

ON-SITE WORKSHOP

CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS



#CE4EUislands – Workshop: Financing mechanisms for islands' decarbonisation projects with a focus on shared ownership schemes

Tentative Date: 18 and 19 September 2024 | 09:00-17:00 | Lesvos | Greece

Note: *The workshop will be organised back-to-back to the local event “Clean energy transition of Lesvos – A 100% multi-RES energy system is possible!” which will take place on the September 17th and will attract the participation of local, regional and governmental representatives, national level authorities, market representatives and utilities. The event will include an afternoon session with a thematic focus on geothermal energy, including a site visit. A tentative agenda of the event is included at the end of the present document.*

Abstract

The realisation of projects related to the decarbonisation of islands is most often capital intensive and requires significant financial resources. Such projects are usually related to renewable energy production, storage and management systems, and their operation is remunerated according to the operational provisions of the respective electricity market. Additionally, their development is usually supported by financial incentives and subsidies, making them profitable investment opportunities with a good return on investment. Due to this, project promoters are often of national or international origin with accessibility to good financing conditions and technical expertise, but usually with no direct link to the island itself. This translates into the lack of profit sharing of such investments, which has often been a reason of conflicts during the realisation of the projects. In the meantime, financing mechanisms based on the principle of shared ownership and collective investment are becoming more mainstream. Citizen and Renewable Energy Communities have been introduced in EU legislation and in many cases already adopted in the legislation of EU Member States.

In this workshop we will dive into the EU legislative framework for Energy Communities and will assess how this is translated into Member States, especially those with islands. We will analyse existing special provisions for EU islands and discuss what is needed to create an even more favourable legislative framework. We will hear from experts having worked on the establishment of Energy Communities on islands and from members of Energy Communities benefiting from their operation. We will analyse the specificities of collective investment use cases both on renewable energy production and energy efficiency projects. Finally, we will create space for co-working with the participating islands, employing gamification and role-playing activities to simulate the conditions of establishing and operating an Energy Community.

Agenda (version 11/06/2024):

Wednesday 18th September 2024

09:00 – 09:15	Welcome and introduction <i>Alejandro Ulzurrun de Asanza y Munoz, DG ENER (tbc)</i> <i>Edita Dranseikaite, DG ENER (tbc)</i>
09:15 – 9:30	Agenda setting <i>Martina Cannata, CE4EUI (3E)</i> <i>Kostas Komninos, CE4EUI (DAFNI)</i>
Session 1: Training and knowledge sharing	
09:30 – 10:00	Financing clean energy transition projects <i>RdA</i>
10:00 – 10:45	Legislative framework for collective and shared ownership energy actions and investments <i>Energy Communities – DAFNI</i> <i>Other shared ownership financing mechanisms – RdA</i>
10:45 – 11:15	Energy Communities on islands – Challenges and Opportunities <i>DAFNI</i>
11:15 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 12:00	Establishing an Energy Community – A step-by-step procedure <i>Energy Community experts</i>
12:00 – 12:45	Energy Community example – Energy Poverty use case <i>Energy Community managers</i>
12:45 – 13:30	Energy Community example – Renewable energy use case <i>Energy Community managers</i>
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch break
Session 2: Working with the islands	
14:30 – 15:30	Realising island decarbonisation projects in islands – Role playing game <i>(Participants will be divided in groups and will participate in a role-playing game where they will simulate the scenario of implementing a series of decarbonisation projects on an imaginary island – Alternatives of individual of shared ownership will be highlighted)</i> <i>DAFNI</i>

15:30 – 16:30	Establish your Energy Community – Exercise per island(s) <i>(Depending on the participating island representatives and their identified needs different tailor-made Energy Community establishment tables will be set up per island or groups of islands supported by the team of experts – The scope will be in the next hour to prepare an Action Plan for moving projects ahead)</i> Energy Community experts and managers
16:30 – 17:00	Present your Energy Community All participants
17:00	Conclusions and Final remarks
19:00	Dinner

Thursday 19th September 2024

09:00 – 12:30	Site visit (part A) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thermal power plant in Mytilene <i>(Demonstration and discussion about operational challenges)</i> • Renovated energy poor households in Mytilene <i>(Discussion with house tenants)</i> • Geothermal energy district heating in Polichnitos <i>(Demonstration of pilot installation)</i>
12:30 – 13:30	Thermal spa and light lunch in Polichnitos <i>(Recreational activity)</i>
13:30 – 17:00	Visit to the petrified forest and Natural Museum in Sygri <i>(Recreational activity)</i>
17:00 – 19:00	Site visit (part B) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wind farm in Antissa <i>(Demonstration and discussion about operational challenges)</i> • Water reservoir for pumped hydro storage use in Eressos <i>(Discussion with locals about water use challenges)</i>
19:30	Dinner in Kalloni
21:30	Return to Mytilene