

Project's impact

What are we aiming to achieve at the end of the project:

- » **34 citizen-led** rural energy communities created: 22 in Galicia (Spain) and 12 in Estonia.
- » Over **1,500 citizens** taking part in rural energy communities.
- » Over **75,500 people** informed about EC4RURAL and rural energy communities.
- » Over **2,000 stakeholders** with increased skills in community energy.
- » Over **4 M€ investments** (2.1 M€ in Galicia; 1.9 M€ in Estonia).
- » Over **5.5 MW Total Power** (2.8 MW in Galicia and 2.6 MW in Estonia).
- » Renewable energy annually generation triggered by the end of the project:
 - 3.25 GWh in Galicia
 - 1.57 GWh Estonia
- » Over **2,400 t CO₂** emissions avoided per year.
- » **0.77 M€** of local savings expected annually (0.49 M€ in Galicia; 0.28 M€ in Estonia).
- » **41 jobs** created (24 in Galicia and 17 in Estonia).



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Fostering Local Engagement for Clean Energy Transition in Rural Areas through Energy Communities

Funding programme

LIFE Clean Energy Transition sub-programme

Duration

1 September 2023 - 31 August 2027
(48 months)

Total budget

€1,578,130.20

EU contribution

€1,499,223.70

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A much-needed step forward

EC4RURAL project seeks to help deepen and transform relationships between rural communities and local and regional authorities to contribute to the **clean energy transition** (CET) in Europe.

Inspired by the principle that no one-size-fits-all, the active participation of **rural areas and local stakeholder** will be a key building block of the project's approach, to make sure rural communities are not left behind in the much-needed change of model that is essential in the current climate scenario. Ultimately, this will contribute to enabling rural communities to make the most of their wealth of resources while avoiding energy poverty.

This new paradigm shift will be implemented through 2 pilot demonstrators in Northern and Southern Europe – Estonia and Galicia (Spain) – involving 34 rural municipalities. Furthermore, EC4RURAL will aim at sowing the seed of replicability, not only in the participating regions, but also at European level.

EC4RURAL's multi-stakeholder consortium

(Leader)

Universidade de Vigo



EESTI LINNADE JA VALDADE LIIT
ASSOCIATION OF ESTONIAN CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES



Federación Gallega de Municipios e Provincias



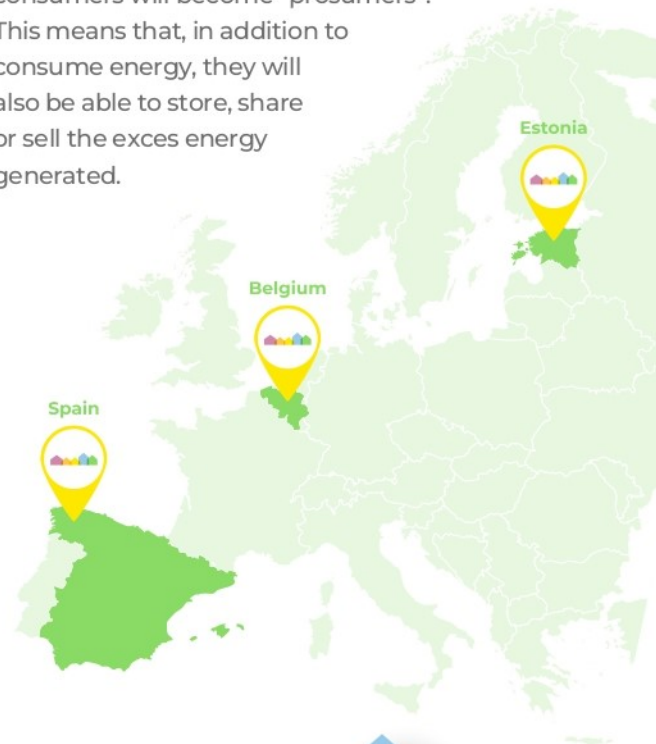
From consumers to prosumers

Business as usual does not work, so the shift towards the clean energy transition will be based on the active cooperation at local level. EC4RURAL will trigger a collaborative and co-creative process bringing together people from science and practice, citizens and local stakeholders.

Through this bottom-up approach, EC4RURAL will foster the establishment of **34 citizen-led rural energy communities** producing electricity through photovoltaic panels.

The first energy communities are expected to be ready by September 2025. From that date on, rural consumers will become “prosumers”.

This means that, in addition to consume energy, they will also be able to store, share or sell the excess energy generated.



Milestones 2023 - 2027

1



Set-up phase
Local communities' energy plans will be designed through a participatory process to determine the specific energy goals of each rural community.

- February 2024
Publication of the Training Plan
- April 2024
Creation of the Energy Policy Councils
- August 2024
Establishment of the Core Groups
- February 2025
Elaboration of the initial 15 Rural Energy Community projects in Spain

2



Unleashing power phase
Support will be provided to decide on business models, technology selection, legal and financial solutions, governance structure, grid access, authorisation processes, investment and public grants.

- August 2025
Initial 15 Rural Energy Communities in Spain up and running
- February 2026
Elaboration of the remaining Rural Energy Community projects: 12 in Estonia and 7 in Spain
- August 2026
Remaining Rural Energy Communities up and running: 12 in Estonia and 7 in Spain
- August 2027
EC4RURAL ends having established a total of 34 Energy Communities leading the Clean Energy Transition in Europe's rural areas