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Research on Community Energy Projects in the Baltic Sea Region

Work Package 2

Henner Busch, Lund University

(supported by Kiel & Aalto University)

Community Final Online Conference 9.September 2020

Work Package 2 – Scientific Support

Overview

- GoA 2.1 – Review of the scientific literature
- GoA 2.2 – Database of CE cases in the BSR
- GoA 2.3 – Case study research and policy recommendations
- GoA 2.4 – Accompanying research

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GoA 2.1 Understanding Community Energy: Drivers, Barriers, Benefits

Objective	
Methodology	
Output	

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GoA 2.2 More than a Common Backup

We just heard everything about the data base

Output	
Methodology	
Output	

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GoA 2.3 Taking Stock in the Baltic Sea Region: Different Conditions in a Shared Region

Objective	
Methodology	
Output	

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GoA 2.4 Accompanying research - The Way Forward & Lessons Learned for the Future

Objective	
Methodology	
Output	

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Scientific Outputs

Output	Format	Status
Review of scientific literature: policy angle	Scientific article	Under review
Review of scientific literature: justice focus	Scientific article	Ongoing work
Context and Agency in Urban Community Energy Initiatives	Scientific article	Under review
Community energy on the east side of the Baltic Sea Region: standstill and first steps.	Book chapter	Under review
Intermediaries during the COVID pandemic	Scientific article	Under review
Intermediaries in energy transitions	Scientific article	Ongoing work
Possibly more...	???	Ideas

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Intermezzo

Lars, the cyberspace is yours!

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Main Findings I

Benefits of CE:

- Local economic gains (jobs, taxes, local sourcing)
- Environmental benefits (emissions, behaviour change)
- Improved social cohesion and strengthened democracy
- Increased acceptance for RE

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Main Findings II

Drivers:

- National RE targets
- National, regional and local visions
- Feed-in tariffs & subsidies
- Learning through peers and intermediaries
- Coordination of CE policies (different institutions)

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Main Findings III

Barriers:

- Lack of funding
- Role of incumbents
- Changing legal frameworks (feed-in tariffs)
- Lack of standardisation & coordination

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Main Findings IV

Status of Community Energy in the **Baltic Sea Region**:

- Big differences between EU member states
 - Spearheading: DK, GER
 - Intermediate: SWE
 - First modest steps: LT, EE
 - Lagging: PL, LV
- Historical factors, resources, current policies
- Soviet heritage an important social barrier

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Main Findings V

Four complementary strategies for **local actors**:

- Building of trust
- Appealing to local identity
- Networking to gain critical resources
- Promotion of demonstration projects

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Main Findings VI

Policy recommendations:

- Policy frameworks need to be adapted to the needs of community energy (market & grid access, building regulations, tax systems, metering regulation)
- Informal institutions matter -> cultural change should be encouraged
- Coherent visions are needed
- Learning for best practice cases should be encouraged

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Bonus slide: Main Findings VII

Managing RENCOPs during **COVID-19**:

- Main strategy: Digitalisation
- Digitalisation has benefits and burdens:
 - Often efficient
 - Trust-building difficult
 - Creativity hampered
- Consequences:
 - Existing RENCOPs can continue
 - Fewer new ones
 - Will only be visible in some months or years

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Q&A – All you ever wanted to know about
CE research

Thank you for your attention!

Please ask questions!

Contact

Henner Busch
Research
Department of Human Geography
Lund University, Sweden
henner.busch@lucsus.lu.se



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