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Presentation of the study



Analysis, identification of tools and actions,
recommendations for the development of
participatory and
citizen-led renewable energy projects in Normandy

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Context of the mission



Interreg Europe project « APPROVE »: Enhance public participation and stakeholder engagement to improve renewable energy policies

This study is part of the Interreg Europe "APPROVE" project and consists on four main steps:

1. **Analysing the potential and interests** of participatory and citizen-led renewable energy projects development in Normandy.
2. **Identify tools and actions** that can be potentially mobilized as well as the possible modalities of a generalization of this practice in Normandy.
3. **Formulate various recommendations** in terms of **political approach** aimed at disseminating and promoting this practice in Normandy.
4. **Recommend any adaptations of the ERDF tool** or regional tools that may be necessary.



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Potential for the development of renewable energies in Normandy: overcoming possible obstacles through citizen-led and participatory projects



SRADDET objectives in Normandy:

increase the percentage of renewable energy consumed to 32% by 2030.

Renewable energies in Normandy

- **Wood energy:** the most widely used renewable energy source in Normandy.
- **Anaerobic digestion:** potential estimates at nearly 5,000 GWh/year (Ademe)
- **Wind land and sea:** strong development potential, the total resource is thought to be 20,900 MW (2019 Barometer of renewable electrical energy), with 822 MW capacity installed in 2018
- **Marine turbines :** potential linked to the Raz Blanchard Current
- **Photovoltaic solar power:** potential estimates of more than 20,000 MWp (2019 Barometer of renewable electrical energy), with a current installed capacity of 153 MWp
- **Hydraulic power:** sector not very active due to the complex regulatory imperatives





Ecosystem of energy stakeholders in Normandy





Feedback of the obstacles to the development of RE projects identified in the APPROVE project



Obstacles and barriers identified (APPROVE)	Benefits in the case of a participatory/citizen-led project
Regulatory and military imperatives (particularly for onshore wind power)	None
Low financial return for the towns or villages, as compared with inter-communality	The 2015 TECV law allows local authorities to invest directly in renewable energy projects in their area.
Renewable energy disadvantaged by the "artificial" price of electricity in France	None
Lack of real return or direct benefit to the people	Strong local roots, permanent dialogue with local residents, citizen savings possible for local residents.
Move from a centralized model to a decentralized production system	None
Lack of information and ownership of energy issues, solutions (Negawatt scenario), the role that citizens can play	Substantial local communication related to the renewable energy project. Citizen-led projects feature a more global approach with a popular education and teaching issue that is rarely found among private developers.
Lack of dialogue between some developers and local authorities	Dialogue is the basis for building citizen-led projects
Local elected officials lack the means to react for when faced with canvassing by private developers	Support for elected officials. Participatory/citizen-led projects provide a credible alternative to the projects of conventional private developers who sometimes use and abuse questionable arguments.





Advantages of deploying participatory and citizen-led practice in Normandy



Economic advantages

- Lower energy bills for the region
- Create sustainable jobs
- Benefit from local economic spin-offs
- Relocation of know-how
- Develop short circuit loops
- Creating resilience

Environmental advantages

- Limiting global warming
- Decreasing dependence on fossil fuels
- Reducing air and soil pollution

Educational advantages

- Promote awareness of environmental issues
- Develop popular education practices
- Set up a dialogue between the different strata of the population

Direct advantages for local authorities

- Create synergies within regions
- Gain the confidence
- Enhance the value of its land holdings



Overview of the sociological bibliography

- **Christen G, Hamman P**, *Des inégalités d'appropriation des enjeux énergétiques territoriaux ? Analyse sociologique d'un instrument coopératif autour de l'éolien «citoyen», (Inequalities in the appropriation of regional energy issues? A sociological analysis of a cooperative instrument for "citizen-led" wind power)*, Vertigo vol 14, 2014
- **Mazaud C, Geneviève P**, *Un territoire rural dans la transition énergétique : entre démarche participative et intérêts particuliers, (A rural area in the energy transition: between a participatory approach and special interests)*, Review Lien social et Politiques, n°82, 2019, pp 118-138
- *Les facteurs sociologiques de réussite des projets de transition énergétique (Sociological factors for the success of energy transition projects)*, IAU Île de France, Arene, November 2018
- **Rüdinger A**, *Les projets participatifs et citoyens d'énergies renouvelables en France, Etat des lieux et recommandations (Participatory and citizen-led renewable energy projects in France, inventory and recommendations)*, IDDRI, May 2019





Participatory and citizen-led projects in Normandy



Projects in operation

Plaine Sud Energies – Photovoltaic solar – 74 kW – Bourguébus (Calvados)
Cinergie ABBEI – Photovoltaic solar – 36 kW – Saint Etienne du Rouvray (Seine-Maritime)

→ See APPROVE best practice factsheets

Projects under development

Watt Elce – Photovoltaic solar – Coutances (Manche)
L'Ampère contre-attaque - Photovoltaic solar – Granville (Manche)
SAS Ferténergie - Photovoltaic solar – La Ferté Macé (Orne)
Commune de Montérolier – Wind turbine (Seine-Maritime)

Emerging collectives

Citoyens en Cotentin association – Les Pieux (Manche)
Cotentin Nature association – Saint Pierre Eglise (Manche)
Bessin Energie Citoyenne association – Bayeux (Calvados)
ARBRES association – Thury Harcourt (Calvados)
Cocité association – Bernay (Eure)
RAS'Campagne association – Bourg Achard (Eure)



Link to the interactive map :
http://umap.openstreetmap.fr/fr/map/eseau-normand-des-acteurs-de-lenergie-citoyenne_406665#8/49.175/0.555





Needs stated by Norman collectives



Difficulties encountered	Needs identified	Potential levers
Unfair division of labour and complex internal cohesion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Group leadership - Definition of responsibilities - Notions of sociocracy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personalized support - Energie Partagée training, module 3
Lack of human resources and volunteer burnout	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recruiting volunteers - Recruiting employees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personalized support - Financial aid - Energie Partagée training, module 2
Difficulties in choosing the appropriate legal structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Structural support - Legal training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personalized support - Energie Partagée training, module 5
Lack of external means of communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Getting to grips with the tools offered by Energie Partagée - In-house skills development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personalized support - Energie Partagée training, module 2
Difficulties in communicating with local authorities, lack of development methodology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knowledge of EPCI strategic objectives and plans - Work on discussions between citizens and institutions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personalized support - Energie Partagée training, module 7
Limited financial benefits of photovoltaic projects in Normandy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Special grants - Assistance with funding studies - Investment aid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financial aid - Personalized support and pooling to increase investment sizes and/or reduce costs
Limited technical knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training and awareness-raising 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Involvement of local people - Partnership with the members of the Energie Partagée network, integration into the national citizen-led energy network
Lack of knowledge of development methodologies and possible financial arrangements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feedback from outside experience - Identify best financial engineering practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personalized support - Energie Partagée training, modules 6 & 7
Lack of credibility when presenting the approach to public and private stakeholders and to citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Belonging to a network identified as serious and competent - Knowledge of references from within or outside the area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personalized support
Lack of support from the local authority in which the project is emerging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support from public stakeholders and willingness to engage in discussions and collective action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raising the awareness of elected officials about participatory and citizen-led renewable energy projects - Training on shared governance initiatives



Overview of participatory and citizen-led projects



Participatory

brings together projects for which funding can be shared by several natural or legal persons

Citizen-led

brings together projects for which the investment (capital financing and access to governance) is shared between several stakeholders, with a citizen majority in governance

A wide variety of practices

- **8 types of legal entities:** Public limited company, limited liability company, simplified jointstock company, collective interest co-operative society (limited, limited liability and simplified joint stock), semi-public company, and general partnership
- **5 technological fields:** Photovoltaic solar, wind, anaerobic digestion, wood energy, microhydroelectricity
- **Installed capacity** from 4 kW to 18,000 kW
- **Investment budgets** from €20k to €34M.
- **Stakeholders from all fields**, both public and private





Energie Partagée CHARTER

Adoption: 10 of May 2018

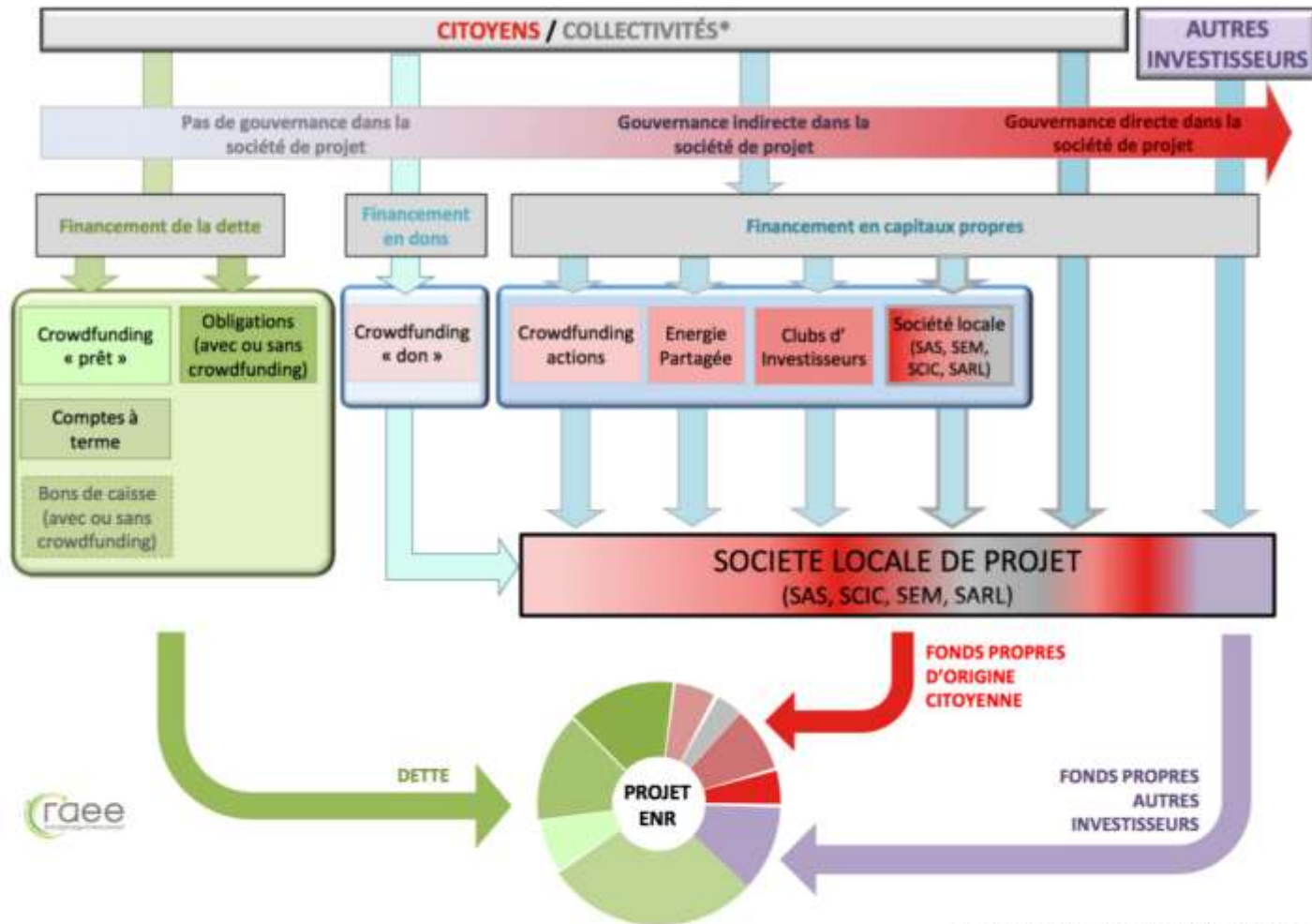


A project is qualified as a *citizen-led* according to the following criteria:

1. **Local roots:** the company running the project is controlled by local authorities, individuals and their groups and/or the Energie Partagée fund. This means that they have a majority shareholding in the capital and/or a shareholders' agreement guaranteeing control in the long term.
2. **Non-speculative purpose:** the return on capital is limited; a percentage of the profits is allocated to the educational aspect and to investment in new citizen-led projects.
3. **Governance:** democratic, cooperative type, featuring transparency.
4. **Ecology:** respect for the environment from local to global



Explanatory scheme about economic models



* Les collectivités n'ont accès qu'à une partie des options (flèches cerclées de gris)





Inventory of practices in favour of participatory and citizen-led projects development in France



Regional animation

- 10 regional networks in France
- A funding involved by the Ademe/Region duo, sometimes supplemented by European aid (ERDF), grants from local authorities or funding from private foundations
- Three main fields of action:
 - Structuring and running the network
 - Impetus and support for the emergence of projects
 - Project monitoring: role of “guardian” of the citizen-led approach





Overview of the funding models for the regional animation networks



Tableau des ressources financières en 2018

	Centre val de loire		PACA		ECPDL	
Financiers publics	Montant	Durée	Montant	Durée / taux d'aide	Montant	Durée / taux d'aide
FEDER	0,00 €		150 000,00 €	3 ans à partir de 2018 /50 %		
Conseil régional	59 000,00 €	1 an renouvelable	28 786,00 €	3 ans à partir de 2017	35 000,00 €	1 an renouvelable
DR ADEME	117 000,00 €	3 ans	61 965,00 €	3 ans à partir de 2018	68 000,00 €	1 an renouvelable
Département	0,00 €		0,00 €		10 000,00 €	1 an renouvelable
Pays	20 945,00 €	2 ans	0,00 €			
Pays	6 341,00 €	1 an	0,00 €			
total pour un an	114 813,50 €		80 250,33 €		113 000,00 €	
Financiers privés						
Fondation Buffard	10 000,00 €	1 an				
Fondation de France						
Fondation BanquePopSud						
Fondation Horizon			10 000,00 €	Un an		
Adhésions						
total pour un an	10 000,00 €		10 000,00 €			
Prestation						
Formation	0,00 €		en prévision			
Accompagnement des collectivités	0,00 €		en prévision			
Accompagnement des collectifs citoyens / entreprises						
Autre ?						
total pour un an						

TOTAUX pour un an	124 813,50 €	0,00 €	90 250,33 €	0,00 €	113 000,00 €	0,00 €
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Exemple of the regional network ECLR in Occitanie



Support structure: ECLR (association created en 2017)

Human Resources (2019): 2.75 part-time equivalent

Funding of the network (2018): Region (€35k) + ADEME NA (€62k) + DREAL (€6k) + services provided (€96k)

Membership: Subject to a fee (double membership with Energie Partagée)

Description: The ECLR network was created in 2015 and now has 50 members. The association was initially hosted by Enercoop Languedoc Roussillon and is now autonomous, enabling a number of projects to be developed. In 2019, the network co-organised the first national conference on citizen-led energy with ADEME and Energie Partagée.

Concrete actions:

- Creation of tools for documentation, coordination and collaboration between project leaders (documentary base, project factsheets, computer graphics, quizzes)
- Support for members
- Support services
- Training courses (8 in 2018 for 116 participants)
- Creation and coordination of a working group on the creation of a membership management tool





Direct public aid for ENR citizen-led project leaders



Type of assistance	Leader	Scheme
Emergence assistance	Ademe Pays de Loire	<p>Support scheme to increase the number of citizen-led RE projects.</p> <p>Financial assistance in the emergence phase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Support and skills development for citizens,- Pre-feasibility study (to examine the potential technical characteristics of the project, the environmental issues, and to carry out an initial economic and financial analysis of the project)- Definition of the co-construction strategy, consultation and communication,- Pre-planning study of the legal structure that will support the citizen-led initiative.
	Region + Ademe Occitanie	<p>Call for expression of interest 2019 "Renewable energies and citizen-led cooperatives" (aimed at local cooperative and citizen-led RE production companies, as well as local authorities and associations that can demonstrate that their project falls within the definition and criteria of the RE citizen-led project)</p> <p>Two types of assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Decision-making assistance (support in involving citizens, in coordinating, in defining the project with regard to its technical and economic feasibility, assistance in setting up the project company); <p>Eligible types of studies and services: Project management assistance based on an approach that facilitates the structuring of the project, studies of legal and financial arrangements, sociological analysis of the area (drafting questionnaires, etc.), concerted actions to involve stakeholders.</p>

- + Development assistance
- + Investment aid





A citizen-led energy scheme for Normandy



The Normandy regional animation of RE's citizen-led and participatory projects

Funding: Normandy Region, Ademe, ERDF funds (to be defined) for an ideal initial period of three years

→ In the long term, the regional network will be strengthened and will have more resources to finance itself, through memberships, through the services provided... this will lead to a better self-financing capacity, which will make it possible to reduce the share of public funding.

- **Three main types of actions** : Coordinating and running a network of regional stakeholders/ Emergence of, and support for projects / Awareness raising and communication





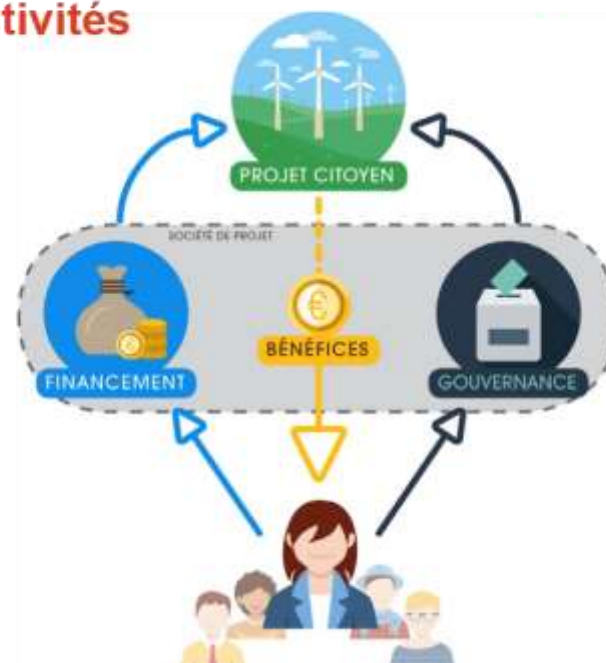
Interests of a regional animation



- Facilitating the dynamics of pooling
- Accelerate and facilitate emerging citizen-led projects
- Raising the awareness of elected officials about participatory and citizen-led renewable energy projects
- Interface between citizen-led projects and the private and public sectors
- Link with the other regional coordination networks of participatory and citizen-led RE projects in France
- Consolidation of the regional momentum via a link between the local collectives
- Link with other networks (especially the Education for Sustainable Development network)

Energy BY and FOR citizens and authorities

L'énergie PAR et POUR les citoyens et collectivités



Reproduce this type of model





Coordinating and running a network of regional stakeholders

- Representing the network to different groups (local authorities, associative and institutional networks) and contribute to public policies on renewable energy.
- Promoting the work of the network
- Promoting exchanges between various stakeholders and capitalizing on feedback
- Participating in national network discussions

Emergence of, and support for projects

- Project management assistance for citizens on small photovoltaic projects <250KWp
- Support for citizen mobilization
- Advising and informing project leaders about the different possible participatory scenarios
- Project monitoring, a “compass” to guide projects according to the criteria defined by Energie Partagée (non-speculative purpose, local roots, governance and ecology).

Awareness raising and communication

- Promotion of the citizen-led and participatory model of renewable energy to citizens, elected officials, potential financiers (banks, sponsors, etc.): creation of communication and computer graphics tools for the various stakeholders mentioned (brochures, newsletters, posters, web pages, Facebook, Twitter, etc.) → *inspired by the work of Energie Partagée, adapted to the Normandy context.*
- Training for local authorities (energy issues + participatory democracy)
- Participation in awareness-raising events
- Capitalisation and dissemination of methodological tools (at the regional network level, + sent to the national level, Energie Partagée)



Potential guidelines for a 3-year time frame



Year 1

Deliverables :

Annual activity report
Debriefing of the first experiences

- Create links between the various project leader groups and support them
- Communicate on the emergence of the network to local stakeholders
- Create a dedicated web page
- Update emerging and ongoing projects
- Centralize information
- Create a network membership system
- Set up training courses for elected officials and citizens (using Energie Partagée tools)
- Set up a Normandy citizen-led energy day
- Participate in the discussions of the national Energie Partagée network

Year 2

Deliverables :

Annual activity report
Sharing training materials

- Support the emergence of new projects
- Intensify links and synergies
- Capitalise on experience feedback
- Fuel the web platform
- Canvass public stakeholders (contacts, training proposals, etc.)
- Start a newsletter
- Set up training courses, drawing from the Energie Partagée modules according to needs identified.
- Participate in the discussions of the national Energie Partagée network

Year 3

Deliverables :

Annual activity report
Recommendations for the renewal of the "Citizen-led energy" plan

- Continue the above activities
- Run a satisfaction survey among the people supported (what points need to be improved in terms of coordination, support, etc.).
- Communicate about the results of the three years: x projects supported, x facilities connected, x emerging projects, x local authorities involved, x installed capacity, etc.
- Participate in the discussions of the national Energie Partagée network



Extending financial aid



Criteria :

- Local roots
- Non-speculative
- Transparent, democratic governance
- Ecology



Beneficiaries :

- Citizen's collective or pre-planning associations aiming at deploying participatory and citizen-led renewable energy projects
- Local authorities, EPCI, etc. wanting to initiate and develop participatory and citizen-led renewable energy projects.
- Trade unions, coordinators of the energy transition in their own areas and wanting to initiate and develop participatory and citizen-led renewable energy projects.
- Local companies with participatory and citizen-led renewable energy projects



Emergence assistance

Emergence support is of particular importance in Normandy, where bringing projects to life is a prime need

Legal and pre-feasibility studies

In the emergence phase, the studies that can be financed aim to help the group define its governance, its legal obligations and its economic viability. The pre-feasibility study is used to observe the potential of the technical characteristics of the projects, related environmental issues, and also to carry out an initial economic and financial analysis of the project.

Aid for mobilization and consultation

This should make it easier to involve civil society around the construction of a citizen-led and participatory RE project, and to create dialogue and a framework for consultation. The aid thus created must finance awareness-raising or communication tools, and possibly the use of consultation professionals.

70% maximum aid, capped at €20,000.





Development assistance



Feasibility studies and legal studies, excluding regulatory studies:

- Photovoltaic energy: 70% maximum aid
- Solar thermal energy: 70% maximum aid
- Wind: 70% maximum aid
- Anaerobic digestion: 70% maximum aid (making the existing regional system eligible for all types of organizations supporting citizen-led and participatory RE projects).
- Wood energy: 70% maximum aid

Project management assistance

Aid can be requested for large-scale projects (PV project > 250kWp, wind project > 1MW, thermal RE project > 100 kWth per installation).

70% maximum aid





Investment support



Bonus system for citizen investment in RE:

By proposing a contribution from the Normandy Region of €1 for every 1 citizen euro invested. The eligible base for expenditure is capped at €100,000 and €500 per citizen (natural person).

This aid would be superimposed on existing aid under ordinary law in the various RE sectors.



Recommendations for adapting tools and the political approach



Further specifying the importance of citizen participation for RE projects in strategic documents

- **SRADDET** (regional planning, sustainable development and territorial equality scheme): Have a **quantified strategic objective for the part devoted to citizen-led RE project**
- **ERDF**: (*reference to investment priority 4a: "Promoting the production and distribution of energy from renewable sources"*)
 - Building a **sub-indicator** or an additional indicator as part of the **performance of the operational programme**
 - Include in the **investment priorities** specific support for participatory and citizen-led RE projects
 - Add a special mention about participatory and citizen-led RE projects in the **guiding principles for the selection of operations**
 - If the project selection procedure is carried out through calls for projects, **introduce scoring criteria** that take into account the participatory and citizen-led nature of the project





Intensifying and creating regional incentives and mechanisms for a wider dissemination of citizen-led and participatory RE projects

- Financial aid and regional coordination (refer to the proposed «Energy Scheme »)
- Encouraging local authorities to get involved in support of citizen-led and participatory RE projects
 - Information, awareness-raising and training of elected officials (this role can be delegated to regional facilitators)
 - Calls for projects encouraging local authorities to promote citizen-led RE projects
- Become a member of the local companies set up to carry out renewable energy production projects.
- Engineering support by involving regional services / specialized semi-public companies for feasibility studies
- Promote local renewable electricity
- Communication with banks, they might provide financial facilities

Questions ?



Thanks for your attention...



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