

Project acronym: EnergyPROSPECTS

Title: PROactive Strategies and Policies for Energy
Citizenship Transformation

Grant Agreement number: 101022492



Deliverable 7.7

Project final conference

Description: Report on the project final conference

Lead party for deliverable: University of Latvia (UL)

Document type: Report

Due date of deliverable: 31-03-2024

Actual submission date: 31-03-2024

Revision: Version 0.1

Dissemination level: Public

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Acknowledgment: EnergyPROSPECTS is a Horizon 2020 project funded by the European Commission under Grant Agreement No. 101022492.

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Executive summary

For the past three years, EnergyPROSPECTS has spearheaded extensive research delving into the multifaceted dimensions of energy citizenship, recognising its pivotal role in nurturing inclusive and democratic energy transitions. This work strongly aligns with the visionary objectives of the European Green Deal.

The conference entitled “**Energy Citizenship in the making: Insights from four projects on how energy citizenship can contribute to an inclusive, democratic and sustainable Green Deal**” has been organized as a final conference of the EnergyPROSPECTS project. The event was designed with the objective of looking into the contributions of energy citizenship towards realizing a more inclusive, democratic, and environmentally sustainable European Green Deal, drawing upon the collective research and findings of the four collaborating projects (EnergyPROSPECTS, EC², Dialogues, and ENCLUDE).

The final conference took place in Brussels, Belgium on 5th March, 2023 in the venue LaVallée, a former industrial laundry that has been revitalized for creative entrepreneurship and conference use. The conference was attended by 69 participants from 18 European countries and Turkey, representing diverse knowledge from the academic and research community, civil society, business, and public sector.

This report summarizes the organizational process and proceedings of the conference, aligning the chapters of the report with the programme of the conference. The logistical coordination of the conference was provided by the EnergyPROSPECTS partner – the University of Latvia, the content and programmatic elements have been led by University of Galway and in close collaboration with our sister projects.

The conference was opened by a welcome note from the collaborative projects leads and a representative from the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). Further discussions were structured into interactive morning and afternoon sessions, giving participants time for brainstorming, interaction and joint knowledge sharing and co-creation. After the introduction of the main aspects of the Joint Policy Brief on Energy Citizenship, a moderated panel discussion was held with prominent experts. This was followed by the breakout groups to discuss three pathways towards energy citizenship related issues of trust, inclusion, and supportive ecosystem. The afternoon sessions were divided into two parallel blocks to discuss the different perspectives in relation to the main conclusions coming from each of sister projects: the design approach to thinking, the role of individual and collective efforts, and energy citizenship perspectives in general.

The conference concluded with summing up results from the parallel sessions and informal discussions during the social gathering. In general, the event was a great achievement in advancing the scientific understanding of energy citizenship in the European context, in addition, it promoted new partnerships between the parties involved in the process.

Public availability of the documents related to this report:

- **Deliverable 7.7 Project final conference** <https://www.energyprospects.eu/results/deliverables/>
- **The Joint Policy Brief** <https://www.energyprospects.eu/results/joint-policy-brief/>





1. Introduction

1.1. Goals of the conference

The final conference “**Energy Citizenship in the making: Insights from four projects on how energy citizenship can contribute to an inclusive, democratic and sustainable Green Deal**” was designed with the objective of looking into the contributions of energy citizenship towards realizing a more inclusive, democratic, and environmentally sustainable European Green Deal, drawing upon the collective research and findings of the four collaborating projects.

Key discussion points announced for the conference included:

- **Defining Energy Citizenship:** Uncover the fundamental aspects shaping energy citizenship.
- **Current Practices Across Europe:** Explore the rich tapestry of energy citizenship practices prevalent across Europe.
- **Overcoming Barriers:** Engage in dialogues addressing institutional, collective, and individual barriers to propel energy citizenship forward.
- **Pathways forward:** Policy recommendations to overcome the current barriers to citizen involvement in the energy transition.

1.2. Organizational process

Procurement for the conference services

After careful consideration regarding the geographical location of the conference (easily reachable and close to the European level decision-makers) and based on results of public procurement (price quotation method) the selection of conference venue was Brussels, Belgium, the premises of LaVallée - a former industrial laundry in a Molenbeek area, revitalized for creative entrepreneurship activities and various events. (<https://lavallee.brussels/the-project/>)



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The market research was organized by the responsible coordinator of the activity, the University of Latvia. The invitation for price quotations was sent on 26th April, 2023 by e-mail to four qualified bidders. In the Technical specification for services “Conference venue and facilities” for the project “PROactive Strategies and Policies for Energy Citizenship Transformation” events organization on 4-5 March, 2024 included requirements for conference rooms, technical requirements, and catering. E-mail price offers were received within the specified period from two bidders. The selected bidder was LaVallée Smartimmo Scrl. The contract for services between the University of Latvia and LaVallée Smartimmo Scrl was signed on December 4, 2023. The services were provided in accordance with the contract and the acceptance-handover deed was signed between the parties on 5th March, 2024.

Conference announcements

The first public announcement for the conference: **Save the date** was placed on EnergyPROSPECTS and other collaborating projects websites on December 11, 2023, almost three months ahead the event, with opportunity to share it on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.

Announcement was replicated in other social media channels of the EnergyPROSPECTS project (LinkedIn, Twitter), and shared by the collaborating projects in their social media, as well as some private accounts of the involved researchers and media followers.

- **Web:** <https://www.energyprospects.eu/news/news/detailed-view/t/81899/>
- **LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7139982502080815105>
- **Twitter:** <https://x.com/EnergyPROSPECTS/status/1747193978863170020?s=20>

11.12.2023

5th March 2024
09:30 - 17:00

SAVE THE DATE

Energy Citizenship in the making

Insights from four projects on how energy citizenship can contribute to an inclusive, democratic and sustainable Green Deal

Register here

- What energy citizenship is.
- How energy citizenship is being practiced across Europe today and
- The institutional, collective, and individual barriers that need to be overcome for energy citizenship to flourish.

For a day of presentations and discussions where four EU research projects present consolidated results to answer these questions.

Leave with concrete ideas how energy citizenship can work as an enabler towards a more inclusive, democratic and sustainable energy transition that strengthens the European Green Deal during the next EU mandate.

Access to venue:
Metro: line 1, 2, 5, 6 Rillaucourt / Comte de Flandre Tram: 51
Bus: 20, 89
Train: Gare du Nord / gare de l'Ouest

ENCLUDE
Energy Citizens for Inclusive Decarbonization

EC²
ENERGY PROSPECTS

dialogues
Energy citizenship for a sustainable future

EnergyPROSPECTS
311 followers
View full page

EnergyPROSPECTS
311 followers
3mo • Edited •

SAVE THE DATE! For the final event of our four EU funded research projects, we present an open day of discussion and debate on energy citizenship. REGISTER HERE: <https://lnkd.in/d-N9VqfA> by the end of January, 2024 to secure your place at this momentous gathering as we look forward to fostering dialogue, collaboration, and a shared vision for a sustainable future.

DIALOGUES Project EnergyPROSPECTS EC² - Clean Energy Transition

ENCLUDE European Commission

We're thrilled to extend an open invitation to everyone who shares an interest in our research on #energycitizenship. Over the past three years, in collaboration with sister projects, we've diligently explored the multifaceted aspects of #energycitizenship.

Join us on March 5, 2024, in Brussels, for a final event marking a moment in our collective pursuit of knowledge and progress.

At this event, we look forward to sharing valuable insights on how energy citizenship plays a pivotal role in fostering inclusivity, democracy, and sustainability. The event will prove to be crucial as a cornerstone of the European Green Deal.

By participating, you'll have the opportunity to engage with our comprehensive research, gain valuable perspectives, and contribute to the ongoing discourse surrounding the future of energy citizenship.

#SaveTheDate #EnergyCitizenship #SustainabilityJourney #GreenDeal2024

5th March 2024
09:30 - 17:00

SAVE THE DATE

Energy Citizenship in the making

Insights from four projects on how energy citizenship can contribute to an inclusive, democratic and sustainable Green Deal

Register here

- What energy citizenship is.
- How energy citizenship is being practiced across Europe today and
- The institutional, collective, and individual barriers that need to be overcome for energy citizenship to flourish.

For a day of presentations and discussions where four EU research projects present consolidated results to answer these questions.

Leave with concrete ideas how energy citizenship can work as an enabler towards a more inclusive, democratic and sustainable energy transition that strengthens the European Green Deal during the next EU mandate.



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The analysis of the 1st announcement indicates the following impact:

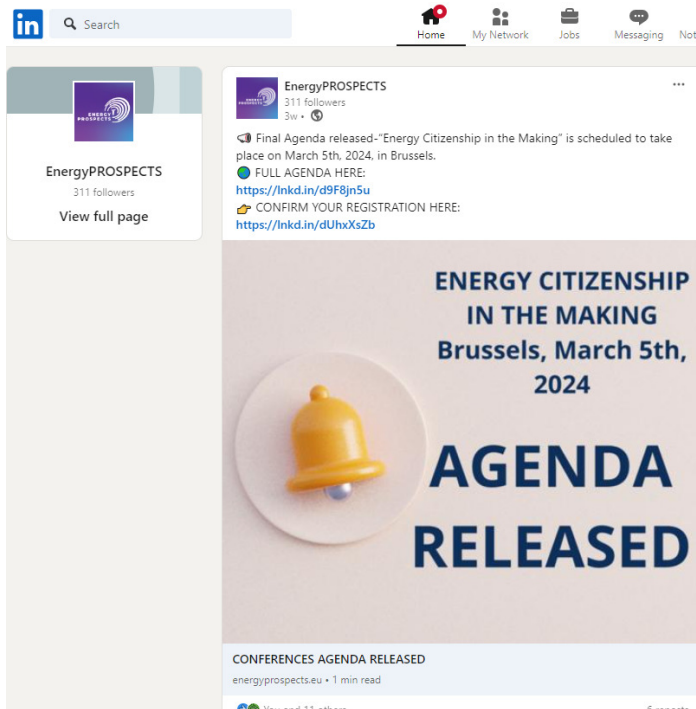

- LinkedIn: 34 likes, 10 reposts, 540 impressions
- Twitter: 7 likes, 1 repost, 129 views.

Online registration link and **QR codes** for digital users was provided for early identification of interest about the event. It was closely monitored to assess the publicity of the event and ensure maximally high attendance rate.

The second public announcement was issued on February 20, 2023. Announcement was replicated in the social media channels of the EnergyPROSPECTS project and shared by the partners. The 2nd announcement included **full agenda** and request for the confirmation of the participation at the conference.

- **Web:** <https://www.energyprospects.eu/news/news/detailed-view/t/83054/>
- **LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7166098885386477569>
- **Twitter:** <https://x.com/EnergyPROSPECTS/status/1760334513748459774?s=20>

20.02.2024



“Energy Citizenship in the Making” is scheduled to take place on March 5th, 2024, in Brussels.

FULL PROGRAMME HERE

CONFIRM YOUR ATTENDANCE HERE

What to Expect:

Participants will have the opportunity to:

- **Discover the concept of Energy Citizenship:** Delve into what constitutes energy citizenship and why it is a cornerstone for building a sustainable future.
- **Explore Practices Across Europe:** Gain insights into current implementations and the transformative potential of energy citizenship for the energy transition.
- **Understand Challenges:** Discuss the institutional, collective, and individual hurdles that must be addressed to foster a thriving environment for energy citizens.

Practical Information:

The analysis of the 2nd announcement indicates the following impact:

- **LinkedIn:** 12 likes, 6 reposts, 237 impressions
- **Twitter:** 2 likes, 2 reposts, 60 impressions.



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Several activities were made to reach broader audience and secure participation of earlier registered participants.

A **reminder e-mail** was sent to all addressees withdrawn from the combined list of the registered participants (1st announcement link and 2nd announcement link), a total of **69 addressee**.


Additionally, each of partner has disseminated conference announcements to their **national contacts**.

Information was also sent by the University of Latvia to the **media representatives**.

Subject: REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION FOR CONFERENCE, BRUSSELS, MARCH 5

We kindly ask you to confirm your attendance to the conference on Energy Citizenship scheduled for March 5, 2024 in Brussels, Belgium
Deadline for confirmation: February 26, 2024

PROGRAMME of the conference is available [HERE](#)

 Please register here

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=RE6EJpfSaECjKUUc6Glx8ax75hZ19Q1Cp9rQc_3QtQJUNDVMSTJRRkRLMTZBvZiTTVJSRiURDAyMy4u



Design and visualization

The informal visual guidelines developed for the conference are unique as they represent not a single project but all four sister projects. They have been specially designed jointly with the sister project partners and used in all public communications, including design of the announcements, conference agenda, presentations, and participants name cards. All communication materials contained logos from our sister projects.

Participants name cards (front and reverse side)



AGENDA	
Morning Session (09:30 - 13:00)	
09:30 - 10:00	Arrivals Coffee, Poster Display
10:00 - 10:15	Welcome Note Speakers: Frances Fahy, BinBin Pearce, Elisabeth Untertrauner & Andrea Kollmann
10:15 - 10:30	Introduction to the Joint Policy Brief on Energy Citizenship Speakers: BinBin Pearce & Karin Thalberg
10:30 - 11:15	Panel Discussion with Katja Corcoran (University of Graz, Austria), Livia Kalossaka (Imperial College London, UK), Rheanna Johnston (E3G, Brussels, Belgium) Moderators: BinBin Pearce & Karin Thalberg
11:15 - 11:30	Coffee Break
11:30 - 12:30	Pathways for energy citizenship: Themes from the Joint Policy Brief on Energy Citizenship: Three Parallel Discussion Groups
12:30 - 13:00	Conclusion of morning session & intro to the afternoon
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch break
Afternoon Session (14:00 - 17:00)	
Session 1	Session 2
14:00 - 15:00	Multiple perspectives on Energy citizenship - an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary understanding (EC2)
15:00 - 15:15	Designing as energy citizens: ENCLUDE Collaborative Playbook (ENCLUDE)
Coffee Break	
Session 3	Session 4
15:15 - 16:15	Inclusivity matters! Engaging citizens and collectives in the energy transition (DIALOGUES)
16:15 - 17:00	Where would we be without Energy Citizenship? (EnergyPROSPECTS)
Gathering & Networking	



Sustainability approach in the organizational matters

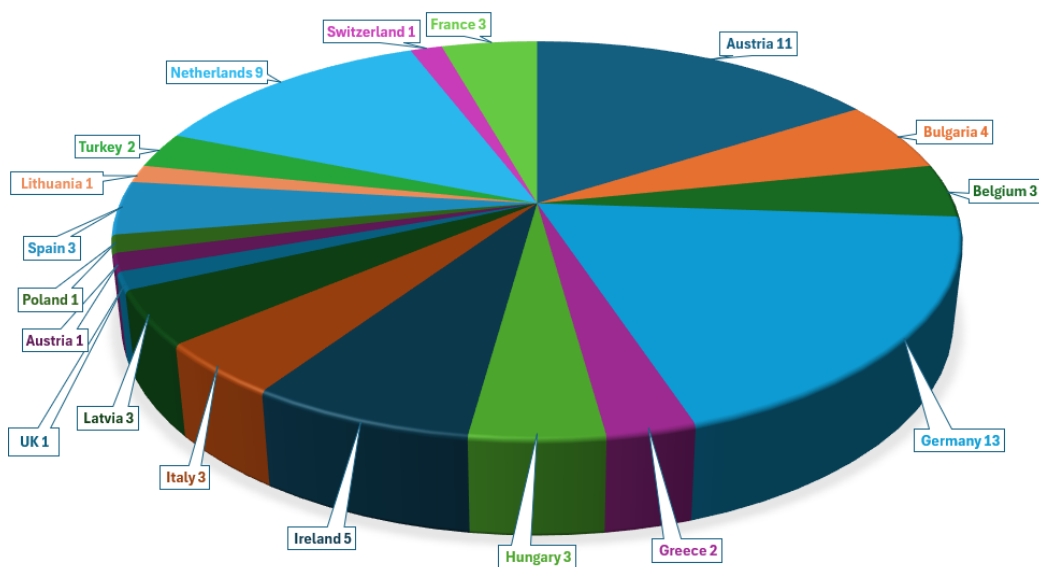
The organization of the conference followed the main elements of sustainability in all aspects of the organization. Vegetarian and vegan food was ordered for meals, there was no separate water bottles or plastic cups, instead a water dispenser was available. Conference name tags were paper with organic material rope, they were ordered from a printing house that uses sustainable material, the conference did not use plastic. Special handouts were not printed for the conference, instead QR codes were provided, except for those toolkits that require a tangible format. Agenda was conveniently placed on the opposite side of the name cards. Gender equality was well balanced from the point of view of organizers, speakers and participants.

2. Conference participants

Conference participants were invited to **pre-register online** during two phases of announcement: 1st announcement (11/12/2023) and 2nd announcement (20/02/2024). A total of 95 participant pre-registered in the conference links. All have received reminder about the conference.

The conference was attended in person by 69 participants from 18 European countries and Turkey, representing academic and research institutions, civil society, business, and public sector. 47 participants came from the Western Europe countries, 14- from Southern Europe (incl. Turkey), from the Central and Eastern Europe. (see **Annex**)

Representation of countries at the conference



Participants data management

Upon arrival participants were asked to sign the registration list and data consent. Each participant had a freedom to choose what personal information to expose on the name tag (the space was left empty).



3. Conference programme and structure

Conference programme (Agenda) was released publicly on the website of the EnergyPROSPECTS project https://www.energyprospects.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/lu_portal/www.energycitizen.eu/Energy_Citizenship_in_the_making_Agenda_FINAL.pdf. A few last-minute adjustments were made to the speaker list. The structure of the conference consisted of keynote speakers, facilitated expert panel discussions, interactive group work of participants, followed by presentations and discussions of the results.

Morning Session (09:30 - 13:00)		
09:30 - 10:00	Arrivals Coffee, Poster Display	
10:00 - 10:15	Welcome Note Speakers: Frances Fahy, BinBin Pearce, Elisabeth Unterfrauner Andrea Kollmann & Pablo Vicente Laiglesia	
10:15 - 10:30	Introduction to the Joint Policy Brief on Energy Citizenship Speakers: BinBin Pearce & Karin Thalberg	
10:30 - 11:15	Panel Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Katja Corcoran (University of Graz, Austria) ● Livia Kalossaka (Vice-President of YES Europe) ● Rheanna Johnston (E3G, Brussels, Belgium) Moderator: Bin Pearce & Karin Thalberg	
11:15 - 11:30	Coffee Break	
11:30 - 12:30	Pathways for energy citizenship: Themes from the Joint Policy Brief on Energy Citizenship Three Parallel Discussion Groups	
12:30 - 13:00	Conclusion of morning session & introduction to the afternoon	
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch break	
Afternoon Session (14:00 - 17:00)		
	Session 1	Session 2
14:00 - 15:00	Multiple perspectives on Energy citizenship - an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary understanding (EC2)	Designing as energy citizens: ENCLUDE Collaborative Playbook (ENCLUDE)
15:00 - 15:15	Coffee Break	
	Session 3	Session 4
15:15 - 16:15	Inclusivity matters! Engaging citizens and collectives in the energy transition (DIALOGUES)	Where would we be without Energy Citizenship? (EnergyPROSPECTS)
16:15 - 17:00	Gathering & Networking	



4. Overview of the Morning Session

Morning Session		9:30 -13:00
09:30 - 10:00	Arrivals	
10:00 - 10:15	Welcome Note	
10:15 - 10:30	Introduction to the Joint Policy Brief on Energy Citizenship	
10:30 - 11:15	Panel Discussion	
11:15 - 11:30	Coffee Break	
11:30 - 12:30	Breakout Rooms: Joint Policy Brief Pathways	
12:30 - 13:00	Conclusion of Morning Session & Introduction to the Afternoon	

4.1. Welcome note

The conference was opened by the welcome notes from EnergyPROSPECTS project leader Frances Fahy (University of Galway), representative from the European Commission - Pablo Vicente Laiglesia (CINEA), Elisabeth Unterfrauner (Zentrum für Soziale Innovation), Andrea Kollmann (Johannes Kepler University Linz), and BinBin Pearce (TU Delft) standing for all collaboration projects.



4.2. Introduction to the Joint Policy Brief on Energy Citizenship

The panel moderators for this session were BinBin Pearce (TU Delft) and Karin Thalberg (Jacques Delors Institute), jointly presenting **“Pathways to Support Citizen Engagement in the Energy Transition”** through analysis of findings and synthesis of results into The Joint Policy Brief.

Firstly, a joint Energy Citizenship definition was presented by Karin Thalberg. Energy citizenship pertains to citizen engagement and involvement in the energy transition and the rights and responsibilities of citizens to that end. This includes considering how to balance right and responsibilities between different stakeholders in the energy transition, ensuring that citizens have the possibility to get engaged in ways tailored to their needs.



Pathways to Support Citizen Engagement in the Energy Transition

BinBin Pearce (TU Delft) & Karin Thalberg (Jacques Delors Institute)

Joint Policy Brief

- **A common voice** between four projects focused on energy citizenship
- **Challenges:** what we saw and heard from citizens, practitioners and experts
- **Pathways:** rethinking needed to address challenges
- **Key message:** Citizenship engagement is not merely an individual responsibility but requires the support of the system it is intended to help improve. This requires rethinking the agency and responsibilities of citizens, policy-makers and other actors within the energy transition.

Challenges

- **Why should I be the one to change?**
- **Why should I trust what you tell me?**
- **Am I able to take part in a citizen-based energy transition?**

Why should I be the one to change? – a matter of fairness

In the face of...

- Increasing number of people facing energy poverty
- Decreasing purchasing power and increasing social exclusion
- Perceived and real lack of inclusion of the energy transition

Why should I believe what you tell me? – a matter of trust

In the face of...

- Erosion of trust in democratic institutions
- A lack of tangible objectives of the energy transition that link to the well-being of people in their everyday lives
- Scepticism in participatory processes and its relevance for actual decision-making

Am I able to take part in the transition? – a matter of creating a supportive ecosystem for energy citizenship

In the face of...

- A lack of consistent, coherent, and tailored regulatory and financial frameworks
- Complex administrative processes
- Limited administrative support for citizens to engage in the energy transition both at the individual and collective level

Pathways

- **Pathway I:** Deep inclusion
- **Pathway II:** Boosting innovation in democratic engagement and building institutional trust
- **Pathway III:** Creating a supportive ecosystem for inclusive energy citizenship

Pathway I: Deep Inclusion

Ensuring meaning inclusion in decision-making with marginalized groups in the energy transition

We provide **10 recommendations** for policy makers at different levels on how to take on a **“human-centered” governance approach** in public participation where sharing of diverse values and needs help to decide the course of action, for example:

- Enable and support citizens to **elicit, deliberate and prioritise diverse values and needs**
- Boost perceptions of **self-efficacy of citizens**
- **Link purpose of participation with the subsequent decision-making outcomes**

Pathway II: Building trust

Boosting innovation in democratic engagement

- There is a **need for granular surveys** on the social determinants of support for different energy transition policy measures, both at the national and EU-level.
- The EU should **strengthen provisions on public participation and consultation** under the regulation on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action (2018/1999).
- Member States should speed up the introduction of **single contact points** (as mandated by the EU Renewable Energy Directive 2018/2001) to provide information on benefits, economic viability, and available subsidies for renewable energy.
- Introduce calls for proposals to fund existing collective energy initiatives in creating projects to support the development of skills and competencies for community participation beyond their initiative.

Pathway III: Creating a supportive ecosystem for inclusive energy citizenship

We provide **19 recommendations** for policy makers at different levels, for example:

- **Speed up the transposition** of Renewable Energy Communities (REC) and Citizen Energy Communities (CEC) frameworks at Member State-level and make sure they are **adapted to the national context**.
- Create a **European Facility for Citizen Involvement** to support citizens involvement in all kinds of energy transition initiatives, beyond RECs and CECs.
- Promote and share best practices from **partnerships between the private sector, public sector, and citizen-led organisations** that enable energy citizenship.
- **Earmark EU-funding and technical assistance for continuous support of citizen-based organisations.**
- **Increase the support targeted towards vulnerable households** by raising the financing envelope for the Social Climate Fund.



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The further presentation centered around **The Joint Policy Brief** which synthesized the collective wisdom and insights of the collaborating projects, offering a strategic vision for embedding energy citizenship within the framework of the European Green Deal. However, it was emphasized that no unified vision has yet been reached due to differentiated approaches to the research in the projects.

This brief advocates for a more expansive understanding of the role of citizens within the European energy transition, urging a shift in perspective beyond traditional views of individuals merely as consumers, prosumers, or members of energy communities. The document offers actionable recommendations for European Union's decision-makers and potentially influencing policies at national and local levels as well.

The presentators challenged the audience by debating a few **challenges and pathways** (see presentation). While discussing types of pathways, ways to rethink the systems we live in were offered, saying they are not mutually exclusive (not a choice or ranking). Key message was that citizens engagement is not only an individual responsibility, but the **system is responsible and should support citizens in the change process**.



Pathway 1: deep inclusion refers to marginalized groups and human-centered governance approach, where significant elements are: Boost self-efficacy; Link purpose and participation with decision makers → why you should participate? and decide How will we use your input?

Pathway 2: building trust and boosting innovation in democratic engagement requests Granular surveys (example in France); the European Union's funding keep collective initiatives alive → push to support them and help them go beyond.

Pathway 3: creating a supportive ecosystem builds on Partnerships between private and public sectors as well as citizens-led initiatives.

4.3. Panel discussion

The event kicked off with a session dedicated to dissecting the essence of energy citizenship, with expert panels discussing its theoretical underpinnings and practical implications. Distinguished experts of this session were Katja Corcoran (University of Graz, Austria), Livia Kalossaka (Vice-president of YES Europe), and Rheanna Johnston (E3G, Brussels). A moderator, Karin Thalberg (Jacques Delors Institute) invited panel speakers to address the following questions:

- Rethinking how we/systems/policy makers engage with citizens
- Pathways envision ways to do this... how to transform that way of engagement
- Bundles of recommendations how to overcome specific challenges (can be taken individually but based on needs for systemic change)
- This mirrors the perspective from all projects that engagement should not only be on the shoulders of citizens themselves, but there needs to be an ecosystem of support to enable this engagement by policy makers.



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This session highlighted the need for a broadened perspective that encompasses not only technological and economic dimensions but also social, psychological, and cultural sides of energy participation. Special emphasis was placed on understanding the psychological drivers of energy citizenship and the importance of social dynamics within energy communities. Insights from behavioural science enriched the discussions, offering a nuanced understanding of how to motivate and engage citizens in energy initiatives.



Katja Corcoran (University of Graz, Austria) turned the audience attention to the psychological aspects and definition of energy citizenship created within the EC² project, where **motivation to act** is a key factor.

Livia Kalossaka (Vice-president of YES Europe) addressed the topic of Young Leaders and the need to recognise how wider contexts such as renting impacts lack of engagement in the energy sector.

She summarized three important takeaways from The Policy Brief:

1. Need to **encourage** those who might not have the time or wherewithal to join energy communities (do things at work, childcare at events, etc.)
2. Providing skills and info training for people that do not know enough (e.g. Advisory hubs - but need them to be efficient, otherwise people get frustrated)
3. Innovation so that there is not a fear of trying and losing resources.

Rheanna Johnston (E3G Brussels) shared her thoughts from the perspective of E3G climate and energy think-tank initiative. She feels there was immense value in a joint brief making as it is going beyond just consumer and prosumer mindset. She invited to be so more creative in terms of what engagement means - where to **involve people and empower** them in these structures? The European Union must make these trade-offs, but it would be helpful to have citizen participation in these decisions

Answering to the question what gaps or challenges are, Rheanna Johnston emphasized:

- Funding issue and targeted resources
- Research on where energy citizenship would be most effective, e.g. places with significant mistrust in governments and high energy poverty
- Need for guidelines / frameworks for how inclusion should look.



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Finally, she asked WHY should citizens want to be engaged? What is the vision we are working towards?

Discussion



Moderated discussion was opened for all participants, some of them elaborated on their viewpoints, others asked direct questions to the speakers-panellists.

4.4. Breakout Rooms: Joint Policy Brief Pathways



The task of breakout groups was to foster open debates around energy citizenship's pivotal role in driving the ongoing energy transition. Participants had a unique opportunity to interact with experts in the field, stakeholders standing for diverse decision-making circles, and individuals from the public sphere. These discussions aimed to actively contribute to shaping energy citizenship future trajectory.

Pathway I: Deep Inclusion

Pathway I: Deep Inclusion. Ensuring meaning inclusion in decision-making with marginalized groups in the energy transition. Work was split into groups of 5-6 people sitting at four tables discussing dimensions of inclusiveness.

Inclusion aspects discussed refer to the **educational and awareness** building initiatives at all education levels and society circles. There is a need for better integration of energy citizenship issues in relevant university study courses. There are already models of school (pupils) and community involvement like Eco-School movement. There is a significant role of **citizen science** involving citizens beyond data



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collection, allowing to define research questions (multiple interactive techniques are available) (Delfi, Problem Tree, Framong, Labs). Citizens have their unique expertise, but questioning is not enough, results orientated interactions are needed (e.g., Science Shop 2.0. model). Though at the same time digital gap affects efficiency. Triple actor model was suggested: citizens-science-academic sector shall be enhanced to promote awareness and involvement.



Pathway II: Building Trust

Pathway II: Building trust: Boosting innovation in a democratic engagement session, discussions separated into three tables of participants. Notes were taken by Michael Lydon (University of Galway, Ireland). 19 participants took part in the group discussion.

The following discussion points were raised by the participants to find what stands behind mistrust?

- Matching citizens with policy experts (intermediaries) a significant challenge
- Making communication effective is important to the energy transition
- Energy citizenship is a privilege and not accessible because of energy poverty
- How to integrate bottom-up or top-down initiatives to nurture spaces for energy citizenship
- Can profitability and energy citizenship be achieved for all
- Access to information is not enough. Inspired use of information as a driving factor
- Giving visibility to energy citizen recommendations
- More research required that is people driven and not data driven
- Policy and recommendations that are new generation focused is needed.
- Citizens assemblies as progressive forms of energy citizenship. Expert opinion alongside citizens assemblies can foster trust in energy saving plans
- There needs to be new cohesive narratives set up that foster trust
- Federalism issue in energy transition dissolves efforts
- Fear of social mobility in middle class a factor in response to energy citizenship.



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Summary of the group discussion highlighted the following aspects in building trust:

- Getting citizens to be involved in institutions, extending understanding on who can be an expert
- The importance of intermediaries
- A clear plan to navigate the information (and misinformation)
- Pathways after a citizen engagement are important to keep momentum. Focus on dialogue.
- Making institutions accountable and engaging in open conversations on policy reform
- Establishing pathways to create cohesive narratives with diversity of citizens.

Pathway III: Creating a Supportive Ecosystem

Pathway III: Creating a supportive ecosystem for inclusive energy citizenship. Notes were taken by Marlyne Sahakian (University of Geneva, Switzerland). The group of 18 people sat at a long table. The overall mission was to gather thoughts and reflections on how to create a supportive ecosystem for inclusive energy citizenship. The session was divided into two parts.

Firstly, everyone was asked to get in groups of 3-4 people to discuss the first set of questions. What were the highlights of (the discussions of) Energy Citizenship? – What stuck out? What supports the ecosystem? How does the energy demand make it possible to stay within the 1.5°C target? Key outcomes are:

- A first point related to the **arrangements in place**. How does the system influence the personal behaviour and vice versa? What can people change in their own lifestyle? How much can this change influence the system?
- The perceived divide between “experts” and the public was criticized. It is important to speak the language of the specific community, be understandable
- Integrated approach which acknowledges the **plurality of actors** and decentralisation of decision-making and the energy system in general
- Important to target the everyday institutions as they are often central to the ecosystem



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- How to involve reluctant citizens and adapt the scales (varying degrees of engagement)?
- How institutions can help, promote and guide more bottom-up initiatives?
- How to solve issue that energy transition is strongly connected to home ownership?
- Energy transition should become more structural despite the political parties and therefore create more continuity. This would allow for more structural changes and dedication.



The second part of this group session dealt with the **takeaways**.

- It is important to get people to move out of their individual consumer life into the community. We should strengthen the bottom-up initiatives
- More inspiring role models of how energy communities can work. (Social) media and influencers can make ideal of energy communities more attractive.
- Also important to be aware of the (structural) limits of local actions
- Since many people (especially young people) are trapped in their individual behaviour, it is important to reskill people to interact with others to build communities. Imaginaries and ideas need to become more practical and embedded in practice. Also important to acknowledge identities and its link to the intersectionality of citizenships.



4.5. Conclusions from the Morning Session



Presented results of the **Pathway I group** addressed not just wide but also meaningful aspects related to Deep Inclusion. They suggested ways to enhance it:

- Education to make e.g. students think about this (primary to tertiary level). This links to parents as well. Giving agency to students to be involved also increases self-efficacy
- The question is about what are needs of municipalities in this context, none could define
- Using existing institutions - knowing where people already gather and building on this impetus. Recognising that existing tools might not be as effective as we think. Personal contacts are hugely useful
- Moving to action - how to use this information, once gathered. Need to stop just talking and switch to mentality of learning by doing (top-down and bottom-up)
- Lack of trust in institutions needs to be recognised. Importance of science communication, one-stop-shops is a promising idea.



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Results of the **Pathway II group** address democratising innovation and trust on energy citizenship:

- Trust can vary drastically (ex., Covid fluctuations - also national differences)
- Agreed institutions need to be changed so that citizen voices are more heard and more integrated into outcomes too (follow-ups, rather than just ‘fig-leaf’ participation).
- Challenges:
 - Inability to relate to institutions
 - Challenge to equalise different voices (make sure everyone is heard and overcome disagreements)
 - Expertise often seen negatively (elites). Should be recognised as positive, but also broader (lived experience, networking, etc.) How to incentivise this and make it accessible?
 - How to communicate and have cohesive narratives?
 - Institutional lack of trust in European Union (on multiple levels).

Results of the **Pathway III group** address the structures and regulations related to energy citizenship:

- Supportive ecosystems for inclusive Energy Citizenship
- Structural factors that shape our ability to participate
- Visions not the best framing - need tangible goals (use language people use)
- Energy transition is a process - so need to link it to differing life stages for different generations.
- Scales of engagement, importance of domestic sphere
- Skills beyond technical - organising, facilitating, etc. are important.

Some of the suggested takeaway points include:

- Make energy citizenship attractive: see the role of influencers and think creatively.
- All local actions will hit against broader structural dynamics (how to address limits of collective action)
- Embedding practices and giving them an opportunity to show and amplify
- Idea of reskilling includes skills to organise and work collectively (overcoming individualism).

5. Overview of the Afternoon Session

Afternoon Session		14:00 - 17:00
14:00 - 15:00	Session 1: Multiple perspectives on Energy citizenship - an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary understanding (EC2)	Session 2: Designing as energy citizens: ENCLUDE Collaborative Playbook (ENCLUDE)
15:00 - 15:15	Coffee Break	
15:15 - 16:15	Session 3: Inclusivity matters! Engaging citizens and collectives in the energy transition (DIALOGUES)	Session 4: Where would we be without energy citizenship? (EnergyPROSPECTS)
16:15 - 17:00	Gathering & Networking	



5.1. Session 1: Multiple perspectives on Energy citizenship - an interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary understanding (EC²)

Session was moderated by EC² project representative Daniela Fuchs (Centre for Social Innovation, Austria). 29 participants joined the group. It was organized as an interactive discussion with multiple perspectives on energy citizenship from a psychology, law, economy, practitioner, and policy view.



While discussing **multiple perspectives on energy citizenship**, the following aspects were raised:

- The role of municipality to react in a more structural way to citizens' initiatives
- What are role-models beyond technical one: young generation and activists.
- Psychology aspects of energy citizenship and what are social tipping points
- Conflict between citizenship and consumer, and factors which add to these contradictions
- Need for more inclusive gender-focus, including other communities, and energy poverty groups
- Communication and social interactions
- Need for good narrative that encompasses energy citizenship.

Considering **how to strengthen democratic innovation through economic power**, it was concluded that:

- The public sector plays a pivotal role in managing energy transition through its funding priorities, taxation approaches, and participation mechanisms
- Admitting that the business and private sectors looks for synergies with public sectors, and when given clear priorities, negative aspects of economic lobbying were emphasized as affecting energy communities.

The most important lesson from the discussion was the value that different perspectives can bring (heterogeneity). And a lot of conflicts identified are because of people not having enough perspectives and experience of different contexts and viewpoints.



5.2. Session 2: Designing as energy citizens: ENCLUDE Collaborative Playbook (ENCLUDE)



During this session, attended by 13 participants, the audience was guided through a design thinking exercise from the ENCLUDE Collaborative Playbook thus helping to create a mutual understanding of a complex problem. BinBin Pearce (TU Delft) expanded a perception of design thinking to include citizens participation in the energy transition in a meaningful way.

The following issues were raised by the audience:

- Critical **mistrust** not only in institutions, but also among citizens themselves. Frequently, individual mindsets are affected by historical and cultural contexts
- **Communication gap** between various actors and shortcomings in science communication. Scientists-policy makers-civil society all are in the circle of ineffective communication, as they may also lack interest in communication
- **Communication language and tools**: importance of visuals (infographics) and understandable language.

5.3. Session 3: Inclusivity matters! Engaging citizens and collectives in the energy transition (DIALOGUES)

Session was attended by 23 participants. It addressed several questions:

- What are some best practices/roles of thumb to ensure inclusivity in the energy transition?
- How can we accord social and political and cultural differences between the EU member states in the context of inclusion?
- What are the most important takeaways for the EU policy makers on a way forward?

Discussion insights highlighted that a needs-based approach should be practiced. It includes targeted actions for better understanding of gender issues (various contexts/groups) in energy transition context. Limits to consumption shall be set, citizens need to feel their belonging to collective efforts.





5.4. Session 4: Where would we be without energy citizenship? (EnergyPROSPECTS)

Opening remarks by Rene Kemp (UM, Netherlands), Martina Schäfer (TUB, Germany) and Edina Vadovics (GDI, Hungary). Notes were taken by Jönne Huhnt (Bauhaus University, Germany). This session was attended by 24 participants. Firstly, Rene Kemp underlined that energy citizenship is important to get initiatives started and continues to be an important driver for change. There is an element of cooperation where everyone is invited to do what they can with the recognition that it is worthwhile. Edina Vadovics focussed on the Eastern Europe countries experience during the “socialist” regime, when citizenship efforts were actively discouraged, however, some initiatives show participation and collective efforts.



Issues addressed in the group discussion included:

- Socio-economic and geographical factors affecting acceptance of change (energy transition)
- Role of voluntarism in supporting and sustaining energy citizenship
- Public funding to kickstart cases
- Implementing community service to spread the idea of energy citizenship
- More recognition of the community members' contributions
- Sustainability driven energy citizenship as bridging the divide between social and efficiency (business)
- Institutional trust and more social trust require better ways of communicating
- Energy communities can bring investments into energy system and the public, the state instead of to the big energy providers.
- Energy communities help communities to become more resilient against external shocks
- Looking behind the binarity of 'the public or the citizen' and decentralise energy citizenship!

6. Concluding remarks

The conference was a landmark event that not only celebrated the achievements of the EnergyPROSPECTS project but also set the stage for the next steps in the evolution of energy citizenship.

The discussions and outcomes of the conference underscore the critical role of energy citizenship in achieving an inclusive, sustainable, and democratic Green New Deal. The policy recommendations and insights generated offer a blueprint for policymakers and stakeholders at all levels, from the European Union to local communities, Energy citizenship emphasizes the engagement and involvement of citizens in this transition, focusing on their rights and responsibilities towards achieving carbon neutrality. Despite the European Energy Union's goal to centralize citizens in this shift, there is still a significant need for actions that ensure an inclusive transition that helps everyone to integrate citizen voices and experiences into the heart of the energy transition.

The conference focused on the concept of active public participation in energy system transformation to a more sustainable one, challenging the traditional notion of consumers and highlighting crucial questions of unequal agency and access to resources. It was noted that official discourses often shift responsibility for the energy transition onto consumers, effectively disempowering them and disconnecting them from the process. To address this, energy citizenship needs to be reconceptualized to incorporate more collective and inclusive contexts for action. Key themes discussed at the conference included the transition to renewable resources, reducing energy consumption through a sufficiency approach, achieving energy independence, decentralization and resource control (energy democracy), social and technological innovations, and fostering solidarity and fair conditions in energy markets.

To summarise, the event was a great achievement in advancing the scientific understanding of energy citizenship in the European context, and in addition, it promoted new partnerships between the interested actors and parties involved in the process.

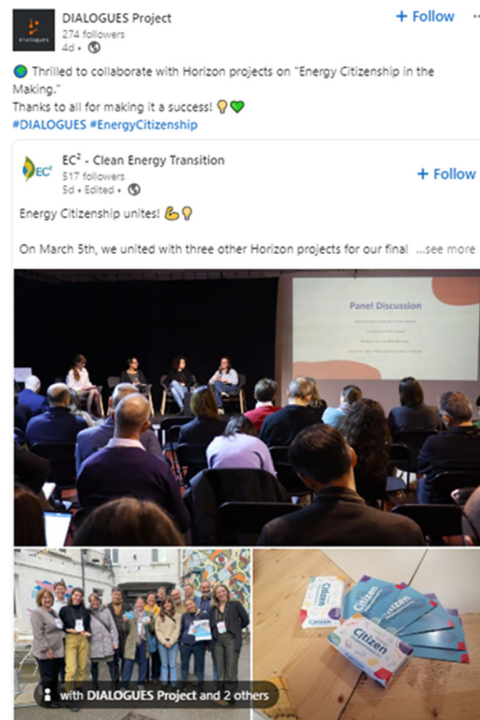
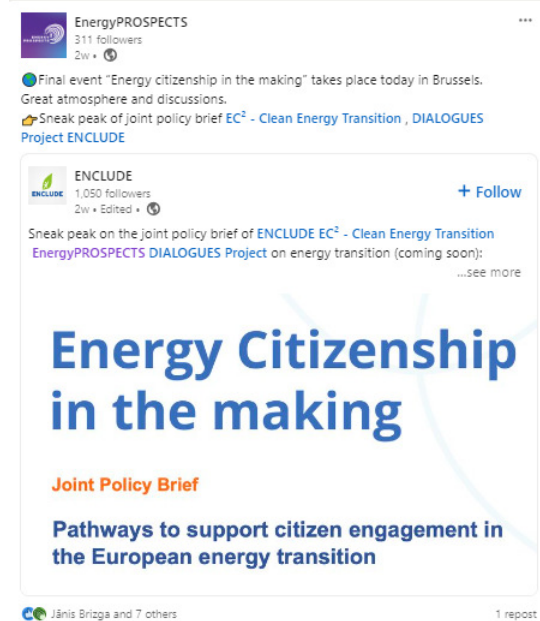


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7. Conference publicity, communication, and networking

Conference communications in social media

In the course of the entire organization of the conference, comprehensive and multifaceted publicity of the event was ensured.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101022492.

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The conference results have been disseminated in social media accounts of the EnergyPPROSPECTS project <https://www.energyprospects.eu/news/news/detailed-view/t/83397/> and sister projects.

In April, 2024 a final project Newsletter will be issued including report on the conference results.

12.03.2024



EnergyPROSPECTS, together with three sister Horizon 2020 projects dedicated to the exploration of energy citizenship, organised the "Energy Citizenship in the making" event, which took place in Brussels on the 5th of March, 2024. The event was designed with the objective of looking into the contributions of energy citizenship towards realizing a more inclusive, democratic, and environmentally sustainable Green Deal, drawing upon the collective research and findings of the four collaborating projects. Attracting a diverse group of over 50 participants, the event brought together scholars, policymakers from various levels of the European Union and its Member States, and representatives from civil society. One of the aspects of the gathering was the discussion centered around a joint policy brief recently published by the consortium of projects. This brief advocates for a more expansive understanding of the role of citizens within the European energy transition, urging a shift in perspective beyond traditional views of individuals merely as consumers, prosumers, or members of energy communities.

Throughout the collaborative efforts of these projects, an impressive total of around 32,000 citizens have actively participated in a broad array of activities aimed at researching and building capacity around the concept of energy citizenship. These activities encompassed interviews, surveys, workshops, case studies, co-creative endeavors, as well as various educational and training initiatives. The policy brief serves as a culmination of these efforts, synthesizing the diverse knowledge, perspectives, and experiences of the involved citizens. It presents a series of concrete pathways and recommendations for policymakers, with a primary focus on those at the European Union level, though the insights contained within are also of potential relevance to Member States, regional, and local authorities. The document underscores the importance of integrating the voices and experiences of citizens in shaping policies that not only address the technical aspects of the energy transition but also its social, cultural, and democratic dimensions.

JOINT POLICY BRIEF



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Conference materials (posters, banners)

The EnergyPROSPECTS team has designed and produced three generous size banners on the results of the project and 20 posters characterizing in-depth studied cases, selecting the cases providing the most diverse landscape of energy citizenship exposures in participating countries.



The event was also an opportunity to share **Energy Citizen Empowerment Kits**, which provided a talking point as participants networked over socializing breaks at the conference. The introduction of Energy Citizen Empowerment Kits provide practical tools and resources designed to facilitate greater citizen participation in energy decision-making, displaying innovative approaches to education and engagement in the energy sector attracted great interest of participants.



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EnergyPROSPECTS project team at the conference



Networking and socializing during the conference



List of conference participants

NR.	NAME, FAMILY NAME	ORGANISATION	COUNTRY
1.	A.Kollmann	Energieinstitut an der JKU Linz	Austria
2.	A.Grignani	Municipality of Scalenghe - EC2 project	Italy
3.	A.Hülle	Energieavantgarde Anhalt e.V.	Germany
4.	A.Debourdeau	Zentrum Technik und Gesellschaft, TU Berlin	Germany
5.	B.Buccolini	ICLEI ES	Italy
6.	B.Boza-Kiss	IIASA	Austria
7.	B.Schmid	University of Galway	Ireland
8.	B.Pearce	Delft University of Technology	The Netherlands
9.	B.Pel	Utrecht University	The Netherlands
10.	B.Ryszawska	Wroclaw University of Economics and Bussines	Poland
11.	C.Gutschi	University of Graz	Austria
12.	C.Massullo	Roma Tre University	Italy
13.	D.Botha	ICLEI Europe	Germany
14.	D.Sloot	Karlsruhe Institute of Technology	Germany
15.	D.Fuchs	Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI)	Austria
16.	D.Ferraro	GEN Europe	Lithuania
17.	D.Ariane	TUB	Germany
18.	D.Eerland	Buurkracht	The Netherlands
19.	E.Mihály	GreenDependent Institute Ltd.	Hungary
20.	E.Vadovics	GreenDependent Institute	Hungary
21.	E.van Dijck	Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences	The Netherlands
22.	E.Unterfrauner	Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI)	Austria
23.	E.Lagzdina	University of Latvia	Latvia
24.	E.Peralbo	Universidad de A Coruña (UDC)	Spain
25.	F.Rozborski	Graz University of Technology	Austria
26.	F.Fahy	University of Galway / EnergyPROSPECTS	Ireland
27.	F.Whitlock	Global Ecovillage Network GEN Europe	Spain
28.	G.Goggins	LIFE IP Wild Atlantic Nature	Ireland
29.	G.Xexakis	Holistic S.A. (ENCLUDE partner)	Greece
30.	G.Mątownska	Th!nk E	Belgium
31.	I.Kudrenickis	University of Latvia	Latvia
32.	J.Quist	TU Delft - TPM	The Netherlands
33.	J.Brontsema	Gemeente Groningen	The Netherlands
34.	J.Brizga	University of Latvia	Latvia



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Nr.	NAME, FAMILY NAME	ORGANISATION	COUNTRY
35.	J.Feichtinger	Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI)	Austria
36.	J.Epp	Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research	Germany
37.	J.Huhnt	Bauhaus University	Germany
38.	K.Thalberg	Jacques Delors Institute	France
39.	K.Corcoran	University of Graz	Austria
40.	K.Komninos	DAFNI Network of Sustainable Greek Islands	Greece
41.	K.Vadovics	GreenDependent Institute	Hungary
42.	L.Guaita	ICLEI Europe	Germany
43.	L.Losada Puente	University of A Coruña	Spain
44.	M.Anantharaman	Sciences Po university	France
45.	M.Hajdinjak	Applied Research and Communications Fund (ARC Fund)	Bulgaria
46.	M.Mogg	University of Graz, EC ² Horizon2020 project	Austria
47.	M.Schäfer	Center for Technology and Society, Technische Universität Berlin	Germany
48.	M.Greene	Wageningen University	Netherlands
49.	M.Biresselioglu	Izmir University of Economics	Turkey
50.	M.Lydon	University of Galway	Ireland
51.	M. Demir	Izmir University of Economics	Turkey
52.	M.Ispyridou	Applied Research and Communications Fund (ARC Fund)	Bulgaria
53.	N.Ghezel Sefloo	Universität Graz	Austria
54.	N.Dunphy	University College Cork	Ireland
55.	P.Vicente Laiglesia	European Commission/ CINEA	Belgium
56.	R.Aleksieva	Center for the Study of Democracy	Bulgaria
57.	R.Kemp	Maastricht Sustainability Institute	The Netherlands
58.	R.Brandt	Renewable Energy Agency (AEE)	Germany
59.	S.Marlyne	University of Geneva (UNIGE)	Switzerland
60.	S.Lorek	Sustainable Europe Research Institute	Germany
61.	G.Alistér	Geder CC	Germany
62.	A.Smok	Th!nkE/Enclude	Belgium
63.	P.Silva Pel	private	The Netherlands
64.	B.Kirchler	EI-JKU	Austria
65.	G.Carrus	University Roma Tre	Italy
66.	L.Kalossaka	Imperial College	UK
67.	H.Rau	LMU Munich	Germany
68.	B.Veihulit	Missions Pub.	Bulgaria
69.	E.Dagornng	Missions Pub	France

