



WORKSHOP: ACCELERATING THE ENERGY TRANSITION IN MUNICIPALITIES WITH CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Wednesday, 28 September (10.30–12.00) (Day 1) | online | in English

Short Description

Local authorities and citizens have a leading role in the energy transition of their territories. Beyond the fact that civic involvement creates local dynamics and regional added value for the territory, the recognition and integration of citizens as full-fledged actors in the governance and financing of energy projects is crucial to reinforce the social acceptability of renewable energy.

This workshop will focus on the power of citizen engagement in renewables and highlight the importance of regional value creation as a key argument for citizen acceptance. Participants will compare the existing legal frameworks for citizens' energy projects in France, Germany and Austria, especially the implementation of the European RED II Directive at national levels. They will explore proven instruments that support citizen engagement in solar energy, wind energy and renewable heat projects at local and regional level in those three countries.

Objectives

- Highlight the implementation of the European RED II Directive at the national level in three countries with different cultural, social, regulatory and legal frameworks
- Discuss the role of municipalities and cooperatives in developing renewable energy at the regional level in those three countries
- Explore proven instruments that support citizen engagement in renewable energy at local and regional level

WORKSHOP SPEAKERS

- **Eva Dvorak**, Programme Manager, Austrian Coordination Unit for Energy Communities, Climate and Energy Fund (Austria)
- **Nicolas Lepin**, Renewable Heat Project Officer, ERE43 (Cooperative enterprise, France)
- **Frank Tegtmeier**, BürgerEnergieGenossenschaft Schaumburg eG (Citizen Energy Cooperative, Germany)

Programme

Presentation and discussion of proven instruments implemented in Austria, France and Germany to engage citizens and other stakeholders into the regional development of renewables

10:30: Introduction, Welcome (5 min)

10:35: Regional value creation as a key argument for citizen acceptance (30 min)

- Implementation of RED II in Austria, France and Germany (15 min)
- Short presentation of 3 projects from Austria, France and Germany as examples of proven regional strategies for citizen and stakeholder participation (15 min)

11:05: Deep Dive into the 3 projects - How does citizen participation work in practice? (20 min)

- Breakout session 1: Best practice solar energy (Austria)
- Breakout session 2: Best practice wind energy (Germany)
- Breakout session 3: Best practice renewable heat (France)

11:25: Panel discussion - Do's and Don'ts for citizen and stakeholder participation (20 min.)

11:45: Speakers' final statements (10 min)

11:55: Closing words (5 min)

Additional Information

Climate and Energy Fund (Austrian Coordination Unit): The Climate and Energy Fund supports energy-related research projects, environmentally compatible transport projects and measures to bring climate-friendly energy technologies to market. By establishing the Climate Fund, the Austrian Federal Government created a strategically important tool designed to drive the transition from a central, fossil energy supply system towards a smart regional energy mix. The Climate Fund programmes aim at addressing the entire innovation chain from research to market launch. <https://www.bmk.gv.at/en/topics/climate-environment/climate-protection/climate-energy-fund.html>

BürgerEnergieGenossenschaft Schaumburg eG (Germany): The citizen energy cooperative involves the citizens of Schaumburg in the democratic shaping and economic opportunities of the energy turnaround. It invests in sustainable projects and actively drives the energy transition forward. Citizens become co-owners of the energy plants and promote value creation in the

district. With decentralised power generation in the communities, the cooperative reduce dependence on uncertain global energy imports as well as on large energy suppliers. <http://www.bengshg.de/>

ERE43 (France): ERE43 is a cooperative enterprise. Its mission is to advise and support local authorities, individuals and professionals in the energy transition by relying on renewable and local energy sources. <https://www.ere43.fr/>

Region-N: Region-N is a German network of regional actors that promotes the transformation of our energy system in a renewable, regional and citizen-oriented way. The goal is for German regions to be supplied 100% from renewables by 2030, to use their energy-saving potential and thus strengthen climate action. To achieve this, the network gathers stakeholders to exchange experiences and expertise, use successful practical examples and jointly develop campaigns. <https://region-n.net/>

RegEnergy: The RegEnergy project (Interreg North-West Europe) aims to increase the share of renewable energy in North-West Europe by establishing renewable energy partnerships between urbanised and surrounding rural territories. The region as a whole, benefits from increased interactions, investments in energy and other infrastructure. [RegEnergy - Renewable Energy Regions | Interreg NWE \(nweurope.eu\)](#)