Energy Poverty Coordination Group (EPCG)

Tasks

1) To serve as the main platform for the exchange and discussion between the Energy Community Contracting Parties on best practices, lessons learned, and the way forward in developing and implementing existing and future legislations and policies for reducing energy poverty and in collecting data on the causes and impacts of energy poverty.

2) To assist the Contracting Parties in developing a comprehensive set of energy poverty and just transition elements in their National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) and other relevant national strategies and policies.

3) To contribute to improving the range and quality of data on energy poverty and its main drivers as well as to facilitate data collection for the purpose of monitoring the status quo and effectiveness of measures applied to address energy poverty.

4) To identify the needs of the Contracting Parties with regard to effectively addressing energy poverty, including at regional and local levels.

5) To plan and start appropriate actions and coordinated solutions based on Contracting Parties’ individual needs.

6) To serve as a platform for strengthening regional coordination and cooperation among the Contracting Parties while facilitating links with external partners such as IFIs, NGOs, banks, donors and international organisations.

Specific tasks for 2023

1) With reference to the EU Energy Support Package for Western Balkans\(^1\), the Group shall report on budget spent by the Contracting Parties to mitigate the impact of increased energy prices on socially vulnerable and energy-poor households.

2) Discuss and identify the needs of the Contracting Parties with regard to effectively addressing energy poverty, including the necessity to address the existing data gaps and involve local authorities in the process of alleviating energy poverty.

3) Discuss the current status of development of the NECPs and identify the required improvements regarding energy poverty.