



Application package : call for enablers

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Introduction

This guidance note provides detailed information regarding the selection process of five (additional) enablers to support citizen-led renovation (CLR) collectives. It outlines the eligibility and selection criteria, required documentation, and submission guidelines to facilitate a smooth application process. The selection process aims to expand the pool of enablers to 10¹, ensuring **a balanced geographical representation and strengthened support for citizen-led renovation initiatives**.

The selected structures will be formally engaged as subcontractors by the Energy and Sustainable Development Agency (AESS), consortium lead partner.

The selection process will be a 2-step process. The first step will lead to a longlist of maximum 10 candidates. The second step will consist of the submission of a Draft Implementation Plan for the support services in the region/country of the candidates (template will be provided) followed by a structured interview to discuss the plan.

Background

The European Commission is implementing a pilot project and a preparatory action on Citizen-Led Renovations (CLRs) to engage citizens in building energy renovations:

- *Pilot project (CLR phase 1 and phase 2):* runs until December 2025, supporting pilot energy communities through service contracts and a dedicated website.
- *Preparatory action:* subject of the current call.

CLR is an emerging concept to engage and involve citizens in buildings' energy renovation activities more prominently. While most public actions to support renovation in the residential sector (e.g. urban renewal programs, awareness-raising campaigns, one-stop shops, etc.) already consult citizens, and often involve them, **CLRs emerge from groups of citizens as bottom-up initiatives and build on the notions of open and voluntary participation, and effective control in the governance**.

In the context of the current call, a CLR project may be defined as following:

- A Citizen-Led Renovation (CLR) project is an initiative led by an energy community to engage in and execute building energy renovations, particularly at the street or neighbourhood level, while fostering local businesses and enhancing the skills of participants.

Key implications and definitions:

- *Energy Community Focus:* CLR projects must explicitly involve an "energy community" as defined in Directive (EU) 2018/2001 and Directive (EU) 2019/944 to differentiate them from other group renovation efforts, signifying a commitment to long-term sustainability.
- *Implementing Entities:* In the current context, these projects are carried out by "citizen-led renovation collectives" (CLR collectives), which are typically energy communities or their federations. In regions where the concept is not fully integrated into national law, entities fulfilling the basic requirements of an energy community² can also qualify.

¹ The initiative currently involves 5 enablers from Croatia (North-West Croatia region), France (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes & Alsace regions), Ireland (Dublin metropolitan area), Italy (Emilia-Romagna region) & Spain (Valencia metropolitan area). Enablers from above countries, but targeting different regions, are eligible.

² https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/markets-and-consumers/energy-consumers-and-prosumers/energy-communities_en

- *Building energy renovation* refers to any renovation aimed at improving a building's energy efficiency. This includes enhancing the building envelope through insulation of walls, roof, and floor, replacing windows, and installing renewable and more efficient technical systems used to heat and cool buildings.
- A notion of *scale and impact* is also implied by the definition proposed. Beyond the renovation of a single building, CLRs are expected to bundle in a joint effort the renovation of several buildings, at street or district/neighbourhood level for instance. The scaling-up may happen horizontally (by training other energy communities to implement similar projects) or vertically (by supporting citizens to address other aspects of their energy habits).
- Beyond raising awareness, the core purpose of CLRs thus defined is to *effectively implement building energy renovations*.

Benefits of CLRs collectives:

- enhanced trust;
- snowball effect and large impact (slower start than individual renovations but potential to then grow exponentially beyond the "building" and focus on "street" or "district");
- flexibility;
- reduced costs including through economies of scale (possibility of grouped purchases, standardized design, etc.);
- energy democratisation and citizen empowerment
- improved skills;
- structural long-lasting effects;
- support of local jobs.

As Citizen Led Renovation experiences proliferate and consolidate, some other benefits could emerge:

- leaner administrative processes (possible grouped applications, fast-track lanes if pre-processed by Energy Community, e.g. for building permits, engagement with local authorities to adapt local regulations, ...);
- easier access to finance (possibilities for fast-track due diligence if pre-processed by Energy Community, collective loans, mutual guarantee schemes..).
- CLR structures may also serve as a gateway to other energy transition activities.

The Consortium

The initiative is managed by a consortium of local facilitators operating within their territories to drive the sustainable energy transition.

The consortium is led by the Energy and Sustainable Development Agency (AESS), and includes:

- FEDARENE: The European Federation of Regions and Agencies for Energy and the Environment;
- Energy Cities: The European learning community for future-proof cities;
- REGEA: The North-West Croatia Regional Energy and Climate Agency;
- REScoop.eu: the European Federation of Energy Communities;
- Akaryon, an IT company specialized in web tools for the environment

The initiative currently includes five enablers:

The criteria to define an energy community are : the shareholders or members are natural persons, SMEs or local authorities, including municipalities. Its primary purpose is to provide environmental, economic or social community benefits for its shareholders or members or for the local areas where it operates, rather than financial profit. Participation is open and voluntary. Its governance is democratic and autonomous and there is an effective control by members/shareholders.

- Energy and Sustainable Development Agency (AESS), Italy,
- Dublin's Energy Agency (CODEMA), Ireland,
- Valencia Climate and Energy (VCA), Spain,
- North-West Croatia Regional Energy and Climate Agency (REGEA), Croatia,
- Auvergne Rhône-Alpes Énergie Environnement (AURA-EE) and Alter Alsace Energies (Alter Alsace), France.

1. OBJECTIVES

The aim is to establish and coordinate **local support services** by 10 enablers.

Five enablers have already been recruited, this call aims at selecting five additional structures that will deliver the support services in their territory. These support services will create a favourable environment for the creation of citizens led renovation collectives (CLR collectives) and provide assistance to ensure the concrete implementation of their energy renovation projects (CLR projects).

Key objectives include:

- Delivering comprehensive services: technical guidance, financial advice, and project management.
- Developing strategies, business models, and resources for efficient renovations.
- Building capacities through workshops, training, and best practice sharing.
- Scaling successful projects across Europe, amplifying impact.
- Support at least 3 CLR collectives in the targeted region/country since the beginning of the contract, and at least 1 additional CLR collective as of December 2026.
 - each CLR collective supported shall be implementing at least 1 citizen led renovation project (CLR project) at an advanced stage addressing the buildings' envelope³. The following milestones shall be documented by the enabling structure per each CLR collective (and related CLR project):
 - renovation's design & documentation ready for companies' consultation;
 - quotation received from construction companies;
 - works contract(s) signed;
 - plan to upscale the project at street/neighbourhood level.

2. SUPPORT SERVICES DELIVERED BY THE ENABLERS

The support services delivered by enablers will assist communities in their renovation efforts. These services will:

- **Provide comprehensive, yet specific and tailor made, support** to citizen-led renovation initiatives, including technical guidance, financial advice, project management.
- **Assist communities** in developing strategies, business models, and accessing resources to implement sustainable and efficient building renovations.
- **Foster dynamic local ecosystems** that support the emergence and scaling of citizen-led initiatives.
- **Strengthen local capacities** through training sessions, workshops, and ongoing support to ensure sustainable management of renovation projects.
- **Facilitate knowledge sharing** and dissemination of best practices from previous phases, fostering innovation and learning across Europe.
- **Scale and replicate** successful local projects across regions, amplifying their impact.

³ Each CLR project must target more than 1 building/condominium.

3. TIMELINE AND OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

Duration of the services : From September 2025 until December 31, 2028.

The table below summarises the activities and services subject of this call and the related timeline. Services listed below shall be provided by each selected enabling structure to a minimum of 3 CLR collectives since the beginning of the contract, and to at least 1 additional CLR collective as of December 2026. It is the responsibility of each enabling structure, in liaison and agreement with the consortium partners, to assess the needed allocation of resources to each activity. However, all activities must be performed. The list is not exhaustive but represents a good overview of the activities.

Deliverables	Indicative Due Date
Development of implementation plan	October 2025
Development of Capacity Building plan	November 2025
Development of Engagement & Communications plan	November 2025
Impact report and long-term sustainability plan	November 2028
Interim reports	August 2026, August 2027, December 2028
Support Services	
Production of local knowledge, awareness raising & communication on citizen led renovation	
Online survey and mapping ⁴ of CLR collectives, energy communities providing energy efficiency or similar bottom-up citizen-led initiatives	
Funding opportunity compass: mapping and support CLR collectives in the identification and application to available funding for building retrofit	
Development of communication package for CLR collectives ⁵	
Engagement events: development of a yearly calendar of events, with at least 3 events per year organised by the enabling structure	
Analytical work: data collection and analysis to assess the replicability potential of CLR collectives and assess business models; and to assess the regulatory, legislative and policy impacts of CLR collectives in supported territories. ⁶	
Capacity building and networking for local CLR collectives:	
Deliver at least 45hrs / year of capacity building and networking activities	
Networking and peer-to-peer training: each enabling structure will organize local events to present best practice examples on renovation	
Deliver trainings on citizen mobilisation and empowerment on energy efficient renovations	
Training CLR Ambassadors: each enabling structure will train at least 2 CLR Ambassadors per CLR collective supported	
Animation of a network at local level from Year 3 - 2027	
Provision of technical assistance to at least 3 CLR collectives	
Legal and organisational support to the CLR collective to identify the legal constraints or liability issues	
Legal and administrative support in relation to the building permits, grid connections, decarbonised heating and cooling installations etc.	
Production of the baseline for energy performance contracts/energy service contracts, collecting the building plans and prospects, including measurements, building envelope features and energy consumption data, assessment of system reliability and condition of operation, energy auditing and socio-economic information of the resident.	
Survey the available roofs in the local area, to assess max peak power for a PV installation, perform financial analysis, to assess the static fitness, and perform a preliminary study which indicates the preferred solutions integrated with electric mobility charging station;	
Development of retrofit scenarios and associated cost estimation, the financial breakdown and the simulation of the return of investment;	
Development of a draft contract for the building renovation;	

⁴ Survey prepared by consortium partner. To be translated and shared to the CLR collectives by the enablers.

⁵ Basic toolkit and guidelines provided by consortium partners.

⁶ Preparatory work and analysis of results done by consortium partners. Enablers may be requested to join bilateral meeting, brainstorming sessions or similar activities to collect their inputs and feedback.

Financing assistance for business plan development, loan subscription, access to funding and incentives.
Communication and feedback to the secretariat
Participation in internal workshops and meetings with the consortium partners and the other enablers
Draft regular blog articles for the project website
Translation of relevant content and pages of the project website in national language
Promotion of the project and the CLR collectives supported through social media
Development of inspiring stories on the enabling structure and the supported CLR collectives (newsletter article)
Provision of feedback and required inputs to the consortium partners for the monitoring of activities
Participation in EU events (both in-person and online) organised by the consortium partners
Supporting the participation of CLR collectives in the EU events and capacity building opportunities organised by the consortium partners
Provide a timely answer to any request for input from partners and the European Commission

4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- The applicant must be a legal entity, established and physically located in an EU Member State.
- The applicants must belong to one of these categories:
 - Energy community networks or federations (local/regional, or national in smaller countries);
 - Energy agencies (local/regional, or national in smaller countries, and/or umbrella associations);
 - One-stop-shops, technical assistance facilities, and/or integrated home renovation service providers;
 - Local public authorities (regions, provinces, or medium to large municipalities);
 - NGOs (consumer associations, environmental organisations, think tanks).
- For Group Applications:
 - All actors in a group must be eligible;
 - A designated leader must oversee strategic decisions.
- No Double Funding: Applicants should not be receiving funding from other EU projects or national/local sources for the same service⁷.
- Relevant Experience: Minimum of three ongoing or completed projects in the last five years with a focus on local energy transition and citizen engagement (e.g. through energy communities or other citizen-driven initiatives).
- Enabling Structure Team:
 - At least 2.5 full-time equivalent staff for three years (i.e. almost 1FTE/year for 3 years) ;
 - A Project Manager with at least five years of experience, including two in a supervisory role;
 - Supporting experts with experience in energy renovation (Construction and energy renovation of buildings, including energy renovation and where relevant multi-apartment residential buildings or other collective renovations) and energy communities.
- Language Requirements:

⁷ Absence of double funding refers to the principle that ensures a project or activity is not funded more than once from different sources for the same costs. For the purpose of this call, the applicant shall declare that the services, subject to this call are not funded by any other public or private fund, when delivered towards the CLR collectives targeted by the applicant within the implementation of the contract and submitting related letters of support.

- The Project Manager must be proficient in the local language and have at least B2-level English proficiency.
- The support experts must be proficient in the local language.

5. APPLICATION SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applications must be submitted in English through the application form : <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/CLR3-call-for-enablers> and include the following documents. Please note they all need to be submitted via the EUSurvey form.

- Completed application form : <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/CLR3-call-for-enablers>
- A minimum of 3 CVs and a maximum of 6 CVs of key team members, in Europass format and English language.
- Letters of Support (LoS) from at least 3 potential CLR collectives or similar organisations.
- Evidence of experience (at least 3 projects) in local energy transition actions and citizen engagement (mandatory template provided in the application form).
- Any additional documentation supporting eligibility and selection criteria compliance (optional).

6. SELECTION CRITERIA FOR STEP 1

Applications will be assessed based on the following selection criteria in step 1. Candidates must achieve at least 50 points to be eligible.

Requirement	Description / Proof needed	Max score
Understanding of energy community maturity and citizen-led renovation ecosystems.	Analysis of the local energy communities and landscape and the citizen-led renovation initiatives in the area (local challenges and opportunities).	15 points
Awareness of knowledge gaps in the renovation sector.	Analysis of the renovation market in the area and how citizen-led renovation could fill in these gaps (local challenges and opportunities).	15 points
Demonstrated ability and experience to support citizen energy projects .	Description of relevant experience in the provision of support services to energy communities and/or CLR collectives Annex 2 : List of ongoing and/or complete projects in local energy transition and citizen engagement.	15 points
Demonstrated ability and experience to support building renovations	Description of relevant experience in the provision of support services to building renovation services and especially residential buildings. Annex 2 : List of ongoing and/or complete projects in local energy transition and citizen engagement.	15 points
Communication and stakeholder engagement capabilities	Description of experience in communication and stakeholder engagement towards various relevant target groups for citizen-led and/or residential renovation projects Annex 2 : List of ongoing and/or complete projects in local energy transition and citizen engagement.	5 points
Capacity-building expertise	Description of relevant experience in capacity building programmes for relevant citizen-led renovation target groups. Annex 2 : List of ongoing and/or complete projects in local energy transition and citizen engagement.	5 points
Number, diversity of the CLR collectives and quality of their projects	Provision of letters of support from CLR collectives or other relevant organisations Annex 3 : List of CLR collectives describing the collectives and the projects	25 points
Geographical diversity	Applicant based in another country than the already established enablers – 5 points Applicant based in the same country than the already established enablers – 2 points Applicant based in the same region as one of the established enablers – 0 points	5 points
		Maximum number of points: 100

7. EVALUATION AND SELECTION TIMELINE

Step 1:

- Launch of the call: 24th March, 9:00 CEST
- Closing of the call: 9th of May, 17:00 CEST
- Review period: 12th of May 2025 – 30th of May 2025
- Announcement of longlisted 10 maximum potential enablers: First week of June 2025

Step 2:

- Deadline for submission of the Summary of the Implementation Plan for the support services in the region/country : 30th of June, 17:00 CEST
- Structured interviews: July 2025
- Tentative final selection and notification: August 2025
- Tentative start of contract – September 2025

8. AVAILABLE BUDGET

There is a fixed budget range for each selected enabling structure that will cover all costs, including staff, overheads, event organisation, communication, dissemination activities, travels to project meetings, and all associated tasks and activities of this assignment.

In the case of joint applications, the budget remains the same. The group must ensure that all requirements and minimum criteria are fulfilled while dividing the budget.

The available budget varies based on the geographical area. The budget range per enabling structure will be:

Countries		Budget range available	Minimum budget to be allocated for some activities.
Belgium France Luxembourg The Netherlands Sweden	Denmark Germany	From 500.000€ to 541.000€	25.000€ are allocated for travel costs to attend final event, 4 yearly project meetings in Brussels and 3 workshops 40.000€ are allocated for communication and dissemination activities and experts engagement 435.000€ are for the management, the support services development and the technical assistance.
Austria Cyprus Ireland Portugal Spain	Czech Republic Finland Italy Slovakia Slovenia	From 500.000€ to 519.000€	
Bulgaria Estonia Hungary Lithuania Poland	Croatia Greece Latvia Malta Romania	500.000 €	

For Step 1, no financial offer is expected.

For Step 2, the submission of the draft implementation plan will include a breakdown of the allocated resources to assess the adequate planning of the efforts needed to implement the support services during the 40 months.

9. INFO SESSION & CONTACT INFORMATION

An online info session will be organised online on the 2nd of April 2025 – registration link here : [EUSurvey - Survey](#)

The info session will be recorded and uploaded on the Citizen-led renovation website:

A FAQ page will be continuously updated : [Open Call FAQs - European Commission](#)

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