



ENERGY
COMMUNITIES
REPOSITORY

Classification urban/rural communities
Degree of Urbanisation



The Energy communities Repository and the Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub use the [Degree of urbanisation \(DEGURBA\)](#) to classify which areas of Europe are considered to be rural areas for this project. In this regard, DEGURBA is a classification that indicates the characteristics of an area. More specifically, based on the share of local population living in urban clusters and urban centres, DEGURBA classifies [Local Administrative Unites \(LAU\)](#) into three types of areas:

1. Cities
2. Towns and suburbs
3. Rural areas

[This Excel file](#) lists all municipalities in Europe and their DEGURBA.

If an energy community (per the EU definitions¹²) and/or the [activities/project\(s\)](#) of an energy community are located in an [LAU](#) that is classified as a ‘**cities or towns and suburbs**’ per the DEGURBA classification, the energy community is considered to be a **urban energy community**. Consequently, the energy community should preferably apply to the Energy Communities Repository’s Technical Assistance.

If an energy community (per the EU definitions) and/or the [activities/project\(s\)](#) of an energy community are located in an [LAU](#) that is classified as a ‘**rural area**’ per the DEGURBA classification, the energy community is considered to be a **rural energy community**. Consequently, the energy community should preferably apply to the RECAH’s Technical Assistance. In addition to this, energy communities that have activities related to the energy technology biogas (e.g. pumping) would be automatically classified as rural energy communities as well.

For example, an energy community is officially registered as a cooperative (legal entity) in [Ghent](#) (Belgium) and has its main activities/project(s) in Ghent as well. Per the DEGURBA classification, this location is a city and so this energy community would not be classified as a rural energy community. However, if this same energy community has its main activities/project(s) located in [Hoogstraten](#) (Belgium), it would be classified as a rural energy community as the location of the main activities/project(s) of the community are in a location that is classified as a rural area per the DEGURBA classification. Furthermore, if the main activities/project(s) of this energy community located in Ghent are related to the biogas technology, it would also be seen as a rural energy community no matter the location of the energy community or its main activities.

¹ [the Recast Renewable Energy Directive](#)

² [the Recast Internal Electricity Market Directive](#)



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