



## Editorial

### **Welcome to the first edition of the Citizen-led Renovation Newsletter!**

Residential Buildings are facing an increased need for renovation. In this, energy communities play a vital role in fostering change and elevating renovation rates of private buildings. The citizen-led renovation project starts exactly where action is needed. It is a new EU initiative aiming to empower energy communities and to put citizens in the driver's seat for energy-saving renovation projects.

The Call for Application to participate in our Citizen-Led Renovation Initiative and become one of our four selected pilots has been closed on 31 May 2023. After actively reaching out to 600 initiatives and going through an extensive round of evaluation and selection of the 14 applications, based on criteria jointly defined by the Citizen-led renovation consortium, 4 pilot energy communities from Belgium, Bulgaria, Ireland and Portugal will obtain support in overcoming obstacles and barriers in various fields!

Our support service for our four selected pilots will strengthen community building and assist in replicating programmes for energy renovations of buildings, including insulation, new technical systems and installing renewables. It is also our goal to help our four pilots to overcome financial, legal, technical and informational barriers and deliver future-proof residential buildings.

Get to know our 4 pilots Energent, Izgrei, Triple SEC as well as Coopernico and read more about upcoming activities in this month's newsletter edition!

Lucija Rakocevic, Coordinator of the Support Service for Citizen-led Renovation

## 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

### Meet our Pilots!

After actively reaching out to 600 initiatives and going through an extensive round of evaluation and selection of the 14 applications, based on criteria jointly defined by the Citizen-led renovation consortium, 4 Pilot Initiatives were chosen to be supported by our consortium in their endeavour to put citizens in the driver's seat of renovation projects. Learn more about each one of them:



For our Belgian energy community pilot [Energent](#), our Citizen-led renovation initiative will provide support in outreach and the engagement of citizens interested in energetic renovations.

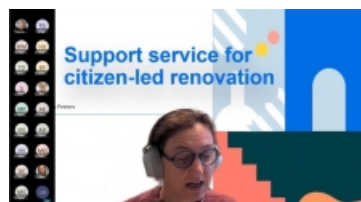
Our Bulgarian energy community pilot [Izgrei](#) just recently completed their first PV solar installation with small house renovation included and now it aims at engaging in a multi-family building by renovation to an apartment building in Bulgaria's capital Sofia.

Our energy community pilot from Dublin City, Ireland, the [Triple SEC](#) consisting of Connecting Cabra, Cosybatter & Phibsboro will receive support in implementing activities and application processes.

Our energy community pilot [Coopernico](#) from Portugal is joining our Citizen Led Renovation initiative to gain support and eventually become a one-stop-shop for renovation.

### Key take aways: Citizen Engagement - Accelerate the Clean Energy Transition

With a particular emphasis on citizen engagement, affordable housing, energy efficiency, and digitalisation, this webinar as part of the EUSEW Sustainable Energy Days served as a platform for exchanging ideas and forging partnerships to shape the future of urban environments.



Together with the Smart Cities Marketplace, the European Commission's Affordable Housing Initiative, and the EU-funded projects oPEN Lab and ATELIER, Citizen-led Renovation presented first insights about the power of citizen-led renovation initiatives as the catalyst for sustainable building transformation.

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

## Building resilience into Irish homes

Citizen-led renovation pilot Triple SEC and Policy Officer Julien Tami took the stage at the Retrofitting Ireland event in Limerick



At this year's event Retrofitting Ireland: Building resilience into Irish homes in Limerick, two objectives were at the centre of attention. Firstly, to discuss the implications of current national and EU level policies and legislation and secondly, to highlight the available resources for people and to promote companies and technologies involved in energy related renovations. Both aspects have been discussed taking into account what this means for the consumer. DG ENER Policy Officer Julien Tami from the European Commission was part of the panel discussion, putting an emphasis on EU policy framework that impacts the build environment, most notably the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) and more generally, the Fit for 55 package. A representative of the Irish Citizen-led Renovation pilot Triple SEC was part of the audience, contributing to the discussions.

[Find a detailed report and link to the whole panel discussion here.](#)

## News from our Partner Network

### **oPEN Lab: Sessions on Engaging Local Communities and Green Finance**

oPEN Lab is a EU-funded project with 32 partners from 7 countries collaborating to revitalise urban areas across Europe to lead the transition to Positive Energy Neighbourhoods. Over the duration of 4.5 years, oPEN Lab will focus on identifying and demonstrating replicable, commercially viable solution packages enabling to achieve positive energy buildings and neighbourhoods.



Meet the experts from oPEN Lab at their session during the EU Week of Cities and Regions on 10 October, 16:30-17:00, in Brussels, and learn more about how local communities and neighbourhoods engage citizens in sustainable urban transitions through social innovation and affordable housing.

On 2 November, 14:00-15:30, you can also join a virtual workshop of the project which will delve into the intersection of sustainable urban development and responsible financial strategies.

Register now!

[EU Week of Regions and Cities: How to engage local communities to drive urban regeneration and social innovation](#)

[Workshop: Green Finance Strategies for Positive Energy Neighbourhoods](#)

## **Smart Cities Marketplace Presentations**

The Smart Cities Marketplace and its partners are presenting at the European Week of Regions and Cities in Brussels and the Smart City Expo World Congress in Barcelona



The Smart Cities Marketplace plays an important role in speeding up the green transition of cities in Europe by improving citizens' quality of life, increasing the competitiveness of European cities and industry as well as reaching European energy and climate targets. If you are interested in an exchange, you can meet our colleagues at the European Week of Regions and Cities in Brussels from 9 to 12 October or at the Smart City Expo World Congress in Barcelona from 7 to 9 November.

Register now!

[The Smart Cities Marketplace at the European Week of Regions and Cities](#)

[Smart Cities Marketplace and Partners at Smart City Expo World Congress, Barcelona](#)

## **Call for application of interest for 30 renewable energy islands**

The Clean energy for EU islands secretariat, an initiative of the European Commission, is the central platform for the clean energy transition of the more than 2,200 inhabited European islands. Despite having access to renewable sources of energy, such as wind and wave energy, many of them depend on expensive fossil fuel imports for their energy supply.



Get ready to dive headfirst into the EU islands call for the application of interest for 30 renewable islands for 2030. The aim of this call is to identify and provide technical support to 30 islands or groups of islands for the next three years.

[Apply here!](#)

## Event Announcements

**10/11/2023**

### **Joint final conference of the Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub (RECAH) and the Energy Communities Repository (ECR)**

On a joint closing conference, the ECR and the RECAH discuss the main outcomes of these initiatives with energy community practitioners and provide, one more time, a platform for exchange with fellow communities and other experts on the subject.

more

**09/11/2023**

## **Save the Date - 15th Citizens' Energy Forum**

The Citizens' Energy Forum meets on an annual basis and aims to explore consumers' perspective and role in a competitive, 'smart', energy-efficient and fair energy retail market. As such, the forum serves to structure the debate and channel consumers', regulators' and industry's view on the energy market and its future, directly feeding into the work of the European Commission in the energy and consumer policy areas.

more

**25/10/2023**

## **Covenant of Mayors Investment Forum**

Join the 2023 edition of the Covenant of Mayors Investment Forum - Energy Efficiency Finance Market Place that will take place in Brussels, jointly organised by the European Commission's Directorates-Generals for Energy and Climate Action and the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA) in collaboration with the Covenant of Mayors.

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## **Contact us!**

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