

Virtual Policy Dialogue

Energy Sharing for Rural Energy Communities – Knowledge Exchange Between Schleswig-Holstein (Germany) and Latvia

Date: Wednesday, 2 April 2025: 10:00-13:00 CEST, Online

The Project Rural Energy Communities^{LV}

The Virtual Policy Dialogue is part of the project *Rural Energy Communities^{LV} - Catalysing and Building Capacities for Renewable Energy Communities in Rural Latvia*. This project is funded by the German Federal Foundation for the Environment (*Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt*) under its thematic project cluster *Citizen Energy*. Project partners are the Heinrich Böll Foundation Schleswig-Holstein and the Latvian Rural Forum. The project runs from January 2024 until September 2025. Its overall objective is to enhance the development of renewable energy communities (RECs), especially in rural areas of Latvia. The main activities encompass two virtual policy dialogues between actors from Germany, particularly the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein, and Latvia, a study visit of Latvian policy makers and experts to Schleswig-Holstein, the elaboration of good practice cases, and various awareness raising, networking and capacity development activities in the four rural Planning Regions of Latvia. Moreover, the proposed project aims to catalyse and facilitate the development of one rural pilot energy community in Latvia.

Purpose of the Virtual Policy Dialogue

The Virtual Policy Dialogues in the project Rural Energy Communities^{LV} aim to facilitate the mutual exchange of knowledge, experiences and good practices between policy makers and community energy experts from Germany, particularly Schleswig-Holstein, and Latvia. The first Virtual Policy Dialogue addressed the overall energy situation and state of energy policies in both countries as well as the implementation of European provisions for energy communities laid down in the Renewable Energy Directive and the Internal Electricity Market Directive. It also highlighted issues such as the digitalization of the energy system and the potential of the Citizen Energy Fund in Schleswig-Holstein to act as a model for Latvia.

The **second Virtual Policy Dialogue** will focus on the specific topic of energy sharing. Pursuant to the revised Electricity Market Design Directive (EU)2024/1711, energy sharing operationalizes the collective consumption of self-generated or stored electricity injected into the public grid by more than one jointly acting active customer. Renewable energy communities and citizen energy communities are entitled to share electricity generated from facilities they have in full ownership with their members. In December 2024, the Latvian government adopted a regulation for the registration and operation of energy communities, including energy sharing, transposing the EU rules. In November 2024, the German government drafted amendments to the Energy Industry Act, which included a section on energy sharing. However, the future regulatory framework for energy sharing in Germany remains unclear due to the collapse of the federal government. The Virtual Policy Dialogue will address questions including: What are key opportunities and challenges of energy sharing for Germany, particularly for the federal state of Schleswig-Holstein, and Latvia? What can policy makers, community energy initiatives, other market actors and stakeholders in Germany and Latvia learn from each other and from the experience of pioneering countries in this field? The policy dialogue addresses policy makers, public authorities, associations, citizen and community energy initiatives, as well as other interested market actors and stakeholders.

Agenda

Moderation:

Doris Lorenz and Michael Krug (Heinrich Böll Foundation Schleswig-Holstein)

10:00	Opening <i>Doris Lorenz, Managing Director, Heinrich Böll Foundation Schleswig-Holstein</i>
10:05	Welcome Addresses <i>Joschka Knuth, State Secretary, Ministry for Energy Transition, Climate, Environment and Nature Schleswig-Holstein</i> <i>Prof. Mirko Schönfeldt, Honorary Consul of the Republic of Latvia in Schleswig-Holstein</i>
10:20	Status Quo of the DBU Project Rural Energy Communities^{LV} <i>Michael Krug, Project Coordinator, Heinrich Böll Foundation Schleswig-Holstein</i> <i>Ilvija Ašmane, Climate and Energy Expert, Latvian Rural Forum</i>
10:30	Energy Sharing in Europe: Approaches and Lessons from Pioneering Countries <i>Achille Hannoset, Policy Officer, European Commission</i>
10:50	Energy Sharing in Germany: Proposals and Perspectives <i>Anna Papke, Researcher, Stiftung Umweltenergierecht</i>
11:10	Energy Sharing Pilot Project in Bakum/Lower Saxony <i>Olaf Büssing, Board Member, Energy Cooperative Bakum eG</i>
11:20	Discussion
11:40	Break
12:00	The Regulatory Framework for Energy Sharing in Latvia <i>Gunārs Valdmanis, Head of Department, Latvian Ministry of Climate and Energy</i>
12:20	Potential Pilot Project in Vārme (Latvia) <i>Signe Petrēvica, Vārme Residents' Council</i>
12:30	Discussion
12:55	Outlook and Closing <i>Michael Krug, Project Coordinator, Heinrich Böll Foundation Schleswig-Holstein</i> <i>Ilvija Ašmane, Climate and Energy Expert, Latvian Rural Forum</i>