

Energy communities in the draft National Energy and Climate Plans: encouraging but room for improvements

Authors: Josh Roberts (Advocacy Officer, REScoop.eu) and Claire Gauthier (Research Assistant, [Kelso Professorship](http://KelsoProfessorship), European University Viadrina)

Executive summary

With the conclusion of the EU's 2030 climate and energy legislative framework, there are now more opportunities than ever for citizens to get involved in the energy transition. Before Member States write new rules that give effect to [new rights and supportive frameworks for citizens and communities](#), they are required to deliver final National Climate and Energy Plans (NECPs). This planning process creates space for establishing high level support for citizen participation in the energy market.

This policy report assesses the treatment of energy communities in the 28 draft NECPs, independently of a pre-existing national framework. After identifying the relevant sections for energy communities, the provisions are analysed according to the following criteria:

- awareness (positive, negative or lack of acknowledgment);
- comprehensiveness (amount of dimensions and aspects linked to energy communities) and;
- preciseness and clarity (level of detail for planned measures, distinction between energy communities and related concepts, e.g. self-consumption)

More on the scope and [methodology](#) can be found in annex 1.

Summary of Results

The simplified results of the traffic light assessment are below. A more nuanced picture with summarised comments can be found in the [high-level assessment](#) (section 1).

Traffic light summary of all 28 Member States' NECPs



It is important to point out that the NECPs were assessed based on their status as draft plans. Indeed, the final plans will be due at the end of 2019. Therefore, a dark or light green rating does not necessarily indicate that a particular NECP is complete. It merely indicates that it could be

considered a high-quality draft. It goes without saying that all draft NECPs will need to be improved in terms of comprehensive scope, level of detail, and clarity.

While it is encouraging that many Member States positively acknowledge energy communities, it was clear from the assessment that the understanding among Member States of the role that energy communities can play in the energy sector is very limited, and most NECPs are not accompanied by concrete measures dimensions. Of the NECPs that did contain policies and measures, the level of detail was usually vague or incomplete in scope. Annex 2 compiles relevant information included by each of the 28 Member States on energy communities in their NECPs.

Section 2 presents a [section by section assessment](#) - that is, an evaluation of sections of the NECPs that deal with energy communities, namely renewables (targets/objectives, and policies/measures), energy efficiency and market integration. While some Member States envision development of policies and measures to enable renewable energy communities, other sections, for instance on targets and measures for energy efficiency and market integration were mostly ignored.

Key take-aways

The [key takeaways](#) (section 3) are that:

- Awareness is moderate but actual planning is low;
- A few member states show strong commitment and should be looked at for best practice;
- A few others have completely missed their shot and should show stronger compliance for their final NECP;
- Many NECPs suffer from unclarity around energy communities and failure to distinguish from distinct activities (individual) self-consumption; and
- Renewable energy communities and self-consumption overshadow other dimensions where energy communities can contribute: energy efficiency, energy poverty, ownership of distribution network, e-mobility, rural development, district heating, etc.

Main recommendations for Member States

Section 4 presents our [recommendations](#) for the final NECPs:

1. Introduce quantitative policy targets for energy communities;
2. Include more detailed measures for enabling energy communities;
3. Emphasise contribution of energy communities to energy efficiency and addressing energy poverty;
4. Clarify and distinguish between energy communities and related concepts; and
5. Improve compliance with the template and with governance principles to facilitate citizens involvement.

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1. High-level assessment

Table 1: Overall assessment of Member States' performance in addressing energy communities in their NECPs

Member State	Summary	Assessment
AT	No target; include some policies and measures for renewable energy communities mentioned but only in the context of collective self-consumption/sharing/micro-grids; no mention of citizens energy communities	
BE	No target, no policies and measures for RECs, although Brussels mentions support solar PV invest by public authorities, individuals and business; on market design, no explicit mention of citizens energy communities	
BG	No target/objective; mention existing policies and intent to introduce policies and measures for self-consumption and renewable energy communities; mention importance of local authorities in developing renewable energy communities and self-consumption	
HR	No target/objective; policies and measures include information to public to become self-consumers and participate in energy communities; mention need to comply with the market design	
CY	No target for energy communities but do have one for self-consumption, no detailed policies or measures, but intend to plan in future	
CZ	No target and for most part energy communities are ignored – although they do make link between energy communities and EE/energy poverty	
DK	No target, although have objective for district heating, mostly mention existing policies but acknowledge preparation for developing enabling framework for self-consumption and for renewable energy communities	
ET	No mention of energy communities and almost no mention of active customers	
FI	Nothing on self-consumption and very little on energy communities, although have objective for district heating	
FR	Strong on (collective) self-consumption, including a narrow target for solar PV – but nothing on energy communities	
DE	No mention of energy communities and only brief mention of existing measures for self-consumption	
EL	Comprehensive treatment of energy communities, including defined targets and detailed policies and measures	
HU	Nothing concrete on energy communities but plans to look at, with interesting focus on energy security and addressing vulnerable consumers	
IE	No objectives, but includes concrete measures to support, and acknowledges communities' role in energy efficiency and energy poverty	

IT	No target yet, but might adopt; general objectives to support self-consumption and energy communities, with measures planned for self-consumption but none indicated for energy communities	Yellow
LV	No target, brief mention of intent to establish framework for renewable energy communities	Red
LT	No target, yet numbers for expected development of self-consumers and energy communities are provided; intend to further define in final NECP	Yellow
LX	No target, only mention of renewable energy communities is in the context of collective self-consumption	Orange
MT	No target, in fact renewable energy communities not even envisioned because there is no market for electricity supply	Red
NL	While no target mentioned in draft it will be in final draft, while some existing and planned measures are identified	Light Green
PL	No target, mention vague measures to support distributed generation, energy clusters and energy communities but very unclear	Yellow
PT	No target, acknowledge need for fair, democratic transition, pledge to adapt framework to support energy communities, but very little detail	Orange
RO	Has target for prosumer ownership in renewables, and acknowledges (vaguely) the role of energy communities in addressing energy poverty. However, no detail on any planned measures for energy communities	Orange
SK	No target and little mention of energy communities, but looking into and plan to include more in final NECP	Red
SL	No target, mention greater role of self-consumption (and in that context energy communities), but no detail provided, although acknowledge need to implement new directives	Red
ES	No target, include measures to promote self-consumption, and acknowledge social innovation/need to put in place a framework for energy communities, but provide no detail	Yellow
SE	No target, no measures on energy communities – only a few measures on individual self-consumption	Red
UK	Regional targets for community energy in Scotland and Wales, narrative communicates strong role for local governments; however, no detail on anything planned for the future	Yellow

2. Section-by-section assessment

The Governance Regulation contains a template in an Annex to help Member States draft their NECPs so that they contain a minimum level of sufficient information and are comparable. It includes five sections that are relevant to citizens and renewable energy communities. In the three first sections, energy communities are explicitly mentioned in the template. Citizens energy communities, although they will play a role in the internal energy market integration, are not cited in the template. The sections are the following:

- Section 2.1 (targets or objectives for renewable energy);
- Section 3.1.2 (policies and measures for renewable energy);
- Section 3.2 (policies and measures for energy efficiency);
- Section 2.4.3 (objectives for the internal energy market integration); and
- Section 3.4.3 (policies and measures for the internal energy market integration).

Overall, when going through the Member States' draft NECPs, one conclusion was quite clear: in all but one section (policies and measures for renewables), Member States either ignored the sections relating to energy communities, or stated that these sections were inapplicable. For the section on policies and measures for renewables, a significant number of Member States (11) did not include policies and measures for renewable energy communities, although they stated in their draft NECPs that such policies and measures were planned for the future.

On the other hand, only a handful of Member States explicitly laid out targets, objectives or policies and measures for energy communities in their NECPs.

Table 2: Section-by-section NECP assessment of Member States' performance in addressing energy communities

	RES		EE	IEM	
	Targets or objectives for RECs	Policies & measures for RECs	Policies & measures for CECs	Objectives for CECs	Policies & measures for CECs
Yes, included	EL, UK (2)	AT, CY, EL, IE, LT, ES (6)	AT, EL, IE, (3)	EL, LT (2)	FR, IT (2)
No, but planned	IT, NL (2)	BG, HR, DK, HU, IT, LV, LX, NL, PT, SK, UK (11)	HU, SK (2)	CY, IE (2)	IE, EL, LX, NL, SL, UK (6)
Includes active customers / self-consumption, related, only	CY, DK, FI, LT, RO (5)	BE, BG, FR, LX, MT, RO, SE (7)	(0)	FR, HU, NL, PL, RO (5)	FR, IT (2)
Acknowledge but without any detail	LX, SL, ES (3)	SL (1)	CZ, LT, RO, (3)	BG, HR, IT, PT, SK (5)	FI, PT (2)
Ignored or said not applicable	AT, BE, BG, HR, CZ, DK, ET, FI, FR, DE, LV, LX, MT, PL, PT, RO, SK, SE (18)	CZ, ET, FI, DE, MT, PL (6)	BE, BG, HR, CY, DK, ET, FI, FR, DE, IT, LV, LX, MT, PL, PO, SL, ES, SE (18)	AT, BG, CZ, DK, ET, FI, DE, LV, LX, MT, NL, SL, ES, SE, UK (15)	AT, CY, CZ, DK, ET, HR, BE, DE, HU, LV, MT, RO, SK, SE (14)
Response was unclear	HU, IE (2)	(0)	UK (1)	BE (1)	BE, PL (2)

Targets or objectives for renewable energy communities (Section 2.1)

According to the template in the Governance Regulation, Member States are encouraged, but not required, to communicate national objectives for the growth of renewable energy communities. The adoption of high-level targets or objectives would provide the basis for strong political commitment and investment signal, as well as the development of a framework (including policies and measures) so that the objective or target can be met.

Very few Member States put forward any sort of objective or target for supporting energy communities. Only Greece and the UK stated that they had any sort of national or subnational targets. Nevertheless, another five Member states stated that they had set objectives or targets for related concepts, such as the growth of “prosumers” (e.g. Romania).

Furthermore, two more Member States said they planned to introduce objectives or targets for energy communities. One of these Member States (the Netherlands) did in fact adopt a national level target for local ownership of new onshore wind and solar PV projects, although it may have not been included due to the timeline pressures for submitting the draft NECPs. Three more Member States acknowledged the need to set objectives for energy communities.

Due to the nonbinding nature of this section of the NECP template, an overwhelming majority (18) of Member States either ignored this section entirely or stated in their NECP that it was inapplicable.

Policies and measures for renewable energy communities (Section 3.1.2)

Member States are required to summarise policies and measures that they will put in place to promote and facilitate the development of renewables self-consumption and renewable energy communities under the recast Renewable Energy Directive.

Results for communication of policies and measures on renewable energy communities was mixed. Seven Member States communicated any sort of detail regarding the policies and measures they plan to put in place to support the development of renewable energy communities. Of these, however, only one Member State (Greece) included a high, or comprehensive, level of detail.

Of the other Member States that included specific policies or measures, most focused on simplification of procedural or administrative hurdles (e.g. Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Latvia, Lithuania, Portugal, and Spain). Others included measures around financial support (e.g. Belgium, Finland, Ireland, Netherlands, Poland), and tariffs (e.g. Austria, Italy, Portugal). A few others mentioned various support schemes for energy communities (e.g. Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands).

Eleven other Member States said they had plans to develop policies and measures for renewable energy communities. Another seven Member States, while they did not communicate policies and measures for energy communities, did so for renewables self-consumers.

Six Member States neglected to communicate policies and measures altogether.

Policies and measures for energy efficiency and energy communities (Section 3.2)

The Governance Regulation encourages Member States to link energy efficiency with support for citizens energy communities in their NECPs. Specifically, Member States should, where applicable, include policies and measures to support the role of energy communities in achieving energy efficiency policy objectives.

A majority of Member States (18) either ignored this section entirely or stated in their NECP that it was inapplicable. Among the remaining draft NECPs, the results were mixed. Only three Member States (Austria, Greece and Ireland) made the link between energy communities and energy

efficiency while also including detailed policies and measures. These measures related mostly to education and awareness raising. Three Member States acknowledged the link between energy communities and energy efficiency but provided no detail. Two Member States mentioned that they planned to put in place policies and measures to support the role of energy communities in driving energy efficiency.

Interestingly, in their NECPs several Member States highlighted policies and measures, particularly around encouraging building renovations and links with installing renewables, education and outreach, the delivery of other energy efficiency services, and public procurement – all of which are activities that existing energy communities undertake.

Objectives in the internal energy market for energy communities (2.4.3)

In the section of the NECP template on market integration, Member States are encouraged to include national objectives for how they will ensure consumer participation in the energy system and that citizens benefit from self-generation and new technologies. While vaguely worded, this suggests that Member States also need to communicate how they will ensure that citizens benefit from participating in citizens energy communities.

Only Greece and Lithuania put forward objectives for supporting citizens energy communities. Ireland and Cyprus also said they planned to put forward objectives, while another five Member States acknowledged the importance of putting forward objectives for energy communities. Five Member States also put forward objectives for renewables self-consumers or active customers (i.e. prosumers) only.

A majority of Member States (15) either ignored this section entirely or stated in their NECP that it was inapplicable.

Policies and measures in the internal energy market for energy communities (3.4.3)

Similar to the above, in the section of the NECP template on market integration, Member States are encouraged to include policies and measures for how they will ensure consumer participation in the energy system and that citizens benefit from self-generation and new technologies.

Again, only two Member States put forward any detailed policies and measures for supporting energy communities as part of market integration, while another two Member States put forward policies and measures for renewables self-consumers or active customers (i.e. prosumers) only. Another six Member States said they planned to put in place policies and measures, while another two acknowledged the need but did not provide detail.

Half of Member States either ignored this section entirely or stated in their NECP that it was inapplicable.

3. Key takeaways from the draft NECPs

Despite the diversity of national policies and acknowledgement of energy communities reflected in the plans, it is possible to identify some main trends.

In general, there is wide mention of energy communities across most NECPs – but detail and comprehensiveness are severely lacking

It is encouraging that so many Member States addressed the topic of community energy in their plans. However, the extent to which this topic was covered in a forward-looking manner varied to different degrees in terms of detail, clarity and concreteness, and almost all NECPs need to be improved in this regard.

First, some Member States tended to describe the existing state of the play or provide general pledges to develop energy communities and adapt the regulatory framework for them without mapping concrete planned measures. In the context of other technical concepts (e.g. self-consumption, decentralised generation or new market actors), these pledges become even vaguer.

Nevertheless, many Member States acknowledged the lack of detail in their plans and communicated a readiness to provide further information and detail in their final plan, often mentioned in conjunction with the need to transpose the Clean Energy Package. Thus, we hope that there will be significant improvements in the level of detail on plans to put in place supportive policies and measures for energy communities in the final version of the NECPs.

There was also a notable gap in coverage of energy communities across the sections that we assessed. In particular, there were significantly less mentions of citizens energy communities in the section on policies and measures regarding market integration (14) compared to the section on policies and measures regarding renewables (6). Only Greece, Ireland and Austria were comprehensive in that respect. It should be noted, that the NECP template explicitly refers to renewable energy communities in the sections on renewables, while the sections on market integration only refer to consumer participation and self-generation, without referencing citizens energy communities explicitly.

[A few Member States express a strong commitment to support community energy](#)

A small number of Member States stood out in their demonstrating their intent to support energy communities. These NECPs could be regarded as detailed, precise and concrete, both in terms of objectives and policies and measures. These NECPs also went beyond what is required or suggested by the template.

Greece stood out in particular, having the most comprehensive and detailed plan out of any other Member State. In particular, it includes a quantitative target of 500 MW installed capacity for renewable energy communities by 2030. A target of 1 GW of decentralised renewable energy systems by 2020 already exists, although this is broader than community-owned renewable energy. Greece also provided a summary table of measures for energy communities under the enabling framework.

Several other Member States or regions proposed to introduce quantitative targets for energy communities (Wales) or to update existing targets (Scotland). Other Member states proposed targets for self-consumers (Romania for prosumer ownership, France for self-consumption).

The most common and concrete measures identified to support growth of energy communities related to education and capacity-building measures (e.g. Croatia, Finland, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom) simplification of administrative procedures (e.g. Bulgaria, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Spain etc.), and investment aid and support in tendering procedures (e.g. France, Greece, Poland, Ireland). Poland describes a measure concerning the certification of commercial entities below 600 kW (p.75 of the English translation). However, it is unclear if this measure would apply to energy communities, and whether it would be enabling or hindering.

[Red flags in several Member States](#)

Article 22(5) of the recast Renewable Energy Directive requires Member States to put in place an enabling framework to support the development of renewable energy communities, which is monitored through binding reporting provisions in the NECP. Therefore, it was particularly surprising that four plans (Estonia, Germany, Malta and Sweden) either failed to reference renewable energy communities, or explicitly rejected their development.

Two Member States' NECPs stand out in particular. First, Germany, who has historically been a front-runner in the development of energy communities, completely omitted any reference to energy communities. It did not even reference any of the existing measures that could be considered supportive of energy communities. In its final NECP, Germany will not only need to revisit its existing policies and measures, but it will also need to propose new policies and measures as it has fallen behind in its support of energy communities in recent years.

Second, Malta's NECP explicitly rejects the development energy communities, which it attributes to the lack of a market (i.e. a monopoly) for supply of energy. Although Malta's energy system benefits from regulatory exemptions, those do not cover the development of energy communities. Supply monopoly aside, Malta envisions self-consumption, which could be undertaken by energy communities. Furthermore, many renewable energy communities engage in production without engaging in supply. Therefore, Malta will need to reconsider its approach towards energy communities in its final NECP.

Lack of clarity in usage of terminology across the NECPs

Another common trend was the use of different terminology to refer to energy communities. These draft NECPs would benefit from clarification. For example, France never uses the term energy communities, while having many detailed provisions directly relevant for them (focus on collective self-consumption or participative investment). Several draft plans also refer to local energy communities (Lithuania, Poland, Portugal) or prosumership (Romania), which are generic terms that not exist in the Clean Energy Package. Additionally, many draft NECPs apply provisions relevant for the enabling framework, such as simplifying administrative procedures, to general activities ("distributed generation"), types of energy sources, or small actors (e.g. based on installed capacity) but rarely explicitly to energy communities. Many Member States fail to make the distinction between energy communities and (collective) renewables self-consumption.

A number of draft plans conflated (in other words, failed to properly distinguish) energy communities, which is a concept around organising collective cooperation in the energy sector, with specific technical activities covered elsewhere in the Clean Energy Package. Specifically, this was notable with regards to renewables self-consumption, and to some extent with micro-grids. This is likely due to a limited understanding of their current development and future potential. This finding demonstrates that generally, there is varying – and often little – understanding among Member States regarding the full range of activities that energy communities can engage in.

It is important to note that the activity of collective renewables self-consumption by jointly acting renewables self-consumers can be facilitated or undertaken by any business model. In addition, it is envisioned that this activity takes place through contractual arrangements between the participants between each other and/or with a third party. An energy community, on the other hand, is a way to organise a specific activity through citizen ownership, using a legal entity. Therefore, it would be possible for citizens to organise collective self-consumption through an energy community, as long as the activity is organised through a legal entity that complies with the criteria set out in the EU definitions.

While many of the draft plans did mention measures for collective self-consumption, some did not properly distinguish the establishment of such measures from measures designed to support energy communities. This was the case for countries like France or Luxemburg, and even Austria to a certain extent.

Overlooked potential of energy communities, including their role in driving energy efficiency and addressing energy poverty

It was also noticeable from the draft NECPs that currently there is a lack of understanding of the potential of what activities energy communities can engage in, and which national objectives they might be able to contribute to. For instance, district heating in Denmark, the Netherlands and Finland are important topics covered in the draft NECPs, yet they fail to link with energy communities. This is a bit surprising for Denmark in particular, given that a majority of district heating networks are consumer-owned. This trend is also evident, for example with references to rural development programs in Finland or e-mobility in Luxembourg.

Interestingly, some Member States linked energy communities to strategies around energy security (Hungary), and flexibility (Bulgaria, Hungary, Finland, Luxembourg, Netherlands) or local networks (Belgium).

The most notable example of overlooked potential comes from how Member States addressed the role of energy communities in achieving energy efficiency objectives. While the relevant provision in the NECP template linking energy communities with energy efficiency was non-binding, 16 Member States still ignored this section or said it was non-applicable. Nevertheless, at the same time many Member States included policies and measures to achieve energy savings in their NECPs that are relevant to existing activities of energy communities, such as education and awareness raising, linking housing renovations with renewables self-consumption, integration of social and local participation criteria into public procurement of energy efficiency services, etc.

Interestingly, several Member States linked energy communities to energy efficiency and/or poverty in their plans (Austria, Spain, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary Ireland, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Romania, Slovakia). This suggests a growing understanding of the potential of energy communities to contribute to energy efficiency and energy poverty objectives. Yet, there is still tremendous room for better understanding by Member States in this area.

4. Recommendations for the final NECPs

Under the Governance Regulation, it was foreseen that the development of NECPs would be an iterative process between the Member States and the EU Commission. It is with this in mind that we have undertaken our analysis. While the effort by some Member States to demonstrate their planned commitment is encouraging, there is room for significant improvement by most Member States – and for some improvement by all Member States. Therefore, they should now undertake to improve upon their drafts for their final submission.

Below, we provide some key recommendations for how the final NECPs should be amended so that they can provide a basis for supporting citizen and renewable energy communities under the 2030 climate and energy framework.

Include quantitative targets for energy community

We encourage Member States to include quantitative targets or objectives in their final NECPs for the growth of energy communities at national level. A handful of Member States already included quantitative targets for capacity detained by energy communities, or related concepts such as (collective) self-consumption. Such policy objectives can play a strong role in helping to guide the development of enabling national regulatory frameworks for energy communities.

Including targets could be done in a number of ways. The examples focused on installed capacity (e.g. 2 GW by 2030 in Scotland). Member states could also decide to include a relative target, that is, an overall share (e.g. 50% local ownership of new onshore wind and solar PV in the Netherlands).

Include detailed policies and measures planned

Due to the fact that the Clean Energy Package was still under negotiation while the draft NECPs were being prepared, the lack of concrete planned measures was justified. Indeed, many Member States acknowledged that they would need to put in place more concrete plans and measures in order to effectively implement the Renewable Energy Directive and the Internal Electricity Market Directive.

Now that the Clean Energy Package is finalised, Member States in their final NECPs Member States should identify specific policies and measures that they intend to put in place in order to give effect to new rights of renewable and citizen energy communities, and to put in place enabling national framework for their development (namely, under Article 22 of the Renewable Energy Directive and Article 16 of the Internal Electricity Market Directive). These should include, *inter alia*:

- simplification and streamlining of administrative and regulatory procedures so that energy communities can participate as generators, suppliers and aggregators, and so they can gain access to different markets;
- education and capacity-building for citizens, local authorities and energy communities;
- specific rules to ensure renewable energy communities can participate on a level playing field in financial support schemes;
- establishment of frameworks so that energy communities can engage in activities such as renewables self-consumption and energy sharing;
- measures to ensure vulnerable and energy poor households can benefit from participating in energy communities;
- ensuring support for renewable energy communities in single contact points designed to streamline permitting for renewable energy projects; and
- measures to facilitate access to finance.

Acknowledge the role of energy communities in achieving energy efficiency objectives and addressing energy poverty

Member States should acknowledge the potential synergies between support for RECs and CECs and investments or actions that result in behavioural change around energy efficiency and building renovations. While many existing citizens and renewable energy communities currently focus on energy savings as one of their activities, this is currently overlooked by many Member States.

In particular, Member States should consider linking support of energy communities to existing policies and measures that are planned in their NECPs, particularly with regards to education and public outreach, public procurement, and buildings renovation. Member States should also consider supporting energy communities under their Energy Efficiency Obligation Schemes, particularly where they are prioritised around alleviating energy poverty.

For more information on existing initiatives being undertaken by energy communities and how to potentially integrate them in Member States' NECPs, see a [Report on Best Practices and legal barriers for supplying REScoops and promoting energy efficiency](#).

Clarify terms and concepts surrounding energy communities and renewables self-consumption

In the final versions of their NECPs, Member States should provide further clarity regarding different concepts including renewables self-consumption and renewable energy communities, providing clearer distinctions between these separate, yet mutually reinforcing, concepts. In particular, Member States should:

- Refrain from utilising the term 'local energy community', which has officially been replaced by the term 'citizen energy community' in the final version of the Electricity Directive that has been agreed between the European Parliament and the Council;
- distinguish clearly between policies and measures which are meant to apply to activities such as collective renewables self-consumption and establishment of local energy systems/neighbourhoods or districts, and organisational concepts such as renewable and citizen energy communities;
- Replace the use of vague terms such as 'prosumer' with clearer references to concrete concepts such as renewables self-consumption or participation in demand response; and
- Distinguish more clearly between references to individual and joint, or collective, self-consumption.

Improve the NECPs according to governance principles

The NECPs were introduced by the Governance of the Energy Union Regulation with the aim to monitor national energy developments in accordance with European legislation and objectives (governance mechanism). However, the Regulation also establishes governance principles¹ that member states should apply in developing their energy policy, including to ensure public participation in decision-making.

While this report does not assess the extent to which citizens and the civil society were involved in drafting phase (section 1 of the template), some Member States did describe whether they organised public consultations on energy communities or prosumers and if energy communities

¹ According to its first recital, "the [Energy Union governance regulation] sets out the necessary legislative foundation for reliable, inclusive, cost-efficient, transparent and predictable governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action".

were consulted. However, considering that energy community also play a role in education and capacity-building of citizens, their participation in decision-making should be taken into consideration.

Access to information raises or lowers the threshold for inclusive participation. First, a vast majority only followed the template superficially (the main sections but not the roman numeral subdivisions in the template). This often heightens the risk of omission or vagueness, especially for the measures under the enabling framework (section 3.1.2.v). It raises the threshold for the analysis of stakeholders or citizens, be it at European or national level. Then, we welcome that most NECPs are available in their national language as well as the courtesy English translation of the Commission, which lowers this threshold.

We, therefore, recommend stronger discipline in following the template and encourage Member States to write in their national language to ensure broad citizens involvement at the national level. We welcome English translation of the NECPs, which ensures civil society involvement at the European level and facilitates comparison and emulation between Member States.

Annex I - Methodology

Scope of Assessment

This assessment covered the draft NECPs that were submitted to the EU Commission at the end of 2018. They were accessed using the public website of the Commission hosting the NECPs. Where possible, we reviewed the English translations that were made available on the Commission's website at the beginning of March 2019. In other cases, the NECPs were assessed by individuals who were capable of reading the NECPs in their original language. Only in one case (Spain) was a NECP translated thanks to an online tool.

Due to the binding nature of the template within the Governance Regulation, all Member States mostly followed the template. This allowed us to easily identify the relevant sections in each of the Member States' NECPs. This assessment primarily covered the sections of Member States' NECPs that are most relevant to renewable and citizens energy communities in the following sections:

- Section 2.1 (targets or objectives for renewable energy);
- Section 3.1.2 (policies and measures for renewable energy);
- Section 3.2 (policies and measures for energy efficiency);
- Section 2.4.3 (objectives for the internal energy market integration); and
- Section 3.4.3 (policies and measures for the internal energy market integration).

Each section is further subdivided with roman numerals, sometimes explicitly mentioning energy communities and thus theoretically further restricting the area to analyse. However, few NECPs replicated this structure. It is important to note that some provisions were optional ("where applicable").

In addition, we searched each NECP for relevant terms related to energy communities (e.g. cooperatives). This allowed us to uncover additional references, for instance in the introductions and narratives of some of the NECPs, or in other sections of the template.

Method and criteria used to determine overall rankings

The analysis of the 28 NECPs was conducted manually according to an inductive and exploratory approach and focused on the following qualitative criteria:

- Awareness: positive, negative or lack of acknowledgement of energy communities
- Comprehensiveness: link between energy communities and energy dimensions (renewable, efficiency, market integration, poverty, energy services (generation, consumption, distribution, conservation, aggregation, storage, transport, etc.)
- Preciseness and clarity: level of detail of objectives and measures, clear distinction between energy communities and related concepts

Compliance with the template was superficially assessed. Other criteria could but have not been considered, saliency for example. Considering that the NECPs were too heterogeneous in terms of length and details (ranging from around 70 to over 300 pages) and the use of various terminology, we deemed it too time-consuming to do a word count to assess the importance dedicated to energy communities.

Legend

This assessment used a colour rating system to qualitatively assess the content of the Member States' NECPs relating to renewable and citizens energy communities. We used the following colours in our assessment: Dark green (highest rating), light green, yellow, orange, red, and dark red (worst rating). The executive summary simplifies it to a strict traffic light system.

Best

Worst



Using the three aforementioned criteria, colour ratings were assigned to Member States' individual NECPs:

Dark Green: NECPs positively acknowledged energy communities in each of the relevant sections (e.g. targets/objectives for their development, and their role in energy efficiency) and provided a sufficient level of detail on supportive policies and measures.

Light Green: NECPs positively acknowledged energy communities in most of the relevant sections, but there were still gaps in some sections or the level of detail on supportive policies and measures was low.

Yellow: NECPs either positively acknowledged energy communities but provided little or no detail, or positively acknowledged topics that would be considered relevant for energy communities (e.g. renewables self-consumption and active customers).

Orange: NECPs made passing reference to energy communities and provided no detail relating to policies and measures for their development.

Red: NECPs failed to mention energy communities or stated that sections relevant to energy communities were not applicable.

Dark Red: NECPs either left out sections relevant to energy communities, or indicated a negative opinion about their development.

How renewables self-consumption was considered in the assessment

It is important to note the distinction between active customers and renewables self-consumption on the one hand, and renewables and citizens energy communities on the other. In the Renewables Directive, in addition to the provisions on RECs in Article 22, there are also separate provisions on self-consumption and collective self-consumption in Article 21. These concepts also have their own distinct definitions. The renewables self-consumption definition describes a type of activity, while the renewable energy community definition describes a specific way to 'organise' any activity, based on particular principles on governance, participation, ownership/control, and non-commercial purpose. Therefore, renewables self-consumption should be seen as a discrete potential activity that any consumer can participate in (either individually or collectively) or, from an enterprise's standpoint, facilitate. On the other hand, a renewable energy community could also undertake collective renewables self-consumption, among other potential activities.

The aim of the assessment was to look at the quality of how Member States treated the topic of citizens and renewable energy communities. Therefore, the assessment did not assess the quality of how Member States treated renewables self-consumption (or more broadly as an 'umbrella' topic, active customers). However, the question of whether active customers or renewables self-consumption did receive explicit treatment in the draft NECPs does factor into the overall assessment, primarily as a mitigating factor to make up for the fact that Member States did not address the topic of energy communities. Moreover, we did look at renewables self-consumption when assessing 'how' energy communities are framed in the Member States' NECPs.

This report has been produced by REScoop.eu and the European University Viadrina with Friends of the Earth Europe's assistance. It is supported by the Community Power Coalition who shares a common goal of promoting the development of citizen and community ownership in the urgently needed energy transformation towards a 100% renewable energy system. The Coalition includes associations representing energy cooperatives, networks of cities and local authorities, consumer organisations, the renewable energy industry, legal experts and diverse environmental NGOs.

Friends of the Earth Europe gratefully acknowledges financial assistance from the European Commission (LIFE programme), the European Climate Foundation, and the European Climate Initiative (EUKI) of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) – who have partially financed this publication.

Supported by:



European
Climate Initiative
EUKI



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservatio
and Nuclear Safety



The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the authors and cannot be regarded as reflecting the position of any of the funders mentioned above.

Annex II – All 28 Member States’ treatment of energy communities in their NECPs

	RES		EE	IEM	
	2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3
AT		<p>An accompanying integrative approach aimed at achieving decentralised power generation in renewable energy communities, necessary sector coupling, integration of storage technologies and the use of digitisation, and for which network infrastructure needs to be developed further, is dependent on parallel adjustments being made on a number of other legal issues</p> <p>When further developing Section 16a of the Electricity Industry and Organisation Act, which first permitted in 2017 that energy-generating installations in renewable energy communities could form part of a single property, renewable energy communities must be established by transposing the 2018 Renewable Energy Directive. These communities enable bilateral supply contracts to be set up and, likewise, cooperative-type structures for the generation, storage and supply of renewable</p>	<p>The e5 programme offers support for municipalities looking to use energy in a more efficient and environmentally-friendly manner and to step up their use of renewable energy. To this end, each province has a programme promoter who is available to help municipalities. Ideas, knowledge and personal commitment to energy matters from residents are, above all, an important pillar of the programme. Each e5 community forms an e5 team composed of residents, experts, representatives of environmental groups, companies, municipalities, etc. who are unassociated with political structures. As an initial step, the e5 team examines which options for improving energy use are already in place on the basis of a list of measures. Subsequently, suggestions are made as to how energy efficiency could be further improved. e5 municipalities undergo regular independent reviews and are awarded a rating of between one and five ‘e’s, with the best rating being ‘e5’.</p>	<p>Only mention smart meters</p>	<p>Nothing</p>

RES		EE	IEM	
2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3
	<p>electricity, even beyond property boundaries. It is also possible to set up and operate local grid structures (microgrids) cost-effectively.</p> <p>So that disincentives are not introduced – meaning the creation of unnecessary grid structures in parallel to grids which have already been set up and financed – appropriate options must be made available when further developing existing tariff systems for renewable energy communities and the financing mechanisms behind them. This must be ensured, for example, by means of local tariffs or corresponding rolling cost models in the system fee structure.</p> <p>Regionalisation and decentralisation of renewable electricity generation, taking advantage of progressive digitisation in the interests of establishing ‘smart grids’ will also improve supply security and the robustness of the system in general.</p> <p>A key focus for renewable energy funding is that of increasing self-supply, in particular from a</p>	<p>Approximately 220 Austrian municipalities are already on the e5 programme.</p> <p>The 2018 Renewable Energy Directive requires that renewable energy communities are established. This Directive is transposed by the Renewable Energy Expansion Act. These communities enable bilateral supply contracts to be set up and, likewise, cooperative-type structures for the generation, storage and supply of renewable electricity, even beyond property boundaries. In so doing, it is also possible to set up and operate local grid structures (microgrids) cost-effectively. Regionalisation and decentralisation of renewable electricity generation, taking advantage of progressive digitisation in the interests of establishing ‘smart grids’ will also improve supply security and the robustness of the system in general.</p>		

RES		EE	IEM	
2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3
	<p>system-based point of view by the producers themselves and through renewable energy communities. So that precisely this continually increasing share of renewable energy can be taken into account and included in the strategic planning for funding itself and in reporting on targets, appropriate rules for statistical recording must be laid down by the regulatory authority or settlement centre</p>			
<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No target mentioned • Mention renewable energy communities – although in the context of collective self-consumption/energy sharing only • Link renewable energy communities and municipal/local actors to promotion of energy efficiency • Nothing on citizens energy communities 				
BE	<p>Nothing on RECs</p> <p>Flanders: Intends to support green heat through heat pumps and district heating using RES Wallonia: intends to establish framework for decentralised heating and gas networks</p> <p>Brussels: intends to increase the use of renewable energy, with both individuals and businesses investing in this area. The Region will continue to set an example in its public buildings (including social housing) and will require the</p>	<p>Said not applicable. Yet, there are many elements of the regional plans regarding energy efficiency that can be supported by citizen energy communities, including renovations of private and public buildings,</p> <p>Intend to put environmental clauses into public procurement – could also include provisions to promote social benefits and local participation</p>	<p>Wallonia intends to establish a framework for ‘alternative networks’</p>	<p>Nothing here.</p>

RES		EE	IEM	
2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3
	<p>same commitment from other authorities as it looks to develop the most appropriate solutions for its urban environment. In this context, solar energy (solar thermal and photovoltaic) and heat pumps provide some interesting options for decarbonising the regional energy system. This includes (inter alia):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting an example in public authorities (extending the SolarClick programme for the installation of photovoltaic panels on public buildings in the region; strengthening cooperating with social housing bodies with the aim of allowing investment in renewable energy by reviewing the management agreement; • Economic stimuli (encouraging collective projects and better use of local renewable electricity generation; extending support mechanisms (air-to-air heat pumps and installations in public outdoor spaces)). 	<p>The Flemish Regional also intends to make use of services for local authorities</p> <p>Wallonia also intends to set up campaigns to change consumer behavior, for which an expert group will be established.</p>		

RES		EE	IEM	
2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3
<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No target or objective • no explicit policies & measures for RECs– although in Wallonia or Flanders there is a focus on district H&C, and in in Brussels there is a focus on getting public authorities, individuals & businesses to invest in solar PV • no mention of role of energy communities in EE, although there are many elements in the NECP that would be applicable to existing activities of energy communities • on market design, Wallonia has plans to establish a framework for ‘alternative networks’, although this is not defined – otherwise, nothing else and no mention of citizens energy communities 				
BG	<p>Said not applicable</p> <p>An enabling framework was developed to promote and facilitate the development of renewables self-consumption and establish renewable communities.</p> <p>When the new directive is transposed, a review will be carried out and relevant legislative changes will be introduced to take account of the specificities of the technologies used to generate renewable energy, the time limits for granting permits will be optimised and the possibility for introducing simplified and less burdensome procedures for distributed production and storage of renewable energy will be considered.</p> <p>Existing measures:</p>	Said not applicable	Said not applicable.	<p>To increase the flexibility of the energy system through energy demand response, Bulgaria plans, by taking legislative measures, to establish suitable conditions for creating active consumers, opportunities for associations through aggregators or energy communities and their active participation in demand response in different market segments</p>

RES		EE	IEM	
2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3
	<p>The Energy from Renewable Sources Act provides for a simplified administrative procedure for connecting to the electricity distribution networks of small installations with a total installed capacity of up to 30 kW on roof and facade structures of buildings connected to the electricity distribution grid and in real estate adjacent to such buildings in urbanised areas. The contribution of the local authorities to a higher penetration of renewable energy and to the creation of conditions for renewables self-consumption and consumption of renewable energy by separate 'renewable energy communities' at local level is essential for the cost-effective development of renewable energy in the country. Directive 2009/28/EC and the new directive require that opportunities for use of renewable energy be considered when planning, designing, building and renovating urban infrastructure, including industrial, commercial and residential areas, and energy infrastructure, with a special focus</p>			

RES		EE	IEM	
2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3
	<p>on the use of heating and cooling from renewable energy sources. As a measure for promoting distributed renewable energy production, a legal basis will be developed that will lay down the rights and responsibilities of final consumers when they participate in 'renewable energy communities' which can produce, consume, store or sell energy from renewable sources.</p> <p>The support will be provided by granting access to operation in the energy system, facilitating market integration, establishing administrative requirements in line with the specificities of the renewable energy communities, etc.</p>			
<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No targets/objectives • Nothing that exists – but it is planned • Felt most points relating to energy communities were not applicable (REC objectives, EE, objectives in IEM) • intend to introduce policies and measures to facilitate development of both self-consumption and renewable energy communities • mention importance of local authorities in development of renewable energy communities and self-consumption • mentioned existing policies & measures for small-scale RES • Nothing mentioned for energy efficiency • Under market design, no objectives but mention the need support active customers and energy communities to, inter alia, contribute flexibility to the system 				

RES		EE	IEM	
2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3
HR	Nothing	Skipped	Nothing. However, mention active participation of end customers in providing services to system operators will also contribute to the flexibility of the power system.	Nothing. Again, however, mention the analysis of the potential to provide ancillary services and flexibility services by consumption response of network users will be conducted. The method of providing services from final customers will be defined and the regulatory framework will be appropriately modified, primarily through the introduction of an aggregator as a market participant.
	<p>Dissemination of information to the general public and target groups will be conducted through the organization of targeted informational campaigns related to investments in systems using renewable energy sources, especially in systems for own needs. The measure will be implemented in order to build the capacity of consumers who produce energy for their own needs and energy communities.</p> <p>Development of the regulatory framework for aggregators, energy communities (participation in local energy production, distribution, storage and supply, and provision of energy services and aggregation services) and energy production for own needs, in accordance with the provisions of the Electricity Directive and the Regulation on the Internal Electricity Market).</p> <p>Subsidizing investment in RES technologies for customers with own production.</p> <p>Preparing Specific measures for the introduction of one or more contact points, rationalization of</p>			

	RES		EE	IEM	
	2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3
		administrative procedures, dissemination of information and training and strengthening of consumers producing and consuming their own renewable energy and energy communities			
	Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mention plans to create an enabling framework for energy communities (under Renewables and Electricity Directives) and to support renewables self-consumption • Skipped section on role of energy communities in energy efficiency • No objectives, policies or measures for citizens energy communities, but do mention active customers as way to promote flexibility services 				
CY	at least 25% of primary energy consumption to be covered by RES for new single-family homes, 3% for new multi-apartment residential buildings, and 7% for non-residential ones. It is envisaged that the new buildings from 1.1.2021 will be nearly zero energy buildings and thus implies that all the new buildings will be covered at least by 25% of RES. In practice more of the systems installed over-exceed this capacity since it make more sense with the existing net-metering scheme to cover almost 100% of Energy needs of each individual household, assuming that there	Support schemes for the production of electricity from renewable energy sources for own use such Net-metering, net-billing and self-consumption have been implemented since 2013. Currently the Net-metering category is applied for small scale photovoltaic systems with capacity up to 10KW, for all consumers (residential and non-residential). The above scheme is expected to continue, with some modifications in the near future in order to enhance better the self-consumption for small systems. With Self-generation and Net-billing schemes, PV generated	Nothing. Said not applicable.	3. Target regarding introduction of Energy Communities (see Article 16 of proposed recast Electricity Directive). Subject to the final provisions of the recast Electricity Directive, amend national legislation to provide a framework for the activation of energy communities, ensure fair treatment, a level playing field and a well-defined catalogue of rights and obligation, such as the freedom of contracting, supplier switching rules, distribution system operator responsibilities, network charges and balancing obligation. The rights and obligations should apply	Nothing.

	RES		EE	IEM	
	2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3
	is enough space on the roof to install such system.	energy has to be self-consumed within the same 20-min time period it was generated. If local energy demand exceeds PV production, energy is imported from the grid. With Self-generation scheme, excess PV generation is exported to the grid without any economic compensation nor additional fee. A compensation for excess energy is foreseen by the Net-Billing scheme. Some existing burdens that exist (i.e. the long procedure needed for town planning or building permit), is expected to be overcome in the following years.		according to the roles undertaken such as the roles of final customers, generators, suppliers, distribution system operators. Access to an energy community's network should be granted on fair and cost-reflective terms. Preliminary timeframe for this Target is 2020-2021.	
	Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No objective for RECs, but there are objectives for renewables-self-consumption by residential and non-residential buildings • Describe existing policies to promote self-consumption, and do identify some additional measures that will be needed – but nothing on renewable energy communities • Said role of energy communities in EE was not applicable • In market design, mention need to adopt a target for [citizens] energy communities under Electricity Directive (and gave time frame of 2020-2021; no policies and measures identified) 				
CZ	Nothing	Information on single permitting procedure but nothing relevant specifically for energy communities	As stated in the previous sections summarising policies to meet the energy-efficiency targets and commitments, the Czech Republic will make efforts to create local information centres for the general public. With regard to	Nothing	Nothing

RES		EE	IEM	
2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3
		<p>public opinion, it is necessary that these services are affordable for the public, especially at a minimum price. Furthermore, we consider it important to strengthen the self-government capacities in relation to energy and energy efficiency, increase the professional education of employees and strengthen their powers in the implementation of instruments and measures at both national and local levels. To implement such a scheme, the Czech Republic is considering the use of the Union's LIFE programme.</p> <p>Elsewhere, mentions as a principle upon which new policies and measures should be based to protect vulnerable and energy poor consumers : in the fight against energy poverty, appropriate instruments may also include community energy principle, which may also bring about progress in energy efficiency of households and reduce consumption and lower supply rates – community energy may enable energy market participation to certain consumer</p>		

RES		EE	IEM		
2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3	
		groups in households which would otherwise not be able to do so;			
<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No target/objective for energy communities • Generally, no mention of community energy or plans to put in place any policies and measures in place for communities • Link to energy communities when it comes to fighting energy poverty and addressing vulnerable customers • No objectives, policies or measures for energy communities or self-consumers under the market design 					
DK	Nothing on energy communities. However, they communicate a projection that at least 90 pct. of the heating in the district heating sector will be based on other sources than fossil fuels in 2030. Many district heating networks in Denmark are community-owned	Denmark is in the preparation for the national implementation of article 15 and 16 regarding streamlining administrative procedures and the set-up of national contact points for renewable energy projects. Electricity used for self-consumption is supported by an exemption from electricity tax. At present, the tax on electricity for private consumers is 12.3 EUR cent/kWh. This gives a clear economic incentive for self-consumption in buildings. In Denmark there is a long tradition for establishing of renewable energy communities especially in the district heating sector and renewable electricity production.	Nothing.	Denmark has an overall objective of rolling out smart meters to all consumers by 2020. In the future, this will enable consumers to participate in the energy markets through aggregation. The energy agreement of 2018 also underlines the objective to increase the utilisation of data and digital solutions and create a smart energy system. This is also in line with the Danish Governments smart grid strategy of 2013. It is possible for consumers to self-generate electricity under defined rules for net metering. As such, however, self-generation is no particular objective for Denmark, as the goal is to provide consumers	Nothing

	RES		EE	IEM	
	2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3
		Denmark is in the preparation for the national implementation of article 21 and 22 regarding an enabling framework for renewable self-consumption and renewable energy communities.		<p>with an overall efficient and secure electricity system.</p> <p>To encourage the participation of aggregated demand response, Denmark is constantly seeking to improve market regulations with the aim to reduce barriers for decentralised market participants.</p>	
	<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No objective/target (although have high target for renewables in district heating, most of which is owned by energy communities) • Provides mostly a picture of existing policies and measures for renewable energy communities and self-consumption; Plans to further streamline procedures and set up national one-stop shop, and to prepare frameworks for renewable energy communities and self-consumption • No mention of role of energy communities in EE • Explicitly mentions that while self-consumption is supported, there is no objective around it; no policies or measures to support self-consumption or energy communities in the market design 				
ET	Nothing	Nothing	Nothing	<p>All electricity consumers are equipped with the remote reading devices that record and transmit at least the hourly data to the central database (data storage - e.elering.ee). Consumers have free access to their data. The consumers can also enable access to the data for the freely selected service provider.</p>	Nothing
	<p>Comments:</p>				

	RES		EE	IEM	
	2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No objectives, policies or measures on energy communities or self-consumption No mention of role of energy communities in EE No objectives, policies or measures in the market design relating to self-consumption or energy communities - only reference relates to smart meters. 				
FI	Said not applicable. Focus on district heating though	Nothing specific on EC or enabling framework. Incentives focused on farmers/rural area and small scale renewables. premium awarded through tenders. investment subsidy through energy aid scheme (technological innovation). Mention educational and capacity-building measures for RES, EE, transport	Said not applicable. Mention educational and capacity-building measures Energy aid scheme	Nothing	Nothing on energy communities, Mention Flexibility linked to regional cooperation Mention measures to develop demand-side response: Defining market participants' role, improving conditions for energy communities and aggregation
	<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No objectives, policies or measures on energy communities – mention objectives for district heating, and support for farmers and small scale renewables though, as well as education and capacity building No mention of role of energy communities in EE Following the template but no extra mile No objectives for energy communities in market design, but do mention improving conditions for energy communities and aggregation 				
FR	Nothing	Nothing on energy communities Focus on small-scale PV self-consumption, and eventually simplifying licensing framework	Nothing	Nothing on energy communities – focus on self-consumption: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 65 000 to 100 000 solar PV self-consumption site by 2023 Focus on networks, smart grids and meters Data protection curtailment 	Nothing on energy communities, instead focus on self-consumption: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 65 000 to 100 000 solar PV self-consumption site by 2023 Clarifying rules for third party investment / tenant electricity

RES		EE	IEM		
2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening new possibilities for collective self-consumption schemes Tender “self-consumption”: extending eligible installations to up to 1 MW Extending area of operation for collective schemes (urban planning, eco-neighborhood) 	
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No objectives for energy communities or self-consumption Template superficially followed Very technical report, energy/technology focused No mention of role of energy communities in EE Passed on the enabling framework and other mandatory provisions Measures focused on individual self-consumption (PV small-scale) development of collective schemes are considered, general pledge/no concrete measures 					
DE	Nothing	Reference existing initiatives and legislation on self-generation and landlord-to-tenant arrangements for renewables generation on multi-buildings	Skipped – didn’t even include the heading	Nothing	Nothing
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not reference energy communities once, despite having a large number in existence No objectives, policies or measures for renewable energy communities Refer to existing policies and measures for self-consumption, but nothing new planned No objectives, policies or measures for citizens energy communities 					

RES		EE	IEM		
2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3	
EL	<p>Quantitative target: 1 GW of decentralized RES systems (self-generation, energy offsetting (net metering?) and RECs) by 2020 → target for 2030? See IEM target: 500 MW for RECs</p>	<p>Enabling framework - Measures under implementation: (operation) incentives for energy community, includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • application of legal provisions on social cooperatives • preferential/derogatory rules for tenders, various administrative procedures, financial requirements, etc., e.g. prioritized examination of applications submitted by energy communities for obtaining generation authorizations for RES, HECHP and hybrid plants • specific conditions for participating in electro mobility • extensive provisions on electricity sharing, (virtual) net metering <p>Planned measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update and simplification of administrative procedures, creation of database, single/central contact point, • Specific financial instruments supporting the development of RECs • Reform of the electricity market 	<p>Planned measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority for EE projects from ECs with local authority participation • Promotion of energy services in the public sector supplied by specific demonstration projects, including ECs • Participation in developing local action plans • Specific incentives to involve them more, in particular concerning energy poverty • Education and capacity-building measures (not specific to ECs) 	<p>Quantitative target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500 MW for renewable ECs by 2030 (critical mass/minimum of implemented numbers for assessment) • Representation bodies 	<p>Measures under implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation of consumers through the introduction of new market actors, e.g. aggregators and energy communities • Institutionalization of those actor in specific mechanism, e.g. LT power adequacy mechanism (envisaged)

	RES		EE	IEM	
	2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3
		Best practice: e.g. table 27: overview of measures (type of measure, estimated impact, status, etc.)			
	<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the template and going over the minimum requirements, great overview table • Qualitative target for self-consumption and renewable energy communities, along with detailed measures including newly enacted measures, plus additional measures planned • Enabling framework already well under implementation, updates are considered on specific existing measures (e.g. EE obligation scheme, licensing framework), specific financial support is envisaged • Active role for energy communities in energy efficiency is envisioned in detail • Comprehensive: every dimension is tackled (RES, electricity market reform, including smart-meter roll-out and net metering schemes, aggregation, storage, transport/electromobility, EE, energy poverty) • Not just recognition through definition but through institutionalization in specific market mechanisms through representative bodies <p>Best practice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantitative target • Overview table (measures specific to ECs) • Institutionalization through representative bodies 				
HU	Intends to plan in 2019... not sure if includes RECs	Moving towards competitive bidding for operational support of renewables, but nothing on energy communities Support self-consumers with investment aid (via tendering process). Aims to simplify	Does not include under sub point (v). However, in other planned policies, states : To be detailed in 2019, jointly with the issue of renewable energy communities.	The Government of Hungary is redefining energy independence in the context of consumers and supports decentralised autogeneration based on renewable energy sources, whereby it offers consumers a choice of alternatives, contributes to the cost-effective	Nothing here.

RES		EE	IEM	
2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3
	<p>aim to encourage ‘home-made’ energy production, i.e. renewable energy generated from sources available on-site, and to draw up a comprehensive concept of renewable energy communities.</p> <p>Under legal regulations in force, household-scale small power plants may carry out net metering; this option is essentially adequate for encouraging household photovoltaic panel investments. Incentives for renewable energy-based heat generation are already regulated by decrees through discounted electricity tariffs (H Tariff).</p> <p>As regards the establishment of renewable energy communities, the question of vulnerable consumers and the security of supply is assigned a priority; the legal environment should allow even a miniature-scale district heating district to fulfil these two criteria.</p>		<p>supply of energy, supports the reduction of overhead costs for programme participants, reduces energy import dependence, supports the fulfilment of climate targets, and creates new business opportunities for equipment manufacturing companies and installation service providers.</p>	
<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No objectives for energy communities or self-consumption – unclear whether any are planned or not • Identified existing policies and measures for self-consumption • Identified plan to develop concept for renewable energy communities, <i>including a priority focus on security of supply and vulnerable consumers</i> 				

	RES		EE	IEM	
	2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan to look at energy efficiency along with renewable energy communities No objectives, policies or measures for energy communities in MDI, but does redefine energy independence in terms of decentralization and self-generation 				
IE	n/a but open for additions for the final drafts	<p>Under implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of EC in auction through auction separate category in auction (<10% capacity) <p>Under consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simplification of administrative procedures Specific financial support Capacity-building Mandatory community benefit fund and register Mandatory investment opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Educational measure Funding measures under Better Energy Communities grant schemes Capacity building through Sustainable Energy Communities network, focused on EE but possible extension to RES generation 	Nothing specific to EC. Focused on smart meter roll-out	<p>Nothing specific except</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> cooperation with TSO energy poverty addressed by Better Energy Communities <p>Mostly awaiting transposition of Clean Energy Package</p>
	<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No objectives for energy communities, but may put in final plan Formal: following the template, over minimum requirements Includes new and planned measures to support renewable energy communities, including in support schemes mix of typical measures (financial incentives, administrative procedures, education and capacity building) Addresses energy communities within EE No objectives for energy communities in MDI; however, mention addressing energy poverty through energy communities, and acknowledge will address with transposition of CEP and final NECP 				
IT	No quantitative target but EC promotion is mentioned	Existing measures:	Nothing	General reference linked to promotion of RES and self-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (virtual) net metering/electricity sharing

RES		EE	IEM	
2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3
Possible target under consideration (awaiting study)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Simplified administrative procedures, single contact point Capacity building, educational measures <p>Planned measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> focus on small-scale/individual schemes (various measures) extension of individual promotion schemes to EC, including self-consumption network and system charges, may change with the results of the study (self-consumption & closed distribution systems) net metering extension of existing measures (RES share for new or major renovation of buildings) transfer of rights to install plants on third-parties roofs contracts for difference, competitive tenders long-term contracts simplified 		consumption, demand response, aggregation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rules on geographical perimeter of operation Network charges for self-consumption Smart meter roll-out
<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Formal: no quantitative target but under consideration, following the template, detailed measures Mix of classical measures, most already in place, potential update following the study on self-consumption and closed distribution systems No mention of role of energy communities in EE 				

	RES		EE	IEM	
	2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • R&D demonstration efforts • General reference to promote self-consumption and energy communities • Measures and policies under market design for self-consumption but not energy communities <p>Best practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coupling EE renovation and construction with mandatory share of RES 				
LV	<p>Since own use plays a key role in promoting awareness of the society and support for RE, Latvia has laid down conditions for promoting own use.</p>	<p>Development of the legal framework for promoting the establishment of a RE community</p> <p>According to the Proposal for amending Directive 2009/28/EC, Latvia has to establish a point of contact for RE by 2021, which the potential or the current developer of a renewable energy project can refer to if he or she wants to start or has already started to implement a RE technology project. This point of contact is the main “one-stop-shop” in Latvia regarding the issues of RE, including in relation to issuing all permits and decisions required. This point of contact also ensures mediation in communication between all other national regulatory authorities and the specific developer of the RE technology project. There is currently no</p>	Nothing	<p>For the benefit of consumers, Section 301 of the Electricity Market Law introduces an electricity net payment system for micro generators in force since 1 January 2014 for all households that produce electricity for own consumption using RES.</p> <p>The process of connecting micro generators takes place according to the Decision No 1/7 of the Council of PUC of 27 March 2018 “System Connection Regulations for the Participants of the Electricity System”.</p> <p>Since 2012, the Ministry of Economics has issued about 600 permits for introducing new electricity generators, mostly micro generators with a power from 0.0035 MW to 0.1 MW.</p>	Nothing.

	RES		EE	IEM	
	2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3
		specific point of contact in Latvia regarding these matters. This point of contact will be established in 2019–2020.			
	<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No mention of objectives for renewable energy communities • Brief mention of intent to establish framework for establishment of RECs • Describes existing measures to support self-generation but no new measures • No acknowledgment of role of energy communities in EE • No objectives for energy communities or self-consumers in market design; identifies existing measures only 				
LT	<p>electricity consumers who can generate electricity for their own needs will be gradually increased.</p> <p>By 2020, after creating a favourable investment environment, there will be at least 34 thousand electricity consumers using a prosumer scheme.</p> <p>The share of DHS RES (including waste) will be 70% by 2020 and 90% by 2030. The development of high-efficiency biofuel CHP plants will continue, non-recyclable municipal waste non-hazardous industrial waste that have energy value will be</p>	<p>Implements or intends to implement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase selfconsumer development by applying financial support for selfconsumers (for individual households and for multi-apartment buildings) • To reduce administrative procedures for selfconsumers (for individual households and for multi-apartment buildings) • To apply financial engineering measures for smallscale power plants • To promote of ESCO activities in area of selfconsumers • To prepare and confirm of plans for municipalities to promote the use of renewable energy sources 	<p>Under its general heading regarding trends for energy efficiency: In the long-term perspective, electricity consumers will become proactive participants in the market and will be given the opportunity to use energy generated from RES for their own needs to receive a reward for surplus energy supplied to the network in line with the market conditions. Such consumers will account for at least 30% of all consumers by 2030 and at least 50% by 2050. These customers will be able to participate in the market through service providers in the energy sector. The active participation of local energy communities in investing in co-</p>	<p>This part to be defined in more detailed way in the final version of the Plan</p> <p>consumers will become proactive participants in the market and will be given the opportunity to use energy generated from RES for their own needs to receive a reward for surplus energy supplied to the network in line with the market conditions. Such consumers will account for at least 2% of all consumers by 2020, at least 30% of all consumers by 2030 and at least 50% by 2050. These customers will be able to participate in the market through service providers in the energy sector.</p>	Nothing there.

	RES		EE	IEM	
	2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3
	effectively used for energy production.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To establish a favorable regulatory environment for renewable energy communities to participate in the auctions <p>More to be defined in the final plan.</p>	owned RES equipment will be encouraged.	The active participation of local energy communities in investing in co-owned RES equipment will be encouraged.	
	<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No objective for energy communities, but have expected trajectory for district heating and identify need to increase number of self-consumers Provides plans to implement a number of measures to promote self-consumption and renewable energy communities (including through participation in auctions) Envisions contribution towards energy efficiency by active customers and energy communities In the market design, active consumers and energy local energy communities will need to be promoted, providing numbers for expected development to 2030 and 2050; mentions this will need to be further defined in final draft; No measures or policies 				
LX	Goal by sector and technology but not for EC (paradoxal since social innovation is put forward in the introduction)	<p>FIT for small installations and cooperatives to exploit roofs</p> <p>Partnering with self-consumer like ECs</p> <p>Nothing on enabling framework, simplifying procedure</p>	Nothing	<p>Regional cooperation</p> <p>Smart meter roll-out (95% by 2019)</p> <p>Gliding premium</p> <p>Transnational tenders</p>	<p>Smart meter roll-out and dynamic tariffs</p> <p>Evaluation of barriers to flexibility and self-consumption</p>
	<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-consumption, tenders mentioned in the introduction as a central measure for the RES goal No target for energy communities Some measures for self-consumption (and in this context, energy communities) Focus mobility and energy efficiency, although don't make the link with energy communities Like Italy, focus on linking RES share by EE and building renovation 				

RES		EE	IEM		
2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social innovation focus: collective intelligence approach for the consultation process, Prosumers and social model in the strategic study: 3rd industrial revolution (influence of Rifkin) • Following the structure superficially • No role for energy communities in EE envisioned • In market design, no objectives for self-consumption or energy communities, and no measures envisioned, although will evaluate barriers to flexibility and self-consumption • Mentions cooperatives 					
MT	Nothing	Existing schemes supporting the installation of PV systems cater for the option of self-consumption of renewable electricity in both the residential and non-residential sector. Under existing support schemes, the applicant may opt to sell all electricity generated by the PV system to the DSO (full export) or export only the surplus electricity (partial export). Furthermore, in the case where the installation operator does not apply for support, Regulation 4A of SL 545.27 ensures that solar PVs may be installed primarily for self-consumption and that any surplus electricity supplied to the DSO through the grid will be bought at the proxy for the market price. However, the option for self-consumption is not applicable for PV installations owned by third	With respect to renewable energy communities, there is limited potential for their development and for establishing targeted policies and measures, mainly as a result of the structure of the electricity distribution and supply system and related derogations for Malta under Directive 2009/72/EC.	In line with its programme to ensure an efficient distribution system, Enemalta has equipped 99% of its consumers with smart meters and has adopted a tariff system that favours the prudent use of energy. Objectives concerning renewable self-generation are discussed in section 3.1.2.vi.	Following ongoing studies with regards to cost-effective options for the deployment of electricity storage units, it is expected that these are supported (either through regulation or financially or both) to allow for better integration of small scale renewable, peak shaving and potentially delaying additional generation capacity requirements and contributing towards the desired level of system adequacy. Enemalta is required to apply economic dispatch and shall be required to also consider aggregation, demand response, and storage during dispatch subject to technical requirements.

	RES		EE	IEM	
	2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3
		<p>parties. In this case, full export is the only option.</p> <p>Self-consumption is promoted as a way in which consumers can offset their consumption of electricity from the grid and thus, reduce their electricity bills, particularly in cases where such offsetting places the consumer in a lower electricity tariff band.</p> <p>In view of the structure of the Maltese electricity system in which there is no electricity supply market (Enemalta is designated as an exclusive supplier in Malta), it is not foreseen that renewable energy communities will develop.</p>			
	<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Described existing policies for renewables self-consumption, but no new policies or measures • RECs are actually not foreseen because of the lack of a supply market, so no measures are foreseen • No role for energy communities in EE • Support for storage is foreseen as a way to integrate small renewables 				
NL	<p>Within the context of the Climate Agreement, the Netherlands is pursuing specific measures and trajectories in various fields. The results of the negotiations for the Climate</p>	<p>The Netherlands has not set out any specific policies in this regard. (to single contact points or streamlining of admin procedures, provision of training, etc)</p>	<p>The policy in this domain depends on choices made in the Climate Agreement and will therefore only be included in the final NECP.</p>	<p>There are no specific targets in place in this regard, with the exception of the target for 80% of Dutch small consumers of electricity and gas to make use of a smart meter by 2020. In a general sense, the Netherlands'</p>	<p>The Netherlands will be organising the market regime based on the legislative agenda for the coming years, in such a way as to allow further flexibility (including for small consumers) and to ensure small consumers</p>

RES		EE	IEM	
2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3
<p>Agreement will be included in the final NECP.</p>	<p>For support of self-consumers and RECs, In addition to a repayment of VAT, owners of solar panels that are connected to a small-consumer connection (3X80A) can make use of the so-called netting scheme. As a result, small consumers are not required to pay supply costs, energy tax, the surcharge for sustainable energy (ODE) or VAT for the electricity purchased from the grid, insofar as this is offset with the electricity fed back to the grid. In addition, the government has introduced a fiscal incentive scheme for energy cooperatives that stimulates regional renewable energy communities (energy cooperatives). Members of such cooperatives within the first energy tax bracket are no longer required to pay tax on the percentage of the jointly produced renewable electricity attributed to them. At present, the government is also examining whether this scheme can be integrated into the subsidy for feeding back energy in the future. In addition, the government is examining whether a development facility can be set up that allows energy</p>		<p>aim is to ensure that consumers are able to benefit from competition on the energy market to the fullest extent, are able to make conscious choices and receive fair remuneration for investments in microgeneration. No separate, national objectives have been formulated to this end.</p> <p>In addition, a growing number of consumers have begun feeding in electricity to the grid, for which they are remunerated through the netting scheme. This scheme will eventually (beyond 2020) be replaced by a feed-in grant.</p> <p>Agreements on heat will be made within the framework of the Climate Agreement.</p>	<p>are given better access to the market and are rewarded in line with the market. To that end, small consumers should be accommodated by an aggregator. The Netherlands will be focusing on the roll-out of smart meters (target: 80% by 2020) to allow consumers to respond to real-time rates to a greater extent</p>

	RES		EE	IEM	
	2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3
		cooperatives to fund development costs			
	<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No target, although it acknowledges that the due to finalization of national 2030 climate agreement, an objective may be forthcoming. • Some elements of the Climate Agreement, such as the objective for 50% local ownership of all new onshore wind and solar projects, is not included • Identify existing measures to support self-consumption and renewable energy communities (e.g. areas of fiscal incentives in support of cooperatives), as well as additional measures planned • Role of energy communities in EE subject to final climate agreement • In market design, mention potential objective for heating, but explicitly states there are no objectives for micro-generation; intends to roll out measures to allow customers to access market 				
PL	<p>n/a</p> <p>Focus on micro-generation (30.000 installations, 160 MW) in 2017, no quantitative target or trajectories but general pledge to develop further</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auctions • Fit and Fip for small installations, for energy not self-consumed • Investment aid (local) • Regulatory stability for investment • Development of distributed generation through ECs, energy clusters and cooperatives → 300 areas by 2030 (investment aid) • Storage • Heat <p>Enabling framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certification of commercial entities below 600kW = simplification? • Capacity building in relation to auction, reporting obligation 	<p>n/a</p> <p>linking building management and demand response</p> <p>educational measures</p>	<p>General pledge to increase flexibility</p> <p>Educational measures</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smart meter roll-out (80% by 2026) and dynamic pricing • Streamlining and expending existing incentives for consumer engagement, introducing new ones • Self-consumption, local energy communities

RES		EE	IEM	
2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3
	for producers etc. (not specific to EC?)			
<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No objectives for energy communities or self-consumption but pledge to develop further Following the template superficially Identify measures to support renewables but nothing specific to energy communities In market design, intend to support individual and collective schemes as well as energy clusters <p>Best practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy clusters Capacity-building services for auction (but not specific to ECs) 				
Nothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulatory environment for local EC Mechanisms for simplifying investment Review of the tariff model Update of licensing framework Introduction of one-stop-shop 	Nothing	Nothing specific <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demand-response: only pilots for industrial consumers Smart meter requirement for installations above 1MW General objective of “fair, democratic and cohesive transition” → consumer engagement and fight against energy poverty 	Nothing specific, very generic
<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following superficially the template No target/objective for energy communities or self-consumption General pledge to have a regulatory framework for participation of new players (mentions local energy communities) but no concrete measures for ECs Role of energy communities in EE not acknowledged General pledge for a “fair, democratic, cohesive transition” and fight against energy poverty adapted regulatory environment including update of licensing procedure and one-stop shop 				

		RES		EE	IEM	
		2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3
RO	Nothing	Nothing	<p>Nothing on energy communities By adopting the Law no. 184 / 2018 establishing the system for promoting the production of energy from renewable sources of energy, a forward step was done in regulating the prosumer activity in Romania. According to the new legislation, prosumers have benefits, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scheme applies to prosumers that own power generation units from renewable sources with an installed power capacity of maximum 27 kW per household in individual houses, apartment blocks, residential areas, commercial or industrial areas, etc.; • Electricity distribution operators are obliged to connect the prosumers in accordance with the specific regulations issued by the regulator; • The prosumers have the possibility to sell the electricity to the suppliers with whom they concluded electricity supply contracts at a price equal to the weighted average price recorded in the 	<p>Without getting specific, referenced energy communities as relevant to increasing energy efficiency (renovations strategy)</p>	<p>The objective of Romania up to 2030 is to install a power of at least 750 MW, made in the form of production capacities owned by prosumers.</p>	Nothing

RES		EE	IEM	
2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3
	<p>day-ahead-market in the previous year; suppliers who have contracts with prosumers are obligated to take over energy at their request;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosumers are exempted from excise duty on the amount of electricity produced from renewable sources for self-consumption, as well as for the surplus sold to suppliers; • Prosumers, individuals, are exempted from the annual and quarterly green certificates purchase obligation for electricity produced and used for own final consumption, other than losses of the power plant; • Prosumers benefit from electricity suppliers with whom they have concluded electricity supply contracts, of regularization service between the value of the delivered electricity and the value of the electricity consumed by the network; • These measures aim to increase the amount of electricity from renewable 			

RES		EE	IEM	
2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3
	sources produced by prosumers; the Energy Strategy of Romania 2019-2030, with perspective of 2050, estimates that, for 2030, from the total installed power capacity of solar, 750 MW will be realized as capacities owned by prosumers.			
Comments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No objectives for energy communities or self-consumption, but does include estimation of renewable energy owned by prosumers by 2030 • Mentions prosumers, but does not mention communities • Acknowledges energy communities as relevant for EE • In market design, has target of 750 MW by 2030 				
SK	<p>No target in their national plan. Say there will be something in final NECP, but most likely this refers to energy recovery through waste water treatment.</p> <p>In trends regarding reasearch and development, mention Smart grids, i.e. efficient energy management and energy supply systems under the changing operating conditions of energy systems, with the integration of renewable energy sources (RES) into distribution systems and</p>	<p>Will be completed, in line with current status, in the final version of the national energy and climate plan.</p> <p>Do mention: Family homes and apartment blocks can from 2019 apply again for support in the form of a voucher for the installation of small installations for the use of renewable energy sources (RES), thanks to a national project of the Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency (SIEA) called Zelená</p>	<p>Intelligent measuring systems and intelligent networks essential are essential. Smart grids are bringing about changes to help strengthen the position of the customer, facilitate greater integration of renewable energy sources into distribution systems, enable and support the development of electromobility and electricity storage, increase energy efficiency and reduce losses</p>	Nothing

	RES		EE	IEM	
	2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3
	active customers (or prosumers), are helping to achieve this strategic goal (energy security in line with the energy policy of the Slovak Republic and the EU. The area includes local electricity storage, electromobility infrastructure development, including the development and testing of new technologies and their impacts on the distribution system as well as the sustainable use of biomass as part of an optimal energy mix. It includes research into the potential for an energy self-sufficient community and autonomous networks for use in public transport and industry.		domácnostiam II (Green for Households). The following are supported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • small power plants with an output of 10 kW or less <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ photovoltaic panels ○ wind turbines (these devices cannot yet be supported) • heat plants covering the energy needs of a family home or residential building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ solar panels ○ biomass boilers ○ heat pumps 		
	<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally, not much content there – although plan to include measures to support RECs (including their role in EE) in final NECP • Emphasis on empowering customers is through smart grids/intelligent networks • Mention existing measures for self-consumers 				
SL	Nothing on energy communities or energy citizens. Provide narrative though. Solar energy is expected to play an important role in self-handling of buildings,	Solar energy is expected to play an important role in self-handling of buildings, neighbourhoods or wider communities with electricity in connection with energy storage and heat from heat pumps. Greater use of solar energy will require greater linking of systems,	Nothing.	Nothing.	several pilot projects are ongoing in Slovenia aiming to test advanced systems in the of final consumers supply. Slovenia will be subject to commitments resulting from the adoption of new directive on electricity market in the following fields:

	RES		EE	IEM	
	2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3
	neighbourhoods or wider communities with electricity in connection with energy storage and heat from heat pumps.	<p>introduction of new methods of energy storage and creation of an environment for the exploitation of production and business opportunities</p> <p>Legislative amendments and removing administrative obstacles foresee as follows (Strategy for Development of the Market in Order to Develop Appropriate Alternative Fuels Infrastructure in the Transport Sector in the Republic of Slovenia (inter alia) : integration into the systems of advanced networks and advanced communities;</p>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • active customers • consumption reaction • self-handling; • energy communities; • dispersed energy generation and storage; • independent aggregators; • dynamic tariffs, and other. <p>This will result in a system created by consumers that will enable more flexible inclusion of final consumers on the energy market.</p>
	<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of narrative, but no concrete policy initiatives • No mention role for energy communities in EE • Where community is mentioned, there is a strong focus on solar and smart/community networks, but nothing on energy communities – a more technology focused approach • Acknowledge need to implement Clean Energy Package provisions on, inter alia, self-consumer and energy communities 				
ES	No explicit target but reference to royal decree law 15/2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplification of administrative procedures for new technologies or “models of organisations” • Removal of regulatory barriers/gaps for ECSS 	Nothing	Nothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • smart meter deployment (no concrete information) • general pledge to continue developing the enabling framework for self-consumption and ECs

RES		EE	IEM	
2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General objective of decentralization generation (self-consumption and ECs) Education and capacity-building measures Island strategy 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> general pledge for demand-response, balancing RES, consumer engagement and protection
<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> following superficially the template narrative/general pledge but no concrete measures (except existing measures and possibility of extending them) simplification of procedures, education and capacity-building <p>Best practice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognizing the need to support technological and social innovations (“new models of organization”) 				
SE	n/a for ECs	n/a	Nothing	n/a
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> measures focused on education and capacity-building (local climate and energy and advisers in every municipalities, regional offices of the Energy agency, energy coach for SMEs) local climate investment programme (climate leap) → “all types of organisations” → applicable to ECs?, 2018 budget of 1500 M SEK focus on individual investment support (for e-mobility conversion) certificate/quota system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> support for refurbishment of schools? Education (information centre for sustainable building, Energy agency, training programs, etc.) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> general pledge on smart grid, no priority dispatch, demand-response

	RES		EE	IEM	
	2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> tax relief/exemption for small installations (sell/self-consume) financial support for PV/storage enabling framework? Focus on wind and marine, district heating 			
	<p>Comment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> following superficially the template, very short plan no target/objectives for energy communities or self-consumption no measures on energy communities, only a few on individual self-consumption (not collective) No role acknowledged for energy communities in EE nothing on ECs or collective schemes, not even much on market integration focus on individual self-consumption and educational measures 				
UK	<p>No National target for community energy</p> <p>The BEIS Local Energy Programme, which was announced in the CGS, is designed to maximise local contributions to clean growth. The programme works with Local Enterprise Partnerships, local authorities and communities to drive development of clean growth as a core plank of Local Industrial</p>	<p>Stated that policies and measures were laid out in 2.1.</p>	<p>Didn't really answer the question (skipped section). However, it did state the following:</p> <p>The UK is also committed to supporting local leadership and has already given additional powers and responsibilities through the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act 2016. A number of Local Devolution deals have been agreed between the UK Government and local areas including Cornwall, Sheffield, Greater Manchester and</p>	<p>The Feed-in Tariff (FITs) scheme was introduced on 1 April 2010 covering England, Scotland and Wales, under powers in the Energy Act 2008. The intention was to encourage the deployment of small-scale (up to 5MW), low-carbon electricity generation, particularly by organisations, businesses, communities and individuals that have not traditionally engaged in the electricity market.</p>	<p>Stated that policies and measures were laid out in 2.4.3.</p>

RES		EE	IEM	
2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3
<p>Strategies and, critically, support local clean growth investment. The Scottish Government has an ambition to achieve 1GW of community and locally owned renewables by 2020, and 2GW by 2030, as well as an ambition to spread the economic benefits of commercial renewables schemes through shared ownership with communities²⁵. As of June 2017 there was an estimated minimum of 666 MW of community and locally owned renewable energy capacity operating in Scotland. Local government in Scotland is already playing a key role in delivering energy efficiency programmes, primarily for the domestic sector. The Scottish Government sees a stronger role for local government in the future. There has also been a consultation this year on the possible introduction of a statutory duty on local authorities to develop Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (LHEES), to be delivered in consultation with members of the local community and in collaboration</p>		<p>Liverpool. Many of the Local Devolution deals incorporate energy commitments; including support for home energy efficiency, deep geothermal, tidal power and community energy initiatives.</p> <p>In 2018 the Welsh Government published a call for evidence to inform the approach to delivering the 1GW local energy target. This looked at how increasing local ownership of renewable energy generation can secure benefits in a more equitable way. It also sought evidence on effective ways of increasing local and shared ownership, which could inform future Welsh Government support. A response to the Call for Evidence will be published in December 2018.</p>	<p>The technologies supported under FITs are: solar PV, onshore wind, hydropower, anaerobic digestion (AD), and micro (<2kW) combined heat and power (micro-CHP)¹⁰⁹. Under the scheme generators receive three sources of income/savings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generation tariff - a payment for every kWh generated, dependent on the technology and capacity of the installation, and date installed; • Export tariff - an additional payment for every kWh exported to the local electricity network, and • Bill savings - additional benefit from usage of electricity “onsite” as opposed to paying the retail price for importing that energy from the grid. <p>Tariffs are calculated to give rates of return that encourage investment but prevent overcompensation. Payments to generators are made by electricity suppliers and then passed on to consumers through electricity bills.</p>	

RES		EE	IEM	
2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3
<p>with community planning partners. This would provide the link between the delivery of long-term targets and national policies, and the delivery of energy efficiency and heat decarbonisation on the ground. A position paper on Local Energy Systems in Scotland is being developed, further to a commitment made in the Energy Strategy. The Welsh Government is supporting local authorities in the development of energy plans. There are transformative opportunities in developing local or regional energy plans, driven by network and/or national regional energy data, which will help decision-making and enable us to meet decarbonisation objectives in Wales. The Welsh Government has committed to providing support to enable regional strategic energy plans to be developed, as part of the Cardiff City Region and the Mid Wales and North Wales Growth Deals work. This will build on earlier work undertaken in the Swansea Bay City Region by the</p>			<p>The UK Government announced the closure of the FITs generation tariff on 1 April 2015 and published a consultation on the full closure of FITs scheme¹¹⁰ on 19 July 2018. Along with this consultation, the UK Government published a response to an earlier consultation on implementing an EII exemption from the indirect costs of the FITs, and a call for evidence on the future for small-scale low-carbon generation.</p> <p>The call for evidence sought to identify:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The challenges and opportunities from small-scale low-carbon electricity generation in contributing to the UK Government’s objectives for clean, affordable, secure and flexible power; and • The role for the UK Government and the private sector in overcoming these challenges and realising these opportunities. 	

RES		EE	IEM	
2.1	3.1.2	3.2	2.4.3	3.4.3
<p>Institute of Welsh Affairs and Regen. Using the learning from this work, the Welsh Government will explore the potential for developing more locally-owned energy plans, which could lead to pipelines of energy projects and provide more clarity on the energy infrastructure required for a low carbon energy system in Wales. The Welsh Government has set a target of 1GW of locally-owned renewable electricity capacity by 2030 and an expectation that new renewable energy projects from 2020 have an element of local ownership. At the end of 2017 there was 750MW of renewable energy in local ownership in Wales. 529MW of this capacity is renewable electricity and 221MW is renewable heat. In total there are over 63,000 locally-owned renewable energy projects in Wales.</p>			<p>In this context, the evidence provided, and responses received as part of this call for evidence will be considered and used to inform policy development ahead of a UK Government response in due course. The call for evidence closed on 31 August 2018 and the responses are being reviewed.</p>	
<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No national targets at UK level, but targets within Scotland and Wales • Mostly produced existing measures and plans for further action – no proposed measures for energy communities 				