

Press release

The impact of multi-level climate and energy dialogue on EU Climate and Energy Goals

Brussels, March 6, 2025. Together we are stronger. LIFE-funded project NECPlatform concludes after 30 months, demonstrating the key role multi-level climate and energy dialogues have in reaching the EU Climate and Energy Goals. A final high-level event in Brussels, organised over 2 days, gathers policymakers and other stakeholders from several Member States, to share lessons learnt and see how to make the EU legislation more ambitious.

Multi-level governance promotes collaborative decision-making, inclusiveness, and the effective use of resources and expertise across different levels and sectors of governments and society. As requested in [Article 11 of the Governance Regulation](#), Member States were to implement multi-level governance processes when designing, implementing and monitoring national energy and climate policy (namely Climate and Energy Dialogues), bringing together relevant stakeholders (Ministries in charge of NECP, national association of local and regional authorities, national and regional energy agencies, civil society organisations, business sector, academia, etc.) to ensure that energy and climate policies were co-created and consistent at all governance levels and amongst different sectors of society. The objective was to make them a privileged fora to discuss and deliver drafts in 2023 and final updated NECPs in 2024, and in the definition of a Monitoring and Verification system to report on them until 2030.

The implementation of CEDs in six Member States

The [NECPlatform LIFE-funded project](#) was launched in 2022 to support six EU Member States (Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Italy, Portugal and Romania) in setting-up and managing permanent multi-level Climate and Energy Dialogue Platforms, helping them comply with Article 11 by fostering vertical and horizontal integration of energy and climate policies. The platforms had the form of roundtables and met between 4 and 6 times in the six countries since 2022. They brought together representatives from national, sub-national authorities and other relevant stakeholders, such as representatives from civil society, academia, industry, financial sector, NGOs, etc. Their purpose was to manage, in a collaborative process, the design, implementation and monitoring of climate and energy policies to make them coherent across levels of governance (e.g. European, national and local) and areas of competence.

“Local and regional authorities are key for the implementation of energy and climate policies. However, very few Member States still involve them in the various legislation planning, including that of preparing NECPs, and even fewer build on an established multilevel dialogue for this process. The experience of the project confirms the relevance of such an approach. In Romania, the dialogues have led to a readjustment of the national objectives and are well on the way of removing obstacles to the creation of citizen energy communities. In Croatia, they have led to in-depth discussions on the effectiveness of financial aid programmes. The French regions have initiated regional COP processes to take ownership of and distribute national objectives.” – Thibaut Maraquin, Project Manager at Energy Cities and project co-coordinator.

The importance of multilevel dialogues in the coming years

EU legislation, and particularly the European Green Deal, is increasingly recognising the essential role of regional and local authorities in meeting the objective set by the European Climate Law. The revised Directives and Regulations of the “Fit for 55” package, such as the [Energy Efficiency Directive](#), [the Energy Performance of Building Directive](#) or [the Renewable Energy Directive](#), reinforced or created new obligations for local governments, especially regarding planning aspects. They also recognised their privileged position of proximity to citizens and knowledge of their territories.

“Some of the NECPlatform project experiences clearly show that these multilevel dialogues are practical solutions for speeding up the implementation of the Green Deal and removing existing obstacles. The project partners managed to overcome obstacles, from political crises to facing difficulties in gathering various stakeholders, and the experience gained has been shared through a Peer-to-peer learning programme running from January 2025 to end of March 2025.” – says Giulia Pizzini, IEECP, the project co-coordinator.

The programme supports organisations from six other States in gaining a better understanding of the legislative framework and the possible structures that the Climate and Energy Dialogue Platform can have. This includes not only all steps necessary to map and engage relevant stakeholders but also strategies to ensure continuity, find appropriate governance forms, build and keep a trusting relationship with national governments. The final outcome will be policy recommendations in re-shaping the Governance Regulation.

Multi-Level Governance: A Key to EU Climate and Energy Goals

Why is it vital to keep investing in multilevel governance to advance the Green Deal? On March 18, [the final event of the NECPlatform project](#) will share the key outcomes from the six EU Member States setting up Climate and Energy Dialogue platforms and discuss challenges and features for success of multi-level governance. It will also highlight the need to keep investing in multi-level governance in the coming years as part of future plans and regulations. More information about the programme and registration [here](#).

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More about the project: <https://energy-cities.eu/project/life-necplatform/>