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

FACTSHEET #4_[Poland]

1. Identification of the measure

Increase local authorities' capacity towards RES transformation

Enabling energy communities – A toolkit for just transition regions

Strategic Policy Priority (SPP)	SPP #3: Actively engage local/decentralised authorities
Sector	Non-residential
Type	policy (including regulatory and fiscal)

2. Identification of KPIs (minimum of 3 KPIs)

KPIs

KPI #1	*Number of newly created or active energy communities*
KPI #2	*Share of local ownership in large RES projects (> 1 MW)*
KPI #3	*Average administrative time from application to joining*
KPI #4	*Total value of public and private funds raised by communities*

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

	OPERATIONALIZATION ACTIVITIES
#1	*Adopt a local "enabling framework" + digital one-stop-shop for permits.*
#2	*Act as lead partner and shareholder in new energy communities – set up or co-own RECs/CECs that involve different municipal departments and services.*
#3	*Establish a fast, digital "one-stop shop" for permits. The goals are transparent, proportionate procedures and reduced handling times.*
#4	*Mandate a local ownership share in every large RES project (e.g. a fixed % for the municipality or a community vehicle).*
#5	*Launch an easy-access seed fund (≤ €200 k per project) for citizen-driven ECs.*
#6	*Up-skill staff with ready-made digital tools & professional service contracts.*
#7	*Design transparent criteria for anti-"hijacking" of subsidies – subsidies only for non-profit, local REC/CECs, separate from commercial projects.*
#8	*Systematically train and rotate staff in energy law, EU financing and project risk management.*

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

X	City	Szczecin, Łomianki
	Region	
	National	

5. Overview of the expected results

RESULTS		
KPI ID	*Assumptions*	*Estimated results (horizon – by the end of 2030)*
#1	• *clear, fast procedures,* • *active participation of the local government,* • *seed capital,* • *professional technical support,* • *guaranteed participation and benefits for residents*	≥ 10 working RECs/CECs
#2	• *a hard mandate in local law (≥ 30 %)* • *easily accessible capital – municipal "seed-fund" or credit line* • *the municipality as a substitute investor* • *inclusive mechanisms for low-income households* • *professional support + full implementation of the enabling framework"*	≥ 30% of the capital (citizens + municipality) in each new project; in the long term, aim for 40%
#3	• *full implementation of the limits from RED III and the 2022/2577 regulation* • ***digital one-stop-shop** for the entire course (application → EIA → network operator → license), with automatic day counter and notifications about shortages* • *designation of Renewables Acceleration Areas + standardized EIA checklists* • *dedicated permissions team with KPIs and public dashboard*	≤ 180 days for < 50 kW projects (small PV, heat pumps) and ≤ 365 days for > 50 kW installations

[1] Each MS is expected to focus on the application to, at least, 3 cities and 1 region.

	• *SLA (Service Level Agreement) with the network operator + simplified e-connection agreement*	
#4	• *formal establishment of the municipal seed-fund* • *simple, low-threshold access rules* • *a package of preparatory services (grants for feasibility studies, legal aid, standard SPV templates) financed from the fund* • *transparent management and public dashboard*	≥ €5 million of the municipal fund (seed-fund) launched by 2027; ≥ €20 million of total investment in community projects until 2030

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

The topic of increasing cities' authorities capacity towards RES transformation was discussed at the capacity building session during our session "Financing the energy transition" and the third NSG meeting. The meetings emphasized the importance of municipal authorities in the transformation of renewable energy sources and their needs and barriers hindering their action in this area.

Strengths

- Firm grounding in EU law – the RED III enabling framework is giving cities both the legal basis and political leverage to strengthen their own teams.
- Concise principles for local authorities (promote ECs, mandate local ownership shares, provide seed funds, etc.) form a ready-made roadmap for building municipal organisational capacity.
- Rich library of case studies offers real-world examples that cities can copy or adapt, accelerating learning by doing.

Weaknesses

- The document is meant as a complementary resource, not a step-by-step guide; cities must define their own targets and metrics.
- Focus on coal or rural regions – many recommendations address post-mining areas, so large metropolitan authorities may need extra effort to tailor the guidance.
- Complex, time-consuming EU funding procedures – the toolkit admits that existing EU programmes can overwhelm inexperienced municipal staff, potentially delaying projects.

Opportunities

- RED III provisions removing administrative barriers let cities create “one-stop shops” and shorten permitting times, boosting their reputation for efficient governance.
- Mandatory local-ownership share in large RES projects opens space for public-private partnerships while training staff in innovative business models.
- Off-the-shelf digital tools (THERMOS, Stakeholder Mapping) allow rapid up-skilling of municipal officers without major staffing increases.

Threats

- Slow or incomplete transposition of RED III into national law.
- “Hijacking” of energy communities by commercial players – without clear criteria, EC grants can be captured by for-profit entities, undermining public acceptance.
- Low public trust in co-operative structures.