



07/2025
CALL FOR
PROPOSALS

Cross-Border Energy Communities Pilot Actions



with the technical support of

RESCOOP.EU



**Funded by
the European Union**

Cross-Border Energy Communities

Call for proposals

Managed by the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) and the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT) through the EU Action Grant 2024CE160AT078 / CBECs agreed with the Directorate General of Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission.

*with the technical support of RESCoop.eu

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Table of contents

1. INTRODUCTION	3
1.1 General overview	3
1.2 Background	3
1.3 Definitions	4
a) Cross-border energy community (CBEC)	4
b) Quasi Cross-border energy community (Q-CBEC)	5
c) Type of energy communities	6
1.4 Steps to establish a (Q-)CBEC	8
2. INFORMATION ON THE CALL FOR PILOT ACTIONS	12
2.1 Objectives of the call	12
2.2 Technical and financial support for selected applicants	13
2.3 Contracting authorities of the call	15
3. ELIGIBILITY	16
3.1 Eligible entities – who can apply?	16
3.2 Geographical scope	16
3.3 Eligible activities	18
4. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES	19
4.1 Content of the application	19
4.2 How to apply	20
5. FUNDING	20
5.1 Payment arrangements	20
5.2 Eligible expenditure	20
6. OBLIGATIONS OF THE AWARDED BENEFICIARIES	21
7. SELECTION AND AWARDING PROCESSES	22
7.1 Eligibility check	22
7.2 Quality assessment	23
7.3 Awarding criteria	24
7.4 Selection process	24
8. KEY DATES	25
9. HOW TO GET ASSISTANCE	25

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General overview

The Cross-Border Energy Communities initiative aims to promote cross-border cooperation and cross-border integration of energy communities in border regions. The expected result is to advance the development of (quasi) cross-border energy communities.

Promoted by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO), the Cross-Border Energy Communities initiative (CBECs) for pilot actions aligns with the European Commission's mission "Cross-Border regions for the European Green Deal", which originates from the report [EU Border Regions: Living labs of European integration](#) (COM(2021) 393 final) published on 14 July 2021.

Jointly managed by the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) and the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT), the initiative offers financial and technical support to local actors in border regions to initiate and strengthen the development of cross-border or quasi cross-border energy communities through pilot actions.

The Cross-Border Energy Communities initiative is a follow-up of the [Handbook on Cross-border Energy Communities](#) published in January 2025 and its Annex "[Border Fiches](#)" published in April 2025.

The technical support to the pilot actions will be provided by [REScoop.eu](#), the European federation of energy communities, whose experts will be involved via workshops and tailored assistance.

1.2 Background

In response to climate change challenges, the European Green Deal has set the goal of achieving carbon neutrality for the EU by 2050, involving actions to decarbonise the European energy sector. Among the advances in European energy policy, the [Clean Energy for All Europeans](#) legislative package has enabled the recognition and definition of **Renewable Energy Communities (RECs) and Citizen Energy Communities (CECs)** through the adoption and transposition by Member States of respectively the Renewable Energy Directive II (REDII)¹ and the Internal Market Energy Directive (IEMD)². These communities have proven to be very efficient tools in some European territories to fulfil decarbonisation goals, but their cross-border implementation faces a few challenges.

Both the Renewable Energy Directive II (REDII)³ and the Internal Market Energy Directive (IEMD) allow for cross-border participation to RECs and CECs respectively. However, transpositions

¹ European Union (2018-2023) Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02018L2001-20231120>.

² Directive (EU) 2019/944 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019 on common rules for the internal market for electricity and amending Directive 2012/27/EU: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02019L0944-20220623>.

³ European Union (2018-2023) Directive (EU) 2018/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A02018L2001-20231120>.

of the REDII and IMED directives differ across Member States, as highlighted by the REScoop.eu Transposition Tracker⁴.

With this in mind, the **European Commission has promoted a Handbook on Cross-border Energy Communities**, where Citizen Energy Communities (CECs) and Renewable Energy Communities (RECs) of a cross-border nature are recognized as such. The Handbook intends to provide local stakeholders (citizens, local authorities, etc.) with the tools and knowledge they need to establish a cross-border energy community and to fully benefit from the opportunities it creates. To serve this purpose, the Handbook includes a step-by-step methodology for setting up a cross-border energy community project and developing its activities, as well as an inventory on border obstacles that may hamper its development, and existing cross-border and quasi cross-border energy communities identified with related good practices.

The present initiative wants to capitalise on the knowledge created by the Handbook and supports stakeholders in cross-border regions to initiate pilot actions in order to develop cross-border (or quasi cross-border) energy communities.

1.3 Definitions

Energy communities are ‘renewable energy communities’ (RECs) or ‘citizen energy communities’ (CECs) under EU legislation. Both RECs or CECs are open to cross-border participation, as stipulated in art. 22 of REDII and art. 16 of IMED.

The Handbook provides key concepts serving as a basis for the initiative, including the definitions of cross-border energy communities and quasi cross-border energy communities that will be used as reference points for the call.

The following definitions from the Handbook will be used⁵:

a) Cross-border energy community (CBEC)

A cross-border energy community is a ‘renewable energy community’ or a ‘citizen energy community’ —as defined by EU legislation— of a cross-border nature.

The CBEC is a legal entity:

- which is based on voluntary and open participation in both border regions of the same cross-border region and is effectively controlled by members and shareholders of the cross-border region where it is set in place and operates, that are natural persons, local authorities, including municipalities or SMEs;
- the primary purpose of which is to provide environmental, economic or social community benefits to its members and shareholders in both border regions of the same cross-border region where it operates rather than to generate financial profits;
- and may engage in generation, including from renewable sources, distribution, supply, consumption, aggregation, energy storage, energy efficiency services or charging services for electric vehicles or provide other energy services to its members or shareholders in the cross-border region.

⁴ <https://www.rescoop.eu/policy/transposition-tracker>

⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/studies/2025/Handbook_on_Cross-border_Energy_Communities.pdf, p10.

b) Quasi cross-border energy community (Q-CBEC)

It is a community (REC or CEC) that does not necessarily engage in the cross-border generation, distribution, supply, consumption, aggregation, energy storage, energy efficiency services or charging services for electric vehicles or provide other energy services to its members or shareholders across a national border in a cross-border region – that is to say, energy or energy services do not necessarily go across the national borders -, but that develops activities (e.g. generation or consumption, for instance) in one border region or separately in both border regions of the same cross-border region and fulfils at least one of the following:

- joint management: the entity managing the community has a cross-border legal personality, e.g., a European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC);
- joint funding: participants in one border region contribute to the funding of investments in a neighbouring border region within the same cross-border region;
- joint resources: human resources, technical expertise and knowledge, or equipment are shared amongst participating border regions within the same cross-border region.

The following table summarises the differences between a CBEC and a Q-CBEC:

	Cross-Border Energy Community (CBEC)	Quasi Cross-Border Energy Community (Q-CBEC)
LEGAL FORM	A legal entity (e.g., cooperative, association, EGTC) based on REC or CEC definitions	A legal entity (e.g., cooperative, association, EGTC) based on REC or CEC definitions
PARTICIPATION	Open and voluntary participation from both sides of a cross-border region	Open and voluntary participation from one or both sides of a cross-border region
GOVERNANCE	Controlled by members/shareholders from both border regions (natural persons, SMEs, municipalities)	May have joint management (e.g., cross-border entity), but not necessarily shared control
CROSS-BORDER INTEGRATION	Operational: physical and functional energy cooperation across the border	Organisational: collaboration through joint management, funding, or resources , even without physical energy flow across borders
ACTIVITIES	Must involve cross-border provision of energy or related services (e.g., generation, EV charging)	No requirement for energy or services to cross the border; can operate in only one side
EXAMPLE OF CROSS-BORDER ACTIVITIES	Shared generation or supply infrastructure across the border	Shared funding mechanisms, staff, knowledge, or equipment

c) Type of energy communities

As previously stated, the European legislation recognizes two types of energy communities, the **Citizen Energy Communities (CECs)** and the **Renewable Energy Communities (RECs)**.

A **renewable energy community** is a legal entity:

- which, in accordance with the applicable national law, is based on open and voluntary participation, is autonomous, and is effectively controlled by shareholders or members that are located in the proximity of the renewable energy projects that are owned and developed by that legal entity;
- the shareholders or members of which are natural persons, SMEs or local authorities, including municipalities;
- the primary purpose of which is to provide environmental, economic or social community benefits for its shareholders or members or for the local areas where it operates, rather than financial profits.

A **citizen energy community** is a legal entity:

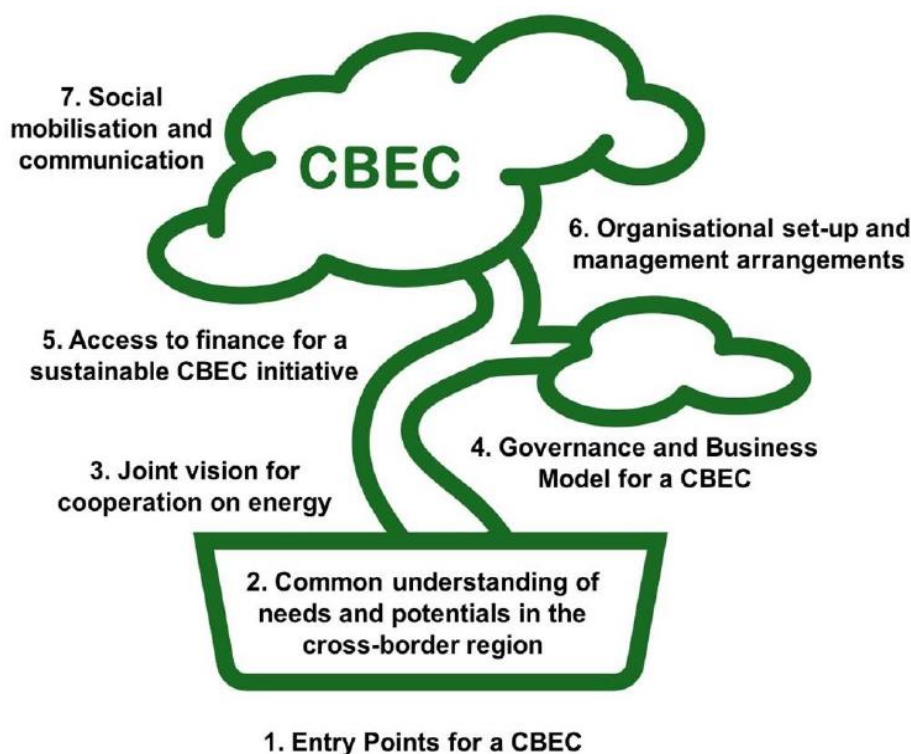
- based on voluntary and open participation and is effectively controlled by members or shareholders that are natural persons, local authorities, including municipalities, or small enterprises;
- has for its primary purpose to provide environmental, economic or social community benefits to its members or shareholders or to the local areas where it operates rather than to generate financial profits; and
- may engage in generation, including from renewable sources, distribution, supply, consumption, aggregation, energy storage, energy efficiency services or charging services for electric vehicles or provide other energy services to its members or shareholders.

Differences between renewable energy community and citizen energy community:

	Renewable energy community (UE RED II)	Citizen energy community (UE 2019/944)
ENERGY TYPE	100 % renewable	All types of energy
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE	Geographic proximity required	No geographical constraint
PARTICIPANTS	Citizens, local authorities, SMEs	All actors except big energy companies
AUTONOMY	Yes	Not explicit
EFFECTIVE CONTROL	Effective control must rest with members who are 'in proximity' to the project owned by the community	Effective control is limited to members that are natural persons, micro- and small enterprises, and local authorities. This means that medium sized and large companies are prohibited from exercising control over a citizen energy community.

1.4 Steps to establish a (Q-)CBEC

The establishment of a (quasi) cross-border energy community can follow seven steps identified in the [Handbook on cross-border energy communities](#) as:



Source: Consortium, 2024

These steps can be used by stakeholders as a method to implement a cross-border energy community or reinforce the cross-border integration of an existing (quasi) cross-border energy community.

Furthermore, in order to move towards the operational implementation of energy communities, REScoop.eu has drawn up a methodology to guide stakeholders in setting up such communities.

The main implementation framework for the pilot actions will follow the **LICHT model** (see below) proposed by REScoop.eu, an approach specifically designed to engage energy communities. Through the LICHT approach, REScoop.eu works directly with communities. They guide stakeholders by applying engagement techniques in order to facilitate the start or consolidate an energy community. Usually, the support provided by REScoop.eu through this approach entails 6 distinct stages. For the selected pilots, REScoop.eu will apply relevant part of the methodology to help each pilot progress from its current stage to the next or further, adapting the methodology as needed to suit the cross-border context of the pilots. The pilots will benefit from an assessment at the beginning of the implementation phase to determine under which stage their community currently is.

Energy community stages according to the LICHT approach of REScoop.eu

Energy Community Stages



Energy community stages according to the LICHT approach of REScoop.eu

Energy Community Stages I-III



Energy Community Stages IV-VI



2. INFORMATION ON THE CALL FOR PILOT ACTIONS

2.1 Objectives of the call

The objective of this call is to initiate the implementation of seven pilot actions to develop cross-border or quasi cross-border energy communities. The call is open both to established cross-border or quasi cross-border energy communities that wish to further develop their project and to new initiatives seeking to explore the process of setting up and growing their community.

Through this Call for Proposals “Cross-Border Energy Communities Pilot Actions”, 7 pilot actions will be selected. This initiative is managed by AEBR and MOT, and funded by DG REGIO, European Commission.

Successful applicants will be notified in January 2026.

The implementation period for the pilot actions will be 12 months, from 1 March 2026 to 28 February 2027.

During the implementation period, the pilot actions selected will **produce a roadmap identifying the progress in the establishment and development** of their cross-border or quasi cross-border energy community.

Considering that setting up an operational energy community responds to a complex and lengthy process, especially in a cross-border setting, the pilot actions selected are **not expected to conclude the establishment** of a cross-border energy community within the implementation period of this pilot action (12 months). Pilots may focus on the initial stages of a cross-border energy community development, with the goals of fostering awareness and the emergence of cross-border, or quasi cross-border energy communities, for instance.

The roadmap will identify the **progress from one stage of the LICHT methodology to another**, the full completion of a stage or, for Q-CBEC, the strengthening of the cross-border component of their energy community. The roadmap will also detail the **overall process** on how to develop and establish in the long run (beyond the pilot action) their cross-border or quasi cross-border energy community.

The roadmap may:

- initiate or consolidate a stage of development of a CBEC or Q-CBEC, either building awareness, supporting its emergence or studying its development;
- plan the chosen implementation of the stage of development of a cross-border or quasi cross-border energy community, either building awareness, supporting its emergence or its development;
- reflect on the governance and/or a legal form of a cross-border or quasi cross-border energy community and provide or reinforce a partnership agreement.

Building on the Handbook on Cross-border Energy Communities, the pilot actions will also improve the knowledge on the relevant actors to be involved, on the obstacles encountered by the beneficiaries, ways of overcoming them, and best practices on the establishment and operation of (quasi)cross-border energy communities.

2.2 Technical and financial support for selected applicants

The selected applicants will receive

- Technical assistance: guidance for developing the communities;
- Financial support: a sub-grant to implement the necessary tasks for developing the (quasi) cross-border energy community.

2.2.1 Technical assistance

REScoop.eu, expert in the field of Energy communities, will guide selected applicants in the development of the cross-border and quasi cross-border energy communities.

Each pilot action will benefit from tailored assistance and help from REScoop.eu and national experts within its network to set up the aforementioned roadmap. REScoop.eu will accompany the pilots in preparing the roadmap for the expected development of the cross border or quasi cross-border energy community they envisage, addressing potential obstacles, suggesting best practices and identifying relevant actors.

The aim of the technical support is to enable the pilots to start or consolidate the stages of development of their (quasi) cross-border energy communities. It will follow the main implementation framework of the LICHT model (see definitions in 1.3 of this Call) and will be adapted to the advancement of each (quasi) cross-border energy community.

The beneficiaries are expected to actively participate in the following four sets of activities provided by [REScoop.eu](https://rescoop.eu):

- Needs analysis and stakeholder mapping.** As a starting point, each pilot action will benefit from **an onboarding interview** with REScoop.eu to discuss the technical assistance goals and to establish a stakeholder mapping of their community environment. The interview will allow REScoop.eu to assess what is the current development stage of the cross-border energy community and what are its needs. The assessment and the stakeholder mapping will guide the subsequent engagement process. The next three sets of activities organized by REScoop.eu to support the pilot actions will be organized accordingly.
- Workshop support.** Each pilot will be involved in two in-person workshops which will be designed based on the needs identified during the onboarding interview. These two workshops will be based on the model developed through the LICHT methodology and will be organised in partnership by REScoop.eu's team, local experts and the beneficiaries. The workshops will be an opportunity to identify the next steps of the community's projects.

The topics of the workshops may include, but are not limited to:

Partnership to structure or strengthen the CBEC partnership through a tailored approach. For instance, if the project is in its initial phase, it may focus on identifying relevant partners and structuring the collaboration to align with the expectations of a CBEC. At a more advanced stage of the project, efforts may concentrate on broadening and reinforcing the partnership, with a particular focus on enhancing its cross-border scope and citizen engagement.

Project development to identify and develop potential projects across the border or to foster existing cross-border approaches. For example, in the early stages, pilot partners may work together to define the project's scope, assess shared needs or conduct technical studies, laying out the necessary steps for implementation. At a more advanced stage, pilots may focus on addressing practical challenges, such as legal, technical, administrative or financial obstacles, or developing a financing strategy, etc.

Projects at any stage, whether in early phases or well advanced, will receive support tailored to their specific challenges.

- c) **Dedicated technical support:** In addition to the workshops, the pilot actions will benefit from 8 days of **bespoke technical support** on the development of their cross-border energy communities. This support will allow for a cross-border specific analysis to enable the successful implementation of the pilots and the achievements of their goals step-by-step.
- d) **Peers-to-peers webinars.** Furthermore, to enable knowledge exchange, peer-learning and the identification of best practices among the seven pilot actions, a series of three **webinars** will be organized by REScoop.eu, AEBR, MOT and the European Commission. These webinars will address common aspects of the experience of developing Cross-border Energy Communities and will include an expert presentation followed by breakout rooms for peer-to-peer exchange. The topics of the webinars will be agreed on with the pilots and the European Commission. They could reflect on best practices, provide examples, and tackle the cross-border issues of collaboration models, investments and financing, for instance.

2.2.2 Financial support

Complementary to the technical assistance, the selected applicants will receive sub-grants of up to 15,000.00 € to facilitate the implementation of a cross-border or quasi cross-border energy community, produce the roadmap and strengthen the cooperation among stakeholders in the cross-border region.

The financial support can be used for different types of activities that contribute to the elaboration of a roadmap.

Details on eligible activities can be found under '3.3 Eligible activities'.

Details on pre-conditions and payments arrangements of the financial support can be found under '5.Funding'.

2.3 Contracting authorities of the call

The contracting authorities for the call for pilot actions are the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) - Enscheder Strasse, 362, 48599 Gronau (Germany) and the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT) - 38 rue des Bourdonnais, 75001 Paris (France).

Association of European Border Regions (AEBR)

AEBR represents border and cross-border regions, acting as a fundamental platform to promote and advise local, regional, national and European policymakers on cross-border cooperation related issues. With a network of 100 members in Europe and partners in other continents, AEBR is dedicated to support local and regional authorities in best utilising their opportunities for development through cross-border cooperation.

Through its many projects and initiatives, AEBR acts as a fundamental platform to promote and advise local, regional, national and European policymakers on cross-border cooperation-related issues.

AEBR's objectives include:

- Highlighting border and cross-border regions' role in the political landscape;
- Representing border regions' common interests;
- Enhancing cooperation between border regions throughout Europe;
- Promoting exchanges of experience, information and solutions to common obstacles.

Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT)

MOT is an association with a network of over 90 members representing local, regional and national authorities as well as cross-border structures, associations, networks, chamber of commerce and States. Through its network, MOT facilitates structured dialogue between national and European authorities and local and regional players.

MOT's mission is to assist project developers to promote the interests of cross-border territories and to facilitate the networking of players and the sharing of experiences. It acts as the interface between the different stakeholders in order to find cross-border solutions at the right levels. It offers:

- technical engineering at the service of (cross-)border territories;
- a resource centre and a networking platform;
- the promotion of cross-border issues.

Dedicated email address of the CBEC initiative for the purpose of this call for pilot actions:
cbec@mot.asso.fr

3. ELIGIBILITY

3.1 Eligible entities – who can apply?

Eligible actors are any stakeholders involved in or willing to develop a CBEC and Q-CBEC.

These may include:

- a) cross-border entities (EGTCs, Euroregions or similar cross-border structures with legal personality);
- b) local and regional authorities of border regions;
- c) citizen cooperatives with legal personality, NGOs, associations or SMEs.

For applicants under b) and c), the application needs to involve a partner from the other side of the same border, whose territory is in coherence with the geographical definition set by Eurostat in the NUTS classification. The partner must also be an eligible entity.

There is no maximum limit to the number of partners, though the feasibility of the proposals should be taken into account when defining the consortia.

A single natural person cannot be, in any case, considered as a partner.

In the frame of the call, the applicants need to follow the EU definition of an Energy Community.

3.2 Geographical scope

Applicants must be located in a NUTS3 land border regions of an European Economic Area (EEA) member state⁶ or Switzerland.

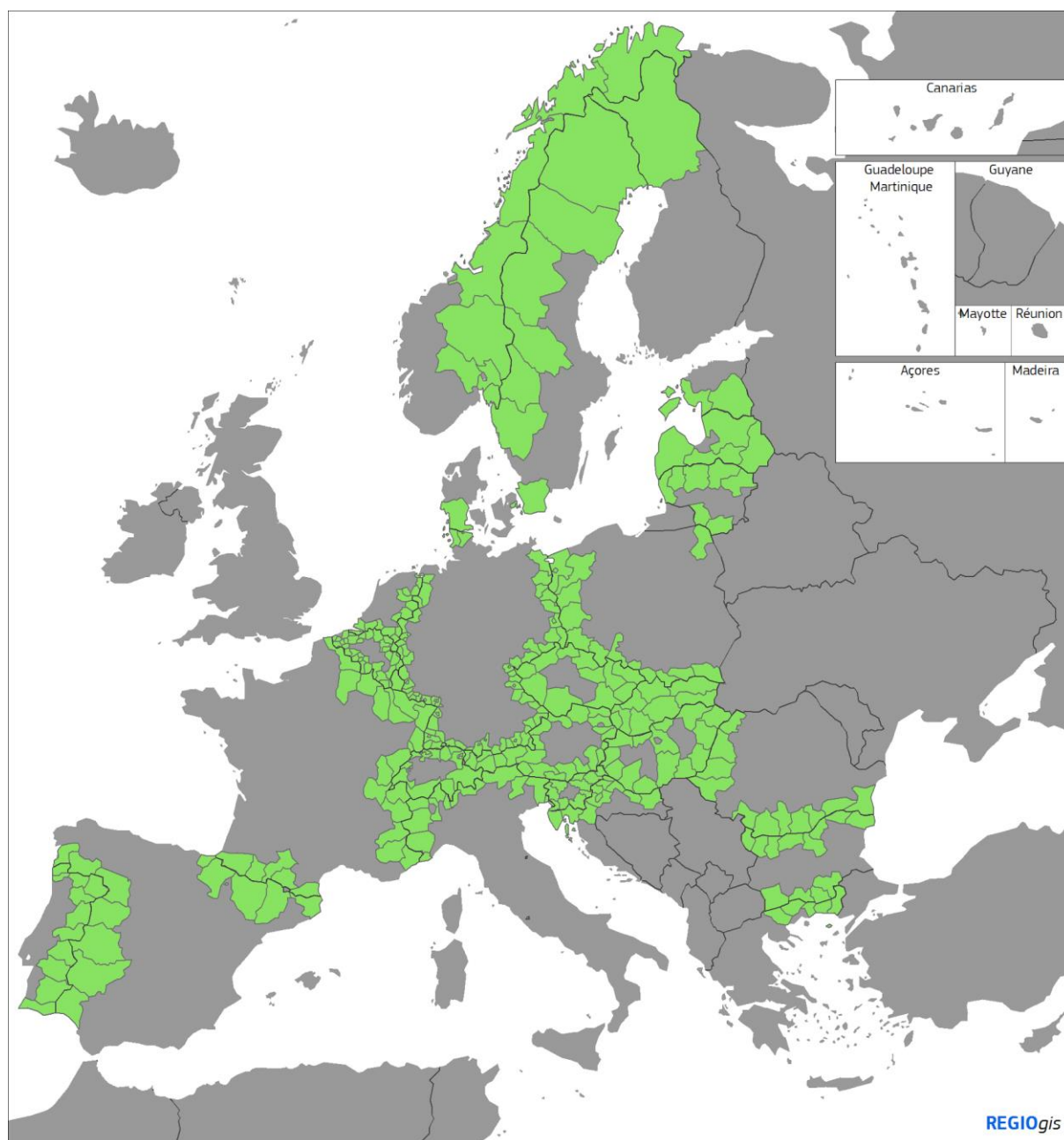
The list of eligible territories is detailed under the tab “List of eligible Border Regions” accessible on the [border-energy-communities.eu website](https://border-energy-communities.eu).

This call for proposals is focused on **land border regions**. However, proposals involving (quasi) cross-border energy communities or installations along maritime border regions⁷ may be considered if they demonstrably align with the core objectives and eligibility criteria outlined in this call.

The map below illustrates the geographical scope of the applicants.

⁶ EEA countries include the 27 EU Member States, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

⁷ Maritime border regions are defined as ‘border coastlines’, i.e., coastlines at less than 150 kilometres straight-line distance from an overseas coastline.



NUTS3 border regions along internal land borders amongst EEA member states and Switzerland, including NUTS3 regions which have at least 50% of their population living within 25km of the border

0 500 km

© EuroGeographics Association for the administrative boundaries

3.3 Eligible activities

Beneficiaries will carry out activities meant to support cooperation among stakeholders in cross-border regions on developing a (quasi) cross-border energy community.

Eligible activities to be developed through the pilot actions may include, but not limited to:

Stakeholder Engagement

- Engage citizens and local stakeholders in cross-border energy initiatives through outreach, consultation, and participatory planning processes.
- Launch public awareness campaigns to educate communities and businesses on the benefits of the (quasi) cross-border energy community and encourage citizen participation.
- Partner with local and regional energy agencies, Distribution System Operators (DSOs), and other key stakeholders to assess existing infrastructure and align new projects with ongoing efforts in the region.
- Develop training programs for public officials, technical experts, and citizens involved to build expertise in cross-border energy solutions and regulatory alignment.

Legal and Governance

- Conduct feasibility studies to determine the most suitable legal and governance structure for a CBEC.
- Draft or implement a cooperation agreement between relevant regional and national authorities to establish a clear framework for cooperation.
- Prepare the necessary steps to set up a legal entity establishing a CBEC.

Technical and Spatial Planning

- Map energy demand, supply, infrastructure, and renewable resource potential across the border region.
- Prepare spatial and technical documentation (e.g., permit requests, grid access applications, technical specs).

Infrastructure Development

- Design and plan cross-border infrastructure projects, such as district heating networks or integrated energy distribution routes between municipalities.
- Plan the set up and connection of energy infrastructures
- Set up shared services and infrastructure for electro-mobility (e.g., cross-border car sharing, e-bike rental, charging stations).

Financing and investment

- Explore and identify public and private funding sources to finance the CBEC's development.
- Develop joint business models for energy communities, including frameworks for community-based electricity sharing, not-for-profit commercialization, or cooperative ownership.

- Explore opportunities for joint renewable energy generation, distribution, and sharing, particularly solar, wind, biomass, and hydrogen-based systems.

Examples of activities organised in the case studies presented in the Handbook and during other initiatives can be found [here](#).

4. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

4.1 Content of the application

Each application will illustrate a roadmap for developing a cross-border or quasi cross-border energy community. To that aim, the application should provide a description of the current state of a (quasi) cross-border energy community and the way it could be further developed, including:

- the title of the pilot action to be developed
- the type of energy community (REC, CEC, quasi or cross-border)
- a description of energy and engagement activities concerned
- the data of the partners involved
- the envisaged legal form for the partnership (if relevant)
- the organisation / governance of the project
- its current status at the time of application (planned, implemented)
- the territories involved, its location
- its cross-border dimension (current, aimed at)
- the motivation to apply and the main aim of the envisaged (quasi) cross-border energy community
- the calendar of proposed activities (template provided)
- the necessary budget to develop a pilot action with a justification of the activities (template provided)
- the applicant should try to identify the stage of its activities at the launch of the pilot (Licht methodology see page 9)

Pilot actions to be supported shall be of good quality, designed and implemented with the involvement of key stakeholders and result oriented.

Applicants must submit these documents as proof of the applicant's legal status and commitment:

- Documents proving the legal status of the applicant(s) – template provided
- Declaration(s) by the partner(s) if applicable – template provided

4.2 How to apply

Each application should address one specific pilot action. Applications must be completed with the required attachments.

Application form and its required annexes (calendar, budget, declaration of partnership templates) are available on the CBEC website: <https://border-energy-communities.eu/call-for-proposals/>.

All applicants must fill in the application form, preferably in English or French⁸. Applicants are invited to utilise the EU's [eTranslation Tool](#), a free of charge online tool to translate information from your mother tongue into English or French, if needed.

Applications must be submitted via an online form available at: <https://border-energy-communities.eu/call-for-proposals/>.

Annexes can also be uploaded and attached to the application. These could be completed by a map presenting the intervention area, a graph, an infographic, etc. The type and size of the accepted files to be annexed are specified in the dedicated webpage.

Please refer to the "Frequently Asked Questions" on the website, which contain detailed instructions on how to fill in the online application form and detailed information.

The application forms will be received in electronic format, and confirmation of receipt will be sent to the applicants.

The final deadline to submit the application form is 21 November 2025, 18:00 CEST.

5. FUNDING

5.1 Payment arrangements

The sub-grants are split in two instalments:

- 50% to be received as pre-financing 15 days after signature of the sub-grant agreement between AEBC, MOT and the beneficiary;
- 50% to be received at the end of the implementation period, on condition of the approval of the final report, as defined in section 6 of the present call.

5.2 Eligible expenditure

The grant shall be used to finance as eligible expenditure:

- Sub-contracting cost for the action (for example for procurement of external services and expertise);
- Travel and accommodation costs and corresponding per diem for the people involved in the pilot action;

⁸ Applications can otherwise be completed in all 24 official EU languages, Icelandic and Norwegian (Bokmål). If applications are received in a language other than English, they may be translated by the Contracting Authority in English using the [eTranslation Tool](#), an online machine translation service provided by the European Commission. In case the automated translation is needed, the English version obtained with this tool will be considered as being the original and will be the only one considered for the selection and awarding process.

- Purchase of services and equipment for the implementation of the pilot action (including interpretation, catering, communication for meetings and events, translations, preparation of communication outputs, and specific equipment for the development of a cross-border or quasi cross-border energy community);
- Staff costs based on real costs, based on the number of working hours that the beneficiary's employees need for implementation of the pilot action under the following conditions:
 - A beneficiary can report the hours of an employee working under an employment contract or equivalent.
 - A beneficiary cannot declare more than 1,720 hours per full-time employee per year. This maximum number of hours is reduced to a pro rata of hours for part-time employees. If the same employee works on several projects, the sum of productive hours declared for the employee in these projects cannot exceed 1,720 hours.
 - A beneficiary can report only actual (productive) hours that were worked and dedicated to project-related tasks. Non-productive hours relating to holidays, sick leave, maternity leave, etc. are not eligible.
 - Beneficiaries will have to deliver to AEER and MOT an employment confirmation and reports confirming the number of hours worked for the pilot action for each person for whom they report staff costs.
- An overhead of indirect costs up to a maximum of 7% of the direct costs.

6. OBLIGATIONS OF THE AWARDED BENEFICIARIES

Beneficiaries must understand and observe the following preconditions:

- All expenditures are essential for the pilot action's implementation and would not have been incurred if the pilot action had not been carried out (value added);
- All expenditure must comply with the principles of efficiency, economy and effectiveness, and therefore the resources used in the pursuit of the beneficiary's activities will be made available in due time, in appropriate quantity and quality, and at the best price-quality ratio (principle of economy);
- Beneficiaries ensure the best relationship between the resources employed, the activities undertaken and the achievement of objectives (principle of efficiency);
- The objectives that the pilot action partners pursue are achieved through the activities undertaken (principle of effectiveness);
- All expenditure is generated and paid by the beneficiary(ies) during the eligible implementation period of the pilot action, which will be indicated in the sub-grant agreement;
- No other EU funds have contributed towards the financing of the same expenditure (prohibition of double funding);
- Relevant public procurement rules are observed.

Beneficiaries must collect and deliver to AEBR and MOT the following documents to prove costs reported:

- Procurement documentation;
- Invoices (or equivalent accounting documents);
- Proof of delivery of services;
- Payment proof.

The beneficiaries will be requested to submit a progress report and a final report to monitor the progress on project achievements and expenditure.

The progress report will be due between months six and seven of the 12-months-implementation period, while the final report will be due one month after the closure of the implementation period.

AEBR and MOT will provide a template for the reports.

AEBR and MOT will organise individual kick off meetings with the beneficiaries at the beginning of the implementation period and individual interim meetings in the five months of the implementation period.

All communication between AEBR, MOT and the beneficiaries will be in English, as well as the reporting.

Beneficiaries selected for the implementation of a pilot action will be required to respect public procurement rules applicable in their country if they fulfil the definition of contracting authority according to the relevant national and European legislation pertaining to procurement.

7. SELECTION AND AWARDING PROCESSES

Following submission, each application is subject to a selection process with the following steps:

1. Eligibility check
2. Quality assessment by AEBR and MOT
3. Validation by the European Commission's Border Focal Point.

7.1 Eligibility check

Upon closure of the call, AEBR and MOT will carry out an eligibility check on all submitted applications for pilot actions.

The purpose of the eligibility check is to verify compliance of the received applications and their annexes with the formal eligibility criteria.

The general eligibility criteria are the following:

- The application has been submitted electronically via the dedicated webpage before the deadline indicated in the present call for proposals, and filled preferably in English or French⁹;
- The application form is completely filled in, including all annexes;
- The partners correspond to the applicant's profile detailed under section 3.1 and 3.2 of the present call for proposals and are located on both sides of the national border, or the applicant is a cross-border structure with legal personality.

During the eligibility check, in case any applicant's status as an eligible candidate is uncertain, AEBR and MOT will seek clarifications with all relevant co-applicants to determine eligibility. Applicants must provide clarification within five working days.

If any of the eligibility criteria set out above are not met, the application will be deemed ineligible, and no further assessment will be undertaken.

Applicants who have not passed the eligibility check and who wish to return a reply to the notification email of being deemed ineligible shall do so within ten working days.

7.2 Quality assessment

Applications that are declared eligible will be subject to a quality assessment carried out by AEBR and MOT.

AEBR and MOT carry out the quality assessment of the application according to the criteria presented here below.

To ensure equal treatment of all applicants, AEBR and MOT will not request any additional clarifications during the quality assessment process.

AEBR and MOT will rank the proposals on the basis of the quality assessment and score each application. If needed, AEBR and MOT may receive technical assistance by the European Commission's DG REGIO to finalise the selection.

The final validation is made by the European Commission's Border Focal Point.

Each eligible applicant receives the assessment sheet summarising the assessment outcomes of their application after the selection of the applications, regardless of whether their pilot action is successful or not.

⁹ Applications can otherwise be completed in all 24 official EU languages, Icelandic and Norwegian (Bokmål). If applications are received in a language other than English, they may be translated by the Contracting Authority in English using the [eTranslation Tool](#), an online machine translation service provided by the European Commission. In case the automated translation is needed, the English version obtained with this tool will be considered as being the original and will be the only one considered for the selection and awarding process.

7.3 Awarding criteria

Applications will be evaluated according to the following awarding criteria:

Evaluation Criteria	Score
Relevance	
1. The proposal is aligned with the definition of cross-border or (quasi) cross-border energy community.	1-5
2. The proposal offers potential to increase cross-border cooperation in this field.	1-5
3. The proposal's purpose is to provide environmental, economic or social community benefits to the (quasi) cross-border energy community's members and shareholders rather than financial profit.	1-5
Quality	
4. The proposal aims at developing a roadmap to initiate or strengthen the development of a (quasi) cross-border energy community.	1-5
5. The proposal is clear, and includes a well-defined concept, methodology, and organisation of activities with detailed allocation of resources for implementing the pilot action.	1-5
6. The proposal reflects a strong partnership , through both its community approach and its cross-border dimension.	1-5
Impact	
7. The proposal highlights the expected long-term impact of the pilot action.	1-5
8. The proposal demonstrates the replicability potential of the pilot action.	1-5

7.4 Selection process

Each criterion will receive a score of 1 to 5. The overall score of each pilot action proposal will determine the selection.

The list of pilot actions to be selected will be established in the following way:

- Proposals must score at least 50% in each criterion block (Relevance, Quality, Impact), and the overall total score must be above the threshold of 60% of the potential maximum score (24/40 points).
- Proposals scoring at least 60% of the potential maximum added score will be ranked according to their overall score, and the 7 proposals with the highest points attributed will be selected and awarded the sub-grant.
- Proposals will be included in the list of pilot actions proposed to receive a grant until the limit of the maximum available budget of 105,000.00 € is reached. In case at least 7 pilot actions have been selected and in case the total budget is not used up and

sufficient for a further pilot action, the next pilot action with highest score will be selected.

If a selected applicant withdraws its proposal from the pilot action award, they must notify AEBR and MOT in writing within ten working days after receiving the notification of selection. Upon receiving the withdrawal notice, AEBR will reassign the sub-grant to the next highest-scoring applicant who meets the threshold requirements.

8. KEY DATES

What	When
Opening of the Call for proposals CBEC' pilot actions	10 July 2025
Closing of the Call for proposals CBEC' pilot actions closes	21 November 2025, 18:00 CEST
Eligibility check	24 November 2025 to 5 December 2025
Selection of pilot actions	December 2025
Results and contracting of the awarded pilot actions	January 2026
Implementation period of the pilot actions	1st March 2026 to 28th February 2027

9. HOW TO GET ASSISTANCE

AEBR and MOT's staff will be ready to assist applicants with any technical and procedural questions they may have while the call for pilot actions is open.

More information can be found on CBEC website: <https://border-energy-communities.eu/>.

A set of FAQs is available online, which will be updated regularly with practical questions posed by applicants through the functional project's mailbox (cbec@mot.asso.fr).

For questions, please contact the help desk at:

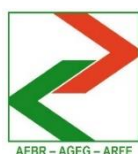
Email: cbec@mot.asso.fr

Phone number: + 33 7 44 31 62 45

Book an individual call with a team member: cbec@mot.asso.fr



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