Energy Community Secretariat

Uniting Europe's Energy, Today

CROSS-BORDER SUSTAINABLE RENEWABLES ACCELERATION AREAS IN UKRAINE – PHASE II

DEVELOPMENT OF THE INTERACTIVE DIGITAL MANUAL BY THE ENERGY COMMUNITY SECRETARIAT

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A practical manual for RAA implementation

The manual turns legal and technical work into guidance that authorities can use at each implementation step.

Senior decision-makers

A rapid overview of the process, responsibilities and expected results.

Technical teams

Detailed methods, data requirements, decision points and links to tools.

Priority processes

Renewables acceleration area (RAA) development, with particular attention to environmental assessment and streamlined permitting.

SEA: Strategic Environmental Assessment. AA: Appropriate Assessment. RES: renewable energy sources.

RAA and RED III introductory overview

The manual turns legal and technical work into guidance that authorities can use at each implementation step.

Renewables acceleration areas (RAAs) are locations designated by public authorities as particularly suitable for specified renewable energy technologies. Introduced through RED III, they help address slow permitting and uncertainty about where renewable energy can be developed with limited environmental impact. The approach brings key environmental questions into the planning stage: authorities identify suitable areas, assess the designation plan, involve the public and establish mitigation rules before individual projects are submitted. Projects that meet the relevant conditions can then benefit from shorter permitting deadlines and a tailored environmental screening process. Smart Planning and Streamlined Permitting therefore form one connected framework: planning establishes the evidence and safeguards that make faster project decisions possible. Designation does not itself approve a project, and renewable energy development can also proceed outside RAAs under a separate permitting route.

SEA: Strategic Environmental Assessment. AA: Appropriate Assessment. RES: renewable energy sources.

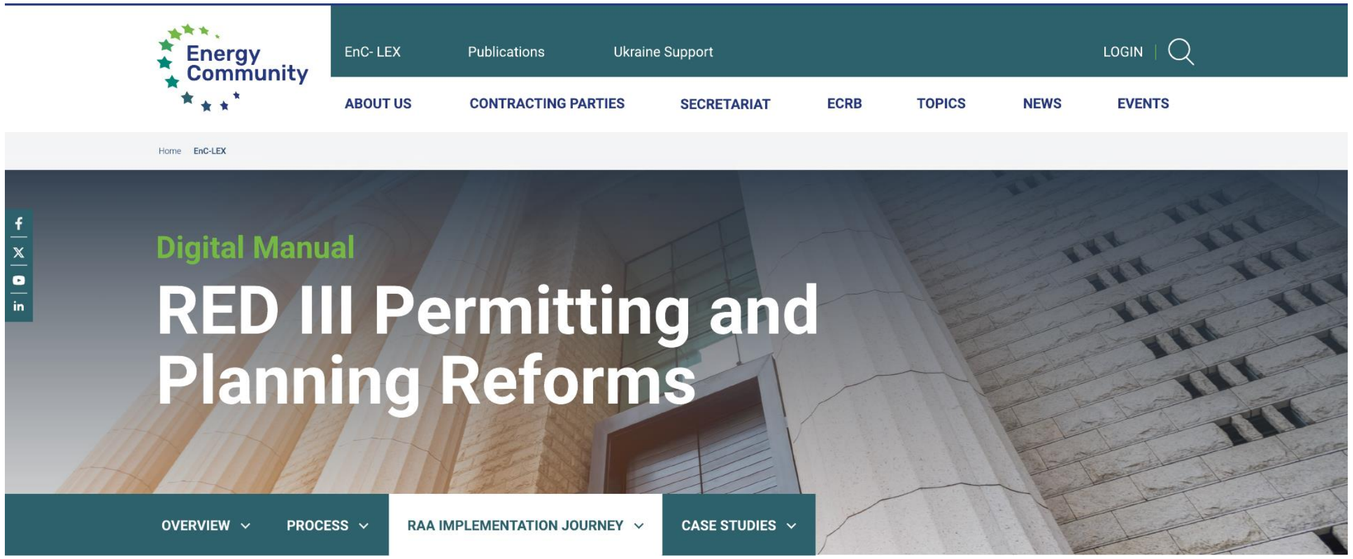
One entry point, four connected modules

Planned access

Energy Community website
Topics / Renewable Energy
Renewables Acceleration Area
Key Output: Digital Manual

Content modules

RES Smart Planning
RES Streamlined Permitting
RAA Implementation Journey
Case studies, tools and resources



The mock-up groups the two process guides under “Process”.

Cross-links connect the manual to project pages and the RAA Centre.

Legal and Policy Framework – “What is required?”

Smart Planning

Smart Planning identifies the areas needed for renewable energy and selects suitable RAAs within them. It combines spatial evidence, technology-specific mitigation rules, environmental assessment and public participation so that designation creates a sound basis for streamlined project permitting.

Streamlined Permitting

Streamlined Permitting coordinates project approvals and applies the relevant deadlines and environmental procedures. The route depends on the project’s location, technology and legal eligibility. RAA projects use safeguards established during planning; projects outside RAAs and specified project types follow their respective rules.

Two visual guides organise the processes

Planning establishes areas and safeguards. Permitting applies the appropriate route to individual projects.



Source figure: wheel.pdf, page 1. Design overview for the proposed manual.

A selected process step opens its guidance





Interaction specified in the brief

Clickable process buttons, short hover descriptions and optional links.

Detail shown in the mock-up

An explanation of the selected step, source information and a link register.

Content defines decisions and return loops

The process specification gives each interface element an explicit role.

Process feature	Smart Planning	Streamlined Permitting
Starting point	Map needs and define area criteria	Application and completeness check
Decision routes	Suitability, SEA and AA where required	RAA eligibility, screening and assessment routes
Return loops	Revise criteria or draft plans when needed	Request missing information or required assessment
Result and follow-up	Designate and publish the plan, then monitor	Grant or refuse permission, then implement conditions

The guidance distinguishes area designation from project permission and keeps other permit checks visible.

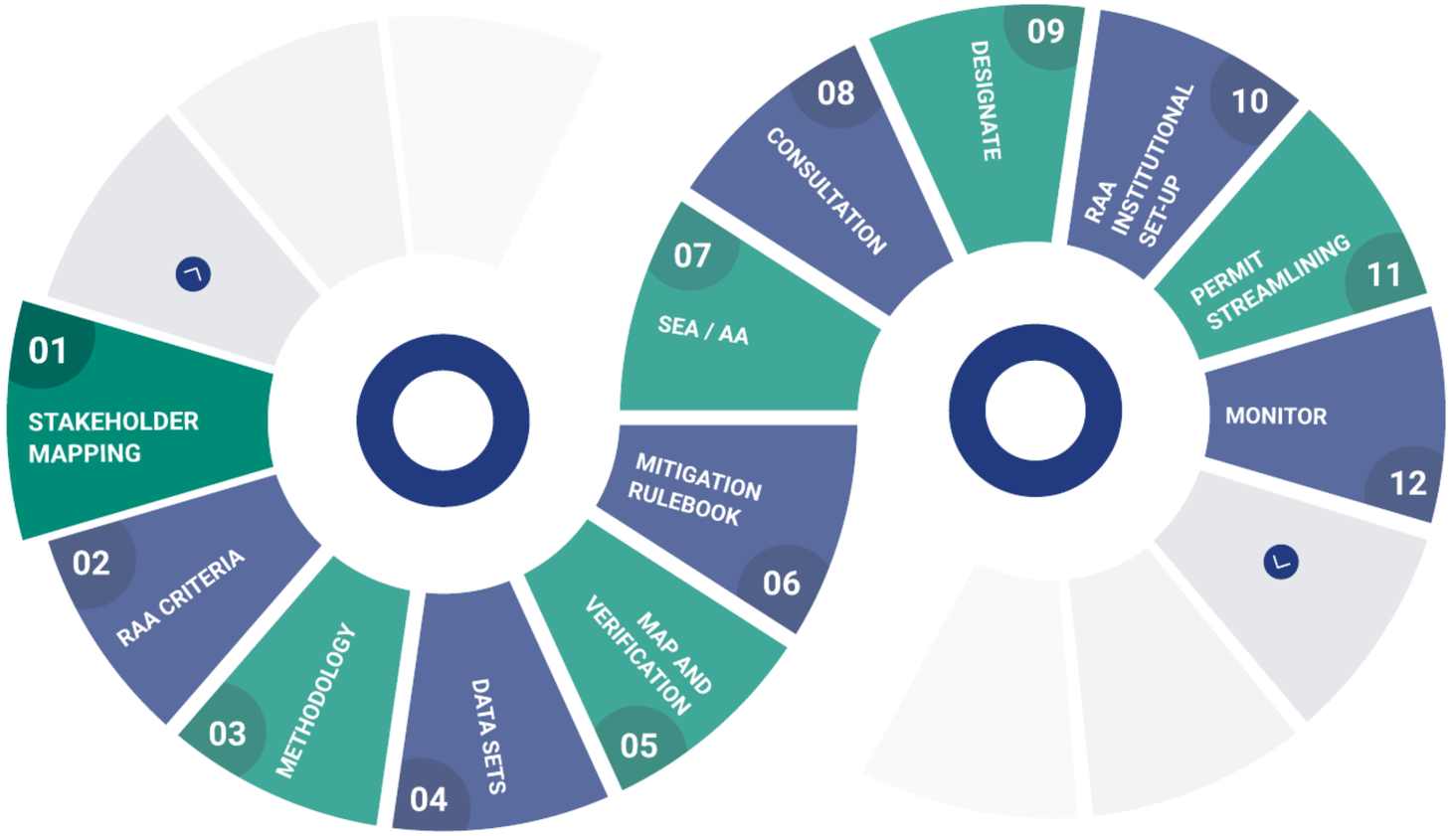
The journey connects 12 implementation steps

A shared overview

The visual follows the journey from stakeholder mapping to monitoring.

A route into detail

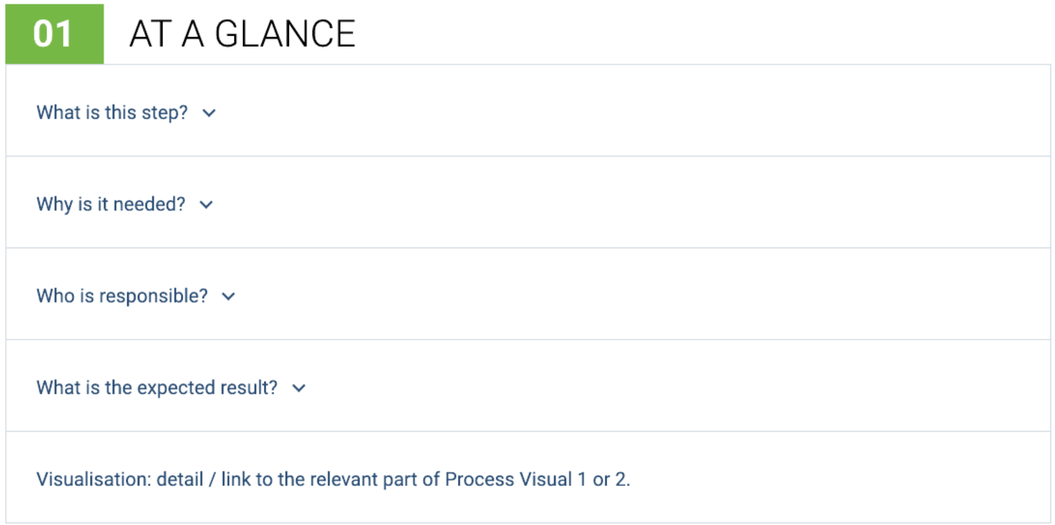
Each numbered element opens the same guidance structure below the wheel.



Institutional arrangements support the whole journey, including the early stages.

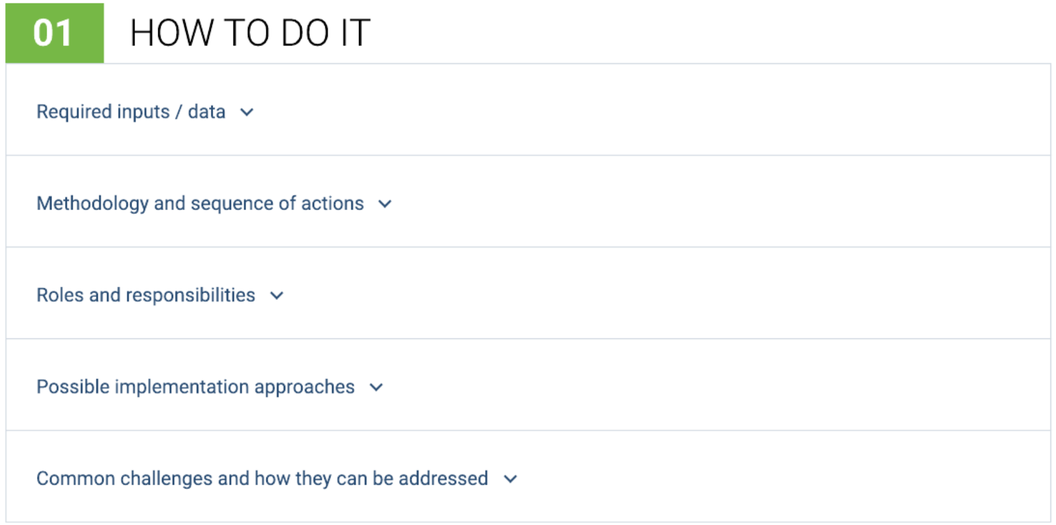
Every step uses two levels of guidance

At a glance



What the step does, why it matters, who leads and what it produces.

How to do it



Inputs, methods, responsibilities, decision points and practical challenges.

Example content: stakeholder mapping

Step 01

The drafted guidance identifies the people and institutions needed throughout RAA development.

At a glance

The coordinating authority maps responsibilities and affected interests, including local authorities, environmental bodies, grid operators and the public.

How to do it

Compile and verify a stakeholder register. Identify information and consultation needs. Define engagement arrangements and update them as the process develops.

Expected output: a stakeholder register and an engagement plan.

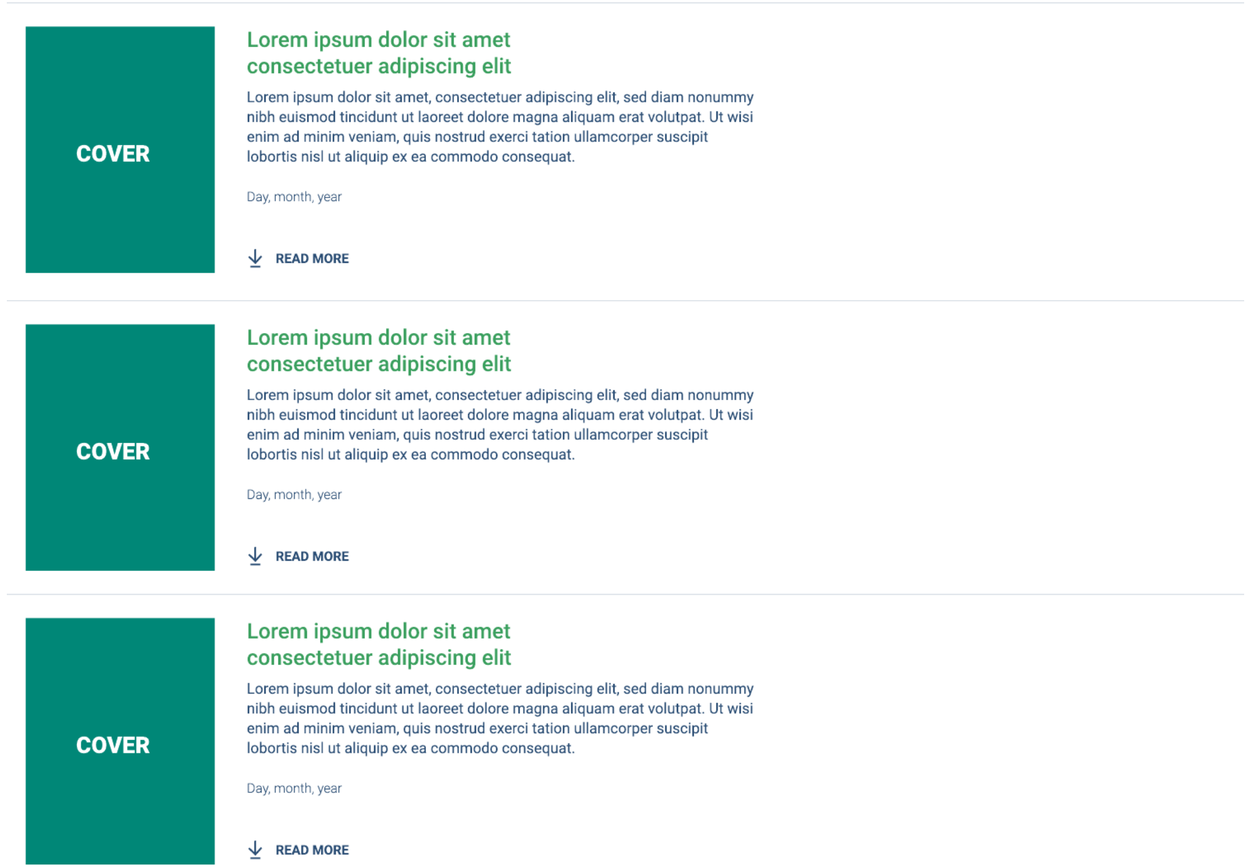
Case studies connect guidance to experience

A consistent case format

Context and RAA topics
Stakeholders involved
Methodology and tools
Results and lessons learned
Documents and resources

An expandable library

Future filters by topic, technology and governance level. Cases link to the relevant journey steps and tools.



Design mock-up with placeholder case content

Resources make the guidance usable

EXTERNAL RESOURCES

↗ **S1 Binding EU framework** Directive 2018/2001 consolidated text	↗ **S1a RED III amending act** Directive 2023/2413	↗ **S2 SEA Directive 2001/42/EC** Arts. 4–10
↗ **S3 Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC** Art. 6	↗ **S4a EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended** Arts. 2, 4–9	↗ **S4b Birds Directive 2009/147/EC**
↗ **S4c Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC**	↗ **S5 Non-binding Commission guidance on RAA designation** — SWD 2024 333	↗ **S6a Commission Recommendation 2024/1343 on speeding up permitting**
↗ **S6b Commission permitting guidance** SWD 2024 124 and enabling framework	↗ **S7 Commission notice on dedicated grid and storage infrastructure areas** — C/2026/128	↗ **S8 Energy Community Recommendation 2024/1/MC-EnC** — regional policy instrument
↗ **S9 Energy Community Centre for Renewable Energy Acceleration** — implementation resources		

Tools linked to each step

Checklists, model documents, data templates, GIS methods, SEA tools and permitting guidance.

Webinars and learning

Recordings, speakers, presentations and related content, with room for future filters.

The design brief specifies six deliverables

No.	Design deliverable	Format
1	Overview page	Web design
2	RES Smart Planning process visual	Web design
3	RES Streamlined Permitting process visual	Web design
4	RAA Implementation Journey visual	Web design
5	Implementation-step content design	Web design
6	Reusable individual case study template	A4 PDF, up to two sides

All elements follow Energy Community visual identity and support links between related content.

Thank you for your attention

Renewables Acceleration Areas and RES permitting Digital Manual

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