



Handbook on cross-border energy communities



*Delia Bonsignore, DG REGIO D2
Interreg, cross-border cooperation, internal borders*

Context

- Legal Framework: Citizen Energy Communities (CECs) and Renewable Energy communities (RECs) as established by the Internal Market for Electricity Directive (EU) 2019/944 (IMED) and the Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001 (RED II), respectively.
- Possibility of opening RECs and CECs to **cross-border participation**.
- BUT: Cross-border initiatives dealing with energy are facing multiple obstacles that hamper the effective set up and integration of communities.

Interreg: cooperation for energy communities

- **Calls for projects** under each Interreg programme on:
 - Cohesion Policy Objective 2 on Greener Europe, SO 2.2
 - Cohesion Policy Objective 5 on Europe Closer to citizens
 - Interreg Specific Objective 1 on Better Cooperation Governance
 - Small Project Funds: civil society and new types of beneficiaries

- **Border Focal Point:** support to cooperation beyond Interreg funding through different actions:
 - 1) knowledge production (studies)
 - 2) piloting cases/demonstration
 - 3) knowledge sharing ([Border Focal Point Network](#))



Purpose of the Handbook



- Tool for citizens and local actors that provides a practical step-by-step methodology for setting up a CBEC or Q-CBEC and for developing its activities.
- Support to institutions at European, national, regional and local level in understanding and promoting the benefits of CBEC and Q-CBEC for territorial development.

What is a CBEC or a Q-CBEC

Cross-Border Energy Community (CBEC)

- a REC or a CEC of cross-border nature. A legal entity:
 - (a) which is based on **voluntary and open participation** and **effectively controlled by members and shareholders** in both sides of the border.
 - (b) Energy activities are developed at cross-border level.

Quasi Cross-Border Energy Community (Q-CBEC)

- Softer form of cooperation: energy activities not at cross-border level, but at least:
 - (a) **Joint management**, and/or
 - (b) **Joint funding**, and/or
 - (c) **Joint resources.**

Inventory of CBEC, Q-CBEC and related cross-border initiatives



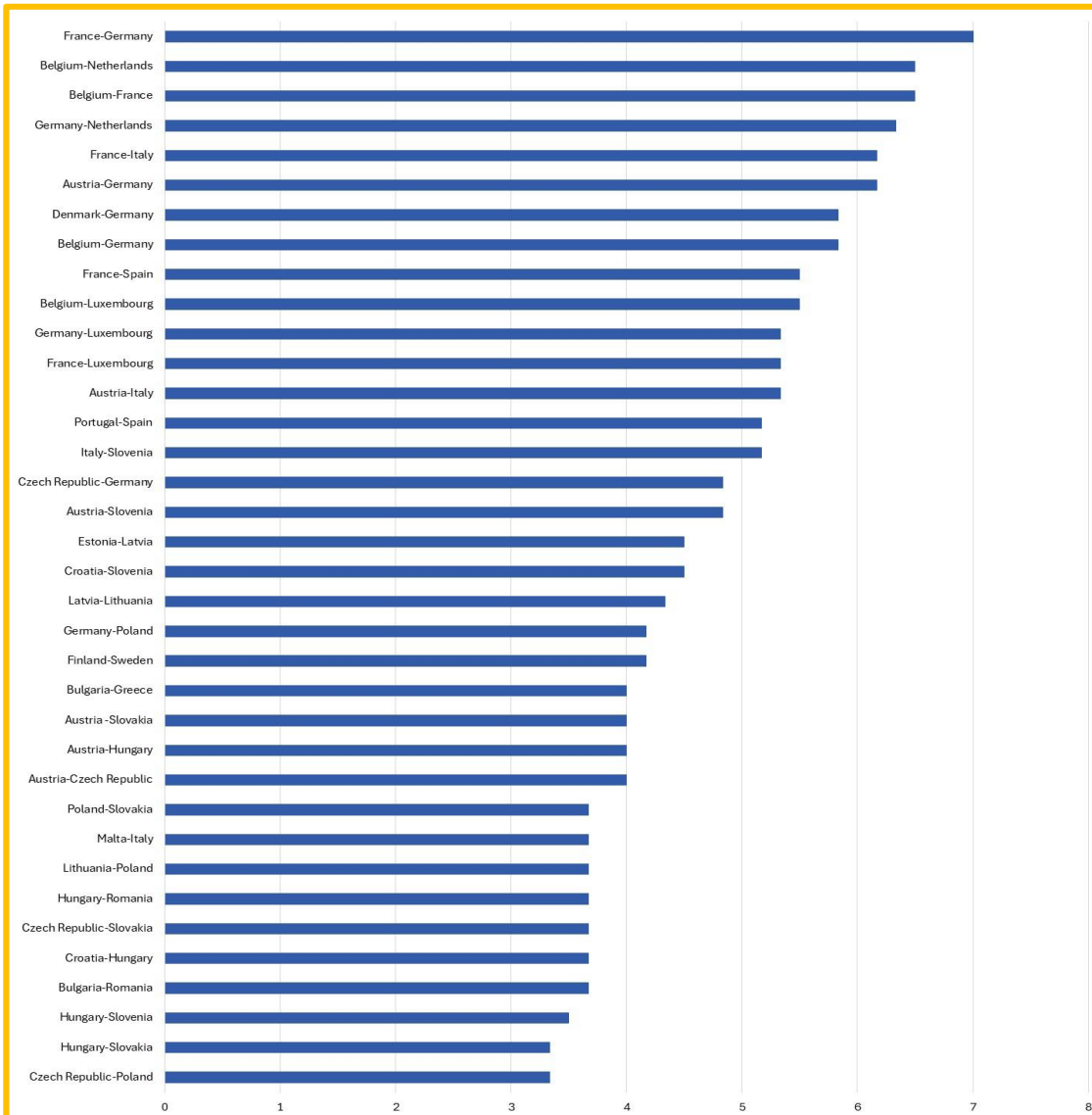
CBEC in the EU

- 27 cross-border energy initiatives as potential CBEC or Q-CBEC.
- Most of them do not classify (yet) as a full CBEC.
- Most lack community involvement or a cross-border activity.
- Several initiatives are still at the planning stage and have the potential to become a CBEC or Q-CBEC.

Obstacles for CBEC

- **Legal obstacles at EU level**, e.g. inadequate EU legislation relevant to cross-border direct connections at distribution system level or doubts on the adequacy of the EGTC legal instrument for operating a CBEC.
- **Legal obstacles at national/regional level** mostly due to an incomplete transposition of EU legislation into national law.
- **Administrative obstacles** mostly caused by the lack of cross-border cooperation between national administrations and/or specialised national agencies with energy policy responsibilities.
- **Physical or technical obstacles** relate, for example, to the lack of direct cross-border electricity connections at distribution grid level or technical challenges for the traditional distribution and transmission grids.
- The analysis shows that **socio-economic and socio-cultural obstacles** (e.g. cultural differences, lack of funding, lack of social acceptance) are less important in terms of number, but they might also play a crucial role.

National enabling frameworks



- Preparedness of EU border regions to establish CBEC and Q-CBEC
- Analysis per Border
- Annex to the Handbook with Border Fiches allows for a detailed overview on the preparedness for each national border

Need for action

EU level:

- Revision of EU legislation, e.g. the EGTC Regulation may allow for making the EGTC model more suitable for energy activities.
- Foresee local cross-border connections in relevant regulations, e.g. the Electricity Market Regulation.
- Specify the cross-border aspect in the legislation on energy communities.
- Define Quasi-CBEC within EU legislation to allow for easier access to CB cooperation on energy.
- Harmonise technical standards in the EU, e.g. on gas quality.

MS level:

- Improve transposition of EU legislation on energy communities into national law to create more favourable national frameworks.
- Develop regulatory sandboxes or experimental legislation to allow to cross-border energy cooperation in specific cases.
- Amend bilateral agreements on cross-border cooperation.

Need for action

Local and Regional level:

- Disseminate information and raise awareness about existing cross-border energy communities and related cases.
- Build capacities at regional and local level to deal with CBEC in the context of cross-border cooperation.
- Promote Quasi-CBECs and lighter forms of cooperation to gain time to adjust administrative frameworks and technical issues.
- Use EU Funds for cross-border cooperation to start building up CBEC and Q-CBEC and to carry out feasibility studies for integration of grids and infrastructure measures.

More support for energy communities

Communities for Climate (C4C)

Pilot action (closed) –
Support to 50 local climate-related community projects, including energy communities

Better cohesion in the Western Balkans through development of energy communities

Pilot action (ongoing) –
Support to the set-up and/or development of renewable energy communities in 5 IPA candidate countries (AL, BiH, ME, MK, RS)

Available online!

Handbook on cross-border energy communities



SCAN ME

Tool for local actors on how to set up and run cross-border energy community projects (includes good practices)

Now Open!

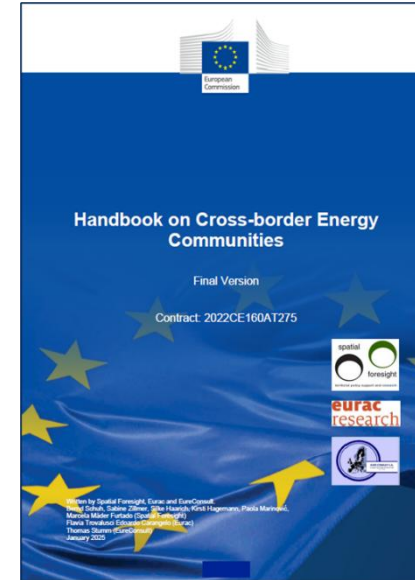


Call for pilots on cross-border energy communities

Pilot action (ongoing) –
7 cross-border energy community pilots will be selected and receive 15.000 EUR + technical support

Useful links

- [Handbook on cross-border energy communities](#)
 - [Annex: Border Fiches](#)
- [Call for pilots on Cross-Border Energy Communities](#)
 - cbec@mot.asso.fr
- [Border Focal Point Network](#)
- [Communities for Climate \(C4C\)](#)
- [Better cohesion in the Western Balkans through development of Energy Communities](#)



SCAN ME

Thank you



© European Union 2025

Unless otherwise noted the reuse of this presentation is authorised under the [CC BY 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/) license. For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.