



Supporting the development and implementation of Renewable Energy Communities at Ascó

A Policy Learning Platform peer review 28th & 29th of March 2023

Final Report

1. Brief presentation of the beneficiary and its motivation to host a peer review

The municipality of Ascó is a large village in the comarca of Ribera d'Ebre, Catalunya, Spain, on the right bank of the Ebre river at the feet of the Serra de la Fatarella range. The village of Ascó is known for its nuclear power station located in the municipal area as well for the surrounding mountain ranges that provide an advantageous location placement for wind farm installations.

2. Specification of the policy challenge encountered

Energy competences in Spain are distributed in 3 levels: Central /ministerial level, regional level and local level; from a point of view of the Peer Review, Municipal competences include: Public lighting; Planning and fostering energy efficiency at local level; Land planning and designation for land use in the entire area of the Municipality.

Considering the main theme (REC fostering) here treated, there's some obvious confusion with terminology amplified by some "loose" use of the energy community terminology.

To a certain extent it's difficult to separate what affects self-consumption and what relates to energy communities. As a matter of fact:

- There is no unified concept of energy community, but several types of energy communities that are given different names, some of which are also legal figures.
- If the actual legal figures are to be used (cooperative, Limited partnership, non-profit society, etc.) is difficult to figure amortization considerations how to join/leave once it has already been established... all of those considerations are not tackled in self-consumption installations.
- Whenever the term "Energy Community" is used it's used broadly without specification of how that differs from a single home self-consumption further contributing to citizens' confusion and rejection.

As it was also remarked during the Peer Review how the transposition of EU directives that should establish the basis for the legal framework of REC has not been executed in Spain, this is a major setback

3. Participants

List of participants in the peer review:

Dr. Caitriona Strain - PhD, Socio-Technical Energy Transitions, Queens University Belfast; focus on public policy, local communities and stakeholder engagement.



Benjamin Wilkin - Since 1991, Energie Commune asbl (ex-APERe asbl) work with citizens & municipalities for an empowerment of energy issues towards 100% Renewable, fair & solidary energy world.

Marco Bailo & Sergio Olivero - **Marco Bailo** is mayor of Magliano Alpi and member of the council of the province of Cuneo he also holds presidency of the REC of Magliano Alpi; **Sergio Olivero** is head of Business&Finance Innovation at the Energy center of the Politecnico di Torino, Member of the Scientific Committee of the Italian Forum of Energy Communities (IFEC), Member of the Scientific Committee of the Symbola Foundation, President of the Scientific Committee of the REC of Magliano Alpi, Coordinator of «Magliano&Friends» Initiative Chair of ETIP-SNET WG5 «*Innovation implementation in the business environment*».

Marc Roselló - A member of Som Energia since its inception. Member of the first Governing Council of Som Energia holding the position of President, he was later the first person hired by the cooperative. He is currently a member of the Delegate Team, being responsible for the field of cooperative activity and social incidence.

- *Members of the beneficiary organisation*

Miquel Àngel Ribes i Jornet – Town Mayor.

Carolina Baiges Gabaldà – Economic, tourism and commerce councilwoman.

Joan Martínez Borrell – Industry & new Technologies.

Monica Faiget Salvado – Environmental technician.

Roger Bargalló Marcos – EU projects management.

- *Local stakeholders involved*

Ivan Solé Martínez & Nadia Contreras Jordà – Founders of NEMON, an Ascó based, energy service related business.

Vicenç Alegre – SOLFLIX, promoting group of the first REC in Flix.

Citizens representatives

- *Interreg Europe team*

Astrid Severin - Thematic Expert Circular Economy and Resource Efficiency, INTERREG EUROPE Policy Learning Platform

Katharina Krell - Thematic Expert Low-Carbon Economy, INTERREG EUROPE Policy Learning Platform

Elena Ferrario - Thematic Manager, INTERREG EUROPE Policy Learning Platform

Charo Camacho - Senior Policy Officer - Low-carbon economy, INTERREG EUROPE Joint Secretariat

4. Policy Recommendations

Focussing on the received recommendations, the municipality of Ascó is to take a two-approach methodology for the fostering of REC within the area, therefore simultaneously approaching the issue on a bottom up and upside down manner.



In consideration of the recommendation “**whole community involvement from the outset ensures actions being undertaken are the most appropriate for the area and the people living in it.**” We consider The following tasks (refer to the Gantt chart for the scheduling):

Task 1. Citizens engagement

Task 1.1 Translating & preparing the material to be presented to the citizens and making sure it's understandable for regular citizens.

Task 1.2 Scheduling and communication of the meetings to be done

Task 1.3 Engaging with local experts in order to prepare a comprehensive approach to the citizens

Task 1.4 A total of 3 scheduled meeting with targeted citizens to begin the first REC

Task 2. Pilot REC installation

Task 2.1 Identification of the area where to deploy a first REC installation in order to centre the workings around the initiative.

Task 2.2 Calculating the overall energy generating capacity and requirements of the identified site.

Task 3. Update of the SEAP – Already commissioned to the Diputació de Tarragona (DiPTA)

Task 4. Governance and political engagement; through the channels available, there have become contacts with the Ministerio de Hacienda y la Administración Pública, the Ministerio para la Transición Ecológica y el Reto democrático, also through IDAE

Task 4.1 Reassessment of grants provided by the Municipality in order for them to be compatible with a REC receiver

Task 4.2 Engage with the legislators in order to move onwards with the transposition of EU REDII Directive.

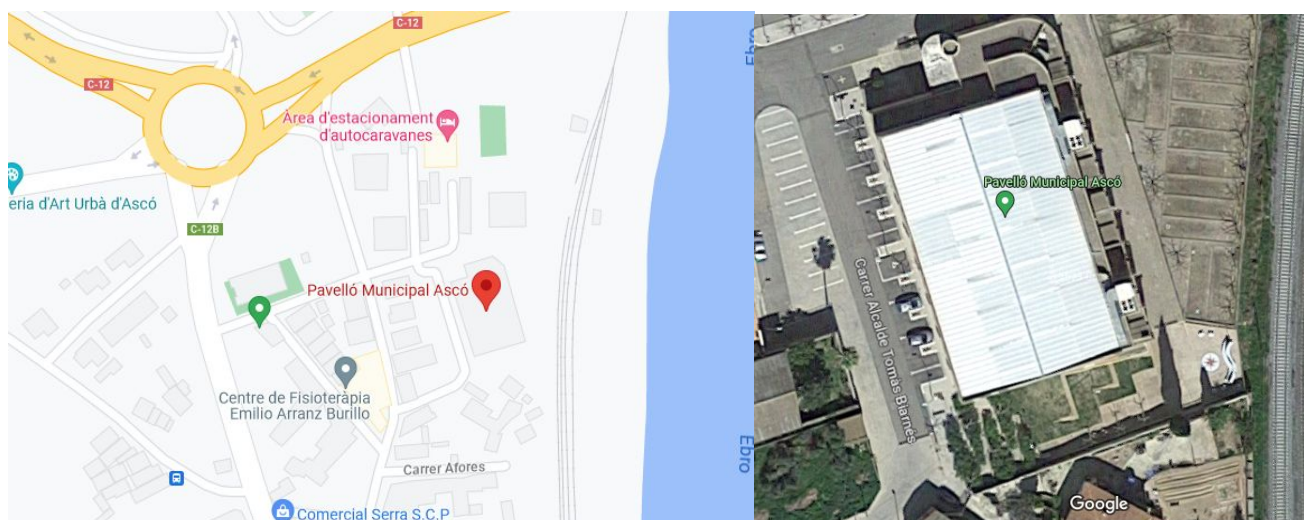


Fig. 1 Already chosen site for the first REC; the roof of the municipal sports hall is actually unused and



5. Possible calendar of implementation

Please, refer to the Gantt template provided.

6. Conclusions

At this point, we consider that, in order to successfully manage to driver onwards with the Generation of the REC and considering right now we have the opportunity for it, we would like to ask to the experts that participated in this Peer Review if it would be possible for them to join us in a fully-fledged Interreg Europe project with a piloting test site, in order to do so we would immediately begin by creating a Google groups emailing list with all interested and checking the fulfilment of the projects partnership requirements and consider what other needs may be included in this new stage.

Ascó, [digitally signed]

