

ANNEX: Highlights of CEES Partner Achievements

ALLenergy (UK)

Before the CEES project, ALLenergy was entirely dependent on grant funding to support its activities. Through CEES, it has diversified funding mechanisms through proactive marketing, direct dialogue and new collaborations, seeking public microdonations, larger corporate donations, referral fees, service agreements and commercial activities. ALLenergy successfully raised over €200 000 to support its activities. Importantly, by supporting more than 3 000 Scottish households, it has achieved more than €1 million in client gains. Contact: Lynda Mitchell (lynda@alienergy.org.uk)

Coopérnico (Portugal)

With the theme, Gastar Bem a Energia (Spend Energy Well), Coopérnico offered 18 workshops / Energy Cafés, directly reaching more than 350 people in the context of the CEES project. The events were hosted in liaison with senior academies, municipalities, local parishes and an energy agency. In the Energy Cafés, Coopérnico presented how energy billing works, ways to save energy and reduce costs, and tips to increase thermal comfort through simple, low-cost measures. Adapting to hesitancy on the part of participants to allow Energy Advisors to carry out home visits for customised assistance, Coopérnico distributed 'Energy Boxes' at later workshops. Participants expressed appreciation for the opportunity to learn more about energy, which boosted their confidence, and for being given tools to improve their situations. By July 2024, Coopérnico had also offered personalised help to ~20 households and carried out 20 home visits, with more scheduled in the near future. Coopérnico engaged with the former POWERPOOR Network of Energy Supporters and Mentors to continue providing (through CEES) energy counselling and advice, and to help apply for public financing for home renovations and energy efficient equipment. Contact: Carla Castelo (ccastelo@coopernico.org)

Enercoop (France)

Within the context of CEES, Enercoop conducted an experiment to establish an Energy Solidarity Taskforce, aimed at supporting its customers in energy poverty. Ultimately, this experiment resulted in the development of a new service, dedicated entirely to assisting customers in challenging situations, whether energy, economic or housing related. In addition to helping customers with their energy bills, the service enhances their connections with relevant social services. Enercoop, supported by Énergie Solidaire, played a significant role in gathering information on financing energy communities to implement energy solidarity initiatives. They highlighted innovative, replicable solutions for Europe and identified the most robust traditional methods for supporting this type of structure. Contact: Quentin Geraud (quentin.geraud@enercoop.org)

REScoop.eu (Belgium)

By closely following the CEES pilot projects, including obstacles encountered and lessons learned, REScoop.eu was able to formulate concrete policy recommendations for both the EU and national level (for countries in which the project was active). This led to the development of several policy briefings that advocate for empowering citizen-led measures against energy poverty and for a just transition. The recommendations were shared and discussed in dedicated national and EU-level policy events organised by CEES. REScoop.eu also took the lead on building capacity among ECs beyond the CEES consortium. In a series of 'Open Days'

over the course of the project's final year, CEES Partners shared insights and concrete tips with ECs from across Europe, including Italy, Greece, Belgium, France and Slovenia. This experience emphasised the importance of knowledge sharing within the EC movement and broadened REScoop.eu's view on the opportunities and obstacles ECs are experiencing when it comes to enacting social and energy justice within and beyond their communities. Contact: Heleen Schockaert (heleen.schockaert@rescoop.eu)

Les 7 Vents (France)

Les 7 Vents is a 'cooperative of collective interest' in Normandy, France, that supports energy and sustainable development in local and European contexts. Its main goal is to facilitate collaboration among businesses, artisans, citizens and communities, leveraging the diverse expertise and perspectives they bring to local challenges. Through a practice known as Shared and Supported Self-Renovation (3SR), the aim is to improve residents' comfort by providing support for eco-renovation projects of dwellings, organising and managing mutual help among construction companies, volunteers and residents. Contact: Sabine Boudjemline (sabrine.boudjemline@7vents.eu)

Repowering London (UK)

As a primarily grant-funded organisation, Repowering London's pilot project for CEES aimed to test and tailor a microdonations mechanism, inspired by Enercoop. In parallel, it would investigate other alternative fundraising mechanisms as necessary. Over the course of the pilot, this came to involve three main activities:

- working with a coalition of community energy stakeholders in London on a public crowdfunding campaign;
- seeking donations from businesses through their corporate social responsibility programmes; and
- ultimately securing a new service contract to deliver fuel poverty initiatives.

Integrating its established practices, Repowering London also launched a new 'energy support roadshow' to provide energy advice in the district of Lambeth. Contact: Rachel Brain (rachel.brain@repowering.org.uk)

ZEZ (Green Energy Cooperative, Croatia)

Through the CEES project, ZEZ had the opportunity to further develop mechanisms already in place for alleviating energy poverty while testing new mechanisms to enhance its efficiency in increasing the energy efficiency of vulnerable households. In launching the 'Ease their pain' campaign, ZEZ was able to raise awareness of energy poverty and boost public engagement in tackling it. Notable activities included successfully raising sufficient funds to prepare and deliver up to 250 Energy Efficiency Kits and being featured on various radio and TV programmes. Together, these achievements advance ZEZ's goal to contribute to achieving energy equity and just energy transition for all. Contact: Paula Damaška (paula.damaska@zez.coop)

University of Birmingham (UoB, UK)

Researchers at the UoB had several roles in the CEES project. First, the UoB team was responsible for conceptual development and ensuring that CEES work was informed by current understanding of key concepts – such as energy poverty, energy communities and energy

solidarity – from academic and ‘grey’ literature. It also led implementation of quantitative and qualitative research into the current engagement of European ECs in energy solidarity actions. In turn, the UoB team evaluated the six pilot projects carried out by other CEES Partners. This involved developing an Evaluation Framework, implementing evaluation methods, and preparing a comprehensive evaluation report (soon to be available on the CEES website). UoB also produced (or will produce) several academic outputs and gave presentations at key academic conferences. Contact: Rosie Day (R.J.Day@bham.ac.uk) or Kevin Burchell (k.burchell@bham.ac.uk)