

# Coopérnico PORTUGAL

## Background on renovation in Portugal



Portugal offers subsidies and grants to support energy efficiency measures and renewable energy installations. In August 2023, the Portuguese government allocated €30 million for citizen-led renovation and renewable energy production at the domestic level. This funding is expected to increase and will be available until summer 2024. As part of the CLR service, Coopérnico will support the identified RECs to apply for the renovation grants in order to scale up the investments made during the pilot period.

## Meet Coopérnico



Coopérnico is a renewable energy cooperative, the only one operating at a national level with several regional groups. Founded in 2013, Coopérnico has more than 4,250 members and its energy retail service has more than 3,500 customers. Coopérnico has invested around €2 million in decentralised solar PV, mostly in the social sector. Coopérnico's members have shown interest in setting up citizens' initiatives at local level for the collective self-consumption of electricity generated by PV panels, which is provided for in Portuguese law under the Renewable Energy Communities scheme from 2022.

Coopérnico has identified 6 citizen-led initiatives (Renewable Energy Communities, RECs that need support to implement collective self-consumption through PV and building renovation. This support includes: (a) Technical dimensioning of energy systems and renovation solutions; (b) Legal support to formally set-up the REC and internal regulations; and (c) Communication support to attract new members to the REC and promote awareness and visibility of the initiative, to inspire citizen-led renovation in Portugal.

## Support Service provided



To support such energy communities, the Citizen-led renovation (CLR) initiative offers a comprehensive suite of services. From project management, ecosystem building, and business plan drafting to the technical design and community communication and engagement strategies, Coopérnico receives a holistic support.

## Objectives for Citizen-led renovation



Coopérnico aims to extend its support to other energy communities and become a focal point for CLR. The final expected outcomes of the support service are that Coopérnico has established a One Stop Shop (OSS) for CLR in Portugal and has supported energy renovations in 5 communities.

Pilot information	Coopérnico
Location	Lisbon (with regional groups)
Legal form	Cooperative
Established in year	2013
Members	4353

Past activities
Investment opportunities in renewable energy projects
Energy credits (in return for investments)
Community engagement
Education and awareness
Project support: development, financing, implementation
Access to green energy (electricity commercialisation)
Support and counselling for energy vulnerable families

## Activities

- Workshop on project management, 13.10.2023
- In-person meeting on setting up OSS workshop with Energent, 19.01.2024
- Workshops on business planning – how to set up a revenue stream; partnership launch – identifying and activating partner installers; financing projects – developing a financing solution option for energy communities, 01-03.2024
- Coopérnico is granted the SmarTA project, to start in October 2024 (3 year project) to set up a OSS for Citizen-led renovation and the social sector, focused on PV for self-consumption and building renovation, 03.2024
- Support to energy communities, including:
  - In community Alvito: Strong request from a group of citizens, supported by the Municipality of Alvito and the Professional School located in the council, to set-up a REC. We will test this as a chance to onboard this new initiative as a first client of the One-Stop-Shop.
  - In community Estação: Meetings on support to formally set-up community
- Panel discussion at the European Sustainable Energy Week, 12.06.24