



Editorial

Dear Citizen-led renovation community,

As 2023 comes to close, we reflect on 2023 and look forward to 2024 with enthusiasm.

Spring 2023 started with an open call, at which end our 4 pilots from Ireland, Portugal, Belgium and Bulgaria were selected to be supported in their effort to provide and upscale citizen-led renovation activities in their communities. From September on, the Support service for Citizen-led renovation became busy with on one hand providing an overview of regulation that supports citizen led renovation in four pilot member states. On the other hand we started the direct collaboration with our pilots to identify and start the support of their activities. You can find more details about those activities in our newsletter below.

With the revised Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, we expect 2024 to start with a push to more citizen-led initiatives. We will continue work with our pilots to further their activities and ambitions ensuring increased on the ground implementation. Using three key tools, we aim to use lessons learned from pilots to share knowledge and initiate pro-active network of citizen-led renovation initiatives:

First, our Lighthouses and followers board will bring 10+ initiatives from across Europe in contact with our pilots to exchange experiences and help shape our support to be universally applicable across Europe.

Second, our Enablers board, which involves representatives from European Parliament, European support actions, member state governmental organizations and other European initiatives will increase the visibility of citizen-led renovation initiatives and provide an adequate enabling framework for their upscaling.

Third, our interactive online platform for citizen-led renovation initiatives will allow exchange of information and lessons learned among interested communities.

2024 provides many opportunities for increased visibility, support, collaboration and impact of citizen-led renovation initiatives across Europe and Support service for Citizen-led renovation is enabling platform and driven partner in this process.

What is Citizen-led Renovation?

How can we use the engagement power of energy communities to increase the energy efficiency of buildings and put citizens in the driver's seat of the energy transition? By helping them to set up renovation support for their members and the wider community, empowering them for Citizen-led renovation!

Find out what's behind the concept of and the support service for citizen-led renovation [here](#)

News from the Support Service for Citizen-led Renovation

Activities of the Citizen-led renovation pilot communities

Since the start of the support service in September this year, our pilot communities have been very busy:



[Energent, Belgium](#) dived right in to improve their approach to citizens and visibility of their services. For this, they started with an [analysis of their clients](#), especially their challenges and needs, assisted by the Support Service for Citizen-led renovation.

[Izgrei, Bulgaria](#) joined forces in [two workshops](#) with not only experts in building renovation but also citizens in Sofia to find paths for apartment building renovations and possible business models, building on existing actions in Bulgaria.

[Coopernico, Portugal](#) initiated collaboration with five renewable energy communities to outline actions needed for not only PV installation but also building renovations.

[Triple SEC, Ireland](#) which represents collaboration of three Dubliner sustainable energy communities dived into identifying key actions to support their citizens in their renovation actions.

Stay up to date about the pilots' activities, get in contact with them or engage in joint discussions on citizen-led renovation using our [interactive Exchange Platform](#)!

Final events of the Energy Communities Repository and the Regional Energy Community Advisory Hub

The Citizen-led renovation initiative attended the final events of Energy Communities Repository (ECR) and the Regional Energy Community Advisory Hub (RECAH) in Dublin, Ireland. Both projects shared their insights and learnings at the end of the project period.



The Regional Energy Community Advisory Hub aims to have a tangible impact on local communities and has provided technical assistance to 28 communities across Europe, covering over 50 activities to promote sustainable energy practices. The support also includes guidance and strategies to identify and overcome barriers to the success of energy communities. The Energy Communities Repository has mapped energy communities across Europe. Mapping these communities involves analysing different datasets to understand the legislative and social dynamics at play. At the final conference, both projects shared their key findings, practitioners from the field reported on their projects, and panels discussed the support needs of energy communities.

[Find a detailed report of the events here!](#)

15th Citizens' Energy Forum: Moving towards a people-centred energy system

The Citizen-led renovation Initiative attended the 15th Citizens' Energy Forum organised by the European Commission and moderated a breakout session.



This year's edition of the Forum focused on middle- and low-income consumers and the solutions they can access or implement. It brought together a wide range of stakeholders, including citizens' groups, NGOs, businesses as well as policy makers. In various sessions, participants discussed what is needed to move towards a people-centred energy system. Diana Süßner, Senior Expert at the Institute for European Energy and Climate Policy (IEECP), moderated the breakout session on "Reducing our dependence on natural gas: Improving the energy performance of European households".

[Find a detailed report about the event and the breakout session here!](#)

Announcements

The Citizen-led Renovation Exchange Platform is live!

Our goal is to transform living spaces into homes that are not only aesthetically pleasing, but also energy-efficient and eco-friendly at the same time. Who says you can't have it all? We want to create a space where ideas, experiences but also tips and tricks from like-minded experts can be shared and exchanged, from installing solar panels to improving insulation, and witnessing the positive environmental but also financial impact these changes can have!

[Become a member of our Citizen-led Renovation community now and let's start the journey together!](#)

New rules to boost energy performance of buildings across the EU

On 7th december, the European Parliament and the Council reached a provisional agreement on a strengthened Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), supporting the EU's efforts to reduce the emissions and energy use of buildings across the EU.

Read more about the range of measures that will help EU governments boost structurally the energy performance and decarbonisation of buildings, with a specific focus on the worst-performing buildings in the [official press release](#).

News from our Partner Network

EU islands secretariat: The Journey Begins 30 Renewable Islands for 2030 - Ready, Set, 30!

The EU islands' call for applications of interest for 30 renewable islands for 2030 has concluded, and the EU islands secretariat is thrilled to announce the selection of 30 islands and island groups from 10 European countries ready to lead the way towards a sustainable future.



[Find out more here!](#)

Smart Cities Marketplace: Watch now - Urban Insights Episode 1

In this short video Georg Houben, Project Officer of DG ENER and responsible for the Smart Cities Marketplace, discusses the urgency of addressing climate change, particularly in Europe, where the EU Green Deal aims to make the continent climate-neutral by 2050. Various packages, such as the Fit for 55 package, outline specific targets for reducing carbon emissions by 2030. Now, the focus is on translating these ambitious goals into action at the city level.



[Interested? Find the video in German and English here!](#)

oPEN Lab: Views from the oPEN Living Lab Genk

In this video, the oPEN Living Lab Genk team showcases the progress they've made over the past six months. This video highlights their search for 8 test dwellings in the garden city of Waterschei in Genk. From postcards and parties to home visits and info sessions: this video will show you that no efforts were spared to inform, inspire and convince homeowners in Waterschei to join the oPEN Lab project and renovate their homes in energy efficient ways. But that's not all, you'll also get a sneak preview into the very first test dwelling to participate! Vasso, the first homeowner of an oPEN Lab test dwelling in Waterschei, will tell you everything about her motivation to participate and her hopes and wishes for the future.



[Watch the video here!](#)

Contact us!

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Citizen-Led Renovation Exchange Platform | Futurium (europa.eu)

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Catalogue number: MJ-BC-23-001-EN-N

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ISSN: 2811-9010 | Catalogue Number: MJ-BC-23-002-EN-N