



# THE RURAL ENERGY COMMUNITY

## ADVISORY HUB

Provision of technical  
assistance

28 November 2022

# The Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub

The Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub (RECAH) is an initiative of the European Commission which aims to accelerate the development of **sustainable energy community projects in European rural areas**.

The main activities of the initiative are

- Identification of best practices
- **Provision of technical assistance**
- Networking opportunities for the energy communities and local stakeholders



# Objectives of the technical assistance



**Help** improving the development and implementation of projects in a variety of areas, depending on the need of each individual rural energy community.



**Inspire** widespread, socially inclusive energy transition efforts in rural areas.



# Types of technical assistance

1. Investment & financial assistance
2. Technology and system-related advice
3. Legal/regulatory support
4. Communication support
5. Capacity development and knowledge transfer support

Technical assistance will be provided in the form of **extensive** support or **concise** support

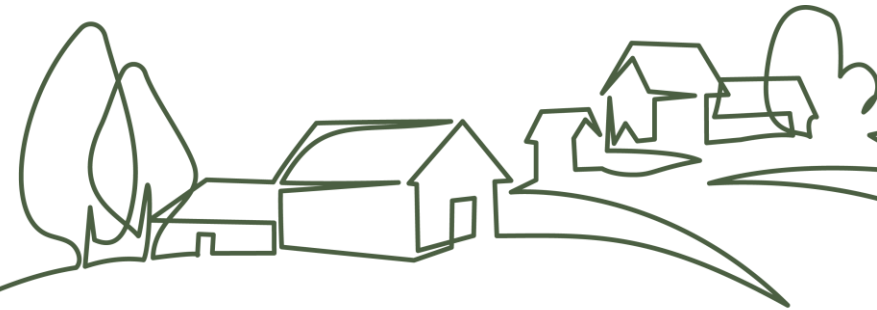
One rural energy community can request **multiple** technical assistance **services** within one application.



# Who can apply?

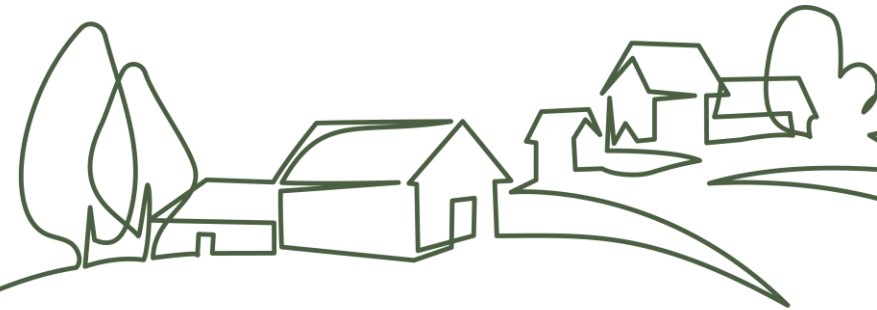
**Energy communities** or **aspiring energy communities** according to the definition of the European Union (i.e. Renewable Energy Communities or Citizen Energy Communities) of which the community itself and/or its activities/project(s) are **located in rural areas**.

- The project uses the Degree of Urbanisation classification (DEGURBA) to determine what a rural area is.
- If an Electricity CEC wants to switch to biogas supply this would also be eligible (in line with Gas Market proposal).



# Cooperation with the Energy Community Repository

- The Energy Communities Repository will provide technical assistance to non-rural energy communities.
- It is not possible to receive support from both projects
- Both projects will assess the **eligibility** of received application to determine if the application falls under the remit of their project.
- If the application is not eligible under the RECAH, it will be **transferred** to the Energy Communities Repository



# Six eligibility criteria

1. **Energy community** → The community fits within the EU definition based on its activities, membership, participation structure, governance / actors in control, and primary purpose.
2. **Geographical scope** → The community and/or its activities/projects must be located in a rural area within the borders of the European Union.
3. **Legal form** → The composition of the community must be either a legal entity, an informal community of actors, or a collective of actors.
4. **Eligibility of members** → All community members must be eligible to participate in the project per EU regulations.
5. **Commitment of members** → Members of the community must show to be committed to the community demonstrated by a letter of intent (signed by three to five members).
6. **Primary community representative** → One member will function as the representative of the community



# 12 Assessment criteria

1. Type of actors
2. Level of maturity
3. Level of future sustainability
4. Need of assistance
5. Type of assistance
6. Impact of assistance
7. Level of reasonability
8. Level of scope & resources
9. Support from local authority
10. Best practice potential
11. Support from EU/national/regional schemes
12. Commitment of human resources










# Timing

- **12 September 2022:** Official launch of the call for applications for the technical assistance
  - Online application form available in all 24 EU languages
  - Guidance note on how to apply
- **31 October 2022:** First cut-off date
- **31 December 2022:** Closure of application process
- **January 2023 - Autumn 2023:** Delivery of technical assistance



# Application process

-  **Submission of application** → via EUSurvey before the final date of the call for applications (31 December 2022)
-  **Pre-assessment** → Preliminary check to determine if the candidate is eligible to receive technical assistance from the Advisory Hub
-  **Assessment** → Evaluation of applications based on assessment criteria
-  **Selection** → Development of list of selected rural energy communities
-  **Notification** → Informing the applicants on the outcome



# How to apply?

- Go to EUSurvey and submit the online application form  
→ <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/RECAH2022>
- Today's provided information is available via the Guidance Note
- For questions concerning the application process, you can contact [recah@ecorys.com](mailto:recah@ecorys.com)



# The Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub



☒ Save a backup on your local computer (disable if you are using a public/shared computer)

## RECAH - Technical assistance application form

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

### Disclaimer

The European Commission is not responsible for the content of questionnaires created using the EUSurvey service - it remains the sole responsibility of the form creator and manager. The use of EUSurvey service does not imply a recommendation or endorsement, by the European Commission, of the views expressed within them.

### Pages

Introduction

1. Eligibility

2. General Information

3. Technical Assistance

4. Other

### Introduction

The Rural Energy Communities Advisory Hub is an initiative of the European Commission that has the mission of empowering the development of community energy action in European rural areas. The Advisory Hub supports rural community and energy transition projects to identify best practices, provides technical assistance to selected rural energy communities, and offers networking opportunities to local stakeholders. The Advisory Hub will work in tandem with both the EU Covenant of Mayors network, the European Network for Rural Development, and the Energy Community Repository (another initiative of the European Commission).

The websites for the Advisory hub can be found [here](#), and for the Repository can be found [here](#)

### Definition of Rural Energy Communities

The Rural Energy Communities Advisory Hub focuses specifically on rural energy communities. To determine which energy communities are classified as rural energy communities are eligible to receive technical support from the Advisory Hub, the project uses the Degree of urbanisation (DEGURBA). DEGURBA is a classification that indicates the characteristics of an area, and based on the share of local population living in urban clusters and urban centres, DEGURBA classifies Local Administrative Units (LAU) into three types of areas:

1. Cities
2. Towns and suburbs
3. Rural areas

### Views

Standard [Accessibility Mode](#)

### Languages

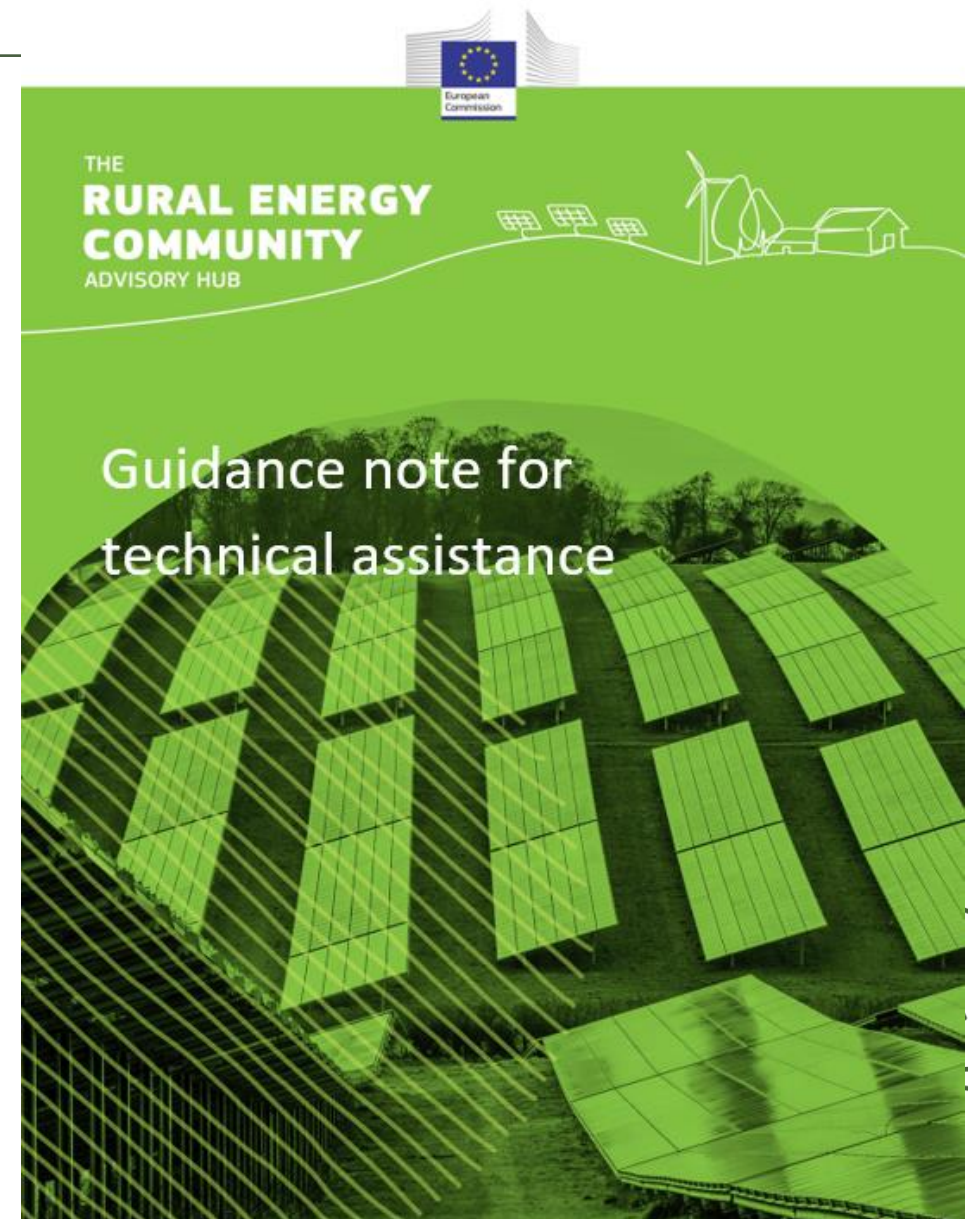
English

### Contact

[recah@ecorys.com](mailto:recah@ecorys.com)

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# Implementation process



**Preparation of technical assistance** → Assignment of suitable expert, and develop a specific Terms of Reference and tailored workplan



**Execution of technical assistance** → The expert will execute the technical assistance; the Advisory Hub will remain in contact to monitor the implementation

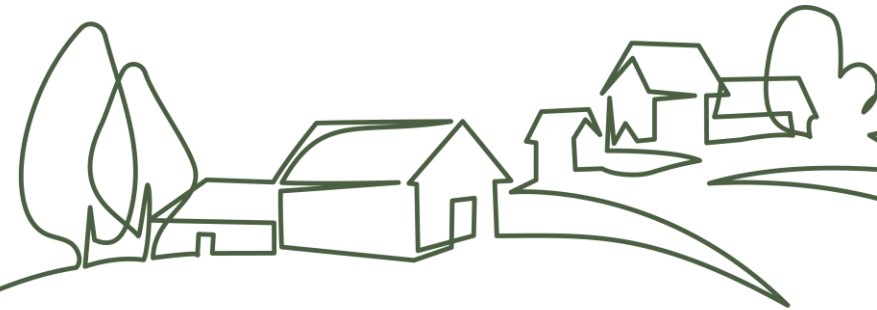


**Feedback on technical assistance** → Provide feedback for the overall learning cycle of the Advisory Hub



# Recommendations for the application process (I)

- Provide as much **detail as possible**
  - Why do you need support? Mention bottlenecks and challenges
  - How do you expect TA to support you? Mention results and outcomes
  - Where exactly is your community located?
- In your request for services, be **specific and focused**
- Be as **concrete, practical and tangible** as possible



# Recommendations for the application process (II)

- Elaborate your request in the TA section of the application form, **not in “Other info”** at the end
- **Distinguish** "Description of community and its objectives" from "Why do you require technical support?"
- Be mindful of the **EU definition of energy community and the legal form** you select
- Attach a **letter of intent** to make your application eligible



# Next steps

- **Call for applications still open:** submit your application!
- **31 December 2022:** closure of application process
- **January 2023 – Autumn 2023:** implementation of the technical assistance
- **Any further questions?** Contact us at [recah@ecorys.com](mailto:recah@ecorys.com)





Thank you for your interest!  
We look forward to your applications

