

POWERPOOR Key Results in Latvia

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

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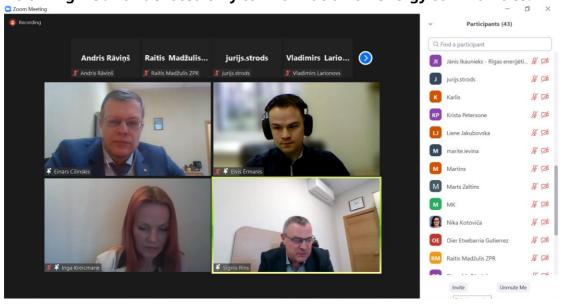
Zemgale Regional Energy Agency (ZREA) facilitating joint energy initiatives in Latvia – energy communities

As part of the POWERPOOR project in all the trainings and seminars ZREA included information on joint initiatives, such as crowdfunding campaigns and energy communities, etc.

Background: In Latvia in 2020 -2023 there are no energy communities (just one partial community of multiresidentail building in Marupe), currently - in mid-2023 there are 2 new laws adopted to enable establishment and operation of energy communities, but several Regulations of Cabinet of Ministers, which would regulate in detail, how the energy communities could operate in Latvia are not yet ready. The outstanding regulations have been planned to be adopted in Latvia by the end of 2023. So POWERPOOR project together with COM RES (HORIZON) and CO2MUNITY (INTERREG) projects has been one of the pioneers introducing the idea in Latvia, facilitating the adoption and acceptance to the energy community idea.

For the green transition local authorities, SMEs and citizens/interest groups need to raise their capacity - learn new skills how to establish and operate energy communities. For this they need compiled information and good pilot samples to build trust in energy community models that would encourage them to establish energy communities. There is huge start-up challenge - lack of the necessary knowledge, documentation and first experience-pilots. There is also a significant need to speed up creation of energy communities in Latvia, to reach the climate neutrality in 2050.

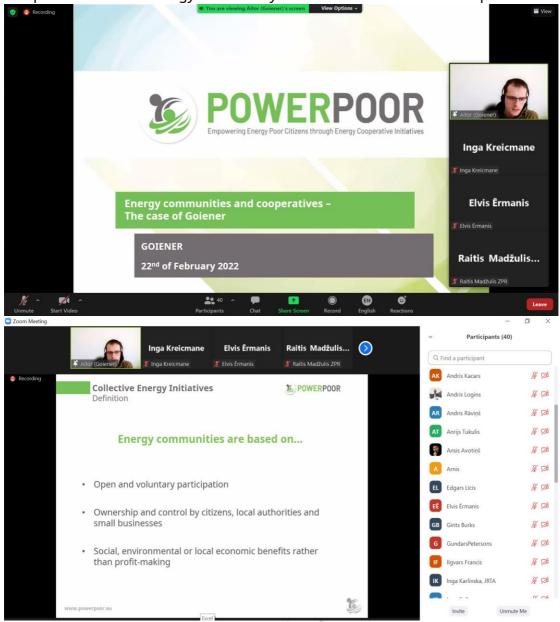
Within the POWERPOOR project on 22 February 2022 ZREA organised a special event – training webinar devoted only to information on energy communities.



In this webinar the representative from Ministry of Economics, Republic of Latvia gave presentation on the newly adopted legislation on energy cooperatives and communities in Latvia.

The POWERPOOR partner - Energy cooperative GOIENER, from Spain (which operates as a non-profit cooperative and generates 14,6 GWh of electricity for its 15`000 members

annually) gave a presentation on principles, operation model, best practices and live samples on how the energy community can be established and can operate.





In this webinar the representative from POWERPOOR partner - Energy cooperative COOPERNICO, Portugal (cooperative generates 1.59 GWh for its 1092+ members annually) provided their best practice on how they have been established, what are the models of operation.





In the webinar there was a presentation of a representative from Riga Planning Region, Latvia, presenting the sample of the first (partial) energy community in Latvia - CO2MUNNITY project - first steps into founding an energy community in Latvia.



The obtained information has been used further in individual house visits/consultations explaining the possibilities that will have each citizen currently and in the near future. Such events on joint initiatives/energy communities play a crucial role in raising awareness, educating stakeholders, fostering collaboration, and empowering communities. By bringing together diverse perspectives and knowledge, these events contribute to the transition to a more sustainable and resilient energy future.

As a result, two municipalities ZREA worked with – Jelgava city and Jekahnils county, have

As a result, two municipalities ZREA worked with – Jelgava city and Jekabpils county, have submitted the project proposals for establishing two energy communities - one in each.

Zemgale Regional Energy Agency (ZREA) facilitating the joint energy initiatives in Latvia - crowdfunding

As part of POWERPOOR project in all the trainings and seminars ZREA included information on joint initiatives, such as crowdfunding and energy communities, etc. In March 2021 ZREA participated in POWERPOOR internal training on joint initiatives, such as:

- Module 3 Part 1 Collective Innovative Actions for Energy Poverty
- Module 3 Part 2 Crowdfunding and Innovative Finance: Concepts and its application to energy poverty.
- Module 3 Part 3 Designing and implementing collective energy initiatives.

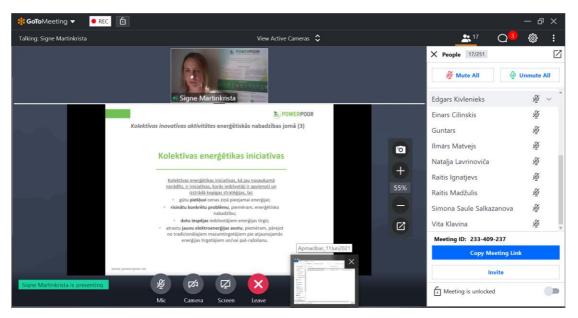
Within the POWERPOOR project on the 11th of June 2021 ZREA organized F2F training webinar, where half of it - MODULE 3 - was dedicate to joint innovative initiatives.

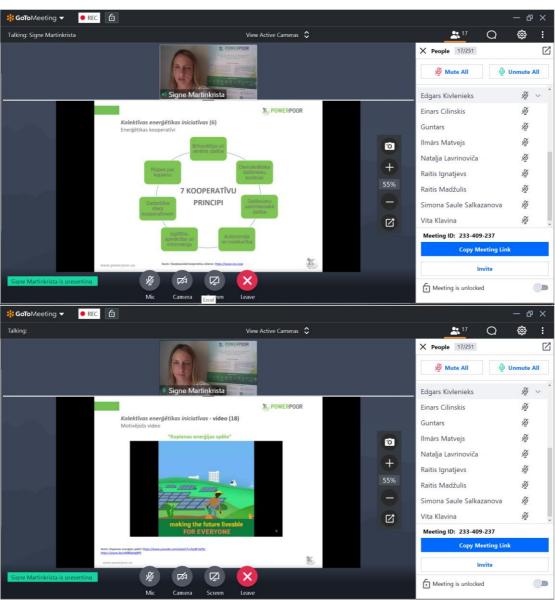
The webinar was primarily aimed at energy supporters and mentors of Latvia, but anyone interested could participate.

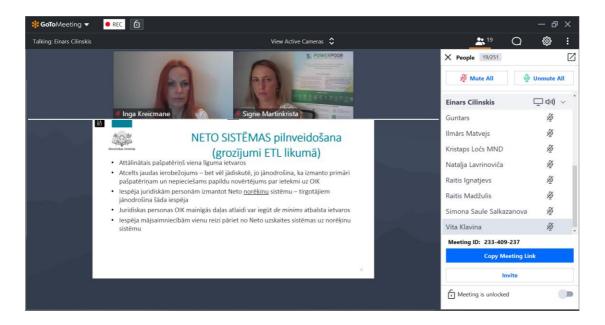
The topics covered were:

- Collective innovative activities for reducing energy poverty and collective energy initiatives what are they, how do they work? Examples;
- Innovative crowdfunding what is it, how does it work?
- Legal regulation of energy communities and planned support programs in Latvia:
- Latvia crowdfunding platform.









The webinar offered educational, networking, and promotional possibilities. ZREA provided a platform for knowledge sharing, collaboration, and inspiration, empowering participants to navigate crowdfunding more effectively. The main purpose of the webinar was education and awareness – on different crowdfunding models platforms, strategies, and best practices. Increased awareness could empower individuals or organizations to make informed decisions regarding crowdfunding.

The webinar also provided insights from experts into the crowdfunding sharing their experiences, insights, and tips for running successful campaigns. Participants could gain valuable knowledge from these experts and apply it to their own crowdfunding endeavours.

Case studies of successful crowdfunding campaigns were presented. These real-life examples demonstrated how others have effectively utilized crowdfunding to achieve their goals. This exposure to a targeted audience interested in crowdfunding could in future generate wider interest and potentially attract more citizens to such joint initiatives in energy field and reduce energy poverty.