

ENRD Thematic Group on Smart Villages

Smart Villages and Renewable Energy Communities

Draft Agenda of the 10th meeting

22 January 2020

Rue de la Loi, 38 - Brussels (Belgium)

The revised European Renewable Energy Directive¹ requires Member States to take action to promote the development of **Renewable Energy Communities (REC)** through measures to be included in their national enabling frameworks to meet Europe's targets for climate change.

A Renewable Energy Community (REC) is a legal, open and autonomous entity formed by natural persons, SMEs or local authorities, including municipalities that participate voluntarily in the grouping. Their primary purpose is to provide environmental, economic or social community benefits for their shareholders or members or for the local areas where they operate². Renewable Energy Communities use their own local natural resources to cut both emissions and their expenditure on external sources of energy. With a sound business model, over time, any profit can be reinvested back in the villages and community of the area.



There are many communities across Europe already doing this, and many others interested in seizing the opportunity. They are, therefore, an ideal vehicle for **'Smart Villages'**.

Aims of the meeting

- To obtain an understanding of the opportunities in the new policy landscape for supporting creation and development of renewable energy communities in EU rural areas.
- To learn from existing grass roots initiatives and explore how to create the local conditions for these initiatives to emerge and grow.
- To discuss how Renewable Energy Communities and Smart Villages could benefit from each other and imagine how the future CAP Strategic Plans and Cohesion Policy could effectively support an energy transition in rural areas.

¹ Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources.

² Definition can be found in Article 2(16) Recast Renewable Energy Directive.

Timing 	22 January 2020 Preliminary Agenda Items  (exact timing and content to be confirmed)
09.00 - 09.30	Registration for TG meeting participants
09.30 – 09.45	Welcome to TG participants and introduction to the day (ENRD CP)
09.45 – 10.30	Setting the scene. New opportunities for rural areas in the energy transition. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Jan Steinkohl, DG ENERGY</i> - <i>Benoit Esmanne, DG AGRI</i> - <i>Mathieu Fichter, DG REGIO</i>
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee Break
11.00 – 13.00	Key steps for building Renewable Energy Communities on the ground in rural areas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Panorama of local Renewable Energy Communities in the EU, Dirk Vansintjan (REScoop)</i> - <i>Oberrospe energy village, Ulrich Pfeiffer (Germany)</i> - <i>Esbeek Energy cooperative, Wiet van Meel (The Netherlands)</i> - <i>Eoliennes de Pays de Villaine, Nicolas Desruelles (France)</i> <p><i>Group Discussion: Identification of the local enabling conditions and barrier for similar initiatives.</i></p>
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch Break
14.00 – 15.30	How to use Smart Village Strategies to contribute to an energy transition in rural areas. <p><i>Group discussions: How the future CAP Strategic Plans and Cohesion Policy can use the opportunities offered by Smart Villages and Renewable Energy Communities to contribute to an energy transition in rural areas?</i></p>
15.30 – 16.00	Coffee break
16.00 – 16.30	Reporting back from Group discussion and next steps of the TG

