



# Introduction of the DBU project *Rural Energy Communities<sup>LV</sup>*

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*Virtual Policy Dialogue, 26 June 2024*

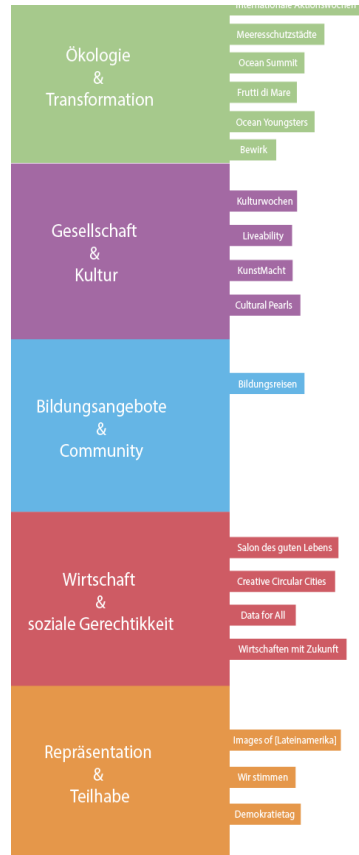
# Heinrich Böll Foundation - Overview

- **Think Tank** for green visions and projects
- **Close ties to the German Green Party** (Alliance 90/The Greens)
- **Primary task: political education** in Germany and abroad
- Heinrich Böll's encouragement of **civil society interference in politics** is a model for the work of the foundation.
- Work is guided by the values of **ecology, democracy, solidarity, and nonviolence.**
- Representations **in all 16 federal states of Germany**
- **Offices in 31 countries**
- **Part of an international network** encompassing partner projects in approximately **60 countries**



Heinrich Böll (1917-1985)  
Laureate of the Nobel Price for Literature 1972  
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# Focus areas



 **HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG**  
SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN

# Projects



# Latvian Rural Forum



To promote balanced development of Latvian rural territories in order to create it as a place where contented people live, able to meet their economical and social needs in the place of their residence.



- 20 years of experience
- experts and enthusiasts to reach common goals regarding Latvian rural development
- collaboration with local, national authorities, and non-governmental organizations
- roof organisation in national level for Local Action Groups



[WWW.LAUKUFORUMS.LV/ENG](http://WWW.LAUKUFORUMS.LV/ENG)



# MAIN ACTIVITIES

n° 1

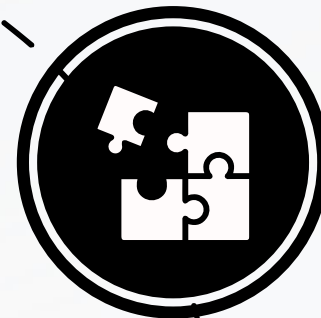
to promote sustainable  
development of Latvian  
rural territories

n° 2

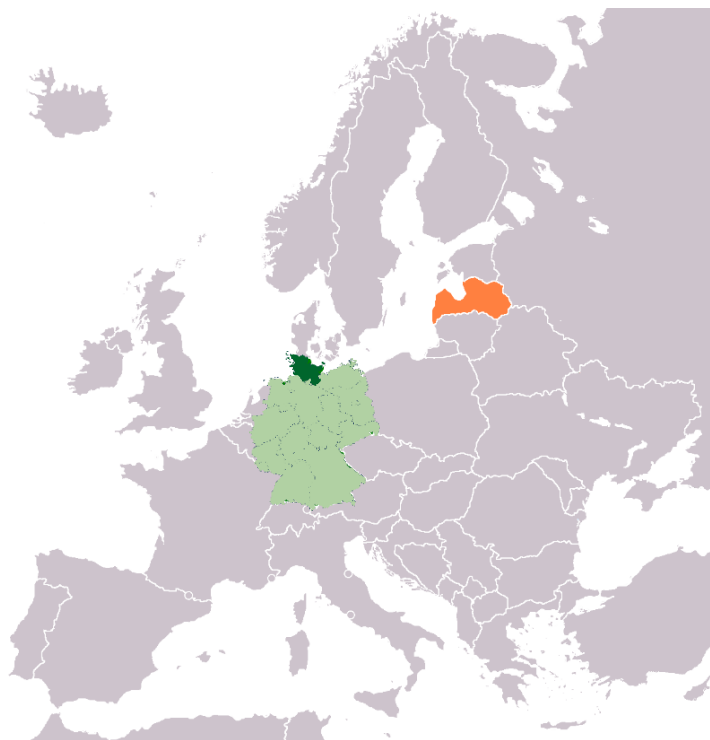
to support professional implementation and  
monitoring of the LEADER program

n° 3

to strengthen civil  
society in rural  
territories, promoting  
local initiatives and  
cooperation







## May 2022: Visit of the **Latvian President Egils Levits** in Schleswig-Holstein

- Announcement of **Minister President Günther** and **President Levits** that SH and LV want to work more closely together in the future
- Possible areas of collaboration: **renewable energy**, medical technology, education and science
- **Rural Energy Communities<sup>LV</sup>** contributes to **bringing this vision to life**

# Key project data and figures

- Funding: Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt (DBU)
- Thematic project cluster „Citizen energy in Central and Eastern Europe“
- Project lifetime: January 2024 to September 2025
- Project partner: HBS SH (Coordination), Latvian Rural Forum
- Overall budget: 178,016 EUR
- DBU funding: 70% (124,614 EUR)

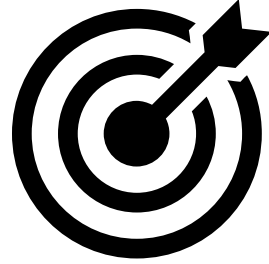
sponsored by



[www.dbu.de](http://www.dbu.de)

<https://www.dbu.de/en/promotion/project-funding/international-projects/citizen-energy/>

# Overall Objective

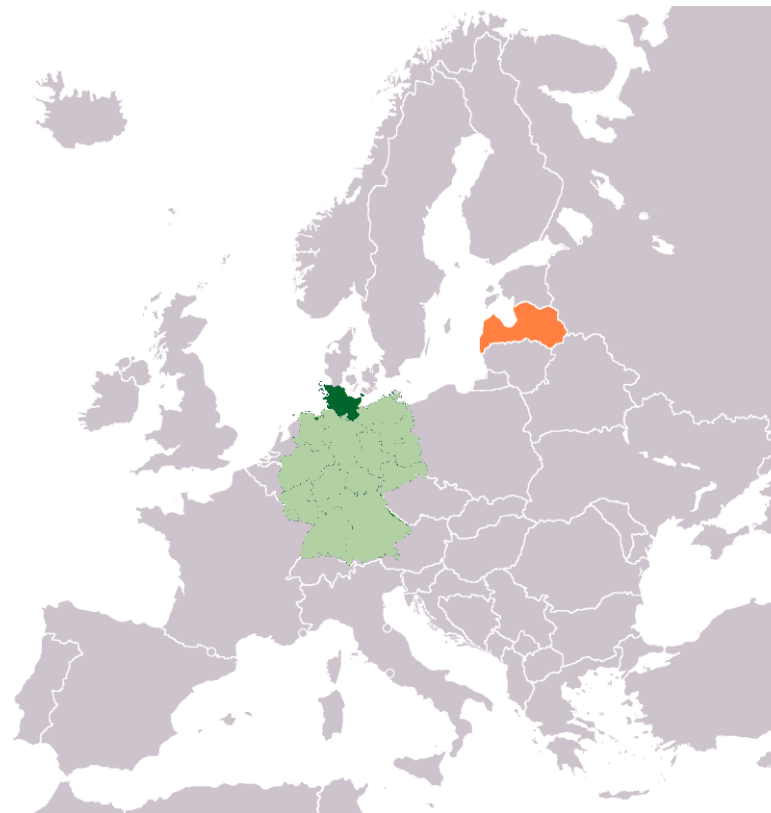
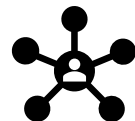


- To enhance the development of renewable energy communities (RECs), particularly in rural regions of Latvia

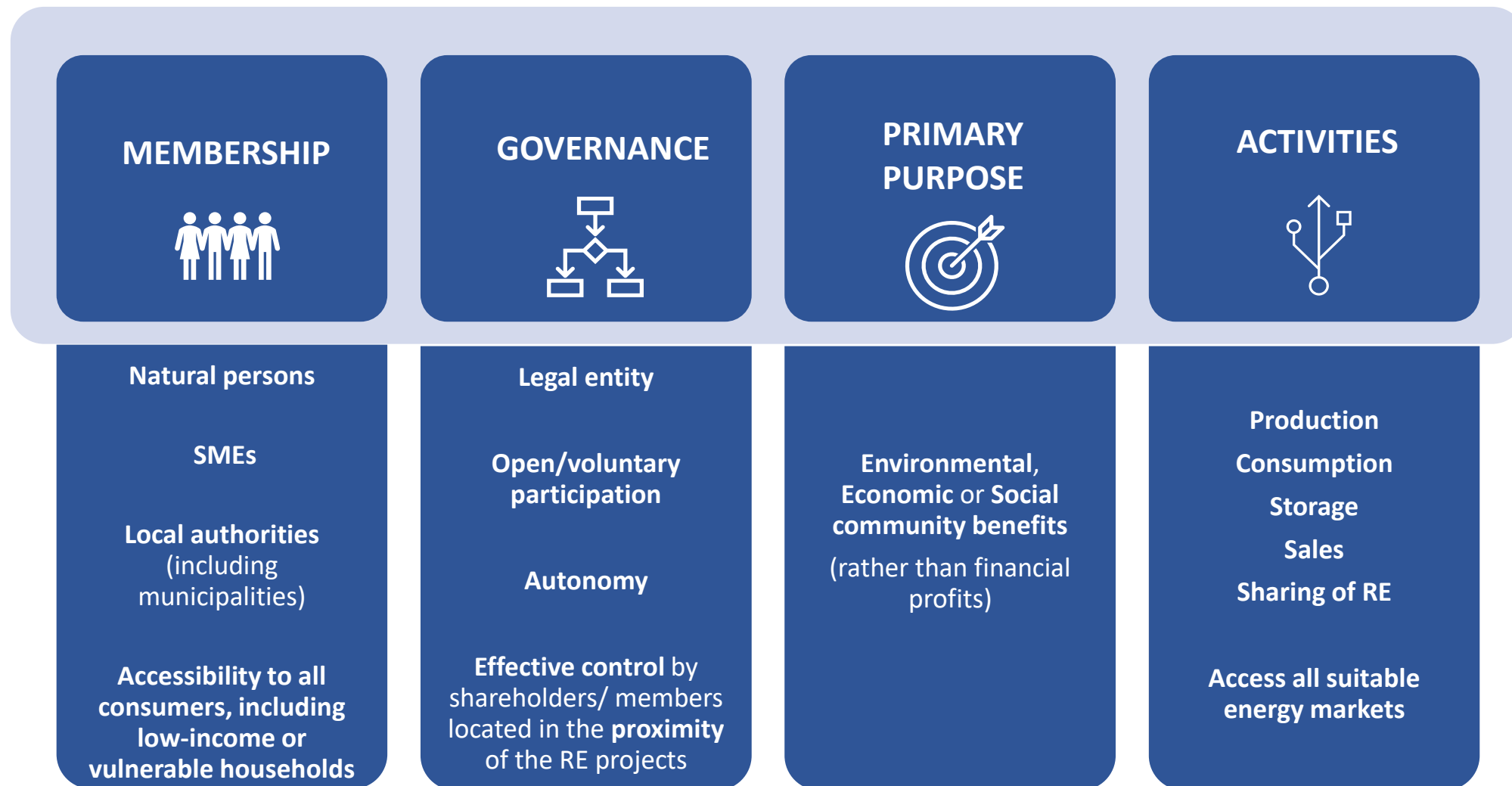


# Subtargets

- Policy dialogue
- Knowledge transfer
- Good practice/guidance
- Awareness raising
- Networking
- Training
- Mentoring



# Renewable Energy Community



# Key Obligations of Member States

## BARRIERS & POTENTIALS



Assessment of  
barriers and potential  
of development

## ENABLING FRAMEWORK



Removal of unjustified regulatory & administrative barriers

Fair, proportionate & transparent procedures

Cooperation with DSO

Cost-reflective network charges

Transparent cost-benefit analysis

Access to finance and information

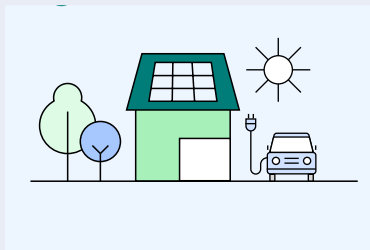
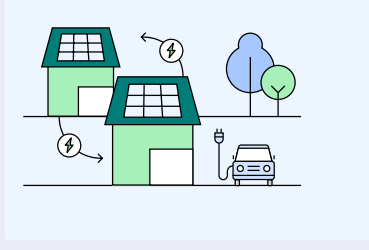

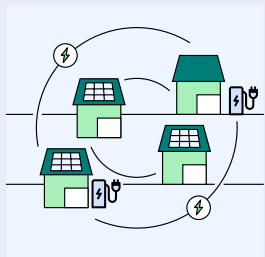
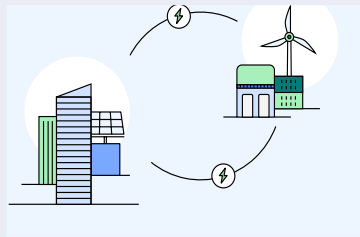
Regulatory and capacity-building support

## SUPPORT SCHEMES



Take into account  
specificities of RECs  
when designing  
support schemes

# Different concepts

<i>Renewables self-consumer</i>	<i>Peer-to-peer trading of renewable energy</i>	<i>Jointly acting renewables self-consumers</i>	<i>Renewable Energy Communities (REC)</i>	<i>Citizen Energy Communities (CEC)</i>
<b>RED II, Art.2, No.14</b>	<b>RED II, Art. 2, No.18</b>	<b>RED II, Art. 2, No. 15</b>	<b>RED II, Art. 2, No. 16</b>	<b>EMD, Art. 2 No. 11</b>
				

# The project addresses different levels



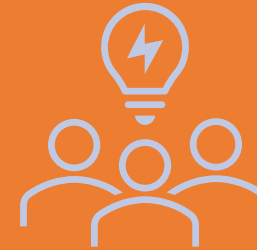
**WP 2**  
**Macro level**

Policy dialogue



**WP 3**  
**Meso level**

Capacity Development in  
the Planning Regions



**WP 4**  
**Micro level**

Rural Pilot Energy  
Community



## Macro level (WP 2)

- Policy factsheets (M5)
- Virtual policy dialogue (M5 + M16)
- Study visit in SH (M10)



## Meso level (WP 3)

- Good practice fiches (M12)
- 4 regional seminars in LV (M14)
- Communication material (M20)
- Train the trainers workshops in LV (M20)





## Micro level (WP 4)

- Local working group in Sece (M13)
- Local stakeholder survey (M14)
- Assessment of technical, legal, organisational & economic feasibility (M20)
- Start-up advice (M20)
- Dissemination to potential followers (M21)



# Next steps and Outlook

**Michael Krug**, Heinrich Böll Foundation Schleswig-Holstein

*Virtual Policy Dialogue, 26 June 2024*

	Schleswig-Holstein/Germany	Latvia
Energy communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pioneer in community energy, particularly community wind farms</li> <li>Pilot region for testing and implementing sector coupling and flexibilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No tradition of energy communities/cooperatives</li> <li>ECs including RECs are in an embryonic state</li> </ul>
Transposition of RED II	Good progress in 2023 and 2024, several gaps	Umbrella legislation in place, secondary legislation drafted
Jointly acting renewable self-consumers (at building level)	Introduced in 2024 (Solar Package I)	Umbrella legislation in place, secondary legislation drafted
Renewable energy communities	Transposed	Transposed
Citizen energy communities	No explicit transposition	Transposed
Energy Sharing (use of public grid)	Theoretically possible, no regulatory framework, no incentives	Umbrella legislation in place, secondary legislation drafted
Support schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exemption of REC projects from auctions (→market premiums)</li> <li>Federal grant to loan scheme for community wind</li> <li>SH: citizen energy fund (<i>Bürgerenergiefonds</i>)</li> </ul>	Virtual net metering/accounting
Legislation requiring financial participation of municipalities and citizens in RE projects	<p>National: Voluntary payments to municipalities from new RE plants</p> <p>Regional (various): Legislation requiring financial participation of municipalities/citizens</p>	National: Mandatory payments to municipal budgets from new wind farms
Share of final household consumers with smart meters (2023)	<p>1%*</p> <p><small><a href="https://background.tagesspiegel.de/energie-klima/smart-meter-alleine-bieten-zu-wenig-mehrwert">https://background.tagesspiegel.de/energie-klima/smart-meter-alleine-bieten-zu-wenig-mehrwert</a></small></p>	<p>98%*</p> <p><small>* <a href="https://www.acer.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/Publications/2023_MMR_Energy_Retail_Consumer_Protection.pdf">https://www.acer.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/Publications/2023_MMR_Energy_Retail_Consumer_Protection.pdf</a></small></p>

# Next steps

- Regional awareness raising seminars in Latvia
- Study visit in Schleswig-Holstein (8-11 October 2024)
- Policy factsheet Latvia
- Policy Dialogue II (April/May 2025)



THANK YOU!

PALDIES!

DANKE!