



Final Conference

Powering Up Social Energy

Versterken Sociale energie

Pilotproject: Energy to Vrieheide

Brussels, november 27th 2025



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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Funded by the Horizon 2020
Framework Programme of the
European Union

What was done – Heerlen POWER UP Pilot

- ✓ Small-scale solar pilot in Vrieheide targeting households in energy poverty
- ✓ Energy cooperative involving residents, housing corporations, social workers
- ✓ Legal and practical barriers prevented full pilot implementation
- ✓ Focus shifted to:
 - Knowledge-sharing & capacity-building
 - One-stop shop support (energy audits, vouchers, retrofits)
 - Door-to-door outreach and national workshops



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Lessons Learned – Key Insights

- Adaptation is crucial; failed pilots still generate value
- Communication at residents' level builds trust
- Align technical, social, financial aspects from the start
- Cooperation among local actors drives success
- Legal framework must support local ambition
- Citizen empowerment and agency are essential

Thanks for visiting my table,
Bedankt dat u mijn tafel heeft bezocht



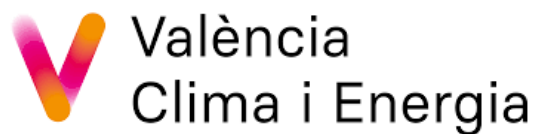
Guus van der Nat, projectleider Powering Up Social
Energy

Email: g.van.der.nat@heerlen.nl

Visit: Geleenstraat 25, 6411HP Heerlen (NL)



Dit project heeft financiering ontvangen
van het Horizon 2020 onderzoeks- en
innovatieprogramma van de Europese Unie
onder subsidieovereenkomst nr. 101033940



The University of Manchester



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