DISCOVER

D.3.1 Methodology for Stakeholder Engagement

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List of Abbreviation and Acronym

Abbreviation	Meaning
CEP	Community Energy Project
OSS	One-Stop-Shop
WP	Work Package
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
REC	Renewable Energy Community
EC	Energy Community
PV	Photo Voltaic

1 Introduction: DISCOVER Project

1.1 Overview

DISCOVER is an innovative LIFE project with the strategic aim to support the transition to a renewable energy-driven society. By fostering Community Energy Projects (CEPs), DISCOVER will empower stakeholders and citizens and mobilize significant investments in renewable energy generation in pilot regions across Europe. DISCOVER will catalyze the launch of CEPs in 5 diverse European regions respectively in Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, and Italy. Local hubs will be set up to pilot innovative support mechanisms for CEPs. The hubs will deliver guidance and practical services on the technical, economic, financial, and legal aspects and will help connecting CEPs to local service and technology providers. The services will cover all developmental stages of CEPs, accompanying them throughout their entire lifecycle.

Considering the diverse socio-geographical-legislative and market maturity levels across these 5 pilot regions, DISCOVER will follow a regionally specific approach with four local service hubs. On top of that, an interactive online tool will be designed to provide extensive support to local communities embarking on Renewable Energy Projects.

DISCOVER aims to simplify decision-making processes and reduce operational barriers by connecting projects with local service/technology providers and relevant authorities.

During the 3-year timeframe (2023 – 2026), DISCOVER is expected to reach more than 20,000 citizens, support 20 new initiatives (focusing on community PV installation) and trigger a total investment of more than 7.7 million of euros. The project will promote and facilitate the recreation of future service hubs in other regions to ensure replication across other European regions.

The DISCOVER consortium stands as a collaborative force spanning over five European countries, each committed to driving the vision of CEPs within their

respective region. The consortium comprises active national / regional leaders in the CEP initiatives, well-connected to citizens, local authorities, and stakeholders.

1.2 "WP3 – Preparation Phase of CEP Services" activities

The activities related to the "Preparation phase of CEP Services" (WP2) is based on the findings of activities related to "Setup of Community Energy Project (CEP) framework/ guidebook" (WP3), i.e. a profound understanding of existing support initiatives/services/schemes and the general guidebook. WP3 combines actions required to develop a specific guidebook.

With the start of WP3, the DISCOVER stakeholder engagement activities kick off. Stakeholder engagement continuous and involves multiple work packages (see chapter 1.3). The engagement strategy is the backbone of all DISCOVER engagement activities.

The initial engagement efforts within WP3, aim to identify and connect with local stakeholders in each DISCOVER pilot region. This aims to understand practical project hurdles (D3.2) which CEP initiators and other stakeholders face when launching CEPs. Other activities within WP3 aim to A) define interconnections between stakeholders and external services requirements (D3.3), B) adapt the general guidebook to local specifics (D3.4) and C) prepare and outline the development of new/advanced services (D3.5).

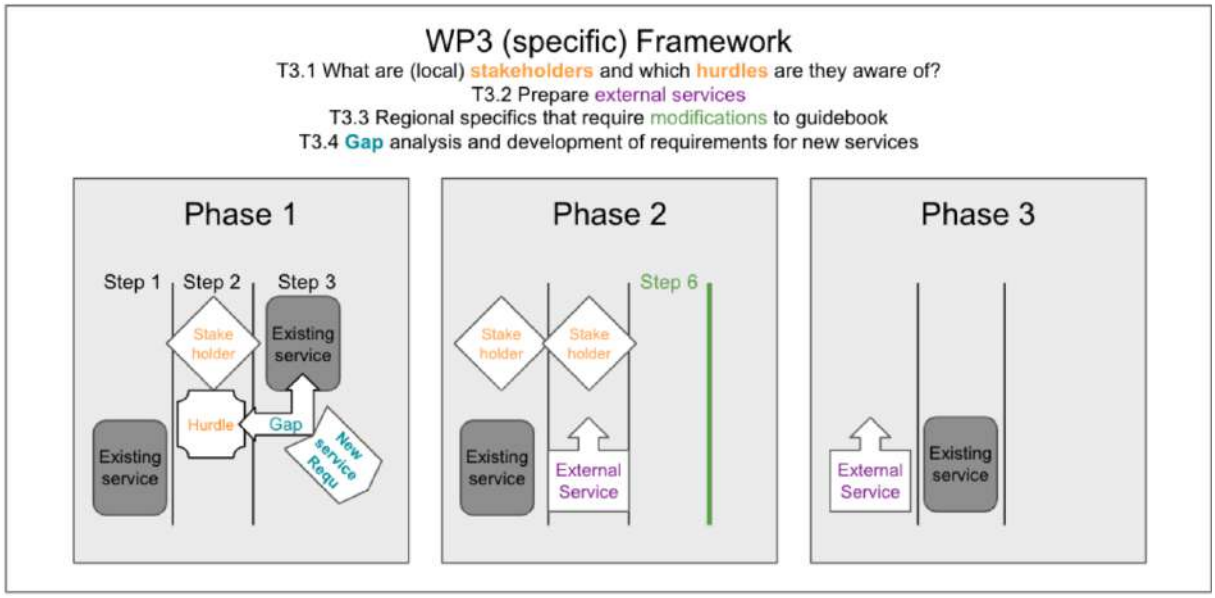


Figure 1 Tasks of WP3 – Preparation Phase of CEP Services.

1.3 Stakeholder engagement activities through the DISCOVER project

There are several stakeholder engagement activities throughout the DISCOVER project:

- Interview stakeholders (CEP initiators, utility operator...) to learn about hurdles they experience when setting up CEPs (T.3.1)
- Contact stakeholders (local authorities, permission agencies...) to clarify interface requirements for external services (T.3.2)
- Involve stakeholders (banks, investors...) during the development of new/advanced services to guarantee a user-centered and effective process that mitigates the previously reported hurdles (T.4.1)
- Reach out to stakeholders (citizens, communities...) to initiate new CEPs (T.5.1)
- Set the basis for all activities to identify, address and engage stakeholders (T.6.1)
- Prepare communication and dissemination materials to properly address stakeholders (T.6.2)

- Continuous publish updates on social media to reach out and inform national and European stakeholders on DISCOVER (T.6.3)
- Respond to stakeholders (partnering municipalities, energy agencies...) who plan to replicate CEPs. Actively searching for replicators, reaching out to replicators, and encouraging them to take-up DISCOVER outcomes. Support the replication campaign by hosting events with local stakeholders)T.7.2).

The following table (Table 1 Overview of the engagement activities for different stakeholder groups and WPs) highlights how stakeholders will be engaged throughout the DISCOVER project. Each line item is dedicated to a specific type of stakeholder. Each column is specific to a task within the DISCOVER workplan, covering everything from the proposal phase until the replication campaign at the end of the three-year project timeframe. Typically, the engagement activities within a task are not specific to a pilot region, except Task 5.1. For the CEP initiation T5.1, a regional specific approach is foreseen. The ‘x’ marks which stakeholder will be included within a certain task, followed by a brief description on how to do so.

Table 1 Overview of the engagement activities for different stakeholder groups and WPs

type of stakeholder	pre-project committment (LOS)	T3.1 "hurdles"		T3.2 "interface requirements"		T4.1 "service development involvement"		T5.1 "CEP initiation"						T7.2 "replication"	
Countries	all countries		all countries		all countries		all countries		AUT	BUL	FRA	ITA	HR/CRO		all countries
private citizens			identification of stakeholders, which play a legal/organisational/technical permitting role in each country by each PP + direct approach by partners via contact details and setup of meetings/workshops (F2F/remote); conduction of meetings by WP leader, technical coordinator & PP of respective country		identification of stakeholders, which play a legal/organisational/technical permitting role in each country by each PP + direct approach by partners via contact details and setup of meetings (F2F/remote); conduction of meetings/workshops by WP leader, technical coordinator & PP of respective country		according to a lean development approach: involvement of specific stakeholders to challenge/improve /confirm advanced service development; specific stakeholders for each targeted stakeholder will be identified by the PPs; the stakeholders will be directly approached by the respective countries' PP; remote meetings/workshops are set up;	x	PIXEL will 1) make the project website available and spread the word in social media (LinkedIn, etc.) 2) directly approach existing energy communities and already known interested businesses and citizens 3)	IESDI will apply: 1) local OSS 2) invitations to community initiatives/debates/open door events/round tables 3) project/service website (existing) 4) Create/facilitate Local Working Groups.	APC will apply: 1) communication channel via own website/coach copro platform (existing) 2) physical hub 3) social media platform campaigns/articles 4) printmedia (newspapers, magazine articles) 5) newsletter for registered users 6) online/F2F meetings with interested parties	AGENA will apply: 1) communication channel via own website (existing) 2) physical hub 3) social media platform campaigns/articles 4) printmedia (newspapers, magazine articles) 5) newsletter for registered users 6) online/F2F meetings with interested parties	BEZGRANICA will apply: 1) OSS operation: Design Thinking or World Cafe methods in the context of interacting with citizens 2) surveys 3) existing educational platform on existing web page. 4) broadcasting of video and audio materials or podcasts on the project topics 5) local newspaper articles		Throughout the project: identification of the stakeholders with interest/capability to replicate DISCOVER OSSs; direct approach and communication towards their replication target;
businesses (not energy)								x							
building administrators		x				x		x							
energy communitites/ existig CEP initiators	x	x				x		x							
local authorities/municipalities	x			x				x						x	
regional authorities	x			x											
grid operator companies				x		x									
energy community agencies/coordination centers				x				x						x	
financing institutes (banks etc.)				x		x									
investors						x									
lawyers/ legal advisors	x			x		x									
energy agencies	x							x						x	
universities	x														

1.4 Stakeholder engagement goals

The success of the DISCOVER project will be quantified by the key performance indicators (KPIs), shown in Figure 2. It is estimated that 20 new CEP initiatives will be launched as a result of DISCOVER activities. These new initiatives are supposed to result in a significant investment pipeline (7.6 million EUR) and renewable energy generation (2.9 GWh/y). In order to achieve 20 new initiatives, 20000 stakeholders need to be reached and 400 market stakeholders need to be trained. The stakeholder engagement strategy is therefore key to the success of the DISCOVER project.

Figure 2 Key Performance indicators to be reached by DISCOVER

KPI	3-year goal
#Stakeholders reached through media and events during the project	20,000
Investment-pipeline created (in 000 EUR)	7,650
Renewable energy generation triggered by DISCOVER (gWh/year)	2.9
#Market stakeholders trained with increased skills and competencies on energy issues due to the project	400
#Citizen-led initiatives supported or created as a result of the project	20
#Operational integrated service hubs at the end of the 3 year project	4

1.5 Literature review on stakeholder engagement

1.5.1 One-Stop-Shop stakeholders

DISCOVER builds on existing knowledge about the setting up of One-Stop-Shops and Energy Communities, based on the findings of the European Energy Communities Repository.

The Horizon 2020 project UP-STAIRS (Grant agreement ID: 892037[1]) has focused on the design of energy services OSS frameworks. UP-STAIRS project deliverable 2.2 "Design of UP-STAIRS Energy Service OSS Framework"[2] published in 2021 sums up the engagement strategy for an OSS as follows:

> "*Key stakeholders need to be reached out and synergies built with them, from the public administration at different levels and departments, and with key market actors.*"

That's why each DISCOVER pilot will generate a list of their local stakeholders and focus primarily on key stakeholders, along with public authorities and key market actors.

The engagement strategy is tailored towards relevant stakeholders while considering A) the territorial scope, B) the state of the local market and its social dynamics, and C) the specific activities that each DISCOVER OSS aims to deliver.

According to the European Energy Communities Repository 2023 guidance book for the setting-up of OSS[3] (January 2024), activities for an OSS should be considered among legal, organizational, technical, and financial aspects as follows:

- Regulatory support
- Insurances
- Financing support
- Deploying experts
- IT supports
- Trainings

[1] https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/892037
[2] https://www.h2020-upstairs.eu/fileadmin/UP-STAIRS/Publications/D2.2_Design_of_UP-STAIRS_Energy_Service_OSS_Framework_V0.1.pdf
[3] https://energy-communities-repository.ec.europa.eu/document/1b9aad5d-9b3d-4603-ba2f-a3a7868d82ba_en

1.5.2 Energy community stakeholders

Energy communities are understood as a subclass of a CEP. Therefore, stakeholder engagement also addresses Energy Communities. They become an important aspect of the overall DISCOVER engagement strategy.

As seen on the European Energy Community Repository website[4] (conference held on the 10th of November 2023) and the Intelligent Energy Europe project REScoop 20-20-20[5] guide (deliverable 3.3), "*energy communities should primarily focus on the collective engagement of citizens and local authorities (which may be action catalyzers for citizens), and secondly project developers. They should start by launching communication campaigns to foster citizen engagement, building trust with front-runners, then expand their scope to other stakeholders.*"

According to the UPSTAIRS project, engagement tools are typically the following, in an indicative order of relative importance:

- Face to face meeting
- Local Media and newsletters
- Interactive webinars and virtual meetings
- Social Media Outreach
- Community surveys and polls.

Hence it is of great importance for each DISCOVER pilot to know its local community of citizens and professionals and its key stakeholders in order to define an engagement methodology tailored to them.

That will help prioritizing activities of future OSSs, and their strategy for bridging the market gap between demand (citizens) and supply (professionals).

[4] https://energy-communities-repository.ec.europa.eu/index_en
[5] Grant agreement ID: 696084 - https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/696084

2 Overview and structure of the document

Engaging stakeholders and finding the most adequate methodology to do so, is part of DISCOVER initial tasks. This report (D3.1 - Methodology for Stakeholder Engagement) will provide the details on which method is most suitable to reach the stakeholders (e.g. workshops, surveys, etc.). It will facilitate the initial engagement efforts at this early stage of the project and become the foundation for future engagement activities. In addition to the engagement strategy (D3.1), the Communication and Dissemination plan (D6.1) will support the engagement activities, especially during the CEP initiation'.

2.1 Overview of the document

This document describes the stakeholder engagement strategy which involves answering the following two groups of questions:

Stakeholder Groups

- What are the stakeholder groups?
- Whom does the DISCOVER team need to be in contact with?
- With whom is the DISCOVER team in contact with already?
- With whom is the DICOVER team not in touch with yet?

Stakeholder Engagement

- When do they need to be involved?
- What do they need to be involved for?
- How are they going to be involved?

2.2 Structure of the document

The document will A) introduce stakeholders relevant for the DISCOVER project and B) outline engagement activities:

- A) stakeholders are categorized (chapter 3.1), using a general list of both stakeholder categories and service categories.
- B1) To establish a stakeholder engagement strategy, it is essential to understand how well the consortium partners are interconnected with local actors in their pilot region (chapter 3.2) by:
    - Reviewing the LOIs collected during the project proposal phase.
    - Conducting a survey among DISCOVER partners, which resulted in an index of local stakeholders for each pilot region.
- B2) Based on the understanding of the current status, the stakeholder engagement strategy is established, tailored for each pilot region, thus dedicating a subchapter to each future OSS (chapters 3.4.1 - 3.4.4).

3 Stakeholder Engagement

The stakeholder engagement strategy is essential to achieve DISCOVER outcomes. To establish a successful stakeholder engagement strategy, the stakeholders to be addressed is the starting point. Therefore, this chapter starts with an introduction of relevant stakeholder groups (section 3.1), followed by an assessment of the stakeholder interconnectivity (section 3.2). Finally, the engagement methodology is introduced (section 3.3), then a strategy is provided for each pilot region individually (section 3.4.1-3.4.4). The pilot regions are the future locations of OSSs, including Bulgaria, Croatia, Italy (Teramo) and France.

3.1 Stakeholder Groups

This chapter describes generic stakeholder groups relevant for CEPs and the approach of how to categorize them (section 3.1.1). This is a precursor to establishing a stakeholder list specific to each pilot region (section 3.1.2). This index of local stakeholders includes the contact information of local actors and is the foundation of establishing an engagement strategy tailored to each pilot region.

3.1.1 Generic Stakeholder Groups

Stakeholders are understood as actors relevant to CEPs. Despite their great diversity, they shall be grouped in main Stakeholder groups, as shown in Table 1. For each of these generic stakeholder groups, the following attributes are investigated:

- Phase: In which phase of a CEP lifecycle will the stakeholder be involved
- Topic: Which Topic is the stakeholder addressing – Energy communities (EC) or Photo voltaic (PV).
- Request: The request which a stakeholder is addressed with.

Table 2: List of generic stakeholder groups, along with the corresponding CEP lifecycle phase, their specialization (PV vs EC) and the request they are being addressed with.

Phase	Topic	Stakeholder	Request
1 Planning	PV	Permitting Autority	Are there limitations regarding the appareance of the building?
1 Planning	PV	Permitting Autority	Are there limitations regarding the zoning plan?
1 Planning	PV	Professionals	Is the roof sturdy enough for a PV installation?
1 Planning	PV	Professionals	Are special foundations required for a ground-mounted PV installtion?
1 Planning	PV	Utilitiy Provider	Is the grid ready for the PV?
1 Planning	PV	Utilitiy Provider	What are the hardware requirements to connect the PV to the grid?
1 Planning	PV	Financing Institute	Where to get a loan?
1 Planning	PV	Granting Authority	Where to get a grant?
1 Planning	PV	Initiator	Who is interested in starting a CEP?
2 Realization	PV	Professionals	Who can mount the PV?
2 Realization	PV	Supplier	Where to buy a PV module?
2 Realization	PV	Supplier	Where to buy a DC/AC converter?

2 Realization	PV	Professionals	Who can wire everything up?
2 Realization	PV	Energy Provider	Can excess electricity be sold?
2 Realization	PV	Utility Provider	Where to get a meter suitable to electric current in both directions?
2 Realization		Permitting Autority	How to establish a legal entity for the EC?
2 Realization		Utility Provider	How to register the legal entity as EC?
2 Realization		EC Member	Who is interested in participating in a EC?
3 Operation	PV	Insurance	Is insurance needed?
3 Operation		Utility Provider	Where to get a meter that can be read remotely?
3 Operation		Service Provider	Who will manage the EC and help keeping it operable?

3.1.2 Specific Stakeholder Groups

To establish a local stakeholder index through a survey among DISCOVER consortium, the following attributes are defined to further distinguish stakeholders:

- Stakeholder Name
- Service Category & Description
- Stakeholder Category & Description
- Primary Region of operation
- CEP Lifecycle phase in which the stakeholder is involved in

The predefined service and stakeholder categories can be found in

Table 3 - Service and Stakeholder Categories

Service Category	Stakeholder Category	
Stakeholders provide services to CEP. Please categorise their relation by choosing from the following options.	Categorise the stakeholder by choosing from the following options	
Advice/KnowHow/Consulting	Community Energy Project	Financing Institute
Legal/Contract/Juridical	Citizen	Investor
Financial Services/Loan/Grants	Energy community	Insurance Agency
Insurance	Energy agency	Supplier/Vendor/Distributor of g
Permit/Authorisation/Titling	Commercial service provider	Building administrators
Engineering/Architecture	Authority/municipalities/permitti	Lawyer, legal advisor
Installation/Build	Granting Authority	Elected official/Politican
HW solutions/retailing/testing	Distribution System Operator	Union/Representative
SW solutions	Energy Supplier	University/Research facility
Electricity Market Service	Transmission System Operator	Trainer/Promoter
Advertising/Networking/Outreac	Balancing Party	
Representing Interests/Lobbying	Aggregator	
Policymaker	Electricity Producer	
CEP/potential CEP (no service)		

The consortium generated a specific stakeholder list based on the attributes mentioned above. In total >80 stakeholders could be identified. For each stakeholder the contact information was gathered, and the relationship status described. An excerpt is shown in Figure 3.

Figure 3 Excerpt of the specific stakeholder list.

Service Category	Service Description	Stakeholder Name	Stakeholder Cat...	Stakeholder Description	Region1	Region2	Stakehol...	Stakeholder rel...	CEP Phase
Advice/KnowHow/Consulting	Administrative and financial knowledge.	Energy Community of the ...	Community Energy P	The president of the energy community, Damir Juričić, has excellent knowledge of the financial and administrative issues of energy communities.	Local	Croatia	Strong relatio	Bez Granice is a supporter and one of the founders of this energy community.	Realization
Electricity Market Service	Provides electricity distribution services throughout the Republic of Croatia and ensures access to and use of the network. Responsible for the quality of delivered electricity.	HEP ODS	Distribution System O	A large state-owned corporation, they have slow respond to market demands. They are not prepared for the energy transition at all.	National	Croatia	Loose relation	It is difficult to establish any contact related to the problems of the energy communities. HEP ODS is highly centralised organisation.	Planning
Permit/Authorisation/Titling Policymaker CEP/potential CEP (no service)	Ensures the municipality's energy strategy, defines the urban development plan that determines the zones for the installation of plants of sustainable energy sources, provides incentives to citizens.	Municipality of Jelenje	Authority/municipalit	Municipality of Jelenje is located in the northern part of the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County, 15 km from Rijeka. It covers 142 square km of terrain. About 5,000 inhabitants live in 17 small settlements.	Local	Croatia	Loose relation	Just starting more extensive cooperation with them.	Planning
Policymaker Representing Interests/Lobbying	Providing approvals for EC establishment in Croatia. Determining rules and WoW, preparing laws.	HERA - Croatian Energy Re...	Energy agency	The Croatian Energy Regulatory Agency (HERA) was established by the Law on the Regulation of Energy Activities. HERA is an independent legal entity with public powers to regulate energy activities.	National	Croatia	Loose relation	Strictly formal. Difficult.	Planning

3.2 Stakeholder Assessment

The DISCOVER partners are already driving forces for the realization of CEP in their region. Their strong reputation within their local communities is built upon extensive experience and interconnectivity with local actors. OSS are supposed to become platforms to further interconnect local stakeholders, offering them a wide range of support services. To assess the interconnectivity, the commitment of local stakeholders to participate in DISCOVER is evaluated (section 3.2.1) and the current relation to stakeholders is surveyed among the consortium (section 3.2.2).

3.2.1 Pre-project commitment of stakeholders

Stakeholders were involved at an early planning stage of DISCOVER and expressed their interest to contribute via Letter of Interest (LoIs). In total, 30 LoIs were received from the following actors:

1. University of Rijeka - Center for Smart and Sustainable Cities (CRO)
2. Regional Energy Agencies Kvarner (CRO)
3. Regional Energy Agencies of North-West Croatia Energy Agency (CRO)
4. Regional development agency of Primorje gorski kotar County (CRO)
5. Municipality of Rijeka (CRO)
6. Municipality of Delnice (CRO)
7. Municipality of Kastav (CRO)
8. Municipality of Opatija (CRO)
9. Association of Bulgarian Cities and Regions (BUL)
10. Bulgarian Energy and Mining Forum (BUL)
11. Municipality of Dryanovo (BUL)
12. Municipality of Tryavna (BUL)
13. Municipality of Kostinbod (BUL)
14. Energy community of Municipality of Wagrain & regional Raiffeisen bank (AUT)
15. PHH Rechtsanwälte/lawyers (AUT)
16. European Point Consortium (ITA)

17. Province of Teramo (ITA)
18. Municipality of Teramo (ITA)
19. RENAEL italian network of local energy agencies (ITA)
20. RETE Assist (ITA)
21. University of Teramo - Research center green transition, sustainability & global challenges (ITA)
22. Abruzzo Region (ITA)
23. Municipality of Castelli (ITA)
24. Municipality of Martinsicuro (ITA)
25. Municipality of Tortoreto (ITA)
26. Municipalities of Val Vibrata (ITA)
27. CNA Teramo (ITA)
28. University of L'Aquila (ITA)
29. Local climate and energy agency, Strasbourg (FRA)
30. FLAME Federation of local climate and energy agencies (FRA)

3.2.2 Current relations to stakeholders

DISCOVER partners are already cooperating with many stakeholders. For example:

- Municipalities: The local government drives public interventions at the local level. As a bridge between regional governments and citizens, they are uniquely well-placed to catalyze community energy projects.
- Authorities: Grant licenses and permits.
- Technology providers and local installation firms.
- External experts for legal aspects or insurance.
- Financiers for loans and fundings.

The preliminary local stakeholder list provides more details to the current state of stakeholder engagement. The list highlights which stakeholders are already connected with DISCOVER consortium - or not. It allows to benchmark the status within the pilot regions and quantifies the interconnectivity of the project partners. Moreover, the list could also indicate a lack of stakeholder connections. However, the absolute number of

contacts per pilot region allows for different interpretations. The reason for some stakeholders to be mentioned less frequently in the list than others could be due to two reasons:

- There is indeed a lack of stakeholder interconnectivity and the need to find more partners, or,
- Some stakeholder categories members scale with the amount of CEP initiatives (e.g. municipalities) vs others, which don't scale as they are applicable for multiple CEPs (e.g. PV installation firm).

At the time of the present report, from the list, the following conclusions were derived:

- The most and least popular Service categories = high / low count
- The most popular Stakeholder categories = high count
- Under-represented stakeholder categories = low count, or missing entries
- Well-connected stakeholder categories (good relationship status)
- Poorly connected stakeholder categories (no relationship established yet).

Tables 3 to 5 derived from the list, allow to make the following conclusions:

- "Local authorities" are the stakeholder category, which was identified the most, followed by "unions" and "energy agencies".
- The following categories are mentioned only once: (Federation of) Citizens, (existing) CEP and EC, Insurance agency, University.
- The services categories mentioned the most are "Advice/Consulting" (which is in alliance with the high number of energy agencies) followed by "Policy Making" and "Permitting" (associated with local/regional/national authorities).
- The index entries mostly refer to stakeholders, which the consortium is already in touch with, only for 8 (out of 81) instances, there is no relation basis.

Table 3: Stakeholder categories identified in each pilot region.

Market type	**Stakeholder categories**	Austria	Bulgaria	Croatia	France	Italy	**Total**
	Total stakholders identified	**9**	**12**	**11**	**29**	**20**	**81**
Demand	Citizen (federation of)					1	**1**
	Community energy project			1			**1**
	Energy community				1		**1**
Supply	Financing institute	1	4		2		**7**
	Commercial service provider		3		3		**6**
	Other professional service provider					3	**3**
	Aggregator	2				1	**3**
	Building administrator	1			1	1	**3**
	Lawyer, legal advisor				1	1	**2**
	Insurance agency	1					**1**
Third parties, others	Local authority	1	2	6	6	6	**21**
	Unions, representatives		2		7	4	**13**
	Energy agency		1	2	7	1	**11**
	Distribution System Operator	2		1	1		**4**
	Granting authority	1		1		1	**3**
	University, research facility					1	**1**

Table 4: Service categories identified in each pilot region.

Service categories	Austria	Bulgaria	Croatia	France	Italy	**Total**
Advice/consulting		7	3	11	7	**28**
Policy making		1	9	6	2	**18**
Financial service	2	5		6	2	**15**
Permitting	1	3	7	4		**15**
Engineering, architecture		2		5	4	**11**
Representing interest/lobbying		3	1	5	2	**11**
Electricity market service	4	1	1	3		**9**
CEP/potential CEP			6	1		**7**
Advertising/Networking		2		2	2	**6**
Legal advice		2		2	2	**6**
Installation/build		2		2	1	**5**
SW solutions				3		**3**
Insurance				1		**1**
HW solutions				1		**1**

Table 5: Levels of connection to each stakeholder category.

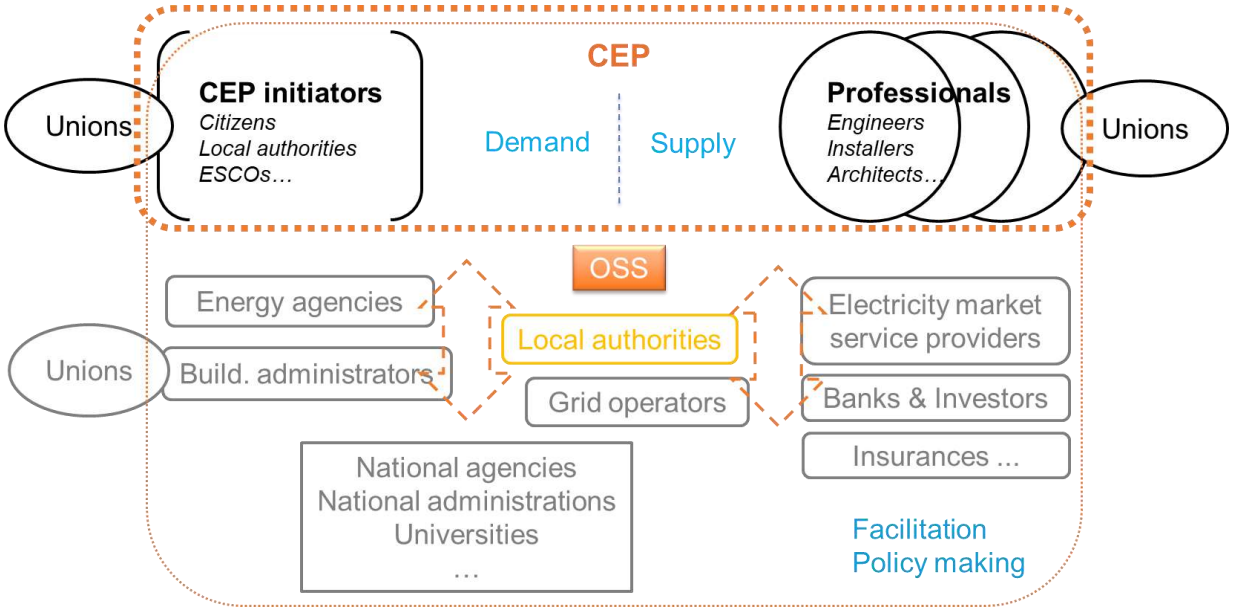
Market type	**Stakeholder categories**	No relation	loose relation	strong relation
	Total	8	40	33
Demand	Citizen (federation of)		1	
	Community energy project		1	1
	Energy community			
Supply	Financing institute	3	2	2
	Commercial service provider	1	4	1
	Other professional service provider		3	
	Aggregator		1	2
	Building administrator	1	1	1
	Lawyer, legal advisor			2
	Insurance agency		1	
Third parties, others	Local authority		12	16
	Unions, representatives	2	7	4
	Energy agency	1	2	11
	Distribution System Operator		3	1
	Granting authority		1	2
	University, research facility		1	

3.3 Engagement Methodology

3.3.1 Matching demand and supply

What is at stake for the development of CEPs locally, is **the effective matching of supply and demand within the existing legal framework and local specifics**. This is the primary goal of the **OSS** that DISCOVER consortium aims to establish in each pilot regions as represented in the following figure.

Figure 4 - Simplified map of local stakeholders, emphasising the role of OSS



Demand is primarily driven by citizens and local authorities, as well as environmental or social associations, or businesses outside the energy sector with social or environmental policies. Aside from citizens, who are the focus of the communication, dissemination and exploitation activities in DISCOVER, such stakeholders have been identified in each pilot region within the stakeholder mapping and engagement activities.

Supply and **facilitation** of the match between supply and demand, are primarily driven by companies in the energy and construction sectors, local authorities, banks, insurance firms and other service providers of the electricity market, and local, regional, or national agencies. Most of these stakeholders have been identified in each pilot region within stakeholder mapping and engagement activities.

The existing, local support initiatives, support schemes, services, and national legal frameworks are currently being identified in the evaluation of existing EC support initiatives, the identification and evaluation of existing services at national/ regional level and identification of National support schemes in pilot Countries.

The objectives for stakeholder engagement are as follows:

- Continue to identify key local stakeholders,

- Engage key stakeholders more actively,
- Understand the hurdles to the development of CEPs,
- Begin to explore interfaces between stakeholders, and the needed services which are external to CEPs.

3.3.2 Interviews and surveys

Two main tools can be used to achieve the above mentioned objectives:

- Interviews
- Surveys
- A wide range of locally relevant activities

Workshops will be organized in the tasks related to the “Implementation of support services in service hubs/OSS” in pilot region to generate interactions between actors who need to cooperate.

Further, throughout the DISCOVER project, communication and dissemination tasks led by AISFOR will coordinate partners’ efforts in the form of newsletters, local events, webinars, or others.

3.3.2.1 Interviews:

Interviews are preferably conducted face-to-face to create the best possible connection and a lasting trust bond. It allows for a deeper discussion with the stakeholder and detailed identification of barriers and expected levers.

Firstly, interviews are conducted with key stakeholders in pilot regions. A second series of interviews may further widen the geographic focus of stakeholders.

Objectives:

- Engage the stakeholder in the DISCOVER process
- Identify hurdles and underserved needs for CEPs
- Begin to explore interfaces between stakeholders.

Interviews will specify the following outline:

1. Pilot: Introduce oneself and present the DISCOVER project
2. Stakeholder: Ask them to introduce themselves
3. Their activities in the pilot region
4. Their activities in relation to CEPs and Photo Voltaic
5. Their hurdles and their successes
6. What would be useful to them – and, what can be provided by the DISCOVER consortium
7. Opening: relation to other regions, other activities, etc.

Interviews will be conducted regarding points of attention specific to each region:

1. Incorporate regional context and national framework.
   For example, for Paris region: power generation in a dense city, collective and individual self-consumption, focus on condominiums, self-censorship of citizens, heritage protection, etc.
2. Incorporate ongoing work of WP2: relation to initiatives, services, and support mechanisms.

3.3.2.2 Surveys and other means:

Surveys complement the bilateral interviews. They trigger answers from a much larger and diversified group of actors, thus testing identified barriers on another scale. If possible, on top of the institutional stakeholders, surveys target citizens while also mobilize potential CEP initiators or individuals willing to engage proactively. Findings will be valuable for the local or global DISCOVER communication strategy.

Objectives:

- Survey the level of knowledge, interest, and implication of stakeholders.
- Identify the main hurdles and challenges faced by them.
- Identify important interactions between stakeholders.
- Target the widest circle of stakeholders as identified in the present document.
- If possible, address and engage also citizens and other actors within DISCOVER pilots' respective community. This will start mobilizing people in the region and help at refining our communication strategy.

Survey will be conducted according to a basic outline common to all pilots.

Apart from interviews and surveys that will be aligned and standardized within the DISCOVER team, a wider range of activities will be deployed by each member in its respective region: regular communication, joint event participation, training sessions, partnership building, etc.

These activities will be conducted in a manner tailored to each type of stakeholder as described in the following chapters 3.4 to 3.7.

3.4 Methodology for stakeholder engagement tailored towards regional specifics

3.4.1 Methodology in Bulgaria

DISCOVER project partner in Bulgaria is **INSTITUT ZA PREDPRIEMACHESTVO, USTOYCHIVO RAZVITIE I INOVATSII - IESDI**[6].

IESDI is a non-profit organization supporting the development of applied research and innovative technologies to improve the Bulgarian economy. IESDI provides education and training for local communities, supports capacity building for stakeholders and develops business models.

IESDI will lead the development and testing of new services, as well as their application in local service hubs.

3.4.1.1 Stakeholder groups

IESDI cooperates with various institutions and stakeholders at different level, involved in different stages of the Green transition. Amongst them are public institutions:

- Ministry of Energy (MoE) https://www.me.government.bg/bg/pages/drujestva-s-darjavno-uchastie-36.html

[6] https://institute-esdi.org/en

- The State Energy and Water Regulatory Commission (SEWRC) https://www.dker.bg/en/home
- The Sustainable Energy Executive Agency to ME (SEDA) https://seea.government.bg/en/

NGOs, promoting the use of RES and accelerating the Green transition:

- Bulgarian Photovoltaic Association - https://www.bpva.org/
- EMI Institute of Energy Management - https://www.emi-bg.com/
- Bulgarian Energy and Mining Forum www.bulenergy.org

Various active financing institutions, providing loans for the different stages of CEPs.

- Energy Efficiency and Renewable Sources Fund (EERSF) - https://www.bgeef.com/
- Bulgarian Development Bank (BDB)

Associations of municipalities, cities and regions

- The Association of Bulgarian Cities and Regions – www.abgr.bg

And municipalities, participating as pilots in previous projects of IESDI

- Municipality of Kostinbrod
- Municipality of Dryanovo
- Municipality of Tryavna
- Municipality of Panagyurishte

There are many other institutions and bodies to be approached and cooperation to be established once the project gains more advanced stage.

3.4.1.2 Stakeholder engagement

IESDI will use multiple methods to engage with stakeholders:

- **Stakeholder analysis** to determine how to manage expectations, direct stakeholder influence towards the project objectives, and provide information and updates they are looking for from its outcomes. In accordance with the DISCOVER stakeholder index, the key stakeholders will be identified,

characterized by different governance structures and key stakeholder constellations.

- **Joint event participation** in major national events will bring together key local stakeholders involved in different stages of the community energy projects. The Key stakeholders will be engaged in frequent contacts with the project initiators to accelerate the shift to a greener economy.
- **Development of the DISCOVER guidebook** will bring together general and thematic training materials in an easy-to-use way to address the need of knowledge and shorten the path from idea to completion.
- **Creation of the national collaborative network** among OSSs, connecting the DISCOVER OSS in Bulgaria with existing OSSs from other projects. Such a network **as a community of practice** will create an ecosystem for sharing of know-how thus opening opportunities for cooperation amongst various market actors for implementation of community energy projects.

More specifically,

1. IESDI will cooperate with the MoE on the adoption of amendments to the Law on Energy from Renewable Energy Sources (LERES), introducing energy communities and producing consumers into national legislation. This amendment will specify all rules, regulations and restrictions related to the establishment of energy communities, to ensure the possibility of non-discriminatory and democratic participation of people. IESDI will support the adoption of changes to the Energy Act to introduce net and virtual metering.

2. IESDI will cooperate with the Bulgarian Photovoltaic Association to assist the Bulgarian Facility Management Association with proposals regarding the adoption of changes in the Condominium Management Act in order to remove the administrative burden. The aim is to facilitate the procedures for the inclusion of residents in energy communities, to specify the way of distribution of energy between the participants, to remove the requirement for 100% participation in the general meeting when making decisions on the installation of photovoltaics, as well as to include requirement for a professional house manager to manage the projects.

4. Together with financing institutions IESDI will consult on the implementation of pilot CEPs. On the other hand, IESDI will propose to MoE and SEDA to proactively organize the implementation of demonstration projects. The projects should be distributed in different regions of the country and data from the pilot projects (consumption, investment, costs, profit, etc.) should be communicated on a large scale for the promotion and visualization of different energy communities' models.

5. With the Association of Bulgarian Cities and Regions (ABCR), IESDI will take active measures on local level to stimulate the creation of energy communities. IESDI will organize consultations, campaigns and public discussions on these topics.

6. IESDI will open-up and run an OSS in Bulgaria to stimulate the development of CEP. This approach should be implemented specifically at the local level so that the largest number of households can get easier access to information and consultations. IESDI will also offer access to the virtual guidebook developed within the DISCOVER project.

10. IESDI will contribute to and implement the DISCOVER Communication strategy to stimulate citizens to participate in community energy projects. The strategy will target the various stakeholder groups.

3.4.2 Methodology in Croatia

The DISCOVER project pilot in Croatia is coordinated by **UDRUGA BEZ GRANICA (Without Borders Association)**.

Without Borders (WB) is an association of citizens and non-profit and non-governmental organization. It was established in 2012 and has since been implementing projects in the local community (Drenova), but also more widely - at the level of the city of Rijeka and the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County. WB has achieved numerous collaborations at the local, national, and international level.

In the project (Drenova Community Centre) that was implemented from 2020 to 2022, WB started working actively on citizen energy and energy transition projects, especially supporting association of citizens into energy communities.

WB members are actively participating in national EC forums and supporting improvements of Croatian legal framework.

3.4.2.1 Stakeholder groups

The stakeholders for Croatia pilot region are the following:

- Local authorities (key stakeholders)
- DSO: HEP ODS
- Energy agency: REA Kvarner, HERA Croatian Energy Regulatory Agency
- Granting authority: PRIGODA regional development agency
- Unions: Croatian Association of Cities, Association of Rijeka architects
- University of Rijeka

WB contacted over 200 citizens and held about 10 lectures on this topic in several municipalities of the Primorje-Gorski Kotar and Istria counties.

In October 2023, together with a group of 17 citizens and 2 companies, WB founded the **Energy Community of the Northern Adriatic**. Without Borders is the initiator, founder, and equal member of that energy community, which in the initial phase has 20 members. The Northern Adriatic Energy Community will provide with first-hand information about the process of establishing energy communities in Croatia. (So far, no energy community has been established in Croatia that is allowed to exchange energy between members.)

In a broader sense, the community consists of smaller towns and municipalities in the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County, as well as the City of Rijeka. In smaller municipalities, the mayors reacted positively to WB proposal to join the DISCOVER project. For now, there are 5 smaller municipalities with a total of about 43,000 inhabitants.

Key stakeholders in the region:

- City of Rijeka - 106.000 inhabitants
- City of Kastav – 10.000 inhabitatnts
- City of Opatija – 11.000 inhabitants
- City of Delnice – 6.200 inhabitants

- Municipality of Matulji – 10.700 inhabitants
- Municipality of Jelenje – 5.000 inhabitants
- Energy community of the Northern Adriatic – 20 members

Each of the mentioned municipalities is committed to support the establishment of energy communities and actively participates in all related activities.

Financial institutions and insurance companies are not listed because it was not possible to establish a constructive dialogue at this stage. It is possible that this fact will change during the project – in that case, efforts will be made to involve them in the implementation of the project.

3.4.2.2 Stakeholder engagement

WB prepared a strategy for effective stakeholder engagement which includes:

- **Regular Communication Channels** – where WB will establish regular communication channels with stakeholders, including local authorities, municipalities, citizens, and partner organizations. WB will utilize various communication methods such as meetings, emails, newsletters, and social media platforms to keep stakeholders informed about project updates, progress, and upcoming events.
- **Stakeholder Meetings and Workshops** – WB will organize stakeholder meetings and workshops to gather feedback, address concerns, and foster collaboration. These meetings will provide a platform for stakeholders to share their ideas, expertise, and experiences, contributing to the project's development and implementation.
- **Community Outreach Programs** – WB will conduct community outreach programs to engage with residents, businesses, and other community members. Together with partner municipalities WB will organize public forums, information sessions, and awareness campaigns to educate stakeholders about the benefits of energy communities and encourage their participation.
- **Partnership Building** – WB will work on strengthening partnerships with local authorities, municipalities, and relevant organizations to leverage resources, expertise, and support. That includes collaboration with government agencies,

energy companies, academic institutions, and community groups to enhance the project's impact and sustainability.

- **Stakeholder Surveys and Feedback Mechanisms** – WB will implement regular stakeholder surveys and feedback mechanisms to gather input on project priorities, challenges, and opportunities. These survey results will be used to assess stakeholder satisfaction, identify areas for improvement, and tailor project activities to meet stakeholders' needs and preferences.
- **Capacity Building and Training** – as part of DISCOVER, WB will provide capacity building and training opportunities for stakeholders to enhance their knowledge and skills related to energy transition, community engagement, and sustainable practices. That includes workshops, webinars, and educational materials to empower stakeholders to actively participate in project activities and decision-making processes.
- **Recognition and Incentives** – together with PRIGODA (Primorsko-goranska County development agency) WB will promote recognition and appreciation of stakeholders' contributions and achievements through awards, certificates, and public acknowledgments.

Other relevant and specific initiatives

- WB is actively working with several Croatian energy communities and **HERA Croatian Energy Regulatory Agency** to change legislation and better harmonize Croatian legislation with EU norms (especially the new RED III). The goal is the essential simplification of existing norms and the removal of existing insurmountable obstacles for EC establishment.
- In cooperation with the **Croatian Association of Cities**, and especially with the cities and municipalities that are involved in the DISCOVER project, intensive work will be done on the promotion of sustainable energy sources and the establishment of energy communities when existing obstacles are removed. A specific calendar of activities will be created, and the support of partner cities for advertising and informing citizens will be provided.

- Cooperation was established with **HEP ODS** to define the process for the operational work of energy communities, as well as to create more accessible sources of information (cadastre of existing infrastructure), which should facilitate the establishment of energy communities. There is understanding at the local level, but it will be necessary to intensify communication with the center in Zagreb, where all decisions are made.
- With the regional energy agency – **REA Kvarner**, activities on the creation of local action plans will be deepened, together with help to propagate the information and goals of the energy transition in the strategic and operational documents of County.
- WB will actively work with the **regional development agency PRIGODA** in designing new financial programs to support especially small buildings and municipalities and to provide funds for innovative projects in the field of energy transition (such as the use of AR/VR technologies for user education).
- Cooperation with the **University of Rijeka**, especially with the Center for Smart and Sustainable Cities, will enable the creation of more complex simulation and analytical tools that will then be used to promote energy communities and educate all stakeholders.
- With the association of **architects of the city of Rijeka**, a series of educations is planned, the key motive is motivation for better application of energy efficiency and sustainability elements in reconstruction or new construction projects.

3.4.3 Methodology in Italy

DISCOVER project partner in Italy, Teramo Province, is **AG.EN.A. SRL** (**AGENA).**

AGENA is the Agency for Energy and Environment of the Province of Teramo. It's a SAVE agency set up in 2003 by the Administrative Board of the Province of Teramo and private bodies. Since 2012, AGENA has become 100% in house organisation of the Province of Teramo.

The main mission of the agency is to develop and promote methods that foster sustainable energy use and production by supporting activities and projects concerning energy efficiency and energy saving and renewable energy development.

AGENA is also a member of the Energy agencies Italian Network (RENAEL), which gathers all the Italian local Energy Agencies.

3.4.3.1 Stakeholder groups

AGENA has identified some key stakeholders at different levels (national, regional and local) that can support the uptake of Renewable Energy Communities at local level and can actively contribute to the European energy transition and climate goals.

This list represents a starting point for the development of the stakeholder engagement process. This list is alive and can be integrated during the life of DISCOVER.

AGENA's stakeholder list includes:

National, regional, provincial authorities:

- GSE (Energy services Manager)
- Abruzzo Region
- Province of Teramo

These actors have a crucial role in the development of CEPs as: i) create incentive and financing instruments that can contribute to their deployment (GSE), ii) provide information and training (GSE, Abruzzo Region, Province of Teramo), iii) support in terms of administrative simplification (GSE and Abruzzo Region) and iv) facilitate the aggregation of people and support communication and dissemination activities and the start-up of the hub (Province of Teramo).

Municipalities

- Municipality of Teramo
- Municipality of Tortoreto
- Municipality of Martinsicuro
- Municipality of Castelli

These municipalities are committed to support the establishment of energy communities and actively participate and in all related activities.

Energy networks and aggregators

- Renael (Italian network of energy agencies)
- ANACI - Condominium Association
- Consumers association (Federconsumatori Teramo)
- Chamber of Commerce Gran Sasso D'Italia
- European Point Consortium
- Rete Assist

AGENA is a member of the Energy agencies Italian Network (RENAEL), which gathers all the Italian local Energy Agencies. AGENA as part of the network is involved in the permanent table of RECs (Renewable Energy Comm) with the aim of promoting collaborations with other national/local institutions to encourage the exchange of experiences and good practices. In addition, RENAEL signed in 2023 an agreement with GSE (Energy services manager), the company identified by the State to pursue and achieve environmental sustainability through the two pillars of renewable sources and energy efficiency. Thanks to this agreement AGENA can have a direct contact with GSE and support the development of energy communities at local level.

The province of Teramo is characterized by a high percentage of citizens living in condominiums (multi-apartment buildings), especially along the coast (including the municipalities of Tortoreto and Martinsicuro) and in the city of Teramo. The local condominium association ANACI can play the role of facilitator of the energy transition collectively by sharing among citizens that live in multifamily buildings, the energy generated by PV panels installed on the roof of the buildings.

The local consumer association Federconsumatori of the Province of Teramo can work as an aggregator and attract consumers and end users to be involved directly in RECs development. They also can improve the awareness of citizens on these issues and encourage them to invest in renewable energy.

The Chamber of Commerce of Gran Sasso d'Italia can play an important role in the promotion of CEPs and can support the energy transition through communication activities, workshops, info-training events, especially towards companies.

European Point Consortium (COPE) and Rete Assist can support the energy transition through communication and dissemination activities towards citizens and vulnerable people.

Universities

- University of Teramo - Research Center for green transition, sustainability, and global challenges
- University of L'Aquila - Engineering Department

They have an important role in the development of CEPs, because the University of Teramo, through its Research Center for green transition, sustainability and global challenges, can provide support in the definition of the best form of legal entity applied to RECs for the specific contest, on the other end the Department of Engineering of the University of L'Aquila can provide technical solutions in the implementation phase.

Professional Associations

- Order of Engineers of the province of Teramo
- Order of Architects of the province of Teramo
- Order of Surveyors of the province of Teramo
- Order of Lawyers of the province of Teramo

The technical orders of engineers, architects and surveyors can provide a list of experts to support people with project design and worksite supervision in the implementation phase.

The order of lawyers can provide a list of experts to be involved in the planning phase in the definition of the best organisational form and legal structure of a REC (energy cooperatives, foundations, limited partnerships)

Other stakeholders

- CNA Teramo (Confederation of Crafts and small and medium Enterprises)

CNA Teramo can provide a list of installers of renewable energy systems and energy storage systems. CNA also allows the development of new skills in the renewable energy sector through the organisation of professional courses, enabling the employment of professionals prepared to face energy problems and implement technical solutions.

As already written, the list will be integrated during the lifetime of the project with other stakeholders covering energy operators and suppliers, financial institutions, ESCOs, acting at local level.

3.4.3.2 Stakeholder engagement

AGENA will use multiple methods to engage with stakeholders. In particular:

- AGENA will cooperate with GSE to support local development of RECs in force of the Agreement signed in 2023 by GSE and RENAEL (of which AGENA is a member). GSE will provide tools (economic simulators and the map of primary subcabin) to help RECs in the feasibility phase, beyond training and incentives.
- AGENA will cooperate with Abruzzo Region because the regional law n.8 on 17th May 2022 foresees the set-up of a technical table for RECs, monitoring of RECs initiatives and communication campaign to stimulate the development of RECs.
- AGENA has already engaged the Province of Teramo, which had subscribed the Letter of Support (LoS) for DISCOVER during the proposal preparation (and the President participated in DISCOVER launch press conference).
- AGENA has already engaged the Municipalities of Teramo, Martinsicuro, Tortoreto and Castelli, which had subscribed the LoS for DISCOVER during the proposal preparation. AGENA will organise workshops, consultations, campaigns and public discussions on these topics. AGENA will use the results of the DISCOVER project to facilitate the design and creation of energy communities in the Union of Municipalities of Val Vibrata, that include 12 Municipalities.
- AGENA has already engaged RENAEL. AGENA as part of the network is involved in the permanent table of RECs with the aim of promoting collaborations with other national/local institutions to encourage the exchange of experiences and good practices.

- AGENA will engage ANACI and FEDERCONSUMATORI through workshops, consultations, campaigns and public discussions on these topics.
- AGENA will collaborate with the Chamber of Commerce Gran Sasso D'Italia, because both aim to promote RECs development. Since 2023 the Local chamber of commerce has been working to organize info-training events on the topic of RECs and energy efficiency; operational desks for companies; working table among associations and companies interested in RECs development. On 22nd March, AGENA, the Chamber of Commerce Gran Sasso D'Italia and the University of Teramo are organising a conference "Renewable Energy Communities – Energy for the future" on the latest legislative updates on RECs and strategies for the local energy transition. For the occasion, an informative corner will be set up to provide information on DISCOVER project.
- AGENA will engage the professional orders through workshops, consultations, campaigns, and public discussions on these topics. The orders of engineers, architects and surveyors have been invited to participate in the "Renewable Energy Communities – Energy for the future" conference on 22nd March.
- AGENA has already engaged the University of Teramo - Research Center for green transition, sustainability, and global challenges, because there is an ongoing signed collaboration. The University of Teramo is partner in the organisation of the "Renewable Energy Communities – Energy for the future" conference on 22nd March.
- AGENA will engage the University of L'Aquila - Engineering Department, CNA, European Point Consortium, Rete Assist through workshops, consultations, campaigns, and public discussions on these topics.
- AGENA will promote the set-up of the "one-stop shop" approach to stimulate the development of CEP. This approach will be implemented specifically at the local level with the set-up of a physical office and a virtual platform developed within DISCOVER project.

3.4.4 Methodology in France

DISCOVER project pilot in France, Paris City, is The **Paris Climate Agency** (APC).

APC is a non-profit organisation created in 2011 by the Local Authority (the City of Paris), and the Environmental and Energy Management Agency (ADEME). APC is a key actor in Paris and the Metropolitan area, specialised in buildings energy retrofit, energy, ecological transition, and adaptation to climate change.

APC aims at informing, advising, and assisting Parisians in their effort to adapt to climate change and be part of the energy transition.

APC has developed important ties with various local and national stakeholders on energy, climate and construction fields.

APC is the one-stop shop (OSS) for the energy retrofitting of multi-apartment buildings in Paris, and it aims at becoming the OSS for photovoltaic Community Energy Projects with the participation of multi-apartment buildings.

3.4.4.1 Stakeholder groups

10 000 Parisian multi-apartment buildings are registered on *CoachCopro*, the APC platform to support co-owners in their energy and environmental projects, and 546 professionals are affiliated on *CoachCopro* directory.

This represents great potential for DISCOVER objectives.

However, today, Parisian multi-apartment buildings are usually not engaged in CEPs, nor do they have their rooftop covered with photovoltaic panels, and photovoltaic professionals are very few to be active in Paris. Photovoltaic plants are located on some public buildings, there is one energy community (whose photovoltaic plants are exclusively on public buildings), and there are a few private initiatives, mostly on office or single-owned buildings.

Paris City has mandated APC to become the Parisian OSS for photovoltaic projects on multi-apartment buildings by 2025, and the OSS for other renewable energies in a second phase.

APC is expected to design a device for financial aid. APC is currently managing such type of financial devices for the energy retrofit of buildings and their greening.

DISCOVER project, and an Interreg EU project, EXPRESS, in which APC is taking part until 2026, are key for APC to achieve this goal.

APC has started to engage with several early-stage CEPs:

- A) **Croulebarbe collective project**: A group of co-owners based in the Croulebarbe district of Paris 13th arrondissement, representing 9 residential buildings and 1 tertiary building (at this stage) have the project to activate their flat rooftop with photovoltaic panels and collectively self-consume their electricity. Their project would be the first of its kind in Paris. Its planning phase that has started in January of 2024 is coordinated by APC.
- Building from the Croulebarbe project, a research work on collective self-consumption in city centers in France, will be conducted from April 2024 to August 2025 by a team of experts coordinated by APC, through a grant by ADEME and PUCA, national agencies.
- B) **Individual projects**: More and more co-owners in Paris are reaching APC about photovoltaic technology and self-consumption. They want to know if it is possible to install PV on the rooftop of their building, at which cost, and how to do it. APC is providing them with first advice and APC is currently building its capacity for that purpose.

3.4.4.2 Stakeholder engagement

Key stakeholders are already engaged, or will be soon in the DISCOVER process:

<u>Local authorities:</u>

- **Paris City** is the main stakeholder for CEP development in Paris through its housing, energy and urbanism policies and projects. As stated above, APC acts on the mandate of Paris City elected officials.

➢ APC is in touch with each of the relevant administration directorates and will use this strong connection for DISCOVER project and the development of CEPs. As an example, for Croulebarbe project of collective self-consumption (see above), APC has involved the energy directorate in order to have public buildings involved in this citizen-lead project.

- **Paris City Arrondissements** are key actors for DISCOVER as connectors between multiple stakeholders (each arrondissement represents 50,000 to 200,000 inhabitants).

  ➢ The 13th Arrondissement is already engaged for Croulebarbe Project. Other Arrondissements will be engaged progressively as new CEPs will start to emerge in their locality.

- **UDAP 75**, the Paris national service for heritage conservation, is also a key actor in Paris. It delivers a permit for PV installations in heritage protection zones. These zones represent a large part of the city.

  ➢ UDAP 75 and APC are in touch for different topics. The PV topic will be put forward as soon as possible or during the implementation phase of CEPs.

Public grid:

- **Enedis**, the **Distribution System Operator**: Enedis is formally engaged in the development of CEPs in France and should act as a facilitator. Enedis manage the connection of buildings to the public grid, production repartition between members of a community. They can help estimating buildings' consumption.

  ➢ Enedis office in Paris is in touch with APC. It has experience of individual self-consumption projects, but it has no experience of *collective* self-consumption communities involving multi-apartment buildings. APC will work with them on this topic.

Energy agencies, energy communities, energy market actors:

- **Energie Partagée** is the main support initiative in France for energy communities, helping at every phase, providing financial aid on top of technical and administrative help. It has labelled more than 250 citizen-lead energy projects in France (but only one in Paris).

- APC has got in touch with Energie Partagée for the first time within DISCOVER project. APC should determine what has been the hurdles for Energie Partagée in Paris, and how the future OSS could act complementarily to their activity.

- **Enercit'IF** is the only existing energy community in Paris. It has been labeled by Energie Partagée. They operate 16 PV plants on public buildings.

- APC is in touch with Enercit'IF and will interview them to understand how their community has developed over the last 5 years, what where the hurdles (why are multi-apartment buildings not involved in the community so far), and how APC could help their community to grow. EnercitIF is involved as an expert in the team coordinated by APC for Croulebarbe project (see above).

- **Enercoop** is the main cooperative electricity supplier in France. Enercoop is buying the electricity produced by Enercit'IF. They are also a commercial service provider for CEPs, providing technical support, management assistance and financial assistance.

- APC is already in touch with Enercoop. They have just started to develop a service for collective self-consumption. However, the size of the projects in Paris is sub-optimal to their service. APC will interview them to explore this hurdle and their potential role for CEPs in Paris.

- **EDF EnR** is the branch for renewables of French main energy supplier EDF. It provides integrated services to individual house owners for PV projects. However, multi-apartment buildings and Paris city are not their current target.

- EDF is a founding member of APC. APC will interview EDF Renouvelables to know if they plan to extend their services to Paris city and collective projects.

- **Hespul** is an association. It operates the national resource centre on photovoltaic (free web service). It is a training school for professionals.

- APC is in touch with Hespul. DISCOVER team members of APC have been trained by Hespul in February of 2024 on PV project assistance. APC is taking

part in a workgroup coordinated by Hespul on how to foster PV projects in multi-apartment buildings in France.

- **CLER** is the network of local authorities and their partners (associations and businesses) for renewable energies France.

  ➢ CLER is a member of APC. APC is involved in a workgroup started in February of 2024 and coordinated by the CLER about renewable energy projects and heritage conservation policies. Heritage conservation is very strong in Paris and APC will use this workgroup to investigate the potential hurdles and levers.

- **ADEME** is the national energy agency taking part in policy making, general public communication, and research funding.

  ➢ ADEME is a founding member of APC. ADEME is funding a research work on collective self-consumption in city centers coordinated by APC (see above). APC will use the results of this research project for DISOVER. Also, APC will get in touch with ADEME for a general overview of CEPs in France.

All other relevant stakeholders will be engaged during the preparation phase of DISCOVER according to the present methodology. They belong to the following groups:

- Regional and national authorities
- Other energy agencies, such as ANAH, the national agency for building improvement
- Building administrators
- Commercial service providers
- Architects, engineers
- Banking and insurance firms active for PV projects
- The Main unions in the energy and building sectors
- Citizens.

www.projectdiscover.eu