

Highlights CT6

Citizen's Engagement

2nd CA-RES IV Plenary Meeting

18th-19th May 2022

Core Theme 6 “*Consumer/Citizen's engagement*” addresses measures to empower individual consumers and renewable energy communities to participate in renewable energy markets, these topics covered mainly by Art. 21 (Renewables self-consumers) and Art. 22 (Renewable energy communities) of RED II.

The first session of 2nd Plenary Meeting related to the CT6 (session 6 -18th May 2022), was dedicated transposition issues of Article 21 (self – consumption) into the national legal framework of each Member State (MS), while the second was dedicated to discussions on specific topics essential for the legal interpretation of Article 22 (Renewable Energy Communities).

In both sessions, participants exchanged information on national enabling policies, the transposition process, and the obstacles recognized so far, while they had the possibility to take part in a Q & A procedure with DG ENER Policy Officers.

Session 6: Transposition of Article 21 'Renewable Self - Consumers'. Legal interpretation and share of experience on the enabling frameworks put in place among Member States

Article 21 of the RED II requires a reliable, transparent and supportive legal and regulatory framework that allows all final consumers to generate, store and sell self-generated electricity to promote and implement self-consumption.

During the session, participants have overviewed important transposition issues for Article 21 and discussed main barriers that need to be overcome.

The CT6 leader issued a short analysis of the responses to the questionnaire filled by CA-RES contact points and representatives. The questionnaire aimed to assess the main topics for the establishment of a robust enabling framework for self – consumption in each MS.

A speaker – senior researcher in this field – introduced the participants to the state of the art in self – consumption business models and frameworks with special emphasis in energy sharing.

Two invited speakers, from France and Portugal presented their national experience in detail by analysing the prospects for self-consumption, the legal framework, the promotional measures and the obstacles for further development.

The participants then broke into three separate discussion rooms in order to discuss upon the 3 following topics selected by voting.

Monitoring implementation & exchange of information. They concluded that there is a need for practicing common reporting and statistics as well as exchange of information on policy information.

Enumeration of main barriers for the implementation of Art 21. The participants identified, so far, the adjustment of existing regulatory schemes, the taxation on excess energy injected into the grid and the slow pace in smart meters deployment and storage specifications.

Supporting schemes & incentives. The discussion focused on net billing, tax rebate, investment assistance, the remuneration of excess energy, net metering and the introduction of GOs.

Finally the participants concluded the main challenges for the effective creation of enabling policies. These include, indicatively, the introduction of energy sharing schemes (jointly acting consumers) and the targeting of best complementarity of self – consumption policies with those for the Energy Performance of Buildings.

Session 12: 'Renewable Energy Communities'. Legal challenges for the transposition of Article 22 of RED and Exchange of experience on supporting policies and measures on Renewable Energy Communities'

During this session, participants had a close insight of legal challenges for the transposition of article 22, focused on the legal interpretation in each Member State.

The CT6 leader issued a short analysis of the responses to the questionnaire filled by national representatives. The questionnaire aimed to profile the development status of the Article 22 transposition in each Member State, and raise the most important issues for its legal interpretation.

Three experts presented two ambitious initiatives supported by the European Commission. The *Rural Energy Communities Advisory Hub*, and the *Energy Communities Repository*.

The Energy Communities Repository will support the development of Energy Communities by collecting and analysing data, providing technical assistance, creating communication channels, exploring best practices and creating a toolbox for Renewable Energy Communities development.

Mission of the Rural Energy Communities Advisory Hub is to empower the development of energy communities in rural areas, by providing technical assistance, by identifying and sharing best practices and by providing network opportunities to local stakeholders

The participants then broke into three separate discussion rooms to discuss the most important topics related to the legal interpretation of art 22. These topics, as selected by vote, were:

The definition of profits and benefits from RECs. The participants explored proposals that may ensure RECs nature, by providing services to members and benefits the local society as well as participating in the energy market under a moderated environment.

The opening of RECs to low-income or vulnerable households, where participants concluded that the involvement of local authorities- municipalities as well as the support by national schemes is essential.

The definition of proximity of members to REC's projects, where participants explored the different approaches followed by member states by using administrative or electricity grid oriented rules.

Finally, a '*Round table*' discussion among the participants and a Q&A session followed. The session ended by giving to the participants the opportunity to vote on the priority topics that may be introduced in the next plenary meeting.