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Status Quo of the DBU project Rural Energy Communities^{LV}

Michael Krug, Heinrich Böll Foundation Schleswig-Holstein Ilvija Ašmane, Latvian Rural Forum

Virtual Policy Dialogue, 02 April 2025





- Funding: German Federal Environmental Foundation (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%)



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

HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN

- Think Tank for green visions and projects
- Close ties to the German Green Party
- Primary task: political education in Germany and abroad
- Work is guided by the values of ecology, democracy, solidarity and nonviolence.
- Representations in all 16 federal states of Germany
- Offices in 31 countries



Heinrich Böll (1917-1985) Nobel Price for Literature 1972 © Digné Markoviczlicence









































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 organization in national level for Local Action Groups

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- to promote sustainable development of Latvian rural territories
- to support professional implementation and monitoring of the LEADER program
- to strengthen civil society in rural territories, promoting local initiatives and cooperation



Overall Objective





 To enhance the development of renewable energy communities, particularly in rural regions of Latvia

The project addresses different levels





WP 2
Macro level

Policy dialogue



Meso level

WP3

Capacity Development in the Latvian Planning Regions



WP 4

Micro level

Rural Pilot Energy Community in Latvia

Activities implemented so far (I)

2 Policy Factsheets



Policy Dialogue Virtual (June 2024, March 2025)



 Study Visit of Latvian expert group to SH (8-11 Oct 2024)



Detailed compilation of Good Practices (en)













Energy Communities and Regulatory Framework in Germany/Schleswig-Holstein

1. Introduction and purpose

With the Clean Energy for all Europeans P tives, the European Union introduced the energy as individuals, groups and as legal Energy Directive (RED II) and the Integral of collective action including jointly acting ties (REC) and the Citizens' Energy Con means a group of at least two jointly actir apartment block. RECs and CECs reflect a related activities and have a non-commer ings and make use of the public grid. Both ticipation and autonomy. Their primary p munity benefits to its members or sharel to generate financial profits'. While CECs nology-specific focus, RECs build and ma quiring a certain level of physical proximi sume, store, and sell energy as well as sh provisions into national legislation and to tively that provides clarity on the definition nities, with a more comprehensive frame









Policy factsheet: **Energy Communities and Regulato**









RURAL ENERGY COMMUNITIES

1. Introduction and purpose

With the Clean Energy for all Europeans Package, the European Unio citizens to produce and consume their own energy as individuals, gre "energy communities" (hereinafter - ECs).

The updated Renewable Energy Directive (RED II)¹ and the Integra (IEMD)² have defined several types of collective action including joi sumers, Renewable Energy Communities (RECs) and Citizen Energy Co renewables self-consumers are groups of at least two acting on the I apartment block, or at a single real estate level. RECs and CECs reflec ership around various energy related activities. They go beyond the bo make use of the public grid. Both types of ECs are characterised by o and autonomy. Their primary purpose is to provide environmental, benefits to its participants or to the local areas where they operate r profits. Both types of ECs are entitled to produce, consume, store, se duced by the production sites owned by the respective EC.

While the IEMD entitles only CECs to share electricity that is produce [Article 16.3(e)], the revised Electricity Market Directive³ introduced sharing"4 and extended this right beyond CECs towards 'active custom public bodies and, where a Member State has so decided, other categories active customers to share self- or collectively generated electricity friends, families, neighbours, communities, vulnerable consumers and

Compilation of Good Practice Cases

1.	Context and purpose of this document
2.	Methodology
3.	Community wind farm in Wiemersdorf
4.	Collective electricity self-supply at the ecological housing estate Alte Gärtnerei in Kiel
5. Bobe	Non-profit association Boben Op Klima- und Energiewende e.V. and local heating cooperative in Op Nahwärme eG
6.	Community wind and solar energy in the municipality of Sprakebüll
7.	Tenant electricity project implemented by the energy cooperative BürgerEnergieNord eG
8.	Pool of community wind and solar farms in Northern Friesland ('Grenzland-Pool')
9.	Community energy initiatives in Schleswig-Holstein supported by the European LEADER

1. Context and purpose of this document

This compilation was prepared in the context of the project Rural Energy Communities¹ Catalysing and building capacities for renewable energy communities in rural Latvia. It provides a brief overview on selected rural energy communities in Schleswig-Holstein that can provide orientation for similar initiatives in Latvia. The project Rural Energy Communities ^W is funded by the German Federal Foundation for the Environment (DBU) under its thematic project cluster Citizen Energy. Project partners are the Heinrich Böll Foundation in Schleswig-Holstein and the Latvian Rural Forum (LRF). The project is running from January 2024 until September 2025, with the overal objective being to enhance the development of renewable energy communities (RECs), especially in rural areas of Latvia. This will be accomplished through a virtual policy dialogue, a study visit of Latvian policy makers and other experts to Schleswig-Holstein, the elaboration of relevant good practice cases, regional awareness raising, networking and capacity development activities in the four rural planning regions of Latvia, and creation of regional task forces and 'REC ambassadors' as well as "train the trainers" workshops. Moreover, the proposed project aims to catalyse and





















Study Visit 8-11 October 2024

Wiemersdorf, Sprakebüll, Klixbüll, Hürup, Norderstedt, Kiel

Activities implemented in Latvia (II)







Awareness raising



Networking



Training



Mentoring











kopējo jaudu 9 kW, kas sākotnēji tika ievadīta

publiskajā tiklā un atlidzināta





iniciatīvas veicina ekonomisko attīstību, inovācijas un iedzīvotāji labklājibu, vienlaikus palidzot

var sanemt atlidzību 20 gadu riedă. Projekti tiek îstenoti ciešă sadarbibā ar valsts un provātajām

nansēti no vairākiem avotiem,

rojektus, tostarp platjoslas tikla







2004 gada tika nodibinats uzņēmums 'Solar-Energie Andreser GmbH', kas attista saules un vēja enerģijas projektus un šobrid nodarbīna 70 cilvēkus. 2013. gadā tika izveidots vietējais

nodrošina centralizētu apkur izmantojot biopāzi. Šobrid 90% māj ir pioslėgtas šim tiklam. Turpmškajos gados tika istenoti vairaki nozimigi projekti, tostarp: • vėja parka modernisacija un

 biologiskas lauksaimniecībar ar saules enerģiju darbināmu pārvalda dažādi strādājoši uzņēmumi. Šajā Vācijas reģionā tā















Today's Topic: Energy Sharing



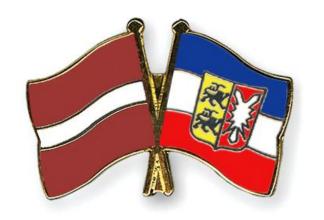
- Members of renewable energy communities and electricity energy communities are allowed to use jointly generated electricity by utilizing the distribution grid.
- The revised Electricity Market Directive extended this right to share energy to other types of active consumers.
- Citizens may share self-generated electricity with their neighbours, families, communities etc. on a contractual basis.





Renewables self-consumer	Peer-to-peer trading of renewable energy	Jointly acting renewables self-consumers	Renewable Energy Communities (REC)	Citizen Energy Communities (CEC)
RED II, Art.2, No.14	RED II, Art. 2, No.18	RED II, Art. 2, No. 15	RED II, Art. 2, No. 16	EMD, Art. 2 No. 11
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Source: adapted from Hamann (2023) Link: https://ibmix.de/en/blog/energy-communities

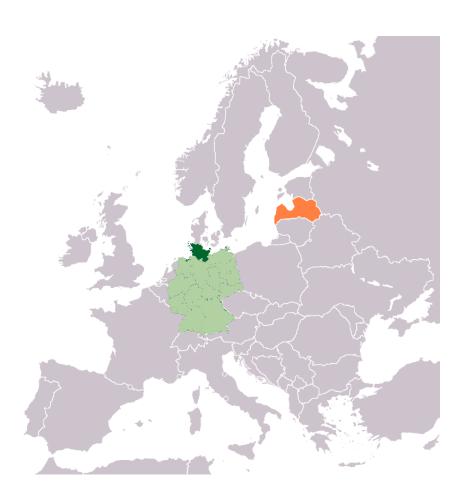




THANK YOU!

PALDIES!

DANKE!



	Schleswig-Holstein	Latvia	
Area	15,763 km²	64,589 km²	
Population (2019)	2.90 mln.	1.92 mln.	
Population density	187 persons/km²	29 persons/km²	
GDP/capita (2022)	38,274 EUR	26,097 EUR	
Gross household savings rate (2022)	19.9%	3.9%	
Gross household investment rate (2022)	11%	3.5 %	
Unemployment rate (Dec 2023)	5,6 %	6.6 %	
RES share in final energy consumption	30.5% (2021)	44.6% (2022)	

Questions for the Discussion



- Where do you see strengths and weaknesses of the current legislation/draft legislation in your countries?
- What can Schleswig-Holstein/Germany learn from Latvia and vice versa?









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Next steps and Outlook

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Next steps (until September 2025)



- Synopsis of regulatory framework for energy sharing
- Workshop with key market actors in Latvia (energy utility companies, DSO, developers etc.)
- Complementary Capacity Development Activities in Latvia (e.g., for Planning Regions)
- Work with Latvian pilot communities (e.g., pre-feasibility studies)
- Parliament of Latvian Rural Communities 11-13 June 2025
- German Expert Visit to Latvia 11/12 June 2025
- Final project events in Latvia/Germany (September 2025)











Renewable Energy Community



MEMBERSHIP



GOVERNANCE



PRIMARY PURPOSE



ACTIVITIES



Natural persons

SMEs

Local authorities (including municipalities)

Accessibility to all consumers, including low-income or vulnerable households

Legal entity

Open/voluntary participation

Autonomy

Effective control by shareholders/ members located in the **proximity** of the RE projects

Environmental, Economic or Social community benefits

(rather than financial profits)

Production

Consumption

Storage

Sales

Sharing of RE

Access all suitable energy markets

Key Obligations of Member States



BARRIERS & POTENTIALS



ENABLING FRAMEWORK



SUPPORT SCHEMES



Assessment of barriers and potential of development

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

Take into account specificities of RECs when designing support schemes

Citizen energy company (§3,15 EEG)



- Co-operative or other company
- At least 50 natural persons as members/shareholders with voting rights
- At least 75 percent of the voting rights are held by natural persons who live in a postcode area that is wholly or partly within a 50 km perimeter of the planned plant
- Voting rights: natural persons, SMEs or local authorities
- No member or shareholder holds more than 10 per cent of the voting rights in the company