



Call for proposals

Call No. 2 (May – July 2026)



Co-funded by
the European Union

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1. General information

1.1 About the European Energy Communities Facility

The European Energy Communities Facility (ENERCOM Facility) is an EU-funded project that aims to empower and support the development of energy communities across Europe. It will support at least 140 energy communities in developing viable business plans through providing lump-sum grants and a tailored capacity-building programme. The project covers the 27 EU Member States, Iceland, Moldova, North Macedonia and Ukraine.

Managed by an international consortium of [experienced organisations](#), the ENERCOM Facility is supported by a network of [29 national experts](#). These experts actively promote the initiative and guide energy communities through the various stages of the project in their respective countries.

The ENERCOM Facility contributes to the ambitious EU climate goals by fostering local and collective action towards a fair, inclusive and sustainable energy transition.

This initiative, co-funded by the European Union under the [LIFE Programme](#), was launched in September 2024 and will last until February 2028.

1.2 Objective

The context for energy communities (ECs) has significantly changed since the beginning of this decade. Recognising the role of citizens and other local actors in the energy transition, the EU created definitions for energy communities in various legal frameworks, which required national governments to set up supporting frameworks to promote the creation and growth of such initiatives.

Despite this opportunity, energy communities across the EU continue to face significant challenges. These include for instance complex administrative procedures and a lack of understanding or compliance from key system players such as public administrations, financing institutions, distribution system operators, and utilities. These obstacles often lead to delays in the implementation of community-led energy projects.

One of the biggest hurdles for ECs across the EU is securing financing. Many rely on volunteer efforts until they generate revenue from their first project, making it difficult for them to access funding or develop robust business plans due to a lack of expertise and financial resources. Developing a viable business model is a crucial step in defining a community's vision and attracting financial support. The ENERCOM Facility was created to help close this gap.

The overall objective of the ENERCOM Facility is to reduce the financial risk associated with the pre-development phase of energy community projects by distributing lump-sum grants to at least 140 energy communities. The purpose of these grants is to allow communities to develop sound business plans that strengthen their financial and operational sustainability.

In addition, the Facility has created a **capacity-building programme** to accompany beneficiaries in developing and implementing a sound and impactful business plan. This programme consists of self-paced online learning modules covering the fundamentals of community energy, project scoping, governance, business plan analysis, and implementation strategy, complemented by live webinars where beneficiaries receive hands-on support and can exchange with experienced energy communities on their real-life experiences. Part of the Facility's capacity-building activities further include mapping, assessing and showcasing successful and replicable community energy initiatives and best practices across the EU, as well as mapping national legal frameworks, financial opportunities, and one-stop shops in target countries.

1.3 Why apply?

The ENERCOM Facility provides various benefits to energy communities in the EU, including but not limited to financial and capacity-building support. The visual below summarizes the services that the Facility will provide to its beneficiaries:

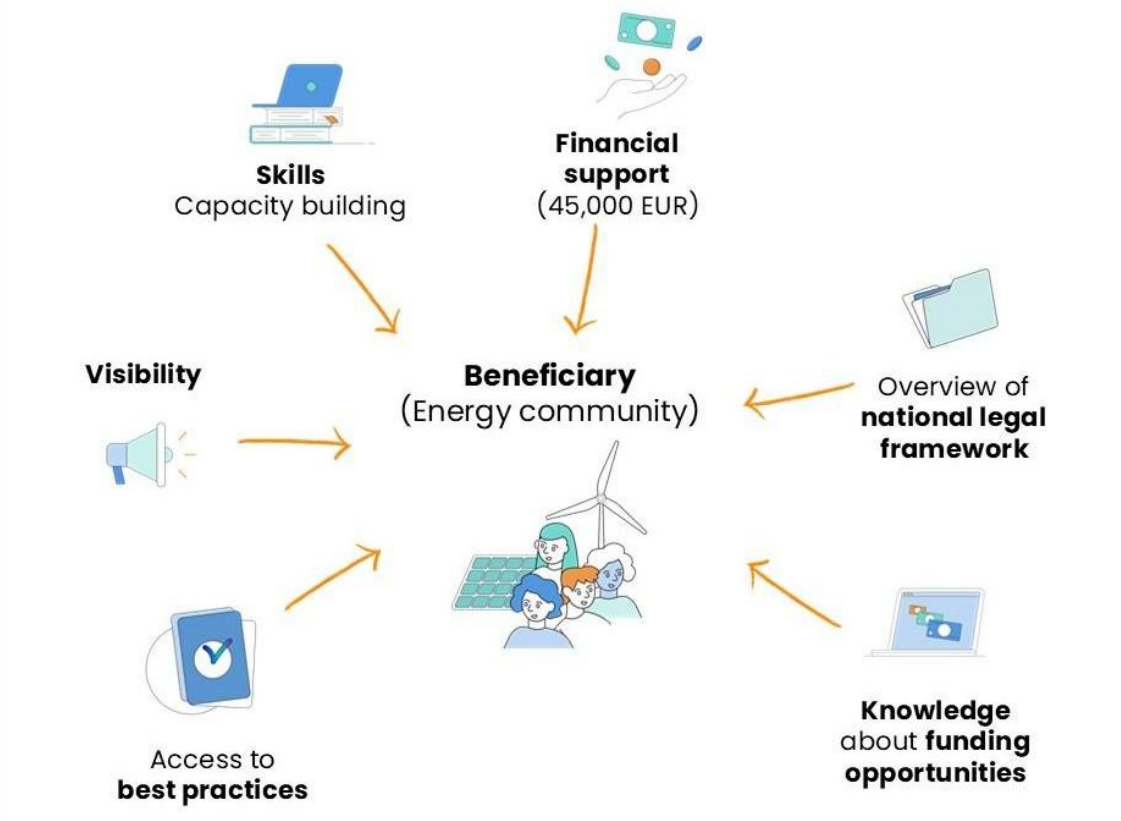


Figure 1 – Benefits of being selected as a beneficiary of the ENERCOM Facility

2. Support provided by the Facility

2.1 Financial support

2.1.1 Grant size

Each selected energy community will receive a lump-sum grant of EUR 45,000 to develop a business plan.

2.1.2 Total funding available

The total budget allocated for the Facility's second call is EUR 3,195,000.

To ensure fair competition, the eligible countries have been divided into two groups that take into consideration the current development stage of energy communities, number of existing initiatives, level of transposition of the EU definition and the availability of national support structures. These groups are referred to as "high-uptake" or "low-uptake" countries. Applicants will compete only within their respective group of countries as follows:

| Group ¹ | Countries ² |
|-----------------------|--|
| High-uptake countries | <i>Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Netherlands, Greece, Ireland, Portugal and Czechia.</i> |
| Low-uptake countries | <i>Bulgaria, Hungary, Estonia, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Cyprus, Finland, Luxembourg, Malta, Ukraine, Iceland, Moldova, North Macedonia</i> |

Table 1 – High-uptake and low-uptake countries under the ENERCOM Facility

Furthermore, the Facility has decided to award at least one grant per country across the two calls combined, as long as applicants pass the minimum threshold for being selected (see 3.3 – Evaluation criteria in this document for more information).

¹ The split between high- and low-uptake countries considers several factors, including the current development stage of energy communities, the number of existing initiatives, the degree of transposition of the REC/CEC definitions, the presence of an enabling legal and policy framework, and the availability of support structures such as one-stop-shops and national federations.

² Based on the budget allocated for the second call of the ENERCOM Facility, the indicative number of beneficiaries to be selected is 43 for high-uptake countries and 28 for low-uptake countries. Depending on the number and quality of applications received, the budget allocation between the two groups may be adjusted to better reflect demand and ensure optimal use of funds.

2.1.3 What can be financed

The grant provided under the ENERCOM Facility is intended to support all necessary activities for the development of a business plan for an energy community project. Eligible activities include, but are not limited to:

- Technical and financial assessments of the project,
- Pre-development tasks such as feasibility studies,
- Legal and administrative procedures, including obtaining permits and finalising legal agreements,
- Any preparatory work necessary to structure a solid and bankable business plan (including but not limited to community engagement and communications),
- Staff costs and/or external experts hired to support the development or implementation of the business plan.

2.1.4 What cannot be financed – Ineligible costs and activities

The following activities or technologies cannot be funded under the ENERCOM Facility grant:

- Infrastructure investments (e.g. purchase or installation of solar panels, batteries or other energy equipment)
- Purchase of equipment unrelated to the development of the business plan (e.g. laptops, vehicles)
- Fossil-fuel-based technologies

2.2 Capacity-building support

Beneficiaries of the ENERCOM Facility will have access to a comprehensive capacity-building programme, which is mandatory for all beneficiaries. Beneficiaries are expected to actively participate in the capacity-building activities as outlined below:

- **Online capacity-building programme:** Beneficiaries are expected to complete the programme and upload the capacity-building certificate when they submit the business plan. This is part of the requirements for the validation of the business plan. The programme is open to anyone and is available [here](#).
- **Live webinars:** Beneficiaries are expected to attend at least one webinar from each of the below series:
 - Series 1 – How to use the ENERCOM Facility's financial model. 3 webinars will be organised as part of this series. It is mandatory to attend at least one of these 3 webinars.

- Series 2 – Developing a funding pitch. 2 webinars will be organised as part of this series. It is mandatory to attend at least one of these webinars.
- Series 3 – Overcoming barriers to implementation of the business plan (tailored to the needs of the beneficiary cohort). 2 webinars will be organised as part of this series. It is mandatory to attend at least one of these webinars.

2.3 Requirements and expected outputs

1. Beneficiaries are expected to develop a comprehensive business plan for their energy community initiative, using the [templates](#) provided by the ENERCOM Facility. The business plan can be written in the national language. For the validation of the business plan, communities will be asked to submit, in addition to the business plan, an executive summary in English, via the ENERCOM Facility’s platform.
2. Beneficiaries also need to complete the capacity-building activities (see 2.2 in this document).
3. To ensure accountability and track progress on implementation, beneficiaries will be required to complete monitoring and impact measurement questionnaires during and after the submission of the business plan.

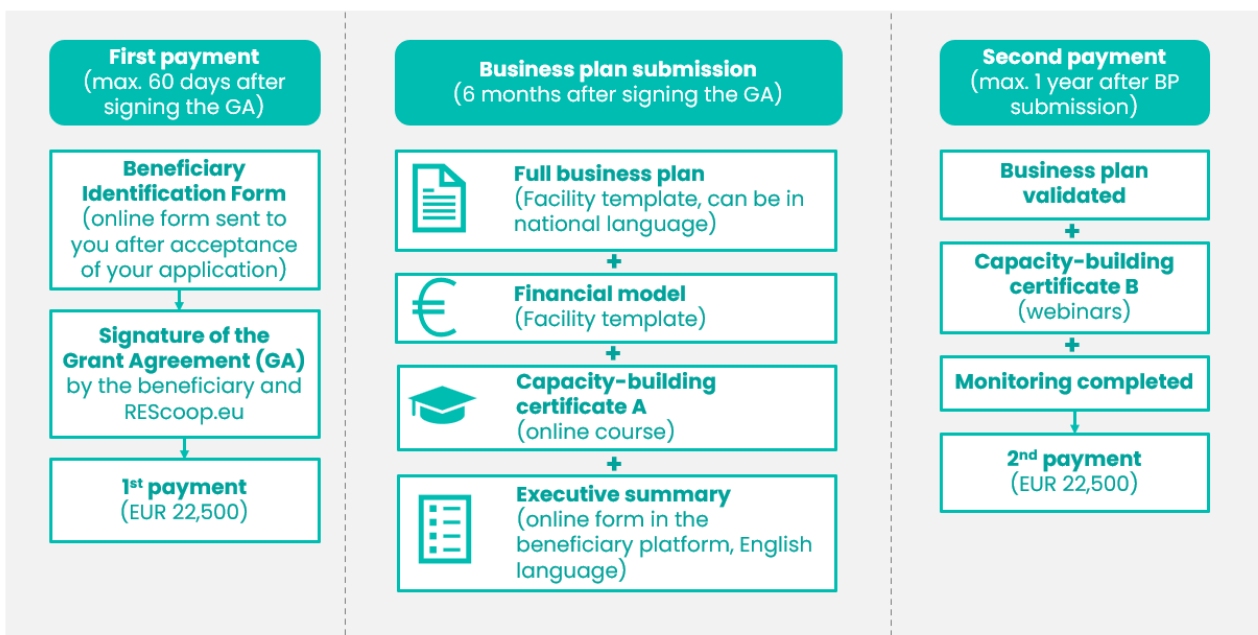


Figure 2 – ENERCOM Facility beneficiary requirements and outputs

4. Submission of the application form and evaluation process

3.1 Timeline

The second call of the ENERCOM Facility will open on 5 May 2026 and will close on 5 July 2026 at 17:00 (CET). The timeline below provides an overview of the key steps and milestones of the overall process for this call.

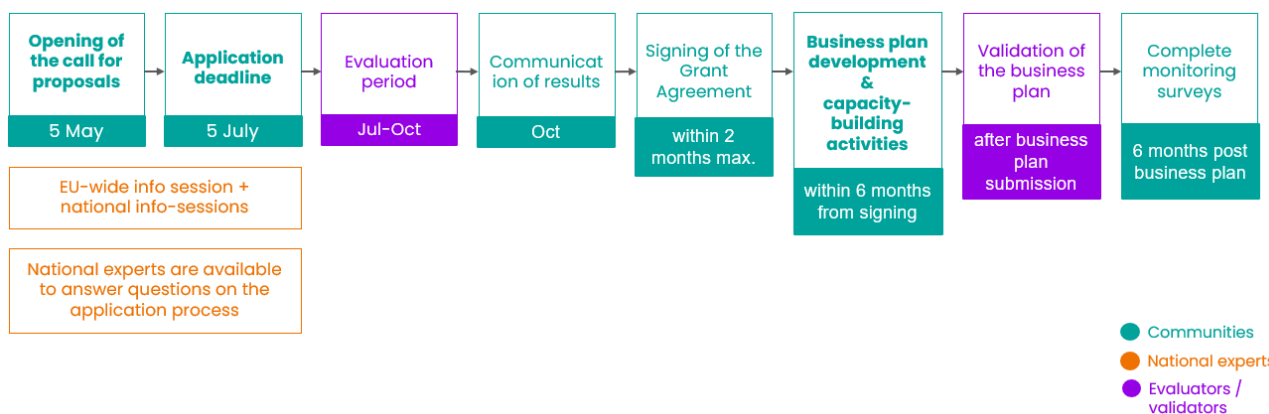


Figure 3 – ENERCOM Facility timeline of the 2nd call for proposals (May-July 2026)

3.2 Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for support under the ENERCOM Facility, applicants must meet all of the following criteria:

- **Be a legal entity:** The applicant must be legally established within one of the eligible countries listed below, possessing a distinct legal personality separate from its individual members (e.g. cooperative, SME, foundation, etc). **Proof of legal entity must be provided by uploading an official document to the application. This can be for example official association or business registry extracts, statutes with an official stamp, an extract from the national energy community register, or proof of registration with an energy regulator. Please note that statutes without an official stamp will not be accepted. If you have any doubts about whether the document you plan to use will be accepted, please contact your national expert.** The proof of legal entity can be submitted in national language.

- **Operate in an eligible country:** applicants must be based in one of the EU-27 Member States (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, France, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden), or Iceland, Ukraine, Moldova, and North Macedonia.
- **Comply with the EU definition of an Energy Community:** applicants must align with the following elements of the EU definition (further detail on the definitions is available in the [Guidelines for Applicants](#)):
 1. The community's activities must correspond to those that qualify as Energy Community activities under EU definitions.
 2. The membership structure must be consistent with the membership criteria outlined in EU definitions of Energy Communities.
 3. Participation must be open and voluntary, in line with EU standards.
 4. The governance model must reflect the governance principles defined in EU Energy Community regulations.
 5. The primary purpose of the Energy Community must be aligned with the purpose rules that, according to European definitions, qualify an initiative as an Energy Community.
- **Commit to take part in compulsory capacity-building activities and perform monitoring and reporting duties:** Applicants must agree to complete the monitoring and impact measurement questionnaires. To this end, applicants will be asked to submit a signed [Letter of Commitment](#) with their application. **Please note that the ENERCOM Facility will only evaluate applications that use the template of the Letter of commitment provided by the Facility.**
- **Use of the grant:** Applicants must confirm that they plan to use the grant only for the activities listed as eligible under 2.1.3 (What can be financed) in this document.

All the above criteria will be checked asking questions with the option to answer “yes” or “no”.

3.3 Evaluation criteria

Applications will be evaluated by two independent experts selected to prevent any potential conflict of interest. Evaluations will be conducted based on four predefined criteria. A maximum of 25 points will be awarded. Proposals will need to achieve both, an

overall minimum score of 15 points as well as the minimum threshold for each individual criterion to be part of the longlist of applications considered for funding.

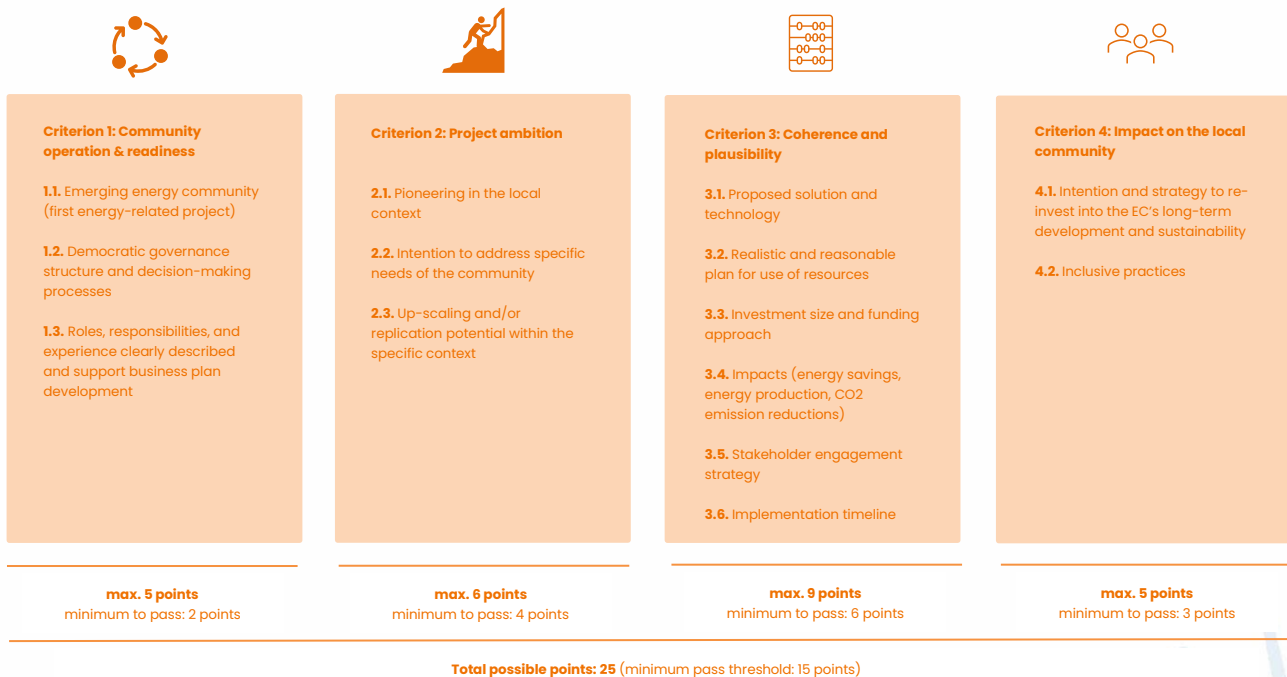


Figure 4 – ENERCOM Facility evaluation criteria

Feedback will be sent to applicants in the following format:

| | |
|--|---|
| Ineligible applications | Will receive a notification that their application was considered ineligible, explaining which eligibility criterion or criteria they did not meet. |
| Eligible applications not selected | Full evaluation report, including application score and feedback. |
| Eligible applications that were selected for the grant | Full evaluation report, including application score and feedback. |

Table 2 – Feedback provided to applicants under the ENERCOM Facility

3.4 How to apply

Applications must be submitted online via the ENERCOM Facility [website](#). The process consists of two steps:

1. **Eligibility self-check** – Applicants must first complete an automated self-assessment check which will determine their eligibility. The Facility's evaluators will review the validity of your self-assessment during the evaluation.

2. **Application form** – Only applicants who pass the eligibility self-check will be able to access and submit the full application form. **The application form must be submitted entirely in English to be evaluated. Only proof of legal existence can be uploaded in the local language.**

For more comprehensive information on the application process, form and required documentation, please consult the [Guidelines for Applicants](#).

3.5 Notification of results and signing of the grant agreement

All applicants will receive an email notification with individual feedback as described in section 3.3 of this document. The Facility aims to communicate the results by October.

Successful applicants will be prompted via an automatic notification to

1. Complete a Beneficiary Identification Form (BIF) within two weeks of notification. The information provided in the BIF will be used to generate the Grant Agreement.
2. Sign the grant agreement within two weeks of receiving it. The grant agreement must be signed by the community's legal representative. Upon uploading the signed agreement, the collaboration between the community and the Facility will officially commence.

3.6 Appeals

If you want to appeal the decision on your application, you will need to submit an appeal form. The link to the appeal form will appear next to your application in the applicant portal in case your proposal was rejected. Appeals must be submitted within 5 working days after the notification e-mail about the evaluation results has been sent by the ENERCOM Facility.

Appeals submitted via e-mail will not be taken into consideration.

4. Further information, support and FAQs

Before submitting your application, we strongly recommend reviewing the [Guidelines for Applicants](#) and the Frequently Asked Questions ([FAQs](#)) available on the ENERCOM Facility [website](#). Applicants are also encouraged to consult the calendar of national information sessions, which will be held in local languages by the national experts. Details on these sessions will be published on the [events](#) tab on the website.

For specific queries, applicants are encouraged to contact their respective [national expert](#). A dedicated [helpdesk](#) is also available to provide support in national languages. Questions may be submitted in the applicant's local language.

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