



POWERPOOR

Empowering Energy Poor Citizens through Joint Energy Initiatives

POWERPOOR Key Results in Greece

Working on the ground with energy-poor households and policymakers to mitigate energy poverty.

www.powerpoor.eu

Enabling Attica energy community to identify their energy poor members.

An already established energy community, [Attica energy community](#) that is operating in the region of Attica Greece reached out to the POWERPOOR project. They wanted to identify the energy poor within the members of the energy community. The president of the community's managing board, [Maya Andreou](#), participated in one of POWERPOOR's trainings and got certified as an energy supporter and mentor.



She then took it upon herself to visit members of the community, using the POWERPOOR Toolkit to assess their vulnerability, identify the energy poor, and propose soft measures and behavioral changes to enhance their energy efficiency and lower their energy costs. She mainly visited members residing in the northern suburbs of Athens. Typically, people living in the northern suburbs are not considered vulnerable and even if they are they usually are not detected by the welfare system. The home visits however indicated that since the building stock is rather old, and the people's income has been decreasing over the years energy poverty can be found there as well.





When the energy poor within the members of the energy community have been identified an info day was held in October 2021 to present the results of the home visits, the POWERPOOR approach, and discuss how an energy community and joint energy initiatives with municipalities can help the most vulnerable. The info day was held in the municipality of Kifisia, one of the biggest municipalities in the northern suburbs of Attica and the mayor participated. In the info day the notion of energy poverty was discussed, the results of the home visits in the households of the energy community's members were presented and how the municipality can take part in joint energy initiatives was looked into.

The mayor expressed an interest to also establish an energy community within the municipality of Kifisia and both the barriers and the benefits of such a notion were brought forward. Knowledge and experience were shared by the established municipality.



All in all, POWERPOOR supports the energy community to incorporate the energy poverty aspect in its day-to-day activities. Find out more about the energy community [here](#).



Συμμετοχή σε Ευρωπαϊκά projects

- ▶ Μέλος
- ▶ Ενεργειακός υποστηρικτής
- ▶ W4RES
- ▶ energycommunityplatform.eu
- ▶ SCCALE 203050
- ▶ Energy Communities Repository



Enabling the Minoan energy community to identify the energy poor in the village of Arkalohori.

The [Minoan energy community](#) is an already established energy community in the island of Crete in Greece. The Minoan energy community has about 230 members mainly residing in the island of Crete in the Heraklion prefecture. Among its members are public bodies, such as the municipality of Minoa and the Holy Metropolis of Arkalohori. The community has already established one net metering project with a photovoltaic power station of 405kWp and is in the process of developing a second one.

Within the municipality of Minoa lies the village Arkalohori which was struck by an earthquake in 2021 rendering many households uninhabitable. Within the vision of the energy community is to be an [integral part of the local communities](#) and to contribute to the rehabilitation of the citizens that were impacted by the earthquake who currently live in prefabricated structures located near the village.



The Minoan energy community reached out to the POWERPOOR project, and INZEB organised an onsite training for the members of the community to familiarise them with the POWERPOOR approach, what is energy poverty and how it can be addressed through joint energy initiatives so that they can be energy supporters and mentors and act as local heroes in their local communities and in Arkalohori but also on how they can incorporate energy poverty mitigation actions within the energy community's activities.



The training was followed by an info day held in the Arkalohori village aiming at engaging energy poor citizens and informing them about how they can benefit by being part of the energy community and how they can also benefit from an onsite home visit performed by the local energy supporter. The attendees expressed an interest in the POWERPOOR toolkit and how it can be used, so a dedicated presentation of the toolkit was given.





The energy supporters that got certified continue the work in Crete, by visiting households both in the village of Arkalohori and in other local communities. The board of directors of the energy community that was also in the training and got certified as energy supporters are looking into how they can incentivise energy poor people to join the energy community and how they can provide energy to them with special price. They are using the POWERPOOR toolkit to identify the energy poor within their existing members.

Assessing energy poverty in the municipality of Almyros

Within the network of SUSTAINABLE CITY is municipality of [Almyros](#), in the region of Magnisia in central Greece. They expressed an interest in finding out more about how to identify and help the energy poor within their region. They also wanted to provide services to the energy poor to further help them. Some of the municipality's employees, got trained and certified as energy mentors and an energy poverty alleviation office was established in the municipality. One of the municipality's employees that is the associate of the mayor on environmental issues also got certified as an energy mentor and is the main employee staffing the energy poverty alleviation office.





To spread the word about the energy poverty alleviation office and the services provided as well as to present how the POWERPOOR approach can be implemented to mitigate energy poverty an [info day](#) was held in the municipality of Almyros.



Following the info day, the energy mentor staffing the office took it upon himself to [visit households](#) in the municipality, and by using the POWERPOOR toolkit and approach to perform simple energy audits to assess their vulnerability. After the home visit he compiled and gave out a comprehensive report with the results for each household. The report included personalised tips to enhance energy efficiency and adapted the proposed behavioral changes and small-scale interventions to each household's needs.

To interest people living in the area for a home visit, the approach is published in local news outlets and in the municipality’s social media.

The collage consists of three main elements:

- POWERPOOR Logo:** Features the text 'ΒΙΩΣΙΜΗ ΠΟΛΗ' (Sustainable City) and 'POWERPOOR' with a circular emblem containing a house and a person.
- POWER-TARGET Form:** A form titled 'Μέσω του POWER-TARGET για τα αποτελέσματα της φερετικής κατάστασης του οικείου και αξιολόγηση επιπέδου του νοικοκυριού' (Through the POWER-TARGET for the results of the current status of the household and evaluation of the household level). It includes fields for 'Όνομα / Επίθετο *', 'Επιλέξτε από το αντιστοιχούμενο μενού την Δημοτική Κοινότητα ή την Τοπική Κοινότητα που βιώνετε το πρόβλημα', 'Διεύθυνση (Οδός / Αριθμός) *', 'Τηλέφωνο Επικοινωνίας *', and 'e-mail *'.
- ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΕΥΤΙΚΗ ΕΚΘΕΣΗ ΕΝΕΡΓΕΙΑΚΗΣ ΕΠΙΧΕΙΡΗΣΗΣ ΝΟΙΚΟΚΥΡΙΩΝ:** A flyer for an advisory exhibition in Almyros, September 2022, organized by the Hellenic Republic, Municipality of Almyros.

The municipality of Almyros has incorporated the component of energy poverty alleviation in its day-to-day activities. The services provided in this municipality can serve as an example for other municipalities that want to incorporate energy poverty mitigation actions.

POWERPOOR as a member of the energy communities cluster in Greece

The notion of energy communities is rather new in Greece. They were established by law 4513 in 2018. The law covers several issues as number of members, the mission, the scope of activities, the statutory, etc. Since the law is relatively new, the existing energy communities along with other actors (e.g., NGOs, universities) established a cluster for energy communities, to act as a node of information and knowledge exchange. POWERPOOR is part of this cluster aiming at incorporating the aspect of energy poverty mitigation in the communities’ activities as well as to investigate how joint energy initiatives can support energy poverty mitigation actions in general. The cluster meets once a month or sooner if urgent issues arise.

In February 2023 the ministry of energy in Greece reformed the law with an aim of updating the legislation on the use and production of electricity from renewable sources by integrating the EU Directives 2018/2001 and 2019/944. Within the cluster an open letter was drafted for the ministry encapsulating the hands-on experience of the energy communities and proposing changes to the reform that can further enhance the institution of energy communities

Αξιότιμο κ. Υπουργέ,

Ως εκπρόσωποι ενεργειακών κοινοτήτων και σχετικών εθνικών και ευρωπαϊκών υποστηρικτικών φορέων, αναλαμβάνουμε την πρωτοβουλία να σας αποστείλουμε την παρούσα ανοιχτή επιστολή καθώς επιθυμούμε να αναδείξουμε τον κρίσιμο ρόλο τους ως προς την αντιμετώπιση της ενεργειακής κρίσης και τη δίκαιη ενεργειακή μετάβαση της χώρας, επιδιώκοντας να συμβάλλουμε στο έργο σας για την ενίσχυση του θεσμού των ενεργειακών κοινοτήτων.

Η υποστήριξη και η περαιτέρω ενίσχυση του θεσμού των ενεργειακών κοινοτήτων κρίνεται κρίσιμα σημαντική, ιδιαίτερα εν μέσω της πρωτοφανούς ενεργειακής κρίσης που διανύουμε. Πέρα από τη δραστηριότητα της παραγωγής ενέργειας, οι ενεργειακές κοινότητες είναι η μόνη οντότητα, η οποία εξ ορισμού, εργάζεται για την ευαισθητοποίηση και εκπαίδευση των μελών της για την εξοικονόμηση ενέργειας και λειτουργεί ενισχυτικά προς τη "συνφωνία για την ενέργεια" που επικοινωνείται σε όλα τα μέσα από το Υπουργείο Περιβάλλοντος και Ενέργειας προκειμένου να θεωρακιστεί η ενεργειακή ασφάλεια της χώρας. Σε ευρωπαϊκό επίπεδο, ο σημαντικός ρόλος του θεσμού των ενεργειακών κοινοτήτων αναδεικνύεται με τον πλέον εμφανικό τρόπο, καθώς η ενεργή συμμετοχή των πολιτών στην αγορά ενέργειας μέσω των ενεργειακών κοινοτήτων αναγνωρίζεται ως σημαντικός πυλώνας αντιμετώπισης των τρεχουσών αλλά και των επερχόμενων προκλήσεων αναφορικά με την επιτάχυνση της ενεργειακής μετάβασης, την αύξηση της τοπικής αποδοχής των έργων Α.Π.Ε και την ενίσχυση του τοπικού ενεργειακού εφοδιασμού.

Συνεπώς, ο προς διαβούλευση Νόμος έχει καθοριστικό ρόλο στη διαφύλαξη των ήδη υφιστάμενων ενεργειακών κοινοτήτων στη χώρα μας αλλά και στη θωράκιση του θεσμού, και θα πρέπει να δοθεί η δέουσα προσοχή προκειμένου να δημιουργηθεί το κατάλληλο νομοθετικό πλαίσιο για την ενίσχυση και την εύρυθμη λειτουργία του θεσμού αλλά και για τη διασφάλιση του πρωταρχικού σκοπού του, ήτοι την ενεργή συμμετοχή των πολιτών στην αγορά ενέργειας.

Συγκεκριμένα με την παρούσα επιστολή θέλουμε να τοποθετηθούμε συλλογικά ως προς το Σχέδιο Νόμου του Υπουργείου Περιβάλλοντος και Ενέργειας «ΕΚΣΥΓΧΡΟΝΙΣΜΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΝΟΜΟΘΕΣΙΑΣ ΓΙΑ ΤΗ ΧΡΗΣΗ ΚΑΙ ΠΑΡΑΓΩΓΗ ΗΛΕΚΤΡΙΚΗΣ ΕΝΕΡΓΕΙΑΣ ΑΠΟ ΑΝΑΝΕΩΣΙΜΕΣ ΠΗΓΕΣ – ΕΝΣΩΜΑΤΩΣΗ ΤΩΝ ΟΔΗΓΙΩΝ ΕΕ 2018/2001 ΚΑΙ 2019/944».

Θα θέλαμε να υπογραμμίσουμε ότι το παρόν κείμενο δεν είναι προϊόν αβίαστης προσπάθειας και προχειρότητας. Έχει προκύψει με τη συλλογική δουλειά μιας μεγάλης ομάδας εκπροσώπων ενεργειακών κοινοτήτων και οργανισμών, ανάμεσα στους οποίους επιστήμονες, κάτοχοι διδακτορικών διατριβών και μεταπτυχιακών τίτλων, καθηγητές πανεπιστημίων, πρώην Δήμαρχοι, πρώην στελέχη της Ευρωπαϊκής Επιτροπής, επαγγελματίες κλπ. Πέρα από την προσωπική δουλειά του καθενός μας, το παρόν κείμενο είναι και το προϊόν πολύωρων τηλεδιασκέψεων ανάμεσα στους προαναφερόμενους εκπροσώπους. Παρακαλούμε, συνεπώς, θερμά, να αντιμετωπιστεί με τη δέουσα προσοχή.

Γενικές Παρατηρήσεις επί του Νομοσχεδίου

Overall, the effort of aligning the national law with the EU directives is positive however the cluster of energy communities is troubled by the inclusion of new definitions about energy communities that could lead to bureaucratic barriers. The transition from the current to the new legislation can cause further uncertainty in the existing ecosystem of energy communities in Greece. The letter has been sent to the ministry of energy via email.