



COALESCCE

Regional Action Plan (RAP)

Lake Constance Foundation (LCF)

(PP7)



Peer Review visit in Germany (October 2018)



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Germany

Part I – General Information

Project: COALESCCE

Partner organisation: Lake Constance Foundation (LCF)

Other partner organisations involved (if relevant): none

Country: Germany

NUTS1 region: DE1 (Baden-Württemberg)

Managing authority: **Environmental Ministry of Baden-Württemberg** (and Departments) (referred to as the **Ministry**)

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Part II – Policy context

The Action Plan aims to impact:

- Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
- European Territorial Cooperation programme
- Other regional development policy instrument

Policy instrument addressed:

Integrated Energy and Climate Concept of Baden-Württemberg (referred to as **IEKK**)

To achieve the climate protection goals, the federal government has developed an integrated energy and climate protection plan (IEKK). It contains specific strategies and measures and makes clear what can and should be done in the coming years. The integrated energy and climate protection plan takes into account all significant sources of greenhouse gases. Therefore in addition to electricity and heat it also covers the areas of traffic, land use and material flows. All of the departments of the federal government contribute in their activities to the achievement of the stated objectives.

The integrated energy and climate protection plan is the conceptual basis for energy and climate policy in Baden-Württemberg (paragraph 6 of the Climate Protection Act for Baden-Württemberg).

Action plan: Type 2

ACTION 1

Strengthening Community Energy in the IEKK and creating supportive framework conditions

0. Introduction

COALESCCE stands for Community Owned And Led Energy for Security, Climate Change and Employment (or Economy). Community owned and led energy is referred to simply as “Community Energy”, and refers to energy transition projects which have been conceived, developed, financed and delivered by a collection of citizens acting together as a community group. The duration of COALESCCE is of 30 month in the first phase and 24 month in the second phase. Beginning January, 1st, 2017.

Because community energy projects are in general motivated by a desire to make a positive contribution to the fight against climate change, rather than primarily for making money. They have a number of advantages over renewable energy projects delivered by the private and public sectors (although the public sector can legitimately be said to be a member of the wider community and a key stakeholder in community energy).

Community energy can deliver energy security at a very local level, due to the local ownership and management of individual projects and the local distribution of energy generated by them. It can also deliver carbon emissions savings that are missed by private and public approaches to renewable energy because communities are generally interested in smaller, local projects which have a local relevance and benefit, in which energy companies and local authorities are not generally interested. When amalgamated, these smaller community projects can yield significant carbon savings. Finally, the local supply chains used in the construction of community energy projects, and the local ownership of these projects, means that the local economy benefits much more than larger projects where technical teams are brought in from outside the locality for construction, and ownership is generally at regional or national level.

The project partner team included representatives from: Oldham/Greater Manchester, UK; Abruzzo, Italy; Hajdu-Bihar County, Hungary; Prahova, Romania; Valencia Region, Spain; Sofia, Bulgaria. Further persons involved were different experts, from the mentioned countries in the Peer Review in Baden-Württemberg, Germany from 8th, - 12th October, 2018.

Lake Constance Foundation (LCF) budget was in total 179,010.00 € with a Partner Contribution of 44,752.50 €.

1. The background

The energy transition in Germany focusses on the development and market access of renewable energies. Renewable energy technologies benefit of a strong support and so far well-established funding forms like the feed-in tariffs. Community energy is often communicated in political debate, but plays a minor role in concrete policy instruments.

Community energy can positively affect and influence the further development of renewable energies.

In the federal state of Baden-Württemberg the “*integrated energy and climate concept* (IEKK)” describes the targets for the energy transition. The policy instrument is in the revision process that will be finished in 2020. The implementation is compulsory in all the regions of Baden-Württemberg.

The RAP focusses on how the suggested good examples from the Peer Review can be involved in the policy instrument. It emphasis on the potential there is to improve and increase community energy in Germany. The actions suggested need to meet the requirements set by the Ministry to be introduced in the IEKK. Integrated they are transferable and valid for all regions in Baden-

Württemberg. The RAP supports the emphasised introduction of community energy in the IEKK and the adaptation of the framework to create supportive and motivating conditions in the regions.

For the development of the RAP, different steps were necessary in phase 1 of the COALESSCE project as well as the involvement of different stakeholders.

During the research phase with face to face interviews concerning the community energy in Baden-Württemberg the project profile was elaborated to the regional circumstances. These results were presented and discussed in a first meeting with the managing authority. The Ministry gave input on the items how to introduce community energy in an exemplary renewable energy (solar) field of action. LCF organized a stakeholder workshop and enlarged so the pool of relevant stakeholders and persons for community energy. The workshop offers a first hint what needs to be taken into consideration in community energy models and about the actual challenges. All activities were constantly reflected with the application and the policy instrument. To expand knowledge LCF attended all peer reviews of all involved partners.

For the baseline study LCF identified and named the mayor challenges: Revitalization and motivation for community energy projects, non-monetary aspects and benefits of community energy, acceptance and also addressing different social groups. How to involve different social groups in community energy projects and how to increase acceptance also for persons with limited financial capacities was relevant. Low income households do not typically join energy cooperatives, often due to lack of disposable income, but other ways needs to be identified how low income households can get involved in community energy and how they can benefit of community energy. It is important to note that low income households also typically have a much lower carbon footprint and environmental impact than those on higher incomes (at least in Germany).

In the next step the German peer review with the involvement of the managing authority and about 20 stakeholders took place. At the end of the process the peers hand out the peer review report with recommendations from the peer review that constitute the basis for the regional action plan:

Co-operatives UK Community Shares Unit Energy Mentoring Program (UK Partner)

Co-operatives UK ran a programme to match mentors from experienced community energy groups with new or developing groups, to provide support, advice and the benefit of hindsight for these newer groups. The main benefit for the mentees was in developing confidence to take a project forward through having someone to talk to who'd been through the process before and faced similar challenges. The transferability for Germany is due to a similar situation of very experienced cooperatives and newer unexperienced once.

Community Benefit Societies (CBS) → Community Benefit Pots (UK Partner)

A CBS is a form of co-operative that is set up primarily to benefit a wider community than its members.

The peer review in Germany showed the necessity of different options how to increase the acceptance of communities to be favourable for energy transition projects (renewable energies, mobility, and energy efficiency). The proposed good practice also can strength the social dimension of energy transition projects in communities.

As LCF as a NGO is not in charge of the revision process for the IEKK we are relying on the cooperation of the Ministry in charge. Therefor we are working in close collaboration with the respective departments and have frequent meetings and exchange on the developments. The Ministry has signed a letter of support in the application phase and is committed to revise the current IEKK.

2. Action

Creating a supportive framework condition:

In the last semester of phase 1 LCF scouted the responsible persons in charge of the revision of the IEKK and met with several departments of the Ministry and the cooperative association to present the Peer Review report and the first draft of the RAP. The first feed-back and further feed-back via email exchange was incorporated in the final RAP.

Internal ministry workshop defines measures for the policy instrument IEKK. Later the official process consists of internal ministry workshops, round tables with NGOs and associations as well as an online contributions for citizens and a final conference.

Institutionalised participation for the IEKK with the introduced items for energy communities:

LCF will participate in the public consultation phase via: contribution in the online survey, briefing association representatives, participating in round table events, providing a community fact sheet and participation in the final conference.

Workshops

Before the end of the consultation phase LCF will organise a workshop with stakeholders (see players involved).

LCF will organise a WS to streamline a regional climate action plan with the revised IEKK

3. Players involved

- **Environmental Ministry of Baden-Württemberg** (and Departments): in charge of the revision process and coordinator of the legislative provision → managing authority.
- **Cooperative association** (Baden-Württembergischer Genossenschaftsverband BWGV): the umbrella association regroups all existing cooperatives and can evaluate the transferability from the policy instrument (IEKK). → Association representative.
- **Environmental and nature preservation organizations:**
 - NABU → Association representative.
 - BUND → Association representative.
- **Platform for renewable Energies** (Plattform für Erneuerbare Energien Baden-Württemberg) → Association representative.
- **Climate and Energy Agency** of the federal state (KEA): the Agency is expert in actual funding conditions → Association representative.
- **Alliance for Participation:** institution to support not institutionalized initiatives on their way to an energy community (department of ministry of state) → Association representative.
- **Caritas Association:** Welfare organisation and expert for social equity in the energy transition and social institution, NGO → Association representative.

4. Timeframe

Ministerial official Revision process: first semester 2019 – second semester 2020

Briefing of Association representative, online consultation, fact-sheet: second semester 2019 – first semester 2020

Stakeholder workshop: first semester 2020

Regional climate action plan workshop: second semester 2020

5. Costs

LCF will have the following costs for participation in the public consultation and briefings:

Travel costs: 200 €

Personnel: 1.000 €

LCF will have the following costs for workshops:

Travel costs: 200 €

Personnel: 2.000 €

Room rental and catering: 800 €

The ministry will of course have costs for the whole revision process and the public consultation which we estimate at about 100.000 – 150.000 €.

6. Funding sources

LCF will cover the costs by the Coalescne budget and by own resources of the foundation.

The ministry will cover all own costs from their core budget and is not reliant on external funding.

ACTION 2:

Offering support mechanisms for Cooperatives

1. The background

see above

The action aims to improve the policy by influencing the management of the IEKK. It increases the attractiveness of coops with new business models.

The attractiveness for younger people and low income households can be enlarged by focussing on non-monetary aspects. Those issues should be integrated in the revised IEKK to create a supportive framework for energy communities.

Recommendations from the peer review report that constitute the basis for the Action plan:

Co-operatives UK Community Shares Unit Energy Mentoring Program (UK Partner)

Co-operatives UK ran a programme to match mentors from experienced community energy groups with new or developing groups, to provide support, advice and the benefit of hindsight for these newer groups. The main benefit for the mentees was in developing confidence to take a project forward through having someone to talk to who'd been through the process before and faced similar challenges. The transferability for Germany is due to a similar situation of very experienced cooperatives and newer unexperienced ones and to transfer this into a training program.

Community Benefit Societies (CBS) → Community Benefit Pots (UK Partner)

A CBS is a form of co-operative that is set up primarily to benefit a wider community than its members.

The peer review in Germany showed the necessity of different options how to increase the acceptance of communities to be favourable for energy transition projects (renewable energies, mobility, and energy efficiency). The proposed good practice also can strength the social dimension of energy transition projects in communities.

The peer review in Germany and the recommendation focused on these aspects and suggested for the cooperative association to revitalize

E-Carsharing Valencia - ALTERNAcOop – Mobility Cooperative (Spanish Partner)

ALTERNAcOop is a Non-profit coop, created with the goal of offering products and services to members for more sustainable mobility. As E-Mobility becomes more and more important for the transition in the transport sector, innovative models are appropriate and have a transfer potential.

2. Action

Networking event

Networking events for community energy groups in cooperation with LUBW, The project is complex and needs professional support. The aim of this activity is to get in touch with business partners that install E-Charging infrastructure, and to get to know the authorities in charge. The networking event could be repeated if necessary in different regions of Baden-Württemberg → organized by LUBW with the support of LCF

Workshop

New Business Models workshop for community energy groups e.g. own consumption, E-Carsharing, introducing the training session as new business models for existing cooperatives. The aim of this activity is to inform and motivate community energy groups to identify new business models for their cooperative. There is one workshop foreseen, if necessary the workshop could be repeated in different regions → organized by BWGV with the support of LCF

At least one E-Charging infrastructure training session for existing and founding cooperatives in process, and citizen initiatives → organized by BBEn and partners with the support of LCF

Description and handout of benefit pots

Definition and promotion of community benefit pots in German context → fact sheet on benefits and possibilities, finding best practices by LCF in cooperation with BWGV

3. Players involved

- **Cooperative association (BWGV):** the association regroups all existing cooperatives and can evaluate the transferability from the policy instrument (IEKK) to implementation. Implantation partner for LCF
- **State Institute for Environment (LUBW):** co-organizer of networking meetings
- **Umbrella organization for community energy initiatives (BBEn):** co-organizer for training sessions

4. Timeframe

Training sessions: first semester 2019 – first semester 2021

Networking events: first semester 2019 – first semester 2021

new Business model WS: second semester 2020

Community benefit pots: second semester 2019 – first semester 2021

5. Costs

Costs will occur for the organization of the workshops, networking events and training sessions.

Travel costs: 400 € (only LCF)

Personnel: 3.000 € (only LCF)

Room rental and catering: 2.000 € (all partners)

6. Funding sources

LCF will cover the costs by the Coalescne budget and by own resources of the foundation.

The other involved organizations will cover those costs from their own core budget and are not reliant on external funding.

→ The LUBW has an internal budget for cooperation with partners

→ The BWGV has internal budget for workshops and information campaigns for its members

Participants of the training session will have to pay a fee for attending that will also be used to finance the session.

Date: 22.08.2019

Signature: *V. Hoernig*

Stamp of the organisation (if available): _____

