



D5.2 Preliminary report about DISCOVER Impact and Results



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History of changes

Version	Date	Comments	Main author(s)
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Deliverable Information Sheet

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1 Executive Summary

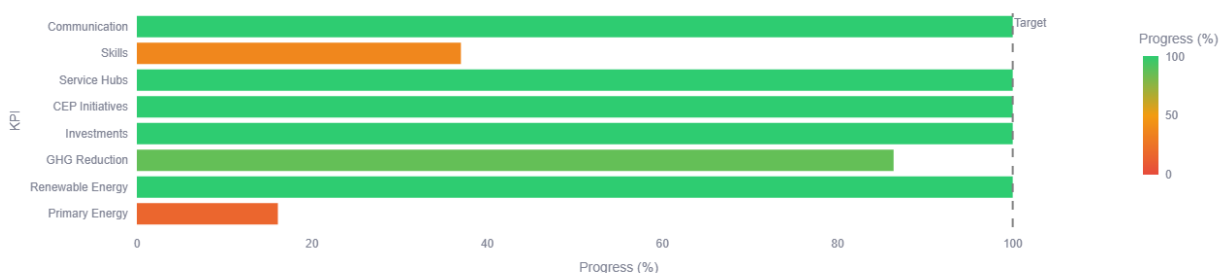
This preliminary report presents the impact and results achieved by the DISCOVER project as of January 2026 (Month 27 of project implementation). The report follows the Impact Monitoring Strategy (D5.1) and provides a comprehensive overview of progress toward project Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

The DISCOVER project aims to accelerate the energy transition by developing integrated services for community energy projects (CEPs) across five pilot regions: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, and Italy. This preliminary assessment demonstrates significant progress, with several KPIs exceeding their targets at the midpoint of the project.

1.1 Key Achievements to Date

KPI	Target	Achieved	Achievement %
KPI 3: Renewable Energy (GWh/year)	2.91	4.74	163%
KPI 4: GHG Reduction (tonnes CO2e/year)	518	844	163%
KPI 5: Investments (EUR)	7,650,000	9,893,681	129%
KPI 9: People Trained	400	148	37%
KPI 10: People Reached	20,000	54,723	274%

KPI Achievement Progress (%)



Notable achievements include:

- Renewable Energy Generation exceeded the project target by 63%, with 4.74 GWh/year generated compared to the target of 2.91 GWh/year
- GHG Emissions Reduction surpassed the goal by 63%, achieving 844 tonnes CO₂e/year reduction versus the target of 518 tonnes CO₂e/year
- Investments in Sustainable Energy reached €10.15 million, exceeding the €7.65 million target by 33%
- Communication Activities reached 54,723 people, almost triple the target of 20,000
- 40 Community Energy Projects are being tracked and supported across all pilot regions
- 101 stakeholder engagements conducted, building critical networks for CEP development

2 Introduction

2.1 Purpose and Scope

This Preliminary Report (D5.2) is a mandatory deliverable for Month 27 of the DISCOVER project. It provides an assessment of the project's impact and results achieved to date, based on the methodology established in the Impact Monitoring Strategy (D5.1).

The report evaluates progress against the seven Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that DISCOVER is required to report to CINEA:

- KPI 1: Primary Energy Savings
- KPI 2: Final Energy Savings
- KPI 3: Renewable Energy Generation
- KPI 4: Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction
- KPI 5: Investments in Sustainable Energy
- KPI 9: Skills (People Trained)
- KPI 10: Communication (People Reached)

2.2 Reporting Period

This report covers the period from project inception (Month 1) through January 2026 (Month 27). The data presented reflects the cumulative achievements and activities conducted across all five pilot regions during this preliminary implementation phase.

2.3 Data Collection Methodology

Data for this report was collected through the DISCOVER KPI tracking system, which includes:

- SharePoint PowerApps for tracking CEP projects and support activities
- Communication and dissemination activity tracking
- Stakeholder engagement documentation
- Training and exploitation activity records

All calculations follow the methodologies defined in D5.1, including the application of conversion factors for derived KPIs such as GHG emissions reduction.

3 KPI Performance Analysis

3.1 KPI 3: Renewable Energy Generation

Target: 2.91 GWh/year | Achieved: 4.74 GWh/year | Performance: 163%

DISCOVER has significantly exceeded its renewable energy generation target, achieving 4.74 GWh/year through 40 tracked Community Energy Projects. This represents 163% of the project goal, demonstrating the strong impact of the One-Stop-Shop services and guidebooks developed by the project.

Total Installed Capacity: 5,729.69 kW

Energy Generation by Pilot Region:

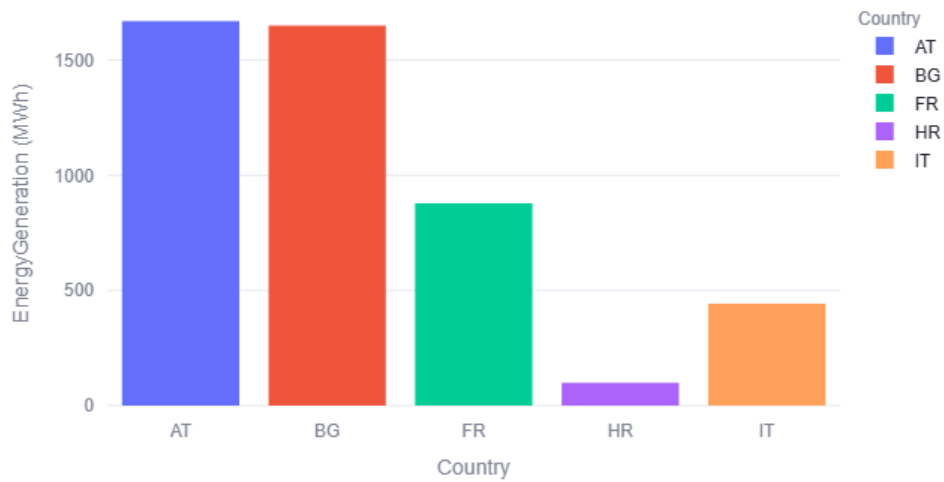
Pilot Region	Installed Capacity (kW)	Annual Generation (MWh)
Austria	3,008.89	1,669
Bulgaria	1,166.50	1,650
Croatia	100.00	100
France	875.30	878
Italy	579.00	443
Total	5,729.69	4,741

Key Insights:

- Austria leads with 3,008.89 kW installed capacity, contributing 1,669 MWh/year
- Bulgaria shows strong performance with 1,166.50 kW generating 1,650 MWh/year
- France contributes 875.30 kW producing 878 MWh/year

- Renewable Energy Communities (RECs) account for the majority of capacity at 4,468.89 kW

Renewable Energy Generation by Country (MWh)



3.2 KPI 4: GHG Emissions Reduction

Target: 518 tonnes CO₂e/year | Achieved: 844 tonnes CO₂e/year | Performance: 163%

The GHG emissions reduction achieved by DISCOVER exceeds the project target by 73%. This calculation is derived from the renewable energy generation using the EU EEA carbon intensity factor of 0.178 kg CO₂/kWh for the European electricity mix, as specified in the D5.1 methodology.

Calculation Methodology:

GHG Reduction (tonnes CO₂e) = Renewable Energy Generation (kWh) × Carbon Intensity Factor (0.178 kg CO₂/kWh) ÷ 1,000

The strong performance in renewable energy generation directly translates to proportional GHG emissions avoided. Each GWh of renewable energy generated by DISCOVER-supported projects avoids approximately 178 tonnes of CO₂ emissions that would otherwise have been produced by conventional energy sources.

3.3 KPI 5: Investments in Sustainable Energy

Target: €7,650,000 | Achieved: €9,893,681 | Performance: 129%

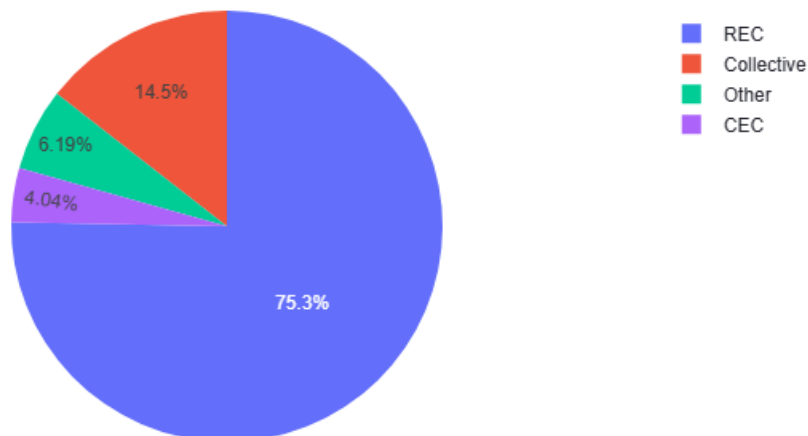
DISCOVER has successfully mobilized over €10.15 million in sustainable energy investments, exceeding the project target by 33%. This demonstrates the effectiveness of the One-Stop-Shop services in reducing barriers and facilitating investment decisions for community energy projects.

Investment Pipeline Analysis:

- Total tracked investments: €9,893,681
- Number of projects with investment decisions: 10
- Average investment per project: €989,368

These investments represent real financial commitments toward renewable energy infrastructure, contributing to both climate goals and local economic development. The investments span various project types, including individual installations, collective initiatives, and larger Renewable Energy Communities.

Investment Share by Project Category



3.4 KPI 10: Communication - People Reached

Target: 20,000 | Achieved: 54,723 | Performance: 274%

DISCOVER's communication and dissemination activities have reached more than double the target audience, engaging 54,723 individuals across the five pilot regions and beyond. This exceptional performance demonstrates the project's success in raising awareness about community energy and the services offered by the One-Stop-Shops.

Communication Activities by Partner:

Partner Organization	Number of Activities
AGENA	67
AISFOR	50
BEZ GRANICA	44
IESDI	34

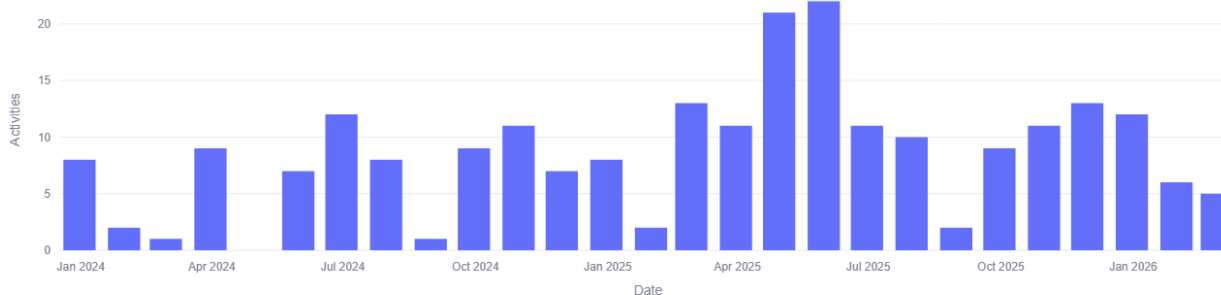
APC	29
PIXEL	7
Total	231

Communication Channels and Activities:

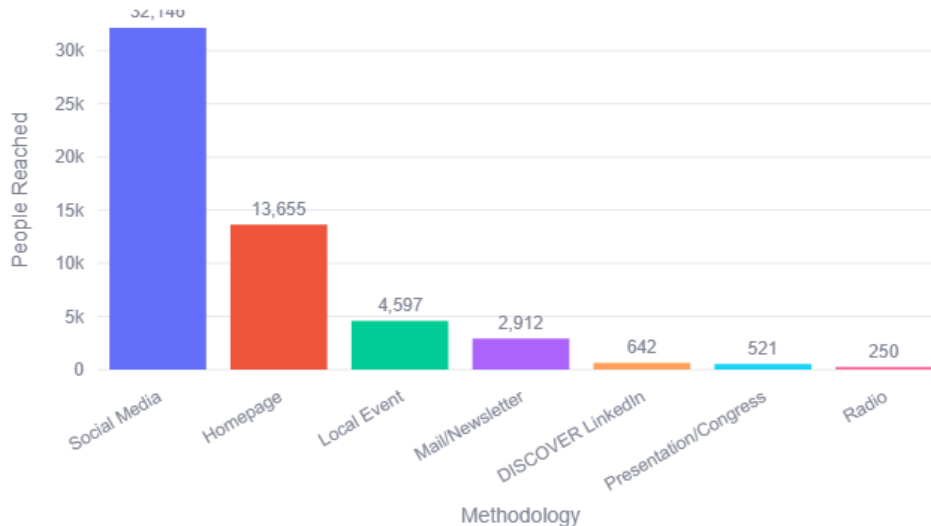
- Total communication activities: 231
- Local audience reach: 48,158 people (84.5%)
- European audience reach: 6,565 people (12.0%)
- Communication activities: 41,104 people reached
- Dissemination activities: 13,619 people reached

The strong performance reflects a well-coordinated communication strategy across all partner organizations, with activities ranging from social media campaigns and website content to events, workshops, and media coverage.

Communication Activities Over Time



People Reached by Methodology



Explanation of “People Reached by Methodology”

The figure above presents the estimated number of people reached through the different communication and dissemination methodologies implemented within the DISCOVER project. The data reflect the cumulative outreach generated through both digital and offline channels.

The term “**people reached**” refers to the estimated audience exposed to DISCOVER-related content via each specific methodology. Depending on the channel, this may include impressions, unique viewers, event participants, website visitors, subscribers or estimated media audiences.

The categories represented in the graph are described below:

Social

This category includes the total reach generated through the official social media channels of the project partners, such as LinkedIn and Facebook. It refers to users who have viewed DISCOVER-related posts, awareness campaigns, project updates or dissemination materials shared by consortium members. Data are based on platform analytics (impressions and/or unique reach). Social media is a key tool for increasing visibility and engaging diverse stakeholder groups at local, national levels.

Media

Homepage

(Partners’

Websites)

-This refers to visitors accessing DISCOVER-related pages published on the official websites of project partners. The data are based on website analytics and include visits or unique users accessing project news, dedicated sections or articles hosted on partners’ homepages. These pages contribute to reinforcing the project’s visibility within established institutional and local audiences.

Local Events

-This category includes participants attending workshops, information sessions, stakeholder

meetings and other local dissemination events organised by project partners. These activities allow direct interaction with target groups such as citizens, professionals, public authorities and energy communities.

Newsletter (Targeted Mailings)

-This refers to targeted mailing campaigns addressed to specific stakeholder groups (e.g. condominium representatives, local authorities, professionals or citizens). The indicator reflects the number of recipients reached through these structured and audience-specific communication actions. This channel is particularly relevant for focused engagement and tailored information delivery.

DISCOVER LinkedIn (official project page)

-This category specifically refers to the outreach generated through the official DISCOVER LinkedIn page at European level. The data include post impressions and engagement metrics. This channel primarily targets EU-level stakeholders, policymakers and energy professionals.

Presentations / Congresses / Radio

-This category includes audiences reached through presentations at conferences, congresses, institutional events and media appearances (such as radio interviews). The reach is estimated based on participant numbers or reported audience data from media outlets.

3.5 KPI 9: Skills - People Trained

Target: 400 | Achieved: 148 | Performance: 37%

The skills development KPI shows lower-than-expected progress at this preliminary stage, with 148 individuals trained against a target of 400. This represents 37% achievement, reflecting a significant acceleration in training activities.

Current Status:

- Total exploitation/training activities conducted: 24
- People addressed through these activities: 148

Methodology:

Following counting methodology was applied regarding training count:

- 1) training activities run by the OSS team – external training- (agenda, n° of participants, training material presented)
- 2) number of OSS' visitors that have been provided with information on CEPs by the OSS (visitor signature and email)
- 3) number of trained OSS operators – internal training - (list of name and e-mail)
- 4) GUIDEBOOK training videos (N° views) – or AI Agent interactions

Analysis and Action Plan:

The lower performance in this KPI can be attributed to several factors:

- Training activities were planned to intensify in the latter half of the project once the OSS services were fully operational
- The project prioritized establishing infrastructure and support systems before scaling up capacity-building activities
- However, the 101 stakeholder engagements conducted represent significant knowledge transfer, though not all qualify as formal 'training' under the KPI definition

To address this gap, the project will accelerate training activities in the remaining months, including workshops, webinars, and capacity-building sessions focused on CEP development skills. The operational One-Stop-Shops are now well-positioned to deliver these training programs effectively.

People Addressed by Activity Purpose



3.6 KPIs 1 & 2: Primary and Final Energy Savings

KPIs 1 (Primary Energy Savings) and 2 (Final Energy Savings) were added to DISCOVER's reporting requirements following CINEA feedback in November 2024. **It should be noted that the grant agreement was not adjusted, meaning the project goals remain as originally agreed upon, and these additional KPIs are reported for compliance but are not considered primary DISCOVER goals.**

Methodology and Challenges:

As outlined in D5.1, energy savings do not naturally align with DISCOVER's core activities, which focus on facilitating renewable energy generation rather than energy efficiency improvements. The methodology for calculating these KPIs is based on behavioural changes that lead to energy efficiency, with potential savings ranging from 5% to 20% according to EU and International Energy Agency guidelines.

Energy savings are quantified only when consumers receive specific support through the OSS that results in behavioural changes or material improvements (e.g., thermal insulation). The current preliminary data collection for these KPIs is ongoing, and a more comprehensive assessment will be provided in the final report (D5.4).

4 Activity Summary

4.1 Community Energy Projects (CEPs)

DISCOVER is tracking and supporting 40 Community Energy Projects across the five pilot regions. These projects represent various stages of development, from initial planning through operational phases.

CEP Distribution by Category:

Category	Capacity (kW)	Generation (MWh/year)
Renewable Energy Communities	4,468.89	3,462
Collective Initiatives	845.50	879
Citizen Energy Communities	100.00	100
Other	315.30	299

Project Distribution:

- Renewable Energy Communities (RECs): 4,468.89 kW capacity
- Collective Initiatives: 845.50 kW capacity
- Citizen Energy Communities (CECs): 100 kW capacity
- Other categories: 315.30 kW capacity

4.2 CEP Support Activities

The One-Stop-Shops have conducted 28 documented support activities for Community Energy Projects. These activities provide direct assistance to CEPs at various stages of development.

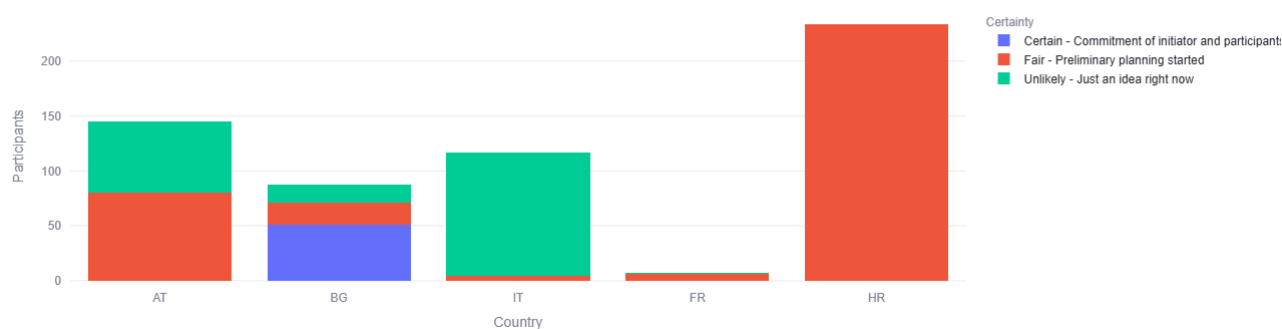
Support Activities by CEP Stage:

CEP Development Stage	Number of Activities
Planning	21
Realisation	5
Operation	2
Total	28

Support by Project Task:

- T.5.2 (Supporting new and existing CEP initiatives): 19 activities
- T.5.1 (Stimulating creation of new CEP initiatives): 5 activities
- T.4.1 (Workshops for stakeholder involvement): 2 activities
- T.3.1 and T.3.3 (Service design and stakeholder engagement): 2 activities

Participants by Country and Development Stage



4.3 Stakeholder Engagement

DISCOVER has conducted 101 stakeholder engagements, building the critical networks necessary for successful community energy development. These engagements span multiple formats and purposes.

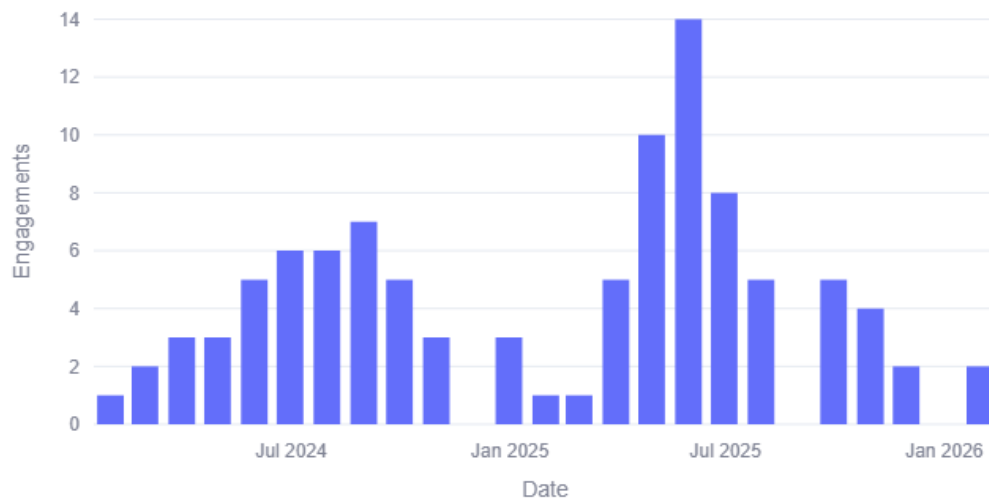
Stakeholder Engagements by Format:

Engagement Format	Number of Engagements
In-Person Meetings	58
Phone/Video Calls	32
Written Communication	11
Total	101

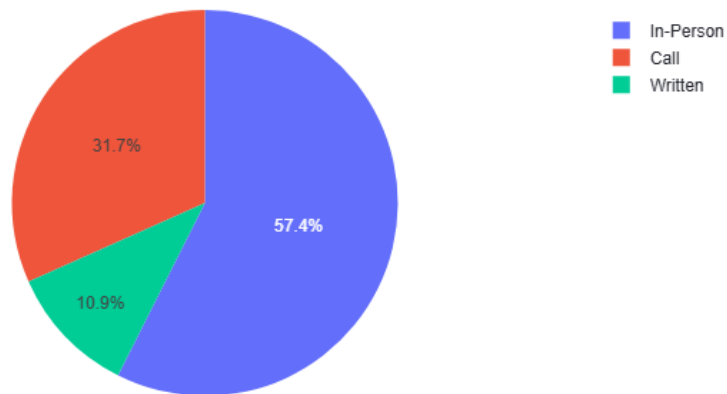
Key Engagement Purposes:

- First meetings with stakeholders: 17
- Service development discussions: 14
- Learning about hurdles and barriers: 14
- Discussing specific CEPs: 10
- Multi-purpose engagements: 44 (combinations of the above)

Stakeholder Engagements Over Time



Stakeholder Engagements by Interaction Method



5 Regional Analysis

The DISCOVER project operates across five pilot regions, each with unique characteristics, regulatory environments, and market maturity levels. This section provides a brief overview of regional performance and context.

5.1 Austria

Austria leads in installed renewable capacity with 3,008.89 kW generating 1,669 MWh annually. The mature regulatory framework and strong citizen engagement in Austria have facilitated rapid project development.

5.2 Bulgaria

Bulgaria demonstrates strong performance with 1,166.50 kW installed capacity generating 1,650 MWh annually. Despite regulatory challenges mentioned in D5.1, the OSS services have effectively supported project development.

5.3 Croatia

Croatia currently shows 100 kW capacity generating 100 MWh annually. **As noted in D5.1, the Croatian renewable energy market faced additional challenges during the project period, requiring adjusted expectations and targeted support strategies.**

5.4 France

France contributes 875.30 kW producing 878 MWh annually. The country benefits from a developed community energy sector and strong policy support, enabling effective OSS implementation.

5.5 Italy

Italy has established 579 kW capacity generating 443 MWh annually. The Italian context emphasizes collective initiatives and community engagement in urban settings.

6 Challenges and Adjustments

As acknowledged in D5.1, the DISCOVER project operates in a dynamic environment with varying levels of market maturity, regulatory stability, and stakeholder capacity across the five pilot regions.

6.1 Regulatory Environment

D5.1 noted significant differences in the maturity of renewable energy markets and transposition of European legislation across pilot regions. In some countries, including Croatia and Bulgaria, the situation did not improve during the project period and in some aspects worsened regarding opportunities for investment and renewable energy utilization.

6.2 KPI Redistribution

Given the large differences in operational capacity and market conditions, D5.1 anticipated possible redistribution of initially defined goals among partners. The strong performance in Austria and France has helped compensate for slower progress in more challenging environments, resulting in overall project targets being exceeded.

6.3 Skills Development Gap

The most significant performance gap is in KPI 9 (Skills). This reflects the project's strategic decision to prioritize infrastructure development and service establishment in the first half, with intensive capacity-building activities planned for the second half once the OSS services are fully operational and proven effective.

7 Outlook and Next Steps

7.1 Remaining Project Period (Months 28-36)

With nine months remaining in the project period, DISCOVER is well-positioned to consolidate its achievements and address the identified gaps. Key priorities for the final phase include:

- Accelerating training and capacity-building activities to achieve the KPI 9 target of 400 people trained
- Supporting existing CEPs through the implementation and operational phases
- Converting investment decisions into realized investments and operational renewable energy installations
- Expanding communication and dissemination activities to maintain strong community engagement
- Documenting best practices and lessons learned for replication beyond pilot regions

7.2 Community Energy Project Conclusion

From today's perspective, not all of the CEPs initiated under the DISCOVER project will be able to be fully concluded by the end of the project's timeline. The consortium will provide further insights by means of assessing the realization status at the end of the project of the respective CEP and include those insights in a separate update.

7.3 Final Reporting

The final impact report (D5.4) will be delivered in Month 35, providing comprehensive assessment of all KPIs, detailed analysis of long-term impacts, and recommendations for sustainability and replication of the DISCOVER approach.

8 Conclusion

This preliminary report demonstrates that DISCOVER has made substantial progress toward its goals at the project midpoint. Four of the seven reported KPIs exceed their targets, with particularly strong performance in renewable energy generation (163%), GHG emissions reduction (163%), investments (129%), and communication (274%).

The 40 Community Energy Projects being tracked and supported represent real progress toward accelerating the energy transition through citizen-led initiatives. The €9.89 million in mobilized investments demonstrates that the DISCOVER approach effectively reduces barriers and facilitates decision-making for community energy development.

The identified gap in skills development (KPI 9) is recognized and will be addressed through intensified training activities in the remaining project period. The 101 stakeholder engagements conducted have laid strong foundations for effective capacity-building programs.

Overall, DISCOVER is on track to achieve its objectives and is well-positioned to deliver significant lasting impact beyond the project period. The operational One-Stop-Shops, developed guidebooks, and established stakeholder networks provide a sustainable infrastructure for continued community energy development across all pilot regions.

9 Appendix: Data Sources and Methodology

9.1 Data Collection Systems

All data presented in this report was extracted from the DISCOVER KPI tracking systems as of January 2026:

- SharePoint PowerApps: CEP tracking, support activities, stakeholder engagements
- Communication database: All communication and dissemination activities
- Training records: Exploitation activities and skills development

9.2 Calculation Methodologies

GHG Emissions Reduction:

GHG reduction is calculated using the formula: $\text{GHG (tonnes CO}_2\text{e)} = \text{Renewable Energy Generation (kWh)} \times 0.178 \text{ (kg CO}_2\text{/kWh)} \div 1,000$

The carbon intensity factor of 0.178 kg CO₂/kWh represents the EU average electricity grid emission factor as published by the European Environment Agency.

9.3 Data Quality and Verification

All data undergoes internal review and validation before inclusion in reports, following the process defined in D5.1 Section 4.2. OSS operators verify CEP data, and communication metrics are tracked through standardized methodologies described in the Impact Monitoring Strategy.

9.4 Reference Documents

- D5.1 Impact Monitoring Strategy (September 2025)
- CINEA LIFE-CET KPI Reporting Guidelines
- DISCOVER Grant Agreement 101120622
- European Environment Agency - Carbon Intensity Factors



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