ComActivate

Enabling community action for energy sufficiency

D6.3 SUSTAINABILITY, EXPLOITATION, AND REPLICATION STRATEGY

Exploitation and replication activities – international and EU

October 30, 2024

BPIE + ENEFFECT

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Executive Summary

The Sustainability, Exploitation and Replication Strategy describes the activities planned during the project that collect and analyse outcomes and results for replication, exploitation, and how these will be sustained once the project ends.

To begin with, the objectives of the project are outlined in this document, followed by an explanation of sustainability, exploitation and replication as it applies to the ComActivate project. Next is an outline of the deliverables for the project duration. Finally, the roadmap describes the specific actions carried out within the project that help determine all sustainable, exploitable, and replicable results and outcomes. This will be done in two ways: firstly, each project lead fills out a reflection template after each deliverable, outlining key dissemination, exploitation, and replication results, as well as learnings that can inform what should and should not be done; secondly, workshops will be held where results from all deliverables and other project activities are discussed in relation to their sustainable, replicable, and exploitable potential.

Results from the reflection templates and workshops will be analysed by BPIE and EnEffect. The analysis will consider how project partners and interested external stakeholders can learn from ComActivate to exploit and replicate results for future projects and endeavours. The Sustainability, Exploitation and Replication Strategy will be used as the guiding document to feed into the AfterLIFE Plan due at the end of the project.

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1. ComActivate Objectives

The objective of ComActivate is to address energy poverty of vulnerable people living in Multi-Family Apartment Buildings (MFAB) in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), by enabling and implementing neighbourhood level clean energy production, energy efficiency measures and reduction of overall energy consumption. This is in line with the Renovation Wave, the Commission Recommendation on Energy Poverty and Climate Law of the EU.

Specific Objectives

ComActivate has six specific objectives:

- **Project coordination and collaboration**
  - Specific activities include establishing and providing training on project management and MEAL (Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning) systems; monitoring the budget, progress, risks, and effectiveness of the project; creating space for collaborative learning, adaptation and mutual support among the consortium; and regular engagement with CINEA (see WP 1).
- **Neighbourhood Energy Sufficiency Roadmaps (NESRs)**
  - Specific activities include consolidating best practice from across Europe, conducting building and neighbourhood audits to determine their suitability for energy efficiency and renewable energy infrastructure, and producing 3D models of target neighbourhoods that show the current energy use of buildings and the energy savings and energy generation (Renewable Energy - RE) potential. This information will feed into the scoping of NESRs with diverse stakeholders (Local and Regional Authorities (LRAs) , Housing Owner Associations (HOA) managers, architects, engineers, construction, finance, social and environmental Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)...) in the co-design of energy neutral/energy positive NESRs following the principles of Do No Significant Harm (DNSH) and the subsequent development of a toolbox of guidelines and training materials (including e-learning materials) to facilitate exploitation and replication (see WP3).
- **Resource Centre (RC) institutionalisation**
  - Specific activities include developing business and investment plans for the institutionalisation of Resource Centres (RCs) in the three target countries; creating political commitment for the implementation of the plans; and building the operational and technical skills within municipalities to delivering services to the community (see WP2).
- **Resource Centre (RC) support services**
  - Specific activities include capacity building activities focusing on HOAs, homeowners, facility and construction companies and other stakeholders in the communities, including training for the RC staff; providing support services to HOA managers and community members on renovation programmes and financing; and conducting small community awareness-raising and engagement campaigns linking energy sufficiency actions to local concerns.
- **Multi-stakeholder policy and investment dialogue**
  - Specific activities include: conducting analysis and recommendations on national and EU policy financial frameworks to ascertain the barriers and opportunities for RC institutionalisation and the implementation of NESRs in MFAB neighbourhoods; exploring public-private investment models for RCs and NESRs; hosting or building on existing national level multi-stakeholder dialogues (such as the national housing coalition coordinated by HFH Bulgaria) to unite the energy poverty and decarbonisation objectives, and co-create policy solutions for RC institutionalisation and the implementation of NESRs; and initiate EU level dialogue to promote RCs and NESRs as solutions for achieving EU energy poverty and decarbonisation objectives for MFAB neighbourhoods (see WP5).

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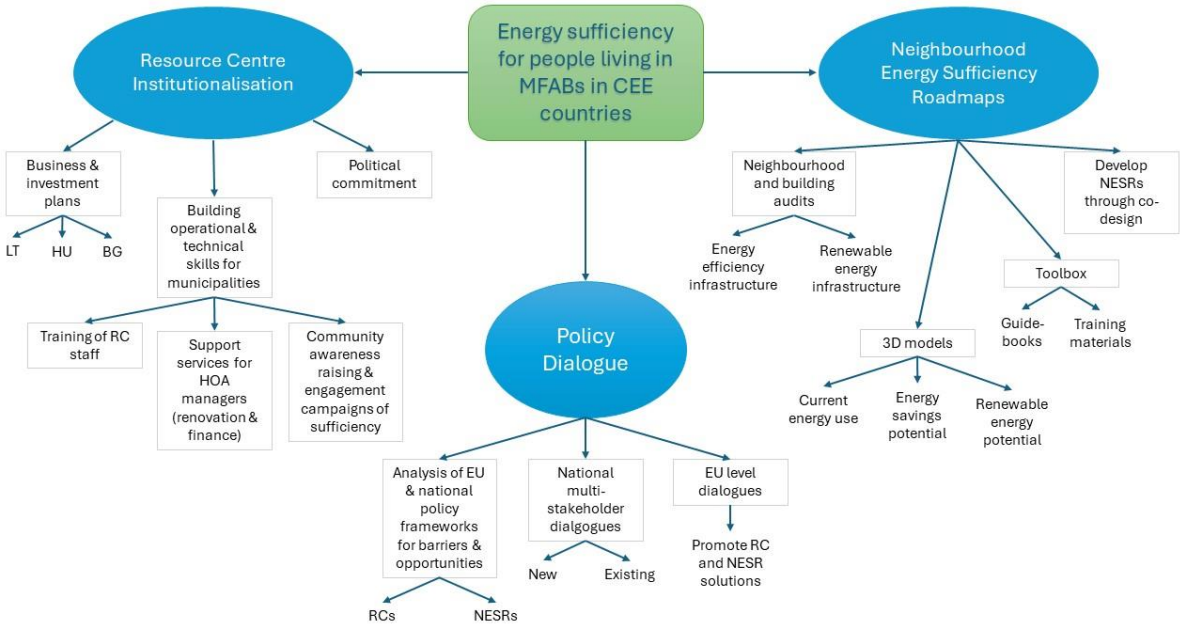
- **Communication, dissemination, and exchange to ensure sustainability, exploitation and replication**
  - Specific activities include: sharing dissemination materials (reports, articles, infographics) and exploitation materials (guidance on how to develop NESRs and 3D models) targeting expert audiences (policymakers, research, think tanks, construction companies, financiers, and NGOs); and facilitating peer learning and exchange (events, webinars, e-learning) at the national, regional (cluster of countries) and EU level, including exploring synergies with other LIFE and EU funded actions (see WP6).



Visualisation of ComActivate objectives with exploitable and replicable results:

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2. Sustainability, Exploitation, and Replication Definitions

In this section, the definitions for sustainability, exploitation, and replication are provided, together with the specific tasks and related work packages for each.

Sustainability

Sustainability refers to the long-term continuation of project results and the initiatives and institutional structures it produced. Four areas of sustainability (institutional, financial, policy, and environmental/social) are considered in this project and have been integrated into the strategy and activities of the proposal:

Institutional sustainability

In the context of ComActivate project, institutional sustainability is interpreted as ensuring that the Resource Centres will be able to run independently once the project has ended. WP2, WP4 and WP5 focus primarily on building capacities of the RCs and institutionalising them into the target municipalities. The following table outlines the project activity carried out in relation to institutionalising the Resource Centres, how sustainability will be ensured, specific tasks and requirements, and related work packages. Institutional sustainability focuses on the long-term advantages of RCs, which will be developed through the specific tasks in WPs 2, 3, and 4. The main aim is to build a capacity of the target project municipalities to be able to run the RCs themselves and the leadership of the municipality to understand its importance.

Institutional Sustainability			
Project Activity	**How sustainability is ensured**	**Specific tasks/requirements**	**Related Work Packages**
Institutionalisation of Resource Centres	Local ownership → LRAs to run RCs	Research project partner will work with municipal partners to develop institutionalisation processes and build LRA capacity	WP2 → RCs WP3 → NESRs WP4 → Capacity building
	Structure for engagement is established → for neighbourhood and stakeholders	Through NESR activities, build engagement Use outputs from WP2 Peer learning events from WP6 to facilitate replication of RC institutionalisation HOA manager capacity building in WP4	

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Financial sustainability

Identifying sources and models of revenue to finance a) the future operating costs of RC and b) the implementation of NESRs is part of WP5 which aims to foster financial and policy level sustainability. Financial sustainability needs to be ensured for the different products of the project by reducing reliance on project funding for both the RCs and NESRs. Building on the business and financial models for the sustainability of RCs developed in WP2, WP5, public-private investment models with financial institutions will be explored and developed for each of the target countries and neighbourhoods. To obtain investment for NESRs, in WP5 financial institutions will be targeted for loans and central governments for grants and other support schemes, promoting alignment with Recovery and Resilience Facility funds, European Regional Development Funding, and Cohesion Funding, as well as alignment with energy poverty legislative commitments.

Financial Sustainability

Project Activity	How sustainability is ensured	Specific tasks/requirements	Related Work Packages
Resource Centres	Public-private investment models	Financial institutions to provide recs + models for generating funds Support from central government + EU funds Private investment for implementation of RC business + investment plans	WP2 → business models WP5 → financial models
NESRs	Different funds: Recovery and Resilience Fund European Regional Development Funding Cohesion Funding	Financial institutions targeted for loans Central government grants	
	Energy efficiency obligation schemes	Potential interest for utility companies and other obliged parties	

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Policy sustainability

Strengthening policy sustainability at the local, national, and EU level is a key emphasis of WP5 and WP2 At the local level, mayors and councils change regularly and with this often comes a change in political priority and direction. The integration and institutionalisation of RCs and NESRs into SECAPs or similar documents will help to guarantee policy sustainability on local level.

Multi-stakeholder dialogues and advocacy (T5.3) will facilitate the integration of RCs and NESRs as good practice measures into national and EU energy, climate, and poverty reduction policies and plans. This will help expediate also the implementation of EU legislation and shift emphasis from short term crisis measures (energy subsidies) to long term structural measures (NESRs). In some countries, especially Central European (CE) countries, there is little space for NGO engagement and little opportunity to influence national level policy discussions. In this case, the dialogues will focus on city-to-city engagement and regional dialogues across CE countries.

Policy Sustainability

Project Activity	How sustainability is ensured	Specific tasks/requirements	Related Work Packages
Resource Centres + NESRs	Integrate into SECAP governance structure	Bi-annual implementation monitoring	WP5, WP2 →multi-stakeholder dialogues, EU events
	Integrate good practice measures into national and EU energy, climate, and poverty reduction policies and plans	Multi-stakeholder dialogues and advocacy	
	Shift emphasis from short-term crisis measures (energy subsidies) to long-term structural measures		
	Implementation of policies at local level	City-to-city engagement and regional dialogue across CE countries	

The above tasks form part of the replication strategy (rather than just policy sustainability strategy) for all countries: In Hungary greater emphasis will be placed on e-forms of exchange unless there is a change in the national situation. At the EU level there has been a significant change in the policy landscape over the last three years in response to Covid-19, the Ukraine war and the recognition of the need to accelerate GHG reductions to decarbonise the building stock by 2050. Through the policy assessment and a policy monitoring (T.5.1), changes are tracked throughout the project to identify opportunity to consolidate long-term approaches for a fair transition of the building stock. Through the dissemination of policy recommendation (T.5.1, T.6.3) and EU dialogues (T.5.4) EU advocacy will focus on the policies, legislation, and directives, most relevant energy poverty and energy transition. This concerns particularly those policies promoting the integration of energy poverty and energy transition objectives, funding and support for RC institutionalisation at the local level as an effective mechanism for reaching vulnerable communities, and NESRs as an effective, efficient measure for alleviating energy poverty and accelerating decarbonisation of the buildings sector, whilst achieving multiple other social and environmental benefits for communities.

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Environmental and social sustainability

The goal of NESRs is to ensure energy savings and energy poverty alleviation while guaranteeing that the energy used is decarbonised and also considers environmental and social sustainability. Therefore, the scoping of NESRs will adhere to the 'Do-no-significant-harm' (DNSH) principle and include environmental impact assessments to ensure renovations and renewable energy installations minimise harm to the natural environment.

The renewable energy mix will focus on heat pump technologies together with solar, and non-woody biomass - while carefully balancing the use of woody biomass, given its potential to strain forests and impact carbon sequestration. Though many CEE countries, including Bulgaria and Hungary, plan to increase biomass for heating, this rise poses sustainability concerns. Biomass – in the form of wood – is not advised in dense urban environments. Other ways of benefitting from different forms of biomass will be included in the exploration of neighbourhood renewable energy solutions, such as sewage mud which can be used as a source of district heating and contribute to the creation of energy neutral urban neighbourhoods.

The district heating company in Budapest is, for example, planning to build a new sewer mud and garbage-based heating plant. This project will build on, and collaborate with, the EU LIFE BioBalance project being implemented in Bulgaria, Hungary, and Romania by WWF and HFH, to ensure that renewable energy recommendations are aligned with the project findings. The involvement and collaboration with environmental and social organisations in the project activities, especially NESRs (WP3), multistakeholder dialogue (WP5) and EU dialogue (WP5) will help to ensure that there are no inadvertent negative environmental impacts in the solutions proposed and maximise the co-social and environmental benefits of energy sufficiency actions, for example the enhancement the natural environment and green spaces in NESR exploration, providing social spaces and oases of calm to enhance wellbeing and social cohesion.

Social sustainability, i.e. energy poverty alleviation, is targeted through the project by working at the neighbourhood/community level, therefore not only leading to energy efficiency improvements, but also involvement and engagement for the community. This includes strengthening the capacities of local HOA managers as part of the training sessions in WP4, which will have ripple-effects on the broader communities, strengthening social sustainability.

Environmental and Social Sustainability

Project Activity	How sustainability is ensured	Specific tasks/requirements	Related Work Packages
Resource Centres	Running by themselves	Capacity building	WP3 → NESRs WP4 → capacity building training of HOAs WP5 → multi-stakeholder and EU dialogue
NESRs	Following the DNSH principle	Environmental impact assessments Promotion and exploration of renewable energy	

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Exploitation of project results and learnings

Exploitation refers to project results that can be exploited either by project partners, or by other stakeholders after the project has concluded. Exploitable results are stated in the Grant Agreement and will be further refined throughout the project. This strategy is designed to help with this process.

Exploitation of the project results focuses on how project outputs generated during the implementation of activities in WP 2,3,4,5 are exploited in commercial activities and public policymaking. ComActivate is designed for optimal exploitation in the implementing countries through direct collaboration with municipalities, which can use the results developed in the project directly in public policymaking. Moreover, RCs and NESRs are valuable to market actors like construction companies, financial institutions and other actors engaging in commercial activities. Several deliverables are key for exploitation of the project results and have potential for standardisation and further utilisation by internal and external project stakeholders. These external project stakeholders include policymakers, financial institutions, construction and renewable energy companies, building professionals, HOAs, building managers, NGOs.

Exploitable activity	Work package	Stakeholder	How activity can be used once project ends
RC business plans	2	Financial institutions	Use for advocacy, create financial products
NESR tools	3	Researchers, NGOs, Financial institutions, HOAs and building managers	Information on how to upgrade buildings, develop renovation solutions
Multi-stakeholder dialogues	5	policymakers, financial institutions, construction and renewable energy companies, building professionals, HOAs, building managers, NGOs	Share experiences, overcome challenges
EU-level dialogues	5	policymakers, financial institutions, construction and renewable energy companies, building professionals, HOAs, building managers, NGOs	Share experiences, overcome challenges
RC network events	5	Municipalities, HOAs, building managers	Share experiences, overcome challenges
Peer-learning events	6	policymakers, financial institutions, construction and renewable energy companies, building professionals, HOAs, building managers, NGOs	Share experiences, overcome challenges
Guidance for NESRs and 3D models	6	Researchers, NGOs	Use for advocacy and in own work, dissemination

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Replication of project successes

Replication refers to specific project outcomes that can be replicated in other activities or projects, either by the same project partners or other stakeholders.

The LIFE horizontal KPIs identify four areas of catalytic effect (spatial, financial, thematic, and societal) which have been integrated into the design of the proposal, considering ways to facilitate replication within the life of the project, not just the replication potential of the project.

Spatial replication: There is significant potential for the RC business and investment plans to be replicated beyond the scope of this project. Member States across the EU are expected to have an increasing interest in setting up One-Stop Shops (OSS) like RCs: Both, the EU Renovation Wave strategy as well as the Commission proposal to set up MEPS schemes (EPBD recast) clearly refer to the need to widely set up OSSs and require Member States to provide technical assistance via OSS. They are especially important for reaching and facilitating cooperation among MFABs residents, especially through engagement with HOA managers.

Task/Deliverable	Work Package	Specific Activity
T5.3 (multi-stakeholder dialogue) and T2.3 (Evaluating the replicability potential of the RC operational model)	2 + 5	Establishing a multi-country RC network to gather knowledge and experience, and share ideas, promote replication or RC business and investment plans. HFH Macedonia as Associated Partner will replicate results.
All tasks in WP3	3	Tasks combine to map approach for efficiency, renewables, and sufficiency for vulnerable MFAB neighbourhoods that can be replicated in target countries and beyond.

Financial replication focuses on the financial models that secure the institutionalisation of RCs and NESRs and can be replicated by project partners or other interested stakeholders.

Task/Deliverable	Work Package	Specific Activity
T5.2 (Exploring public-private investment models with financial institutions) + T5.3 (multi-stakeholder dialogue) + T5.4 (EU policy dialogue)	5	Multi-stakeholder dialogues, EU-level advocacy, and the scoping of sustainable investment models will help replicating the institutionalisation process of RCs and NESRs.
T2.3 (Evaluating the replicability potential of the RC operational models)	2	By combining findings from different reports in the project (good practice analyses) and various events, financial replicability will be outlined, such as greater resources for LRAs for RC operations from central or EU funding, combined with private sector (such as construction industry) sponsorship.

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Thematic replication: RCs and NESRs both have a wide scope for replication beyond the intended thematic scope of energy efficiency, renewables, and energy sufficiency.

Task/Deliverable	Work Package	Specific Activity
All tasks in WP3 on technical development of NESRs	3	Engagement of social and environmental CSOs in the establishment of NESRs, ensuring that NESRs deliver multiple benefits to citizens, such as social cohesion through integration of community spaces (rewilding gardens, access to mobility) and other public services through better integration in neighbourhood planning.
All tasks in WP2 on RC institutionalisation and WP4 on RC support services	2 + 4	Services provided by RCs support local action on a range of issues, such as addressing social isolation through community activities like youth services, environmental issues through activities like urban green infrastructure and rewilding. RCs need to be locals institutionalised into LRAs to have oversight and local responsibility for all local issues.

Societal replication: The project aims to contribute to the development of new or existing national legislation, policies, regulations through the integration of RCs and NESRs into SECAPs (WP2), and through advocacy on measures for delivering GHG reductions in EU buildings, reducing energy consumption and costs, as well as overcoming regulatory barriers (WP5/WP6) thereby addressing a wide variety of stakeholders at multiple governance levels.

Given that many people in CEE live in MFAB neighbourhoods, e.g., 60% of the Bulgarian population and 65% in Lithuania (ComAct, 2021), and buildings remain highly inefficient, this project does seek to catalyse a steep change in the implementation of EU climate policy through the exploration of NESRs as a solution for the renovation of neighbourhoods in line with climate neutrality goals. It helps engaging not only national governments and private stakeholders but in particular local communities.

Task/Deliverable	Work Package	Specific Activity
T2.2 (Institutionalisation process at the demonstration sites) + T5.2 (Exploring public-private investment models with financial institutions) + T5.3 (multi-stakeholder dialogue) + T5.4 (EU policy dialogue)	2 + 5	The multistakeholder dialogue in WP5 and the RC networking in WP2 will build on and establish national and/or macroregional models of cooperation. HFH Macedonia as Associated Partner will be engaged in this to replicate the best practices from ComActivate. By engaging e.g., local stakeholders in EU level dialogues and national stakeholders in local dialogues, the replication of policy-relevant learning across different types of stakeholders will be secured.

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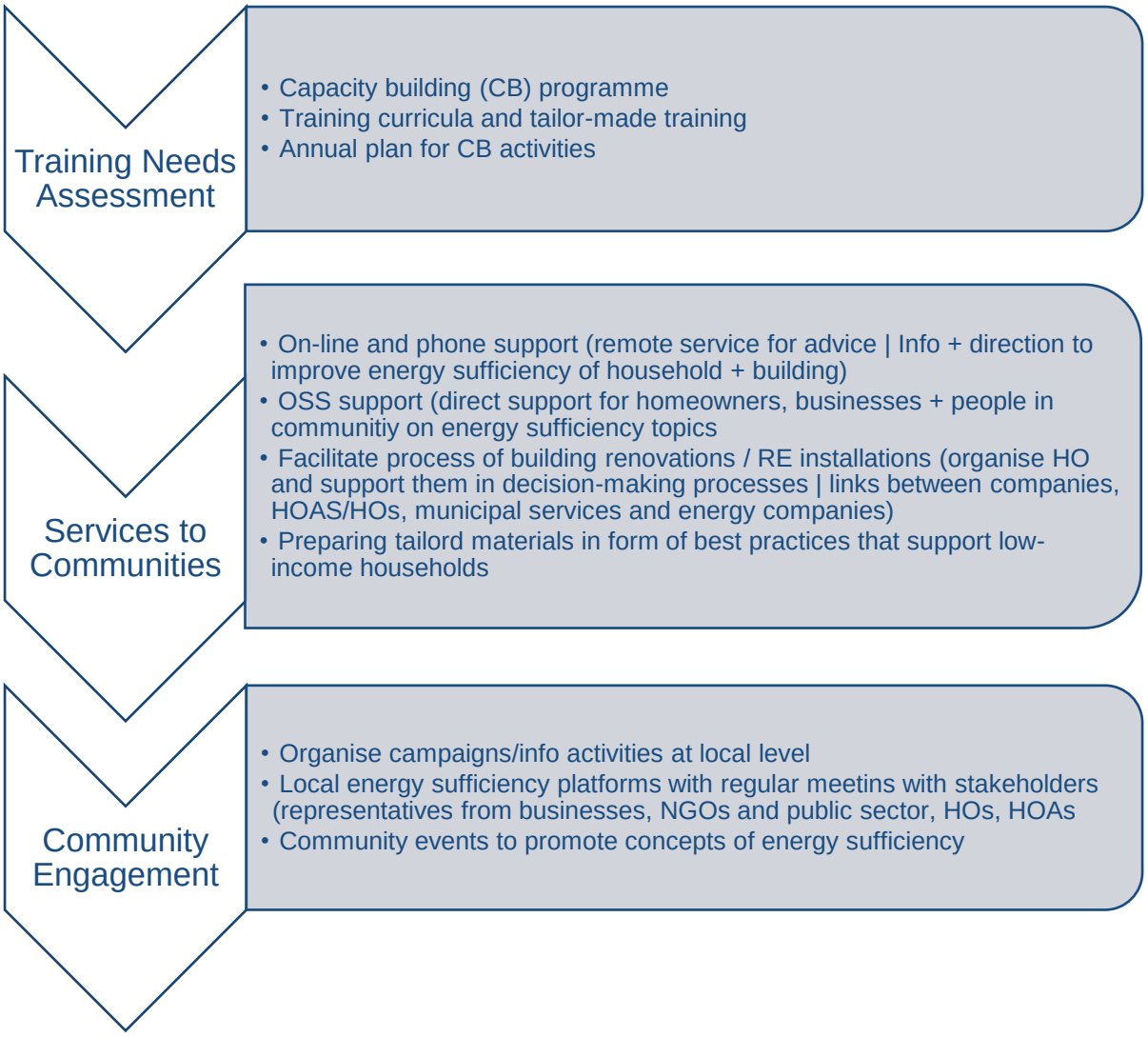
Activities planned during the project

The following section describes specific activities for the Resource Centres (RC) and the Neighbourhood Energy Sufficiency Roadmaps (NESRs) respectively.

Activities Planned for Resource Centres



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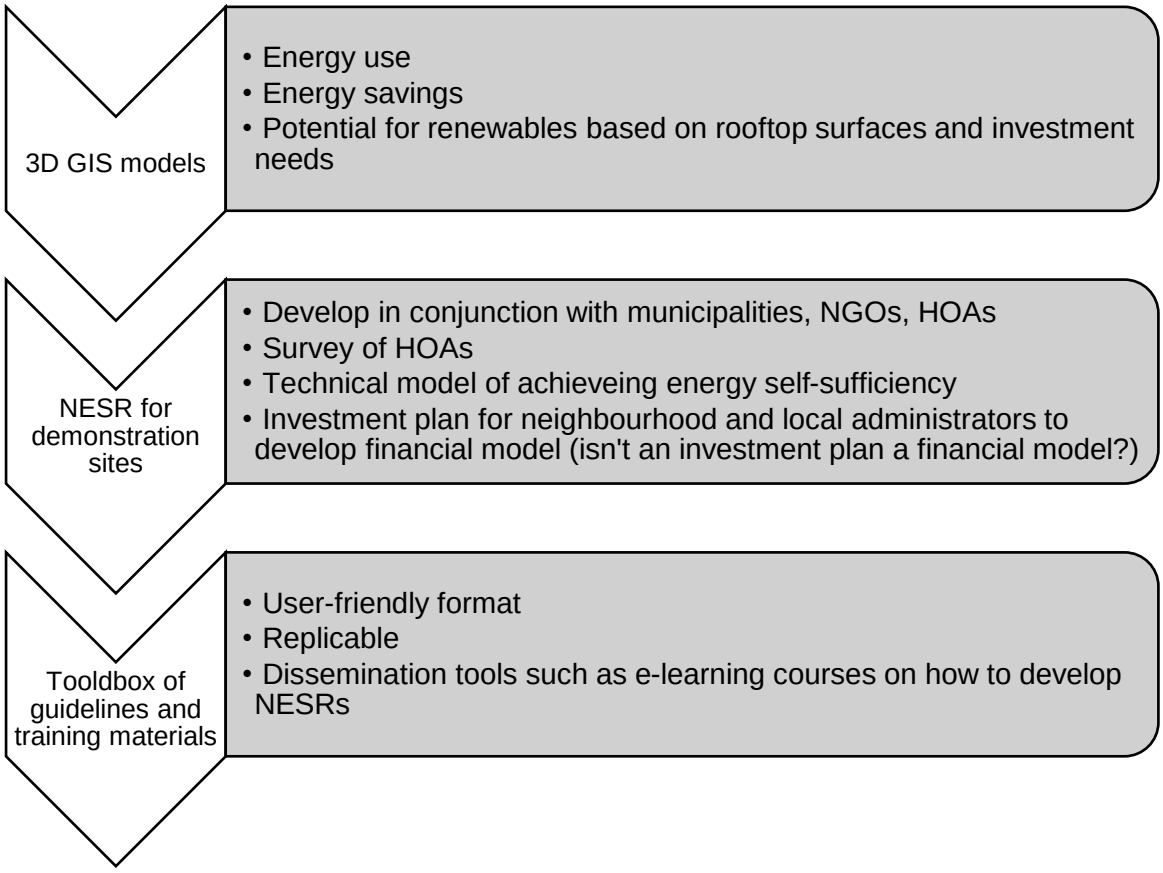
Activities Planned for Neighbourhood Energy Sufficiency Roadmaps



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3. Exploitation and Replication Roadmap

Activities to identify exploitable and replicable results

The roadmap includes three main activities that will be carried out during the project duration, which are explained in more detail below. The first is a reflection template to be filled out after ever deliverable. The second is a series of workshops, where project partners discuss exploitation and replication. Finally, a methodology outlining the conditions of replicability for each of the demonstration sites will be developed during the project duration and will form part of the AfterLIFE Plan.

Reflection Template

For the first action, each author/developer of the deliverable would need to fill in a Reflection Template after the completion of the deliverable. The intent of the Reflection Template is to gather each lead authors' ideas related directly to the deliverable. The Reflection Template targets the following areas:

1. Key messages
    a. How key messages can be disseminated
2. Key target groups/stakeholders who need to hear the key messages
    a. Appropriate channels and networks to reach target groups/ stakeholders
3. Key exploitable results
    a. Key outcomes of deliverables
    b. How could outcomes be exploited (during and after project)
4. Possible ideas for each of the four replication pathways
    a. Spatial replication
    b. Thematic replication
    c. Financial replication
    d. Social replication
5. Identification of improvements in terms of methodology, timings, or other areas, or anything that was excluded from deliverable, but could be interesting for project or future

Below is the timeline for each of the three project years, associated deliverables, and partners responsible for each deliverable:

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April 2024
- D2.1 Inventory of RC models and typologies (MRI)
- D2.2 Baseline report on the state of the art of RCs in the demonstration sites (LCA)

July 2024
- D3.2 Report on good pracitces of refurbishment roadmaps (IWO)

October 2024
- D4.1 Capacity building programme for stakeholders (NHFHI)
- D5.2 Analysis of gaps and barriers for financing HOAs and MFABs (NHFHI)
- D6.3 Sustainability, Exploitation, and Replication Strategy (BPIE)

November 2024
- D4.4 Set of services for the community (NHFHI)

December 2024
- D3.1 Report of existing approaches to IRRs for residential buildings with samples from each implementing country for MFABs (IWO)

January 2025
- D5.1 EU and national level policy analysis and policy monitoring (BPIE)

April 2025
- D3.3 Excel databases on energy efficiency of entire housing stock in three target districts (Eko Invest)
- D4.2 Capacity building materials and training tools (NHFHI)

June 2025
- D3.4 Reports on possibilities for energy production from renewable sources needed for energy self-sufficiency of target districts (Eko Invest)

October 2025
- D3.5 Roadmpas for energetic upgrading of districts in selected neighourhoods (Eko Invest)
- D4.3 Best practices from the RC (NHFHI)

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After every partner fills in the Reflection Template, BPIE will input this information into a document for analysis. The document will be sorted according to the following categories and specific results from each deliverable expected from the project:

1. Dissemination of project results
2. Exploitation of project results
3. Replication of project results
4. Learnings and processes from deliverables/results

This document will then be condensed and used as a basis for the exploitation and replication workshops, outlined in the next section. These will then be matched to the expected outcomes identified in the grant agreement, laid out in section 4 of this strategy.

Sustainability, Exploitation, and Replication Workshops

For the second action, dedicated workshops will take place between leads of work packages 2, 3, 4, and 5, organised by BPIE as work package 6 leaders and attended by HFHI as lead of work package 1 and project coordinator. The intent of the workshops is to discuss the key exploitable and replicable results identified by each deliverable lead, in order to garner further ideas and formulate specific exploitation and replication results. The workshops will also discuss how sustainability can be ensured.

Each workshop will build on the previous workshop and will take the latest reflection templates into the discussion. Furthermore, the workshops will discuss other activities carried out that might impact exploitation and replication of the project. For example, workshops that were held with consortium partners and external stakeholders, events where consortium partners participated or were organised by consortium partners, and any other activities. The workshops are structured as follows:

Five workshops will be held at strategical times coinciding with deliverable due dates, starting from year 2 onwards. The below timeline indicates when each workshop will be held:

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Conditions of replicability of demonstration sites

For each of the demonstration sites of the project (Joszefvaros, HU, Burgas, BG, Kaisiadorys + Elekrinae, LT), a methodology on the conditions of replicability will be created. These conditions will consider 'building blocks' necessary for the operation of the RCs in each site, as well as the NESRs for each site.

The purpose of this methodology is to allow replication of RCs and NESRs in similar sites. During the remainder of the project, information on each demonstration site will be collected. Information will include size of municipality, demographics, existing RC structures, barriers and gaps to RCs, stakeholders needed to run and sustain RCs, the financing and funding situations, number of MFABs, type of HOAs and any barriers to renovation projects from HOAs, skills and knowledge of stakeholders and any gaps and barriers. The information will be collected from the deliverables, as well as during the workshop meetings. Consortium members, especially those working in and with the demonstration sites, will be consulted throughout the process to feed into the building of the methodology, and the final template outlining the conditions of replicability for the AfterLIFE plan.

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Validation of dissemination, exploitation, and replication outcomes

The results from the Reflection Template and the Workshop will be compared to the goals set out in the Grant Agreement regarding dissemination, exploitation, and replication outcomes. The goals (KPIs) are collected in the Monitoring & Evaluation file created for this project. Included in the validation will also be learnings from each partner on what should and should not be done to reach the desired results.

Specific exploitation and replication indicators

For purposes of completeness, the specific objectives and the indicators relating to exploitation and replication activities of ComActivate also include dissemination activities. This is because dissemination also impacts project reach, potentially leading to more stakeholders who might be interested in replicating the project results.

SO6: Exploitation, replication and dissemination of project results				
SO6.1	# and diversity of organisations reached with dissemination (media and events) of project results	1400 LRAs, EU policymakers, NGOs, business associations, research and academia, building professionals, construction companies	Registration lists of events and media monitoring	
SO6.2	# and diversity of organisations replicating project results	27 organisations from a minimum of five countries	Survey responses from stakeholders engaged during the project saying how they have replicated / exploited results	
SO6.3	# and diversity of organisations exploiting project results, especially NESR models	19-22 organisations from municipalities, policymakers, construction companies, research and academia		
SO6.4	# examples of support for NESR approaches at the EU level	7 organisations (EU policymakers, EU members parliament, NGOs, etc)	Documentation of support	
SO6.5	# examples of improved policies / more effective implementation of EU policies and legislation at the EU/EC/EP level due to advocacy of project results	Three improved SECAPs, six improved national policies, and two improved EU policy processes	Changes to public policies that reflect project recommendations and results	
SO6.6	# media mentions of ComActivate aims, results, recommendations	30	Records of media mentions on national and EU level	

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5. How Strategy feeds into AfterLIFE Plan

The AfterLIFE plan will describe in detail how stakeholders are encouraged and supported in exploitation of the project results during the project lifetime and provide recommendations for exploitation five years after the project lifetime. The AfterLIFE plan will for example describe how project results can be used for further research, and how exploitable materials from WP2, WP3, and WP4 and dedicated exploitation materials developed as part of T6.2 can be disseminated and kept available for relevant stakeholders after the project ends. Together, these Deliverables and Milestones ensure the optimal exploitation during and after the project lifetime.

The sustainability, exploitation and replication strategy include indicators that are verified halfway through the project and feed into the AfterLIFE plan. The indicators are collected in the Monitoring & Evaluation file created for ComActivate. At the end of the project, the AfterLIFE plan summarises exploitation and replication results and recommends how to continue exploiting and replicating the outputs after the project ends.

Continuity will also be ensured through several key actions. These include applying for new research projects as part of a consortium, intensifying collaboration with national and local governments, and engaging in ongoing dialogue with EU policymakers. Additionally, the regional network of RCs will continue to serve as both a knowledge platform and a community of practice, while local involvement in the target neighbourhoods will be maintained. Lastly, cooperation with other EU and regional projects will be prioritised to further strengthen the initiative.

Since the Sustainability, Exploitation, and Replication Strategy is an internal guiding document for the optimal use of results created during the project lifetime, it also needs to be flexible to changes throughout the project. These changes could relate to the frequency of workshops held, changes in survey items, additional actions added to the roadmap. BPIE will keep track of any changes so that these are documented for all consortium partners.

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