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Report on barriers and action drivers: energy communities under the Clean Energy Package

Speaker:

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Scope of Report on Barriers & Action Drivers:

- **Main focus:**
 1. Energy community activities enabled under the Clean Energy Package (RES production, sharing, supply, flexibility)
 2. Cross-cutting barriers/drivers (definitions, financing, expertise, awareness and information, accessibility for vulnerable households)
- **Barriers & Action Drivers:**
 1. Focus on connection between different barriers/drivers and regulatory and institutional arrangements for energy communities
 2. How they impact the ability for energy communities to undertake different activities
- **Methodology:** Interviews with energy communities, civil society organisations, local authorities and market actors working with energy communities (e.g. DSOs), literature review, country fiches, and two workshops (Feb/July 2023)

Grouping barriers & action drivers



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Cross-cutting barriers & action drivers

Defining characteristic: something that is likely to be present regardless of the activity the energy community engages in

1. A clear and uniform legal definition for energy communities
2. Certainty, predictability and accessibility of public & private finance
3. Technical expertise, information and awareness
4. Accessibility for vulnerable households



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Community renewable energy production

Scope: barriers & drivers towards community-owned production of electricity, gas or heating from renewable energy resources (wind, solar PV, biomass, etc)

Barriers:

1. Lack of sites for production
2. Auction-based schemes for accessing available renewables support schemes
3. Difficulties obtaining a grid connection

Action drivers:

- Policy objectives, goals or targets for energy communities
- Providing public spaces through tendering
- Integrating energy communities in to the design of renewables support schemes
- Measures to facilitate a grid connection



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Energy sharing – identified barriers:

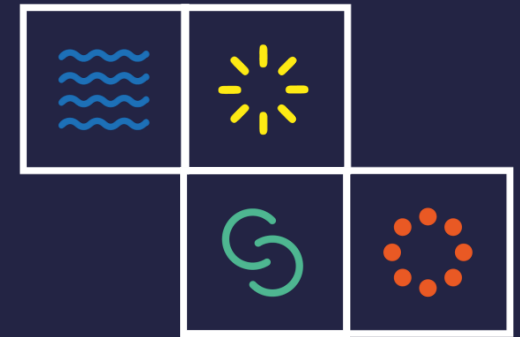
1. Lack of distinction between energy communities, active customers and energy sharing
2. Lack of clear duties and roles of system operators
 - Lack of information and awareness on energy sharing
 - Lack of clear or transparent procedures to register and connect energy sharing projects
 - Lack of proper IT infrastructure for the collection, validation and sharing metering data
3. Limitations for how energy sharing can be arranged
4. Interdependencies with Suppliers
5. Limited remuneration pathways for excess production and access to finance



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Energy sharing – action drivers:

1. Creating a clear legal distinction between energy communities and energy sharing
2. Clarifying procedural requirements for DSOs to follow in facilitating energy sharing
 - Tools to promote awareness and access to guidance and technical support on energy sharing
 - Putting in place appropriate procedures for registering energy sharing projects
 - Putting in place appropriate IT infrastructure to make energy sharing possible
3. Providing flexibility to energy communities in the design and scope of energy sharing arrangements
4. Foster cooperation between suppliers of residual energy and energy communities
5. Cost-reflective volumetric network charges
6. Investment support and remuneration for excess production



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Community supply – identified barriers:

1. Obtaining a supplier's license
2. Operating as a supplier
3. Selling production directly through PPAs



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Community supply – action drivers:

1. Providing for exemption or simplification of regulations for community supply
 - Supply license exemption
 - Limited supply license and responsibilities
 - Providing flexibility in complying with regulatory requirements
 - Providing assistance to communities
2. Provision of supply services by other market actors
 - Facilitating uptake of responsibilities to play a larger role in the energy system
 - Facilitating supply of community-owned renewables production



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Communities providing flexibility: barriers

1. From the perspective of energy communities:
 - Limited existing demand from energy community members
 - High cost for service providers
 - Immaturity of markets
 - Insufficient IT and market skills
2. Regulatory and market barriers for small market actors
 - Access to a smart meter
 - Data access
 - Contradicting economic incentives
 - Lack of market access for aggregated loads
 - Aggregation of small consumer loads
 - Challenges entering into long-term commitments to provide flexibility
 - Network regulation
 - Net metering arrangements
 - Lack of options around a flexible connection agreement



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Communities providing flexibility: potential action drivers

1. Dynamic/time of use tariffs
2. Access to relevant ICT tools
3. Allowing aggregation of smaller consumer loads
4. Use of regulatory sandboxes
5. Development of local flexibility markets



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Keep an eye out

- Summary report – Roadmap to developing national frameworks for energy communities
- Guidance documents:
 - 1) One stop shops – just published
 - 2) Energy sharing – forthcoming





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Contact us:

Energy Communities Repository
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THANK YOU!