**, in 2021 - Renewable energies for vulnerable groups. The general objective of POWERTY was to increase the use of renewable energies in vulnerable groups. This way, thanks to the project, new renewable energy installations will be facilitated to provide safe and clean energy to vulnerable households. In addition, companies supplying renewable energies will be encouraged through the project to offer technological solutions that are adapted to vulnerable groups, activating their corporate social responsibility. The project closed in July 2023 with a presentation by FIPER and OBS.

- The project entitled „National consultancy support system for the public sector, the residential sector and enterprises in the scope of energy efficiency and RES" was executed by The National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management (Narodowy Fundusz Ochrony Środowiska i Gospodarki Wodnej) and Partners in 16 regions throughout the country.

- Finally, the initiative "Stowarzyszenie na rzecz efektywności im. prof. Krzysztofa Żmijewskiego" / "Energy cooperatives – the local dimension of energy transformation and an element of building socio-economic competitiveness" worked closely with WUELS and OBS.

Figure 37 – Additional sister projects logos

Figure 38 – Events with sister projects in Poland

8 Conclusion

BECoop, since the project started, had at heart to engage with related initiatives and projects, to build on each other's knowledge and resources. A group of up to 25 projects therefore emerged, also referred to as "sister projects", which met monthly to share results and draft potential collaboration ideas. This number was higher than estimated when writing the project proposal (goal of 10 projects or actions), and higher than expected upon starting the task.

Well-attended events and comprehensive briefings were organised and produced on key topics for the EU policy framework (energy poverty, inclusivity, exploitation of project tools, etc.), and allowed not only project partners from all projects, but also all their audiences to benefit from condensed information and activities that would have otherwise not happened.

The main actions led to increased outreach (as demonstrated by the numbers reported by each project – of social media followers, recipients of newsletters, and more) and collaborative events, and as written previously, have demonstrated the success of such initiatives, to be replicated in other projects. The final event itself is a proof of how these synergies can generate increased interest: in IEECP's experience of organising project final events, the average attendance is around 40-60 participants. Here, we have gathered 140 registrations for each of the 2-days of final event.

The partnership has led to very positive exchanges, interactions and synergies and have proven that sometimes even a small, but motivated team can organise great things. We have all worked on organising events or producing briefings that would not have happened otherwise: e.g. showcasing 20 project tools in several panels, or delivering briefings on topics that weren't BECoop's core research focus (energy poverty, inclusivity). The sisterhood allowed meeting new partners and discovering work done by other projects, then shared internally to enhance our project's own research / activities (e.g. on the tools). This was reversely true: we for instance, as BECoop, discovered through the sisterhood the DECIDE knowledge hub where to add material, or the Sustainable Places event participation option.

BECoop, upon concluding the task, has invited projects that were to carry on after October 2023 to take over the coordination of this established synergy/sisterhood, or join other groups that the Dissemination Manager knew of. The IEECP team supported the projects in finding the groups that best matched their topics / interests. Even after the projects end, the contacts created will be maintained, and further actions will be discussed between organisations. Such tasks and groups of projects have already started spreading, as demonstrated by the LIFE/Horizon projects group "Smart energy cluster", and surely many more.

BECoop invites the European Commission to continue pushing for such actions to happen in projects (as now seems compulsory under Horizon and LIFE proposals). We recommend introducing such a task under all communication, dissemination, and exploitation work packages. IEECP/ BECoop remain open and happy to provide testimonials on the sisterhood added value in the future!

9 Annexes

9.1 Final conference agenda

RE-energising Europe - Sharing ideas and knowledge

This 2-day event, organised by 7 EU-funded projects (Horizon2020), will bring together on-stage speakers from the EU institutions, from the projects as well as key players from the energy market, to discuss how the work done in the past 3 years can support RE-energising Europe. Key topics related to energy in Europe will be tackled: (renewable)(bio) energy communities, energy efficiency, multiple benefits, RES, RHC, women, empowering people, energy behaviour, new trends of energy consumption (digitalisation, circular economy and more). To bring content to the discussions, our initiatives will present tools and models, one stop shops, awareness raising and nudging campaigns, showcased through inspirational presentations, a poster session and a field visit (Belgian energy community).

This event will provide an opportunity for attendees to learn about the latest developments in these areas and exchange ideas and best practices. Both days complement each other and provide a comprehensive overview of the current state of research and policy recommendations in the energy field.

Venue: Atelier 29, Rue Jacques de Lalaing 29, 1000 Brussels
Target audiences:
Energy experts, researchers, energy communities, policy makers, industry

REGISTRATION

October 24

Understanding the future of energy demand and its policy implications through new societal trends, behavioural aspects and multiple benefits

Organised by H2020 MICAT, newTRENDs and NUDGE.

Event moderated by Heike Brugger, Fraunhofer ISI

10.30 – 10.45 - **Registration & welcome coffee**

10.45 - 11.00 - **Welcome and introduction -** Heike Brugger, Fraunhofer ISI

First part - Modelling, nudging and assessing future energy demand patterns

11.00 - 11.15 - **Scientific keynote** - Nives Della Valle, European Commission Joint Research Centre, Directorate of Energy, Transport and Climate - Unit of Energy Efficiency and Renewables

11.15 – 13.00 - **Modelling, nudging and assessing future energy demand patterns - In-depth presentation of the projects' methods and findings, tools and models to understand and reduce energy demand.**

Scientific audience, including Q&A - *For more information about the projects, posters about tools, pilots and more will be hung in the event room.*

Moderation: Filippos Anagnostopoulos, IEECP

- Meta Thurid Lotz, Fraunhofer ISI (representing newTRENDs)
- Philipp Mascherbauer, TU Wien (representing newTRENDs)
- Peter Conradie, Senior Researcher, IMEC (representing NUDGE)
- Anne Kesselring, Fraunhofer ISI (representing NUDGE)
- Frederic Berger, Fraunhofer ISI (representing MICAT)
- Felix Suerkemper, Wuppertal Institute (representing MICAT)

13.00 - 14.30 - **Networking lunch**, including poster sessions

Second part - Multiple benefits, behavioural change and new societal trends - Contributions to energy policy.

14.30 - 14.45 - **Keynote** - Ms. Claudia Canevari, Head of the Just Transition, Consumers, Energy Efficiency and Innovation DG ENER, European Commission (tbc)

14.45 - 15.45 - **Policy learnings from the projects**
Moderation: Giulia Pizzini, IEECP

- MICAT: Barbara Schlomann, Fraunhofer ISI
- NUDGE: Heike Brugger, Fraunhofer ISI
- newTRENDS: Maksymilian Kochanski, RIC

15.45 - 16.00 - **Presentation** – Emma Mooney, International Energy Agency, Energy Analyst, Energy Efficiency

16.00 - 17.00 - **Panel - The way forward for energy policy**

Moderation: Giulia Pizzini, IEECP

- Nives Della Valle, European Commission, Joint Research Centre, Directorate of Energy, Transport and Climate - Unit of Energy Efficiency and Renewables
- Roland Gladushenko, Policy Manager, EURIMA
- Heleen Schockaert, Project Manager, RESCoop.eu
- Alessandro Mostaccio, President of Movimento Consumatori, EESC Member and Board Member of the European Consumer Union (ECU)
- Indra Van Sande, Gent city

17.00-18.30 - **Cocktail reception**

October 25

Energy communities and renewable energy, accelerating Europe's transition towards a climate neutral, inclusive future

Organised by H2020 BECoop, NRG2PEERS, UP-STAIRS and W4RES

Moderator for the day: Ioannis Konstas, Q-PLAN

8.45 - 9.00 - **Registration & welcome coffee**

9.00 - 9.15 - **Keynote** - Adela Tesarova, European Commission, DG Energy, Head of Unit for Consumers, Local Initiatives and Just Transition

9.15 - 9.40 - **Skill up! RECs, RES, inclusivity: What are we talking about? Fire pitching of the 4 projects** - *For more information about the projects, posters about tools, pilots and more will be hung in the event room.*

- Dimitrios Chapizanis, White Research (representing BECoop)
- Simona D'Oca, JLL (representing NRG2peers)
- Lorena Sánchez Relaño, IERC (representing UP-STAIRS)
- Giulia Zendron, White Research (representing W4RES)

9.40 - 11.00 - **Policy panel: Driving a clean energy transition through taping the biomass potential, boosting RESCoops and empowering women as agents of change: discussing the projects' recommendations**

The projects will present their recommendations for policymakers and invite panellists to comment and discuss, on topics such as the role for energy communities and renewable energy in the energy crisis, tackling gender aspects to make the energy sector more inclusive, the link with energy poverty, and more.

Moderation: Pádraig Lyons, IERC

Fire pitch by project representatives:
- Diana Süsser, IEECP, for BECoop
- Anna Kloepper, UIPI, for NRG2Peers
- Paweł Gilewski, Polish National Energy Conservation Agency (KAPE), for UP-STAIRS
- Elsebeth Terkelsen, European Green Cities (for W4RES)

Panel:
- Jutta Paulus, EU Parliament
- Stavroula Pappa, Policy Advisor, REScoop.eu
- Adela Tesarova, European Commission, DG Energy, Head of Unit for Consumers, Local Initiatives and Just Transition

11.00 - 11.15 - **Coffee break**

11.15 - 12.15 - **Get inspired - Innovative Approaches, Success stories from the RES and RHC ecosystems**

The projects have tested different models and mechanisms. In this session, some of the pilot sites will be introduced, presenting the most significant lessons learnt during these years, challenges and good practices. These innovative approaches and success stories will serve as inspirational examples for future projects in other regions willing to implement energy communities. From the projects to reality! Followed by a Q&A.

Moderation: Dara Turnbull, Housing Europe

- BECoop - From your morning coffee to heat: Vasilis Filippou, ESEK, Karditsa Greece
- NRG2peers - Lessons learnt from the pilot sites: Eelke Kingma (Schoonschip)
- UP-STAIRS - Lessons learnt in the OSS: Ivanka Pandelieva-Dimova (Sofia Energy Centre)
- W4RES - Elke Weidenfelder (Steinbeis Europa Zentrum) and Carina Holzapfel (H2MC)

12.15 - 13.30 - **Lunch + poster session**

13.30 - 14.30 - **The legacy of our projects - Once our projects end: what comes next? How can we replicate our projects' findings/work?**

After developing various tools, resources and supporting initiatives, it is now time to look beyond the projects' end. In this session, we will discuss the steps needed to reach inclusivity and sustainability in the renewable energy sector. Which tools, financial and technical support have we provided? What kind of financial and legal frameworks are needed to make the energy sector more inclusive and RE-energise Europe? Followed by a Q&A.

Moderation: Dimitrios Chapizanis, White Research

- Ioannis Konstas, Q-PLAN - The next steps for W4RES in terms of gender awareness in RES - The way to an inclusive energy transition
- Kostas Dasopoulos, Q-PLAN - Adjusted BMC for RESCoops (BECoop)
- Joana Mundó Olivé, Ecoserveis Association (UP-STAIRS)
- Stefan Kop, Spectral and Sylvia Breukers, Dune Works - Tool and follow-up projects (NRG2peers)

14.30 - 15.30 - **Networking session**

- W4RES co-creation workshop "DIY Gender Equal RES sector: Dive into practice with W4RES towards a gender equal RHC and RES sector". Register here (the number of seats is limited).
- Posters, world café discussions, access to computers to play with tools, etc.

15.30 -18.00 - **Visit to an energy community**
Visit of the new citizen energy community in low-income housing near Gare du Midi.
https://foyerdusud.be/sunsud_vlogaert/