

Interreg
Baltic Sea Region



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Start-ups for solar energy communities

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interreg-baltic.eu/project/startsun





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Baltic Sea Region



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ENERGY TRANSITION



StartSun

 Estonian University
of Life Sciences



LÄNSSTYRELSEN
ÖSTERGÖTLAND



Tartu Regiooni Energiaagentuur
Tartu Regional Energy Agency



Jelgava



UPPSALA
UNIVERSITET



JĒKABPILS
NOVADS



KALEVIPOJA
KODA



Åtvidabergs
kommun



Zaļā brīvība

gnf
Green Net Finland



UNIVERSITY
OF TARTU

StartSun in short

November 2023 → Oktober 2026

Promote and facilitate the establishment of energy communities

- With 5 first-experience pilots establish different types of energy communities, exchange experience transnationally and serve as role models in the local context
- Provide easy-to-follow Start-Up Package for establishment of energy communities



Ambition



Support from EU

- Opportunity for initial investments in PV panels & storage



Common goal

- Empower local actors, reduce reliance on fossil fuels and foster a sense of community ownership in the green transition



Concrete examples in local context

- Forerunners, capacity building



Synergies between multiple interests

- Resilience, energy security, renewable energy production



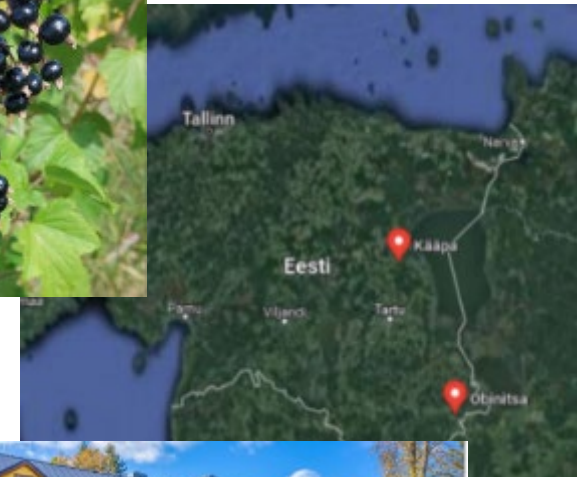
Transnational exchange

- Strengthen results, different viewpoints

Pilots in Estonia

Obinitsa

- **Ambition:** Lower electricity costs, energy security
- **Members:** 12 founding members, private individuals, local SMEs, NGOs
- **Status:** An established energy community by 24.10.03
- **Legal form:** Commercial association
- **Challenges:** The support system in Estonia is rather weak in comparison with those of other leading European countries
- **Success factors:** "Needs-based" approach, Common goal, Incentives (challenge, reduced electricity price), dedicated members, community



Kääpa

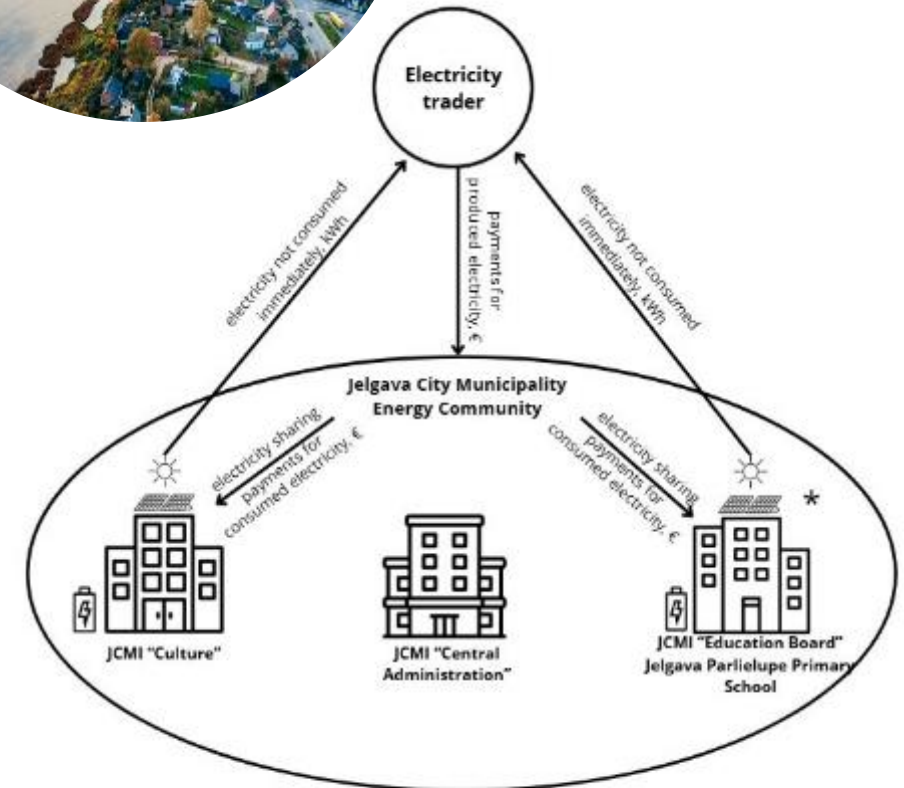
- **Ambition:** Support community, create incentives, improve local heating systems
- **Members:** Museum (pv panels), local store (pv panels), local heat provider, local entrepreneurs
- **Status:** Legal formation in October 2025, procurement process ongoing
- **Challenges:** Lack of knowledge, few resources
- **Good example:** Capacity building "dreaming together"



Pilots in Latvia

Jekabpils and Jelgava municipalities

- **Ambition:** Reduce reliance on external energy sources & demonstrate benefits of energy communities
- **Members Jekabpils:** Jekabpils Education Department (Secondary School) & Sports Centre
- **Members Jelgava:** Jelgava municipal institution (Culture Centre) & Education department (Primary school) Zemgale Regional Energy Agency (technical & administrative support)
- **Status:** Installation of PV panels & batteries + establishment in November
- **Legal form:** Non-profit association
- **Challenges:** Cash flow forecast (electricity sold= income), contracts with the electricity retailers
- **Success factors:** Registration of energy community, small EC can sell surplus electricity at fair prices

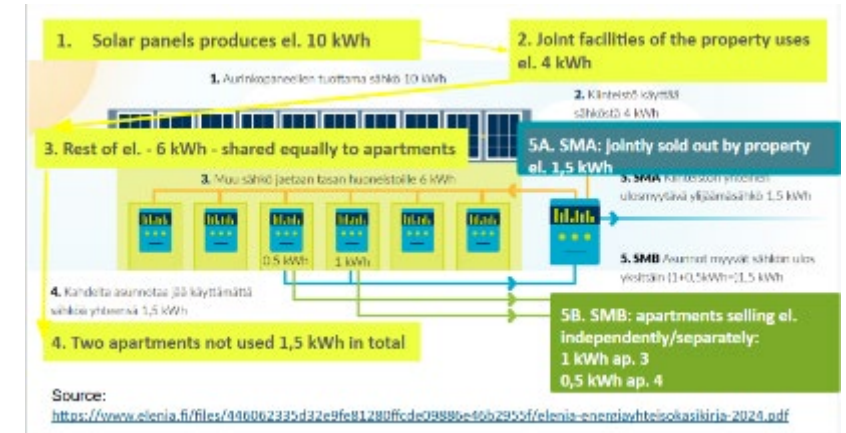


*A part of the produced electricity is allocated to socially vulnerable groups - for the self-consumption of the school attended by children and young people.

Pilots in Sweden & Finland

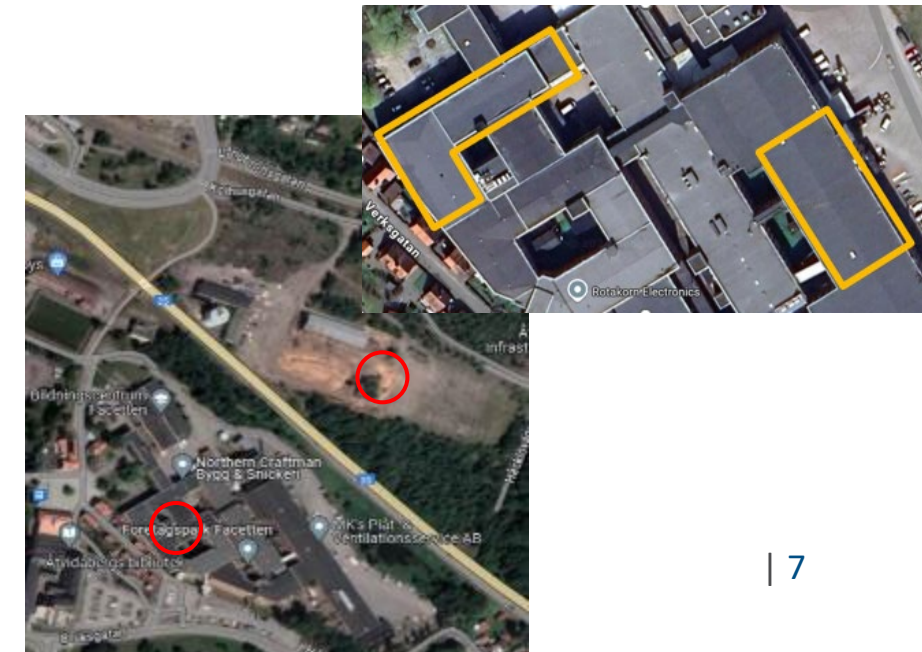
Marttila (Finland)

- **Ambition:** Hypothetical case exploring administrative and legal models for future energy communities involving municipal housing
- **Legal form:** Housing association
- **Status:** Testing phase, feasibility calculations, validation of numbers
- **Success factors:** Cross-cooperation between projects & initiatives GNF, Turku University for Applied Science & Martilla municipality



Åtvidaberg (Sweden)

- **Ambition:** Role of the municipality? Renewable energy, forerunner
- **Members:** Business park (tenants), municipality
- **Legal form:** Economic association
- **Status:** Rejection of proposal from municipality management
- **Challenges:** Low interest, engagement building, business model
- **Next step:** New hypothetical case, continued capacity building



Output

Tailored Start-up Packages

- Focus on the type of EC/pilot
- Step-by-step guidance
- Preparatory work, investigations,
- Feasibility Calculator
- Key contacts, involvement
- Decisions, contracts and procurement procedure
- Template for statutes

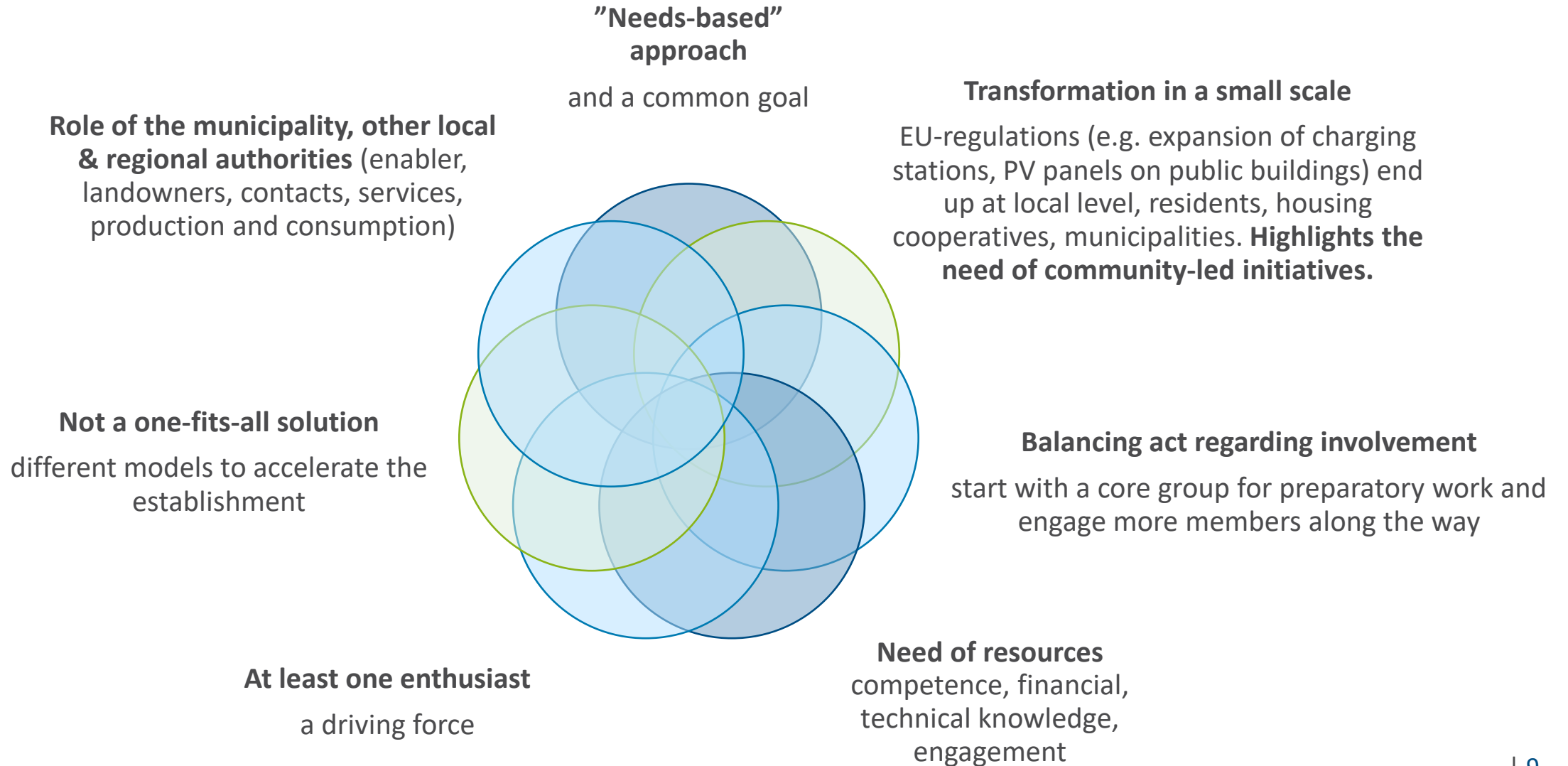


Start-up Package establishment of EC

- Easy-to-follow
- Experiences from all pilots
- Lessons and guidelines from the Tailored Start-up Packages
- Examples of business models and organizational format
- Sustainability for energy communities



Lessons learned



Next step

Scale-up

- Legal establishment & installation of PV panels & storage
- Promoting Start-up Package and dissemination of tailored Start-up Packages
- Sustainability plan for the pilots (expansion)
- Summary of Lessons learned
- Follower organizations
- Continued collaboration with other projects and initiatives (Entra project platform (PA Energy) and EnerCrazy)
- Final Replication Conference (autumn 2026)



Thank you for the attention!

Project facts

The StartSun project is co-financed by Interreg Baltic Sea Region.

Total budget: 3,202,068.22 Euro.

Project period: November 2023 - October 2026

Homepage: <https://interreg-baltic.eu/project/startsun/>

Lead partner: County Administrative Board of Östergötland (Länsstyrelsen Östergötland)

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