D4.2 - Policy Adoption Measures for the Decarbonization of the H&C Sector

FACTSHEET #2_[Greece]

1. Identification of the measure

Support renewable energy communities (RECs) and public energy communities (PECs) for heating and cooling with storage

Strategic Policy Priority (SPP)	SPP #1: Define a policy package per sector
Sector	Other
Type	Policy

2. Identification of KPIs (minimum of 3 KPIs)

KPIs	
KPI #1	Total number of RECs/PECs actively providing heating and/or cooling services, incorporating energy storage
KPI #2	Total Installed Capacity (MW) of Renewable Heating and Cooling Systems with Storage in RECs/PECs
KPI #3	Share of Heating and Cooling Demand met by RECs/PECs with thermal storage in Supported Regions

3. Definition of the operationalization activities (minimum of 3 activities)

OPERATIONALIZATION ACTIVITIES	
#1	Enforcement of this measure and incorporate clear definitions and rights for RECs and PECs into national energy and climate laws. Streamline administrative processes for community-based projects (especially those with storage and heating/cooling systems). Guarantee fair and priority access to district heating/cooling networks or local grids for energy communities.
#2	Awareness campaigns and community engagement Public Information Campaigns to explain the benefits of energy communities (cost savings, resilience, climate impact) in accessible language. Workshops and Local Events, to help citizens understand how to join or initiate an energy community. Interactive Tools & Online Platforms, to allow communities to simulate project impacts or identify funding opportunities.
#3	Financial incentives and support for fast deployment of REC / PEC Provide upfront capital support for feasibility studies, system installation and storage integration. Offer favourable financing tailored to community initiatives that may lack traditional creditworthiness. Reduce VAT or offer tax deductions for collective investments in renewable heating/cooling and storage. Enable fair compensation for heat and energy sharing within communities.
#4	Upskilling, training of professionals for RES – HC Training for Local Technicians & Project Developers. Focus on design, installation, and maintenance of renewable heating/cooling and storage systems. Build knowledge of legal, financial, and technical aspects of energy community development. Enable existing successful communities to mentor new ones (e.g., via national hubs or networks).

4. Applicability/focus of the measure[1]:

X	Municipality	Ioannina
	Region	
	National	

5. Overview of the expected results

RESULTS		
KPI ID	*Assumptions*	*Estimated results (indicatively)*
#1	*Enabling the above-mentioned operationalisation activities*	Reach 7% of the total heating and cooling demand in a Municipality through renewable community systems with storage.
#2		Increase to 20 operational communities in a Municipality by 2030.
#3		Reach 100 MW installed capacity in a Municipality by 2030.

6. Brief description of the discussion oriented towards a SWOT analysis

The third Capacity Building Event will be held during the side events of the EU SOLARHUB and EU ECHO EH[2] project meeting, on 2nd July 2025, in the municipality of Ioannina, Region of Epirus.

The title of the event is "The role of REC / CEC in the decarbonisation of heating and cooling in the Region of Epirus".

Attendees of this event are local energy communities, local energy planners, employees in environmental and energy related Department of the Municipality and members of the Municipal Committee/Council.

During this event, there are presentations from the

- Electra Energy Cooperative
- CommonEn energy community
- Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Savings

This event succeeded to

- Explain the new regulation on heating and cooling (EPBD, EED, RED and NECP) to local /regional authorities.
- Inform the regional/local authorities on the available tools for heating/cooling planning developed in the REDI4Heat project.
- Communicate the new REC / CEC key provisions across the Municipality of Ioannina
- Provide the public with the necessary skills and understanding the benefits of joining a REC / CEC.
- Discuss further decarbonization potential of the Region of Epirus and Municipality of Ioannina, through conveying the national Policy Adoption Scenarios.
- Increase public awareness on the decarbonization of heating and cooling through the development of REC / CEC.

[1] Each MS is expected to focus on the application to, at least, 3 cities and 1 region.
[2] https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101185725

This event revealed the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the Region, as follows:

Strengths	Weaknesses
- Active Energy Communities: The establishment of the Electra Energy Cooperative[3] and CommonEn[4] energy community in Ioannina demonstrates strong local engagement in renewable energy initiatives. This community-driven approach has been instrumental in addressing energy poverty and promoting sustainable energy solutions. - Commitment to Climate Neutrality: Ioannina's participation in the NetZeroCities program reflects a clear commitment to achieving climate neutrality by 2030. The municipality has outlined specific actions in its Climate Neutrality Action Plan, focusing on renewable energy adoption and energy efficiency improvements. - Implementation of Renewable Energy Projects: The municipality has initiated projects such as the installation of photovoltaic systems on public buildings.	- High Energy Poverty Rates: Despite efforts to address energy poverty, a significant portion of Ioannina's population continues to struggle with energy affordability, which can impede the adoption of new heating and cooling technologies. - Logistical Challenges with Biomass: While biomass is abundant, the costs associated with its collection, transportation, and storage remain high.
Opportunities	**Threats**
- Public Engagement: The growing interest and participation in energy communities indicate a societal shift towards sustainability. - Access to Funding: European and national funding programs, such as the Just Transition Fund and Horizon Europe, offer financial support. - Cross-Border Collaboration: Epirus's proximity to Albania presents opportunities for cross-border cooperation in renewable energy projects, knowledge exchange, and the development of shared energy infrastructure.	- Economic Constraints: Economic instability or limited access to capital in the Region can hinder investments in sustainable energy projects. - Regulatory Uncertainties: Changes in policies or delays in regulatory approvals can create uncertainties, deter investment and slow project implementation in the Region. - Environmental Concerns: The implementation of large-scale renewable energy projects must consider the potential impact on Epirus's rich biodiversity and natural landscapes.

[3] https://electraenergy.coop/
[4] https://www.commonen.gr/