



# Community of Practice Observer Group Activities Report

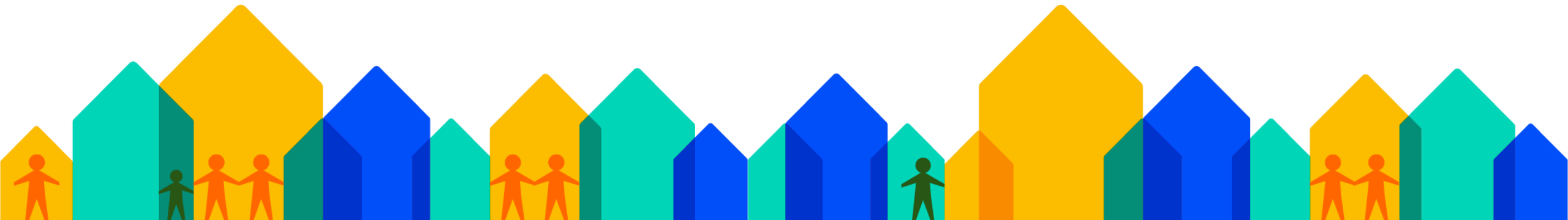
September 2024

Grizans, Jurijs (ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability)

[www.sunforall.eu](http://www.sunforall.eu) | [info@sunforall.eu](mailto:info@sunforall.eu)



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement no. 101032239.





Deliverable no.	D2.4
Work package	WP2
Dissemination level	PU
Author(s)	Jurijs Grizans, ICLEI European Secretariat
Submission date	30.09.2024
Status	Final
Reviewed by	Camila Canelas, Cristina Ramos, Ecoserveis Klervi Kerneis, JDI
Project name	Sun4All (Eurosolar for all: energy communities for a fair energy transition in Europe)
Slogan	Solar power to the people
Web address	<a href="http://www.sunforall.eu">www.sunforall.eu</a>
Contact	<a href="mailto:info@sunforall.eu">info@sunforall.eu</a>

The sole responsibility for the content lies with the authors. The content does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Commission. The European Commission is also not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.



# Table of Contents 1/2

<b>1. Executive Summary</b>	<b>05</b>
<b>1-1</b>   Objectives of the Activities Report	06
<b>1-2</b>   Structure of the Activities Report	08
<b>1-3</b>   Target Audience for the Activities Report	10
<b>2. Coming Together</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>2-1</b>   Introduction to the Community of Practice Observer Group	14
<b>2-2</b>   Members of the Community of Practice Observer Group	16
<b>2-3</b>   Commitment of the Community of Practice Observer Group	27
<b>2-4</b>   Community of Practice Observer Group Engagement Methodology	30



# Table of Contents 2/2

<b>3. Working Together</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>3-1</b>   Individual Follow-Up Sessions	34
<b>3-2</b>   Group Exchange Sessions	36
<b>3-3</b>   Study Visits	37
<b>3-4</b>   Final Presentations	42
<b>4. Learning Together</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>4-1</b>   Being Part of the Community of Practice Observer Group	46
<b>4-2</b>   Addressing Energy Poverty	48
<b>5. Final Remarks</b>	<b>52</b>



# 1. Executive Summary





### 1-1 | Objectives of the Activities Report

Energy poverty is a complex and multifaceted challenge. Tackling its socioeconomic, technical, communication, institutional, and other dimensions requires considerable effort from local and regional governments. Knowledge sharing and experience exchange on addressing energy poverty are essential tools for learning and building capacity among European cities and regions.

The ["Sun4All – Eurosolar for All: Energy Communities for a Fair Energy Transition in Europe"](#) (Sun4All) project, funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program, demonstrates that working within Communities of Practice is an effective strategy for fostering collaboration, sharing knowledge, and exchanging experiences among stakeholders addressing energy poverty and enhancing access to renewable energy across Europe.

The Community of Practice Observer Group Activities Report, a deliverable of the Sun4All project, illustrates the collaboration between highly motivated European cities and regions. It highlights their collective efforts in Coming, Working, and Learning Together to address energy poverty and improve people's lives.



### 1-1 | Objectives of the Activities Report

The main objectives of the Community of Practice Observer Group Activities Report are to:

- **Outline how the Community of Practice Observer Group was formed** – a network of cities and regions focused on tackling energy poverty locally by sharing knowledge, skills, and best practices.
- **Detail the key activities undertaken by Observer Group members** as they observed the implementation of the Sun4All pilots: [Almada](#) (Portugal), [Barcelona](#) (Spain), [Coeur de Savoie](#) (France) and [Rome](#) (Italy). This hands-on experience helps them plan to replicate the Sun4All financial support scheme in their own cities and regions.

The report presents the collaborative learning approach, highlighting the importance of interaction, communication, and cooperation. The report aims to inspire cities and regions to learn from the practical experiences of the Sun4All pilots and the Observer Group members, offering guidance on how to address energy poverty with the help of the Sun4All financial support scheme.

## 1-2 | Structure of the Activities Report

The Community of Practice Observer Group Activities Report has five comprehensive chapters, as follow:

- **Chapter 1** provides a concise overview of the report. It describes the goals and purpose of the report; outlines how the report is organized and what each section covers, as well as identifies who the report is intended for and how it will be useful to them.
- **Chapter 2** introduces the Community of Practice Observer Group. It provides background information on the group; explains the methods and approaches used for creation and running of the group, as well as lists and describes the members involved and their commitment.
- **Chapter 3** covers the collaborative activities undertaken by the group, including individual follow-up sessions, group exchange sessions, study visits, and final presentations given by the group members.



## 1-2 | Structure of the Activities Report

- **Chapter 4** focuses on the learning outcomes and insights gained by the members of the Community of Practice Observer Group. It discusses the group's work and findings related to energy poverty, as well as reflects on the experience and lessons learned from participating in the group.
- **Chapter 5** summarizes the key findings and insights from the report, drawing overall conclusions and suggesting potential next steps or future directions for the Community of Practice Observer Group.

The design of each chapter provides a clear and structured understanding of the Community of Practice Observer Group's activities, their outcomes, and the overall impact.



### 1-3 | Target Audience for the Activities Report

The Community of Practice Observer Group Activities Report is valuable for stakeholders interested in **collaborative learning** and the **development of collective solutions** to address energy poverty. The report is targeting eight groups of stakeholders at different stages of their just and fair transition journey.



#### Sun4All Pilot Practitioners and Project Experts

- This report provides an opportunity to assess the effectiveness and impact of the Sun4All Community of Practice Observer Group's mentoring relationship in strengthening members' abilities to replicate and implement the Sun4All financial support scheme

#### Sun4All Community of Practice Observer Group Members

- This report can be helpful for evaluating participation in the Sun4All engagement activities and for reflecting on the outcomes of planning the adoption of the Sun4All financial support scheme through the development of the Sustainable Implementation Plan





### **European Union Institutions and Bodies**

- This report can provide insights into Sun4All practice on collaboration between European cities and regions in sharing knowledge and exchanging experiences to address energy poverty, engage and empower vulnerable households, and promote just transition

### **Multilevel Policy Makers and Government Officials**

- This report can be valuable to those involved in shaping policies and funding decisions, as they can use Sun4All findings to support initiatives focused on reducing energy poverty and promoting renewable energy access at local, regional, and national levels



### **Sectoral Utilities, Agencies, and Service Companies**

- This report can assist utilities, agencies, and service companies in gaining insights into Sun4All initiative that aims to sustain collaboration on creating proactive financial solutions for enhancing access to renewable energy and addressing energy poverty



### Academic and Research Institutions

- Scholars and researchers may use the report's findings for further study and research, to contribute to the broader knowledge base on energy poverty and renewable energy solutions, thereby enhancing the public's understanding of the energy poverty phenomenon



### General Public and Civil Society Organisations

- This report can serve as a source of knowledge and inspiration for a wider audience, particularly those impacted by or interested in the issues it addresses, including those looking for insights on how collaborative efforts are influencing energy poverty

### Journalists and Media Organisations

- This report can serve as a valuable resource for journalists focused on energy poverty. It offers essential information that can help raise public awareness and educate on topics such as cross-city and cross-regional collaboration to support the vulnerable households



## 2. Coming Together





### 2-1 | Introduction to the Community of Practice Observer Group

The well-being, happiness, and high quality of life of people are central values of the Sun4All project. It addresses energy poverty and promotes the involvement of vulnerable consumers in Europe's fair energy transition. The Sun4All project sets up a financial support scheme for renewable energy access for energy vulnerable households.

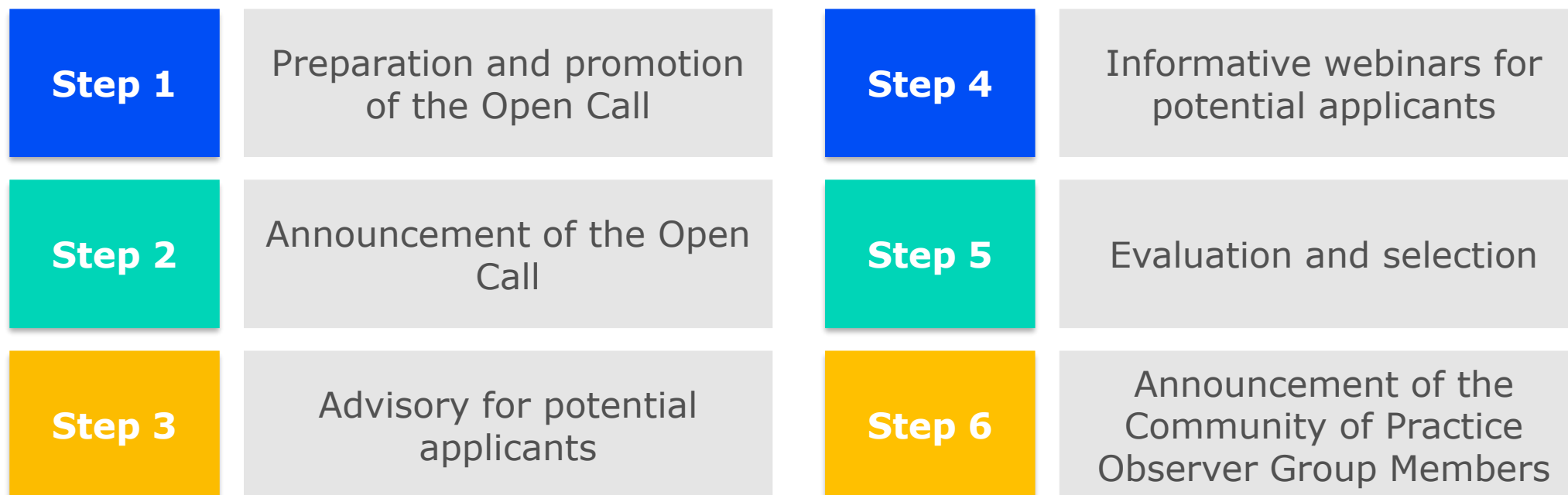
One of the project's goals is to be sustainable and replicable across Europe. To achieve this, a Community of Practice Observer Group for European cities was established to monitor the project and plan the replication of Sun4All schemes in their regions.

The main objective of the creation of the Community of Practice Observers Group was to observe the Sun4All pilots': [Almada](#), [Barcelona](#), [Coeur de Savoie](#), [Rome](#) implementation to understand and learn from their experience first-hand, and thus work on their own specific energy poverty eradication plans and local business model more effectively [[More information](#)].



## 2-1 | Introduction to the Community of Practice Observer Group

Members of the Community of Practice Observer Group were selected through the Sun4All Open Call pre-launched at the European Sustainable Energy Week in 2022. This Open Call followed a six-step process aimed at identifying ten highly motivated and enthusiastic public authorities or utilities from European Union Member States or associated countries, who were willing and able to actively participate in the Sun4All project's activities, covering Europe's diversity.





### 2-2 | Members of the Community of Practice Observer Group

After thorough discussions and careful evaluation of the applicants' motivation, operational focus, prior experience, capacity, replicability potential, and other criteria, ten members of the Community of Practice Observer Group were selected to follow the Sun4All project implementation and plan a replication in their regions. However, several months later, one of the selected members decided to leave the Community of Practice Observer Group due to a lack of capacity.

Members of the Community of Practice Observer Group represent four European Union countries: Italy, Poland, Portugal, and Spain.

Several members of the Community of Practice Observer Group represent the Sun4All pilot countries, helping to ensure a more efficient process for replicating the Sun4All financial support scheme.

The diversity of the members of the Community of Practice Observer Group and therefore the conditions for replication of the Sun4All financial support scheme is determined by their geographical location, climatic conditions, scale and type of the settlement, degree of urbanisation, etc.





## 2-2 | Members of the Community of Practice Observer Group





## 2-2 | Members of the Community of Practice Observer Group



Warsaw

### Why the City of Warsaw (Poland)?

Energy poverty affects approximately 12% of Poland's population, with regional variations ranging from 7% to 20%. In Mazovia, the rate is around 11%. Key factors contributing to energy poverty include low energy efficiency in buildings, insufficient incomes to cover energy costs, and rising energy prices. In Warsaw, energy poverty is exacerbated by higher living costs and legal issues related to property status, which impede significant investments in building modernization.

### What is the purpose of participation?

The primary objective of the City of Warsaw in joining the Community of Practice Observer Group is to enhance the city's capacity to tackle energy poverty and ensure a fair energy transition.

- More information in the Sustainable Implementation Plan for the City of Warsaw [[More information](#)] (please see the deliverable D5.8).



## 2-2 | Members of the Community of Practice Observer Group



### Why the Comune di Sezze (Italy)?

Sezze, like many Italian towns, faces major economic and social problems that make energy poverty worse. These problems include high unemployment, low incomes, poor housing, and an aging population. The municipality of Sezze has a track record of taking action to fight energy poverty. Through direct contact with citizens and social workers' expertise, they have successfully identified and addressed the changing needs of the community.

### What is the purpose of participation?

The primary objective of the Comune di Sezze in joining the Community of Practice Observer Group is to enhance and broaden current programs, while exploring new approaches to guarantee reliable energy access for all residents.

- More information in the Sun4All Sustainable Implementation Plan for the Comune di Sezze [[More information](#)] (please see the deliverable D5.8).



### 2-2 | Members of the Community of Practice Observer Group



Consell  
Comarcal  
del Gironès

#### Why the Consell Comarcal del Gironès (Spain)?

Consell Comarcal del Gironès is a county in Catalonia made up of 27 municipalities. At its center is Salt, a densely populated area with many foreign residents. Around 40% of its 10,000 households may face energy poverty. To address this, the City Council of Salt, along with the Diputació de Girona and the Consell Comarcal del Gironès, is exploring the creation of an Energy Community to help reduce energy poverty and support an inclusive energy transition.

#### What is the purpose of participation?

The primary objective of the Consell Comarcal del Gironès in joining the Community of Practice Observer Group is to achieve a renewable energy model that will be decentralized, democratic, and sustainable to achieve climate neutrality by 2050.

- More information in the Sun4All Sustainable Implementation Plan for the Consell Comarcal del Gironès [[More information](#)] (please see the deliverable D5.8).



## 2-2 | Members of the Community of Practice Observer Group

### Why the Energia Bonita (Spain) – Energy Community of La Palma?

La Palma is one of Spain's Canary Islands, home to 14 municipalities and about 85,000 residents. A 2022 study on energy poverty showed troubling results: 28% of households struggle to keep their homes at a comfortable temperature, and 16.7% have trouble paying their electricity bills. The situation is especially concerning after the COVID pandemic and a volcanic eruption. Social services don't have enough resources to help families lower their energy costs or to fix the main issues.

### What is the purpose of participation?

The primary objective of the Energia Bonita in joining the Community of Practice Observer Group is to offer an integral solution regarding energy to all vulnerable families, including participating in an energy community.

- More information in the Sun4All Sustainable Implementation Plan for the Energia Bonita – Energy Community of La Palma [[More information](#)] (please see the deliverable D5.8).



### 2-2 | Members of the Community of Practice Observer Group



#### Why the Local Energy of Osona (Regional Council) (Spain)?

There is significant interest in community energy in Osona. Currently, 21 energy communities operate as non-profit cooperatives, each primarily focused on its own municipality. A second-level cooperative provides technical support to these communities. These energy communities also aim to contribute to the social aspects of the energy transition. They want to address energy poverty in their municipalities but lack the necessary knowledge and financial resources to do so.

#### What is the purpose of participation?

The primary objective of the Local Energy of Osona (Regional Council) in joining the Community of Practice Observer Group is to forge a groundbreaking model of collaboration among energy communities, social services, and municipalities.

- More information in the Sun4All Sustainable Implementation Plan for the Local Energy of Osona (Regional Council) [[More information](#)] (please see the deliverable D5.8).



### 2-2 | Members of the Community of Practice Observer Group



#### Why the Junta de Freguesia do Lumiar (Portugal)?

Lumiar is Lisbon's most populated parish, home to 47,000 people. The area faces significant socio-economic inequalities. Many of its buildings were constructed before the 1980s-90s, when Portugal had no thermal regulations, leading to poor construction and uncomfortable living conditions. Rising energy costs have heavily impacted energy-vulnerable families. About 21% of residents are over 65, 5% are migrants, and 35% of the population has only a 4th-grade education level.

#### What is the purpose of participation?

The primary objective of the Junta de Freguesia do Lumiar in joining the Community of Practice Observer Group is to achieve energy self-sufficiency for the various Lumiar public buildings, while at the same time increasing the number of energy vulnerable households supported by the Telheiras Renewable Energy Community.

- More information in the Sun4All Sustainable Implementation Plan for the Junta de Freguesia do Lumiar [[More information](#)] (please see the deliverable D5.8).



### 2-2 | Members of the Community of Practice Observer Group



#### Why the Municipality of Braga (Portugal)?

In 2022, the Municipality of Braga carried out a study to understand energy poverty among needy families in two neighbourhoods. The results were concerning. Over 70% said they were colder that winter and paid more for energy. Around 81% reported health issues related to extreme heat or cold, and 83% said they couldn't afford their energy bills due to high costs. This highlights the serious impact of energy poverty on society's most vulnerable members.

#### What is the purpose of participation?

The primary objective of the Municipality of Braga in joining the Community of Practice Observer Group is to open a local "Balcão Único de Energia, BUE" – Braga's One Stop Shop (OSS), to provide information, and assistance to citizens who wish to improve house thermal comfort and reduce electricity costs.

- More information in the Sun4All Sustainable Implementation Plan for the Municipality of Braga [[More information](#)] (please see the deliverable D5.8).





### 2-2 | Members of the Community of Practice Observer Group



#### Why the Unité des Communes valdôtaines Grand-Paradis (Italy)?

The Unité des Communes valdôtaines Grand-Paradis is a small area in Aosta Valley, the smallest region in Italy. It includes 13 communes across 4 side valleys. Energy poverty is a major issue here, linked to the challenges of mountain regions, such as high altitude, difficult terrain, distance from main transport routes, and limited connectivity. These factors lead to higher costs for residents and businesses, contributing to abandonment in many remote areas.

#### What is the purpose of participation?

The primary objective of the Unité des Communes valdôtaines Grand-Paradis in joining the Community of Practice Observer Group is to offer the possibility to the vulnerable citizens to join energy efficiency workshops and to get empowered.

More information in the Sun4All Sustainable Implementation Plan for the Unité des Communes valdôtaines Grand-Paradis [[More information](#)] (please see the deliverable D5.8).



## 2-2 | Members of the Community of Practice Observer Group

### Why the València Clima i Energia y Las Naves (Ayuntamiento de València) (Spain)?

The Valencian study revealed that 32.7% of people in Valencia felt too cold or too hot at home, impacting their daily lives. Additionally, 12.2% spend over 10% of their income on energy bills, and 18.2% pay more than twice the national average for energy. Another 15% are at risk of energy poverty, meaning they could struggle if energy costs rise or their income decreases.

### What is the purpose of participation?

The primary objective of the València Clima i Energia y Las Naves (Ayuntamiento de València) in joining the Community of Practice Observer Group is to ensure that any initiative regarding a public good will contribute to alleviate energy poverty.

- More information in the Sun4All Sustainable Implementation Plan for the València Clima i Energia y Las Naves (Ayuntamiento de València) [[More information](#)] (please see the deliverable D5.8).



## 2-3 | Commitment of the Community of Practice Observer Group

To encourage the adoption of the Sun4All project outcomes, members of the Community of Practice Observer's Group expressed their commitment by signing the Memorandum of Understanding. This established the foundation for creating the Sun4All Community of Practice Observer's Group's foundational framework, known as the Act of Constitution [[More information](#)].



Eurosolar for all: energy communities for a fair energy transition (Sun4All)

**Act of Constitution of the Sun4All  
Community of Practice Observer's  
Group**



### 2-3 | Commitment of the Community of Practice Observer Group

Members of the Community of Practice Observer's Group expressed their commitment to supporting the implementation of Sun4All activities and promoting the adoption of the project's results, within their areas of expertise. Their goal was to carry out the following activities:



- Participate in the Sun4All project's engagement activities, capacity building and knowledge sharing events.



- Observe the Sun4All pilots' implementation process and work on planning sustainable adoption of the Sun4All locally



- Promote the local multi-stakeholder partnership to ensure appropriate and effective transfer of knowledge of the Sun4All programme project locally



### 2-3 | Commitment of the Community of Practice Observer Group



- Develop the organised social dialogue with the community and potential beneficiaries to identify opportunities that could facilitate the adoption of the Sun4All locally.



- Evaluate the potential of adopting and up scaling the Sun4All programme



- Work on the establishment of the Sun4All Sustainable Implementation Plan for the implementation and continuation of Sun4All at the local level



### 2-4 | Community of Practice Observer Group Engagement Methodology

The slogan for the Community of Practice Observer's Group Engagement Programme is: **"Learning to address energy poverty. Learning for a just energy transition in your city."** This programme was created to support members of the Community of Practice Observer's Group in adopting and scaling up the Sun4All financial support scheme within their cities and regions.

The Sun4All Engagement Programme draws from the practical experiences and lessons learned by the Sun4All pilot projects, aimed at guiding members of the Community of Practice Observer's Group through different stages of addressing energy poverty.

Member engagement was organized through **mentor-mentee relationships** and **collaborative efforts**. Technical partners from the Sun4All project consortium provided expert knowledge and guidance to strengthen members' ability to develop and implement their own energy poverty reduction strategies and local business models more effectively.



### 2-4 | Community of Practice Observer Group Engagement Methodology

The Sun4All Engagement Programme offered the following opportunities for the members of the Community of Practice Observer's Group:

- Up to 8,000 EUR need-based financial service support to develop the Sun4All Sustainable Implementation Plan

- To obtain personalized mentorship and support from the Sun4All project consortium for learning and development

- Up to 500 EUR financial support to develop the organised social dialogue with the community and potential beneficiaries









- To participate in online and in-person knowledge and experience exchange sessions designed to enhance capacity

- Up to 1,500 EUR financial support to cover travelling expenses for visiting two Sun4All pilot sites

- To get regular updates on the European Union's capacity-building initiatives aimed at reducing energy poverty

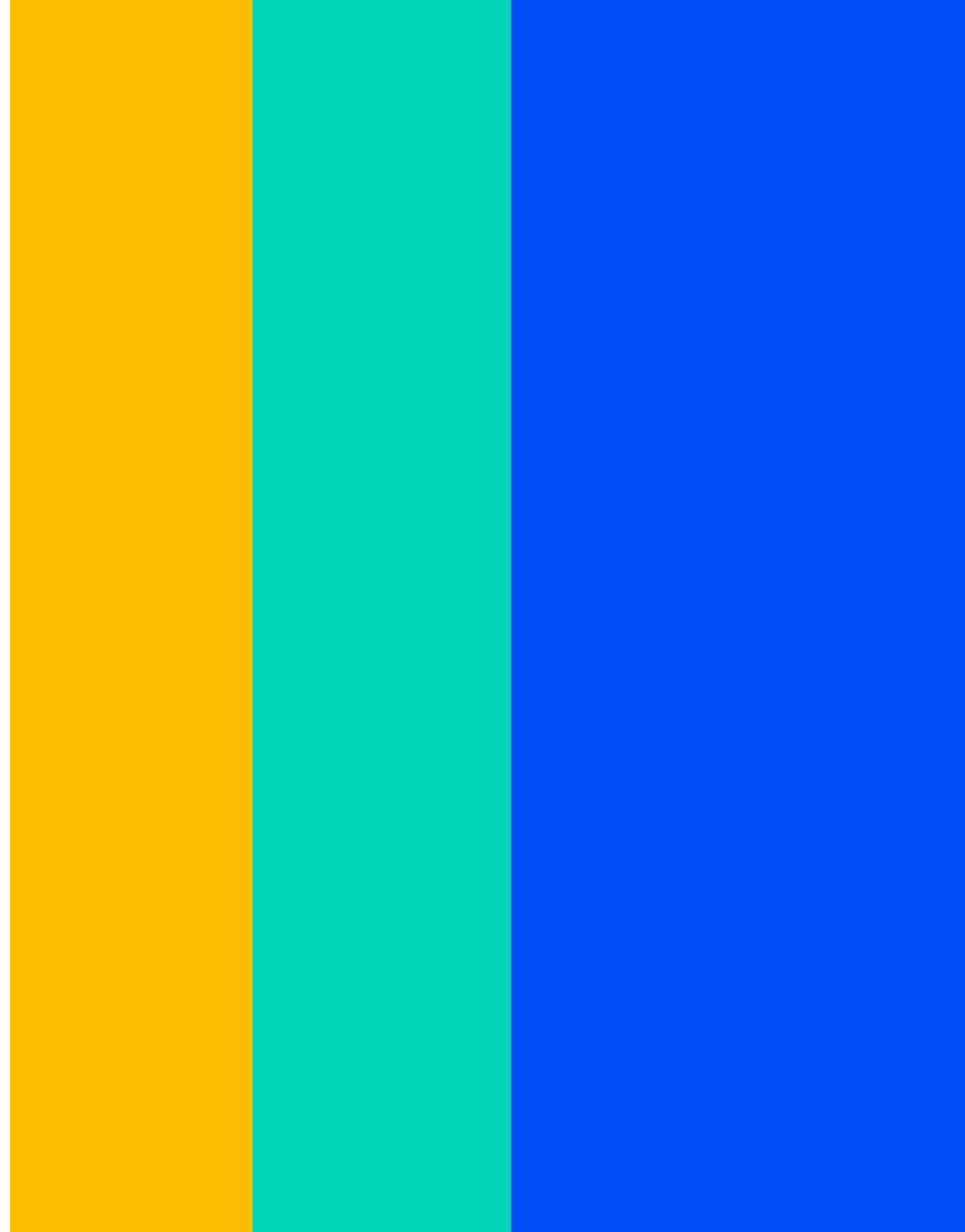
## 2-4 | Community of Practice Observer Group Engagement Methodology

One of the Sun4All Engagement Programme main objectives was to ensure diversity of learning and engaging activities for the members of the Community of Practice Observer's Group.

 Level of activities	 Type of activities	 Format of activities
 Individual level	 Online	 Exchange sessions
 Group level	 Onsite	 Study visits



# 3. Working Together





### 3-1 | Individual Follow-Up Sessions

The Sun4All project consortium facilitated individual engagement activities for members of the Community of Practice Observer's Group through one-on-one meetings between designated mentors and mentees, involving other relevant Sun4All project pilots and partners. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss the knowledge and experience acquired by the pilots on a personal level, and to strategize the local adoption and scaling of the Sun4All financial support scheme. This included developing specific plans to combat energy poverty and creating a local business model, known as the Sun4All Sustainable Implementation Plan.

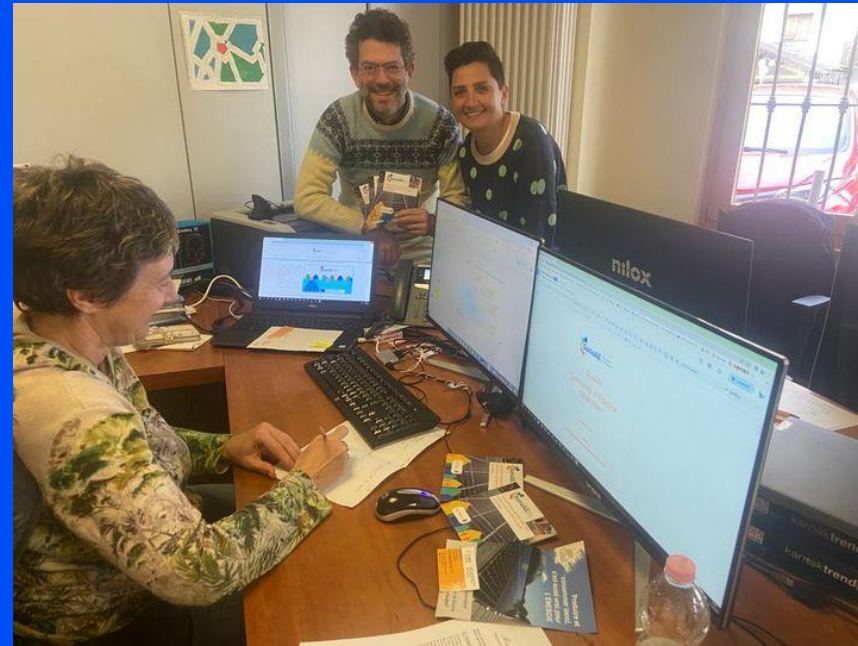
On the next slide, you'll find some inspiring images from the individual engagement activities. **Enjoy!**





## 3-1 | Individual Follow-Up Sessions

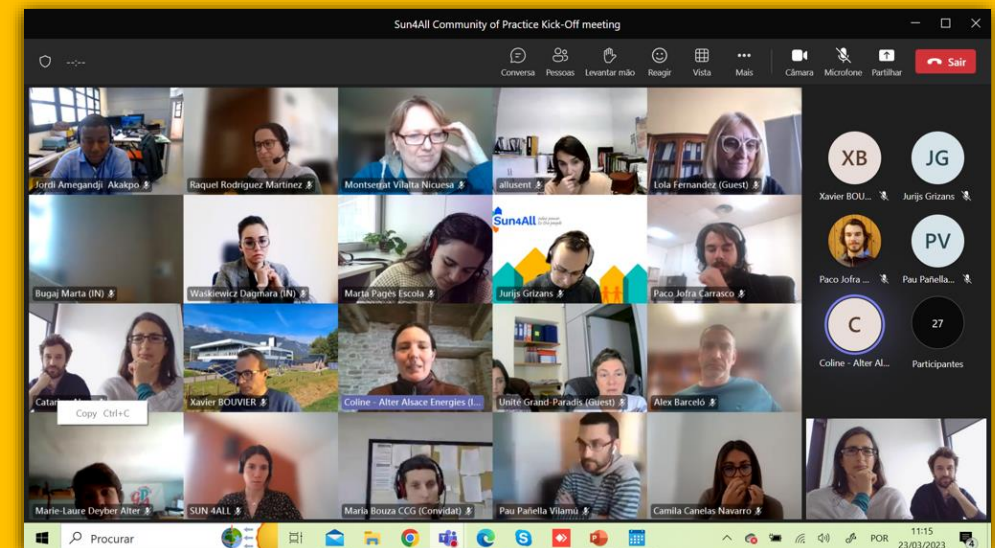
Individual engagement activities between the Sapienza University of Rome and the Unité des Communes valdôtaines Grand-Paradis [[More information](#)] & [[More information](#)]



## 3-2 | Group Exchange Sessions

The Sun4All project consortium organized group exchange activities that involved all members of the Community of Practice Observer's Group, along with Sun4All technical partners, mentors, and other relevant project partners. The purpose of these interactive training sessions, co-creation activities, and knowledge transfer initiatives was to learn from the Sun4All pilots, gain insights from other project partners, and facilitate exchanges among members of the Sun4All Community of Practice. These group sessions provided an opportunity for members of the Observer's Group to connect with one another.

### Community of Practice Observer's Group Knowledge Exchange Session



### 3-3 | Study Visits

The Sun4All project consortium organised study visits in a form of a technical visit to the Sun4All pilots (i.e., [Almada](#) (Portugal), [Barcelona](#) (Spain), [Coeur de Savoie](#) (France) and [Rome](#) (Italy)) during the different stages of Sun4All programme implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Study visits gave an opportunity to the members of the Community of Practice Observer's Group to observe pilot facilities (i.e., photovoltaic installations) in a real environment, interact with representatives of Sun4All pilots and to have more transparent communication.

On the next slide, you'll find some inspiring images from the study visits. **Enjoy!**





## 3-3 | Study Visits

Study visit of the members of the Community of Practice Observer's Group to Barcelona Pilot [[More information](#)]



## 3-3 | Study Visits

Study visit of the members of the Community of Practice Observer's Group to Rome Pilot [[More information](#)]





## 3-3 | Study Visits

Study visit of the members of the Community of Practice Observer's Group to Almada Pilot [[More information](#)]





## 3-3 | Study Visits

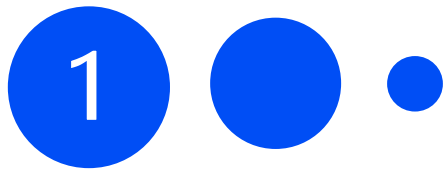
Study visit of the members of the Community of Practice Observer's Group to  
Coeur de Savoie Pilot [[More information](#)]



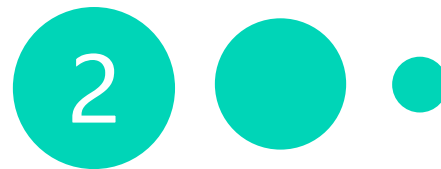


## 3-4 | Final Presentations

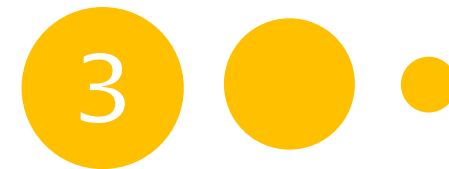
In June 2024, the Sun4All project consortium held two interactive sessions to showcase the key outcomes of a 15-month close collaboration between the members of the Community of Practice Observer Group and their mentors. The presentations and discussions centred around three key topics. Members of the Community of Practice Observer Group presented:



The **main results** of planning a replication of the Sun4All financial support model in their city / region and developing the Sun4All Sustainable Implementation Plan



The **most valuable knowledge** they've gained while planning a replication of the Sun4All financial support model in their city / region and developing the Sun4All Sustainable Implementation Plan



The **key recommendations for future action** for replication the Sun4All financial support model in their city / region and putting into practice the Sun4All Sustainable Implementation Plan



## 3-4 | Final Presentations

If you'd like to explore the key outcomes of the collaborative efforts between the Sun4All Community of Practice Observer Group members and their mentors, you'll find inspiring stories from their final presentation event below. **Enjoy!**



Braga's holistic approach to tackling energy poverty: outcomes from Sun4All Community of Practice

[\[More information\]](#)



Warsaw's renewable energy drive: outcomes from Sun4All Community of Practice

[\[More information\]](#)



Fighting energy poverty in Valencia: outcomes from Sun4All Community of Practice

[\[More information\]](#)



Empowering Osona against energy poverty: outcomes from Sun4All Community of Practice

[\[More information\]](#)



La Palma's transformative  
endeavour: outcomes from  
Sun4All Community of Practice

[\[More information\]](#)



Fostering Renewable Energy  
Communities in rural Sezze:  
outcomes from Sun4All  
Community of Practice

[\[More information\]](#)



Aosta Valley's journey towards  
energy empowerment: outcomes  
from Sun4All Community of  
Practice

[\[More information\]](#)

## 3-4 | Final Presentations



Lumiar's Renewable Energy  
Community: outcomes from  
Sun4All Community of Practice

[\[More information\]](#)



A local energy community for  
energy equality in the Gironès:  
outcomes from Sun4All  
Community of Practice

[\[More information\]](#)

## 4. Learning Together



## 4-1 | Being Part of the Community of Practice Observer Group

One of the main goals of involving members of the Community of Practice Observer Group in collaborative learning activities was to foster a sense of belonging to the Sun4All project community. To achieve this, the Sun4All project consortium prioritized the development needs of the chosen mentees, considering the relevant characteristics and skills of both the Sun4All mentors and mentees in relation to these needs.

The Sun4All pilots, along with other project partners, made significant efforts to uphold the core values of being part of the Community of Practice Observer Group.

Support	Collaboration	Shared resources
Co-creation	Engagement	Collective action
Knowledge Exchange	Networking	Empowerment

## 4-1 | Being Part of the Community of Practice Observer Group

To support the feeling of belonging within the Community of Practice Observer Group, the Sun4All project consortium carefully evaluated each mentor-mentee pair's ability to build a strong mentoring relationship and achieve successful outcomes in replicating Sun4All.

The consortium's technical partners provided both expertise and support to help members of the Community of Practice Observer Group improve their ability to replicate and adopt the Sun4All financial support scheme locally. This included working on energy poverty solutions and local business models more effectively, while promoting an inclusive environment where all members feel respected and valued.

The mentor-mentee relationships, along with collaboration, capacity building, and knowledge sharing between the consortium's technical partners and the Community of Practice Observer Group members, are intended to continue well beyond the project, fostering long-term partnerships. This may include planned meetings, targeted visits, progress assessments, feedback discussions, and more.



### 4-2 | Addressing Energy Poverty

By taking part in the Sun4All Community of Practice Observer Group activities, members learned how to tackle energy poverty and help vulnerable people adopt renewable energy and improve energy efficiency. Throughout this process, they gathered valuable practices and experiences, engaged with their environment, and improved their ability to implement the Sun4All financial support scheme in their cities and regions.

With technical support, members of the Community of Practice Observer Group developed the Sun4All Sustainable Implementation Plans. These plans organize and systematize the knowledge and experience gained from group and individual activities, both online and in person, as well as collaboration with mentor organizations and the Sun4All pilots.

The Sun4All Sustainable Implementation Plans were created using co-creation methods and are a key outcome of the Community of Practice Observer Group's involvement in the Sun4All project.



## 4-2 | Addressing Energy Poverty

An essential part of creating the Sun4All Sustainable Implementation Plans was focusing on recognizing obstacles and evaluating potential solutions / specific next steps for the sustainable adoption of the Sun4All financial support scheme. Below are a few examples.

Organising workshops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Use existing municipal framework programs to disseminate the Sun4All financial support workshops</li><li>• Use the existing public events to have a stand of Sun4All and to reach general citizens with the help of the open sessions and discussions</li></ul>
Managing beneficiaries' documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Create a unique document that include / collect all the necessary information</li><li>• Make a tutorial video guide to fill the documents</li><li>• Simplify objectives and concepts to beneficiaries</li></ul>



## 4-2 | Addressing Energy Poverty

<p>Mentoring new beneficiaries</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combine Sun4All events (beneficiaries / mentor) with other local events about social or citizen actions and activities</li> <li>• Ensure that each mentor mainly works in the community-group he / she belongs to</li> </ul>
<p>Localising the business model</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Define different amount of sharing depending on household size and number of inhabitants</li> <li>• Support beneficiaries with providing them access to the Consumer Portal where they can see and understand their hourly power consumptions</li> </ul>
<p>Organising advisory sessions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create synergies with other European Union projects or municipality services</li> <li>• Properly explain the benefits of the advice sessions for the beneficiaries</li> </ul>



Here are some inspiring key messages from the plans that were created.

- The Sun4All model's implementation in **Warsaw** will help improve the quality of life for vulnerable residents. By leveraging renewable energy sources and fostering local collaboration, the project will enhance the resilience of vulnerable households to energy price fluctuations. Additionally, it will encourage knowledge sharing and collaboration among stakeholders, guiding the creation of local energy communities [[More information](#)].
- The potential for replication and scalability is high. The lessons learned and challenges in the first pilot municipality can be applied to the rest of municipalities of the **La Palma Island** and beyond to scale faster [[More information](#)].
- The proposed models can be replicated and adapted both to the scale of the other **Unité des Communes in Aosta Valley** and, with the appropriate adjustments, to the scale of individual communes [[More information](#)].
- This Sun4All Sustainable Implementation Plan focused on the Telheiras REC being promoted by the **Lumiar Parish Council** and the Local Partnership of Telheiras. It has successfully installed its pilot solar PV system and is in the planning stage of a second solar PV project. Hopefully, this second project shows that it is possible to scale-up the approach of the Telheiras renewable energy community within the **Lumiar Civil Parish** [[More information](#)].

# 5. Final Remarks





### 5 | Final Remarks

The co-authors of the ["Communities of Practice Playbook. A Playbook to collectively run and develop communities of practice"](#) emphasize, that the communities of practice are an excellent instrument for fostering collaboration among internal and external stakeholders: they can bring groups with different knowledge perspectives together and can strengthen their capacity to work and learn creatively together.

Energy poverty is a complicated issue with many layers. To effectively tackle its economic, technical, communication, and institutional aspects, local and regional governments need to put in a lot of effort. Working together and creating solutions is vital for helping European cities and regions learn and improve their abilities in addressing energy poverty.

The Sun4All project showed that using communities of practice is a good way to encourage collaboration, share knowledge, and exchange experiences among local governments. This method is important for helping European cities and regions learn and build their capacities as they move through various stages of a fair energy transition.



# Thank you!

Jurijs Grizans, ICLEI European Secretariat

Learn more:

 <https://sunforall.eu>

 [info@sunforall.eu](mailto:info@sunforall.eu)

 [Sun4All Project](#)

 [@Sun4All\\_EU](#)



The sole responsibility for the content of this document lies with the authors. It does not necessarily represent the opinion of the European Union. Neither CINEA nor the European Commission are responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.