

POWERTY

Renewable energies for vulnerable groups

PILOT ACTION IN FRANCE (AURA-EE)

Contract model involving a citizen's investment fund to develop renewable energy for low-income households

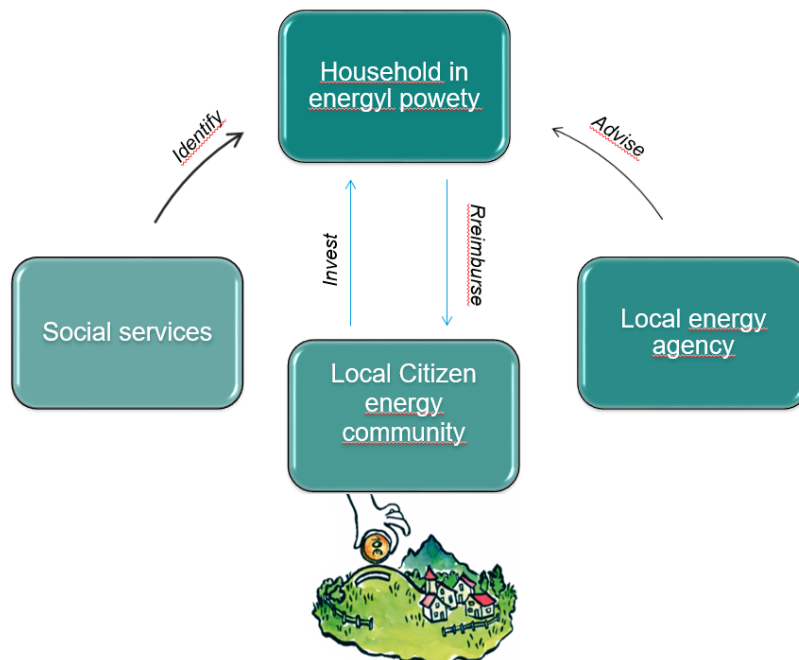


1. INSPIRATION BY POWERITY

The idea of this pilot action would not have been possible without:

- The exchange of good practices with POWERITY partners, highlighting Andalusian Energy Agency (AEA) with its "[QUANTICO Rental](#)" about an ESCO model financing solar self-consumption facilities in social housing.
- The idea of setting up this pilot action came also from exchanges with our regional stakeholders during the first regional workshop (held on February 2020), and especially Buxia Energies. Buxia is a citizen energy Company (CEC) which implemented a system to finance as third investor solar thermal panels and water tank and paid back thank fee based on the gas saving budget. The contractual model between the CEC and the energy user (retired people with low incomes) has been validated by a lawyer and could be used as a base for this pilot action.

2. SUMMARY OF THE PILOT ACTION



The pilot action consists of testing the setting up an ESCO contract model between energy communities and vulnerable households located in rural and urban areas to install renewable energies in the mentioned households. At the same time it will be tested different renewable energies solutions.

3. NATURE OF THE PILOT ACTION

The objective of the setting up of an ESCO contract model is to experiment the feasibility that the local energy community, who will be the owner of the renewable energy installation, takes over the investment in renewable energy equipment on behalf of the vulnerable household and reimburse itself on the basis of a rent paid by the household according to the fossil fuel energy savings achieved. The equipment, like solar panels for hot water and PV or wood boilers, could be transferred to the household free of charge once it has been amortized.

We would like to experiment renewable energy solutions in a sample of households in 2 types of territories: a rural and an urban area. And in partnership with:

- a “local energy and housing agency” (LEHA) that support households in a situation of energy vulnerability and help them to carry out energy saving works but which have no investment solutions in renewable energies to propose.
- the “citizen energy communities” (CEC) that already exist in these two territories and that have already developed citizen photovoltaic projects but which do not address specifically vulnerable groups.

At the moment, CEC do not have the possibility to lease renewable energy equipment for someone else. What is proposed to be tested is a contractual model to allow the CEC to operate as an ESCO and pay itself back on the energy savings generated.

This pilot action would allow us to study and set up the contract for the provision of equipment (legal conditions) and to analyze the different incentive schemes for RES (economic feasibility). To do so, we suggest to:

- Identify a minimum of 10 households (5 in rural area and 5 in urban area),
- Test renewable energy solutions in these 10 households by studying the legal and economic feasibility for the investor (CEC) and for the households,
- Help the 10 households to choose the best energy solution, to select the companies and the equipment, to prepare the financing documents,
- Help the CEC to support the investment and guarantee its reimbursement.

4. PLAYERS INVOLVED IN THE PILOT ACTION

The main stakeholders were identified in the Application Form but we will also involve other public institutions (the Family allowance office, for example) and local public authorities with responsibility for energy poverty (such as the Départements, level between the Region and the inter-municipality grouping).

5. BENEFICIARIES OF THE PILOT ACTION

Vulnerable groups in:

- Drôme department, on the scope of action of the Portes du Vercors CEC (rural area)
- The metropolitan area of Lyon, on the scope of action of the Toits en transition CEC (urban area)

6. TIMEFRAME AND ACTIONS

The approval by Interreg Europe and initiation of the pilot action was at **24/06/2021**.
The pilot action is expected to end before **30/04/2022**.

Activities done at 31/07/2021:

- Drafting the specifications for the legal and economic study.
- Agreement with the local energy and housing agencies and with the energy communities to define their mission.
- Identification of typical cases to be studied for individual houses and for collective buildings with different renewable energy systems and the calculation of the cost of the renovation and the energy savings achieved.

Next activities to be done:

- Launch the legal and economic study.
- Identify the 10 households.

7. ANNEX

There is no additional information at the moment.