Repository of tools and solutions addressing feedback from the Forums

Report D2.2

Project Coordinator | Black Sea Energy Research Centre – BSERC

Work Package 2

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Abstract

The SHAREs+ project aims to advance citizen-led energy initiatives in five European countries by leveraging frontrunner expertise, proven tools, and functional technical platforms.

The project aspires the launch of new 13 energy communities, while supporting 50 existing ones. The project focuses on Cyprus, Romania, North Macedonia, and Ukraine, integrating decision-making support tools to drive collective action growth. Bulgaria acts as both a pioneer in developing an energy community framework and a pilot site for citizens-led thermal renewable project and vulnerable consumer engagement. Austria serves as the primary capacity-building partner.

The current D2.2 provides an overview of the tools and resources available to support energy community initiatives across the six countries participating in the SHAREs+ project. The analysis focuses on identifying practical tools that can help address the barriers identified in Task T2.1 and the needs mapped in Task T4.1. Building on the previous SHAREs project's Deliverable D4.1 (2024), which identified 113 international tools that were relevant at the time and within the scope of the previous consortium, this deliverable aims to reassess and update this selection. It further examines newer and more suitable resources available at both national and European levels, including calculators, decision trees, guides, legal templates, Q&A catalogues, and other forms of practical guidance.

The deliverable represents a first step towards consolidating these resources and improving their visibility and usability. Relevant national resources are identified for potential direct integration into the National Gateways, while selected European and international resources are considered as complementary sources that can help address national gaps and broaden the range of support available to citizens and local stakeholders.

The findings and selected resources will also support the testing and validation process through the National Citizen Energy Forums meetings, where their applicability and usefulness can be assessed with relevant users and stakeholders. Feedback gathered through this process will inform the final selection and presentation of resources within the National Gateways under Task T4.2. In this way, the deliverable contributes to establishing a more coherent, accessible, and user-oriented resource base to help citizen-led energy initiatives overcome regulatory, socioeconomic, technical, financial, and organisational barriers throughout their development across all six countries.

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1 | Introduction

This repository constitutes a strategic effort to consolidate and systematize the wide range of instruments available to support the development of energy communities across Europe. By bringing together both international resources and nationally tailored tools, it addresses a critical gap between broad policy guidance and the practical needs of local implementation. As citizens increasingly transition from passive energy consumers to active participants in the energy transition through renewable energy production and demand-side flexibility, there is a growing need to equip local champions and community leaders with the technical, legal, organizational, and economic knowledge required to initiate and sustain successful energy community projects.

The repository builds upon the achievements of the SHAREs project and is further developed through the SHAREs+ initiative, a replication and expansion project designed to transfer and adapt proven implementation toolkits and mentoring approaches to new geographical contexts, namely Cyprus, Romania, North Macedonia, and Ukraine. SHAREs+ focuses on strengthening National Gateways by integrating practical step-by-step implementation guides, decision-support tools, and capacity-building resources. Particular attention is given to addressing country-specific challenges, including high levels of energy poverty, limited citizen participation, and centralized energy governance structures, thereby fostering a more inclusive and decentralized energy transition.

This work is closely aligned with and complementary to the D4.1 report of the original SHAREs project, updated in May 2024. While the D4.1 inventory identified 113 international tools relevant to energy communities, subsequent analysis highlighted the importance of locally developed resources that better reflect national legal frameworks, regulatory environments, and market conditions. Building on this foundation, the current repository avoids duplication by incorporating the existing international inventory while expanding it with updated, practice-oriented national resources developed by project partners and other stakeholders active in the field. This approach recognizes that locally contextualized tools are often more accessible and relevant to potential users, increasing their effectiveness in supporting implementation.

The overarching objective of this resource integration effort is to aggregate and make accessible all identified international and national resources through the SHAREs+ National Gateways. These gateways function as comprehensive, country-specific one-stop shops that provide stakeholders with practical instruments such as implementation blueprints, legal templates, financing information, decision-support mechanisms, and adaptable communication materials. By offering a centralized and user-oriented platform, the gateways seek to strengthen the technical and organizational capacity of local actors, empower municipalities and citizens in contexts where participation in energy initiatives has traditionally been limited, bridge knowledge gaps related to regulatory and financial aspects, and create enabling conditions for the sustainable growth of Renewable Energy Communities (RECs) and Citizen Energy Communities (CECs) across Europe. Through this integrated approach, the repository contributes to accelerating community-led energy action and supporting a more participatory and resilient energy system.

As the National Citizen Energy Forums progress, partner feedback will continue to shape the final selection of tools incorporated into each National Gateway. The repository will be updated accordingly as the project advances, so that the tools available in each Gateway continue to reflect the feedback gathered through the Forums.

2 | International tools and repository

2.1 Energy Community Platform

Developed by Rescoop.eu https://energycommunityplatform.eu/

The Energy Community Platform serves as a comprehensive European one-stop-shop designed to support the development and scaling of community energy initiatives. The platform provides practical resources, guidance materials, and expert support mechanisms for stakeholders involved in the creation and operation of energy communities, including citizens, local action groups, existing energy communities, municipalities, and other interested organizations.

Its primary objective is to facilitate the successful implementation of community energy projects by offering tailored support across all stages of development, from the initial idea phase to long-term operation and improvement.

Main Functionalities

The platform integrates several complementary support tools and resources:

- Community Energy Maturity Test
  - Based on the COMPILE methodology.
  - Consists of 21 questions assessing the readiness and maturity of a project.
  - Classifies initiatives into four development stages:
    - Inspiration
    - Preparation
    - Implementation
    - Operation
  - Provides customized recommendations based on the assessment of results.
- Resource Library
  - Contains more than 100 resources related to community energy development.
  - Resources can be filtered by:
    - Development stage
    - Thematic area
    - Activity type
    - Language
    - Country
    - Keywords
- Interactive Community Energy Map
  - Displays real-life examples of energy communities across Europe.

- Supports peer learning, inspiration, replication, and networking opportunities.

- Expert Network
  - Searchable database of experts and practitioners.
  - Covers technical, legal, financial, organizational, and governance-related expertise.

- Impact and Sustainability Assessment Tools
  - Supports communities in evaluating their social, environmental, and operational impacts.

Resource Classification Framework

A notable feature of the platform is its structured classification system, which facilitates efficient access to relevant resources.

Development Stages

Resources are categorized according to four project development stages:

1. Inspiration - Initial idea generation and vision-building by a core group.
2. Preparation - Planning, feasibility assessment, stakeholder engagement, and project design.
3. Implementation - Formal establishment and launch of the energy community.
4. Operation - Management, monitoring, maintenance, and continuous improvement of activities.

Thematic Areas

Resources are further classified into six thematic areas:

1. Community
2. Financial
3. Political and Legal
4. Staff and Organization
5. Technical
6. Municipality

Resource Types

The platform hosts a broad variety of resource formats, including:

- Handbooks and guides
- Toolkits
- Online tools and maps
- Reports and analytical overviews
- Online courses
- Webinars
- Videos
- Policy briefings

- Charters
- Calculators and tracking tools

Criterion	Description
Applicability	Energy communities and collective citizen-led energy initiatives in general
Brief Description	Integrated online platform combining a resource library, maturity assessment tool, community map, and expert network. Resources are categorized according to development stage and thematic area to facilitate targeted support.
Type of Tool	Online platform and knowledge repository incorporating guides, toolkits, online tools, training materials, maps, and reports
Regional Applicability	Europe-wide, with multilingual resources and country-specific filtering options
Complexity	Low to medium; intuitive interface suitable for non-experts, while providing advanced resources for experienced practitioners
Project Phase	Applicable across all project stages, from Inspiration to Operation
Required Data	No mandatory data requirements; completion of the maturity test is optional
Cost / Registration	Free access; certain external expert services may involve separate costs
Access	https://energycommunityplatform.eu/

Classification of Main Resource Types

Resource Type	Examples Available on the Platform	Main Development Stage	Main Thematic Area
Handbook/ Guide	Community Energy Practical Guide, SCCALE methodologies, ACCE guidance materials, COMPILE toolkits	All stages	All areas
Toolkit	CEES Energy Solidarity Toolkit, Replication Kits	All stages	Community, Financial, Political & Legal
Online Tool / Map	Match-Making Tool, One-Stop-Shop Map, Aquathermal Tracker	Preparation-Operation	Technical, Municipality
Report/ Overview	Flexibility Services Reports, ACCE Regulatory Analyses, Policy Briefings	Preparation-Operation	Technical, Political & Legal
Online Course/ Webinar	Introduction to Citizen Energy, ACCE Training Webinars	Inspiration-Preparation	Community, Financial

Calculator/ Tracker	Social Impact Assessment Tools, Energy Monitoring Tools	Implementation-Operation	Technical, Community
Video/ Inspirational Material	*We The Power* documentary and related communication resources	Inspiration	Community

Relevance for SHAREs+

The Energy Community Platform represents a highly relevant reference model for the SHAREs+ National Gateways. It contains over 100 resources. Its structured approach successfully addresses many of the informational, capacity-building, and implementation of support needs encountered by emerging energy communities.

Particularly valuable is its classification methodology based on development stages, thematic areas, and resource types, which significantly improves accessibility and usability for end users. This categorization approach could serve as a benchmark for future SHAREs+ resource repositories and gateway developments.

Based on this analysis, it is recommended that the SHAREs+ project adopts the same four-stage project development framework (Inspiration, Preparation, Implementation, Operation) and six thematic areas (Community, Financial, Political and Legal, Staff and Organization, Technical, Municipality) as a common internal classification standard to ensure consistency, comparability, and user-friendly resource navigation across all National Gateways (particularly as the REC and CEC initiatives multiply and progress to more advanced stages of development).

The following are examples of relevant resources from the Energy Community Platform, classified by development stage:

2.1.1 Inspiration Stage

A core group of people starts shaping the idea and vision of a project.

2.1.1.1 CEES Energy Solidarity Toolkit

Applicability: Energy communities / collective actions (including energy poverty)

Brief Description: Toolkit with practical information, tips and real-life insights on integrating solidarity measures into core activities.

Type of tool: Toolkit

Area: Community, Financial, Political & legal, Staff & organization

Complexity: Low

Necessary data for use: None

Cost/Registration: Free, no registration

Access: https://energycommunityplatform.eu/resources/energy-solidarity-toolkit/

2.1.1.2 Community Energy: A practical guide to reclaiming power [English] (and multi-language versions)

Applicability: Energy communities / collective actions + municipalities

Brief Description: Comprehensive handbook with instructions, practical tips and success stories from 27 European projects. Covers group formation, technologies, barriers, and dynamics.

Type of tool: Handbook

Area: Community, Financial, Municipality, Political & legal, Staff & organization, Technical

Complexity: Low-Medium

Necessary data for use: None

Cost/Registration: Free

Access: https://energycommunityplatform.eu/resources/community-energy-a-practical-guide-to-reclaiming-power-english/

2.1.1.3 SCCALE 20 30 50 financing guide for energy communities

Applicability: Energy communities (starters)

Brief Description: Hands-on introduction to community energy financing with 14 recent practical financing stories.

Type of tool: Guide

Area: Financial

Complexity: Low

Necessary data for use: None

Cost/Registration: Free

Access: https://energycommunityplatform.eu/resources/financing-guide-for-energy-communities/

2.1.1.4 SCCALE 20 30 50 methodology guide

Applicability: Energy communities (very early stage)

Brief Description: Step-by-step guide identifying key steps for starters to mature their project.

Type of tool: Guide

Area: Community, Financial, Political & legal, Staff & Organization, Technical

Complexity: Low

Necessary data for use: None

Cost/Registration: Free

Access: https://energycommunityplatform.eu/resources/the-sccale-methodology-guide/

2.1.1.5 We the Power | The Future of Energy is Community-Owned

Applicability: General public

Brief Description: Inspiring movie about the citizen-led community energy movement in Europe.

Type of tool: Movie / Video

Area: Community

Complexity: Low

Necessary data for use: None

Cost/Registration: Free

Access: https://energycommunityplatform.eu/resources/we-the-power-a-movie-about-the-citizen-led-community-energy-movement-in-europe/

2.1.1.6 Online course: Introduction to citizen energy

Applicability: Citizens / energy communities

Brief Description: Online course introducing the concept of citizen energy and its potential impact.

Type of tool: Online course

Area: Community, Financial, Municipality, Political & legal, Technical

Complexity: Low

Necessary data for use: None

Cost/Registration: Free

Access: https://energycommunityplatform.eu/resources/online-course-introduction-to-citizen-energy/

2.1.1.7 RECxploration

Applicability: Citizens / energy communities

Brief Description: Interactive educational online game showing how energy choices affect consumption and how to engage with energy communities.

Type of tool: Online game

Area: Community

Complexity: Low

Necessary data for use: None

Cost/Registration: Free

Access: https://energycommunityplatform.eu/resources/recxploration/

2.1.1.8 ACCE Charter with common understanding of definition and ethics of CEFS

Applicability: Community Energy Financing Schemes

Brief Description: Charter based on the seven cooperative principles for ethical and transparent governance of CEFS.

Type of tool: Charter

Area: Community, Financial

Complexity: Low

Necessary data for use: None

Cost/Registration: Free

Access: https://energycommunityplatform.eu/resources/acce-charter-with-common-understanding-of-definition-and-ethics-of-cefs/

2.1.1.9 Best practice guide for Southeast Europe [English and also in Greek and Albanian]

Applicability: Energy communities (Balkan region)

Brief Description: Guide showcasing good practices of energy communities in the Balkan region to inspire new initiatives.

Type of tool: Guide

Area: Community, Financial, Political & legal, Staff & organization, Technical

Complexity: Low

Necessary data for use: None

Cost/Registration: Free

Access: https://energycommunityplatform.eu/resources/best-practice-guide-for-southeast-europe/

2.1.1.10 Hotmaps

Applicability: Energy communities / planners

Brief Description: Open-source online tool providing heating and cooling demand data for any European region plus local renewable energy potential. The toolbox has since been extended and is now continued as the Citiwatts platform, developed under the OpenGIS4ET project, which builds on Hotmaps.

Type of tool: Online tool / Map

Area: Technical

Complexity: Medium

Necessary data for use: Location selection

Cost/Registration: Free

Access: https://www.hotmaps.eu/map (continued as https://citiwatts.eu/map)

2.1.2 Preparation Stage

A core group prepares the project.

2.1.2.1 Match-making tool

Applicability: Energy communities + municipalities / asset owners

Brief Description: Tool connecting community groups seeking roofs or land with municipalities or private owners offering assets for renewable projects.

Type of tool: Online match-making tool

Area: Municipality, Political & legal, Technical

Complexity: Low

Necessary data for use: Asset data (optional)

Cost/Registration: Free

Access: https://match.energycommunityplatform.eu/

2.1.2.2 COMPILE Toolkit: Stakeholder Engagement Guide

Applicability: Energy communities (core group)

Brief Description: Guide to tools and techniques to structure the core group and raise local support.

Type of tool: Guide / Toolkit

Area: Community, Staff & organization

Complexity: Low-Medium

Necessary data for use: None

Cost/Registration: Free

Access: https://energycommunityplatform.eu/resources/compile-toolkit-stakeholder-engagement-guide/

2.1.2.3 COMPILE Toolkit: Financing Guide

Applicability: Energy communities

Brief Description: Overview of financing models and the relationship between ownership and financing.

Type of tool: Guide

Area: Financial

Complexity: Medium

Necessary data for use: None

Cost/Registration: Free

Access: https://energycommunityplatform.eu/resources/compile-toolkit-financing-guide/

2.1.2.4 European Energy Communities Facility One-Stop Shops Map

Applicability: Energy communities + one-stop shops

Brief Description: Map of national and regional one-stop shops for energy communities in the 27 EU countries + associated countries.

Type of tool: Map / Online tool

Area: Technical

Complexity: Low

Necessary data for use: None

Cost/Registration: Free

Access: https://energycommunityplatform.eu/resources/?keyword=European+Energy+Communities+Facility+One-Stop+Shops+Map&language=english

2.1.2.5 Aquathermal Energy Tracker

Applicability: Energy communities (heating & cooling)

Brief Description: Comparative overview of national efforts to support aquathermal technologies in five North-West European countries.

Type of tool: Comparative overview / Tracker

Area: Community, Political & legal

Complexity: Medium

Necessary data for use: None

Cost/Registration: Free

Access: https://energycommunityplatform.eu/resources/aquathermal-energy-tracker/

2.1.2.6 Online course: Delivering citizen-led renovation through one-stop shop cooperatives

Applicability: Cooperatives / energy communities

Brief Description: Course on setting up cooperative one-stop shops for citizen-led renovation services.

Type of tool: Online course

Area: Community, Financial, Staff & organization, Technical

Complexity: Medium

Necessary data for use: None

Cost/Registration: Free

Access: https://energycommunityplatform.eu/resources/online-course-delivering-citizen-led-renovation-through-one-stop-shop-cooperatives/

2.1.2.7 Dipla (Digital Platform Landscape Management)

Applicability: Energy communities (biomass / landscape)

Brief Description: Online platform for inventorying public green space, planning sustainable management and forecasting biomass/energy harvest.

Type of tool: Online platform

Area: Technical

Complexity: Medium

Necessary data for use: Spatial data

Cost/Registration: Free (Belgium focus)

Access: https://energycommunityplatform.eu/resources/dipla/

2.1.2.8 SCCALE 20 30 50 community energy municipal guide

Applicability: Municipalities + energy communities

Brief Description: Guide to >40 European examples on how municipalities can support community energy.

Type of tool: Guide

Area: Municipality, Political & legal, Community, Financial, Staff & organization

Complexity: Medium

Necessary data for use: None

Cost/Registration: Free

Access: https://energycommunityplatform.eu/resources/community-energy-municipal-guide/

2.1.3 Implementation Stage

2.1.3.1 Guidelines on community-led heating and cooling

Applicability: Energy communities (heating & cooling)

Brief Description: Non-exhaustive introduction to community-led heating and cooling with replication advice.

Type of tool: Guidelines

Area: Community, Financial, Political & legal, Staff & organisation, Technical

Complexity: Medium

Necessary data for use: None

Cost/Registration: Free

Access: https://energycommunityplatform.eu/resources/guidelines-on-community-led-heating-and-cooling/

2.1.3.2 LIFE_LETsGO4Climate Replication Kit [English and French]

Applicability: Local authorities / energy communities

Brief Description: Operational guide to replicate large-scale, citizen-centred energy transition approaches.

Type of tool: Replication Kit / Guide

Area: Community, Municipality

Complexity: Medium

Necessary data for use: None

Cost/Registration: Free

Access: https://energycommunityplatform.eu/resources/life_letsgo4climate-replication-kit-english/

2.1.3.3 Flexibility services for energy cooperatives

Applicability: Energy cooperatives

Brief Description: Overview of flexibility-based services using residential equipment control, with real cooperative experiences.

Type of tool: Overview / Report

Area: Technical

Complexity: Medium

Necessary data for use: None

Cost/Registration: Free

Access: https://energycommunityplatform.eu/resources/flexibility-services-for-energy-cooperatives-an-overview-of-possible-flexibility-based-services-using-residential-equipment-control/

2.1.3.4 Procurement guide for community energy

Applicability: Municipalities + energy communities

Brief Description: Guide to adapting public procurement processes to support energy communities.

Type of tool: Guide

Area: Financial, Municipality, Political & legal

Complexity: Medium

Necessary data for use: None

Cost/Registration: Free

Access: https://energycommunityplatform.eu/resources/procurement-guide/

2.1.3.5 SCCALE 20 30 50 policy briefing series (country-specific)

Applicability: Energy communities (national context)

Brief Description: Country-specific policy briefings on the main challenges faced by energy communities.

Type of tool: Policy briefing

Area: Political & legal

Complexity: Medium

Necessary data for use: None

Cost/Registration: Free

Access: https://energycommunityplatform.eu/resources/sccale-20-30-50-policy-briefings-energy-communities-challenges-at-national-level/

2.1.3.6 Econobis

Applicability: Energy cooperatives

Brief Description: Tool for stakeholder administration, project registration and crowdfunding, developed by cooperatives for cooperatives.

Type of tool: Online tool / Platform

Area: Staff & organization, Financial

Complexity: Medium

Necessary data for use: Stakeholder / project data

Cost/Registration: Free (cooperatives)

Access: https://econobis.energiesamen.nu/ available in Dutch but browser translation works well

2.1.4 Operation Stage

The community maintains and improves activities.

2.1.4.1 ACCE financial handbook: a guide and several business cases

Applicability: Energy communities (financing schemes)

Brief Description: Practical financial handbook with business cases for Community Energy Financing Schemes.

Type of tool: Handbook

Area: Financial

Complexity: Medium

Necessary data for use: None

Cost/Registration: Free

Access: https://energycommunityplatform.eu/resources/acce-financial-handbook-a-guide-and-several-business-cases/

2.1.4.2 ACCE Regulatory framework analysis

Applicability: Energy communities

Brief Description: Analysis of the regulatory framework for Community Energy Financing Schemes.

Type of tool: Report

Area: Financial, Political & legal

Complexity: Medium

Necessary data for use: None

Cost/Registration: Free

Access: https://energycommunityplatform.eu/resources/?keyword=ACCE+Regulatory+framework+analysis&language=english

2.1.4.3 Sympheny

Applicability: Energy communities / planners

Brief Description: Energy planning software that evaluates thousands of possible energy system solutions and identifies optimal zero-emission, cost-efficient concepts.

Type of tool: Software / Planning tool

Area: Technical

Complexity: High

Necessary data for use: Site / technical data

Cost/Registration: Paid software

Access: https://www.sympheny.com/software

2.2 The SHINE project

The Shine project focuses on equipping Local and Regional Authorities (LRAs) with specific instruments to accelerate the energy community movement by building upon the innovations of four previous LIFE ENERCOM projects.

The project aims to optimize Europe's One-Stop Shop (OSS) for energy communities by integrating enhanced ENERCOM tools into the REScoop.eu Energy Community Platform. Key components of this new portal for LRAs include:

- Community Energy Accreditation Scheme: A specific framework for municipalities to validate and recognize community energy efforts.
- Match-making Tool: Designed to connect with various stakeholders and resources.
- Business Models and Adaptable Templates: Practical frameworks to help communities and authorities structure their energy initiatives.
- National One-Stop Shops: These tools are translated and tailored to local contexts for use in four specific national online gateways.

A significant number of additional resources, including practical tools, guidance materials, templates and examples of good practice, will be published in September (2026) in the Ambassador Countries, in multiple languages. These resources will support local and regional authorities, energy communities, and other relevant stakeholders in developing and implementing community energy initiatives.

2.3 Project SHAREs

The SHAREs project has established National Gateways in several countries, two of which – Austria and Bulgaria – are also participating in the current SHAREs+ project. These two Gateways are described separately in this deliverable, as they follow slightly different strategies for the development and organisation of their tools and resources, while sharing the same underlying backbone: the Gateway Blueprint. In general, both Gateways serve as one-stop shops that provide "local heroes" with the technical, legal, financial, and communication capacity to initiate collective energy actions. While both platforms aggregate calculators, legal templates, and guides, they are tailored to the specific regulatory maturity and local needs of each country.

Austria: energie-teilen.at

The Austrian Gateway, managed by the Austrian Energy Agency (AEA), reflects a mature market where the RED II directive was transposed early, leading to high population interest.

- Structure and Navigation: The website allows users to filter a vast collection of tools by type (e.g., billing tools, calculators, information material, communication) and region (specific federal states like Vienna or Tyrol).
- Key "Decision Matrix" Tool: A primary feature is the SHAREs Decision Matrix, which helps potential founders identify which energy community model (e.g., local vs. regional) best fits their specific situation.
- Technical and Legal Support:
    - Range Queries (Nahbereichsabfrage): Several interactive maps from various grid operators (e.g., Netz OÖ, Linz Netz) allow users to visualize the possible implementation area for their community.
    - Simulation Tools: Tools like SUSI simulate electricity independence by calculating self-sufficiency when combining PV systems with batteries or heat pumps.
    - Templates: The gateway provides model contracts and statutes for associations to lower legal barriers.

Bulgaria: sharerenewables.bg

In Bulgaria, where legal approval for energy communities was only achieved in October 2023, the Gateway plays a pivotal role, as it currently represents the only national physical or online one-stop shop offering such comprehensive information and support in one place. It is currently hosted by the Black Sea Energy Research Centre (BSERC).

- National interactive tools and handbooks: The main goal of the Gateway is to bring together, in one place, the resources developed through different pathways and initiatives, making them easier for users to find, access, and navigate.
- International resources: As the national portfolio of resources targeting energy communities remains limited and does not yet cover all relevant topics along the development and long-term sustainability pathway of an energy community, the Gateway also provides Bulgarian users with a pre-identified selection of tools developed in other countries. These resources can serve as useful sources of information, guidance, or calculation support
- Step-by-Step business model guidance: To address a lack of detailed practical knowledge, the SHAREs team developed specific guides for energy efficiency in multi-household buildings, collective wood pellet purchases, and municipality-led renewable energy communities. These guides are complemented by relevant document templates to support users in putting the proposed approaches into practice.
- Q&A on legal processes: The legal framework and processes related to energy communities are presented in a question-and-answer format, making complex legal information more accessible and easier to understand for non-expert users.
- Good practices: In addition to presenting a portfolio of active energy communities with short descriptions of their projects and approaches, the Gateway provides a map of these initiatives, making them easier for users to locate and contact.

Summary of Comparison

Feature	Austria (energie-teilen.at)	Bulgaria (sharerenewables.bg)
Market Status	Advanced; broad range of established tools.	Emerging; pivotal as the primary resource.
Primary Focus	Regional filtering and choosing between various legal models.	Step-by-step navigation and basic legal/FAQ guidance.
Unique Tool	Decision Matrix for model selection.	Interactive Handbooks, map of legally established energy communities
Commonalities	Both offer PV calculators, CO2 indicators, and legal templates.	Both offer PV calculators, CO2 indicators, and legal templates.

3 | Austria

Austria has established a comprehensive framework to support the transition toward decentralized, renewable energy systems, primarily through the legal recognition of various energy community models such as Renewable Energy Communities (EEG) and Citizen Energy Communities (BEG). These initiatives are supported by a wide array of technical and legal tools designed to empower citizens and local organizations to act as active participants in the energy market. From sophisticated grid-connection maps to specialized invoicing software and community-building platforms, these resources provide the necessary infrastructure for effective energy sharing and regional autonomy.

Legal and General Tools

1. Sample Contracts for Energy Communities

Applicability: energy communities and citizens

Brief Description: A comprehensive collection of sample contracts and legal templates, including statutes and membership agreements, provided by the Austrian Coordination Office for Energy Communities.

Type of Tool: contract template

Regional Applicability: Austria

Complexity: basic knowledge

Project Phase: idea generation, planning, foundation, implementation

Necessary Data for Use: no data needed

Costs/Registration: free of charge

Access: https://energiegemeinschaften.gv.at/downloadbereich/

2. Sample Contracts ebUtilities

Applicability: energy communities and citizens

Brief Description: Model contracts between grid operators and energy communities for the operation of Renewable Energy Communities and Citizen Energy Communities and grid access.

Type of Tool: contract template

Regional Applicability: Austria

Complexity: basic knowledge

Project Phase: idea generation, planning, foundation, implementation

Necessary Data for Use: no data needed

Costs/Registration: free of charge

Access: https://www.ebutilities.at/downloads

3. SOL:E Toolbox

Applicability: energy communities and citizens

Brief Description: Practical guidance and templates for establishing solidarity-based energy communities, including specialized guides for inclusive participation of vulnerable populations.

Type of Tool: contract template and implementation guide

Regional Applicability: Austria

Complexity: basic knowledge

Project Phase: idea generation, planning, foundation, implementation, or expansion/optimization

Necessary Data for Use: Association specific information

Costs/Registration: free of charge

Access: https://www.sol-e.at/einrichtung/118463/wissenswertes

4. **Founding Guide for Energy Communities - Austria**

Applicability: citizens

Brief Description: A step-by-step resource that guides citizens through the entire establishment process for GEA, EEG, and BEG community types, primarily for association structures.

Type of Tool: handbook

Regional Applicability: Austria

Complexity: basic knowledge

Project Phase: planning, foundation, implementation

Necessary Data for Use: no data needed

Costs/Registration: free of charge

Access: https://energiegemeinschaften.gv.at/online-guide/

5. **Quick-Check Grid Connection Tool**

Applicability: for energy communities and citizens

Brief Description: Provides information on which transformer or substation service supplies a specific area to determine potential coverage for local or regional energy communities.

Type of Tool: Inquiry Form

Regional Applicability: Tiroler Netze, Netz Niederösterreich, Energienetze Steiermark, Netz Burgenland, Salzburg Netz, Wiener Netze

Complexity: no specific knowledge

Project Phase: Idea generation, planning, expansion/optimization

Necessary Data for Use: Metering point number

Costs/Registration: Free of charge

Access: Multiple links available for regional operators in the source

Technical and Internet based solutions

6. Quick-Check Grid Connection Tool via Map

Applicability: for energy communities and citizens

Brief Description: Uses an interactive map to visualize potential implementation areas and identify potential participants within the same grid service area.

Type of Tool: online map

Regional Applicability: Netz Oberösterreich; Vorarlberg Netz; Salzburg Netz; Linz Netz; Kärnten Netz; Energie Klagenfurt, Netz Niederösterreich

Complexity: no specific knowledge

Project Phase: idea generation, planning, expansion/optim0ization

Necessary Data for Use: Address

Costs/Registration: free of charge

Access: Multiple interactive mapping links available in the source

- Tiroler Netze: https://www.tinetz.at/unsere-leistungen/energiegemeinschaften/nahbereichsabfrage/
- Netz Niederösterreich https://netz-noe.at/services/nahbereichsabfrage
- Energienetze Steiermark https://portal.e-netze.at/nahbereich
- Netz Burgenland https://analytics.netzburgenland.at/eeg-nahbereichsabfrage2
- Salzburg Netz https://www.salzburgnetz.at/stromnetz/energiegemeinschaften/erneuerbare-energie-gemeinschaften.html
- Wiener Netze https://www.wienernetze.at/beauskunftungskennzahl-abfragen

7. Strom verbindet - Austria

Applicability: energy communities, prosumers, citizens

Brief Description: A free platform supported by the Federal Ministry that connects existing energy communities with potential members to simplify participation.

Type of Tool: online marketplace

Regional Applicability: Austria

Complexity: no specific knowledge

Project Phase: idea generation, implementation, expansion

Necessary Data for Use: no data needed

Costs/Registration: free of charge

Access: https://stromverbindet.energiegemeinschaften.gv.at/

8. SUSI – die Strom-Unabhängigkeits-Simulation

Applicability: For buildings with PV systems

Brief Description: A simulation tool and cost-effectiveness calculator used to optimize self-sufficiency and self-consumption, including battery and EV integration.

Type of Tool: calculator

Regional Applicability: Austria

Complexity: basic knowledge

Project Phase: planning, expansion/optimization

Necessary Data for Use: PV system data, location, consumption, price, and investment cost parameters

Costs/Registration: free of charge

Access: https://www.energieinstitut.at/tools/susi/index.html

9. **SonnenKlar PV-Calculator**

Applicability: energy communities and prosumers

Brief Description: An online tool to optimize self-sufficiency by calculating expected usage, profitability over 25 years, and category-specific consumption.

Type of Tool: calculator

Regional Applicability: Austria

Complexity: basic knowledge

Project Phase: planning, expansion/optimization

Necessary Data for Use: PV data, building/household specifications, heating systems, and EV usage patterns

Costs/Registration: free of charge

Access: https://pvbaustria.at/pv-rechner/

10. **PV-Wirtschaftlichkeitsrechner**

Applicability: prosumers

Brief Description: Developed by the Austrian Energy Agency for residential users to quickly assess economic viability for new constructions and renovations.

Type of Tool: calculator

Regional Applicability: Austria

Complexity: basic knowledge

Project Phase: planning, expansion/optimization

Necessary Data for Use: Building data, technical specs, and economic framework conditions

Costs/Registration: free of charge

Access: https://www.klimaaktiv.at/photovoltaik-rechner

11. **Benefit Tool for REC**

Applicability: renewable energy communities, prosumers, citizens

Brief Description: Interactive calculator helping users model scenarios to understand cost, energy flow, and environmental benefits of joining a REC.

Type of Tool: calculator

Regional Applicability: Austria

Complexity: basic knowledge

Project Phase: idea generation, planning

Necessary Data for Use: Building and energy community data

Costs/Registration: free of charge

Access: https://www.energieinstitut.at/tools/benefit/

12. e-community.at savings calculator

Applicability: energy communities and citizens

Brief Description: Estimates total savings in electricity costs when participating in a renewable energy community compared to public grid supply.

Type of Tool: calculation

Regional Applicability: Austria

Complexity: no specific knowledge

Project Phase: idea generation, planning

Necessary Data for Use: Address, annual consumption, and percentage purchased from the community

Costs/Registration: free of charge

Access: https://e-gemeinschaft.at/ersparnis.php?b=s

13. Billing-tool Energieagentur Tirol

Applicability: small energy communities and community-based power generation facilities

Brief Description: Tool to create ready-made bills for energy sharing using data from the EDA database.

Type of Tool: calculator

Regional Applicability: Austria

Complexity: basic knowledge

Project Phase: planning, foundation

Necessary Data for Use: electricity consumption, member data, and tariff information

Costs/Registration: free of charge but registration needed

Access: https://www.energieagentur.tirol/wissen/sonne/energiegemeinschaften/

14. Eegfaktura

Applicability: energy communitiy

Brief Description: An open-source management and invoicing system designed to streamline administrative and accounting tasks for energy communities.

Type of Tool: management and invoicing system

Regional Applicability: Austria

Complexity: basic technical knowledge

Project Phase: implementation, operation, expansion/optimization

Necessary Data for Use: energy community specific information

Costs/Registration: Free open-source software; requires annual membership fees for managed services

Access: https://vfeeg.org/

Communication

15. Energieteiler - Vienna

Applicability: energy communities, prosumers, citizens

Brief Description: A hub for information and networking specifically for Vienna's city districts, connecting existing communities with potential members.

Type of Tool: online marketplace

Regional Applicability: Vienna

Complexity: no specific knowledge

Project Phase: idea generation, implementation, expansion

Necessary Data for Use: no data needed

Costs/Registration: free of charge

Access: https://www.imgraetzl.at/region/energieteiler

4 | Bulgaria

Bulgaria acts as a pioneer country within the SHAREs+ project, specifically serving as a pilot site for citizen-led renewable thermal solutions for vulnerable consumers.

While the Energy from Renewable Sources Act was amended between 2021–2023 to provide a legal basis for energy communities (ECs), secondary legislation remains incomplete.

Bulgaria shows a high-severity barrier profile. Financial access is difficult; institutional coordination is particularly weak, with a lack of coordination between various energy authorities, grid connection is complicated to obtain, being a significant bottleneck for local projects.

The Bulgarian energy landscape is supported by a robust collection of specialized tools and frameworks designed to overcome administrative, financial, and technical barriers to the energy transition. These resources, curated by national agencies, NGOs, and academic partnerships, provide a pathway for citizens and municipalities to transition from passive consumers to active participants in the energy market.

At the foundational level, comprehensive handbooks and regulatory reports provide the necessary legal clarity for establishing energy communities, navigating municipal permitting, and understanding the evolving legislative framework. These are complemented by economic assessment tools, such as financial calculators and analysis of funding mechanisms, which allow for rigorous business planning and investment modelling. To facilitate implementation, technical platforms like the Solar Cities Map and GIS-based potential estimators provide localized data for feasibility assessments. Finally, a suite of educational and communication hubs ensures that stakeholders have access to self-training materials and practical guidance on market liberalization, fostering the capacity building required for long-term sustainability.

Legal and General Tools

1. **Energy Communities: A Practical Handbook for Creating a Community Energy System**

Applicability: Citizens, citizen groups, municipalities, NGOs, cooperatives, and organizations interested in establishing or participating in an energy community.

Brief Description: Provides step-by-step guidance on the creation and operation of energy communities in Bulgaria, covering everything from forming an initiative group to long-term operation.

Type of Tool: handbook.

Regional Applicability: Bulgaria (available in Bulgarian and English); suitable for other countries.

Complexity: no specific knowledge.

Project Phase: Idea generation; Planning; Foundation; Implementation.

Necessary Data for Use: No data needed.

Costs/Registration: Free access.

Access: Bulgarian Link | English Link

2. **Assessment of existing obstacles and potential for the development of renewable energy communities**

Applicability: public authorities, policymakers, energy agencies, NGOs, energy community initiators, and experts.

Brief Description: Analyses barriers and potential for renewable energy communities in Bulgaria following the 2023 legal amendments.

Type of Tool: report.

Regional Applicability: Bulgaria.

Complexity: expert level.

Project Phase: Planning; Foundation; Implementation (policy and regulatory assessment).

Necessary Data for Use: No data needed.

Costs/Registration: Free access.

Access: https://www.me.government.bg/uploads/manager/source/Ocenka_18b.pdf

3. **Development of Energy Communities in Bulgaria: Regulatory Framework, Virtual Net Metering and Capacity Building for a Sustainable Future**

Applicability: Regulatory authorities, municipalities, local communities, stakeholders, investors, and NGOs.

Brief Description: Assesses current conditions, identifies regulatory barriers, and examines opportunities like virtual net metering and capacity building.

Type of Tool: report.

Regional Applicability: Bulgaria (available in English; includes practices from Norway and 6 EU states).

Complexity: expert level.

Project Phase: Planning; Foundation; Expansion/Optimization (strategic development).

Necessary Data for Use: No data needed.

Costs/Registration: Free access.

Access: Bulgarian Link | English Link

4. **Manual on procedures for construction or reconstruction of energy sites and facilities to produce energy from renewable sources**

Applicability: Municipalities

Brief Description: Practical guidance for municipalities on administrative procedures, permitting, and requirements for renewable energy projects

Type of Tool: handbook

Regional Applicability: Bulgaria

Complexity: expert level

Project Phase: Planning; Foundation; Implementation

Necessary Data for Use: No data needed

Costs/Registration: Free access

Access: https://seea.government.bg/documents/Handbook_first_draft_2024-02-21%20clear.docx.pdf

Business Models

5. Analysis of Available Financial Mechanisms in Support of Energy Communities

Applicability: Energy communities

Brief Description: Overview of European, national, and private financing opportunities available for Bulgarian energy communities as of June 2025.

Type of Tool: report.

Regional Applicability: Bulgaria.

Complexity: no specific knowledge.

Project Phase: Planning; Foundation; Implementation; Expansion/Optimization.

Necessary Data for Use: No specific data required, but users need information about their planned project to identify relevant mechanisms.

Costs/Registration: Free access.

Access: https://www.greenpeace.org/static/planet4-bulgaria-stateless/2025/10/f000158f-analiz_na_nalichnite_finansovi_mehanizmi_greenpeace_2025.pdf

6. Financial Assessment Tool for Municipal Energy Communities in Bulgaria

Applicability: municipality.

Brief Description: Excel-based tool to model investment costs, operational costs, and revenues to evaluate the economic feasibility of municipal projects.

Type of Tool: calculator.

Regional Applicability: Bulgaria.

Complexity: Basic to intermediate financial knowledge required.

Project Phase: Planning; Foundation; Implementation preparation; Expansion/Optimization.

Necessary Data for Use: Project-specific financial assumptions (capacity, costs, energy prices, etc.).

Costs/Registration: Free of charge.

Access: https://www.seea.government.bg/documents/20250827_EAP_REScoop_Financial%20Calculation%20Tool%20Municipal%20Energy%20Communities%20Bulgaria_Final_revJ.xlsx

7. Models for energy cooperatives for renewable energy with public-private partnership with the participation of municipalities

Applicability: energy community.

Brief Description: Details six community models covering PV (self-consumption, sale, EV charging) and thermal energy (biomass, heat pumps) with legal structures.

Type of Tool: handbook.

Regional Applicability: Bulgaria.

Complexity: basic knowledge.

Project Phase: Idea Generation, Planning, and Foundation.

Necessary Data for Use: No data needed.

Costs/Registration: Free access.

Access:
https://www.eneffect.bg/images/upload/new/Case%20study%20on%20energy%20cooperatives.pdf

Technical and Internet-based Tools

8. Solar Cities Map

Applicability: All types.

Brief Description: Interactive GIS web platform that estimates solar potential for individual building rooftops in specific municipalities.

Type of Tool: online map.

Regional Applicability: Sofia (selected districts) and Burgas Municipality.

Complexity: No specific technical knowledge required.

Project Phase: Idea generation; Planning; Feasibility assessment.

Necessary Data for Use: Building address or location on the map.

Costs/Registration: Free of charge; no registration or login required.

Access:

- Sofia: https://sofia.solarcities.bg
- Burgas: https://burgas.solarcities.bg/

9. How much can you save on your electricity bills?

Applicability: Citizens and businesses.

Brief Description: Calculator to estimate investment, payback period, and monthly savings from installing rooftop solar PV.

Type of Tool: calculator.

Regional Applicability: Bulgaria.

Complexity: no specific knowledge.

Project Phase: Idea generation; Planning; Preliminary feasibility assessment.

Necessary Data for Use: Desired percentage of consumption to cover and approximate annual bill.

Costs/Registration: Free of charge; no registration or login required.

Access: https://join.greenpeace.bg/calculator-energiyni-obshtnosti/

10. Solar Estates

Applicability: Energy communities, investors, landowners, municipalities, and businesses.

Brief Description: Marketplace connecting land sellers, developers, and investors for solar and wind projects.

Type of Tool: Investment platform.

Regional Applicability: Bulgaria.

Complexity: basic knowledge.

Project Phase: Planning; Foundation; Implementation; Expansion/Optimization.

Necessary Data for Use: Registration is required for publishing listings or advanced functions.

Costs/Registration: Basic browsing is free; registration required for advanced features.

Access: https://vei-imot.bg/

11. REPLACE Heating System Comparison Calculator

Applicability: Households, building owners, housing associations, and municipalities.

Brief Description: Compares heating system alternatives based on energy, economic, and environmental performance over their lifecycle.

Type of Tool: calculator.

Regional Applicability: Bulgaria (and 7 other European countries).

Complexity: basic knowledge.

Project Phase: Idea generation; Planning; Feasibility assessment; Implementation preparation.

Necessary Data for Use: Building size/type, location, current system, and fuel consumption.

Costs/Registration: Free of charge; no registration or login required.

Access: https://www.energieinstitut.at/tools/Replace/index.php?region=BG

12. Guidelines for assessing self-consumption when installing photovoltaic systems in buildings without energy storage systems

Applicability: Households, prosumers, condominium associations, and municipalities.

Brief Description: Methodology and Excel calculator to evaluate the match between electricity generation and consumption patterns.

Type of Tool: Handbook and excel calculator.

Regional Applicability: Bulgaria.

Complexity: basic knowledge.

Project Phase: Planning; Feasibility assessment; Implementation preparation.

Necessary Data for Use: No data needed.

Costs/Registration: Free access.

https://www.energieinstitut.at/tools/Replace/index.php?region=BG

Communication

13. LIFE-BECKON Hubs

Applicability: energy community.

Brief Description: Online platform with three hubs (Guidance, Training, Opportunity) providing step-by-step frameworks and matchmaking.

Type of Tool: Self-education materials.

Regional Applicability: No geographical restrictions.

Complexity: No specific knowledge.

Project Phase: Idea generation through Operation and Expansion/Optimization.

Necessary Data for Use: No data needed.

Costs/Registration: Free access, but registration is required.

Access: https://www.oss-energy-community.eu/

14. POWER-E-COM Self-Training Materials

Applicability: energy community.

Brief Description: Practical training package covering establishment, operation, and governance of community energy initiatives.

Type of Tool: Self-education materials.

Regional Applicability: Bulgaria (and 5 other European countries).

Complexity: No specific knowledge.

Project Phase: Idea Generation; Planning; Foundation; Implementation.

Necessary Data for Use: No data needed.

Costs/Registration: Free access.

Access: https://power-e-com.eu/energy-community-training-pack-version-2-4/

15. Everything you want to know about the liberalisation of the energy market but have no one to ask

Applicability: households.

Brief Description: Educational resource answering FAQ about market liberalisation, consumer rights, and the energy transition.

Type of Tool: Self-education materials.

Regional Applicability: Bulgaria.

Complexity: No specific knowledge.

Project Phase: Idea Generation; Awareness raising; Planning.

Necessary Data for Use: No data needed.

Costs/Registration: Free access.

Access: https://www.greenpeace.org/bulgaria/press/10883/100-vaprosa-za-liberalizaciqta-otgovorite/

16. Act4Eco Energy Efficiency Learning Platform

Applicability: prosumers.

Brief Description: Learning platform with modules on managing energy, renovation, and sustainable energy behaviour.

Type of Tool: Self-education materials.

Regional Applicability: International (available in Bulgarian).

Complexity: No specific knowledge required; designed for beginners.

Project Phase: Idea generation; Awareness raising; Community mobilisation; Planning.

Necessary Data for Use: No data needed.

Costs/Registration: Free of charge; optional registration for tracking progress.

Access: https://act4eco.eu/?lang=bg

5 | Cyprus

Cyprus possesses a relatively advanced legal foundation compared to its peers, having transposed both RED II and IEMD provisions into national law.

Despite the formal framework, no energy community is yet fully operational, meaning current barrier assessments are largely based on anticipated challenges. The most severe socio-economic barrier is a massive awareness gap. Administratively, multiple approval requirements are a major hurdle for citizens.

Cyprus operates the EU's only fully isolated electricity grid, which faces high renewable curtailment (estimated at 47% in 2025), necessitating community-level storage solutions.

The following list highlights the primary resources available to support the development of energy communities in Cyprus, covering essential aspects from legal formation to financial sustainability.

Legal and General Information and Business Model

1. **Handbook for the Creation of an Energy Community (EC) in Cyprus**

Applicability: energy community,

Brief Description: This is a guide for the creation of an EC in Cyprus. It contains the step-by-step process of the creation, information regarding the legal forms, and the business plan and funding aspects.

Type of Tool: handbook,

Regional Applicability: national.

Complexity: no specific knowledge.

Project Phase: idea generation up to foundation.

Necessary Data for Use: no data needed.

Costs/Registration: free.

Access: https://bfu.meci.gov.cy/el/%CE%BF%CE%B4%CE%B7%CE%B3%CF%8C%CF%82/

6 | North Macedonia

As a Contracting Party to the Energy Community Treaty, North Macedonia is currently aligning its legislation with the EU Clean Energy Package. A new Energy Law adopted in May 2025 recognizes ECs, but the lack of secondary legislation and support mechanisms makes implementation difficult.

The country shows one of the broadest barrier profiles, with high severity across nearly all categories. Unclear or absent secondary legislation is the primary regulatory constraint, while grid connection complexity and a lack of local technical expertise are the main technical constraints.

North Macedonia is increasingly focusing on decentralizing its energy sector through the empowerment of prosumers and the development of energy communities. The following toolkit provides a comprehensive set of technical, strategic, and financial resources designed to facilitate this transition. These tools range from sophisticated solar calculators and interactive grid maps to pilot project evaluations and advocacy frameworks, ensuring that municipalities, households, and local energy groups have the necessary data to achieve energy autonomy and efficiency.

Legal and General Tools

1. **Guidebook on Solar Energy Community Development and Operation - SunSharing**

Applicability: Energy community

Brief Description: Step-by-step guidebook walking users through preparation, legal registration, financing, and day-to-day operation of a solar energy community.

Type of Tool: Handbook

Regional Applicability: North Macedonia

Complexity: Basic technical knowledge

Project Phase: Idea generation through expansion

Necessary Data for Use: No data needed

Costs/Registration: Free of charge; no registration required

Access: English version | Macedonian version

2. **Report on the state of play regarding solar PV energy communities and crowdfunding initiatives in North Macedonia - SunSharing**

Applicability: Energy community

Brief Description: Executive summary of the state of solar energy communities in North Macedonia, outlining the national policy and legal framework, market conditions, and the main opportunities and barriers for solar energy communities.

Type of Tool: Report

Regional Applicability: North Macedonia

Complexity: No technical knowledge required

Project Phase: Idea generation and preparation

Necessary Data for Use: No data needed

Costs/Registration: Free of charge; no registration required

Access: English version | Macedonian version

Business Models

3. SunSharing Lessons Learned

Applicability: Energy community

Brief Description: Report synthesizing lessons learned from supporting energy communities and crowdfunding initiatives in North Macedonia and the region. It covers financing, demand-side management, energy-poverty inclusion, and policy conditions.

Type of Tool: Report

Regional Applicability: No restriction (regional, including North Macedonia)

Complexity: Basic knowledge

Project Phase: Planning; implementation

Necessary Data for Use: No data needed

Costs/Registration: Free of charge; no registration required

Access: https://sunsharing.fsb.hr/?dfile&l=en&f=SunSharing%20Lessons%20learned.pdf

4. SunSharing Best Practice Examples

Applicability: Energy community

Brief Description: Collection of best-practice energy-community and crowdfunding examples, including the CDI Macedonia rooftop PV community in Brvenica. Describes organizational and financing approaches with recommendations for administrations.

Type of Tool: Report

Regional Applicability: No restriction (regional, including North Macedonia)

Complexity: No specific knowledge

Project Phase: Idea generation

Necessary Data for Use: No data needed

Costs/Registration: Free of charge; no registration required

Access:
https://sunsharing.fsb.hr/?dfile&l=en&f=SunSharing%20Best%20practice%20examples_for%20publication.pdf

5. Green Commune Belica

Applicability: Energy communities

Brief Description: North Macedonia's first energy community (Belica village). A 20 kW PV system powers a community building with a focus on self-consumption and including vulnerable households.

Type of Tool: Pilot project/ case study / best practice example

Regional Applicability: North Macedonia (Belica village, Kicevo municipality)

Complexity: No specific knowledge

Project Phase: Foundation / implementation

Necessary Data for Use: No data needed

Costs/Registration: Free of charge; no registration required

Access: https://energycommunityplatform.eu/communities/association-for-belica-community-development/

Technical and Internet-based Solutions

6. Solar Calculator - Prosumer.mk

Applicability: Individual households / prosumers

Brief Description: Online calculator helping households estimate the size, electricity production, savings, and payback period of a rooftop PV system.

Type of Tool: Calculator

Regional Applicability: North Macedonia

Complexity: Basic technical knowledge

Project Phase: Idea generation / planning

Necessary Data for Use: Household consumption and roof/property details

Costs/Registration: Free of charge; no registration required

Access: https://prosumer.mk/solaren-kalkulator/

7. ERC Bill Calculator

Applicability: Individual consumers / households

Brief Description: Official calculator from the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) to estimate and compare electricity and district heating costs based on current tariffs.

Type of Tool: Calculator

Regional Applicability: North Macedonia

Complexity: No specific knowledge

Project Phase: Idea generation / planning

Necessary Data for Use: Household electricity/heating consumption figures (from bills)

Costs/Registration: Free of charge; no registration required

Access: https://www.erc.org.mk/page.aspx?id=478

8. RES Electricity Price Comparison Calculator

Applicability: Individual and small consumers

Brief Description: Commercial tool to compare universal-supplier prices against RES's private supply offer and calculate potential savings from switching.

Type of Tool: Calculator

Regional Applicability: North Macedonia

Complexity: No specific knowledge

Project Phase: Idea generation / planning

Necessary Data for Use: Electricity consumption figures (from bill)

Costs/Registration: Free of charge; no registration required

Access: https://res.mk/kalkulator-za-elektrichna-energija/

9. Solar Calculator - Kilovat.mk

Applicability: Individual households / prosumers

Brief Description: Independent tool for solar efficiency/yield estimation and battery capacity calculator for off-grid households.

Type of Tool: Calculator

Regional Applicability: North Macedonia

Complexity: Basic technical knowledge

Project Phase: Planning / technical project

Necessary Data for Use: Household consumption and panel specifications

Costs/Registration: Free of charge; no registration required

Access: https://kilovat.mk/solar

10. GEFF Technology Selector Tool

Applicability: Households / businesses

Brief Description: Online selector for pre-approved high-performing green technologies eligible for EBRD GEFF-linked financing and grants.

Type of Tool: Online database / selector tool

Regional Applicability: North Macedonia

Complexity: Basic technical knowledge

Project Phase: Planning / financing

Necessary Data for Use: No data needed

Costs/Registration: Free of charge; registration is required

Access: https://kilovat.mk/solar

11. REPLACE Heating System Calculator

Applicability: Individual homeowners / households

Brief Description: Compares climate-friendly heating alternatives (heat pumps, biomass, etc.) based on building details and roof space, ranking them by cost and CO2 emissions.

Type of Tool: Calculator

Regional Applicability: North Macedonia (and 9 other European countries)

Complexity: Basic technical knowledge

Project Phase: Idea generation / planning

Necessary Data for Use: Building size, altitude, occupants, current system age, and roof space

Costs/Registration: Free of charge; no registration required

Access: https://www.energieinstitut.at/tools/Replace/index.php?region=MK

12. Interactive Map for PV Grid Connection Capacity - Elektrodistribucija

Applicability: Prosumers / energy communities

Brief Description: Interactive GIS map showing available connection capacity at transformer stations across the country for photovoltaic systems.

Type of Tool: Online map

Regional Applicability: North Macedonia

Complexity: No specific knowledge

Project Phase: Planning / technical project

Necessary Data for Use: Location of interest

Costs/Registration: Free of charge; no registration required

Access: https://elektrodistribucija.mk/GisMap.aspx

13. Interactive Map of Public Building Rooftop Solar Potential

Applicability: Municipalities and public institutions

Brief Description: Spatially presents public buildings with their estimated PV capacity and annual generation to support municipal planning and communication.

Type of Tool: Online map

Regional Applicability: North Macedonia

Complexity: Basic technical knowledge

Project Phase: Planning

Necessary Data for Use: No data needed

Costs/Registration: Free of charge; no registration required

Access: Link

14. SolarSync PV Monitoring and Management Platform

Applicability: Prosumers

Brief Description: Online platform for monitoring PV generation. Connects to various inverters to view production data via customizable widgets.

Type of Tool: Management platform

Regional Applicability: North Macedonia

Complexity: Basic technical knowledge

Project Phase: Implementation; expansion / optimization

Necessary Data for Use: Account details and connection of user PV equipment

Costs/Registration: Free of charge; registration is required

Access: https://pvsync.org/

15. **GEFF Energy Savings Calculator (EBRD)**

Applicability: Prosumers

Brief Description: Estimates energy and cost savings achieved by investing in various energy-efficient technologies for a household.

Type of Tool: Calculator

Regional Applicability: North Macedonia

Complexity: No specific knowledge

Project Phase: Idea generation / planning

Necessary Data for Use: Household and technology details

Costs/Registration: Free of charge; registration required to apply for GEFF

Access: https://pvsync.org/

Communications

16. **Eko-Svest Advocacy Platform on Energy Communities and Prosumers Legislation**

Applicability: Energy community

Brief Description: Reviews North Macedonia's legal framework and provides legislative recommendations such as one-stop-shop permitting and expanded net-metering.

Type of Tool: Report

Regional Applicability: North Macedonia

Complexity: Expert level

Project Phase: Idea generation / planning

Necessary Data for Use: No data needed

Costs/Registration: Free of charge; no registration required

Access: https://prosumer.mk/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/EKOSVEST-Platforma-Publikacija.pdf

7 | Romania

Romania is at an increasingly active stage of development, benefiting from an existing ecosystem of communities but all in forming and a civil society coalition.

Primary legislation for RECs (Law 163/2022) and CECs (Law 123/2012) is in place, but operationalization regarding energy sharing and grid connection remains uneven. Access to financing is a major barrier, and a lack of trust in cooperative models is the most significant social barrier.

This document provides a pool of specialized resources and instruments designed to facilitate the development of energy communities in Romania. These tools address various project stages ranging from initial legal structuring and business modelling to technical simulation and real-time operational management, ensuring that stakeholders have the necessary support for successful implementation.

Legal and General Tools

1. Cooperativa de Energie Establishment Tools

Applicability: energy community

Brief Description: Cooperativa de Energie has developed tools needed to establish an energy community, including articles of association, internal operating regulations, and instalment-based purchase agreements.

Type of Tool: contract template

Regional Applicability: Romania

Complexity: basic knowledge

Project Phase: foundation

Necessary Data for Use: no data needed

Costs/Registration: free of charge

Access https://comunitatideenergie.ro/#

2. Legal Forms Analysis for Energy Communities

Applicability: energy community

Brief Description: Analysis of appropriate legal forms for establishing and operating energy communities.

Type of Tool: handbook

Regional Applicability: Romania

Complexity: basic knowledge

Project Phase: idea generation, planning

Necessary Data for Use: no data needed

Costs/Registration: free of charge

Access: https://www.greenpeace.org/static/planet4-romania-stateless/2023/03/9bfaa5ea-analiza-a-formelor-de-organizare.pdf

3. ABMEE - The Community Energy Training Programme (DECA Project)

Applicability: energy community

Brief Description: A practical, modular capacity-building programme designed to help communities and local actors understand, initiate, and advance community energy initiatives through six blocks of training (Introduction, Fundamentals, Technical Possibilities, Social Entrepreneurship, etc.).

Type of Tool: Handbook/ PPT/ Video tutorials

Regional Applicability: No restriction

Complexity: No specific knowledge; builds capacities from basic to advanced

Project Phase: All stages

Necessary Data for Use: No data needed

Costs/Registration: Free of charge

Access: English | Romanian

4. ABMEE Toolkit for Advisors and Coaches

Applicability: others (practitioners)

Brief Description: Supports advisors guiding local groups through a four-stage process: co-creatively shaping vision, advancing business plans, implementation, and robust operation/scaling.

Type of Tool: Guide/ handbook/ templates

Regional Applicability: No restriction

Complexity: Practitioners working as advisors and coaches

Project Phase: All stages

Necessary Data for Use: No data needed

Costs/Registration: Free of charge

Access: https://abmee.ro/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/TOOLKIT-QUICK-START-GUIDE_2026_low-rez.pdf

Business Models

5. Handbook: Business Models for Energy Communities

Applicability: energy community

Brief Description: Defines how energy communities produce, distribute, and manage energy, presenting models like cooperatives, public-private partnerships, and collective self-consumption.

Type of Tool: handbook

Regional Applicability: Romania

Complexity: basic knowledge

Project Phase: planning

Necessary Data for Use: no data needed

Costs/Registration: free of charge

Access: https://comunitatideenergie.ro/modele-de-business-comunitati-de-energie/

6. **Financial Model for Energy Communities (Valea Jiului)**

Applicability: energy community

Brief Description: An interactive Excel model assessing financial viability based on PV plants, integrating energy production, CAPEX, OPEX, and financing to calculate indicators like NPV and IRR.

Type of Tool: calculator

Regional Applicability: No restriction / Romania

Complexity: expert level

Project Phase: planning

Necessary Data for Use: Investment value, energy production, unit price, and other cost figures

Costs/Registration: free of charge

Access: https://comunitatideenergie.ro/modele-de-business/model-financiar-ce/

Technical and Internet-based Solutions

7. **AETHER AI-Powered Energy Platform**

Applicability: energy community

Brief Description: Models consumption and renewable production, identifies patterns and anomalies, and provides tailored recommendations for optimizing sharing and investment.

Type of Tool: calculator

Regional Applicability: Romania

Complexity: basic knowledge

Project Phase: planning

Necessary Data for Use: electricity bills, production data

Costs/Registration: free of charge

Access: https://ase.open4cec.eu/aether/

8. **ECoSIM Simulation Tool**

Applicability: energy community

Brief Description: Provides insights into optimal sizing for PV, wind turbines, and battery systems, as well as financial viability and risks.

Type of Tool: calculator

Regional Applicability: Romania

Complexity: no specific knowledge

Project Phase: Planning

Necessary Data for Use: CAPEX, OPEX, tariffs, production

Costs/Registration: free of charge

Access https://ase.open4cec.eu/ecosim/

9. **PV Forecast Tool**

Applicability: energy community

Brief Description: Simulation tool to forecast photovoltaic power output based on location, orientation, and 7-day weather predictions.

Type of Tool: calculator

Regional Applicability: Romania

Complexity: no specific knowledge

Project Phase: Planning

Necessary Data for Use: latitude, longitude, production capacity

Costs/Registration: free of charge

Access: https://ase.open4cec.eu/pvforecast/

10. **Renergia AI Monitoring and Management Platform**

Applicability: energy community

Brief Description: Platform that uses statistical and AI algorithms to transform consumption data into practical recommendations for cost reduction and efficiency.

Type of Tool: calculator

Regional Applicability: Romania

Complexity: expert level

Project Phase: Implementation/Optimization

Necessary Data for Use: Core data: consumption, meter reading, tariffs, energy bills, facility information

Costs/Registration: partially free (B2B costs may exist)

Access: https://comunitatideenergie.ro/renergiaro/

11. **Inowattio Smart Energy Controller and Digital System**

Applicability: energy community

Brief Description: A digital platform and smart controller for real-time monitoring of electricity production and consumption to support local sharing and sale.

Type of Tool: calculator

Regional Applicability: Romania

Complexity: expert level

Project Phase: Implementation/Optimization/Energy Sharing

Necessary Data for Use: Core data: consumption, meter reading, tariffs, energy bills

Costs/Registration: Controller was free during the pilot; long-term platform costs not specified

Access https://inowattio.com/ro/solutii/pentru-comunitati-energetice

Communication

12. DECA Community Energy Video Tutorials

Applicability: energy community

Brief Description: Short, accessible summaries of the modules within the training programme, providing a quick introduction to sustainable energy topics.

Type of Tool: Handbook/ PPT/ Video tutorials

Regional Applicability: No restriction

Complexity: No specific knowledge; builds basic to advanced capacities

Project Phase: All stages

Necessary Data for Use: No data needed

Costs/Registration: Free of charge

Access: English | Romanian

13. The OPEN4CEC platform (https://ase.open4cec.eu)

Developed by Bucharest University of Economic Studies, the platform provides a comprehensive, service-oriented framework specifically designed to support the technical and economic needs of Citizen Energy Communities (CECs). To facilitate the transition toward community-driven energy, the platform hosts several ready-to-use applications developed by leading European academic and engineering institutions, categorized by their focus on planning, monitoring, and operational optimization.

Technical and Economic Simulation Tools

A core component of the platform is its suite of simulation tools aimed at defining the feasibility of community energy projects:

- AETHER (AI-Enabled Energy THinking for Prosumers and Energy Communities): Developed by the Bucharest University of Economic Studies, this tool evaluates energy systems from technical and operational perspectives. It assists in decision-making regarding PV installations, battery storage, and flexibility by comparing baseline scenarios with potential upgrades.
- ECoSIM (Energy Community Simulator): Also created by the Bucharest University of Economic Studies, this simulator focuses on sizing PV, wind turbine, and battery systems to ensure self-sustainability and financial viability while assessing associated risks.
- Autarky-microgrid: Developed by NTNU (Norway), this application provides technical designs and financial models for both off-grid and grid-connected microgrids. It optimizes the use of solar PV, batteries, and diesel backups, utilizing stochastic versions to account for forecast errors and potential grid outages.
- Energy Community Simulator: A tool developed by ENDEF – Endef Engineering SL that provides additional simulation capabilities for community structures.

Monitoring, Forecasting, and Operational Optimization

Beyond initial planning, the platform offers tools to manage day-to-day operations and improve system efficiency:

- PV Forecast: This tool, from the Bucharest University of Economic Studies, provides 7-day power output predictions based on system orientation, size, and weather data.
- SiriEnergy: Developed by the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, this application focuses on real-time load monitoring and control to minimize energy costs.
- RealTime Measurement: Created by ENDEF, this app aggregates consumption and generation data from various sources (such as Huawei, Ingeteam, and Sungrow platforms) into a single mobile interface for users.

These applications are integrated into a multi-layered architecture—spanning Awareness, Member Analytics, Distributed Generation support (DGS), and CEC Market Trading—allowing communities to customize their energy management according to local needs. Through this collaborative framework, the OPEN4CEC platform empowers citizens to move beyond simple consumption toward active participation in the energy market.

8 | Ukraine

Ukraine represents the earliest stage of energy community development, with its progress shaped by urgent energy security needs resulting from the ongoing wartime context. A significant institutional shift occurred in May 2026 with the adoption of Draft Law No. 12087-d, which removed restrictive mandatory non-profit requirements for citizen energy communities.

Foundational barriers dominate; public awareness is low or very low. Ukraine faces the highest rates of local technical expertise shortages and high grid connection costs compared to other partner countries.

Ukraine's strategic approach to the decentralized energy transition is characterized by a strong focus on energy security, efficiency, and residential resilience. The technical landscape is supported by a variety of specialized digital tools, ranging from advanced calculators for thermal insulation and solar payback to GIS-based renewable energy maps. Complementing these technical resources is an extensive suite of practical handbooks and training modules tailored for multi-apartment buildings and municipal authorities. These resources provide the necessary technical guidance, legal templates, and communication strategies to empower local communities to manage their energy needs independently and attract the external funding required for sustainable infrastructure development.

Technical and Internet Based Solutions

1. **Heating Calculator: Calculating a Home's Energy Efficiency**

Applicability: energy community.

Brief Description: This calculator allows for the calculation of thermal insulation layer thickness in accordance with Ukrainian State building codes B.2.6-31-2021 and State Standards 9191:2022.

Type of Tool: calculator.

Regional Applicability: Ukraine.

Complexity: basic knowledge.

Project Phase: Planning/optimization.

Necessary Data for Use: Region, house parameters, insulation targets, zone parameters (floor, roof, walls), and insulator materials.

Costs/Registration: Free / No registration required.

Access: https://www.sweetondale.ua/calc/calc.php?TYPE=4

2. **Solar Power Plant Generation Calculator**

Applicability: energy community.

Brief Description: An online service for calculating future solar power plant parameters based on geographic location, panel tilt, orientation, and real climate data for solar insolation.

Type of Tool: calculator.

Regional Applicability: Ukraine.

Complexity: expert level.

Project Phase: Planning/optimization.

Necessary Data for Use: Installation type, station capacity (kW), tilt angle, and orientation.

Costs/Registration: Free / No registration required.

Access: https://solarflow.net.ua/kalkulyator-sonyachnoyi-stancziyi/

3. **Solar Power Plant Efficiency and Payback Calculator**

Applicability: energy community.

Brief Description: Designs an ideal solar power system for specific users to determine future efficiency and payback period.

Type of Tool: calculator.

Regional Applicability: Ukraine.

Complexity: basic knowledge.

Project Phase: Planning/optimization.

Necessary Data for Use: Installation type, capacity, tilt angle, orientation, and electricity consumption.

Costs/Registration: Free / No registration required.

Access: https://swe.kyiv.ua/calculator

4. **Solar Power Plant Payback Calculator**

Applicability: energy community.

Brief Description: Assists in choosing a station tailored to specific needs and calculates its efficiency and actual payback period.

Type of Tool: calculator.

Regional Applicability: Ukraine.

Complexity: basic knowledge.

Project Phase: Planning/optimization.

Necessary Data for Use: Installation type, capacity, region, location, and electricity consumption.

Costs/Registration: Free / No registration required.

Access: https://www.atmosfera.ua/for-home/kalkulyator-sonyachnyh-stantsiy-dlya-domu

5. **Online Course: Designing Photovoltaic Power Systems Using Professional Software**

Applicability: energy community.

Brief Description: An online course building practical skills for designing off-grid photovoltaic systems to support renewable energy for small-scale infrastructure.

Type of Tool: online webinars.

Regional Applicability: Ukraine.

Complexity: basic knowledge.

Project Phase: Planning/optimization.

Necessary Data for Use: Not specified.

Costs/Registration: Free / No registration required.

Access: https://citizenenergy.com.ua/uk/our-resouces/proektuvannya-fotoelektrichnikh-stanciy-iz-vikoristannyam-profesiynogo-programnogo

6. **Renewable Energy Zone Map - Ukraine**

Applicability: energy community.

Brief Description: A tool designed to accelerate the implementation processes for renewable energy projects.

Type of Tool: online map.

Regional Applicability: Ukraine.

Complexity: basic knowledge.

Project Phase: Planning/optimization.

Necessary Data for Use: Not specified.

Costs/Registration: Free / No registration required.

Access: https://rezoma.mev.gov.ua/

Communication and Guidance Handbooks

7. **Guide: Best Practices for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy in Multi-Apartment Residential Buildings and the Public Sector**

Applicability: energy community.

Brief Description: Provides technical guidance, real-life case studies, and financing options for implementing energy efficiency measures and renewable energy in buildings.

Type of Tool: handbook.

Regional Applicability: Ukraine.

Complexity: basic knowledge.

Project Phase: idea generation, planning.

Necessary Data for Use: Not specified.

Costs/Registration: Free / No registration required.

Access: https://ua.boell.org/sites/default/files/2024-07/rekomendacii_schodo_stimulyuvannya_energoefektivnikh_zakhodiv_ta_vde_1.pdf

8. **Guidelines for Mentoring Green Energy Communities**

Applicability: energy community.

Brief Description: Equips mentors with methods and tools to support the creation and development of green energy communities through collaboration among stakeholders.

Type of Tool: handbook.

Regional Applicability: Ukraine.

Complexity: no specific knowledge.

Project Phase: planning, implementation.

Necessary Data for Use: Not specified.

Costs/Registration: Free / No registration required.

Access: https://citizenenergy.com.ua/sites/default/files/recommendations-1.pdf

9. **Practical Guide: Solar Energy on Your Own Balcony**

Applicability: others.

Brief Description: A guide introducing small-scale solar PV systems for household use to increase energy independence.

Type of Tool: handbook.

Regional Applicability: Ukraine.

Complexity: No specific knowledge.

Project Phase: planning, implementation.

Necessary Data for Use: Not specified.

Costs/Registration: Free / No registration required.

Access: https://citizenenergy.com.ua/sites/default/files/2023-11/praktichniy_poradnik_energiya_soncya_na_balkoni.pdf

10. **Technical Recommendations for Improving Energy Efficiency and Integrating Renewable Energy in Multi-Apartment Buildings and Public Buildings**

Applicability: energy community.

Brief Description: Provides technical recommendations, economic assessments, and policy guidance for building renovation and clean energy projects.

Type of Tool: handbook.

Regional Applicability: Ukraine.

Complexity: No specific knowledge.

Project Phase: planning, implementation.

Necessary Data for Use: Not specified.

Costs/Registration: Free / No registration required.

Access: https://ua.boell.org/uk/2024/08/13/tekhnichni-rekomendatsiyi-z-pidvyshchennya-enerhoefektyvnosti-ta-vprovadzhennya-vde-v-0

11. **Practical Guide: Establishing Green Energy Communities in Ukraine**

Applicability: energy community.

Brief Description: Step-by-step guidance based on EU best practices, including legal templates and business models for community-led energy projects.

Type of Tool: handbook.

Regional Applicability: Ukraine.

Complexity: no specific knowledge.

Project Phase: planning, implementation.

Necessary Data for Use: Not specified.

Costs/Registration: Free / No registration required.

Access: https://sdasynergy.org/sites/default/files/sinergiya-posibnik-elektr_21.05.2024.pdf

12. Webinar: Solar Power on Your Balcony

Applicability: Energy Community.

Brief Description: Explains the benefits and technical aspects of installing balcony solar systems for residential households.

Type of Tool: Webinar.

Regional Applicability: Ukraine.

Complexity: No specific knowledge.

Project Phase: planning, implementation.

Necessary Data for Use: Not specified.

Costs/Registration: Free / No registration required.

Access: https://youtu.be/UzTd9JoS2ds?si=Sa43B-RCBEZdm9yV

13. Best Practices for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Retrofits

Applicability: energy community.

Brief Description: Features case studies demonstrating how retrofits and renewable integration reduce costs and improve occupant comfort in residential and public buildings.

Type of Tool: Handbook.

Regional Applicability: Ukraine.

Complexity: No specific knowledge.

Project Phase: planning, implementation.

Necessary Data for Use: Not specified.

Costs/Registration: Free / No registration required.

Access: https://ua.boell.org/uk/2024/07/17/krashchi-praktyky-z-ee-ta-vde-v-bahatokvartyrnykh-zhytlovykh-budynkakh-ta-hromadskomu

14. Catalogue of Standard Technical Solutions for RE-Based Backup Power Systems

Applicability: Energy Community.

Brief Description: A catalogue providing guidance on safety, economic analysis, and design for reliable backup power systems in buildings.

Type of Tool: Handbook.

Regional Applicability: Ukraine.

Complexity: No specific knowledge.

Project Phase: planning, implementation.

Necessary Data for Use: Not specified.

Costs/Registration: Free / No registration required.

Access: https://ua.boell.org/uk/2025/02/27/kataloh-typovykh-tekhnichnykh-rishen-dlya-rezervnoho-zhyvlennya-budivel-z-vykorystannyam

15. **Practical Guide to Energy Management**

Applicability: municipality.

Brief Description: Guides municipalities through the setup of energy management systems, including data collection and monitoring.

Type of Tool: Handbook.

Regional Applicability: Ukraine.

Complexity: No specific knowledge.

Project Phase: planning, implementation.

Necessary Data for Use: Not specified.

Costs/Registration: Free / No registration required.

Access: https://decentralization.ua/uploads/library/file/970/https___dixigroup.org_wp-content_uploads_2025_01_posibnyk_energomenedzhment-3.pdf

16. **Case Study: How Communities Can Successfully Attract External Funding**

Applicability: municipality.

Brief Description: Offers insights into developing projects and building partnerships with international donors to implement local initiatives.

Type of Tool: Handbook.

Regional Applicability: Ukraine.

Complexity: No specific knowledge.

Project Phase: Planning.

Necessary Data for Use: Not specified.

Costs/Registration: Free / No registration required.

Access: https://decentralization.ua/uploads/library/file/982/umaef_yak_gromadam_posibnyk_vf.pdf

17. **Practical Guide: Effective Communication for Local Communities**

Applicability: municipality.

Brief Description: Strategies and best practices for public engagement to build trust and raise awareness for local energy actions.

Type of Tool: Handbook.

Regional Applicability: Ukraine.

Complexity: No specific knowledge.

Project Phase: Planning.

Necessary Data for Use: Not specified.

Costs/Registration: Free / No registration required.

Access: Link

9 | Conclusion

The current tool analysis provides the foundation for the further development of the SHAREs+ Gateways by identifying existing national and international resources that support energy communities and collective energy actions. The analysis also shows that the six participating countries are at different stages of development and have varying levels of available resources, reflecting differences in regulatory frameworks, knowledge and capacity, financing opportunities, and practical experience. In total, the analysis identified 78 national tools across the six SHAREs+ countries and 29 international tools that were considered suitable for use in the national contexts.

Interactions with stakeholders throughout the other project activities further highlighted that many existing tools are difficult for local heroes to find or use. Resources are often dispersed across different platforms, presented in complex formats, available only in foreign languages, or not freely accessible. The analysis therefore confirms the need for user-friendly, centralised, and nationally tailored online support that makes relevant resources easier to discover and apply.

The SHAREs+ Gateways respond to this need by bringing together relevant tools, guidance, information, and communication materials for both emerging and established energy communities. They provide practical support for developing, managing, communicating, and scaling collective energy actions, while allowing each country to reflect its specific regulatory context, level of development, and local needs. In this way, the Gateways can serve not only as repositories of existing resources, but also as accessible entry points for local heroes seeking practical support throughout the different stages of an energy community's development. As a next step, the current selection of identified resources will be presented and discussed during the upcoming National Citizen Energy Forums meetings, allowing their relevance and usability to be validated before their final integration into the National Gateways.

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