



Call for proposals

Call No. 1



Co-funded by
the European Union

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General information

The European Energy Communities Facility (ENERCOM Facility or the Facility) is funded by the European Union under the LIFE programme.

The overall scope of the Facility is to empower energy communities in Europe. Energy communities across the EU face significant challenges, including complex administrative procedures and a lack of understanding or compliance from key system players such as public administrations, financing institutions, distribution system operators, and utilities. These obstacles often lead to delays in the implementation of community-led energy projects.

One of the biggest hurdles for energy communities across the EU is securing financing. Many rely on volunteer efforts until they generate revenue from their first project, making it difficult for them to access funding or develop robust business plans due to a lack of expertise and financial resources. Developing a viable business model is a crucial step in defining a community's vision and creating a credible business plan that can attract financial support.

Objective

The ENERCOM Facility aims to empower at least 140 energy communities in Europe by providing lump sum grants and targeted capacity-building support. The objective is to enable these communities to create robust business plans that improve the communities' long-term sustainability and enhance their ability to attract external financing.

The Facility will launch two calls for proposals: one in 2025 and another in 2026.

Why to apply?

The ENERCOM Facility provides various benefits to energy communities in the EU, including but not limited to financial and capacity-building support. The visual below summarizes the services that the Facility will provide to its beneficiaries:

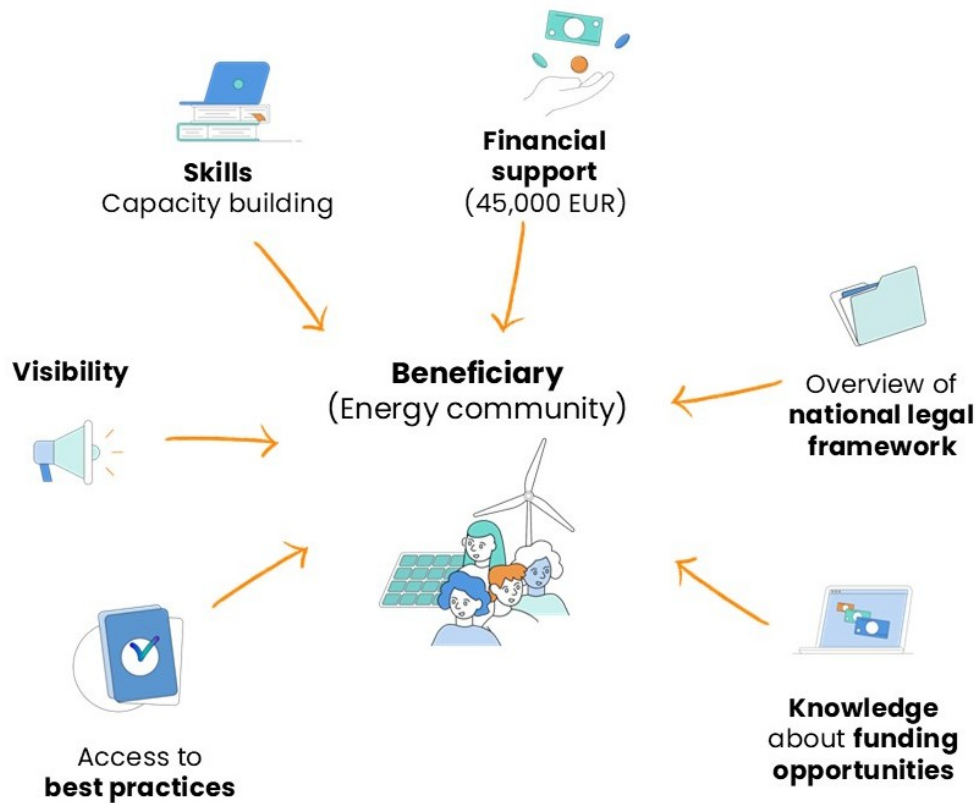


Figure 1 – Benefits of being selected as a grantee of the ENERCOM Facility

Financial support

Each selected energy community will receive a lump-sum grant of €45.000 to support the development of their business plan.

Expected output

Selected applicants are expected to develop a **comprehensive business plan** for their energy community initiative. This business plan should be implemented in the months following its validation.

In addition, beneficiaries of the ENERCOM Facility are expected to actively participate in the **capacity-building programme** offered by the Facility, including the completion of the required modules.

To ensure accountability and track progress, beneficiaries will be required to complete **monitoring and impact measurement** questionnaires after the submission of the business plan.

What can be financed

The grant provided under the Facility is intended to support all necessary activities for the development and implementation of a business plan for energy community initiatives. Eligible activities include, but are not limited to:

- Technical and financial assessments of the initiative
- Pre-development tasks such as feasibility studies
- Legal and administrative procedures, including obtaining permits and finalising legal agreements
- Any preparatory work necessary to structure a sound, viable, and bankable business plan.

Total funding available

The total budget allocated for the first call of the ENERCOM Facility is €3.271.028.

The call will be conducted in parallel across two groups of eligible countries, classified as either "high-uptake" or "low-uptake."¹ Applicants will compete only within their respective group of countries as follows:

Group	Countries ²
High-uptake countries	<i>Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Netherlands, Greece, Ireland, Portugal and Czech Republic.</i>
Low-uptake countries	<i>Bulgaria, Hungary, Estonia, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Cyprus, Finland, Luxembourg, Malta, Ukraine, Iceland, Moldova, North Macedonia</i>

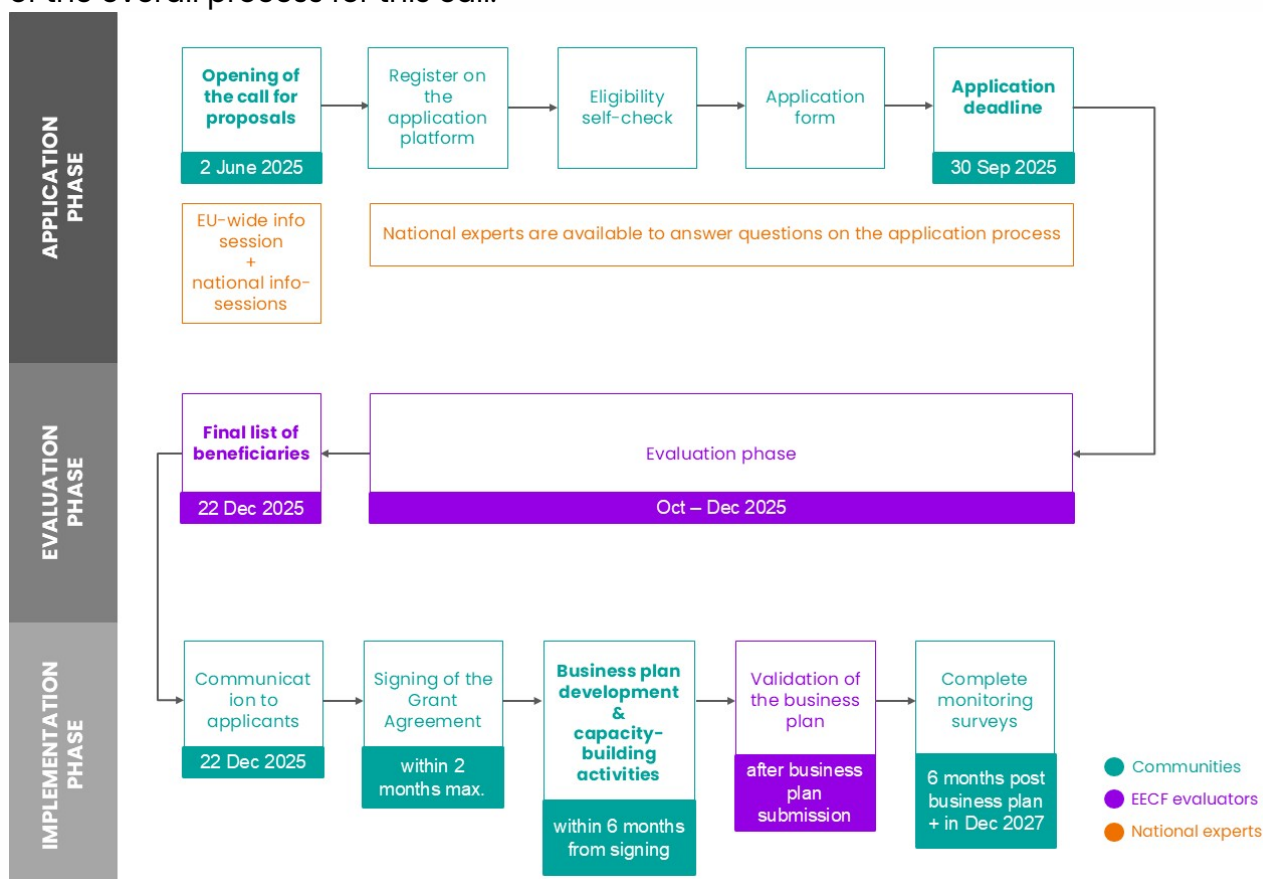
¹ The split between high and low uptake countries considers several factors, including the current development stage of energy communities, the number of existing initiatives, the degree of transposition of the REC/CEC definitions, the presence of an enabling legal and policy framework, and the availability of support structures such as one-stop-shops and national federations. The split between two country groupings may be revised for the second call if there are changes in the above factors.

² Based on the budget allocated for the first call of the ENERCOM Facility, the indicative number of beneficiaries to be selected is 44 for high-uptake countries and 29 for low-uptake countries. Depending on the number and quality of applications received, the budget allocation between the two groups may be adjusted to better reflect demand and ensure optimal use of funds. This distribution may also be revised for the second call of the Facility.

Submission and evaluation process

Timeline

The first call of the ENERCOM Facility will open on 2 June and will close on 30 September at 17:00 (CET). The timeline below provides an overview of the key steps and milestones of the overall process for this call.



Eligibility

To be eligible for support under the ENERCOM Facility, applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

- **Be a legal entity:** the applicant must be a legally established community within its country of operation, possessing a distinct legal personality separate from its individual members (e.g. cooperative, SME, foundation, etc)
- **Operate in an eligible country:** applicants must be based in one of the countries eligible under the LIFE Programme, including all EU-27 Member States (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden), Iceland, Ukraine, Moldova, and North Macedonia.

- **Comply with the EU definition of an Energy Community:** applicants must align with the following elements of the EU definition:
 1. The community's activities must correspond to those that qualify as Energy Community activities under EU definitions.
 2. The membership structure must be consistent with the membership criteria outlined in EU definitions of Energy Communities.
 3. Participation must be open and voluntary, in line with EU standards.
 4. The governance model must reflect the governance principles defined in EU Energy Community regulations.
 5. The primary purpose of the Energy Community must be aligned with the purpose rules that, according to European definitions, qualify an initiative as an Energy Community.
- **Commit to monitoring and impact reporting:** applicants must agree to complete the monitoring and impact measurement questionnaires.

How to apply

Applications must be submitted online via the ENERCOM Facility [website](#). The process consists of two steps:

1. **Eligibility self-check**
2. – Applicants must first complete an automated self-assessment check which will determine their eligibility.
3. **Application form** – Only applicants who pass the eligibility check will be able to access and submit the full application form. During the application phase, applicants will be required to provide a detailed description of both, their energy project and the operational structure of their community.

For more comprehensive information on the application process, form and required documentation, please consult the [Guidelines for Applicant](#).

Evaluation criteria

Applications will be evaluated by two independent experts selected to prevent any potential conflict of interest. Evaluations will be conducted based on four predefined criteria.

A maximum of 25 points will be awarded. Proposals will need to achieve both, an overall minimum score (15 points) and the minimum threshold for each individual criterion to be part of the longlist of applications considered for funding.

Criteria	Max. Score	Min. threshold
1. Community operation and readiness	5	2
2. Project ambition	6	4
3. Project coherence and plausibility	9	6
4. Expected impact on the community	5	3

Gran agreement preparation and signing

Successful applicants will be listed on the ENERCOM Facility website³ and all applicants will receive its individual scores and evaluation results through the application platform. Selected communities will be prompted via an automatic notification to complete and submit a Partner Identification Form, which will be made available through the platform. The information provided in this form will be used to generate the grant agreement. Once the grant agreement is prepared, communities will receive a notification and an invitation to sign. The agreement must be signed by the community's authorised representative within two weeks. Upon uploading the signed agreement, the collaboration between the community and the Facility will officially commence.

Further information, support and FAQs

Before submitting your application, we strongly recommend reviewing the Applicant Guidelines and the Frequently Asked Questions ([FAQs](#)) available on the ENERCOM Facility [website](#). Applicants are also encouraged to consult the calendar of national information sessions, which will be held in local languages by the national experts. Details on these sessions will be published on the [events](#) tab on the website.

For specific queries, applicants are encouraged to contact their respective [national expert](#). A dedicated [helpdesk](#) is also available to provide support in national languages. Questions may be submitted in the applicant's local language.

³ Individual scores will not be made public



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