

SHAREs
empowering communities

Highlights of energy communities in Austria

Angela Holzmann | December 2023
Austrian Energy Agency (AEA)



AUSTRIAN ENERGY AGENCY



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Agenda

- ▶ **SHAREs, the project**
- ▶ **Austria**
 - Coordination office for energy communities
 - Data exchange platform EDA
 - Reduced grid costs for local/regional electricity sharing

Cornerstones of the project

- ▶ Funded by the **Horizon 2020** programme of the European Commission
- ▶ Duration: **September 2021 – August 2024**
- ▶ 10 partners from **6 countries**
- ▶ Coordinated by the **Austrian Energy Agency**



SHAREs supports the set-up and expansion of energy communities & other collective actions

Challenges

Two-speed energy world

Early adopters

those who have the knowledge, access and opportunity to become a prosumer



All other citizens

who (still) lack resources, know-how, education or time to benefit from the new opportunities



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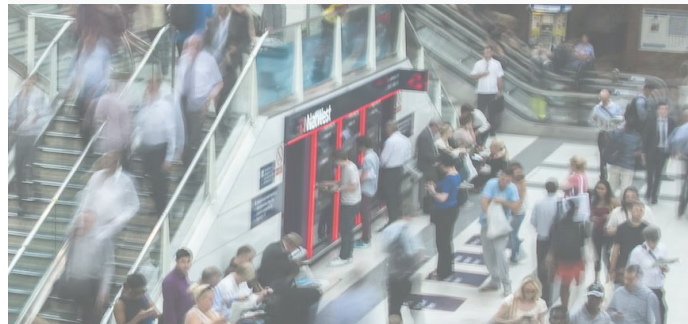


Energy community as a niche product



All other citizens

who (still) lack resources, know-how, education or time to benefit from the new opportunities



Country-wide application

EU-wide application

Our target for the six participating countries: To make energy communities fly!

Pioneer communities

GROW

Existing energy communities and collective actions

Pilot communities

LEARN

New energy communities directly supported by the project

Potential communities

EMERGE

Future energy communities indirectly supported by SHAREs



The GATEWAY

English blueprint

... provides a template in Wordpress to set up one-stop-shops for energy communities & other collective actions.

6 national information hubs

...provide **country-specific information & communication packages** to equip local heroes with all information they need.

Mentoring scheme

... enables the experience transfer from pioneers to aspiring energy communities.

Policy developers

...are addressed directly to find solutions to facilitate the set-up and expansion of energy communities in the long run.

Networks and multipliers

...of the international and national networks are used to spread the word and directly engage further potential multipliers.

Austria

Coordination Office for Energy Communities

- ▶ **Aims to optimise the framework for energy communities & provide assistance in the establishment of RECs and CECs**
- ▶ Founded in 2021 by the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment and Energy
- ▶ Embedded in the Austrian Climate and Energy Fund
- ▶ Currently a core team of three people (& hotline, & regional energy agencies, &...)
- ▶ Link: <https://energiegemeinschaften.gv.at/>



First REC conference (2023)



Main tasks:

Quality-assured information

- ✓ Webpage
- ✓ Infographics
- ✓ Explanatory videos
- ✓ Factsheets / guidelines
- ✓ FAQs
- ✓ Sample contracts
- ✓ Best practice examples
- ✓ Hotline

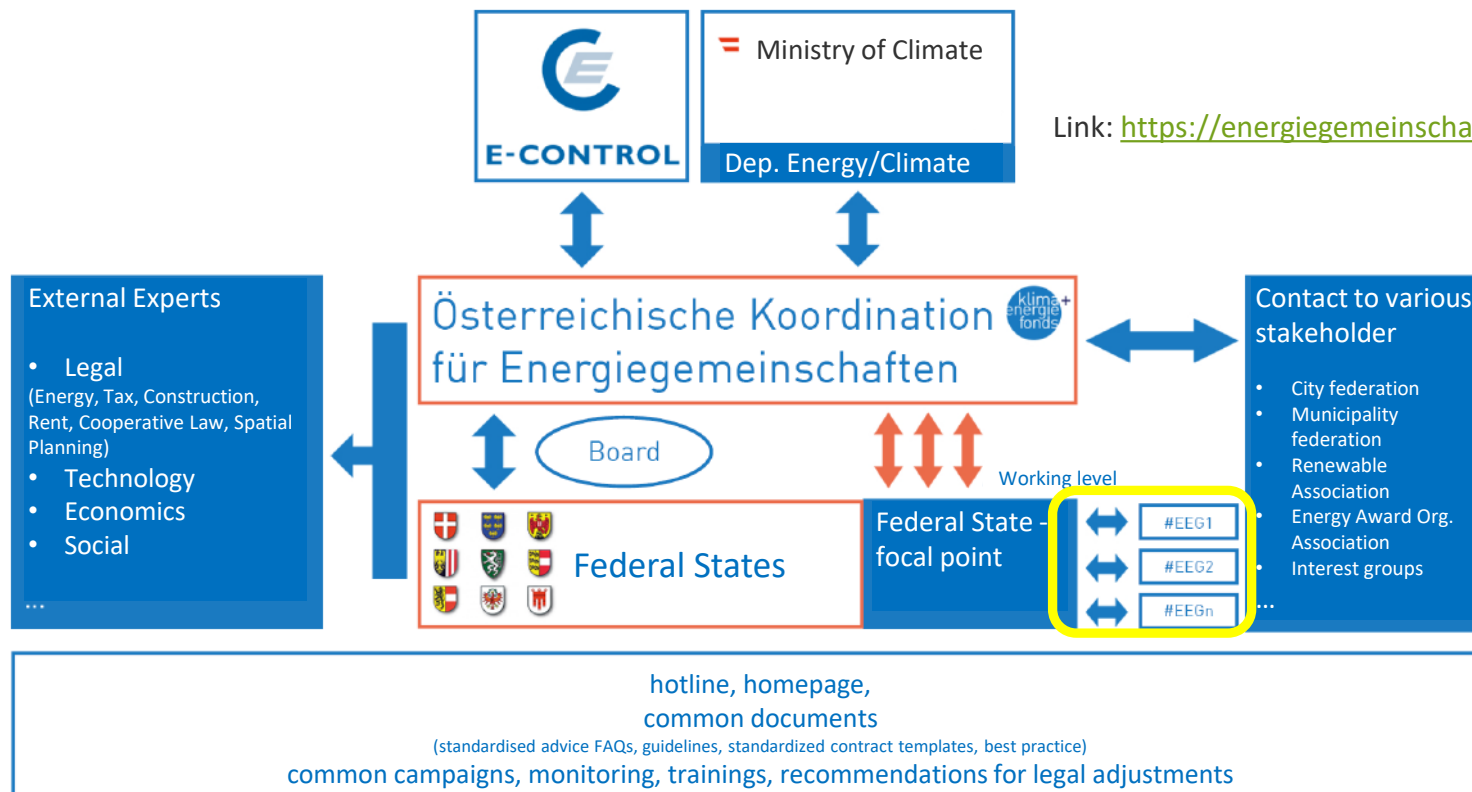
Stakeholder communication

- ✓ Coordinating information exchange with regional organisations
- ✓ Transfer knowledge between national stakeholders such as:
 - ministries
 - regulator
 - Associations, interest groups
 - energy communities

Support for projects

- ✓ Financial support through funding programme (Climate and Energy Fund)
- ✓ Pilot projects in all 9 provinces
- ✓ Identification of challenges (regulatory, operative) and solution-focused support
- ✓ Monitoring/communication of findings

ONE POINT OF CONTACT (knowledge accumulation and distribution)



Link: <https://energiegemeinschaften.gv.at/>

Austria

EDA: Energy data exchange platform

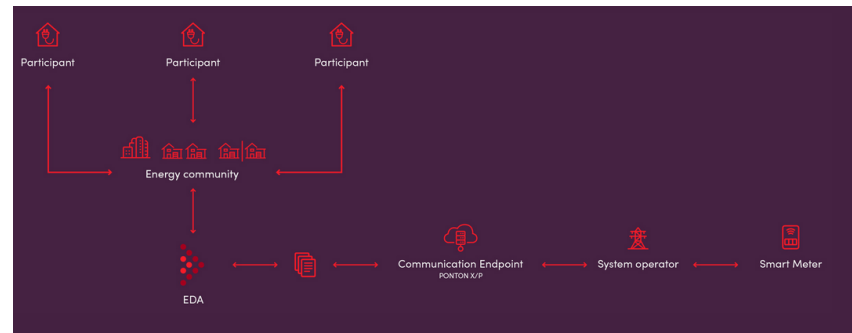
- ▶ EDA is an **IT-infrastructure** that supports **data exchanges between different market participants** (electricity, gas, distribution and transmission etc.), as e.g.:
- ▶ History
 - Idea: a uniform, decentralised, electronic data exchange for the Austrian electricity and gas sector
 - started in 2012: the founding members were the nine federal DSOs, four municipal DSOs and the Association of Austrian Electricity Utilities (VÖEW)
 - ARGE EDA, “working group”, association
 - 2023: 15 owners & 3 associations in the advisory board
 - legal form: limited liability company (GmbH) since 2020



Austria

EDA: Energy data exchange platform

- Since 2022, data transfer for energy communities has been handled via EDA (step by step)
- Participation for Energy Service Companies and energy communities on the User Portal is **free-of-charge**.



Foundation

- ▶ Establishment of the organizational form (Associations, Cooperative etc.)
- ▶ Registration as market participant on www.ebUtilities.at

Realization

- ▶ Agreement between Energy Community and responsible DSO (Distributed System Operator)
- ▶ **Connection to EDA-Infrastructure**
- ▶ **Electronic data exchange with the DSO via EDA-Infrastructure**

Operation

- ▶ Management of participating metering points
- ▶ Receiving and processing of energy data
- ▶ Intra-community billing of the energy data to the individual participants

Implementation in Austria

Financial incentives for RECs in Austria

- ▶ (setting your own price, long-term price stability)

- ▶ Reduction of grid tariffs

- ▶ Reduces total electricity price for electricity provided by energy community
- ▶ Local REC (GL 6 & 7): 57% reduction
- ▶ Regional REC (GL 4 to 7): 28% reduction
- ▶ CEC: no incentives

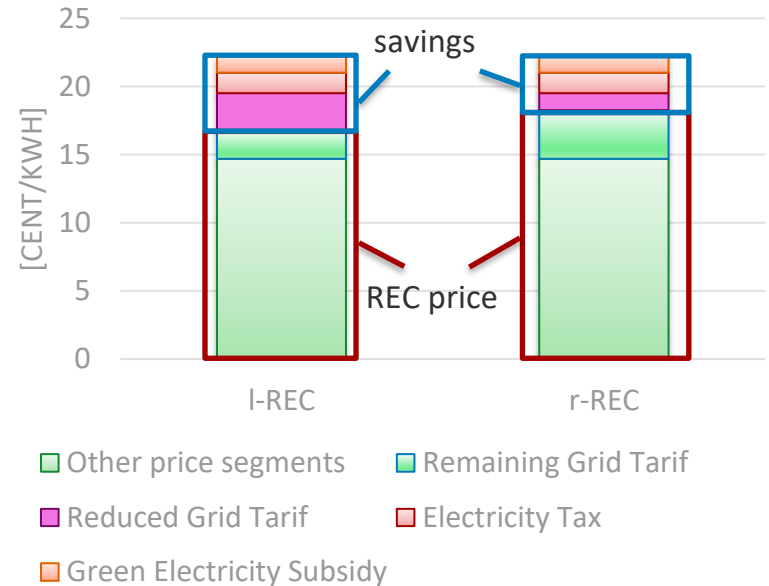
- ▶ Elimination of Electricity tax (currently greatly reduced)

- ▶ ~1,5 cent/kWh (currently 0,1 Cent/kWh)

- ▶ Elimination of Renewable Subsidy (currently discontinued)

- ▶ ~1,2 cent/kWh (currently 0,0 Cent/kWh)

Prices for REC electricity for Household



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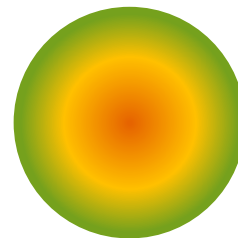
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www.energy4all.ge

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