European Public Local Authorities' Network for driving the Energy Transition

D5.7 – Follower Regions Evaluation Questionnaire

Author:

Nadège SEGUEL (FEDARENE)

May, 2023 (M20) – WP5, D5.7

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N° 101032450. The views expressed in this publication are the sole responsibility of the author/s and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Commission.

Technical References

Project Acronym	ePLANET
Project Title	EUROPEAN PUBLIC LOCAL AUTHORITIES' NETWORK FOR DRIVING THE ENERGY TRANSITION

Deliverable No.	D5.7
Dissemination Level	PU
Work Package	WP5 – REPLICATION AND NETWORKING
Lead beneficiary	04 (FEDARENE)
Contributing beneficiary(ies)	05 (ICLEI EURO), 06 (DDGI), 07 (RDFC), 08 (EAZK), 09 (LIMA)
Due date of deliverable	30 April 2023
Actual submission date	23/05/2023

Authors	Nadège SEGUEL (FEDARENE)
Contributors	Matthias Watzak-Helmer (FEDARENE), Tomáš Perutka (EAZK), Jan Vidomus (EAZK), Xavier Palomé (DDGI) Georgia Piligotsi (RDFC) Jurijs GRIZANS (ICLEI EURO), Marcelo LAMPKOWSKI (ICLEI EURO), Segis VERDAGUER (LIMA)

Versions

Version	Date	Changes	Edited by
01	03/05/23	First draft version	Nadège SEGUEL (FEDARENE)
02	09/05/23	Peer review	Jurijs GRIZANS (ICLEI EURO)
03	12/05/23	Peer review	Gerard LAGUNA (CIMNE) Josep MAYOS (CIMNE)
04	23/05/23	Second version	Nadège SEGUEL (FEDARENE) Matthias Watzak-Helmer (FEDARENE)

Content

Executive Summary

The ePLANET project is a Coordination and Support Action cofounded by the European Commission through the Horizon 2020 program. ePLANET aims to deploy a new clustering governance for an energy transition based on a digital framework to share harmonized information, facilitating the adoption of coordinated energy transition actions by the European public sector. The improvements in the multi-level governance and the developed energy data visualization will be designed and implemented together with three regions: Girona region in Spain (DDGI), Zlín region in the Czech Republic (EAZK) and Crete Island in Greece (RDFC).

Within this document (deliverable 5.7 "Follower Regions Evaluation Questionnaire") the process, the methodology, and the results of the need survey are explained and the links to other activities within the project are highlighted. The results of the need survey will serve as the basis for the implementation of the joint exchange activities and the support activities for the follower regions.

The report is structured in three sections. The first section introduces the report and sets the frame for the activities. The second section describes the methodology and results of the need survey and the third one shows the matchmaking approach between pilot and follower regions. The conclusions of the need survey for follower regions result in the final matching and the proposed joint activities displayed in Table 1.

Pilot regions	Follower regions	Proposed Joint activities
Crete	Municipality of Fyli Macedonia region	***Identified topics for joint activities:*** Sharing of experience on SECAP, promotion of Energy Transition Plans. Sharing of experience and best practices on energy communities. ***ePLANET sharing knowledge potential:*** Coordination between municipalities and energy manager (Clustering governance - ICAEN).
Girona region	Tâmega e Sousa Baix Llobregat South-East Ireland	***Identified topics for joint activities:*** Sharing of experience on SECAP and data analysis (EP of buildings and PV-potential). Sharing of experience and best practices on energy communities. ***ePLANET sharing knowledge potential:*** Digitalisation of SECAP and tools to enhance decision-making on the energy transition (ePLANET platform).
Zlín region	North-East Bulgaria Bucharest region	***Identified topics for joint activities***: Sharing of experience and best practices on energy communities and related data collection (UC3 and results from the capacity building private webinar). Sharing of experience in data analysis (EP of buildings and PV-potential). ***ePLANET sharing knowledge potential:*** Tools for energy monitoring and data management and digitalisation of SECAP (ePLANET platform). Energy manager (Clustering governance - ICAEN).

Table 1 - Overview of the matching of regions and the proposed joint exchange activities

List of Tables

List of Figures

Abbreviations and acronyms

ABBREVIATION OR ACRONYM	DESCRIPTION
ECo	Energy Community
EE	Energy Efficiency
EP	Energy Performance
ET	Energy Transition
ETM	Energy Transition Measures
EU	European Union
GHG	Greenhouse gases
PV	Photovoltaics
SECAP	Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan
SF	Stakeholder Forums
UC	Use Case
WP	Work Package

1 Introduction

The ePLANET report on the follower regions' needs aims to present the methodology and results of the need survey for the follower regions and the process of the matchmaking with pilot regions that came out of it. It will also serve as a resource to organise the most relevant joint activities possible tackling the main challenges each region is facing when drafting energy transition action plans or regarding energy transition measures. It represents the deliverable D5.7 within Work Package 5 ("Replication and Networking").

To put this report in a wider context and as a reminder, the ePLANET project is a Coordination and Support Action co-founded by the European Commission through Horizon 2020 program. The project objective is to deploy a "new clustering governance" for an energy transition based on a digital framework to share harmonised information. To do so, ePLANET defines a harmonized set of energy transition measures (ETM), policies and data structures to avoid duplicated and ambiguous definitions in local, regional, and national plans. Through the new platform, public authorities are provided with a set of tools to improve decision-making and policy-making, facilitating the process of adoption, implementation, and monitoring of new or improved policies and action plans. Finally, the overarching objective of the ePLANET project is to support the development of Energy Transitions (ET) in the public sector.

The project enters the second phase, focusing on the transfer and expansion of the results. This stage aims to maximise the adoption of the ePLANET solutions by a wider audience, by connecting and institutionalising the clustering networks, scaling up the project outcomes to the whole pilot regions, and maximising its replicability to other regions at the national and EU level. This step is key in ensuring the sustainability of ePLANET tools beyond the project duration. The different activities will widen the impact of the project and foster the institutionalization of multi-level networks and working groups.

This document is organised into three sections. The first one will give more context to the need survey for follower regions by further detailing the purpose of the report and its connection with other activities such as the EU Call for follower regions and its selection process but will also serve as a basis for future joint activities. The second part of the report will dive into the need survey, recalling its objective and methodology and presenting the results. Finally, the third and last part will be dedicated to the matchmaking of regions and will give a first idea for potential joint activities topics such as Energy Communities, Energy Transition plans or data analysis.

1.1 Purpose and Framework of the Report

This report represents deliverable 5.7 within Work Package 5 (WP5) on replication and networking. It focuses on the EU-wide replicability activities (Task 5.3) and more precisely on the need survey for follower regions. It is aligned with the WP5 objective to widen the impact of the ePLANET project, by engaging with additional regions that are not part of the ePLANET partnership. ePLANET aims to utilise the partnership to support those additional regions in tackling sustainable energy action plans' challenges. The process started with an EU-wide call for follower regions (Task 5.3.1, see D5.5 EU open call) followed by an evaluation process (Task 5.3.2, see D5.6 Evaluation report with assessment criteria matrix) to identify the seven most promising regions for collaboration. After this selection phase, a need survey was disseminated to the selected regions to better assess their needs, match them with the most appropriate pilot regions and design the joint activities together with pilot regions (Task 5.3.3).

Within this wider context, this deliverable is reporting on the follower regions' needs but also makes the connection between the different activities under WP5, giving more comprehension to the relation between them and their purpose. Moreover, it will be the first source of information for pilot regions to organise better-fit joint activities.

1.2 Connections to other activities in the ePLANET project

As noted above, this deliverable is closely related to the other EU-wide replicability activities (EU open call and joint activities - Tasks 5.3) but it is also linked to other activities under the WP5 and other Work Packages. In the next subsections, you will find a description of these connections and further details on the other Tasks 5.3 on EU-wide replicability to better understand how the need survey for follower regions and the match-making exercise are taking part in the overall ePLANET project.

1.2.1 Disseminating ePLANET's first solutions to a wider audience

WP5 builds on the outcomes of other WPs of the project: WP2 (Governance), WP3 (Digitalization) and WP4 (User Empowerment), as it aims to maximise the adoption of the ePLANET solutions developed in those WPs to a wider audience. In parallel, it also links with the horizontal activities carried out throughout the project on WP6 - Sustainability beyond project duration and WP7 - Communication and Dissemination.

With regards to the **engagement strategy**, ePLANET adopts the 3-tier approach described in deliverable D7.1 (Communication and Dissemination Plan). The follower regions are part of level three, meaning the most engaged stakeholders. Therefore, they are part of the targeted audience of all the activities targeting level three stakeholders. Activities for this group involve the receipt of newsletters, participation in public and private webinars, workshops, site visits, and working groups as well as at the Stakeholders Forum´s meetings. By describing the needs and challenges faced by the follower regions, this document will also help better target the stakeholders of the third level of the three-tier approach.

In addition, the overall **Replication and Networking plan** is described in deliverable D5.1 and sets the strategy to maximise the impact of the project. Four kinds of activities are foreseen to disseminate ePLANET results to a wider audience. First, a local capacity-building campaign will be launched, comprising user empowerment webinars and workshops. These activities will be scaled up at the national/regional level through public webinars, workshops, and participation in national public conferences. Then, an EU-wide replication strategy will be implemented through the selection of follower regions, the organisation of Stakeholder Forums (SF), the participation of ePLANET members in public conferences, and the organisation of a final public event. Finally, joint exchange activities for pilot regions and pre-selected follower regions will be organised.

As stated in the replication and networking plan, the follower regions will benefit from all the relevant activities targeting the third level of the 3-tier approach, meaning they will be invited to participate in public events, to the SF, to the public conferences where ePLANET is participating and to the final event. More particularly, the EU-wide replication activities aim at the close involvement of follower regions and tailored support for the implementation of ePLANET results in these regions, for them to receive guidance for the development of ePLANET tools and on building up skills. Therefore, the results of all the user empowerment and scale-up activities, being either public or private will give inspiration for the joint activities which will thereby contribute to the dissemination of the results of ePLANET. By describing the needs

and challenges faced by the follower regions, this document will also help to better disseminate these results and thus enhance the EU-wide replication.

1.2.2 Open call for follower regions

The EU-wide replication activities have been initiated with an open EU call for follower regions constituting Task 5.3.1. It aimed to attract regional public authorities to follow the development of the project and to select follower regions based on clear objective criteria and a transparent process. By becoming a regional partner, the stakeholders qualify for specific joint exchange activities and capacity building tailored to their needs including thematic workshops, private webinars, face-to-face meetings with experts, as well as site visits. The call has been promoted among project partners' networks and in the end, seven regions were selected. The selection of the successful follower regions was based on a concise list of criteria organised into three groups (eligibility criteria, required qualification criteria and desirable qualification criteria) agreed upon by all project partners (see D5.6 Evaluation report with assessment criteria matrix). The final list included:

- Motivation to participate;
- Basic knowledge about the project theme;
- Availability to participate in the joint exchange actions;
- Availability to evaluate the joint exchange activities;
- Current status of SECAPs and ET plans;
- Ongoing ET initiatives;
- Availability of data;
- Language knowledge.

Taking into account the above-mentioned assessment criteria and scoring matrix, the following seven follower regions were selected:

- Municipality of Fyli (Greece)
- Regional Development Fund of Central Macedonia (Greece)
- South East Energy Agency (Ireland)
- Agency for Energy Efficiency and Environmental Protection (Romania)
- Black Sea Regional Agency for Energy Management (Bulgaria)
- Inter-municipality community of Tâmega e Sousa (Portugal)
- Regional Council of Baix Llobregat (Spain)

Moreover, a matchmaking exercise is also part of Task 5.3.2 (Evaluation process). Its objective is to associate each follower region with the most appropriate pilot region. The third part of this deliverable will describe this exercise.

1.2.3 Follower regions specific activities

The joint exchange activities for follower regions are designed to support the implementation of ePLANET results in the selected European regions according to the specific needs and challenges evaluated thanks to the need survey described in the second section of this report.

The planned activities for follower regions are further described in the Replication and Networking plan (D5.1) of which you can see a summary below.

The main activity follower regions will benefit from is a **study visit in its ePLANET joint exchange region**. This bilateral peer capacity-building activity is part of Task 5.3 and foresees physical visits, where the selected follower region and the associated pilot partner will meet.

The study visits of ePLANET are conceived as learning expeditions from follower regions (territories with less mature plans on energy transition) to the regions already using the ePLANET platform and governance. The aim is to learn more about best practices in place and to exchange experience on how to best implement ePLANET tools and approaches into the structure and some activities of the local and regional authorities. The visit should be tailored to the needs of the follower regions described in the second section of this deliverable. It could include presentations on tools, site visits, workshops, sharing experience, effective means of training, etc. to support the implementation of ePLANET in the follower regions. Overall, three study visits will be organized, 1 per pilot site and up to two people per follower region will visit for up to two days the pilot region. The results of these activities will also be detailed in deliverables D4.3 (report on training materials) and D5.8 (reports on joint exchange activities experiences).

The follower regions will also have the opportunity to benefit from **technical support visits of ePLANET experts** to their regions. The two best suitable ePLANET experts will be identified and selected according to their expertise to provide knowledge and share experience to support the follower regions' ambitions on implementing ePLANET results. For example, ICAEN for questions concerning governance, CIMNE on digitalization, or 3OC on user empowerment. Although the main focus is on local and regional authorities and energy agencies, other regional stakeholders could benefit from this technical support. One tailored support visit per follower region will be organized and should be defined together with each follower region.

In addition, follower regions are receiving **remote support from ePLANET experts**. The different project experts are available for different kinds of questions (e.g., technical, capacity building, governance) and provide further support in a wide variety of EU languages (e.g., English, German, French, Spanish, Czech, Greek, Italian, Portuguese) as well as Catalan to reduce barriers for follower regions to get or stay in touch with ePLANET. All types of actors, from all levels of the three-tier approach are expected to contact the ePLANET experts but we envisaged mainly level 2 and partly level 1 stakeholders.

This report on the evaluation of the needs of the follower regions is a valuable input to better coordinate all these activities that will be organised in the coming months.

Finally, feedback questionnaires will be handed over to participating follower regions to get an overall evaluation of how well the joint exchange delivered the expected outcomes and results. These will help measure ePLANET performance and promote lessons learned. A final report will include the feedback coming from the questionnaires and joint exchange activities reports, but also the overall evaluation of the implementation of the peer learning, networking, and replication activities (D5.8 - Reports on joint exchange activities experiences (M32)).

2 Need survey

This section is dedicated to the need survey. We will first describe the methodology and structure of the survey then we will detail the result of the survey for follower regions and pilot regions.

2.1 Methodology

The survey aimed to better grasp the needs and challenges faced by the follower regions to associate them with the most relevant pilot region and propose the most suitable activities. This matching will contribute to the overall objective to disseminate ePLANET project tools and solutions in additional regions. The main outcome of the project is the ePLANET platform which will provide digital support to municipalities in the planning, drafting, and monitoring of their sustainable energy transition plans. The questions of the survey have been aligned with the project's main outcomes for regions and grouped according to the four Use Cases (UCs) defined in deliverable D3.1 ePLANET platform specifications:

- Use Case 1 (UC1): Digitalisation of SECAPs drafting and monitoring process
- Use Case 2 (UC2): Analysis of the energy performance of the public building stock
- Use Case 3 (UC3): GEO-Tools for the promotion of energy communities
- Use Case 4 (UC4): PV potential analysis for public buildings

Therefore, we have grouped the questions into four sections plus an additional one gathering general information. Each section opens with an introductory inquiry on the interest of the respondent in the specific UC. Then, the questions are divided into two blocks, the first one focuses on the experience of the respondent regarding the topic of the UC and the second one concentrate on the follower region's interest in related activities. The first block is composed of five questions and some sub-questions and the second one of three questions.

To not overwhelm the respondent with a too-long questionnaire and to keep a high engagement until the end of the survey, it was designed with a balance between gained information and the effort needed to contribute with the use of dynamic questions. For example, if the respondent does not express interest in the UC, then the related questions do not appear. However, despite our efforts, some non-essential questions have not been answered by all participants.

Finally, the EUsurvey was used to ensure GDPR compliance. For more details, you can find the content and questions of the survey in the annexes in section 4.1 as well as screenshots of the EU survey layout in section 4.2 at the end of the deliverable.

2.2 Results

This chapter provides the results of the need survey per follower region following the layout of the survey. The organisation of the respondent is recalled as an introduction to each paragraph because it can be relevant to understand some of the responses, particularly the qualitative ones (rankings…). To complete the information gathered and facilitate the matching, a paragraph with some information on SECAPs and a few geographical facts on each region was added after the table on preferred activities. A concise summary of the results is presented in section 3.1.

ePLANET pilot regions are at different stages of the Energy Transition (ET) process and their characteristics are diverse in terms of governance, infrastructure, data availability, actions

plans and solutions among others. In other to know pilot regions' preferences in terms of activities and experience, we also asked their representatives to answer the survey. To complete the information gathered through the survey, we also consulted other deliverables assessing the needs and challenges of the pilot regions such as deliverable D4.1.

2.2.1 Follower regions

2.2.1.1 Municipality of Fyli – Greece

The respondent from the municipality of Fyli is very much interested in the analysis of the energy performance of building stock (UC2), the GEO tools for the promotion of energy communities (UC3), and the PV-potential analysis for public buildings (UC4). The lesser interest in the digitalisation of SECAPs comes most probably from the fact that **the municipality doesn't have SECAP**.

On UC1, although the municipality doesn't have SECAP and has never been involved in one, they are designing and preparing an energy plan. The main barriers they face regarding this activity are related to the **gathering of energy data**. The respondent did not put forward specific needs for support on energy transition action plans.

About UC2, data on the energy consumption of public building stock is collected on a year every year third party. The respondent is not pleased either with the quantity or the quality of the available data which does not give any indication of the energy performance. Finally, the respondent did not report any ongoing activity related to the analysis of the EP of the public building stock or any platform.

With regards to UC3, the respondent does not know which kind of energy data is collected in the region. On energy communities, she considers herself very familiar with the concept (5/5) because the municipality has established one. However, she is not involved in any related activity.

As regards UC4, no estimation of the PV potential of public buildings has been made. The respondent is not involved in any related activities and is not aware of any other initiatives in the area.

Finally, the respondent considers the energy governance in the region as not efficient (1/5) and would like to know more about **energy communities** and **energy transition managers** supporting **coordination between municipalities**.

Use Cases	Preferred activities
UC1	Workshop, peer-to-peer, study-visit
UC2	Webinar; workshops; peer-to-peer; study visit
UC3	Webinar; workshops; peer-to-peer; study visit
UC4	Webinar; workshops; peer-to-peer; study visit
Overall	Not answered

Table 2 – Fyli's preferred activities

Additional information: Fyli municipality was formed during the 2011 local government reform merging three former municipalities (Ano Llosa, Fyli and Zefyri). It gathers 45.956 inhabitants (2011). It is part of the Attica administrative region and the West Attica regional unit which covers the western part of the agglomeration of Athens. In addition, on the CoMo-Europe

intranet, we can see that Fyli signed the Mayors Adapt Initiative in 2014 but didn't submit any action plan nor signed any other CoMo commitment. In the West Attica regional unit, Aspropyrgos signed the CoMo 2020 commitments in 2009 and Elefsina and Megara in 2011. Aspropyrgos and Megara submitted an action plan in 2012.

2.2.1.2 *Macedonia Region – Greece (Regional Development Fund)*

The respondent from the Regional Development Fund (RDF) of the Region of Central Macedonia expressed much interest in the digitalisation of SECAP (UC1), the analysis of energy performance of building stock (UC2), and the PV-potential analysis for public buildings (UC4).

With regards to UC1, **municipalities in the region have Energy Action Plans**. The respondent was involved in their development (signing of the Covenant of Mayors and drafting the first Action Plan) but does not have access to them because the Region does not have any authority over the Energy Action Plans. The main barriers mentioned are the **lack of baseline data** for the development and the **lack of funding for the implementation of the actions**. Finally, support on the **coordination role of the region** to better support municipalities would be useful.

On UC2, the respondent does not know which kind of data on the EP of public buildings is collected in the region and is therefore not pleased with its quantity and quality. As an explanation, it is mentioned that there is not yet any obligation to collect this kind of data. Finally, the respondent did not report any ongoing activity related to the analysis of the EP of the public building stock or any platform. Additional support in the **convincing public authority of the need to analyse the EP of their building stock** would be useful for the region.

Concerning UC3, the respondent does not know which kind of energy data is collected in the region. On energy communities, she considers having an average familiarity with the concept (3/5) but did not name any community. Moreover, the RDF of Macedonia is involved in a HORIZON project from which an Energy Community is also a beneficiary. The **lack of a legal framework** was underlined as a main barrier to further supporting energy communities. Finally, **awareness raising** would be an area where additional support would be welcomed.

About UC4, no estimation of the PV potential of public buildings has been made. The respondent is not involved in any related activities and is not aware of any other initiatives in the area. The **legal framework and building permits** were mentioned as barriers to developing PV-potential analysis.

The respondent assesses the energy governance in the region as not efficient (2/5) and underlines that having a long-term plan would improve it. Finally, she would like to know more about **how to support coordination between the 38 municipalities** of the region.

Use Cases	Preferred activities
UC1	Peer-to-peer, study visit
UC2	Peer-to-peer; study visit
UC3	Peer-to-peer; study visit
UC4	Peer-to-peer; study visit
Overall	1. Study visits; 2. Peer-to-peer; 3. Webinars; 4. Workshops

Table 3 - Macedonia region's preferred activities

Additional information: the Macedonia region comprises 38 municipalities among which 22 are signatories of the Covenant of Mayors. The region gathers 2,366,747 inhabitants and has a population density of 69 inhabitants per km^2 (2020).

2.2.1.3 South-East Region - Ireland (South East Energy Agency)

The respondent from Ireland's South-East region is very much interested in all Use Cases.

With regards to the UC1, **municipalities in the region have Energy Action Plans**. The respondent was involved in their development and had access to them. She is also involved in ongoing mentoring, implementation, analysis, and reporting activities. The region uses the data to assist local authorities to achieve carbon neutrality by 2040 and to gather useful information regarding the county and cities' energy usage. The main barriers to developing and implementing action plans are the **lack of political commitment** and the **lack of coordination of mitigation and adaptation efforts** (mobilization of all departments, lack of allocation of appropriate human, technical, and financial resources). The need for more **individual mentoring** was mentioned and the following activities were suggested: sharing of **best practices**, roundtable **discussion on the common challenges**, and if possible, finding concrete solutions.

On UC2, data on the energy consumption and generation of the public building stock is collected yearly. The respondent is pleased with the quantity and quality of data collected. The agency is involved in monitoring, implementation, and analysis activities related to the EP of the public building stock but does not use any platform. **Roundtables**, the **development of a climate-action toolkit**, and **an audit framework** for local authorities to support development planning were suggested as potential additional activities.

Concerning UC3, in the region, energy consumption is collected at the municipal level, and energy generation at the regional level, both yearly. The data is analysed through a national government tool (SEAI, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland) and a domestic solar PV calculator. On energy communities, the respondent considers herself very familiar with the concept (5/5) as there are several ones in the region in the fields of solar, hydro, and wind energy. The agency is involved in monitoring, implementation, analysis, and reporting activities related to energy communities. The main barriers underlined are the **lack of allocation of appropriate human, technical, and financial resources**. Finally, the following activities were suggested: **sharing of good practices**, **empowerment of citizens** as key energy consumers ("prosumers"), and as participants in a demand-responsive energy system.

About UC4, the agency has already estimated the PV potential of buildings which provides enough qualitative data. They could have access to the cadastral data in ISPIRE format and the postal code with the municipalities' consent. However, the respondent does not participate in any related activity. Two other related initiatives in the region were mentioned: the Clean Export Guarantee (CEG), and the Micro-generation Support Scheme (MSS). In addition, capital costs and the upfront expense of building and installing solar are the reported barriers to developing PV-potential analysis. **Organising a workshop on solar PV business models for public buildings** was proposed as an additional activity.

Lastly, the respondent assesses the energy governance in the region as very efficient (4/5) and underlines that strengthening renewable energy innovation and adoption would improve it and policymakers should employ both upstream and downstream supports to do so. Finally, she would like to know more about **energy communities**, **tools for energy monitoring**, and **data management**.

Use Cases	Preferred activities
UC1	Webinars; Workshops; Peer-to-peer; Study-visits
UC2	Webinars; Workshops; Peer-to-peer; Study-visits
UC3	Webinars; Workshops; Peer-to-peer; Study-visits
UC4	Webinars; Workshops; Peer-to-peer; Study-visits
Overall	1. Study visits; 2. Workshops; 3. Peer-to-peer; 4. Webinars; 5. Roundtable; 6. Conference

Table 4 - South-East Ireland's preferred activities

Additional information: Ireland's South-East region comprises 456,228 inhabitants (2022), 5 counties, and 4 Covenant of Mayors Europe signatories.

2.2.1.4 *Bucharest Region - Romania (Agency for Energy Efficiency and Environmental Protection)*

The respondent from the Bucharest region is very much interested in all Use Cases.

Concerning UC1, **most of the municipalities have Energy Action Plans**. The agency is involved in their development and uses the data for the planning of new investments. The main barrier underlined to developing and implementing action plans is the **political risk**. **Networking activities** on this topic were suggested.

As regards UC2, data on the energy consumption of public building stock is collected monthly. The respondent is pleased with the quantity and quality of the data. The agency is involved in monitoring related activities but does not use any platform.

About the UC3, no energy data is collected in the region. On energy communities, the respondent considers himself as not familiar (2/5), does not know any energy community, and is not involved in any related activity. The main barriers faced to support the creation of energy communities are **legal**. Additional support on a **case study** would be useful for them.

With regards to UC4, no estimation of the PV potential of public buildings has been made. The respondent does not participate in any related activity and did not share any other related initiative in the region. The **legal barrier** is mentioned as the most faced one to developing PV-potential analysis for public buildings. **Knowledge exchange** on the PV potential of public buildings would be a useful activity for this UC.

The respondent considers the energy governance in the region as not efficient (1/5) and stresses that it would need communication improvements. Finally, he would like to know more about **energy communities**.

Use Cases	Preferred activities
UC1	Workshop
UC2	Workshop
UC3	Peer-to-peer
UC4	Peer-to-peer
Overall	1.Peer-to-peer; 2.Workshops; 3.Study-visits; 4.Webinars

Table 5 - Bucharest region's preferred activities

Additional information: Bucharest city and county comprises 1,716,983 inhabitants (2022) and 5 out of 6 of its districts are CoMo signatories.

2.2.1.5 *North East Region – Bulgaria (Black Sea Agency for Regional Energy Management - BSRAEM)*

The respondent of the North East region of Bulgaria is very much interested in all UCs.

With regards to the UC1, the **municipalities in the region have Energy Action Plans**, the agency has been involved in their development and has access to them. This helps them to develop project proposals. More specifically, the agency is currently involved in implementation and analysis activities related to energy plans. At the development stage, the main barrier mentioned is **gathering qualitative data** about the different types of RES resources and EE potential. The respondent also shared an interest to know more about **already implemented measures in other regions** to get inspired. On the second hand, at the implementation stage, the main problem highlighted is the **lack of funding** and high competition for EU grants and programs. The need to have more dynamic and integrated development, implementation, and monitoring of SECAPs was mentioned as well as more concrete solutions. In the suggested activities section, they mentioned focusing on **sharing information** in a two-way direction on EU opportunities and local problems.

Concerning UC2, data on the energy consumption of public building stock is collected monthly. The respondent is pleased with the quantity of data but not with the quality because the data available is usually on a medium that is not subject to digital processing. The agency is involved in ongoing activities related to the analysis of data on the EP of public buildings, but they are not using any platform. To enhance the expertise and awareness of local decision-makers, it would be useful for the agency to have additional **support to organise visits to other EU regions** with **successful examples and best practices**. An additional activity could be to organise an **on-site visit of a European-level expert**.

About the UC3, in the region, monthly and yearly energy consumption is collected at building block and municipal levels as well as monthly energy generation at the municipal level. The respondent specifies that it is difficult to access the data, the agency can only analyse it if they receive a request to perform an energy audit. On energy communities, he considers himself very familiar with the concept (4/5) but did not name any community. The agency is involved in analysis activities related to energy communities. The main barrier underlined is the **legislative framework,** but the respondent stressed that it is evolving since the creation and management of energy communities will soon be regulated. Therefore, the agency has a great interest in having technical **assistance to better seize the legislative opportunity** (**training, site visit, information**). **Seminars and training participation of representatives of successful energy communities and European experts** were suggested as potential activities.

On UC4, no estimation of the PV potential of public buildings has been made. However, the respondent participated in energy audits of public buildings, including assessments of PV potential. He also mentioned an ongoing opportunity for free financing of PV systems on public buildings. The main barrier put forward is the decision-making process. **Technical support for the training of young professionals** as well as **training materials**, **technical training tools** and **models of PVs** are mentioned as regional needs. Finally, the difficult access to PV components in Bulgaria is highlighted therefore, enhancing the **connection with European suppliers** is proposed as an additional activity.

The respondent rated the regional energy governance as not efficient (2/5) and underlines possible improvements by reducing the administrative burden and increasing the speed of administration. Finally, he would like to know more about **energy communities**, **energy managers,** and **virtual power plants**.

Use Cases	Preferred activities
UC1	Peer-to-peer; Study visit
UC2	Workshop; Study visit
UC3	Webinars; Workshops; Peer-to-peer; Study-visits
UC4	Webinars; Workshops; Study-visits
Overall	1. Study visits; 2. Peer-to-peer; 3. Workshops; 4. Webinars; 5. Special training for different topics

Table 6 - BSRAEM's preferred activities

Additional information: the North East region of Bulgaria includes four districts (Varna, Dobrich, Turgovishte and Shoumen) and comprises 933,705 inhabitants (2018). At last, 6 municipalities of the region are signatories of the Covenant of Mayors.

2.2.1.6 Inter-municipal community of Tâmega e Sousa - Portugal

The respondent from Tâmega e Sousa is very much interested in the PV-potential analysis for public buildings (UC4). He is also much interested in the digitalisation of SECAP (UC1) and the analysis of the energy performance of building stock (UC2).

About the UC1, municipalities in the inter-municipal community **do not have Energy Action Plans**, the respondent has never been involved in one and therefore has no access to the related data. However, they are starting a process of drawing up an integrated strategy in the energy and environment areas and it will be included in the preparatory work for the next EU support framework - Portugal 2030. The main barriers faced in developing energy action plans are the **lack of funding** and the **difficulty in obtaining data**. The respondent did not put forward specific needs for support on energy transition action plans.

Concerning UC2, data on the energy consumption of the public building stock is collected on a monthly and yearly basis. The respondent is not pleased either with the quantity, or the quality of the available data because the data is provided by energy suppliers, through the energy bills, and therefore, does not include all the necessary dimensions for a perfect knowledge of the reality of each building. The inter-municipality is involved in ongoing implementation activities related to the analysis of the EP of their public building stock and they already use a platform to do so.

Regarding UC3, in the region, monthly energy generation data is collected at the building level but currently, this data is not being analysed. On energy communities, the respondent considers himself very familiar with the concept (4/5) but did not name any community and is not involved in any related activity. The main barrier faced to further support the creation of energy communities is the legal one, the **legislation is still not adapted to reality**.

About UC4, the inter-municipality already estimated the PV potential of public buildings, but it does not provide enough qualitative data. It would not be possible to have access to the cadastral data in ISPIRE format and the related postal code. The respondent does not

participate in any initiative related to PV-potential analysis of public buildings and did not mention other initiatives in the region.

The respondent considers the energy governance in the region as not very efficient (2/5) and highlights the potential improvements in the **mindset of policymakers** and **data gathering**. Finally, he would like to know more about **energy communities** and **tools to support decision-making** on energy transition.

Use Cases	Preferred activities
UC1	Webinars; Workshop; Study-visit
UC2	Webinars; Workshops; Study-visits
UC3	Webinars; Workshops; Study-visits
UC4	Webinars; Workshops; Study-visits
Overall	1. Study visits; 2. Webinars; 3. Workshops; 4. Peer-to-peer

Table 7 - Tâmega e Sousa's preferred activities

Additional information: Tâmega e Sousa comprises 432,915 inhabitants (2011), 11 municipalities, and 3 signatories of the Covenant of Mayors - Europe.

2.2.1.7 Region of Barcelona – Spain (Consell Comarcal del Baix Llobregat)

The respondent from Baix Llobregat is very much interested in the GEO tools for the promotion of energy communities (UC3) and has much interest in the digitalisation of SECAP (UC1).

Regarding UC1, Baix Llobregat does not have an Energy Action Plan but could have access to the ones of the 33 municipalities of the region if they agree to share them. However, they have been involved in the development of action plans and are currently involved in monitoring, implementation, analysis, and reporting activities. The main barrier underlined in developing and implementing action plans is **access to knowledge and laws**.

Concerning UC2, the respondent does not know which kind of data on EP of public buildings is collected and did not mention any related ongoing activity or platform.

About UC3, the respondent does not know which kind of energy data is collected in the region and is not familiar with the concept of energy community (2/5). However, he did mention the energy community of Castellví - El Prat and he is involved in implementation, analysis, and reporting activities.

About the UC4, no estimation of the PV potential of public buildings has been made. The respondent is not involved in any related activities and is not aware of any other initiatives in the area.

Finally, the respondent assesses the energy governance in the region as not efficient (2/5).

Use Cases	Preferred activities
UC1	Webinars; Workshops; Study-visits
UC2	Webinars; Workshops; Study-visits
UC3	Webinars; Workshops; Study-visits
UC4	Webinars; Workshops; Study-visits
Overall	1. Workshops; 2. Study visits; 3. Webinars; 4. Peer-to-peer

Table 8 - Baix Llobregat's preferred activities

Additional information: Baix Llobregat region comprises 806,249 inhabitants (2014) and 30 municipalities and all of them are signatories of the Covenant of Mayors Europe.

2.2.2 Pilot regions

To facilitate the matching of the regions we also asked the pilot regions to complete the follower regions' survey and gathered information from other deliverables and particularly the D4.1. You can find all the info gathered in the different sections below.

2.2.2.1 Diputació de Girona - Catalonia, Spain

The respondent from Girona Diputació is very much interested in the digitalisation of SECAP (UC1), the GEO tools for the promotion of energy communities (UC3), and the PV-potential analysis for public buildings (UC4).

Concerning the UC1, the municipalities in the region use SECAPs and the Diputació have access to them and have been involved in their development. Currently, they are not using the data because they do not have a platform to do so but they are involved in the writing of the energy plans. The main barrier faced by the municipalities when developing and implementing energy action plans is the **lack of financial resources**.

Regarding UC2, the region collects yearly energy consumption data of the public building stock, but they are not pleased with the amount and quality of data because it comes from different data inputs and is difficult to process. The respondent is involved in analysis and reporting activities related to the EP of the public building stock but is not using any platform. Additional **support would therefore be needed to have a monitoring platform**.

About the UC3, the region collects monthly energy consumption data aggregated at building the block level and energy generation data. They analyse the data in Excel files. The respondent considers himself very familiar with the concept of energy communities (4/5) and knows at least one PV community. The Diputació is involved in implementation, analysis and reporting-related activities. The main barrier faced to further support energy communities is the **financial** one.

With regards to UC4, an estimation of the PV potential of public buildings has been made but it does not provide enough qualitative data. However, they have access to the cadastral data in ISPIRE format and the postal code of the municipality concerned. The respondent is involved in the development of related activities but does not know about other initiatives.

Finally, the respondent rated the energy governance of the region as moderately efficient (3/5) and would like to know more about **energy communities** as well as **monitoring and collecting consumption data**.

Use Cases	Preferred activities
UC1	Webinars; Workshops; Peer-to-peer; Study-visits
UC2	Webinars; Workshops; Peer-to-peer
UC3	Webinars; Workshops; Peer-to-peer; Study-visits
UC4	Webinars; Workshops; Peer-to-peer; Study-visits
Overall	Not answered

Table 9 – Girona's preferred activities

Information from other deliverables:

There are 221 local authorities, with a population of 757.497 inhabitants (2019) in the Diputació of Girona. Since 2008, 209 have joined the Covenant of Mayors initiative. 190 of them have approved a SEAP. Currently, there are 50 SEAPs monitoring reports and 3 newly approved SECAPs. The main stakeholders in the region are Ministries, Energy Transition Offices, ICAEN, Council of Local Initiatives for the Environment (CILMA), and DDGI.

The main barriers faced regarding energy transition planning are **limited financial resources** and the **lack of expertise**. However, there is no incompatibility with the national policy orientation, no lack of support from stakeholders, and the maturity and cost of technologies are adequate. The regional-specific knowledge needs and gaps are in the following fields: **finance**, **energy communities**, **citizen engagement**, **energy poverty** and **policies**. It is also important to stress **the strong need for support in solar energy** and **capacity-building needs in tertiary and residential buildings and transport**.

2.2.2.2 *Zlín Region – Czech Republic (Energy Agency of the Zlín Region, EAZK)*

The respondent from the Energy Agency of the Zlín region (EAZK) expressed very much interest in the analysis of the energy performance of building stock (UC2), the GEO tools for the promotion of energy communities (UC3) and much interest in the PV-potential analysis for public buildings (UC4).

With regards to UC1, stakeholders in the region have experience with Energy Action Plans and EAZK has access to them. More precisely, they are involved in developing, implementing, monitoring, analysing and reporting regional energy action plans. The main barrier faced is the **lack of sufficient own capacity** in meeting the objectives of emissions reduction and energy efficiency improvement. However, both local and regional levels of administration seek efficient and user-friendly use of the buildings and facilities they own.

On UC2, data on the energy consumption and generation of public buildings is collected monthly and the respondent is pleased with the amount and quality of this data. Moreover, EAZK is involved in ongoing monitoring, implementation, analysis, and reporting activities related to the analysis of the EP of the public building stock for which they are using an internal platform (MS Access).

Concerning UC3, in the region, energy consumption and energy generation data are collected yearly at the municipality level for consumption and building level for the generated data. The data collected is part of the report on the Regional Energy Concept implementation sent regularly to the Ministry of Industry and Trade. On energy communities, the respondent is not familiar with the concept (1/5), does not know any energy community in the region and is not involved in any related activity.

About UC4, the agency already estimated the public buildings and has, in principle, enough qualitative data. However, the respondent is not sure to be able to provide the cadastral data in ISPIRE format and the postal code of the municipality concerned. He is also not participating in initiatives related to PV-potential analysis of public buildings and did not mention any other related initiative in the region. Finally, the main barrier faced to developing PV-potential analysis of public buildings is the **very complicated administrative process**.

The respondent assesses the energy governance in the region as efficient (4/5). Lastly, he would like to know more about **energy communities**, and how they work in different areas, regions or states.

Use Cases	Preferred activities
UC1	Webinars
UC2	Webinars
UC3	Webinars; Workshops; Peer-to-peer; Study-visits
UC4	Webinars; Workshops; Peer-to-peer; Study-visits
Overall	Not answered

Table 10 – Zlín's preferred activities

Information from other deliverables:

In the Zlín region, there are 307 local authorities with a population of 580.119 inhabitants (2021). Most of the municipalities are small with insufficient absorption capacity. The energy transition governance in Zlín Region is vertical, solid, and well-established. The ET is organised rather through planning particular projects and individual implementation than SECAPs. The energy agency of the region, EAZK has a key role in supporting the region and municipalities to access funds. The main barriers faced by municipalities when implementing energy planning are the **lack of financial resources** and **lack of technical expertise**. However, there is no incompatibility with national policy orientation, no immature/high-cost technologies, and no lack of support from stakeholders. Finally, the regional-specific knowledge needs and gaps are in the following fields: municipal buildings, solar, public lightning, policies, and regulations.

2.2.2.3 Crete Island – Greece (Regional Development Fund of Crete, RDFC)

The respondent from Crete Island is part of the Regional Development Fund of Crete (RDFC). She is much interested in the digitalisation of SECAP (UC1), the analysis of the energy performance of building stock (UC2) and the PV-potential analysis for public buildings (UC4).

Regarding UC1, the island's municipalities have SECAPs, and the RDFC has been involved in their development and has access to them. More precisely, the respondent has been involved mostly in the development, rarely in the monitoring, and sometimes in awareness raising. However, there is no specific provision for monitoring/support for the implementation of SECAPs by external officers. The main barrier underlined is the **lack of a sufficient database** and the **low quality/reliability of data**. Additional support is needed on **climate adaptation at the local scale** (municipal level) and **using variables and making calculations on energy efficiency issues**. Training on how to elaborate Climate adaptation strategies at the municipal level was suggested as an additional activity.

About the UC2, the region collects monthly energy consumption data of the public building stock, but they are not pleased with the amount and quality of data because it is not

comprehensive (square meters) and there is a lack of homogeneity from year to year and from municipality to municipality which makes it sometimes non-comparable. Finally, the respondent is involved in monitoring related activities but does not use any platform.

With regards to UC3, the region collects monthly energy consumption data aggregated at building, municipality, and regional levels. The respondent considers having an average familiarity with the energy community concept (3/5) and mentioned the Minoa PV Energy Community. She is also involved in public awareness-raising-related activities and underlines a **big interest in the topic in the region**. The main barriers faced to further support the creation of energy communities are related to the legislation and the institutional level.

Concerning UC4, an estimation of the PV potential of public buildings has been made but it is mostly based on assumptions and is therefore not qualitative. In addition, no cadastral database is under development/verification process. The respondent is not participating in initiatives related to PV-potential analysis of public buildings and does not know ongoing initiatives. The main barrier to developing PV potential analysis for public buildings is that the **information available is mostly related to the technical characteristics of individual buildings** (i.e., year of construction, materials, area, etc).

The respondent assessed the energy governance in the region as not efficient (2/5). Decision-making, conflicts of interest, and managing conflicts related to the impact of RES technologies on ecosystem services are to be improved. Finally, the respondent would like to know more about the **energy transition manager supporting enhanced coordination**.

Use Cases	Preferred activities
UC1	Webinars; Peer-to-peer; Study-visits
UC2	Webinars; Peer-to-peer; Study-visits
UC3	Webinars; Workshops; Peer-to-peer; Study-visits
UC4	Webinars; Workshops; Peer-to-peer; Study-visits
Overall	Study-visits; Peer-to-peer; Workshops; Webinars

Table 11 – Crete's preferred activities

Information from other deliverables:

Crete Island is the largest and most populous island in Greece. There are 24 local authorities, with a population of around 625.000 inhabitants (2021). There is a vast adoption of the Covenant of Mayors commitments (18 of the 24 local authorities are CoM signatories, 16 of them with submitted Action Plans) and, at the same time, there is little monitoring of the implemented actions and relatively few investments in ET.

Another characteristic of the region is the unidirectional energy governance. The Energy Transition strategy is defined by RDFC and later adopted in action plans by local authorities. This enables limited feedback from the local authorities, no information sharing and no intra-local coordination. The main stakeholders are the RDFC and energy managers of municipal buildings (from the legislation).

The main barriers faced for the energy transition planning are mainly from **financial sources**, but also due to a **lack of technical expertise** and the absence of or weak **regulatory framework**. However, the incompatibility with national policy orientation and the lack of political support at other administrative levels are not mentioned as obstacles.

Finally, the regional-specific knowledge needs and gaps are in the following fields: municipal buildings, energy management in forests, agriculture, and fishery. Furthermore, in terms of capacity building the needs are in hydroelectric, solar, and wind as well as in finance and energy poverty.

3 Twining of regions and proposal for joint activities

To support the matchmaking exercise, the results of the need survey were compiled in a matrix table. We added criteria on language and geographical proximity since it would be disqualifying for some follower regions. In addition, the need survey was also completed by the pilot regions to support the twining process by gathering their views and interest in potential joint activities. The results were compiled in a scoring matrix table taking into account the results of the assessment matrix table of the selection process of the pilot regions (compare deliverable D5.6 Evaluation report with assessment criteria). We paid particular attention to the criteria of experience and capacity. The final twining partnership proposal and the corresponding scoring matrix results have been discussed with the pilot regions to ensure the best match and the best fit for all upcoming joint exchange activities.

In this section, you can find the two scoring matrix tables, the one with the results of the follower regions and the one with the results of the pilot regions. Those tables were the main tools to analyse regional and local authority needs and interests and to have a first idea of potential joint activities between pilot and follower regions. This analysis allowed us to obtain the best overall match for all regions. You can find the results in Table 14 which present the final twining and the corresponding proposal for joint activities.

3.1 Summary of the results of the need survey of the follower regions

In this section, you will find the matrix table which helped us make the first matching proposal of the regions. We used a colour code to better highlight the topics in which the regions have the most experience. The red colour corresponds to no or little experience, the orange colour to some experience (for example participation in related activities but not active engagement or activities touching the topics but not directly), and the green colour coincides with a concrete experience on the topic or an active engagement in related activities.

Follower regions	UC interest	SECAP experience	UC1 - Digitalisation of SECAPs	UC2 - Analysis energy perf. building stock	UC3 - GEO-Tools promotion energy communities (ECo)	UC4 - PV potential analysis for public buildings	Interest	Language, proximity
Fyli (Greece)	UC2, UC3, UC4	None	Involved in the design and preparation of the Energy plan	No ongoing activities related to the EP of the public building stock	Fyli established an ECo	Not involved in any initiative	Energy Communities and energy transition managers support coordination between municipalities.	Crete
Macedonia R. (Greece)	All	Municipalities have SECAP but RDF has no access to it	Involved in the development	Not involved in any initiative	Involved in a HORIZON project where an Energy Community is also beneficiary.	Not involved in any initiative	Support coordination between the 38 Municipalities	Crete

South-East R. (Ireland)	All	Municipalities have SECAP and the agency has access to it	Involved in the development, monitoring, implementation, analysis, and reporting	Monitoring, Implementation and Analysis activities related to the analysis of the EP public building stock. Pleased with the data	Involved in Monitoring; Implementation; Analysis; Reporting activities related to energy data in the region and energy communities. Many ECo in the region: solar, wind, and hydro.	Initiatives in the region but the agency is not involved	Energy communities, tools for energy monitoring, and data management.	Girona/Zlín
Bucharest R. (Romania)	All	Districts have SECAP and the agency has access to it	Involved in the development	Monitoring activity related to the analysis of the EP public building stock. Pleased with the data.	Not involved in any initiative	Not involved in any initiative	Energy communities	Zlín
North-East R. (Bulgaria)	All	Municipalities have SECAP and the agency has access to it	Involved in the development, implementation, and analysis of SECAP	Analysis activity related to the analysis of the EP public building stock. Not pleased with the data.	Involved in the analysis related to energy communities, very familiar with the concept	Participate in energy audits of public buildings, with an assessment of the potential for photovoltaic plants as part of the audit +Free financing of the	Energy communities, energy managers, virtual power plant	Crete/Zlín

						construction of photovoltaic systems on public buildings		
Tâmega e Sousa (Portugal)	UC1, UC2, UC4	Few municipalities have SECAP (3/11), and the community has no access to it	Drawing up an integrated strategy in the energy environment areas.	Implementation activity related to the analysis of the EP public building stock. Not pleased with the data.	Not involved in any initiative but very familiar with the ECo concept	Not involved in any initiative	Energy Communities and Tools to support decision-making on energy transition.	Girona
Baix Llobregat (Spain)	UC1, UC3	Municipalities have SECAP, but the Consell Comarcal has no access to it	Involved in Action Plan development. Currently involved in monitoring Implementation; Analysis; Reporting.	Not involved in any initiative	At least 2 ECo in the region, not involved	Not involved in any initiative	No response.	Girona

Table 12 - Scoring Matrix results of the follower regions

3.2 Summary of the results of the need survey of the pilot regions

Table 13 shows the scoring matrix results of the pilot regions based on their responses to the need survey and on the assessment matrix table of the selection process. It was used to consider their interest and the potential joint activities with follower regions in the matching process.

Pilot regions	UC1	UC2	UC3	UC4	Interest	UC1 - Digitalisation of SECAPs	UC2 - Analysis energy perf. building stock	UC3 - GEO-Tools promotion energy communities (ECo)	UC4 - PV potential analysis for public buildings
Crete	X	X	X		Energy transition manager supporting coordination.	Experience in SECAP	Monitoring energy consumption of public building stock	1 PV ECo. Public awareness activities	Initiatives related to PV-potential analysis of public buildings
Girona	X		X		Energy Communities, monitoring and collecting consumption data.	Experience in SECAP	Analysis and reporting of energy consumption of public building stock	1 PV ECo. Implementation, analysis and reporting	No specific activity
Zlín Region		X	X	X	Energy communities	No SECAPs	Involved in ongoing monitoring, implementation, analysis, and reporting activities	Data was collected as part of the report on the Regional Energy Concept implementation (Ministry of Industry and Trade). No experience in ECo.	Estimation available but no ongoing activity

Table 13 - Scoring Matrix results of the pilot regions

3.3 Final twinning partnerships and Proposal for joint activities

Table 14 shows the results of the matchmaking process and links the follower regions with the pilot regions of the ePLANET project. It further provides an overview of potential joint activities and the knowledge gap identified during the matchmaking process and within the need survey among follower regions.

Matched regions	*The main reason for the matching*	*Joint activities proposal*
Fyli (Greece) - Crete	Joint activities, language and proximity, common interest for governance models (energy transition manager).	***Identified topics for joint activities:*** Sharing of experience on SECAP, promotion of Energy Transition Plans. Sharing of experience and best practices on energy communities. ***ePLANET sharing knowledge potential:*** Coordination between municipalities and energy manager (Clustering governance - ICAEN)
Macedonia R. (Greece) - Crete	Potential joint activities, language and proximity, common interest for governance models (energy transition manager).	***Identified topics for joint activities: S***haring of experience on SECAP, promotion of Energy Transition Plans. Sharing of experience and best practices on energy communities. ***ePLANET sharing knowledge potential:*** Coordination between municipalities (Clustering governance - ICAEN)
Bucharest R. (Romania) – Zlín R.	Potential joint activities, proximity and common interest in energy communities.	***Identified topics for joint activities***: Sharing of experience and best practices on energy communities and related data collection (UC3 and results from the capacity building private webinar). Sharing of experience in data analysis (EP of buildings and PV-potential). ***ePLANET sharing knowledge potential:*** Digitalisation of SECAP to enhance decision-making (ePLANET platform).
North-East R. (Bulgaria) – Zlín R.	Potential joint activities (UC3), geographical characteristics and common interest in energy communities.	***Identified topics for joint activities***: Sharing of experience and best practices on energy communities and related data collection (UC3 and results from the capacity building private webinar). Sharing of experience in data analysis (EP of buildings and PV-potential).

		ePLANET sharing knowledge potential: Energy manager (Clustering governance - ICAEN)
Tâmega e Sousa (Portugal) - Girona	Potential joint activities, proximity, geographical characteristics, and common interest in energy communities.	***Identified topics for joint activities:*** Sharing of experience on SECAP, promotion of Energy Transition Plans. Sharing of experience and best practices on energy communities. Sharing of experience in data analysis (EP of buildings and PV-potential). ***ePLANET sharing knowledge potential:*** Tools to support decision-making on energy transition (ePLANET platform).
Baix Llobregat (Spain) - Girona	Potential joint activities, proximity, geographical characteristics, and common governance model.	***Identified topics for joint activities:*** Sharing of experience on SECAP and data analysis (EP of buildings and PV-potential). Sharing of experience and best practices on energy communities. ***ePLANET sharing knowledge potential:*** Digitalisation of SECAP to enhance decision-making (ePLANET platform).
South-East R. (Ireland) - Girona	Potential joint activities (UC3), administrative characteristics and common interest in energy communities.	***Identified topics for joint activities***: Sharing of experience and best practices on energy communities and related data collection (UC3 and results from the capacity building private webinar). Sharing of experience in data analysis. ***ePLANET sharing knowledge potential:*** Tools for energy monitoring and data management (ePLANET platform).

Table 14 - Final twinning partnerships and proposal for joint activities

4 ANNEXES

4.1 Content of the need survey for follower regions

NEED SURVEY FOR FOLLOWER REGIONS

Presentation of the use cases (UCs)

ePLANET pilot regions are at different stages of the Energy Transition (ET) process. Their characteristics are very diverse in terms of governance infrastructure, data availability, Action Plans, and selected solutions.

With this in mind, the goal of the ePLANET federated platform is to provide digital support to municipalities in the planning, drafting, and monitoring of their sustainable energy transition plans. Concretely, the platform will give users the possibility to:

- Monitor the progress and effectiveness of existing Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs)
- Consult and contribute to a database of energy transition measures, associated investment, and energy/emissions reduction
- Access data visualisations at a geographical level that can support municipalities and regions in drafting their energy transition plans

These actions were translated into four implementation actions called **Use Cases** (UCs):

- Use Case 1 (UC1): Digitalisation of SECAPs drafting and monitoring process
- Use Case 2: Analysis of the energy performance of the public building stock
- Use Case 3: GEO-Tools for the promotion of energy communities
- Use Case 4: UC4 –PV potential analysis for public buildings

The outcome will therefore be focused on ***SECAPs***, ***energy performance of public building stock*** and ***PV potential for public*** **buildings**.

UC1: Digitalisation of SECAPs drafting and monitoring process

The objective of this use case is to develop the necessary web-based environment to support public authorities to perform the following up of the SECAPs. In addition, it will support dynamic monitoring of the GHG inventory, the committed Energy Transition Measures and the actions committed within the climate action plan.

The pilot regions involved will improve the update and monitoring of Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs) thanks to a software tool.

N°	Question	Response type
0.1	On a scale from 1 (not really) to 5 (very much), would a platform gathering all the SECAPs data help you in drafting and monitoring energy transition plans?	1 to 5 scale
1.	Your experience related to SECAPs and the monitoring process	
1.1	Do municipalities in your region or the region itself have Energy Action Plans (like SECAP)?	YES/NO
1.2	Have you been involved in the development of the Energy Action Plans?	YES/NO
1.3	Do you have access to their SECAPs?	YES/NO
1.3a	If yes, how do you use it?	Open response
1.3b	If not, what are the barriers you are facing to having access to it?	Open response
1.4	In which ongoing activities related to Energy Plans are you involved?	- Monitoring - Implementation - Analysis - Reporting - None - Other. pls specify
1.5	Which are the main barriers and problems you face when developing and implementing energy action plans?	Open response
2.	Your interest in dedicated activities	
2.1	What would be the best way to conduct training on drafting and monitoring energy transition action plans?	- Webinars - Workshops - Peer-to-peer - Study-visits - Other (pls. specify)
2.2	If any, which additional technical support related to energy transition action plans would be useful for you?	Open response
2.3	Please feel free to share any suggestions for activities related to energy transition action plans:	Open response

UC2: Analysis of the energy performance of the public building stock

The pilot regions involved will implement a system to track and assess the energy consumption of public buildings belonging to several municipalities and the regional administration.
To make the building energy performance analysis are required building general data and energy consumption data. The general building data indicate the location of the building, the building characteristics like gross floor area, and the climatization source. The energy consumption measurements will reveal seasonal patterns.

N°	Question	Response type
0.1	On a scale from 1 (not really) to 5 (very much), would an online platform dedicated to the analysis of the Energy Performance of public building stock be of interest to you?	1 to 5 scale
1.	Your experience related to the energy performance (EP) of the public building stock	
1.1	Which kind of data on the energy performance of the public building stock is collected in your region?	- Energy consumption - Energy generation - None - I don't know - Other. pls specify
1.1a.	If none, why?	Open response
1.1b	If yes, on which regular basis?	- Monthly collection - Yearly collection - Hourly collection - Other. pls specify
1.2	Are you pleased with the amount of data you have on the energy performance of your public building stock?	YES/NO
1.2a	If no, what are the barriers you are facing to have access to quantitative data?	Open response
1.3	Are you pleased with the quality of the data you have on the energy performance of your public building stock?	YES/NO
1.3a	If no, what are the barriers you are facing to have access to qualitative data?	Open response
1.4	Which kind of ongoing activities related to the analysis of the EP of your public building stock are you involved in?	- Monitoring - Implementation - Analysis - Reporting - None - Other. pls specify
1.5	Do you use a platform to analyse this data?	YES/NO
1.5a	If yes, which platform it is and which kind of platform?	Open response
2.	Your interest in dedicated activities	
2.1	What would be the best way to conduct training on analysis of EP of public buildings?	- Webinars - Workshops - peer-to-peer - Study-visits - Other (pls. specify)
2.2	If any, which additional technical support related to EP of public buildings would be useful for you?	Open response
2.3	Please feel free to share any suggestions for activities related to EP of public buildings:	Open response

UC3: GEO-Tools for the promotion of energy communities

For this UC, the pilot regions have different levels of advancement and therefore will conduct three different activities:

- Link geographically based data from the renewable energy systems into an existing geographic tool aggregated at the municipality level

- Creation of a geo-referenced visualisation tool to support the planning of local energy communities with shared PV installations.
- Showcase of the town of Hostětín as a sustainable energy community

N°	Question	Response type
0.1	On a scale from 1 (not really) to 5 (very much), would a visualisation tool help you to support/promote local energy communities?	1 to 5 scale
1.	Your experience related to GEO tools promoting energy communities	
1.1	Which kind of energy data is collected in your region?	- Energy consumption - Energy generation - None - I don't know - Other. pls specify
1.1a.	If none, why?	Open response
1.1b	If yes, on which regular basis?	- Monthly collection - Yearly collection - Hourly collection - Other. pls specify
1.1c	If yes, at which aggregation level?	- Building - Building block - Municipality - Region - Other. pls specify
1.2	How do you analyse this data?	Open question
1.3	On a scale from 1 (not really) to 5 (very much), are you familiar with the concept of energy communities?	1 to 5 scale
1.4	Do you know energy communities in your region?	YES/NO
1.4a.	If yes, which ones and which energy sources are they using?	Open response
1.5	In which kind of activities related to energy communities are you involved in?	- Monitoring - Implementation - Analysis - Reporting - None - Other. pls specify
1.6	What barriers do you face to support energy communities in your region?	Open response
2.	Your interest in dedicated activities	
2.1	What would be the best way to conduct training on supporting energy communities?	- Webinars - Workshops - Peer-to-peer - Study-visits - Other (pls. specify)
2.2	Which kind of additional technical support related to the support to energy communities would be useful for you?	Open response
2.3	Please feel free to share any suggestions for activities related to energy communities:	Open response

UC4: PV-potential analysis for public buildings

The related activity planned for this UC is to determine the PV availability on public building rooftops having access to the cadastral data in INSPIRE format, postal code, and the municipality of the analysed buildings.

N°	Question	Response type
0.1	On a scale from 1 (not really) to 5 (very much), would a PV-potential estimation tool of public buildings be of interest to you?	1 to 5 scale
1.	Your experience related to PV-potential analysis for public buildings	
1.1	Have you already estimated the PV-potential of your public buildings?	YES/NO
1.1a.	If yes, do you have enough and qualitative data?	Open response
1.1b.	Would you be able to provide access to the cadastral data in ISPIRE format and the postal code of the municipality concerned?	YES/NO + Open response
1.2	Do you participate in initiatives related to PV-potential analysis of public buildings?	YES/NO
1.2a.	If yes, which kind of activities?	Open response
1.3	Are there other initiatives related to PV-potential analysis of public buildings in your region?	YES/NO
1.3a.	If yes, please specify.	Open response
1.4	What are the barriers you are facing to develop PV-potential analysis for public buildings?	Open response
2.	Your interest in dedicated activities	
2.1	What would be the best way to conduct training on PV-potential of public buildings?	- Webinars - Workshops - Peer-to-peer - Study-visits - Other (pls. specify)
2.2	Which kind of additional technical support related to PV-potential of public buildings would be useful for you?	Open response
2.3	Please feel free to share any suggestions for activities related to PV-potential of public buildings:	Open response

Closing questions

N°	Question	Response type
1.	On a scale from 1 (not really) to 5 (very much), how efficient is energy governance in your region?	Scale from 1 to 5
2.	What should be improved?	Open response
3.	If you think about the energy transition governance and energy data management in your region. Is there a specific field you would like to learn more about (e.g., Energy Communities, energy transition manager supporting coordination between municipalities…)?	Open response
4.	Rank the activities based on your interest to participate in from highest (5) to lowest (1)?	- Webinars - Workshops - Peer-to-peer - Study-visits - Other (pls. specify)

General information

- Name
- Organisation
- Region
- Comment

4.2 Screenshots of the EU survey platform and layout

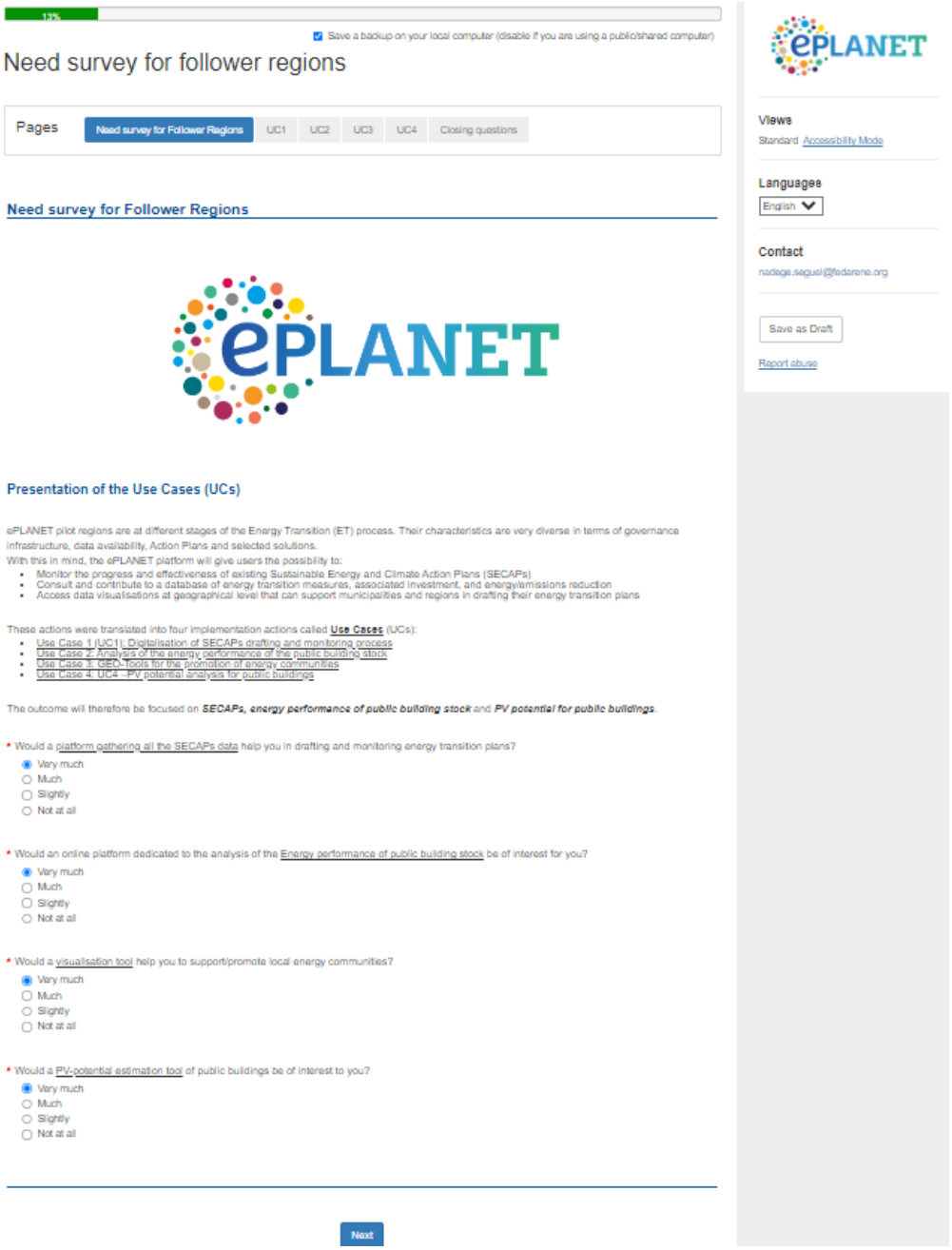

Figure 1 - EU survey intro page

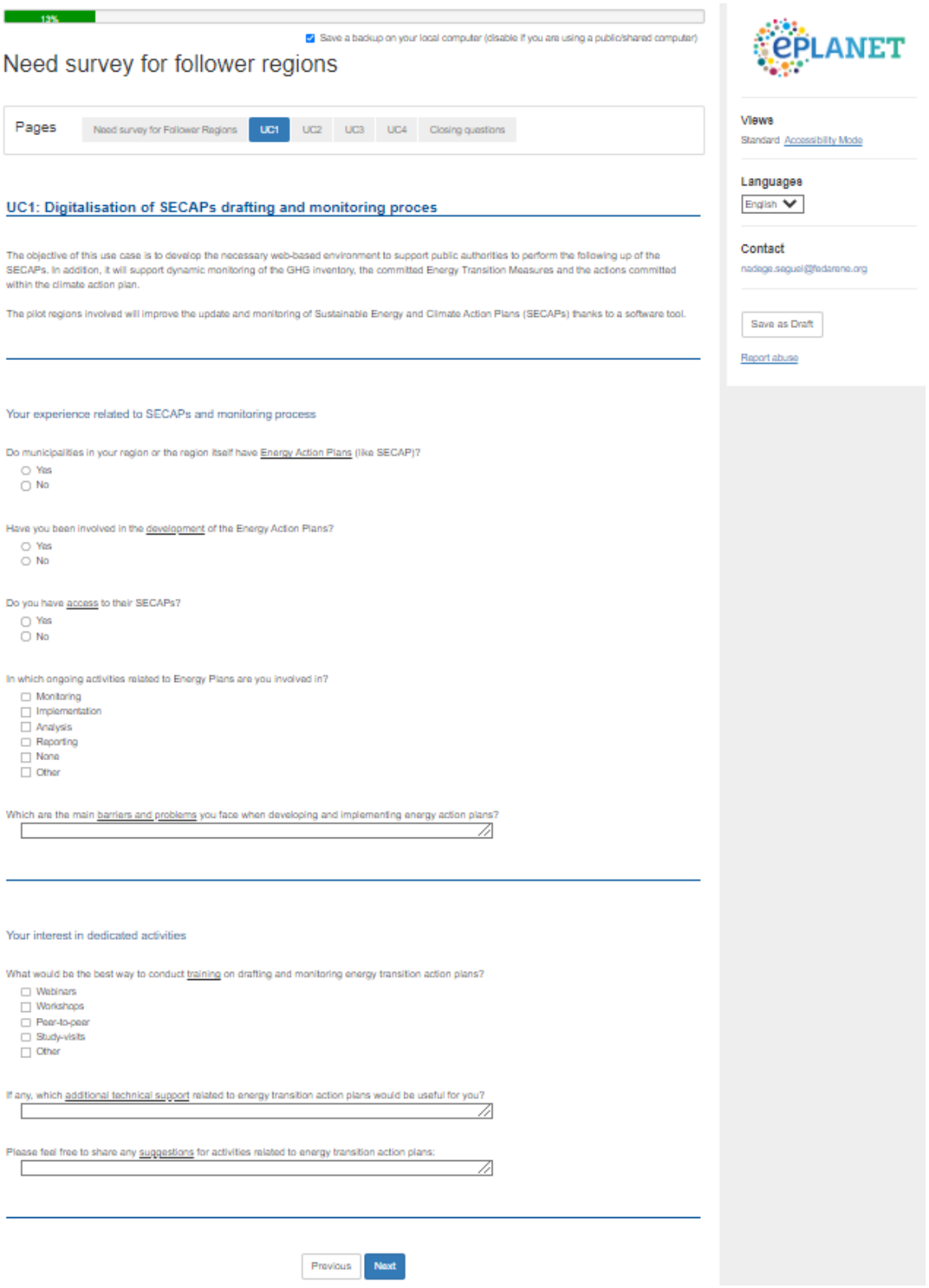

Figure 2 - EU survey UC1

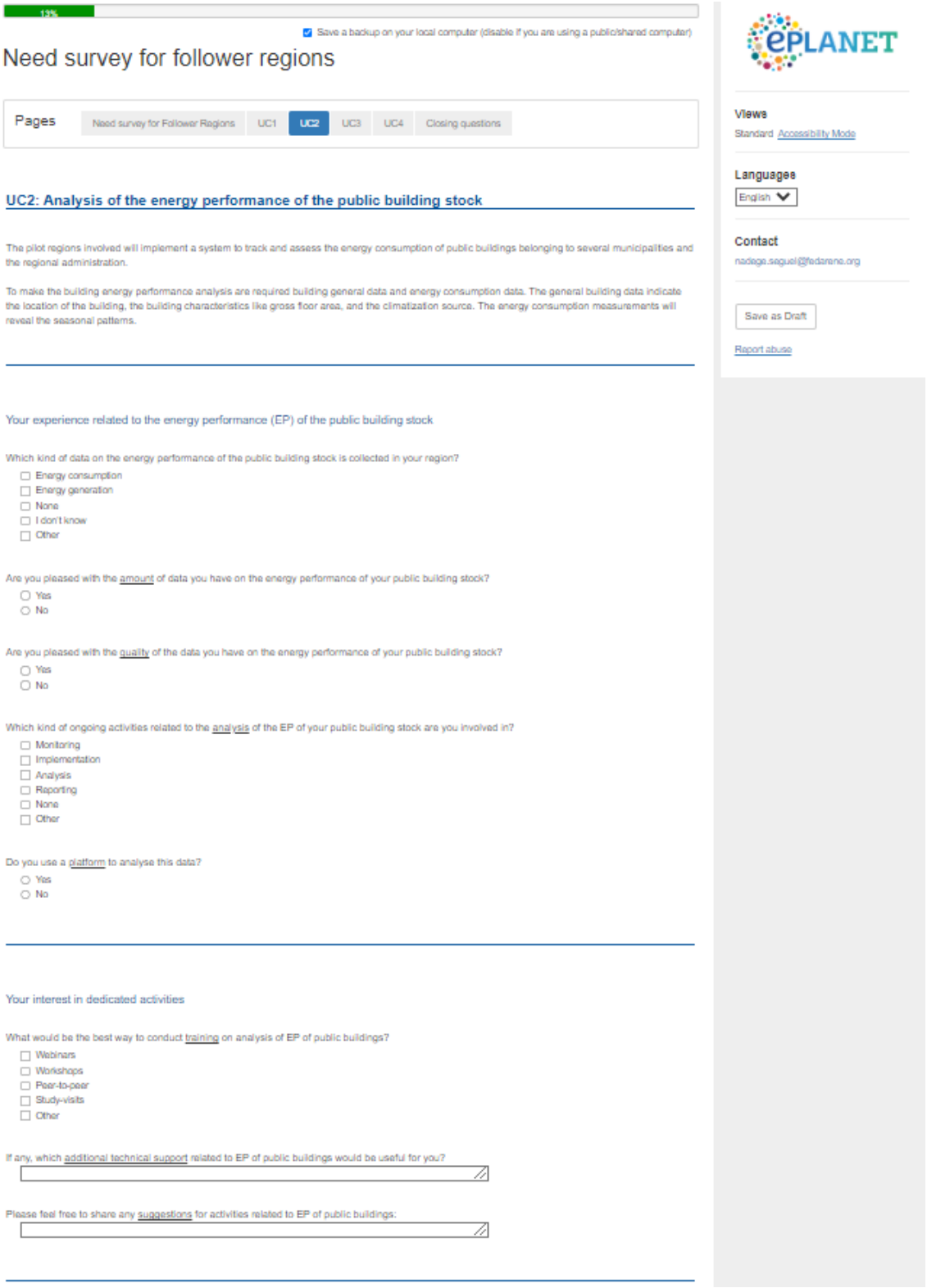

Figure 3 - EU survey UC2

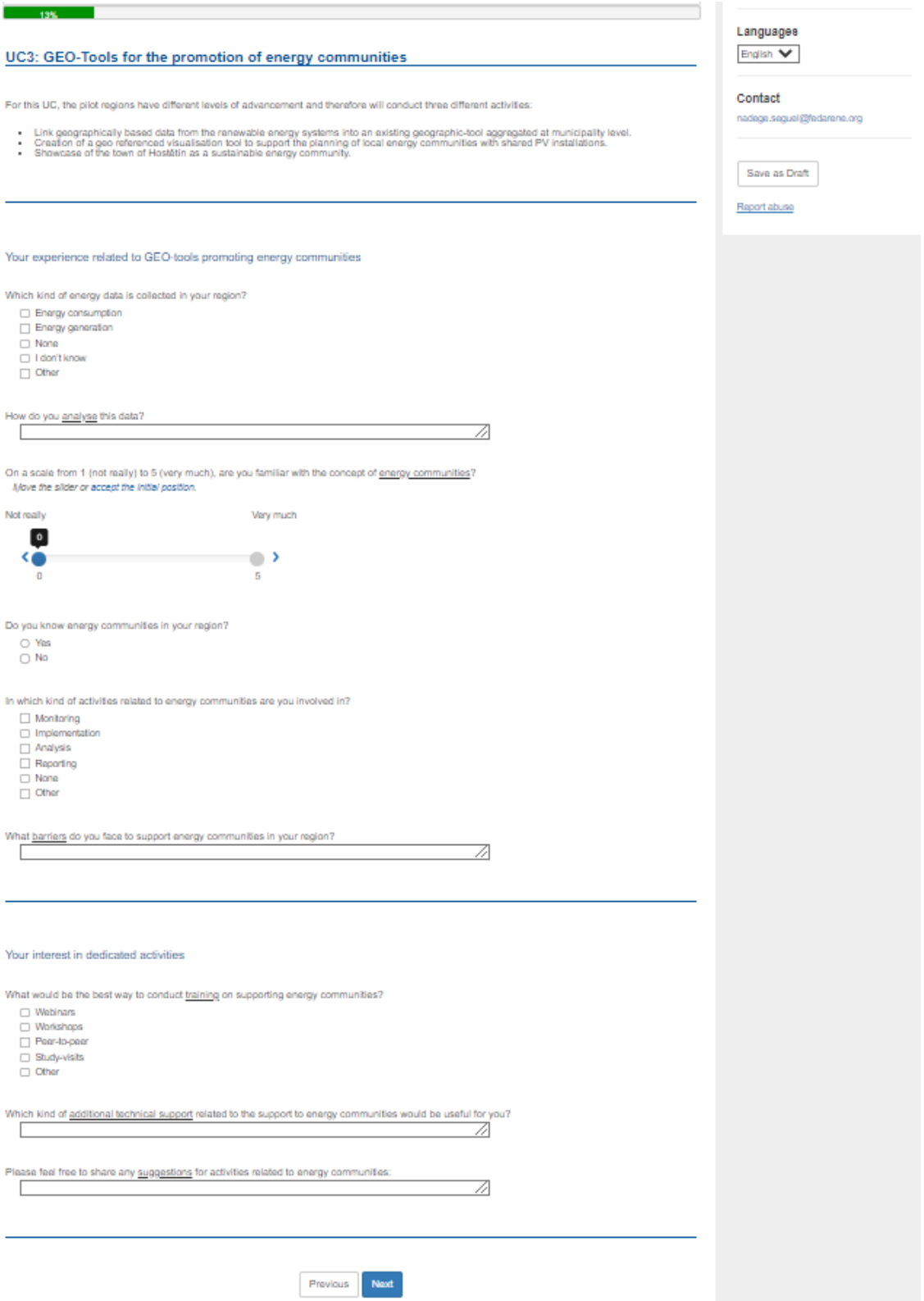

Figure 4 - EU survey UC3

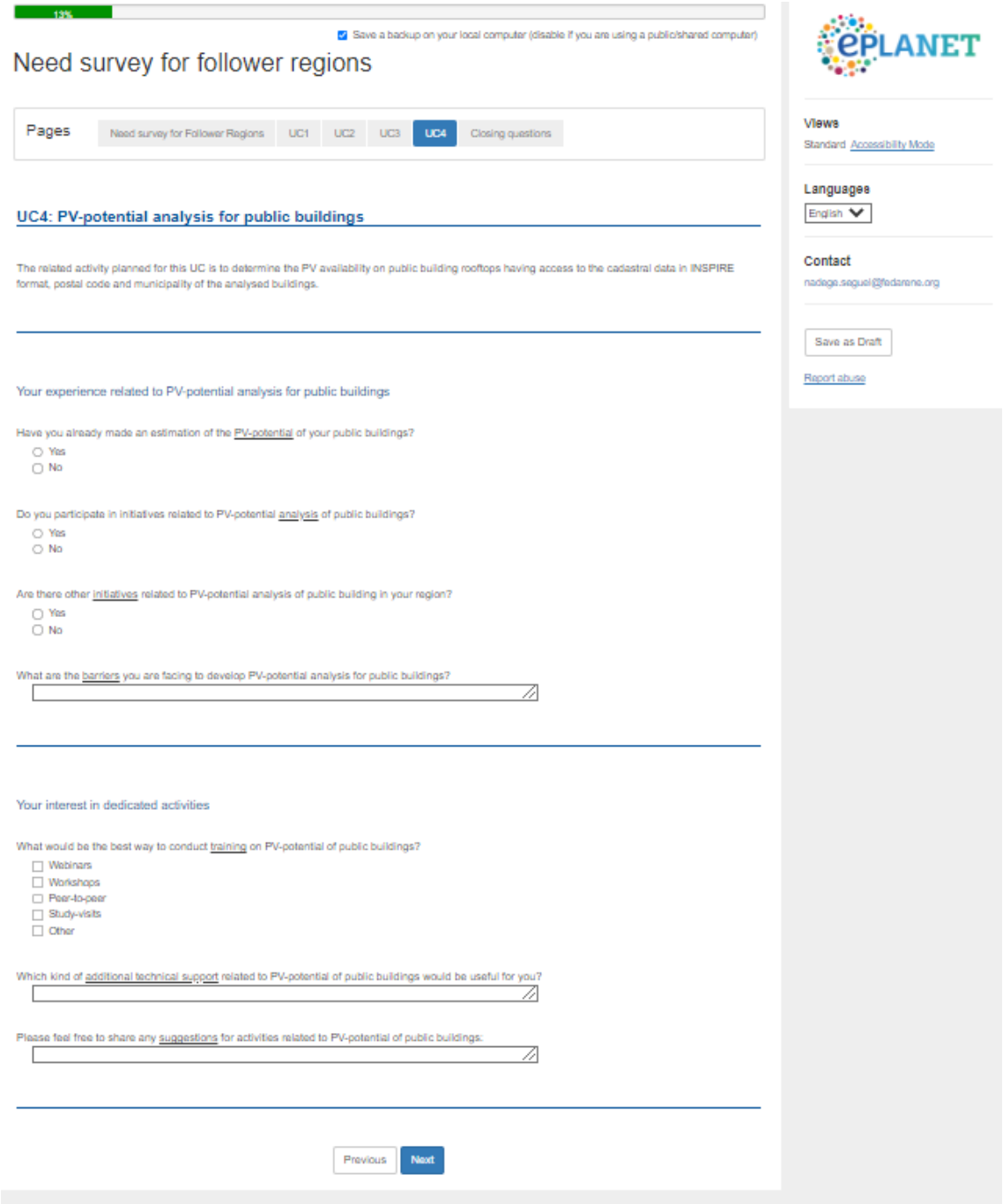

Figure 5 - EU survey UC4

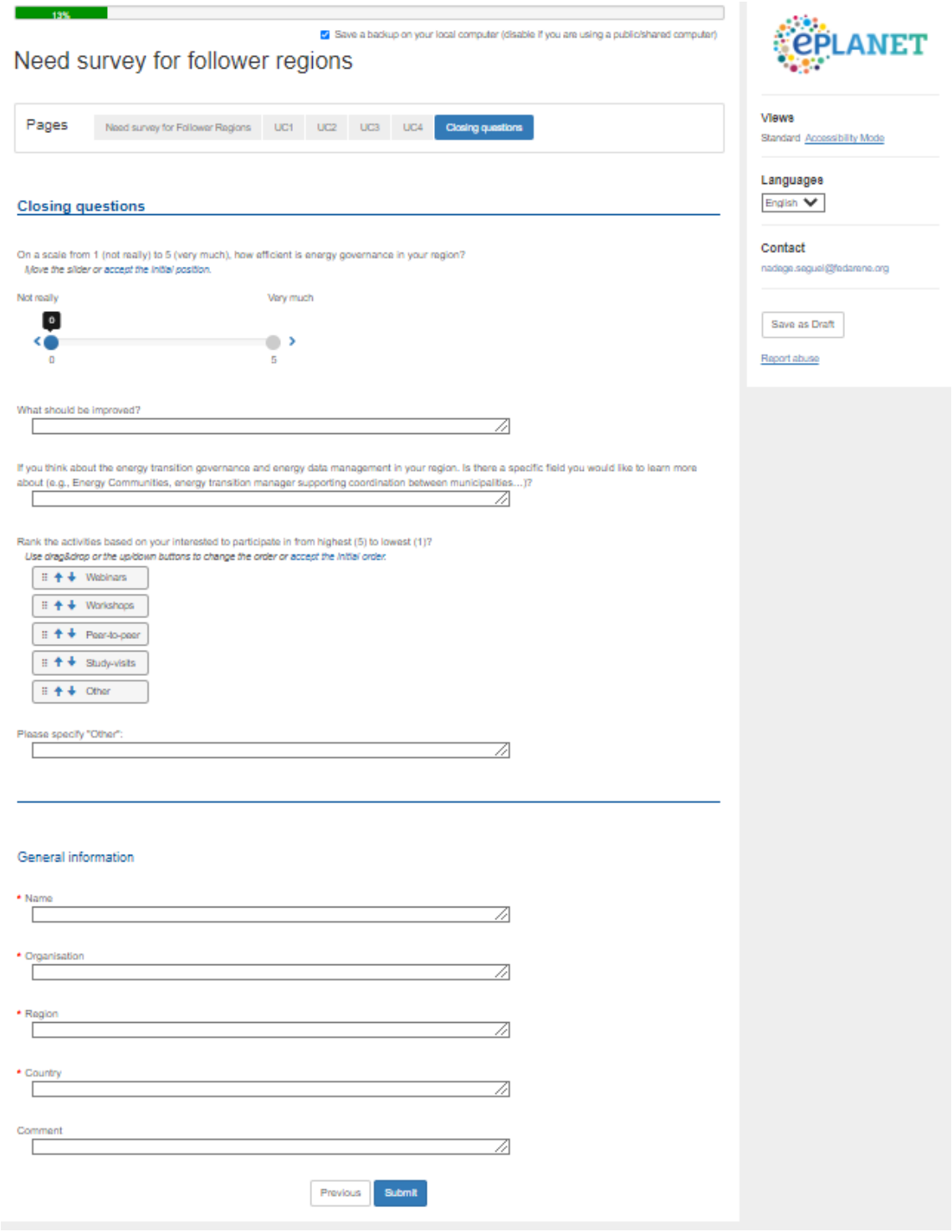

Figure 6 - EU survey final questions