

PRESS RELEASE

GEODE Energy Communities Factsheet: Showcasing Best Practices and Recommendations to Empower DSOs as Key Enablers

Brussels, 3 February 2025 – **GEODE, the voice of local energy distributors across Europe, is proud to present its latest factsheet “[Energy Communities: A DSO Approach](#)”.** This publication, developed by experts from GEODE Working Group Customer Dialogue, addresses the role of local Distribution System Operators (DSOs) within Energy Communities (ECs). By offering actionable recommendations and showcasing best practices and first-hand experiences from our members, the factsheet provides valuable guidance on empowering DSOs as key enablers of ECs.

Amid the ongoing transformation of the energy system to phase out fossil fuels, ECs play a pivotal role in driving the energy transition. Serving as facilitators of collective and citizen-led actions, ECs facilitate the reshaping of energy systems into decentralized structures that prioritise community engagement.

While DSOs are primarily responsible for the day-to-day operation and maintenance of distribution networks, they can also help unlocking the full potential and benefits of ECs by ensuring reliable grid operation and facilitating the integration of Renewable Energy Sources (RES) into distribution grids. Their contributions also include enhancing grid resilience, facilitating the implementation of demand response programs and energy management system as well as providing technical support and guidance.

To empower DSOs as key enablers of ECs, the factsheet proposes four actionable recommendations to support enhancing their integration:

1. **Enhance Grid Infrastructure:** Upgrade and digitalise distribution networks to accommodate decentralised RES and tackle challenges like congestion and voltage fluctuations.
2. **Invest in Smart Grid Technologies:** Deploy advanced smart meters and digital platforms for real-time data collection and ensure the interoperability needed to support ECs energy setups. Additionally, implement automation for greater grid monitoring and observability.
3. **Foster Consumer Engagement:** Simplify ECs participation through the creation of user-friendly platforms, provide transparent energy data as well as accessible educational resources and technical guidance.
4. **Collaborate with Stakeholders:** To realise the full potential of the energy transition, collaboration between ECs and DSOs is crucial. Supporting factors include ECs partnership with local energy companies and third-party entities, the establishment of coordination centers or advisory offices, and the use of existing local distribution grid.

This publication also showcases best practices and experiences from GEODE members to guide DSOs in becoming key enablers of ECs through the provision of additional services. While Finnish DSO Elenia excels in customer education and user-friendly platforms, Germany’s Stadtwerke Schwerte fosters public acceptance of renewables by engaging citizens in energy cooperatives. Austrian DSO-driven Energy Data Exchange (EDA) portal simplifies the process of creating or joining an EC. In Spain, the Enercoop Group supported the development of the largest EC, COMPTTEM, and ELECSUM, part of Electra Caldense, plays a key role in managing energy sharing projects and advancing digital solutions for ECs.



A dedicated webinar to present the Factsheet on March 14th, from 9:30-11:30. The agenda and registration form will be shared in the coming weeks.

About GEODE:

GEODE is the premium European association representing local electricity and gas distribution networks across the continent committed to sustainable, efficient and reliable management of the backbone of the energy system - the grids. Thanks to the technical expertise of its members, GEODE's mission is to pilot the energy transition towards decentralised, decarbonised and digitalised energy systems.

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