



Research line 3

Energy communities, energy poverty and community energy schemes

This research line aims to understand how municipalities and regional authorities can support the establishment and growth of energy communities, conceived as a tool for tackling the problem of energy poverty and facilitating the active participation of vulnerable groups.

Research approach

Energy communities or community energy schemes have been developing in European countries for many years now, but low-income communities, women and ethnically and culturally diverse communities appear less involved in them and therefore less capable of benefiting from them. Municipalities and regional authorities could implement specific policy strategies to remove the barriers and maximise the drivers for the involvement of vulnerable groups. A case study research approach will be used to investigate successful experiences in **Denmark, Germany, Italy, Norway, and the UK.**

Research Cycle #1

May 2022 - April 2023

The first cycle focuses on the collection of narratives on energy communities' set-ups and how vulnerable people are involved in energy community schemes.

The aim is to gain a first understanding of how the history of single projects developed, thereby identifying the initial aims, design of the initiatives and motivations of leading actors and participants.

Research Cycle #2

April 2023 - January 2025

The second data collection cycle will entail content analysis of energy communities' projects and policy documents and individual and group interviews.

It will clarify how local authorities have successfully facilitated the inclusion of vulnerable groups in energy communities and reduced energy poverty in different institutional, social and cultural contexts.

Expected impacts

This study will result in policy recommendations suitable to be implemented by European local authorities to facilitate behaviour change from apathy to active participation of individuals belonging to vulnerable groups whilst contributing to reducing energy poverty.

The policy recommendations will aim to distinguish several levels of intervention:

- a financial level, suggesting strategies to meet the resources necessary to establish the communities;
- a participatory level, detailing strategies to involve vulnerable groups at every stage of the project;
- a social sustainability level, which will recommend strategies to keep the projects successfully running in the long term.

About ACCTING

ACCTING is an EU-funded project aiming to understand the impact of Green Deal policies on vulnerable groups, prevent inequalities, and produce knowledge and innovations to advance behavioural change at individual and collective levels.

Running until May 2025 and based on two research cycles, ACCTING mobilises research experimentation and innovation to promote an inclusive and socially just European Green Deal, focusing on the inequalities produced by its policies.

Find out more about the project goals, methodology and timeline, and discover more factsheets at <https://accting.eu>

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Authorship and acknowledgment

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