

New Clean Energy Communities in a Changing European Energy System (NEWCOMERS)

**Press Kit
(Deliverable 8.4)**



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 837752.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1	ABOUT THE PROJECT	2
1.1	Project aim	2
1.2	Project mission	2
2	PROJECT ORGANIZAITON	3
2.1	Consortium Partners	4
2.2	Project's Work Packages	7
3	DELIVERABLES.....	8
4	PRESS RELEASES AND COMMUNICATION MATERIALS	8
5	CONTACT INFO.....	9



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 837752.

I ABOUT THE PROJECT

In its most recent Energy Union package, the European Union puts citizens at the core of the clean energy transitions. Beyond policy, disruptive innovations in energy sectors are challenging the traditional business model of large energy utilities. One such disruptive, social innovation is the emergence of new clean energy communities (“newcomers”). The possible benefits of these “newcomers” for their members and for society at large are still emerging and their potential to support the goals of the Energy Union is unclear. Using a highly innovative holistic approach – drawing on cutting edge theories and methods from a broad range of social sciences coupled with strong technical knowledge and industry insight – the NEWCOMERS consortium will analyse European energy communities from various angles. By taking an interdisciplinary approach and through employing co-creation strategies, in which research participants are actively involved in the design and implementation of the research, the NEWCOMERS project will deliver practical recommendations about how the European Union as well as national and local governments can support new clean energy communities to help them flourish and unfold their potential benefits for citizens and the Energy Union.

I.1 Project aim

The NEWCOMERS (New clean energy communities in a changing European energy system) project aims to explore and evaluate a variety of different new clean energy communities. Up to fifteen [case study communities](#) are voluntarily involved. They represent social innovations along dimensions like:

- citizen engagement,
- value creation and
- learning.

The project will assess the regulatory, institutional and social conditions which support the emergence and operation of these energy communities as well as their potential for diffusion at national and local levels.

I.2 Project mission

To meet the challenge of decarbonisation European energy systems have to change. New clean energy communities provide much needed social innovation. They:

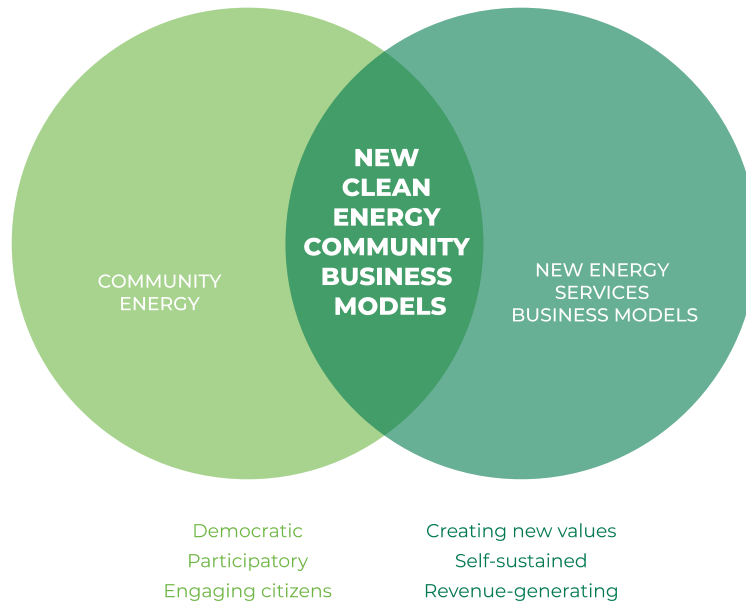
- combine the benefits of community energy such as participation and democratic decision-making processes with
- the benefits of self-sustained, revenue-generating business models.



This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 837752.

These have the potential to be scaled up and broaden the target group of EU citizens that actively participate in the clean energy transitions.

Visualisation of the NEWCOMERS focus: new clean energy community business models.



The mission of the NEWCOMERS project includes:

- To conceptually distinguish between diverse forms of energy community;
- To analyse their business models and their expected value creation;
- To assess their benefits for members, system operators and society;
- To offer relevant and credible energy-related information and knowledge to EU citizens for making informed, fact-based energy decisions;
- To give practical recommendations to policy makers at all levels how to create a favourable environment for new clean energy communities.

2 PROJECT ORGANIZATION

The NEWCOMERS project consists of 8 consortium partners from 6 different EU Member States, which are geographically spread: Sweden, UK, The Netherlands, Germany, Slovenia and Italy.

The consortium is put together by the following main criteria:

- scientific excellence,
- coverage of all necessary disciplines,
- engagement with stakeholders,



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 837752.

- management expertise, and
- regional and gender balance.

Each partner has been carefully chosen to reflect leading expertise in the tasks and Work Packages they participate in. Description of Work Packages can be found in 2.2 Project's Work Packages.

The external Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) provides expert advice on the project as a whole and on individual tasks. The members of the SAB are: prof. Lucia Reisch, from Copenhagen Business School, prof. Patrick Devine-Wright, from University of Exeter and Prof. Andrej Gubina, from University of Ljubljana.

2.1 Consortium Partners

Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM), Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VUA)



The Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM) at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VUA), as coordinating partner, is internationally well-known for its high-quality scientific research and has extensive experience in doing research and management of EU projects. IVM's mission is to contribute to sustainable development and to care for the environment through excellent scientific research and teaching. A unique feature of the institute is our capacity to cut through the complexity of natural-societal systems through novel interdisciplinary approaches.

<https://www.vu.nl/en>

International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics (IIIEE) at Lund University (LU)



The International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics (IIIEE) at Lund University conducts interdisciplinary research, in close cooperation with stakeholders from government, industry, with the aim of exploring and advancing knowledge in the design, application and evaluation of strategies, policies and tools for a transition towards sustainable solutions.

<https://www.iiiee.lu.se/>



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 837752.

Environmental Change Institute (ECI), University of Oxford (UOXF)



Environmental Change Institute

The energy research programme of Environmental Change Institute (ECI), University of Oxford focusses on the social, political, technological and economic issues raised by our need for transitions to secure, low environmental impact and equitable energy systems. It works with partners in business, academia and communities to understand environmental change and explore responses to the risks and opportunities it poses. The ECI is a leading player in large research activities, including the UK Climate Impacts Programme, the world's largest climate citizen science ensemble, and major EU consortium programmes.

<https://www.eci.ox.ac.uk/>

Institute of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana (UL)

Univerza v Ljubljani



The Institute of Social Sciences at the University of Ljubljana is involved through the Center for Social Psychology (CSP) and the Centre for Methodology and Informatics (CMI). CSP is a leading center that deals with the analysis of the social inter-space between macro-sociological structures and institutions and practices that belong to the micro-sphere of everyday life. The research programme of the Centre includes the study of family life, life styles and identity formation, as well as bio-politics such as health, and is oriented towards the study of specific social groups and minorities that are subjected to social exclusion.

CMI is a leading center in two fields of research: social science methodology and social informatics, especially measurement and explanation of information society, research on web communities, use of mathematical models in the social sciences, web qualitative methods, development of methods for studying internet technologies and development of methods and tools for social network measurement and analysis.

<https://www.fdv.uni-lj.si/>

Institute for Advanced Energy Technologies “Nicola Giordano” (ITAE), National Research Council (CNR)



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 837752.



The Institute for Advanced Energy Technologies “Nicola Giordano” (ITAE), is a research institute belonging to the National Research Council (CNR). ITAE is one of European leading research center in the fuel cells and renewable energy fields and a full member of the Fuel Cells and Hydrogen Joint Technology Initiative of the European Community. The research activity is based on a multidisciplinary knowledge and concerns both the study of materials and components and the realization of prototypes. ITAE investigates, also, to the social and economic impacts of energy technologies on which the institute focuses its scientific and technical activities.

Leibniz Institute for Economic Research (RWI)



RWI – Leibniz Institute for Economic Research (RWI) is a leading centre for economic research and evidence-based policy advice in Germany and a member of the Leibniz Association, connecting 93 independent research institutions from a broad range of disciplines. The applied research at RWI fulfils the highest academic standards and results are regularly published in renowned academic journals.

<http://en.rwi-essen.de/das-rwi/>

Consensus Communications (CONS)



Consensus Communications has major experience with supporting the energy sector in Slovenia by developing long-term communication strategies and action plans, organising educational and awareness-raising activities, and engaging stakeholders through workshops and partnerships.

<https://www.consensus.si/>

GEN-I



This project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 837752.

GEN-I, the industry partner of the consortium, is recognized as one of the leading electricity trading players across the Central, Eastern and South-Eastern European regions. Its staff has extensive operational experience of managing virtual power plants as well as implementing novel energy services and products intended to engage household end users.

<https://gen-i.si/>

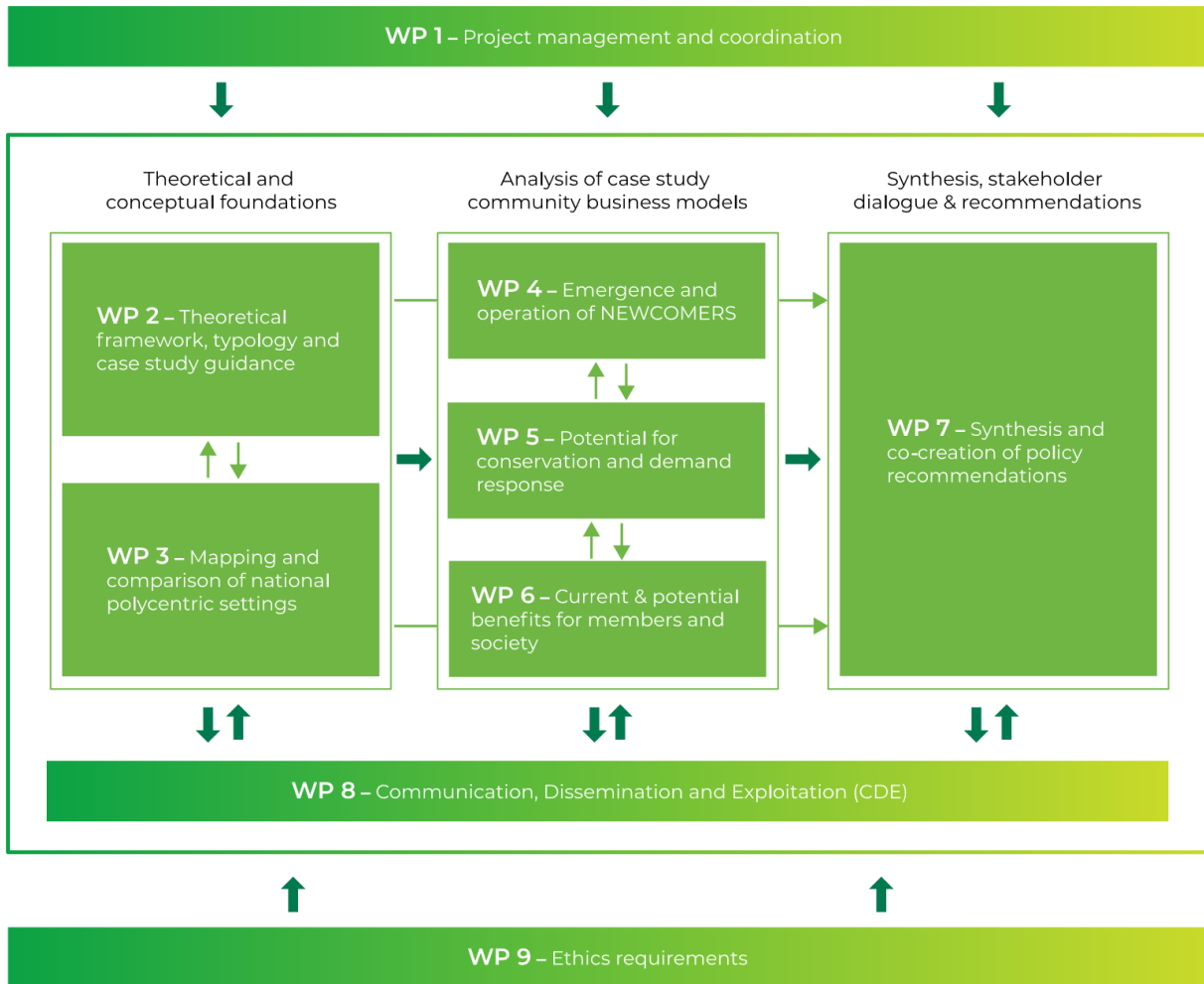
2.2 Project's Work Packages

The NEWCOMERS project has 9 Work Packages. Their short description, leading partners and connections are seen in table and graphic below.

Work Package (WP) No.	Short Description	Lead beneficiary
WP 1	Project management and coordination	VUA - Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM)
WP 2	Theoretical framework, typology and case study guidance	VUA – Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM)
WP 3	Mapping and comparison of national polycentric settings	LU – Lund University, International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics (IIIEE)
WP 4	Emergence and operation of NEWCOMERS	UOXF – University of Oxford, Environmental Change Institute (ECI)
WP 5	Potential for conservation and demand response	RWI - Leibniz Institute for Economic Research
WP 6	Current & potential benefits for members and society	UL – University of Ljubljana
WP 7	Synthesis and co-creation of policy recommendations	VUA - Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM)
WP 8	Communication, dissemination and exploitation	CONS – Consensus Communications
WP 9	Ethics requirements	VUA – Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM)



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 837752.



3 DELIVERABLES

All public deliverables of the NEWCOMERS project are available in the NEWCOMERS website section [Materials and Deliverables](#).

4 PRESS RELEASES AND COMMUNICATION MATERIALS

Press releases and communication materials (logo, photos) can be found in the NEWCOMERS website section [Materials and Deliverables](#).



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 837752.

5 CONTACT INFO

Project coordination

Dr. Julia Blasch

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM)
e-mail: julia.blasch@vu.nl



Dr. Nicolien van der Grijp

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM)
e-mail: nicolien.vander.grijp@vu.nl



Communications and dissemination

Mag. Mojca Drevenšek

Consensus Communications
e-mail: mojca.drevensek@consensus.si



Project e-mail: info@newcomersH2020.eu

Project website: www.newcomersH2020.eu

NEWCOMER on social media:

Twitter: [NEWCOMERS_H2020](https://twitter.com/NEWCOMERS_H2020)

LinkedIn: [newcomers-h2020](https://www.linkedin.com/company/newcomers-h2020)



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 837752.