



The catalyst for social innovation in the energy market

Replicating social energy business models: feedback on POWER UP experiences



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Date: August 2025

Deliverable: D6.1

Cover picture: Patrick Perkins, on Unsplash+

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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under Grant agreement No. 101033940

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Executive summary

The POWER UP project promotes the emergence of local energy market players with a socio-ecological agenda. By providing energy services at the local level in four pilot cities in Spain (Valencia), Czech Republic (Rožnov), Italy (Campania region) and Belgium (Eeklo) the project explores ways to fight energy poverty in a lasting manner. POWER UP also targets disseminating learnings in two countries, the Netherlands and North Macedonia.

At the heart of the project are the pilot schemes that are being implemented on-site. Each scheme combines the production of renewable energy (wind or solar) with energy services and energy poverty mitigation actions to selected vulnerable households. Seven different models have been developed and tested on the ground.

These experiences enabled the consortium to undertake a series of dissemination and replication activities in all four pilot countries and the two replication countries. The different capacity-building workshops were a central element to foster the replication of the POWERUP models. They gathered more than 350 participants, mainly from local and regional authorities, NGOs, social businesses, and research institutions.

This document initially provides an overview of all the collaboration and capacity-building activities performed during POWER UP. In the sequence, for each target country, it presents in detail the replication activities performed. Check out the other public reports of the POWER UP project on www.socialenergyplayers.eu.



01

Introduction

This report presents the **replication strategies and activities** performed in the six target countries of POWER UP: Italy, Belgium, Czechia, Spain, the Netherlands and North Macedonia.

In POWER UP, two replication strategies have been deployed and tested: i. a sister organisation scheme and ii. a series of national capacity building workshops.

The **sister organisation scheme** aimed at facilitating a privileged and regular exchange throughout the project duration between national pilot project partners and external organisations from the consortium with high interest in the project, and presenting a replication potential. The sister organisations have been identified and matched with consortium partners at the project inception phase. The initial planned matching is presented in table 1.

Table 1 - Planned sister organisations per target country

#	POWERUP target country	Target sister organisations
1	Italy	Castellammare di Stabia municipality
2	Belgium	Leuven municipality
3	Czechia	Two municipalities from Czechia and members of the SEMMO network
4	Spain	Albalat dels Sorells municipalities
5	The Netherlands	Breda municipality
6	North Macedonia	KUMANOVO-GAS (municipal energy company from Skopje)

The scheme involved inviting the sister organisations to some project meetings, bilateral meetings with the national partners, to the national capacity building and to the final advocacy conference of the project.

During the project implementation, the interactions with the sister organisations varied from one country to another and some activities had to be adapted to better fit the needs of partners and amplify the replication potential.

For instance, most of the exchanges took place bilaterally between the national partners and the sister organisations, either online or in person in the margin of third-party events. Inviting them to the project meetings has proven unfeasible, as the format of the consortium meetings (in English, focusing on the operational and administrative advancement of the project) was not well-suited to the desired knowledge exchange.

Moreover, some of the target sister organisations had to be replaced. With changes in the political context, the relationships among some municipalities deteriorated. Finally, in several of the target countries, the national partners identified and entertained relations with more than one sister organisation. This strategy became natural once the project started to attract attention on the national and international scene, and it has been fundamental in expanding the replication potential.

Table 2 summarises the key sister organisations that were engaged throughout the project implementation (meeting at least twice over the project duration). The details on how each national partner operationalised the interactions are presented country by country in the different chapters of this report.

Table 2 - Sister organisations effectively engaged per target country

#	POWERUP target country	Sister organisations engaged
1	Italy	i. Somma Vesuviana municipality ii. Terziginio municipality iii. Ottaviano municipality iv. ADOC Campania
2	Belgium	i. Leuven municipality ii. Mechelen municipality iii. Kortrijk municipality iv. Asse municipality v. Antwerp municipality vi. Antwerp province
3	Czechia	i. 15 SEMMO members municipalities ii. RE-SET initiative
4	Spain	i. AeioLuz ii. ImpactE
5	The Netherlands	i. Breda municipality ii. Leeuwarden municipality iii. Arnhem municipality iv. Landgraaf municipality v. Kerkrade municipality vi. Súdwest-Fryslân municipality
6	North Macedonia	i. Valandovo municipality ii. Stip municipality iii. Centar municipality iv. Friedrich Ebert Foundation
TOTAL		38 organisations

Among these 38 organisations, we will invite 12 (ideally two per target country) to join the final advocacy event, scheduled to take place in November 2025 in Brussels. This will allow POWER UP to capitalise on the exchanges already in place and keep momentum on the replication potential of the models explored in the project.

The second element of the replication programme was the **national capacity-building workshops**. Those have been organised by national partners and performed in national languages in Italy, Belgium, Czechia, Spain and the Netherlands. Each workshop had a different structure, but all had the opportunity to explore in detail the models developed in the country in the context of POWERUP and capitalise on key project deliverables, such as the Policy Recommendations (D6.3) and the National Guides for Replication (D6.4).

North Macedonia and Spain had slightly different targets and workshop organisations. Spain organised one extra workshop, focusing on local and regional. North Macedonia organised 9 workshops in 3 different municipalities (3 each) to replicate the learnings from POWERUP and catalyse the emergence of social energy models in the country.

Table 3 summarises the dates and total number of participants for each capacity-building workshop. All pilots are organising a follow-up webinar in the local language during the second semester of 2025 to share the latest updates and learnings from their models, and will invite the participants from the national capacity building workshop. Details and insights from the activities are presented in the different chapters of this report, organised per intervention country.

Table 3 – Summary of the capacity building workshops

#	Capacity building workshop	Date	Total number of participants
1	Italy	29/05/2025	44
2	Belgium	11/12/2024	7
3	Czechia	22/05/2025	49
4a	Spain (National)	12/06/2025	101
4b	Spain (Local/Regional)	19/06/2025	40
5	The Netherlands	12/06/2025 and 24/06/2005	19
6a	North Macedonia (Valandovo)	03 – 05/02/2025	21
6b	North Macedonia (Stip)	21, 27 and 28 /05/2025	61
6c	North Macedonia (Centar)	29 – 30/05/2025	16
TOTAL			358 participants



02

Italy, Campania pilot

2.1

Collaboration with other local and regional authorities and NGOs

In Italy, UCSA and AEES, responsible for the development of the Campania pilot, initially had targeted to collaborate with the municipality of Castellammare di Stabia, a coastal municipality also in the Campania region, situated about 20 km from the UCSA area. Nevertheless, once the project started, and due to changes in the UCSA administration and political changes in the four municipalities involved in UCSA, engaging with Castellammare di Stabia proved unsuccessful.

Thus, the local partners opted to build relationships with three other small local municipalities, closer to the UCSA area: Terzigno, Somma Vesuviana and Ottaviano. The relations took shape as formal and informal meetings to discuss different topics, such as:

- **Explanation of the models explored locally** and updates on the activities that UCSA put in place in the POWER UP pilot.
- **Local policy discussions**, putting into perspective the local frameworks and strategies from the municipalities.
- **Technical insights** provided based on POWERUP experience, to support solar projects held/conceptualized by the other municipalities.
- **Prospection of further opportunities** to collaborate on the topic of fair energy transition.

Beyond the collaboration with these three local authorities, POWERUP also catalysed a long-term and lasting collaboration with two NGO called Rete Assist and ADOC Campania. The

collaboration began with their support and participation in a series of workshops for vulnerable households, aimed at alleviating energy poverty. The workshops were successful and showed a critical need and interest for a lasting channel to support the most vulnerable. UCSA and ADOC established a cooperation within POWERUP to open an energy information desk in the area, hosted by the Municipality of Palma Campania. This collaboration has been active since then and has contributed to alleviating the energy poverty rate in the area through close contact and direct support for vulnerable groups.

2.2

National capacity building workshop

The capacity-building workshop, organised in Italy by UCSA and AESS, took place on 29th of May 2025 in Palma Campania.

The event, called **“Renewable Energy Communities: energy sharing as an opportunity for the Vesuvian area”**, took place in Italian and gathered 44 participants, including local associations, municipal technicians and politicians, citizens, households in energy poverty situations, university and high school students, teachers, as well as professionals working in the field of energy communities.

The event was open by the local POWERUP team, who introduced the project and the pilot. It was followed by sessions on the regulatory framework for RECs in Italy (Dario Maci, RENAEL), psychological factors in energy community development and stakeholders engagement (Prof. Fortuna Procentese with Flora Gatti and Biagio Marano, University of Naples Federico II), and a presentation of the European Energy Communities Facility call (Francesco Lecchi, RICARDO). Practical case studies were presented by Maria Di Pietro (CER Radici Rinnovabili) and Giuseppe Ferrara & Emanuele Petruzzello (Koala Company), along with insights on the operation of Palma Campania’s Energy Information Desk (Imma D’Aquino, ADOC).

The afternoon included a site visit to City Hall’s photovoltaic system, followed by a World Café workshop on funding, management skills, and member engagement, facilitated by Felipe Barroco and Roberta Ranieri, and concluded with plenary reports and key takeaways.



Figure 1 – Capacity Building workshop in Palma Campania (plenary sessions).



Figure 2 – Capacity Building workshop in Palma Campania (site visit).



03

Belgium, Eeklo pilot

3.1

Collaboration with other local and regional authorities and NGOs

In Belgium, the City of Eeklo and Ecopower, responsible for the development of the Eeklo pilot, had foreseen from the start to collaborate closely with the municipality of Leuven. This collaboration took place as expected, but due to the attractiveness of the pilot in Belgium and across Europe, the group of sister organisations have been enlarged. A large number of Flemish municipalities are looking for solutions to energy poverty, and many contact Eeklo and Ecopower to explore the models and replication possibilities. The innovation of the model, the strong local political commitment, the current evolution of Flemish regulations and the pilot award of the European Social Innovation Competition in 2023 contributed strongly to raising the interest in the model.

Thus, Eeklo and Ecopower kept regular interactions with seven partners, namely the municipalities of Leuven, Mechelen, Kortrijk, Asse, Antwerp, and the Province of Antwerp. These connections were maintained throughout the project and proved valuable for mutual learning and replication. The exchanges took different forms, from regular online meetings to in-person sessions at regional events. They included:

- **Sharing of lessons** learned and recommendations from the start-up phase of the Eeklo pilot, particularly on the PV on rental houses model, with Leuven, Mechelen, Kortrijk, and Asse.
- **Joint participation in knowledge-exchange events** such as the SCCALE 203050 final conference in Brussels, where Eeklo and Leuven discussed their respective pilots and explored replication opportunities.

- **Regional gatherings** in Antwerp Province, where Ecopower showcased the Eeklo POWER UP pilot as an example of cooperation between an energy community and a municipality in tackling energy poverty.
- **Bilateral meetings** with Antwerp municipality and the Province of Antwerp, focusing on the cooperative approach to large solar projects and integrating insights from POWER UP into ongoing initiatives.

These interactions were not limited to formal presentations; they often included policy discussions and the exchange of technical expertise to inspire similar social-energy actions in other territories. The continuous dialogue with these sister organisations reinforced the role of Eeklo's pilot as a practical reference for fair energy transition at the local level and strengthened long-term collaboration channels between municipalities and the cooperative movement.

Moreover, the Eeklo pilot has also been establishing collaborations and disseminating the models for other local authorities from other member states. For instance, in June 2025, the municipality of Eeklo, Ecopower and Energy Cities received a delegation of representatives from Italian municipalities. They discovered POWERUP models, Eeklo's specific solution and visited the wind turbine linked to the POWER UP model in Eeklo.

Regarding NGOs, Ecopower regularly participates in the working group "De Experten" organised by the energy poverty organisation SAAMO. The POWER UP Eeklo model has repeatedly been presented and discussed in this forum. Similarly, Ecopower has been invited to present the Eeklo pilot at gatherings of the Landelijke Gilden, a Flemish educational association.

Finally, Ecopower provided other Flemish REScoops with updates and insights on the Eeklo model via the "social impact working group" of umbrella organisation REScoop Vlaanderen. This has been much appreciated as many REScoops are searching for effective ways to join the fight against energy poverty.

3.2

National capacity building workshop

The capacity-building workshop organised in Belgium took place in Eeklo on the 11th December 2024 and was held in Flemish. The strategy for the capacity building workshop in Eeklo was to target specific municipalities with high interest in the topic and rely on a city network cooperation, working with VVSG, the association of Flemish local authorities.

Representatives from 7 Flemish municipalities attended the workshop. The event began with a morning session of presentations covering key topics such as the importance of wind energy (VVSG), the current Flemish legal framework (Lucas Penders, Department of Environment), results of a public acceptance study (VWEA), a survey in West Flanders (Bart Decraemer), the City of Eeklo's wind policy and model (Ben Caussyn), and a 20-year acceptance study on wind energy in the Meetjesland region (REScoopV).Czech

After a networking lunch, participants joined a site visit led by the citizen energy cooperative Ecopower. The group visited two cooperative wind turbines using different technologies: an E82 turbine (2011) located next to the future district heating source, and an MM100 turbine (2020) at Huysmanhoeve, which powers the POWER UP pilot.



Figure 3 – Site visit in one of Eeklo's wind turbines during the national capacity building workshop.



04

Czechia, Rožnov pilot

4.1

Collaboration with other local and regional authorities and NGOs

In Czechia, the POWER UP pilot had initially foreseen collaboration with two sister organisations, namely municipalities that are members of the SEMMO network; in this case, the municipalities haven't been predefined. Throughout the project, the SEMMO team successfully built strong cooperation and shared the learnings from the project and the Czech pilot.

As expected, the first collaboration was with other city members of the SEMMO network. SEMMO relied on its general assemblies and other network meetings to share updates from POWERUP. With this group, SEMMO also focused on translating POWER UP lessons into local contexts, particularly for municipalities exploring community energy models. At least 15 municipalities have been regularly exposed to this information, and many of them joined the capacity-building workshop presented in the next section.

Additionally, SEMMO established a cooperation with the Re-set initiative, a Czech platform for socio-ecological transformation. SEMMO met Re-set staff in dedicated online sessions. In these exchanges, SEMMO presented the POWERUP pilot, and Re-set shared its own experience with energy communities and citizen engagement, including work with vulnerable groups, and sought technical, contractual and administrative guidance on setting up a citizen energy community of various building owners. Further cooperation included joint participation in a study visit to Saxony, organised by Re-set, where the SEMMO team met with local citizen groups and politicians to discuss energy communities, climate protection, PV installations on public buildings, and citizen involvement.

These collaborations developed steadily throughout the project, combining regular exchanges with joint events and study visits.



Figure 4 – Saxony study visit with Re-set, August 2024.

4.2

National capacity building workshop

SEMMO organised the national capacity-building workshop in Czechia on 22nd May 2025 in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm. The event, held in Czech, brought together local authorities and experts to discuss the energy future of municipalities, with a focus on community initiatives and energy justice. The Mayor of Rožnov, Jan Kučera opened the meeting, followed by Tereza Váňová presenting the POWER UP project. The Czech pilot was presented in detail by Rožnov Energy Manager Jan Cieslar, covering the business model and general technical information.

Re-set, a key sister organisation, also presented its experience on the topic and shared current developments. Panel discussions covered energy sharing, public-private cooperation, and financing, featuring experts like Jiří Eschner, Jan Stachura, Ondřej Pašek, and Michal Čejka. Czech experiences from energy communities in Krnovsko, Bílina, and Prague were also presented. The State Environmental Fund took the opportunity to inform participants about new subsidies that will be available for energy sharing.

Participants were impressed by the developments of the POWERUP pilot in the municipality and the different innovative approaches introduced to overcome barriers, such as contractual arrangements with households and pricing schemes.

The
first



Figure 5 – Capacity building workshop in Czechia. First panel discussion: left to right Mikuláš Černík (Re-set), Jan Cieslar, the Energy Manager, the Mayor Jan Kučera (both Rožnov pod Radhoštěm), Tereza McLaughlin Váňová and Jaroslav Klusák (both SEMMO)



05

Valencia, Spain

5.1

Collaboration with other local and regional authorities and NGOs

In Spain, Valencia was expected to collaborate with the municipality of Albalat dels Sorells. Nevertheless, Valencia struggled during the project to effectively engage in a continuous and structured way with sister organisations to promote collaboration and replication.

The reasons were several, including the political changes in the Valencia council during the project timeframe and the constantly evolving reality of the pilot, with two models that were continuously adapting to face regulatory and technical challenges on the ground.

Still, Valencia partners managed to collaborate locally with two companies: AeioLuz (<https://aeioluz.com/>) and ImpactE (<https://www.urbanimpacte.com/>). Both companies work in the energy sector in the Valencia area and have attended and participated in activities organised within the framework of the PowerUp project. For instance, at the local capacity building event held on 19th June 2025, a representative from ImpactE presented a map of the city of Valencia created by them on the possibilities of energy self-consumption in Valencia, while a representative from AeioLuz gave a presentation on best practices on identifying and engaging vulnerable households to participate in projects. The two companies were also engaged in informal discussions and updates about the development of the pilot throughout the project development.

5.2

National capacity building workshop

In Spain, POWERUP had foreseen two different capacity building workshops taking place in local language, one national, like the other target countries, and one additional with a local and regional focus, aiming at 15 participants and reaching 5 Spanish municipalities.

Starting with the national capacity building workshop, it took place in Seville on the 12th June 2025 and counted 101 participants. Organised jointly by the **Government of Andalusia** and **EnerAgen** (Spanish Association of Energy Agencies) within its annual assembly, and held at the Pabellón Hassan II in Seville, this major European congress featured the **POWER UP** project as a main sponsor and partner. POWER UP had a reserved slot to present its main achievements and learnings, with dedicated informative leaflets containing QR codes to the national guide and policy recommendations distributed to participants. A roundtable organised by **Fundación València Clima i Energia (VCE)** shared innovative examples of community energy projects. POWER UP's emphasis on the **Right to Energy and fair energy transition**, with a focus on integrating vulnerable households, was a key differentiator. The session was received with strong interest, generating follow-up contacts from energy companies, NGOs, and cooperatives.

Secondly, the workshop targeting local and regional stakeholders, called **"Connect Your Municipality to the Sun"**, took place in Valencia on the 19th of June 2025. The event counted 40 participants. Nevertheless, the majority of them came from research or NGO backgrounds. The session presented the results of the POWER UP project in the city, which has driven the creation of two shared renewable energy models aimed at helping combat energy vulnerability. The technical, legal, and economic aspects of the models were thoroughly shared and discussed with the participants in detail.



Figure 6 – National capacity building workshop in Spain.



Figure 7 – Local and regional capacity building workshop in Valencia.



06

The Netherlands

6.1

Collaboration with other local and regional authorities and NGOs

In the Netherlands, the POWER UP collaboration was planned to take place between Heerlen and Breda municipalities. However, despite the interruption of the pilot, Heerlen succeeded in initiating a new collaboration with six municipalities: Breda, Leeuwarden, Arnhem, Landgraaf, Kerkrade, and Súdwest-Fryslân. These relationships evolved through a mix of one-to-one exchanges, joint participation in events, e-mail updates and participation in the capacity-building events organised by Heerlen.

The first contacts took the form of bilateral conversations, such as follow-up calls with Breda to discuss project progress and the municipality's evolving role, as well as email exchanges with Breda and Leeuwarden regarding invitations to local initiatives like *Spil in de Wijk*. Broader exchanges took place at the SCEPA symposium in Nijmegen, where Arnhem, Leeuwarden, and Breda joined other stakeholders to discuss approaches to tackling energy poverty, share experiences from their own contexts, and explore how municipal policies can work hand-in-hand with community-led solutions. Energy Cities also received a delegation from Leeuwarden and another delegation from Arnhem at its premises to present the project and other initiatives related to the green energy transition.

A key moment for Heerlen collaborations occurred during the **Spil in de Wijk network conference in Heerlen**, where the importance of supporting people in energy poverty through innovative solutions, including the formation of energy communities in partnership with energy cooperatives, was presented and debated.

6.2

National capacity building workshop

In the Netherlands, the capacity-building workshop was organised in a hybrid format, relying with a session on a larger event on the topic of urban sustainability that took place in Heerlen, called Spil in de Wijk, and a follow-up online session.

The initial in-person session was organised in Heerlen on the 12th June 2025, as an official session of the Spil in de Wijk. In this session, Guus van der Nat shared the POWERUP insights and the experiences realised by Heerlen, as well as the challenges in setting a business model. This session consisted of 10 participants from municipalities and welfare organisations in the province of Limburg.

As a follow-up and to further advance the discussions and replication potential, an online session has been organised on 24th June 2025. All participants of the in-person event have been invited, as well as the other municipalities with which Heerlen has been collaborating on the topic. This online session brought together 9 participants from the Netherlands.



Figure 8 – Guus van der Nat presenting Heerlen learnings and challenges in developing a pilot case for POWERUP.



07

North Macedonia

7.1

Collaboration with other local and regional authorities and NGOs

Initially, in the POWERUP project, it was anticipated that the Skopje pilot would interact with KUMANOVO-GAS, a municipal energy company based in Skopje. Nevertheless, the pilot in Skopje was interrupted in early project phases due to political changes in the municipality. Despite the changes, North Macedonia was a key country for replication in POWERUP, as the country lags behind in its legal frameworks and concrete actions for a fair energy transition and has high energy poverty rates.

Thus, throughout the project, the remaining north Macedonian partner, MPPS, has been working nationally wide to disseminate the learnings from POWERUP, to foster changes in the legal framework and catalyse on-the-ground initiatives. To achieve this, MPPS established key partnerships with the municipalities of Centar, Stip, and Valandovo, which also hosted the national capacity-building workshops.

Moreover, MPPS established a collaboration with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation on the topic of a fair energy transition. They participated in some of MPPS's events and collaborated on other actions related to the topic.

7.2

National capacity building workshop

As a key country for replication, the capacity building programme for North Macedonia was designed to promote a larger number of sessions than in the other countries. It was foreseen to realize 9 capacity building workshops, for at least 3 local authorities and their key stakeholders (3 sessions per municipality), aiming 45 participants in total. The replication efforts in North Macedonia exceeded the target, with more than 152 people participating in the activities.

To prepare the ground for the national capacity building workshops in the municipalities, MMPS took the opportunity of the consortium meeting organised in November 2024 in Skopje to organise, in cooperation with Friedrich Ebert Foundation, a capacity building workshop for the local stakeholders back-to-back with the consortium meeting. The session was held in English and Macedonian with live translation and featured consortium partners and North Macedonian local authorities as speakers. Discussions focused on local energy transformations, business models for local energy markets, just transition, reducing energy poverty, and including vulnerable citizens and the challenges and opportunities that these entails in North Macedonia. This session gathered 54 participants and was highly appreciated, as it directly creates exchanges between the project pilots and the North Macedonian local authorities and local stakeholders.

Subsequently, 3 rounds of capacity building workshops were organised in municipalities across North Macedonia, namely in **Valandovo, Stip and Centar**. The workshops hosted in **Valandovo**, named "Civic Energy for a Stronger Community" took place from the 3rd to the 5th February 2025 and counted with 21 participants. The sessions, capitalising on POWERUP learnings, explored practical steps for municipalities to engage in energy transformation. The agenda

included understanding energy communities, preparing local energy and climate plans, mapping and analyzing municipal needs, and developing socially responsible communities. Sessions featured knowledge exchange with local experts, discussions on just energy transition, European trends, and citizen participation in shaping municipal visions. Despite the interest on the topics discussed, participants expressed their concern on the need of national enabling frameworks; so regions and small municipalities can properly move to action, otherwise they remain without capacity to act.

In the sequence, in **Stip**, a three-day program combined municipal capacity building, with a similar logic from the Valandovo workshops with direct community outreach. The programme took place on the 21st, 27th and 28th February 2025 and counted with 61 participants. The first two days brought together representatives from the municipalities of Stip, Pehchevo, Probishtip, and Kochani—both local government officials and civil society actors. The University of Manchester, via Professor Saska Petrova, also contributed to this specific workshop, capitalising on her expertise on the topic and presence in the country at the moment it took place. The focus of these workshops was to jointly design a possible model for an “imagined municipality” in the region, fostering collaboration and practical planning. On the third day the group worked directly with vulnerable populations who will soon start living in houses built by the municipality, and for the first time will have to manage electricity and other utilities bills. Discussions centred on overcoming energy poverty, participating in local energy initiatives, and cooperating with municipal authorities. Local government participants expressed enthusiasm for the presented models and saw clear opportunities for implementation, while smaller municipalities highlighted challenges such as population migration and limited resources. The workshop successfully inspired commitment to closer resident–institution collaboration, and notably, in the meantime a local energy company was established in Stip.

Finally, the capacity building workshops in **Centar**, called “A Just Energy Transition for a Stronger Community”, took place on the 29th and 30th of May 2025 and counted with 16 participants. This session counted with the collaboration of Friedrich Ebert Foundation. Unlike Valandovo and Stip, Centar is more advanced in its local transition, with its own municipal energy company, established planning documents, and direct support from Friedrich Ebert Foundation Skopje. The sessions were built around analyzing their newly developed “Proposal

Plan for Energy Transition of the Municipality of Centar,” adapting materials from other municipalities with greater emphasis on the role of the energy company in steering the entire transition process. Nevertheless, Centar still lacks the necessary structures to ensure inclusiveness in its energy processes.

Finally, MMPS is planning a final round of capacity-building workshop sessions in North Macedonia, taking place this time in the capital, Skopje. These sessions are planned to take place in the second half of 2025, and, similarly to the work done in Stip, they will focus on activating NGO’s working with energy transition and vulnerable communities. The objective will be to strengthen their roles in the national energy transition and to build forces to advocate for strong energy policies for vulnerable groups in the upcoming municipal elections in October 2025.



Figure 9 – Capacity building workshop session in Valandovo.



Figure 10 – Capacity building workshop session in Stip.



Figure 11 – Capacity building workshop session with vulnerable groups in Stip.



Figure 12 – Capacity building workshop session in Centar.



08

Conclusions

The POWER UP replication strategy and activities have demonstrated the strong potential of locally rooted, socially oriented renewable energy models to inspire and mobilise actors. Despite political changes, regulatory uncertainties, and differing starting points in each country, the replication strategy, which combined sister organisations and capacity-building activities, was effective in disseminating the project's learnings, transferring knowledge, and potentially catalysing replication. Each one of the project target countries found its way in establishing cooperations that were meaningful for their local reality

Nevertheless, replication is not a one-size-fits-all process, and POWER UP showed the need for flexibility in the process. In some countries, such as Belgium, the Czech Republic, and the Netherlands, the most significant impact was through bilateral exchanges. In other countries, including Italy, Spain, and North Macedonia, national capacity-building workshops served as the key catalyst for future collaborations. Several municipalities and other organisations, such as energy cooperatives and energy communities, across the six countries have shared their interest in integrating POWER UP approaches and learnings, demonstrating tangible uptake of the models in the future.

As the project moves towards its final implementation and advocacy phase, the challenge will be to maintain the momentum created. The advocacy conference, planned for November 2025 in Brussels, where several of the sister organisations will meet, will be a key moment to share the latest updates from the models, formalise learnings, and catalyse connections across the target countries and more broadly at EU level.



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This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under Grant agreement No. 101033940