

# Co2mmunity WORKING PAPER 3.3

## Transnationally further developing RENCOPs

**Co2mmunity**  
Co-producing and co-financing renewable community energy projects

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## Introduction

This working paper summarises the activities conducted under work package (WP) 3.3 in the Co2mmunity project. The main aim of the report is to give an overview about the working on transnationally further developing RENCOPs with the goal to carve out tandem systems between frontrunners and followers forming transnational CE-partner agreements in the field of community energy. Special focus is on having a look on the specific challenges and conditions in the partner-regions (SWOT-Analysis) as a base to identify suitable partners for community energy (CE) projects and develop suitable tandems.

### Aim: Transnational CE-partner agreements

In detail, we operationalised the aim through the following objectives:

- Findings by RENCOP-Self Assessments and Balance with scientific findings within the project
- Transnational Co-learning groundwork
- Deduction of transnational transferable CE aspects for promotion of possible partnerships
- Generating suitable frontrunners/followers forming partnerships/tandems

We address these aims through the following questions:

Phase of RENCOP-Self-Assessments:

1. Participants were asked to rate their skills and strengths as well as their needs and main challenges on a worksheet
2. Participants were asked to note on worksheets from whom they would like to learn due to other's advanced status in certain areas
3. Participants could rate which aspects they would like to place a greater focus on (as a RENCOP) in the next while

Phase of Transnational Co-learning groundwork

1. What experiences have you gained from previous transnational co-learning activities?
2. Which of these issues are relevant to you?
3. How can the factors of the ball-bearing framework be improved in our context?
4. How interesting would the following forms be to you?

### Frame conditions

Co2mmunity contains a different scene of involved partner-regions with different developments concerning historical, political, cultural and economic aspects. This point attention must be paid to understand why different processes and developments has taken place in these countries with its effects or non-effects.

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## Approach

### 1. Findings by RENCOP self-assessments/Transnational co-learning groundwork

To get a significant insight we decided to work with the partners in a special form of work-shops with defined methodological steps to carve out their point of view in their role as stakeholders and key-players.

In a first step we tried to find out in a common workshop with the different partners (RENCOP-Self Assessments) how do they see the situation of CE-projects in their countries/RENCOPS regarding political, financial, cultural and technological factors.

In a first transnational Workshop with the RENCOP-partners in May in Finland the goal was to find out first essential elements being important for working on transnational tandems. The proceeding was characterised by different phases:

1. Working out of skills, strengths as well as needs and main challenges to initiate, promote and implement community energy projects
2. Working of needs to learn due to other's advanced status in certain areas
3. Rating which aspects RENCOPS would like to place a greater focus on in the next while
4. Transnational co-learning activities: Which issues are relevant? How can factors of a ball-bearing framework be improved in the context of Co2mmunity (Mutuality, Reframing, Dissemination, Communication, Valuation)? Working out of different forms of co-learning being of interest for the partners?

In detail the following questions have been worked on with the partners:

- For the self-assessments participants were asked to rate their skills and strengths as well as their needs and main challenges in following topics:
  - a) Goals and strategies
  - b) Involvement of stakeholders
  - c) Stakeholder and personnel management
  - d) Internal structures
  - e) Technology (Know-How)
  - f) Capacity building
  - g) Funding
  - h) Collaboration with authorities
- For the question of head start of others participants were asked to note from whom they would like to learn due to other's advanced status in certain areas.
- For the transnational co-learning groundwork participants were asked about their transnational co-learning experiences, about their goals of transnational co-learning and about their transnational working on a ball-bearing framework (Mutuality, Reframing, Dissemination, Communication, Valuation).

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For balancing this results with scientific findings done in the project we decided to evaluate the Co2mmunity Working Paper No.2.3 (Developing a Joint Perspective on Community Energy – Best Practices and Challenges in the Baltic Sea Region) done by the project-partners Aalto University, Kiel University and Lund University. This working paper gave a good survey about the current status of community energy and its projects in the Baltic Sea Region as well as its contextual factors.

Also we used the common database which was established during the project within work package 2. It delivers a good insight into different projects as well as the surrounding circumstances influencing the projects and their implementation in the partner regions.

In the context of the workshop it became apparent very significantly that in the BSR regarding CE-projects there is a difference between countries having good experience and proved competences (i.e. DK, DE, SE, FI). On the other hand, there are countries having less experience and competences developing and implementing CE-projects.

The reasons for this different levels are manifold, esp. based on historical-political and cultural reasons. These aspects have been shown in Working Paper 2.3. very clearly.

For the work in Group of Activity (GoA) 3.3. and for concrete results it is important considering these aspects because they have important influence on implementation of measures and activities to initiate, promote and implement CE-projects.

## 2. Deduction of transnational transferable CE aspects for promotion of possible partnerships

To find out the overall topics being common for all countries/RENCOPs the results of the workshops have been put in a SWOT-Analysis for every country to get a holistic overview for the partners.

As anticipated, the results can be summarized in 4 subject areas being the main transnational transferable aspects:

1. **Framework:** In the partner countries political, legislative and administrative conditions are main levers for driving or braking CE projects
2. **Financial issues:** Situation of financing-models for CE-projects in the partner countries is different. For instance, instruments like crowd-funding or cooperatives are common in Denmark or Germany while in the Baltic States these instruments are rather unknown.
3. **Technology:** Know-How of suitable and effective technologies is in different stage of development. Especially Baltic partners expressed Know-How transfer as needed for promoting CE-projects.
4. **Civil engagement:** Participation of people is very well-known especially in „front runner“ countries like Denmark or Germany; Not least because of historical and political reasons civil engagement less well-known in the Baltic States and Poland.

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In anticipation of possible levels of cooperation on local or regional level and to solve „bottle-necks“ to promote CE-projects we worked with the partners on 2 additional questions:

1. Empowerment of the partners to solve the main „bottle-necks“ (legal, social, technical, structural, financial, others) on local or regional level? Where are constraints because of greater dependencies (national)?
2. To know these assessments is important because of possible approaches of solution and recommended actions on different levels in common partner-agreements.

### 3. Generating suitable frontrunners/followers forming partnerships/tandems

To identify suitable partners for community energy (CE) with the result to bring together partners for transnationally further developing RENCOPS as well as initiating and promoting CE-projects we will have to take a look on the specific challenges and approaches of partners.

Regarding the evaluation of the above-mentioned workflow, the following possible tandems of RENCOPS/Partners have been brought together:

1. Denmark (e.g. Føns) – Lithuania (e.g. KREA)
2. Germany (e.g. Kreis Rendsburg-Eckernförde) – Latvia (e.g. Municipality of Marupe)
3. Finland (e.g. Helsinki-Uusimaa, Regional Council of Ostrobothnia) – Poland (e.g. Foundation for Sustainable Energy FNEZ)
4. Sweden (e.g. Energikontor Sydost) – Estonia (e.g. TREA)

Possible RENCOPS resp. local and/or regional partners above are mentioned in brackets, it is a non exhaustive enumeration and make no claim to be complete. The integration of additional suitable members players/stakeholders falls to the project partners themselves.

To animate the tandems pragmatically (i.e. concretion into sustainable structure) specific partner agreements will be created. Till the end of the project they will be adapted specifically and checked legally, clarified with the partners and last but not least signed as common transnational “guideline” (see appendix 1: Draft of Partner Declaration).

## Appendix 1: Draft of Partner Declaration

### Declaration of Partnership and Cooperation

To be convinced that by relations in partnership on local and regional level energy transition in Europa could be designed successfully and European climate change policy goals could be achieved the partners

*NAME/DESCRIPTION PARTNER 1 -NAME/DESCRIPTION/PARTNER 2*

declared following:

In line of their responsibilities and possibilities both partners will try for support and promotion of social engagement in the context of community energy projects. Specific attention will be paid to the set-up of know-how, the exchange of knowledge and the transnational exchange of experiences.

These goals shall be achieved by means of following activities:

- Mutual Visits of delegations of both partners from municipalities, organisations, associations
- Partnership of institutions of education and training facilities
- Common activities in the field of business development and further development of infrastructure
- Practical exchange of trainees, pupils and students
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## Imprint

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