



European Energy Network

A voluntary network of European energy agencies

Lisbon | November 25, 2022 | Venue: LEAP 7RIOS

[\(R. de Campolide, 351, Lisbon - Twin Towers\)](#)

09h – 13h (WET, [Check event in your time zone](#))

Energy Agencies and Renewable Energy Communities

A new path for energy decentralization

EnR Study on Policy and Implementation Status across Europe

Energy Communities are defined in two separate laws of the Clean Energy Package. The revised Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001 sets the framework for 'Renewable Energy Communities' (REC). The revised Internal Electricity Market Directive (EU) 2019/944 introduces new roles and responsibilities for 'citizen energy communities' in the energy system covering all types of electricity.

However, in July 2021 the European Commission proposed a revision of the directive, as part of the package to deliver on the European Green Deal. The proposed revision aims to ensure that renewable energy fully contributes to achieve a higher EU climate ambition for 2030, in line with the 2030 Climate Target Plan. It seeks to convert into EU law some of the concepts outlined in the energy system integration and hydrogen strategies.

In line with the EU Climate Law, the targets and measures set in the revised directive should be ambitious enough to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by at least 55% by 2030. This includes raising the overall renewables' target (proposed to increase by 40%), but also strengthening measures for transport or heating and cooling (source: energy.ec.europa.eu).

To contribute towards the targets established in the European Green Deal and the implementation of the Clean Energy Package by promoting Renewable Energy Communities, the European Energy Network developed a study on policy and current status of implementation to assist EnR member agencies with actionable recommendations. The study focuses on how implementation can be fostered by energy agencies on the ground, both at policy making and project implementation levels. Under the coordination of the Programs and Initiatives Department (DPI) at ADENE, the Portuguese Energy Agency, the study was developed together with six other agencies joining the study's Steering Committee (ADEME, Agency for Ecological Transition, France; AEA, Austrian Energy Agency; CRES, Centre for Renewable Energy Sources and Saving, Greece; dena, German Energy Agency; Energy Saving Trust, United Kingdom, RVO, Netherlands Enterprise Agency) and received contributions from a total of 11 agencies across Europe.



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Energy Agencies and Renewable Energy Communities, a new path for energy decentralization

Friday, November 25, 2022 | Lisbon | LEAP 7RIOS ([R. de Campolide, 351, Lisbon - Twin Towers](#))

09:00 – 09:30 | *Registration*

Opening Session

09:30 – 09:40 | **João Galamba**, Portuguese Secretary of State for Environment and Energy

09:30 – 09:40 | **Paula Pinho**, Director for Just Transition, Consumers, Energy Efficiency and Innovation (ENER.B) – Directorate-General for Energy, **European Commission** (*online*)

Keynote Speech | The role of REC in the energy transition

09:40 – 10:00 | **Paula Pinho**, Director for Just Transition, Consumers, Energy Efficiency and Innovation (ENER.B) – Directorate-General for Energy, **European Commission** (*online*)

EnR Study on Renewable Energy Communities

10:00 – 10:30 | **Manuel Casquiço**, Director of Programmes & Initiatives **ADENE**, Portuguese Energy Agency

Roundtable discussion | Renewable Energy Communities and the Energy Crisis: Impacts & Potential

Moderated by **Manuel Casquiço**, Director of Programmes & Initiatives **ADENE**, Portuguese Energy Agency

Leonardo Barreto-Gomez | Austria | Head of EU and International Projects, **AEA**, Austrian Energy Agency

Graham Ayling | United Kingdom | Senior Project Manager, **EST**, Energy Saving Trust (*online*)

10:30 – 11:20 | **Sara de la Serna** | Spain | Responsible of Energy Communities, **IDAE**, Institute for the Diversification and Saving of Energy, Spain

Otto Bernsen | Netherlands | Senior Coordinating Advisor, **RVO**, Netherlands Enterprise Agency (*online*)

11:20 – 11:40 | *Coffee-break*

Renewable Energy Communities, barriers and opportunities

Project focus | COME RES, Community Energy for the uptake of renewables in the electricity sector

11:40 – 12:00 | **Isabel Azevedo**, Head of the Energy Unit, **INEGI**

Roundtable discussion | Barriers and opportunities: evidence from the ground

Moderated by **Margarida Ramires**, Lawyer, Portuguese Association of Energy Law, **APDEN**

Sara Giovannini | Communications & EU Policy manager, **Energy Cities** (*online*)

Filipe Araújo | Vice-Mayor, Municipality of **Oporto** (*online*)

12:00 – 12:50 | **Ana Rita Antunes** | Coordinator, **Coopérnico**, member of REScoop & EC Energy Communities Repository Country Expert

Eugenia Bonifazi | Coordinator of the **EC Rural Energy Communities Advisory Hub** (*online*)

Closing session

12:50 – 13:00 | **Nelson Lage**, EnR President 2022 & President of the Board of ADENE, Portuguese Energy Agency



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Speaker info | Energy Agencies and Renewable Energy Communities, a new path for energy decentralization

Opening and Closing Sessions

João Galamba | Secretary of State of Environment and Energy, XXIII Government, Portugal



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João Galamba was born in Lisbon in 1976. He graduated in Economics from the Faculty of Economics of Universidade Nova de Lisboa in 2000. He completed the academic part of the Doctorate in Political Science at the London School of Economics, having taught Political Philosophy in the Department of Government.

He worked at Banco Santander de Negócios, at the consultancy DiamondCluster International, at the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union and at the Mission Unit for Integrated Continued Care.

He was first elected as a Member of Parliament in 2009, and was an MP in the XI, XII and XIII Legislatures. He was coordinator of the Socialist Party MPs in the Budget and Finance Committee and Vice-Chairman of the Socialist Party Parliamentary Group.

He was Assistant Secretary of State and Energy of the XXII Constitutional Government.

Nelson Lage | EnR President 2022 & President of the Board of ADENE – Portuguese Energy Agency

Nelson Lage is the President of the Board of Directors of the Portuguese Energy Agency, ADENE, and the President of European Energy Network, EnR, in 2022.

Nelson Lage has a degree in Political Science - International Relations and an Executive Master in Management and Leadership Development (Católica Lisbon School of Business & Economics).

He has 15 years of public sector experience in the fields of energy, innovation and international relations. He has served as an advisor in several governments and, most recently, was Assistant to the Secretary of State for Energy in the XXI Government and Assistant/interim Head of Cabinet to the Assistant Secretary of State and Energy in the XXII Government.

In 2011 he joined ADENE, Portuguese Energy Agency and is currently the President of the Board of Directors and Chairman of the Board of Directors of OLMC, Supplier Change Logistics Operator.

On a voluntary and *pro bono* basis, he is the Executive Director of the Reach Alliance Global Network, board member of the Foundation Alliance of Civilizations and member of the East West Bridge International Foundation.



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Keynote Speech | The role of REC in the energy transition

Paula Pinho | Director for Just Transition, Consumers, Energy Efficiency and Innovation (ENER.B) | Directorate-General for Energy, European Commission



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Ms Paula Pinho is Director for Just Transition, Consumers, Energy Efficiency and Innovation in the Directorate-General for Energy (DG ENER). A Portuguese national and lawyer by training, Ms Pinho draws on her extensive knowledge of various EU policies and in particular EU energy policy, as well as on her leadership, management and negotiation skills towards her commitment to Europe's clean and just energy transition. Ms Pinho was previously leading the unit in charge of energy policy coordination and served as acting Director in charge of energy strategy and coordination of energy policy. Prior to her career in DG ENER, Ms Pinho was a member of various cabinets and worked in the Directorates-General for Trade and for Internal Market. She joined the Commission in 2000.



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EnR Study | Energy Agencies and Renewable Energy Communities

Manuel Casquição | Director of Programmes & Initiatives ADENE, Portuguese Energy Agency

MSc in Computer Science and Business Management. Degree in Civil Engineering and Post-Graduation course in management and business strategy. Since 2001 have developed projects and construction management for several construction companies, and in 2007 have joined ADENE Building Department as an Auditor checking the quality of the EPC issued by the qualified experts under the National Certification System for Energy. Participated in several European projects as well as in some groups of the network of European Energy Agencies (EnR Network).



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Until 2017 developed and coordinated several projects in the field of energy efficiency, always focusing information technologies and the development of web portals, having as responsibilities the management of resources, budgets and deadlines, as well as the respective business plans. In 2017, his mission was to develop a tool to help consumers better understand the liberalized electricity and natural gas market and to evaluate the savings that can be obtained by changing tariffs and / or traders (<https://poupaenergia.pt>). Currently is the director of the Programmes and Initiatives Department, whose mission is to help consumers and promoters of renewable energy communities on the implementation of the projects and development of web platforms to help consumers on the energy transition.

Roundtable discussion | Renewable Energy Communities and the Energy Crisis: Impacts & Potential

Moderator: Manuel Casquição, ADENE, Portuguese Energy Agency

Leonardo Barreto | Austria | **AEA**, Austrian Energy Agency



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Leonardo Barreto is head of center for EU and international projects of the Austrian Energy Agency (AEA). His areas of work are renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy policy and international cooperation. Dr. Barreto was also Lead Author in WGIII of the 5th IPCC Assessment Report. Before joining AEA in 2007, Dr. Barreto was head of the Energy Economics Group at Paul Scherrer Institute (PSI) in Switzerland. From 2001 to 2004, he was research scholar in the energy program at IIASA. From 1997 to 2001 he was a research assistant at the Energy Economics Group of PSI. During 1996 he was assistant instructor in Electrical Engineering at the National University of Colombia and from 1993 to 1995 he worked for the Energy and Mines Planning Unit (UPME) of the Colombian Energy Ministry. Dr. Barreto holds BSc and MSc degrees in electrical engineering from the National University of Colombia and a PhD in technical sciences from the ETH Zürich.

Graham Ayling | United Kingdom | **EST**, Energy Saving Trust



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Graham specialises in community and local energy projects and has worked to support this activity at local and national level for over 25 years. Graham has managed UK-wide and England-based community energy support programmes as well as supporting municipalities on energy issues and carrying out research and insight programmes on community and local energy.

Graham is currently Senior Project Manager for the Energy Industry Voluntary Redress Scheme at Energy Saving Trust. This scheme distributes voluntary payments from energy companies to charities and community organisations to support energy consumers in vulnerable situations, reduce carbon emissions and promote innovation.



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Sara de la Serna | Spain | **IDAE**, Institute for the Diversification and Saving of Energy, Spain



Sara de la Serna is part of IDAE 's department of demand management and integration of renewables, focusing on the field of energy communities. She is a founding member of a UK energy community, trained as a chemical engineer with a master's degree in renewable energy and has experience in the strategic consulting and utilities sectors.

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Otto Bernsen | Netherlands | **RVO**, Netherlands Enterprise Agency (*online*)



Otto Bernsen is a Senior Coordinating Advisor at the Netherlands Enterprise Agency, working on Energy Innovation and International Coordination since 2008 and before that, on International collaboration IT & Telecommunications since 2001. Otto holds and MSc in Anthropology from the University of Utrecht.

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Project focus | **COME RES**, Community Energy for the uptake of renewables in the electricity sector

Isabel Azevedo | Head of the Energy Unit at INEGI



Isabel Azevedo is a senior researcher at INEGI (Institute of Science and Innovation in Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, a Research and Technology Organisation from Portugal). She has participated in different national and international consulting and research projects dedicated to local energy planning (diagnosis, definition and evaluation of alternatives and decision support) and related to policies and mechanisms to encourage energy transition. Isabel holds a PhD in Sustainable Energy Systems from the School of Engineering of the University of Porto (FEUP). Areas of specialization: Energy Planning; Instruments and policies for mitigating climate change

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Roundtable discussion | **Barriers and opportunities: evidence from the ground**

Moderator: Margarida Ramires, Portuguese Association of Energy Law, APDEN

Moderator: Margarida Ramires, Portuguese Association of Energy Law, APDEN

Lawyer, member of the Portuguese Association of Energy Law, dedicated in particular to the areas of energy, construction and concessions. In the XXI Portuguese Constitutional Government, Margarida was assistant to the Secretary of State for Energy and to the Minister of Planning and Infrastructure, having been responsible for Decree-Law 162/2019, which created collective self-consumption and energy communities. She was Senior Associate at Cuatrecasas and Legal Director of companies in the field of construction, energy, service concessions and public works (Grupo Somague and Grupo Edifer).

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Sara Giovannini | Communications and EU Policy Manager, Energy Cities



Sara joined Energy Cities in February 2018 as Communication and Policy Officer. Over the years, she has been involved in many projects on the topic of energy communities and today she coordinates Energy Cities' Hub on community energy. Before, she worked 4 years for the European Commission, first in the Directorate General for the Environment, then in the Joint Research Centre, as a communication and events officer. Passionate about sustainability issues, working for Energy Cities allows her to directly contribute to the transition to a greener world, powered by renewable energy!

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[@Giovannini_S](#)

Filipe Araújo | Vice-Mayor, Municipality of Oporto



Filipe Araújo is Porto's Vice-Mayor and City Councillor for Environment, Climate, Innovation and Digital Transition; Chairman of Águas e Energia do Porto (municipal water and energy company of Porto); Chairman of Porto Ambiente (municipal waste collection company of Porto); Chairman of the Board of Directors of AdePorto (Porto's Energy Agency); Chairman of Porto Digital Association (supports the Porto City Council in the development of e-government projects and online services); board member of LIPOR- Intermunicipal Waste Management of Greater Porto; Chair of Eurocities Environment Forum; Vice-Chair of Eurocities Environment Forum (2016-2018); advisory board member of Portuguese Association for the Development of Communications, advisory board member of MIL (Media Innovation Labs) of Porto University, and member of the Innovation Advisory Board, of Porto University. He has a degree in Electrical Engineering (Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto) and holds a M.Sc. in Telecommunications (UMIST - University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, Manchester, UK). He was a guest Professor at the Faculty of Science of University of Porto, between 2007 and 2011 and a Municipal Deputy of Porto between 2005 and 2009. Other relevant executive functions include Service Manager in a telecommunication company, and board member of the Youth Foundation.

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Ana Rita Antunes | Coordinator, Coopérnico, member of REScoop & EC Energy Communities Repository Country Expert



Ana Rita Antunes is an Environmental Engineer from NOVA University of Lisbon, with a Master's degree in energy efficiency from the same University. She is a founding member and currently Executive Coordinator at Coopérnico, the first renewable energy cooperative in Portugal. She is also a member of the General Council of ZERO (Association for the Sustainability of the Earth System), an environmental NGO with national activity.

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Eugenia Bonifazi | Associate Director, Ricardo Energy&Environment & Coordinator of the EC Rural Energy Communities Advisory Hub



Eugenia Bonifazi is an Associate Director with over ten years' consultancy experience in climate change, energy, industrial energy efficiency and carbon market. During her career as an environmental consultant, Eugenia has been working on a variety of projects, mainly supporting the European Commission or UK government. Eugenia is currently the coordinator of the European Commission's Rural Energy Communities Advisory Hub initiative, which is aimed to support sustainable energy projects across European rural areas. Eugenia is also managing and delivering a high-profile project for the Commission to support to the Energy Union Governance process, including the assessment of the integrated National Energy and Climate progress reports and updated plans. This project provides Eugenia with a full understanding about the progress made by all EU Member States and their future plans, including how and if energy communities are considered by the countries as a key concept to achieve the EU's climate objectives.

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During her academic career, Eugenia obtained an MSc in Physics, a second MSc in Sustainable Energy Technologies, and in 2015, a diploma in International Development from the London School of Economics..