



Empowering
Renewable and
Citizen Energy
Communities

Deliverable D7.1

Exploitation Plan

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Responsible partner for the compilation of this document

WIP Renewable Energies

Sylvensteinstrasse 2, 81369 Munich, Germany

Phone: +49 89 72012765

Email: olgu.birgi@wip-munich.de

Project Coordinator

WIP Renewable Energies

Sylvensteinstrasse 2, 81369 Munich, Germany

Phone: (+49) 89 72012718

Email: ingo.ball@wip-munich.de

Project Partners



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Executive Summary

This report has been prepared to select and define the Key Exploitable Results (KERs) within the POWER-E-COM project, with the aim of exploiting these results beyond the project duration to maximise their impact by engaging key stakeholders and wider audiences.

The report outlines the selection procedure and provides descriptions of the KERs, including detailed information on their Technology Readiness Level (TRL), target users/markets, potential for replication and scaling, and ownership and intellectual property rights (IPR).

In addition to the selection and definition of KERs, the report also covers stakeholder analysis, exploitation routes and strategies for each KER, partner-specific exploitation plans, and risk assessment and mitigation measures.



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1. Objectives of the Exploitation Plan

The POWER-E-COM exploitation builds on the documents and experience developed in previous tasks, specially Design of the Community Energy Training Pack, Design of the Final Business Model for Energy Communities, and the entirety of Work Package on the implementation of the business plan.

The objective of the exploitation plan is to develop a set of measures that can be applied at the EU level to further support the emergence of additional energy communities. The plan includes strategies at EU level. To make sure this plan is indeed valid at EU level, WIP presented it and validated it within its network through a focus group.

The plan also outlines how project partners intend to exploit the results, including the use of the knowledge and materials developed for the setup of energy communities. Furthermore, the key results to be exploited and the partners responsible for doing so, previously discussed within the consortium, are detailed in the plan.

2. Key Exploitable Results (KERs)

Key Exploitable Results (KERs) are the **tangible or intangible outcomes/ outputs** of a project that have **potential value** and can be **used, replicated, transferred, or commercialised** by stakeholders which can be either within or beyond the consortium. They are the core part of any exploitation strategy.

After different tasks commenced in a project the consortium members should start to map potential results that can be exploited, used and further developed after the end of the project. This mapping has been done with the efforts of all partners during the monthly consortium meetings and by filling in the relevant key exploitable results in the designated excel sheet.

This Excel sheet includes information about the partner who entered the KER, exploitation product, task, type of product, how the asset will be delivered and to whom, and strategies to maximise the impact. Additionally, it includes two key assessments:

Difficulty of Implementation

- Rated on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 represents very easy implementation and 5 indicates very difficult implementation. A higher score reflects greater challenges in realising the KER (Key Exploitable Result).
- To support visual assessment, scores 1–2 are coloured green (indicating low difficulty), 3 is yellow (moderate difficulty), and 4–5 are red (high to very high difficulty).

Impact Level

- Rated on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 represents low impact and 5 signifies very high impact. A higher score reflects a greater expected contribution of the KER to project objectives, stakeholders, or broader societal benefits.
- For colour coding, scores 1–2 are red (indicating low impact), 3 is yellow (moderate impact), and 4–5 are green (high to very high impact).

There is also a comments section for any further notes. Please refer to **Table 1** for the detailed results.



It is important that the project defines a maximum of **3 to 5 Key Exploitable Results (KERs)**. This number is realistic, helps maintain focus on **high-impact and scalable** results, and facilitates easier integration into **business plans, policy briefs**, and similar outputs.

Each selected KER should have the following features:

- **Exploitable:** It offers clear value to target users (in our case: municipalities, energy communities, citizens, SMEs, etc.) , not just a scientific result.
- **Scalable and transferable:** It can be replicated across different contexts, regions, and user groups beyond the pilot areas.
- **High impact:** It has a strong potential to create change, inform policy, reach a wide audience, and encourage further uptake.
- **Low-to-medium implementation difficulty:** It can be applied and promoted without requiring significant additional resources (e.g., major costs or time) or facing internal resistance.
- **Distinct and complementary:** It addresses a specific aspect (e.g., tools, services, training, communication) and avoids duplication with other KERs.
- **Clear ownership:** A responsible partner is clearly assigned for the development, delivery, and follow-up of the KER.



Table 1: Key Exploitable Results (KERs) entered by partners

Exploitation product	Task related	Type of product	How the asset will be delivered	To whom	How to maximize the impact	Difficulty of Implementation	Impact	Other comments
Communication workshops or other events	T6.8	Communication activity	One day short conference at the client facility, which is usually at the town council to inform about activities developed within the project framework.	Mainly citizens, but also SMEs and shops could participate.	Promoting via websites, local online news, articles in newspaper...	3	4	May have good impact if there enough communication and locally focused and stakeholders support
Videos portraying pilot activities	T6.3and T6.7	Communication material	Videos portraying pilot projects; communication and promotion of videos and project progress via social media	Citizens/Energy communities/ "follower communities"	constant production of content, dissemination also on social media channels of project partners	2	2	Resources, technology and skills needed to create videos



<p>ECTO for a first information, advise and accompanying: technical, economic, financing (mainly non experts).</p>	<p>T2.3</p>	<p>Service</p>	<p>An office supporting energy communities will be maintained within Escan premises (based WP2)</p>	<p>Mainly support local/regional authorities and citizens</p>	<p>Keep communication activities to present the office.</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>Important resources needed.</p>
<p>Methodologies and models to set-up and upgrade energy community (low-medium level expert)</p>	<p>T4.3 and 5.1</p>	<p>Service</p>	<p>For potential energy communities, replicants and others it is needed to prepare a business model and roadmap to set-up and operate their energy communities (based in WP5)</p>	<p>Mainly support local/regional authorities, but also citizens could benefit from models and ask for support using the methodology.</p>	<p>Adapting and taking benefit from real cases when they are carried out, gathering as much information as possible.</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>Very focused on specific case but needs of deep working load and knowledge</p>



ECTO for a first information, advise and accompanying: technical, economic, financing and growth management (mainly non experts)	T2.3	Service	Online based with opportunity for physical consultation at the premises of Gabrovo municipality	Initial focus on the citizens of Gabrovo Municipality, but because of the increased interest from other municipalities now also covering capacity-building activities for other public actors	Media publications (social and mainstream media) about ECTO's establishment; Presentation of ECTO's the services at specialized events and during meetings with citizens, printed materials located at the municipal building	2	5	Well prepared design and updated information to be used for printed materials; One person who will be responsible for the promotion of the ECTO both internally within the municipality as well as engaged in external communication activities
Training in person in the client premises.	T3.3	Training	At the client facility, a two days formation is delivered, including theoretical and practical contents.	Mainly citizens, but also SMEs and shops could participate.	EC members could promote the activity among different neighbours. Local authorities can help giving visibility by using their resources. Promoting via websites, local online news, articles in newspaper...	3	4	Limited number of attendees in each training
Training pack online.	T3.4	Training	A set of videos and documents about different topics are posted on the website,	Mainly support local/regional authorities and citizens	Promoting via websites, local online news, articles in newspaper...	2	3	Need of good communication to announce it



			allowing participants to use it freely.					
Mentoring program	T.3.2	Training	Structured mentoring support based on personal interaction (both online or physically at Gabrovo Municipality) offered to local pilot participants to transfer experience and best practice from experienced professionals	Energy community (potential) members	Mainly utilizing the municipality's communication channels to inform interested citizens. Promoting through ECTO and other information platforms (Sharerenewables.bg or energy agency's websites)	3	4	Limited number of attendees + individualization needed to respond to each one's interest and knowledge gaps
Training in person in the client premises. Concrete Result: Training materials in local languages	T3.3.	Training	(Usually) One day training of municipal actors/ local authorities based on translated templates adopted to the national situation	Mainly support local/regional authorities and citizens	Personal interaction and invitation to municipal actors. Content and structure of the training are agreed upon during preliminary meetings	4	4	All materials need to be kept up to date. Travelling is required, which might be time consuming and requires funding of travel cost

When all potential KERs are taken into consideration along with the features of a successful KER (exploitable, scalable and transferable, high impact, low-to-medium implementation difficulty, distinct and complementary, clear ownership), the evaluation resulted in the selection of three valid KERs at the EU level: Energy Community Transfer Offices (ECTOs), methodologies and models for energy communities, and the online training pack.

Table 2: KER Selection

KER	Why This One?	Type	Owner
1. ECTO (Information & Support Office)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Provides direct support to citizens and local authorities ✓ Demonstrates a replicable model for other municipalities ✓ Combines physical presence and digital outreach ✓ Well suited for capacity-building initiatives 	Service	ESV
2. Methodologies & Models for Energy Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Supports practical setup and upgrade of energy communities ✓ Valuable for municipalities, energy community promoters and replication in policy-driven contexts ✓ Highly impactful and transferable across EU projects (e.g. LIFE, Interreg, Horizon) 	Service / Tool	Escan
3. Online Training Pack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Scalable across the EU ✓ Easy to access and promote ✓ Strong alignment with REPowerEU and citizen education priorities ✓ High potential for reuse in other projects 	Training	TUS

Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs)

Knowing the TRL helps determine the most appropriate next steps for bringing a KER to market or further development. The TRL level of each selected KER is also provided in Sections 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3.

- Lower TRLs (1–3) may need more R&D or lab validation.
- Mid TRLs (4–6) indicate a need for demonstration or prototyping.
- Higher TRLs (7–9) are close to market and need scaling, regulatory approval, or commercial partnerships.

Table 3: Technology Readiness Level Table

TRL	Name	Description
TRL 1	Basic principles observed	Scientific research starts to be translated into applied research and innovation.
TRL 2	Technology concept formulated	Concept and application are defined. No experimental proof yet.
TRL 3	Experimental proof of concept	Laboratory-based studies validate the analytical predictions.
TRL 4	Technology validated in lab	Basic technology components integrated and tested in a laboratory environment.
TRL 5	Technology validated in relevant environment	Technology validated in a simulated relevant environment (e.g. industrial context).
TRL 6	Technology demonstrated in relevant environment	Prototype system demonstrated in relevant operational conditions.
TRL 7	System prototype demonstration in operational environment	Near-final prototype tested in real operational environment.
TRL 8	System complete and qualified	Technology is proven to work in its final form and under expected conditions.
TRL 9	Actual system proven in operational environment	Final system proven in actual mission conditions – ready for full deployment.

2.1. KER 1: ECTO (Information & Support Office)

Description: ECTOs are local one-stop support structures established in each of the six partner countries during the first year of the project. Their core mission is to assist in the creation and strengthening of Local Energy Communities (LECs) by providing tailored guidance, awareness-raising, and direct contact for citizens, municipalities, and community groups. Each ECTO draws upon local knowledge and culture and operates via accessible channels (phone, email, in-person/virtual meetings). The ECTOs are integrated into the infrastructures of partner organisations or newly established based on local needs. Crucially, the ECTOs are designed to operate both during and after the project, ensuring sustainability and exploitation of results. They will continue to support other municipalities and regions by disseminating project knowledge and tools. Moreover, they will engage with local and regional authorities to support the development of enabling policy frameworks for energy communities.

Table 4: POWER-E-COM ECTOs

ECTOS Country	Main Responsible	Supported by	ECTO Services (Please update)
Austria	ESV	N/A	Business model design, capacity building, regulation framework and taxes, support to existing LECs
Bulgaria	BSERC	Municipality Gabrovo	Business model design, capacity building, regulation framework and taxes
Germany	EWO	WIP	Business model design, capacity building, financing; support to existing LECs
Ireland	TEA	TUS, Community Power	Business model design, capacity building, financing; support to existing LECs
Slovenia	ENERGAP	Municipality Selnica ob Dravi	Business model design, capacity building, regulation framework and taxes
Spain	ESCAN	Rivas	Business model design, capacity building, energy and economic trading tools for energy communities; support to existing LECs

TRL Level: TRL 8–9 (System complete and qualified / actual system proven in operational environment)
The ECTOs are already implemented and operational in real-world settings, making them close to full deployment and scalable implementation.

Target Users/ Markets

- Existing and emerging Local Energy Communities (LECs)
- Citizens and citizen groups interested in forming energy communities
- Municipalities and local public authorities
- Regional energy agencies and local stakeholders: Potential to collaborate
- NGOs, cooperatives and grassroots organisations working on energy transition: They can work in collaboration with ECTOs

Potential for replication/ scaling

High Potential

- The ECTO model is flexible and adaptable to local needs, making it easily replicable across other EU Member States.
- It can be institutionalised within local/regional administrations or integrated into existing energy/transition offices.
- Possible to scale through regional/national funding, replication in Covenant of Mayors networks, or future EU-funded initiatives (e.g. LIFE, Horizon Europe, CEF).
- Best suited for regions aiming to increase citizen-led renewable energy initiatives but lacking technical guidance or coordination capacity.



Ownership and IPR issues

No formal IPR is foreseen for the ECTO concept while ECTOs from POWER-E-COM are owned by each project partner creating or upgrading the ECTO. The ECTO concept is service-based and intended for public benefit. Materials and methodologies developed within the project will be shared under open conditions where possible. As task leader, **ESV** plays a key role in methodology and content development, but ownership remains within the consortium, according to the Consortium Agreement.

2.2. KER 2: Methodologies & Models for Energy Communities

Description: Within WP4, detailed Energy Community Models are developed for five local energy communities (LECs) in each partner country, thus altogether 30. These models integrate business, environmental, and social dimensions based on participatory co-design and conceptual planning. Each model will be formalised as a comprehensive, location-specific roadmap outlining the necessary steps to create, structure, and grow a viable LEC in line with regional context. These models will serve as official guidance documents for local authorities or existing energy community initiatives. They will also link to the outcomes from landscape & stakeholders and training & capacity building project activities to provide a holistic basis for implementation. Furthermore, the models are intended to be embedded in strategic planning instruments such as SECAPs (Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans), and discussed with local politicians and decision-makers, including financing schemes and enabling policy frameworks.

TRL Level: TRL 6–7 – Model validated in relevant environment, ready for implementation

Target Users/ Markets:

- Local and regional authorities developing or enabling energy communities
- Existing and new LECs in need of structured development support
- Energy/climate planning departments (SECAP teams)
- NGOs and facilitators supporting citizen energy
- National and regional policy stakeholders
- Municipal associations, energy agencies

Potential for replication and scaling

- The models are designed to be context-specific but methodology-driven, which makes them suitable for replication in other municipalities or regions with similar socio-political conditions.
- By embedding the models into SECAPs or regional energy strategies, the approach gains institutional anchoring, allowing for scaling within and across countries.
- The models can serve as a blueprint for future energy communities, particularly where structured guidance and public financing are needed.
- Their participatory design process can be replicated as a method in other contexts.
- The models will also be used as practical guidance materials within the ECTOs (KER 3), where they will support local replication, stakeholder advising, and capacity building at community and municipal level.



Ownership and IPR issues

The final energy community models are developed in a co-creation framework and are owned by project partners. Any actor interested in these models from one country may contact the partner responsible to agree on how to use the models. The models are confidential documents, available only to partners. However, there will be public leaflets providing a summary of the models.

2.3. KER 3: Online Training Pack

Description: The Online Community Energy Training Pack is a self-directed digital training tool designed to build the capacity of local energy communities and public authorities. Developed from the findings of WP2 and WP3, it includes videos, podcasts, presentations, tools, guides, and links to reliable community energy resources. A core English version has been prepared by TUS and then adapted and translated by partners to reflect local contexts. The training pack enables municipalities and citizen groups to access simple, attractive, low-cost, and modular training on key topics in energy communities. It is available as an open resource and tailored to reach at least 1,200 individuals across 30 energy communities.

TRL Level: TRL 7–8 – System prototype demonstrated and adapted in real environments

Target Users/ Markets:

- Local authorities and municipal staff working on energy or climate
- Emerging or existing energy communities (LECs)
- Citizen groups interested in launching LECs
- Regional energy agencies and facilitators
- NGOs and cooperatives involved in community energy

Potential for replication and scaling

The Online Community Energy Training Pack has a strong replication and scaling potential thanks to its digital, modular, and open-access format. It can be adapted to different legal, cultural, and institutional contexts and reused in:

- Local authorities and energy communities beyond the project consortium
- National training programmes and municipal staff development initiatives
- EU-level platforms such as the Energy Communities Repository or EU Academy
- The ECTOs established under KER 3 will act as key multipliers and delivery points, using the training pack as a foundational capacity-building resource for citizens and public officials.

The training materials will be made available online via the ECTO webpages and the main project website, ensuring open and continued access. The content can be easily translated, updated, or localised, enabling broad uptake across Europe at low cost.

Ownership and IPR issues: The Online Training Pack will be made publicly available as an open-access resource. The English core content has been developed by TUS, while adaptation and translation has been carried out by partners. No restrictive IPR is foreseen. Usage rights will follow the Consortium Agreement, allowing non-commercial use and replication with attribution.

3. Stakeholder Analysis

POWER-E-COM has identified several target groups and stakeholders that play a role in the establishment of energy communities. The key target groups described during the proposal stage remain relevant for adapting and upscaling the selected Key Exploitable Results (KERs). A list of the target groups is presented below.

Table 5: Key Target Groups for Selected KERs

Target Group	Needs / Challenges
Existing Local Energy Communities (which need support from local authorities or other stakeholders to upgrade)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited access to updated tools and methodologies for scaling Need for guidance on technical, legal, and financial improvements Lack of structured support from public actors Networking and exchange are very important for existing Energy Communities
Citizen Groups interested in forming Energy Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited awareness of legal and organisational steps involved in forming an energy community Lack of technical expertise and access to advisory services Difficulty in mobilising local support and securing initial funding Uncertainty about long-term benefits and responsibilities Need for simplified information and successful examples to build confidence
Local Authorities (with a roadmap but lacking knowledge or facing barriers) and National Ministries responsible for energy/climate (e.g. MOPE in Slovenia) as policy enablers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local level: Need for capacity building and staff training Local level: Unfamiliarity with practical implementation steps Both levels: Need for technical and regulatory support to act as enablers National level: Need for effective policy frameworks, funding instruments, and coordination mechanisms to support local implementation
Neighbourhoods / Consumer Organisations / Community Groups (interested in the energy transition)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of accessible and understandable information Need for support to mobilise citizens Limited technical and organisational knowledge
Active Citizens and Local Authorities in regions with poor or no LEC development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need for initial motivation and awareness Absence of technical, legal, and financial guidance

	Limited exposure to good practices and replicable models
Regional Energy Agencies and sub-regional public bodies (supporting LECs and energy transition)	Need for standardised tools and models for replication Desire for scalable training offers for multiple municipalities Lack of replicable support structures they can adapt

4. Exploitation Routes & Strategies

Under the heading of Exploitation Routes & Strategies, there are different types of exploitation routes and strategies. Possible exploitation routes include direct use (by partners), indirect use (through policy uptake, community engagement), commercial exploitation (if applicable), open access/public domain outputs, and knowledge transfer (e.g., via training, events). Below in the table, it is assessed for each selected KER which strategies are relevant and will be upscaled.

Table 6: Exploitation strategies for each KER

KER	Exploitation Strategies
1-Energy Community Transition Offices (ECTOs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Institutionalised within local/regional authorities or partner organisations - Operate beyond the project lifetime as advisory hubs - Support policy engagement and LEC creation on the ground - Reuse results from WP2–4 (KER 2, KER 3) - Replicated in other regions with similar support needs
2- Final Energy Community Models	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrated into SECAPs and strategic planning instruments - Shared with municipalities and energy communities as formal guidance - Used within ECTOs (KER 1) as practical advisory content - Published online to enable wider uptake - Developed as replicable templates adaptable to other regions
3- Online Community Energy Training Pack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Used and promoted by ECTOs (KER 1) for citizen and municipal training - Available online on the project website and ECTO webpages - Translated and adapted by partners for local use - Promoted via EU platforms (EU Academy, Energy Communities Repository) - Embedded in municipal and national training schemes

5. Exploitation by Partners

The KERs will be exploited by all consortium members and their networks. Below, the exploitation strategies predefined at the proposal stage, and later updated and refined by the partners, are presented.

Exploitation in Country and EU Level

Table 7: Exploitation in county and EU level

Country & Region	Exploitation Strategy
Austria – ESV	The Regional Energy Agency of Upper Austria has provided direct support to many Municipalities Councils for more than 30 years. ESV will create awareness raising and support to the municipalities and groups of citizens in the region interested in ECs. Furthermore, the agency manages the Cleantech-Cluster Upper Austria with over 250 companies, focused in solar, biomass and energy efficiency. The project allows ESV to further develop and intensify their EC support, especially to in building an EC community and trigger networking and exchange.
Bulgaria - Municipality of Gabrovo + BSERC	The Municipality of Gabrovo is internationally well connected. It has partnerships with 13 twin cities and is a member of the National and the Regional Associations of the Municipalities, Municipal Network EcoEnergy, Civitas, Culture 21 Pilot Cities Network, UNESCO cities network, Covenant of Mayors. Gabrovo’s long-term political vision is to be ‘Green, Smart, Innovative’. It is participating currently in two other LIFE projects. BSERC has over 15 years’ experience in sustainable energy projects and a network of contacts in the Black Sea area, and has obtained the support, by means of a LoS, from SEDA which has a special relevance for the project exploitation, as it is the Sustainable Energy Development Agency, the state agency responsible for implementation of Bulgarian state policy on energy efficiency and renewable energy.
Germany – EWO + WIP	EWO and WIP bring extensive experience in supporting municipalities with sustainable energy projects across southern Germany. In this project, the Oberland region serves as a testing ground, with five pilot municipalities reflecting diverse local conditions. EWO is acting as the regional ECTO, collecting and disseminating information and results in both the heat and electricity sectors. As a central contact point, EWO will foster regional networking and share insights on existing projects and funding opportunities. With 96 municipalities in the Oberland region, the project offers strong scaling potential. Although the focus begins with five, outcomes are transferable across the region—and potentially beyond. WIP, with its long-standing experience in social innovation and its extensive network of municipalities, energy communities, and sister projects, will leverage these contacts to exploit the results.



Ireland – TUS + TEA + Community Power	<p>The Irish team is constituted by a powerful group with a Technical University, the Tipperary Energy Agency and the EC Community Power. They are currently at the forefront of the countries and regions in supporting the creation of ECs. The potential for the exploitation of the project results includes the 32 counties and 60 Towns of the Tipperary Region, where they already developed sustainable energy projects and capacity building for more than 25 years.</p>
Slovenia – ENERGAP + Municipality Selnica ob Dravi	<p>ENERGAP, a subregional energy agency in the area of Podravje, involves 18 municipalities (including Selnica ob Dravi) which are directly supported by ENERGAP, thus they are potential local authorities for the exploitation of the project results. Considering other surrounding municipalities, over 30 local authorities could benefit from project results exploitation potential. Beyond municipalities, the results are relevant for citizen groups, local SMEs, NGOs, educational institutions, and other regional energy agencies, as well as the Ministry of Environment, Climate and Energy for policy integration.</p>
Spain – Municipality of Rivas + Escan	<p>The Municipality of Rivas is a well-recognized Local Authority regarding sustainable energy, due to the fact that they founded the RECI network (Spanish Intelligent Cities Network) and are an active member currently in the vice-presidency. This network involves 130 cities and municipalities focused on sustainable energy initiatives. Escan is currently national expert for the European City Facility Network, providing support to over 50 Spanish municipalities in preparing their applications for the Investment Concept, and already supporting 9 of them as they were founded the EUCF. The potential of the EUCF and the existing number of customers from Escan which are local authorities, reaches over 100 local authorities, where the project results will have exploitation potential.</p>
EU	<p>Exploitation on the EU level Exploitation of the project results by third parties linked to project partners. 5 partners are members of FEDARENE (LoI provided), a Federation of Regional and Local Energy Agencies, which has 80 members. Considering there are specific activities within the project for replication (WP7), FEDARENE and its members have a wide potential to support the project results exploitation. Considering a success ratio of 20 members and the average potential of 20 municipalities by each one, the project outcomes could be exploited reaching 400 additional local authorities or citizens groupings.</p>

Potential Partners for Upscaling

ESCAN, EWO, ESV, ENERGAP, BSERC, and TEA are regional or national associations/energy agencies with strong connections to local and national authorities. Rivas (Spain), the Municipality of Selnica ob Dravi (Slovenia), and the Municipality of Gabrovo (Bulgaria) represent interested citizens and will develop concrete energy communities. These initiatives will be accompanied by experts from the



POWER-E-COM consortium and will contribute to upscaling the project's Key Exploitable Results (KERs).

All partners will play a role in upscaling and exploiting the KERs. The partners responsible for the respective KERs, as part of their assigned tasks, will coordinate and monitor the process. In addition to the consortium partners, many are also members of FEDARENE. This network will likewise be utilised. FEDARENE (as stated in its Letter of Intent) will leverage its extensive network of regional and local organisations that implement, coordinate, and facilitate energy and environmental policies. Its board includes regional and local energy agencies, regional governments, and departments working in these fields.

At the proposal stage, the consortium mobilised 58 stakeholders from outside the partnership, who provided Letters of Support with specific commitments to support the Energy Communities. These supporters include local authorities, energy communities and citizen-led initiatives, consumer representatives, regional energy agencies, and national public authorities. They will also contribute to the upscaling and exploitation of the KERs.

Validation with Sister Projects and Synergies for Upscaling

The objective of the exploitation plan is to develop a set of measures that can be applied at the EU level to further support the emergence of additional energy communities. The plan includes strategies at EU level. To ensure its validity, WIP presented and validated the plan within its network through a focus group.

The session took place on 18 September 2025 with the participation of several sister projects that are also working on energy communities. Representatives from the 10 ongoing projects POWER-E-COM, COMET, DISCOVER, ECOEMPOWER, EC4RURAL, ENCOM HUB, as well as from the nearly completed projects LIFE ISLET, LIFE-LOOP, LIFE-BECKON and the recently started project SHINE, joined the meeting to exchange on their exploitation plans and assess their relevance at both EU and sister project level.

WIP introduced the POWER-E-COM exploitation strategies and Key Exploitable Results (KERs) to initiate the discussion. It became evident that many projects are spontaneously working towards similar objectives and KERs, such as Energy Communities Transformation Offices, policy papers, and training materials. These outcomes could be brought together under a common umbrella to make more efficient use of country-specific experiences and resources, and to cross-exploit each other's results.

As an additional outcome, participants agreed to remain in contact and to promote relevant project tools, recognising these as important knowledge resources that should be made accessible to the public.

6. Risk Assessment & Mitigation

Below, the risks to successful exploitation for each selected KER, their likelihood of occurrence, and corresponding mitigation strategies are presented. The main potential barriers relevant to all KERs are low stakeholder engagement and a lack of political and financial support.

Table 8: KERs Barriers and Risk Evaluation

KER	Barrier / Risk	Impact if Occurs	Likelihood	Mitigation Strategy
KER 1 Energy Community Transition Offices (ECTOs)	No long-term funding	Offices close after project	Medium	Anchor in institutions and explore local/regional support. Specifying potential funding sources will be detected (e.g. support schemes, follow-up projects, national recovery and resilience plans)
	Maintaining know-how without financing	Knowledge and expertise are lost	Medium	Develop knowledge transfer mechanisms, e.g. training local staff and creating open documentation
	Low stakeholder awareness	Weak uptake	Medium	Outreach via events, local media, stakeholder mapping
	Regulatory gaps	Limits advisory capacity	High	ECTOs provide policy feedback; liaise with local decision-makers
	Disconnected from existing structures	Redundant or duplicated efforts	Medium	Integrate with municipal or regional climate/energy units
KER 2 Final Energy Community Models	Models not adopted locally	Weak long-term effect	Medium	Co-develop with municipalities; embed in planning processes
	Limited replicability	Other regions cannot use them	Medium	Provide adaptable templates; use ECTO support for adaptation
	Lack of political or financial support	Implementation blocked	Medium	Engage decision-makers; include funding scenarios
	Legal differences across countries; significantly delayed legal implementation in some countries	Hard to transfer and delayed uptake	Low–Medium	Include legal context analysis; provide flexible options
	Lack of visibility	Missed uptake beyond pilots	Medium	Share through ECTOs and EU-level dissemination
	Technical challenges (grid integration, expansion of	Limited usability or uneven applicability	Medium	Engage with local technical partners and integrate flexibility for different national contexts

	digital infrastructure, smart meter integration) in some countries	y across regions		
KER 3 Online Community Energy Training Pack	Low engagement by users	Low impact and underutilisation	Medium	Promote through ECTOs and tailor content to user needs
	Poor localisation	Relevance is reduced	Medium	Translation and adaptation by local partners
	No updates post-project; maintenance and financing of the website after the end of the project	Becomes outdated and unavailable	Medium	Provide editable templates and explore long-term hosting, and identify sustainable financing options
	Digital access issues	Exclusion of rural users	Low–Medium	Provide downloadable/offline versions

7. Conclusion

The POWER-E-COM project has identified three Key Exploitable Results (KERs) to maximise impact across six countries:

- **KER 1 – Energy Community Transformation Offices (ECTOs):** Local support hubs providing guidance, technical advice, and capacity building to facilitate the adoption and scaling of community energy initiatives.
- **KER 2 – Methodologies and (Business) Models:** Structured, transferable approaches for planning, governance, financing, and operation of energy communities, enabling replication across national contexts.
- **KER 3 – Online Training Pack:** Standardised training materials for stakeholders in all six countries, strengthening knowledge transfer, capacity building, and sustainable implementation of methodologies.

Together, these KERs form a comprehensive ecosystem of support, knowledge, and practical tools. By combining local guidance (ECTOs), strategic frameworks (methodologies/models), and scalable training (Online Training Pack), POWER-E-COM ensures that its results are replicable, visible, and capable of producing long-term impact beyond the project’s lifetime.

Additionally, by detailing the TRL, target users, potential for replication and scaling, and IPR ownership for each KER, the project lays a strong foundation for coordinated exploitation. The integration of



stakeholder analysis, partner-specific exploitation plans, upscaling strategies, and risk mitigation measures ensures that outputs are tailored to national contexts and that barriers to adoption are minimised.

Lastly, the focus groups organised to validate the exploitation plans at EU level, with the participation of sister projects, demonstrated that the exploitation plan can be applied beyond the six countries and adapted to other EU Member States.