



Renaissance

RENEWABLE INTEGRATION & SUSTAINABILITY
IN ENERGY COMMUNITIES

D7.4- COMMUNICATION, DISSEMINATION AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT REPORT

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RENAISSANCE Consortium

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Executive summary

Communication, dissemination and stakeholder engagement constitute the core activities of the RENAISSANCE project. The maximisation of the information spreading, based on identifying the different groups of key stakeholders who are interested in the project findings, allowed tailoring the communication and engagement strategy to raise their awareness and ensure direct involvement.

This document presents how the project promoted its research activities, how it involved stakeholders both in pilot sites, at the European level at large and internationally and how it strategically disseminated results across the different audiences.

The document is organised into eight sections:

Section 1 summarizes the high-level goals of the project and the main action lines that have been followed.

Section 2 describes the role of dissemination in the RENAISSANCE project and the main updates in the dissemination strategy.

Section 3 presents all finalised dissemination actions, subdivided in products (offline) and activities (online and real-life).

Section 4 presents a detailed report of stakeholder engagement actions, in connection with all other communication and dissemination tasks and other WPs.

Section 5 presents the lessons learnt throughout the whole project in terms of communication, dissemination and stakeholder engagement actions, including adaptations needed to steer them.

Section 6 illustrates the main barriers encountered and Section 7 presents mitigation actions put in place to minimize their negative impacts.

In Section 8.1 a short list of potential follow-ups of the project dissemination and engagement actions is included, such as short-term actions to promote results and raise stakeholders awareness beyond the project lifetime.

Annex I includes an updated list of Communication, Dissemination and engagement KPIs, including a focus on gender balance.

Table of Contents

1. Project Overview	11
2. Dissemination Overview	12
2.1. Applied strategy to achieve dissemination goals	13
2.2. How we reached our target Audience	14
2.3. Dissemination Approach.....	16
2.4. Coordination and networking with the Bridge Initiative.....	17
2.5. Coordination and networking with other EU funded actions.....	18
2.6. Dissemination towards the External Stakeholders' Group	22
3. Dissemination and Communication Report	25
3.1. Communication and Dissemination products and activities	26
3.2. Dissemination Pack	26
3.3. Brochures and flyers.....	27
3.4. Presentations	27
3.5. Roll-ups.....	28
3.6. Posters.....	29
3.7. Videos.....	29
3.8. Interactive gamification tool	32
3.9. Website and online presence	34
3.10. Interactive Reports	38
3.11. Social Networks.....	38
3.12. Newsletters	39
3.13. Press releases.....	40
3.14. Scientific Articles.....	41
3.15. Interactive Surveys to assess and increase social acceptance of RENAISSANCE solutions	42
3.16. Webinars	45
3.17. Public Events and workshops	46

3.18. External events and conferences.....	52
4. Deployment of the stakeholder engagement strategy.....	55
4.1. ESG members involvement and events	55
4.2. Community engagement in the European pilot sites.....	59
4.3. Community engagement in the global replication sites	63
4.4. Networking and engagement with other projects and organisations	65
4.5. Internal communication strategy – connecting partners with interested audiences.	65
5. Lessons learnt.....	67
6. Main barriers.....	69
7. Mitigation actions	71
8. Next steps	74
References	76
Annex 1	77

List of figures

Figure 1 – Project logo.....	26
Figure 2 – Online game landing page.....	33
Figure 3 – Final event participants play with the tabletop board game version of “Can you RENew it”	33
Figure 4 – Website traffic peaks – source: google analytics.....	44
Figure 5 – PEST analysis exercise with MIRO board.....	57
Figure 6 – Antje Nettelbeck and Maarja Meitern from BAX running the policy workshop.....	58
Figure 7 – Enerjettic Onboarding	61

Figure 8 – Analysis of Ugandan energy market.....	64
Figure 9 – Project meeting in Madrid – July 2019 – communication exercise	72
Figure 10 – Renaissance approach and process for pilot's implementation	75

List of Tables

Table 1 – list of acronyms.....	10
Table 2 – list of R&I initiatives monitored by RENAISSANCE	20
Table 3 – list of R&I initiatives contacted by RENAISSANCE	22
Table 4 – List of brochures and flyers	27
Table 5 – List of official project presentations	28
Table 6 – List of Roll-ups used in the project.....	28
Table 7 – List of Posters used in the project	29
Table 8 – List of project videos	32
Table 9 – Gamification tool links.....	32
Table 10 – Project online presence on external websites	37
Table 11 – List of online reports	38
Table 12 – Renaissance Social Networks	39
Table 13 – Newsletter items	40
Table 14 – Press releases.....	40
Table 15 – Scientific articles	42
Table 16 – social acceptance surveys	45
Table 17 – list of online webinars	46
Table 18 – MAMCA workshops in pilot sites	47
Table 19 – Public events in pilot sites	48
Table 20 – Esg workshops	49

Table 21 – PAN–EU events	50
Table 22 – International replication workshops reports	51
Table 23 – Conferences joined in 2022	54

ACRONYM	
ACER	Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators
CSA	Coordination and support action
DSO	Distribution System Operators
EEA	European Environmental Agency
EMD	Energy market distribution
ERCEA	European Research Council Executive Agency
ESG	External Stakeholder group
EURATOM	European Atomic Energy Community
IA	Innovation Action
IEEE	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
KPI	Key performance index
LEC	Local Energy Communities
LLCOE	Local Levelised Cost of Energy
RED II	Renewable Energy Directive II
RIA	Research and Innovation Action
TSO	Transmission System Operators

Table 1 – list of acronyms

1. Project Overview

Connected energy communities are the key players in the RENAISSANCE project, which explores and tests innovative business models and technologies in real-life conditions for a prosumer-consumer future energy market.

The RENAISSANCE project developed a comprehensive benchmarking model to significantly improve the uptake of local integrated energy grids and reduce consumer prices by at least 10% to 15%. The underlying concept was to combine novel micro-grid design and management tools with existing energy generation and storage technologies, to allow the identification of business cases and subsequent operational solutions, to maximise value capturing and energy delivery for end-users. Using an indicator like Local Levelised Cost of Energy (LLCOE), comparing the costs of implementing and running local smart grids with current centralised energy systems is now possible. This approach created new market opportunities (for hardware, software and services) and innovative business models driven by economic value, increased community engagement and compliance with public policies and climate goals.

2. Dissemination Overview

Dissemination, communication and networking activities represent an important aspect of the RENAISSANCE project. The dissemination of RENAISSANCE results to a broader community of potential users and to European institutions was an inherent objective of this Innovation Action (IA) dealing with many different stakeholders, from end-users in the energy sector, to policymakers, to green energy industries.

The Work Package 7 (WP7) has been entirely dedicated to the dissemination and stakeholder engagement tasks. The detailed description of each task, goals and activities planned in the first phase of the project can be found in D7.2 –Dissemination and communication plan (Renaissance project, 2021). The main goals of the WP7 were the following:

1. Raising awareness of RENAISSANCE's activities and results and the value this will bring to all the relevant stakeholders and policymakers
2. Engaging local communities and stakeholders in the different phases of the project, within and outside Europe, to collect needs, expectations and levels of acceptance of RENAISSANCE solutions.
3. Promoting the exploitation of the project results to further create LECs with stable and mature business models for decentralised energy production and markets.

The dissemination task spanned the whole project duration (36 months), consistently communicating the project's progress and results, and engaging and involving all the categories of target audiences identified at the beginning of the project.

2.1. Applied strategy to achieve dissemination goals

The dissemination and engagement activities focused on four main target audience reactions that all partners supported with coordinated activities, as defined by the Communication and Dissemination plan:

- **Raising awareness:** this activity started at the beginning of the project and lasted for the whole project duration. All partners focused on the project promotion by participating to conferences and organising local onboarding activities to promote the project, illustrate its objectives, scope and its value for stakeholders and research.
- **Generating understanding:** after first contacts with relevant stakeholders, including local communities, the consortium periodically got in contact with them to inform about the progresses and achievements of the project through official newsletter items, news pieces, social media but also partners' communication channels.
- **Engaging stakeholders:** all partners contributed broadly to engagement activities developed to ensure target users could give their opinion about the project objectives, approach and preliminary results. To this aim, specific activities in person and online have been organised since the early phases of the project to involve directly both local communities, stakeholders (citizens, campus students, market actors) and representatives of academia (ESG members, other EU projects, BRIDGE members) (see Figure 1). Activities ranged from pilot site tours to video interviews, and from online games and surveys to responsible consumption challenges. During the development of tools, they have been involved to ensure their usability, that they could make use of the project results and findings and provide feedback in a user-centred manner.

- **Ensuring long-term impact:** during the final phase of the project the consortium focused on getting key messages to key decision-makers (e.g. funding organisations, decision-makers and regulatory agencies) so that the RENAISSANCE findings and results are taken up and have an impact on future policies or practices.



Figure 1 – project onboarding event in Eemnes, November 2019

2.2. How we reached our target Audience

The RENAISSANCE dissemination plan was designed to match communication messages content with each specific target audience and the communication means used. Its correct implementation allowed to increase the outreach and to reach set targets.

The RENAISSANCE target audience was categorised under three main clusters, fully described in D 7.2 – Dissemination and Communication plan (Renaissance project, 2021):

1. General Public
2. Specialised Audience: this audience is made up of people directly affected by the outcomes and results of the project in their work, study, researches, etc. This target audience can be further broken up into several stakeholders segments such as:
 1. Research community
 2. Industrial associations and industries in the energy sector
 3. LEC policymakers, managers and representatives
 4. Other research and innovation actors (RIAs) and innovation actors (IA) in the energy sector
3. Decision-Makers:

EU and other funding organisations:

1. H2020 Programme committee

Regulatory agencies (European agencies and institutions in the energy and environment sectors):

1. Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)
2. European Environmental Agency (EEA)
3. European Research Council Executive Agency (ERCEA)
4. European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM)

National Energy Authorities and Environment Ministries

Politicians, policymakers and decision-makers (e.g. municipalities and decision-makers of metropolitan areas, company management

2.3. Dissemination Approach

Communication and dissemination products and engagement activities have been tailored for each different category of stakeholders, in terms of content, style, format and information use. Personalisation was not only limited to information content, but it also considered the style of the message and the means through which it was disseminated (e.g. document, report, website, seminar, etc.).

The dissemination strategy was planned, adapted and carried out as a long-term activity to allow the community of reference to mature their knowledge along with the evolution of the project.

A key role in the dissemination strategy was played by the **project's graphical identity**. Each communication from the project was clearly recognisable. The main RENAISSANCE dissemination and engagement steps concerned:

- Early phase: The analysis of the peculiarities and interests of the three main clusters of stakeholders (e.g. desk research; surveys; project feedback requests).
- Core phase: The definition of the contents was related to the advancements and findings of the project. In the initial phases of the project, the focus was on the project promotion through informative means such as brochures and the website and direct engagement, while the dissemination of technical results was achieved through specialised support, such as scientific articles, presentation at conferences and seminars.
- Final phase: The implementation of dissemination activities based on the status of the project and target audience, has been tailored to meet the needs of the different clusters of stakeholders at the EU level and in the pilot sites, in accordance with the evolution of the project.

More details about the essential changes applied to the communication, dissemination and engagement strategy are summarised in the final sections of this document (Sections 5, 6 and 7).

2.4. Coordination and networking with the Bridge Initiative

RENAISSANCE ensured continuous coordination and effective exchange of information with the BRIDGE initiative ([HTTPS://WWW.H2020-BRIDGE.EU/](https://www.h2020-bridge.eu/)).

BRIDGE is a European Commission initiative which unites Horizon 2020 Smart Grid and Energy Storage Projects to create a structured view of cross-cutting issues which are encountered in the demonstration projects and may constitute an obstacle to innovation.

The Renaissance consortium fostered synergy with the BRIDGE initiative through the following activities:

- Chair and participation as BRIDGE WP leader 2020–2021 in the sub-working group Governance and Organisational models (BAX)
- Involvement of ongoing H2020 projects through the BRIDGE initiative network and researchers in the two pan-European workshops (Steer-it up event at M30 and Final event at M42);
- Involvement of RENAISSANCE partners in BRIDGE online webinars and workshops
- Participation in BRIDGE Working Groups and Task Forces: Data management (Atos), Business Models (BAX) and Customer and Citizen Engagement (BAX and DBL);
- Contribution to the periodical BRIDGE newsletter;
- Presenting results at BRIDGE General Assembly
- Writing, editing and collaboration on joint deliverables and/reports.

2.5. Coordination and networking with other EU funded actions

Coordination was ensured with other similar initiatives/projects, such as the RIAs, IAs and CSAs dealing with the same topic and research projects on smart grids and LECs. These networking activities enabled actual synergies, coordinating the mutual dissemination activity and optimising the collection of data for better results. In the following Table 2 the list of project monitored is presented, while in Table 3 all projects actually contacted can be found.

List of R&I projects monitored by RENAISSANCE	
1.	ACCESS
	https://northsearegion.eu/access/
2.	BestRES
	http://bestres.eu/
3.	BioVill
	http://www.biovill.eu/
4.	CELSIUS
	https://celsiuscity.eu
5.	Clim-Op
	WWW-CLIM-OP.EU
6.	CoolHeating
	http://www.coolheating.eu
6.	Co2mmunity

	http://co2mmunity.eu
7.	Crossbow
	http://crossbowproject.eu/
8.	DREEAM
	http://dreeam.eu
9.	ELSA
	https://www.elsa-h2020.eu/
10.	EU-SysFlex
	http://eu-sysflex.com/
11.	Flexitranstore
	http://flexitranstore.eu/
12.	Go-Flex
	https://goflex-project.eu/
13.	Gridsol
	http://www.gridsolproject.eu/
14.	Heat4Cool
	www.heat4cool.eu
15.	InterFlex
	https://interflex-h2020.com/
16.	NETfficient
	http://netfficient-project.eu/
17.	NobelGRID

	https://nobelgrid.eu/
18.	PV-Prosumers4Grid
	https://www.pvp4grid.eu/
19.	SMILE
	http://www.h2020smile.eu/
20.	STORY
	http://horizon2020-story.eu/
21.	Sustainable Project
	http://www.sustainableproject.eu/
22.	TILOS
	https://www.tiloshorizon.eu/
23.	WinWind
	http://www.winwind-project.eu/

Table 2 – list of R&I initiatives monitored by RENAISSANCE

LIST OF R&I PROJECTs CONTACTED by RENAISSANCE	
1.	AgroFossilFree cluster (changed name in AREA ZERO)
2.	AtLAST https://www.atlast.uio.no Survey and workshop organisation with the local community in San Pedro de Atacama
3.	CHOICE: online training webinar for school teachers on energy communities and Renaissance solutions
4.	Compile https://www.compile-project.eu/ Collaboration in PAN-EU Event

5. CREATORS: <https://www.creators4you.energy/> Joint workshops in exploitation work packages, sharing of results on the pilots
6. EC2 <https://ec2project.eu/> Mutual support on social media
7. E-LAND <https://elandh2020.eu/> Survey and workshop organisation with the local community in Auroville
8. HESTIA <https://hestia-eu.com/> Joint webinar
9. HYPERFARM <https://hyperfarm.eu/> Participation to joint workshops
10. IntergridY <http://www.integridy.eu/> Participation to joint workshops
11. INTERPRETER <https://www.interpreter-h2020.eu/>
12. MERLON <https://www.merlon-project.eu/> Participation to joint webinar
13. RES4LIVE <https://res4live.eu/> Collaboration in AREA ZERO cluster
14. REVIEVAL <https://revieval.org/> Collaboration in Vega de Valcarce
15. SCORE <https://www.score-h2020.eu/> / Collaboration in Vega de Valcarce site and joint policy paper
16. STEPS interreg: <https://www.nweurope.eu/projects/project-search/steps-storage-of-energy-power-systems-in-nwe/>
Participation at the policy roundtable, sharing of results, and learning from their work in order to fill the market entry strategy report for RENAISSANCE
17. THE GREEFA <http://thegreefa.eu/it/home-wloskie/>
18. iElectrix: panel session during final PAN-EU event: <https://ielectrix-h2020.eu/>

19. Interconnect: panel session during final PAN-EU event
<https://interconnectproject.eu/>
20. MUSE Grids: Participation to joint online workshops and to both projects final events in Brussels: <https://muse-grids.eu/>

Table 3 – list of R&I initiatives contacted by RENAISSANCE

2.6. Dissemination towards the External Stakeholders' Group

To broaden the impact of RENAISSANCE project the intention was to increase external stakeholders participation and involvement. Therefore, a RENAISSANCE External Stakeholders Group was set up. The External Stakeholders Group members were invited to participate in ad-hoc meeting reviews and provide feedback to (intermediate) project results thus steering the overall work of the project. A detailed description of ESG involvement can be found in Section 4.1.

The preliminary list of potential stakeholders included:

- Agoria – [HTTPS://WWW.AGORIA.BE/](https://www.agoria.be/)
- Anthology Ventures [HTTPS://ANTHOLOGYVENTURES.COM/](https://anthologyventures.com/) – Start up Studio and Business Angels interested in funding/search for funding novel business models in the energy sector
- Association of Energy Auditors [HTTPS://ZAE.ORG.PL/ABOUT/](https://zae.org.pl/about/)
- AzzeroCO2 – [HTTPS://WWW.AZZEROCO2.IT/](https://www.azzero.co2.it/)
- Banc – [HTTPS://WWW.KBC.BE/RETAIL/](https://www.kbc.be/retail/)
- Diputación de Orense – ([HTTP://WWW.DEPOURENSE.ES/](http://www.depo.urense.es/))
- Distribution network operator for electricity and natural gas – [HTTPS://WWW.SIBELGA.BE/EN/](https://www.sibelga.be/en/)
- Distribution of gas and electricity in Flanders – [HTTPS://WWW.FLUVIUS.BE/NL](https://www.fluvius.be/nl)
- Enel X – [HTTPS://WWW.ENELX.COM/EN](https://www.enelx.com/en)

- EnerGent – [HTTPS://ENERGENT.BE/](https://ENERGENT.BE/)
- European Distribution System Operators – [HTTPS://WWW.EDSOFORMARTGRIDS.EU/HOME/](https://WWW.EDSOFORMARTGRIDS.EU/HOME/)
- European Federation of Local Energy Companies [HTTP://WWW.CEDEC.COM](http://WWW.CEDEC.COM)
- European Smart Metering Industry Group [HTTPS://ESMIG.EU/](https://ESMIG.EU/)
- Federacion des energies renouvelables – [HTTPS://WWW.EDORA.ORG/](https://WWW.EDORA.ORG/)
- Flemish Government – [HTTPS://WWW.VLAANDEREN.BE/EN](https://WWW.VLAANDEREN.BE/EN)
- Flux50 – Smart Grids Flanders – [HTTPS://FLUX50.COM/ABOUT/MEMBERS](https://FLUX50.COM/ABOUT/MEMBERS)
- Independent authority of the Flemish energy market – [HTTPS://WWW.VREG.BE/EN](https://WWW.VREG.BE/EN)
- Intervest – [HTTPS://WWW.INTERVEST.BE/NL](https://WWW.INTERVEST.BE/NL)
- KRITON ENERGY [HTTPS://WWW.KRITON-ENERGY.COM/EN/](https://WWW.KRITON-ENERGY.COM/EN/) – Consultancy in Design and implementation of Energy Projects
- Legambiente Italia – [HTTPS://WWW.LEGAMBIENTE.IT/](https://WWW.LEGAMBIENTE.IT/)
- Priva – [HTTPS://WWW.PRIVA.COM/BE](https://WWW.PRIVA.COM/BE)
- Region of East Macedonia and Thrace [HTTP://WWW.PAMTH.GOV.GR/](http://WWW.PAMTH.GOV.GR/)
- SAPE Polska – National Association “Respect for Energy and the Environment” ([HTTPS://SAPE.ORG.PL/ABOUT/](https://SAPE.ORG.PL/ABOUT/))
- SmartEn Association – [HTTPS://WWW.SMARTEN.EU/OUR-ASSOCIATION/](https://WWW.SMARTEN.EU/OUR-ASSOCIATION/)
- SYMPRAXIS [HTTP://SYMPRAXIS.EU/CMS/WORKS/](http://SYMPRAXIS.EU/CMS/WORKS/) – Consultancy and Communication with EU funded projects in the energy sector
- Synergrid – [HTTP://WWW.SYNERGRID.BE/](http://WWW.SYNERGRID.BE/)
- Union of the Electricity Industry [HTTPS://WWW.EURELECTRIC.ORG/](https://WWW.EURELECTRIC.ORG/)
- Xunta de Galicia – [HTTPS://WWW.XUNTA.GAL/PORTADA](https://WWW.XUNTA.GAL/PORTADA)

Further ESG members who joined during the project were:

- ENCO – Energia Collettiva – Energy Communities
[HTTPS://ENERGIACOLLETTIVA.COM/](https://energiacollettiva.com/)
- UNICAM – Università di Camerino [HTTPS://ECPE.UNICAM.IT/EN](https://ecpe.unicam.it/en)
- UTWENTE – University of Twente [HTTPS://WWW.UTWENTE.NL](https://www.utwente.nl)

3. Dissemination and Communication Report

The dissemination of the RENAISSANCE project was intended as a collaborative activity managed by Deep Blue and supported by the whole consortium, to ensure the greatest circulation of research information, progresses and results. Partners helped identify the different target audiences and domain-specific channels in their countries. Pilot site leaders helped inform local communities about planned activities and events. Tailored messages were issued to enhance engagement and additional products and activities have been produced and organised in order to better involve local communities.

This section summarises the dissemination and networking actions completed, divided into:

1. Offline/printed communication and dissemination products: brochures, flyers and multimedia products that can be easily sent, printed or saved. All these materials have been also uploaded as digital resources on the project website.
2. Online communication and dissemination products: all the content developed and issued via web channels such as websites, social networks and other online platforms either hosting contents or offering online tools for dissemination (e.g. newsletter and survey tools, scientific articles platforms).
3. In person and online communication and dissemination activities: live events organised by the project or attended by consortium members.
4. Online and real life stakeholder engagement activities: all the contents and activities planned and delivered to the different target audiences focused on the specific objective of a direct involvement in

the research, such as workshops, focus groups, envisioning sessions or interviews to develop better tools and to collect feedback on results.

3.1. Communication and Dissemination products and activities

Distribution of branded multimedia products were pursued during organised presentations, public events, forums and conferences. Simultaneously, the same products were accessible via the website, ensuring shareability and readability to the largest audience.

3.2. Dissemination Pack

The dissemination pack was composed of a set of products associated with the project image: the logo (Figure 1), the style guide and the font kit. It has been developed and provided to all partners to ensure overall consistency of the project communication style.



Figure 1 – Project logo

3.3. Brochures and flyers

In connection to public events, printed flyers and additional brochures were produced throughout the project to present project's goals, methodology and findings (Table 4).

1.	Official brochure:	https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/resource/renaissance-brochure/
2.	Project brochure for Eemnes 1 st onboarding event:	https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/resource/renaissance-brochure-eemnes-pilot-site/
3.	Project handout in Dutch for Eemnes 1 st onboarding event:	https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/RENAISSANCE_brochure_PS_eemnes_online_final.pdf
4.	Enerjettic poster:	https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/ENERJETTIC_template_rollup_80x200.pptx-1.pdf
5.	Custom survey invitation for VUB and DUTH Campus: Add link	https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/second-launch-of-our-renaissance-survey-in-pilot-sites/

Table 4 – List of brochures and flyers

3.4. Presentations

Presentation templates and custom slide-decks have been prepared for the participation in conferences, workshops and events. All partners could freely modify and enrich presentations with tailored contents depending on their needs. A specific interactive product was developed to support the presentation of early results to ESG members during the 2nd online ESG meeting in M37. Many project advancements slide-decks have been developed to support partners presenting the project in the various

conferences and events, summarising the project goals and approach. The main content is included in the final slide deck presented during our final event (Table 5).

https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/RENAISSANCE_ESG_presentation/index.html
HTTPS://WWW.RENAISSANCE-H2020.EU/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2022/10/REN_PROJECT-RESULTS_SLIDE_DECK.PDF

Table 5 – List of official project presentations

3.5. Roll-ups

Three roll-ups were designed and printed throughout the project (Table 6). The first roll-up developed at M6 was based on the content used in the brochures, extended and detailed in order to better inform casual by-passers. The second roll-up summarised first project results in M30 and was developed for the pan-EU event. A third roll-up was developed to promote the Enerjettic spin-off in the Belgian pilot Jette, to support the engagement of campus students in M30 (SECTION 4.2).

1.	HTTPS://WWW.RENAISSANCE-H2020.EU/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2021/11/RENAISSANCE_ROLL_UP_POSTER_85X200_FINAL.PDF
2.	HTTPS://WWW.RENAISSANCE-H2020.EU/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2021/11/ROLL_UP_RENAISSANCE_PANEU_EVENT_WEB.PDF
3.	HTTPS://WWW.RENAISSANCE-H2020.EU/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2022/10/ENERJETTIC_TEMPLATE_ROLLUP_80X200.PPTX-1.PDF

Table 6 – List of Roll-ups used in the project

3.6. Posters

Several posters have been developed for public events, promoting the ongoing implementation activities in pilot sites and in the international replication sites (Table 7).

1.	EEMNES:HTTPS://WWW.RENAISSANCE-H2020.EU/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2022/10/REN_PILOTS_EEMNES_TEMPLATE_POSTER_A0.PPTX-1.PDF
2.	JETTE:HTTPS://WWW.RENAISSANCE-H2020.EU/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2022/10/REN_PILOTS_JETTE_TEMPLATE_POSTER_A0.PPTX-1.PDF
3.	KIMMERIA:HTTPS://WWW.RENAISSANCE-H2020.EU/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2022/10/REN_PILOTS_KIMMERIA_POSTER_A0.PPTX-1.PDF
4.	MANZANEDA:HTTPS://WWW.RENAISSANCE-H2020.EU/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2022/10/REN_PILOTS_MANZANEDA_TEMPLATE_POSTER_A0.PPTX-1.PDF
5.	REPLICATION 1: HTTPS://WWW.RENAISSANCE-H2020.EU/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2022/10/REPLICATION-SITES-POSTERS1.PPTX-1.PDF
6.	REPLICATION 2: HTTPS://WWW.RENAISSANCE-H2020.EU/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2022/10/REPLICATION-SITES-POSTERS2.PPTX-1.PDF
7.	REPLICATION 3: HTTPS://WWW.RENAISSANCE-H2020.EU/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2022/10/REPLICATION-SITES-POSTERS3.PPTX-1.PDF

Table 7 – List of Posters used in the project

3.7. Videos

Several project videos were produced in order to disseminate project objectives and results:

1. A first promotional video informing about the main concepts of RENAISSANCE was distributed through various channels (e.g. social networks, project and partners' websites) and, whenever possible, shown to the general public during events or conferences. This video was recorded during the first public onboarding event in Eemnes and it includes a coordinator's introduction to the project and interviews to local stakeholders and citizens.
2. A second promotional video was developed as a motion graphic teaser, summarising conceptually the project ambition and objectives in simple words supported by intuitive animations.
3. Two videos were published after the first public event in Eemnes in November 2019. The videos, a shorter and a longer version, include recording of the event itself, video interviews to local energy stakeholders and to settled citizens willing to become prosumers. The video had the objective of informing other citizens in the Netherlands and beyond about the project and its contribution to the pilot site implementation process.
4. Three videos have been recorded during the pilot site tours in Manzaneda (Spain), Jette (Belgium) and Kimmeria (Greece), including interviews with partners about the implementation process and interviews with participants to collect their direct feedback and share it with project followers. These videos have a strong link to stakeholder engagement, both at the local level and beyond. Their role in the overall engagement strategy is further described in SECTION 4.
5. Two videos were recorded to inform campus' students in Jette about the project, how smart meters installed in their dormitories can be used to collect anonymous consumption data and to launch the responsible consumption challenges through the Enerjettic spin-off project. See engagement details in SECTION 4.

6. Three videos have been recorded for the pan-European “Steer-it-up” event in Brussels, describing RENAISSANCE tools and engagement strategy, as a mean to disseminate results and call for stakeholders’ feedback towards tools refinement. The video “demos” were presented during the event and subsequently published on the project video playlist.

The following Table 8 reports the links to the video and the number of visualisations per each video to date.

	RENAISSANCE VIDEO ON YOUTUBE PLAYLIST	n. vis.
1.	Renaissance and Eemnes pilot (short): https://youtu.be/QsOux2GsFm8	734
2.	Renaissance Eemnes onboarding event (long): https://youtu.be/gZlo6OJMGhs	290
3.	Project teaser: https://youtu.be/MF9fsAZhqS8	320
4.	EUSEW pilot sites tour Manzaneda: https://youtu.be/OKkYfB0tOfU	128
5.	EUSEW pilot sites tour Jette: https://youtu.be/2SobRcCnn7c	34
6.	EUSEW pilot sites tour Kimmeria: https://youtu.be/wlQ6NfZkVIA	137
7.	Enerjettic introduction: https://youtu.be/sOtp5ayZ1XA	100
8.	Enerjettic challenge launch: https://youtu.be/O9npXN8Lpj8	76
9.	Enerjettic dashboard: https://youtu.be/k1LJYAISeuo	47
10.	Renergise tool: https://youtu.be/BY0Xy5fAX7U	15
11.	Renaissance platform ROP: https://youtu.be/pLAok3fUV3g	24
12.	Social engagement roundtable: https://youtu.be/vvy5peG9oP0	9

Table 8 – List of project videos

3.8. Interactive gamification tool

To better reach out for the least informed audience, especially the youngest audience, an online serious game was developed with the aim of providing a fun and intuitive simulation of the steps needed to kick-off an energy community in Europe, with a strong focus on the importance of cooperating with local stakeholders and establish common goals and targets (Table 9). The tool was officially launched in June 2022 (M38) and it has been strongly promoted from September 2022 onwards. During the EUSEW 2022 in Brussels the online game was provided in an online operable version at the project booth (Figure 2) and during the project final event in Brussels a tabletop version of the game was created in order to involve participants and broaden the impact and awareness about its collaborative approach (Figure 3).

1.	Launch blogpost: HTTPS://WWW.RENAISSANCE-H2020.EU/PLAY-WITH-OUR-ENERGY-COMMUNITY-VIDEOGAME/
2.	Gamification tool: HTTPS://WWW.RENAISSANCE-H2020.EU/RESOURCES/RENEW-IT_GAME.HTML

Table 9 – Gamification tool links



Figure 2 – Online game landing page



Figure 3 – Final event participants play with the tabletop board game version of “Can you RENew it”

3.9. Website and online presence

The RENAISSANCE website has been updated constantly and it represents the main dissemination activity channel: news, progresses, events, incoming workshops and any other announcement have been issued via its news section. Throughout the project lifetime, partners contributed to the communication and dissemination of results by promoting the project on their official company websites. Moreover, in European pilot sites and international pilot sites, local press agencies published news informing the audience about the project and its contribution to the development of energy communities in the area. More than thirty (30) online articles in six different languages have been published mentioning the RENAISSANCE project (Table 10).

Partner	ONLINE PRESENCE	Year
ATOS	HTTPS://COMUNICAE.ES/EN/PRESS-RELEASE/ATOS-IMPULSA-EL-PROYECTO-EUROPEO-RENAISSANCE	2019
ATOS	HTTPS://WWW.FINANZAS.COM/EMPRESAS/ATOS-IMPULSA-EL-PROYECTO-EUROPEO-RENAISSANCE-PARA-PROMOVER-REDES-LOCALES-DE-ENERGIA-LIMPIA-Y-EFICIENTE_14027927_102.HTML	
ATOS	HTTPS://FUTUREENERGYWEB.ES/ATOS-IMPULSA-EL-PROYECTO-EUROPEO-RENAISSANCE-PARA-PROMOVER-REDES-LOCALES-DE-ENERGIA-LIMPIA-Y-EFICIENTE/	
ATOS	HTTPS://WWW.ECONOMIADIGITAL.ES/HEMEROTECA/ATOS-IMPULSA-EL-PROYECTO-EUROPEO-RENAISSANCE-PARA-PROMOVER-REDES-LOCALES-DE-ENERGIA-LIMPIA-Y-EFICIENTE_20019221_102.HTML	
ATOS	HTTPS://WWW.ZONAMOVILIDAD.ES/ATOS-IMPULSA-RENAISSANCE-PROYECTO-EUROPEO-REDES-ENERGIA-LIMPIA-EFICIENTE	

ATOS	HTTPS://WWW.LAVOZDEGALICIA.ES/NOTICIA/OURENSE/MANZANEDA/2019/12/17/MANZANEDA-ESTACION-ESQUI-PARTICIPA-PROYECTO-EUROPEO-ENERGIA-LIMPIA/0003_201912017C8994.HTM	
ATOS	HTTPS://WWW.INTEREMPRESAS.NET/AUTOCONSUMO/ARTICULOS/261382-RENAISSANCE-PROYECTO-EUROPEO-PARA-PROMOVER-REDES-LOCALES-DE-ENERGIA-LIMPIA-Y-EFICIENTE.HTML	
ATOS	HTTPS://WWW.ECOCONSTRUCCION.NET/NOTICIAS/LA-ESTACION-DE-ESQUI-MANZANEDA-ENTRA-EN-EL-PROYECTO-RENAISSANCE-DE-LA-UE-CON-ATOS-EQB4R	
EEM	HTTPS://WWW.EEMNES.NL/BESTUUR/NIEUWS_EN_BEKENDMAKINGEN/NIEUWS/MEEDOEN_MET_LOKALE_ENERGIE_FACILITEIT_LEF	2020
EEM	HTTPS://EEMNESENERGIE.NL/LEF-PROJECT-INFORMATIE/	
EEM	HTTPS://WWW.DEROTONDE-EEMNES.NL/2019/12/EEMNES-TOONT-LEF/	
BAX	HTTPS://BAXCOMPANY.COM/INSIGHTS/BUILDING-A-LOCAL-ENERGY-COMMUNITY/	
DUTH	HTTPS://WWW.ETHNOS.GR/APOPSEIS/88309_ENERGEIAKI-KOINOTITA-STO-DIMOKRITEIO-PANEPISTIMIO-THRAKIS	
VUB	HTTPS://TODAY.VUB.BE/NL/ARTIKEL/ZIJN-WE-KLAAR-OM-ZELF-ENERGIEPRODUCENT-TE-WORDEN	
DBL	HTTPS://DBLUE.IT/NEWS/RENAISSANCE-SONDAGGIO-EUROPEO-SU-RINNOVABILI-E-COMUNITA-ENERGETICHE/	
VUB	HTTPS://DAILYSCIENCE.BRUSSELS/NL/SURVEY-MOET-UITZOEKEN-IN-HOEVERRE-MICRO-ELEKTRICITEITSNETWERKEN-OP-BURGERSTEUN-KUNNEN-REKENEN/09/06/2020/	2021
VUB	HTTPS://WWW.MYSCIENCE.ORG/NEWS/WIRE/EU_CITIZENS_READY_TO_BECOME_ENERGY_PRODUCERS-2021-VUB	

VUB	HTTPS://SOLARMAGAZINE.NL/NIEUWS-ZONNE-ENERGIE/124064/UNIVERSITEIT-BRUSSEL-BELGEN-EN-NEDERLANDERS-WILLEN-PROSUMENT-WORDEN-WEL-BETERE-COMMUNICATIE-NODIG	
IKE	HTTPS://WWW.IKERLAN.ES/NOTICIAS/NOTICIA/UNA-ENCUESTA-MUESTRA-EL-NIVEL-DE-ACEPTACION-SOCIAL-DE-LAS-COMUNIDADES-ENERGETICAS-EN-EUROPA	
DUTH	HTTPS://WWW.XRONOS.GR/EPIKAIROTITA/RE-ENERGIZE-EUROPE-GNORISTE-TIN-TOPIKI-SAS-ENERGEIAKI-KOINOTITA-STA-KIMMERIA	
/	HTTPS://WWW.DIARIODELEON.ES/ARTICULO/BIERZO/JORNADA-COMUNIDADES-ENERGETICAS-VEGA-VALCARCE/202110010333472150426.HTML	
EEM	HTTPS://035MAGAZINE.NL/INDEX.PHP/MAATSCHAPPIJ/ECONOMIE-DUURZAAMHEID/254-ENERGIEPROJECT-LEF-SUCCESSVOL-IN-EEMNES	
EEM	HTTPS://NHGOOI.NL/NIEUWS/60014/LAATSTE_FASE_EXPERIMENT_OM_EIGEN_ENERGIE_IN_EEMNES_TE_HOUDEN_INGEGAAN.HTML?REFE	2022
DBL	HTTPS://DBLUE.IT/BLOG/RINNOVABILI-RIVOLUZIONE-COMUNITA-ENERGETICHE/	
EEM	HTTPS://NHGOOI.NL/GEMIST/FRAGMENT/1291926/NH-GOOI-ZATERDAG-ENERGIEPROEF-EEMNES-LAATSTE-FASE-INGEGAAN	
/	HTTPS://WWW.RESUMENDELAREGION.COM/PROYECTO-RENAISSANCE-USO-DE-ENERGIAS-RENOVABLES/	
/	HTTPS://MEDIUM.COM/BLOG-ENERGEIA/RESULTADOS-DEL-TRABAJO-COLABORATIVO-ENTRE-RENAISSANCE-Y-ENERGEIA-EN-EL-PILOTO-DE-COMUNIDAD-SOLAR-LA-C5920DA18694	
DBL	HTTPS://DBLUE.IT/BLOG/WHATS-THE-RIGHT-BUSINESS-MODEL-FOR-AN-AIRPORT-JOINING-A-LOCAL-ENERGY-COMMUNITY/	
DBL	HTTPS://DBLUE.IT/BLOG/ECONOMIA-CIRCOLARE-E-SOSTENIBILITA-TRASFORMARE-LA-CRISI-IN-OPPORTUNITA/	



BAX	HTTPS://BAXCOMPANY.COM/INSIGHTS/BUILDING-ENERGY-COMMUNITIES-IN-EUROPE/
CERTH	HTTPS://WWW.CERTH.GR/425D9851.EL.ASPX
CERTH	HTTPS://WWW.4GREEN.GR/NEWS/DATA/ELLHNIKA-NEA/PWS-ANTILAMBANONTAI-OI-POLITES-TH-XRSHSH-TWN-APE_132871.ASP
CERTH	HTTPS://ENERGYPRESS.GR/NEWS/EREYNA-POS-ANTILAMVANONTAI-OI-EYROPAIOI-POLITES-TI-HRISI-TON-ANANEOSIMON-PIGON-ENERGEIAS-DEITE?SORT_BEF_COMBINE=PUBLISHED_AT%20ASC
VUB	HTTPS://WWW.OUT.BE/FR/EVENEMENTS/70214_RENAISSANCE-SLOTEVENT-GOEDE-IDEEN-VOOR-JOUW-ENERGY-COMMUNITY.HTML
VUB	HTTPS://ALLEVENTS.IN/WOLUWE-SAINT-LAMBERT/THE-RENAISSANCE-PROJECT-FINAL-EVENT-GOOD-IDEAS-FOR-YOUR-ENERGY-COMMUNITY/80007357579184
VUB	HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM/E/THE-RENAISSANCE-PROJECT-FINAL-EVENT-GOOD-IDEAS-FOR-YOUR-ENERGY-COMMUNITY-TICKETS-429122255217
VUB	HTTPS://EUAGENDA.EU/EVENTS/2022/10/19/THE-RENAISSANCE-PROJECT-FINAL-EVENT-GOOD-IDEAS-FOR-YOUR-ENERGY-COMMUNITY
VUB	HTTPS://RESEARCH-AND-INNOVATION.EC.EUROPA.EU/EVENTS/UPCOMING-EVENTS/RENAISSANCE-PROJECT-FINAL-EVENT-GOOD-IDEAS-YOUR-ENERGY-COMMUNITY-2022-10-19_EN
VUB	HTTPS://ECOTIPS.ORG/EUROPEES-RENAISSANCE-PROJECT-BEVESTIGT-ENERGIE-GEMEENSCHAPPEN-HEBBEN-TOEKOMST/

Table 10 – Project online presence on external websites

3.10. Interactive Reports

After the two Pan-European workshops interactive reports have been published on the project website in M26 and M42. Also, both online ESG workshop were reported similarly. The reports included documentation of the events and the materials presented (Table 11).

1.	1 st ESG event report: https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/first-public-meeting-with-external-stakeholders-event-report/ Interactive presentation: https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/RENAISSANCE_ESG_interactive_presentation/index.html
2.	Steer-it up PAN-EU Event report: https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/steer-it-up-hands-on-event-was-a-success/
3.	2 nd ESG event and policy workshop report: https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/policy-workshop-and-esg-meeting-report/
4.	Good ideas for your energy community, Final PAN-EU event report: https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/final-event-report-recordings-and-presentations-available/

Table 11 – List of online reports

3.11. Social Networks

In defining the channels for disseminating the project outcomes, the consortium has chosen to use social media applications such as LinkedIn and Twitter. These channels helped communicating the project topics, both to the informed public and to a more general public interested in energy topics and renewables. As the two channels strongly differ from each other, they were used in different ways. Twitter was used more for daily updates and quick reports of ongoing activities. LinkedIn is slightly more technical and authoritative, therefore while still using a friendly tone and jargon-free language focused more on longer technical contents and advancements (Table 12).

More detailed KPIs are reported in Annex 1.

SOCIAL MEDIA	# followers	#posts
HTTPS://WWW.LINKEDIN.COM/COMPANY/RENAISSANCE-H2020/	361	200+
HTTPS://TWITTER.COM/H2020_REN	268	258

Table 12 – Renaissance Social Networks

3.12. Newsletters

Five project e-newsletters were developed and issued (at M12, M24, M30, M36, M41) with the aim of keeping all interested stakeholders informed about activities and results. MailerLite (<https://www.mailerlite.com/>), a reliable and secure tool was utilised (Table 13). To increase impact, during each workshop or event, participants have been asked consent to be included in the Newsletter mailing list. Currently subscribed contacts are:

- 314 - Total subscribers
- 34 - Workshop participants who gave their consent
- 64 - Partners
- 2 - One project officer and one EC member

NEWSLETTER ITEMS	#sent	#read
1. https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/resource/renaissance-1st-newsletter-october-2019/	75	42
2. https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/resource/renaissance-2nd-newsletter-may-2020/	121	52

3.	https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/resource/renaissance-3rd-newsletter-april-2021/	210	68
4.	https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/resource/renaissance-4th-newsletter-april-2021/	284	95
5.	HTTPS://WWW.RENAISSANCE-H2020.EU/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2022/10/RENAISSANCE_5TH-NEWSLETTER_SEPTEMBER-2022.PDF	298	85

Table 13 – Newsletter items

3.13. Press releases

Press releases are official statements that are sent to targeted members of the news media to announce newsworthy contents or results to be promoted. A press release is a short, compelling news story, whose goal is to catch the interest of a journalist or publication. Three press releases were shared during RENAISSANCE: one in M6, in M33 and in M41 (Table 14).

PRESS RELEASE ITEMS		Total outreach
1.	https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/resource/renaissance-1st-press-release-september-2019/	1000+
2.	https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/resource/renaissance-2nd-press-release-february-2021/	1000+
3.	HTTPS://WWW.RENAISSANCE-H2020.EU/WP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2022/10/RENAISSANCE_4TH_PRESS_RELEASE_STD-FINAL_EVENT_SEPTEMBER_2022.PDF	5000+

Table 14 – Press releases

3.14. Scientific Articles

The intention was to publish at least six scientific and technical publications in peer-reviewed journals and participate in 10 international conferences. The goal was achieved as 17 articles were published (Table 15). By the end of the project two more articles will be published: i) “Predicting Acceptance and Adoption of Renewable Energy Community solutions: The Prosumer Psychology” by Francois Brambati, Rebecca Hueting, Alessandra Tedeschi (DBL), Daniele Ruscio, Federica Biassoni, (Università Cattolica di Milano); ii) “Hurdles in the acquirement of energy data when setting up an energy community” by Shary Heuninck, Thierry Coosemans, Geert te Boveldt (VUB) Maarja Meitern (BAX).

SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES	
1.	<u>RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMUNITIES: DO THEY HAVE A BUSINESS CASE IN FLANDERS? PDF</u>
2.	<u>DYNAMIC SIMULATION AND PERFORMANCE ENHANCEMENT ANALYSIS OF A RENEWABLE DRIVEN TRIGENERATION SYSTEM PDF</u>
3.	<u>DESIGNING SUCCESSFUL ENERGY COMMUNITIES: A COMPARISON OF SEVEN PILOTS IN EUROPE APPLYING THE MULTI-ACTOR MULTI-CRITERIA ANALYSIS PDF</u>
4.	<u>MANY ACTORS AMONGST MULTIPLE RENEWABLES: A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF ACTOR INVOLVEMENT IN COMPLEMENTARITY OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES PDF</u>
5.	<u>USE OF AI ALGORITHMS IN DIFFERENT BUILDING TYPOLOGIES FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY TOWARDS SMART BUILDINGS PDF</u>
6.	<u>DOES ACCESS TO REGULATIVE EXEMPTION REDUCE BARRIERS FOR ENERGY COMMUNITIES? A DUTCH CASE STUDY PDF</u>
7.	<u>COUPLING RURAL DEVELOPMENT WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY COMMUNITIES: A PARTICIPATORY STUDY IN VEGA DE VALCARCE, SPAIN PDF</u>
8.	<u>IS SOCIAL COHESION DECISIVE FOR ENERGY COOPERATIVES EXISTENCE? A QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS PDF</u>
9.	<u>OPERATION ASSESSMENT OF A HYBRID SOLAR-BIOMASS ENERGY SYSTEM WITH ABSORPTION REFRIGERATION SCENARIOS PDF</u>

10.	<u>IMPLEMENTING A JUST RENEWABLE ENERGY TRANSITION: POLICY ADVICE FOR TRANSPOSING THE NEW EUROPEAN RULES FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMUNITIES PDF</u>
11.	<u>SHORT-TERM LOAD FORECASTING IN A MICROGRID ENVIRONMENT: INVESTIGATING THE SERIES-SPECIFIC AND CROSS-LEARNING FORECASTING METHODS PDF</u>
12.	<u>AN ASSESSMENT OF OPERATIONAL ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMUNITIES IN BELGIUM PDF</u>
13.	<u>STUDENT RESIDENCE'S ENERGY COMMUNITY OPERATION ASSESSMENT IN DEMOCRITUS UNIVERISTY OF THRACE (GREEK ARTICLE) PDF</u>
14.	<u>DEVELOPING A BUSINESS CASE FOR A RENEWABLE ENERGY COMMUNITY IN A PUBLIC HOUSING SETTLEMENT IN GREECE – THE CASE OF A STUDENT HOUSING AND ITS CHALLENGES, PROSPECTS AND BARRIERS PDF</u>
15.	<u>APPLICATION OF MULTI-ACTOR MULTI-CRITERIA ANALYSIS FOR TRANSITION MANAGEMENT IN ENERGY COMMUNITIES PDF</u>
16.	<u>BEYOND THE STATE OF THE ART OF ELECTRIC VEHICLES: A FACT-BASED PAPER OF THE CURRENT AND PROSPECTIVE ELECTRIC VEHICLE TECHNOLOGIES PDF</u>
17.	<u>RENAISSANCE – NUEVOS MERCADOS Y MODELOS DE DESARROLLO PARA LAS COMUNIDADES LOCALES DE ENERGÍA (SPANISH ARTICLE) PDF</u>

Table 15 – Scientific articles

3.15. Interactive Surveys to assess and increase social acceptance of RENAISSANCE solutions

Within the first year of activity, the RENAISSANCE partners engaged local communities in public surveys during the technical work for WP5. Interactive online tools such as Survey Monkey (WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM) were used to collect responses, since they have been proven to be secure, reliable and effective.

The objective of the surveys was twofold: while on one hand it helped the Consortium systematically collect information about the characteristics of our target audiences and their level of knowledge and interest about energy communities, on the other hand it was used as a communication tool itself.

The expected result was that of creating higher awareness about the topic and engage respondents in project activities.

All pilot sites leaders (DUTH, EVERIS/NTT, NAPE, EEM) contributed to the circulation of surveys, with additional support from VUB within and beyond UZ Brussel campus in Jette, through their official communication department and newsletter. Of the total 349 answers to the first survey, only around 200 could be used for statistical analysis and results have been included in the first Glossy Report¹. A year later, a slightly shortened version of the survey was distributed through the Survey Monkey network of paid respondents and in pilot sites, in order to compare how acceptance values changed over time, countries and level of engagement with the project itself. The table below reports the links to the different surveys issued (Table 16). Thanks to the data collected, a final Glossy Report was published in July 2022 (M39) concerning the social acceptance of RENAISSANCE solutions and of renewable energy communities more at large. Both reports caused peaks in the number of site visits, more than 100 people read the launch articles and 20 people downloaded the reports (Figure 4). In the image below peaks in traffic were mainly related with the publication of survey results and before or after public events, including conferences.

¹ <https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/survey-results-full-report-available/>

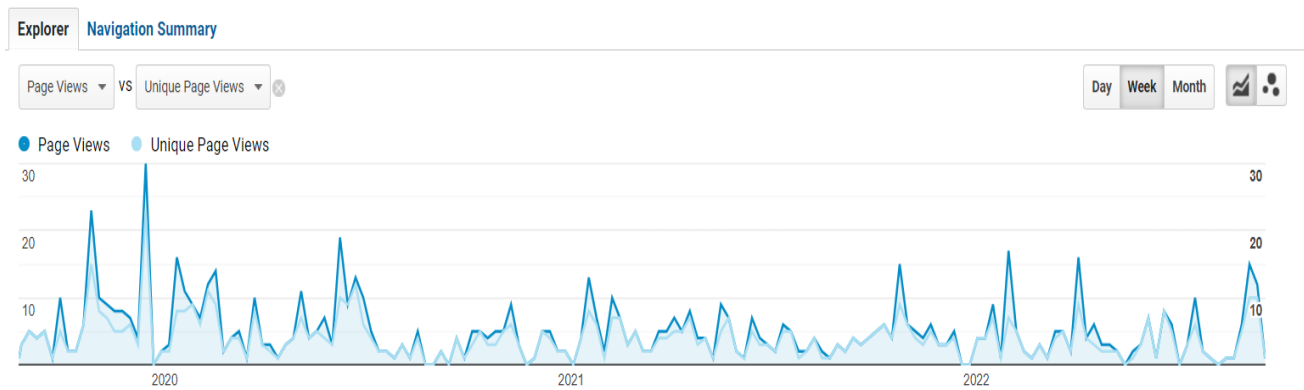


Figure 4 – Website traffic peaks – source: google analytics

To complete the task of tracking end-users' acceptance, in the same period VUB distributed a final survey across pilot and replication sites stakeholders through the Qualtrics platform. It aimed at tracking qualitative indicators related with:

- Overall acceptance of renewable energy solutions.
- Perception of support schemes, incentives and personal motivation.
- Cost and risk perception, willingness to join an EC.
- Overall satisfaction with RENAISSANCE approach, solutions and events.

The results have been analysed and included in the D5.5 – Final validation report [\[1\]](#).

SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE SURVEYS		#resp.
1.	First social acceptance survey distributed in 7 languages (1 st run + 2 nd run)	349

LINK: https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/renaissance-survey-on-renewable-energies-and-community-solutions/ (March 2020 and December 2020)		
2.	Second social acceptance survey distributed in 5 countries in english language (paid responses, February 2022)	575
3.	Internal feedback survey	56
LINK: https://it.surveymonkey.com/r/KM3CCYP (March 2022)		
4.	VUB Pilot and replication sites' stakeholder acceptance. Survey in 5 languages (July 2022)	15
English: https://vub.fra1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d4Qijad3HyWTsV0		
Dutch: https://vub.fra1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d4Qijad3HyWTsV0?Q_Language=NL		
French: https://vub.fra1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d4Qijad3HyWTsV0?Q_Language=FR		
Greek: https://vub.fra1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d4Qijad3HyWTsV0?Q_Language=EL		
Spanish: https://vub.fra1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_d4Qijad3HyWTsV0?Q_Language=ES-ES		

Table 16 – social acceptance surveys

3.16. Webinars

In the final stages of the project, three short webinars were developed, to present results and target the dissemination to selected stakeholder groups. Webinars issuing date were promoted and recorded. Afterwards, full

recordings were published on the project video playlist on YouTube, shared on the project website and on social media². Five main partners have been involved in the organisation of such webinars, as they were also intended to be used as promotional materials for the organisations involved, offering visibility about their participation in the research and helping disseminate results: DUTH, CErTH, CIRCE, SUNAMP and VUB (Table 17). All involved partners promoted the webinars on their company profiles and websites.

PARTNERS INVOLVED AND TITLE	#vis.
1. DUTH+VUB: #1 Women as drivers of the energy transition https://youtu.be/IFCuxur4M4c	10+
2. DUTH+SUNAMP: #2 Storage: the holy grail of the energy transition https://youtu.be/dDjXKdVSnwg	24+
3. CErTH+CIRCE: #3 Handful tools for future local energy community members https://youtu.be/4A0QKEhUT6Q	15+

Table 17 – list of online webinars

3.17. Public Events and workshops

Workshops are effective means for involving end-users in an integrated campaign about energy communities' impacts and barriers. Feedback from these sessions were used to improve RENAISSANCE methodology and end-users' participation. A series of MAMCA workshops in both pilot sites and international demonstrator sites showcased the RENAISSANCE approach and solutions to key local stakeholder groups, unlocking business opportunities in established and emerging markets worldwide (Table 18 and Table 19).

² <https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/follow-our-online-webinar-series/>

Most public reports from European pilot sites and international pilot sites visited are published on the official website.

Pilot sites MAMCA workshops

PILOT SITES MAMCA WORKSHOPS	Date	#types of stakeholders
1. Eemnes MAMCA workshop with energy and institutional stakeholders	Nov 2019	7
2. Kimmeria MAMCA workshop with University teacher, students and industry representatives	Feb 2021	3 (of which 20+ students)
https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/mamca-workshops-in-kimmeria-watch-the-video/		
3. Manzaneda MAMCA workshop with energy stakeholders and institutional stakeholders (online)	Dec 2019	7
4. UZ Brussels stakeholders' needs collection	Nov 2019	8 (of which 10+ students)

Table 18 – MAMCA workshops in pilot sites

Pilot sites public events

PILOT SITES PUBLIC EVENTS	Date	#participants
1. Eemnes 1 st onboarding event with citizens https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/onboarding-event-local-	Nov 2019	200+ (4 partners, 6 SH, 100+ citizens)

energy-community-28-november-2019/		
2. Jette pilot site tour	June 2021	12 (4 ext. + 4 ESG members + 4 partners)
https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/eu-green-week-2021-walking-tours-report/		
3. Manzaneda pilot site tour	June 2021	10 (5 partners, 6 SH, 1 ESG member)
https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/eu-green-week-2021-walking-tours-report/		
4. Kimmeria pilot site tour	July 2021	21 (4 partners, 1 ESG member, 3 SH, 10+ students)
https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/eu-green-week-2021-walking-tours-report/		
5. Eemnes 2 nd onboarding event with citizens	September 2022	50+ (1 partner, 4 SH, 50+ citizens)
https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/second-event-for-the-eemnes-community/		

Table 19 – Public events in pilot sites

ESG workshops and meetings

Three External Stakeholders Group workshops were organised to steer the project activities and validate project outcomes at M20, M37 and M42 Table 20). See Section 4 for details about ESG engagement strategy deployment.

ESG WORKSHOPS	Date	#participants
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1. 1 st online ESG workshop https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/first-public-meeting-with-external-stakeholders-event-report/	Dec 2020	19 ESG + 11 partners
2. 2 nd hybrid ESG workshop https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/policy-workshop-and-esg-meeting-report/	March 2022	12 ESG members + 10 partners
3. 3 rd ESG meeting during the final event https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/final-event-report-recordings-and-presentations-available/	October 2022	8 ESG members

Table 20 – Esg workshops

PAN EU Events

Two pan-European workshops took place at M30 and at M42 targeting the general public, the research/academia world and the interested stakeholders including the BRIDGE community (Table 21).

PAN EUROPEAN WORKSHOPS	Date	#part.
1 Steer-it Up event https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/steer-it-up-hands-on-event-was-a-success/	Oct 2021	53 (22 partners, 3 keynotes, 3 H2020 Compile representatives, 12 in person, 22 online)

2. Final event https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/final-event-report-recordings-and-presentations-available/	Oct 2022	60 (21 partners, 4 keynotes, 5 panelists, 30 in person)
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Table 21 – PAN-EU events

International replication workshops

A total of 11 workshops have been organised in international pilot sites, in order to assess and finally promote the RENAISSANCE approach's replicability potential. The activities in international pilot sites have been organised by a dedicated team composed by VUB, BAX and DBL partners. First of all the team identified and contacted the relevant or emerging communities through desk research and partners' networks contacts, including other ongoing research projects (e.g. Eland, AtLast), to set an initial online meeting to explain the project objective and offer. To this aim, a dedicated onboarding presentation was developed by DBL³. In each site, the team attempted to organise at least one public workshop where the stakeholder needs could be collected and energy scenarios identified. Whenever possible and depending on local stakeholder availability a policy and regulatory barrier exercise was proposed and jointly organised by BAX. In some cases, separate meetings and/or site visits were organised, in order to exchange good practices, experiences and explore the actual replicability potential of the RENAISSANCE approach. In most cases, a short feedback about the activities was collected by the team, either personally or through online surveys (Table 22). The detailed description of the replication process, including detailed results and conclusions related with the testing

³ https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/RENAISSANCE_Get_on_board.pdf

and validation of the Renergise tool and the business models is available in the D6.3 – Report on replication validation [2].

INTERNATIONAL SITES PUBLIC EVENTS REPORTS	
1.	Auroville (INDIA): HTTPS://WWW.RENAISSANCE-H2020.EU/AUROVILLE-COMMUNITY-ENGAGEMENT-WORKSHOP/
2.	Beli Bartoka (PL): HTTPS://WWW.RENAISSANCE-H2020.EU/PILOT-SITE/BELI-BARTOKA-POLAND/
3.	Relleu (Spain): HTTPS://WWW.RENAISSANCE-H2020.EU/COMMUNITY-ENGAGEMENT-WORKSHOP-IN-RELLEU/
4.	Firenze (Italy): HTTPS://WWW.RENAISSANCE-H2020.EU/FIRENZE-CITIZEN-ENGAGEMENT-WORKSHOP/
5.	Lacor (Uganda): HTTPS://WWW.RENAISSANCE-H2020.EU/STAKEHOLDER-ENGAGEMENT-WORKSHOP-IN-LACOR/
6.	Medellin (Colombia): HTTPS://WWW.RENAISSANCE-H2020.EU/HOW-DID-A-MEDELLIN-NEIGHBOURHOOD-EVALUATE-SELF-CONSUMPTION/
7.	San Pedro de Atacama (Chile): HTTPS://WWW.RENAISSANCE-H2020.EU/WORKSHOP-IN-SAN-PEDRO-DE-ATACAMA/
8.	Szaserow (Poland): https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/pilot-site/poland/
9.	Reserva Tajamar – Cordoba (Argentina): https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/pilot-site/cordoba-argentina/
10.	Brinkmann community – Cordoba (Argentina) https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/pilot-site/cordoba-argentina/
11.	Vega de Valcarce (Spain) https://www.renaissance-h2020.eu/pilot-site/vega-de-valcarce-spain/

Table 22 – International replication workshops reports

Exploitation workshops

Finally, during the last year of activity, a total of 8 exploitation research workshops organized by BAX took place with buyers and experts on different LEC technology fields in different countries, promoting RENAISSANCE findings and validating learning.

3.18. External events and conferences

All consortium members committed to participate and successfully took part in several European expert networking events, in order to disseminate RENAISSANCE activities and results. The number of online and in person events joined by the consortium largely outnumbered expectations. This could be related with the diversity of partners' domains, the higher number of online activities that have been organised by projects and other organisations in Europe and abroad but also to the overall energy domain curiosity about LECs, RECs and related research results. In the following table the main conferences from the last year of activity are mentioned (Table 23).

	Partner	Date	Conference/workshop name	Type of contribution	N. of participants +/-
1.	IKERLAN	December 2021	ITG – Jornada de las comunidades energéticas locales	In person participation	100+
2.	VUB	March 2022	ECPE conference on Prosumerism and Energy Communities	In person participation	50



as a Future Perspective						
3.	BAX	April 2022	6th International Conference on Energy Economics and Energy Policy (ICEEEP 2022)	Presentation of regulatory study results of RENAISSANCE	100	
4.	VUB	21st April 2022	EESC Europe	Tackling energy poverty	100+	
5.	VUB	25th May 2022	EGU 2022 General Assembly	In person participation	100+	
6.	VUB	1st June 2022	14th ETIP SNET regional workshop	Online presentation	100+	
7.	VUB	09th June 2022	EUREC Workshop	Online presentation	50+	
8.	NAPE	June 2022	LSZN Kongres	In person speaker	200+	
9.	VUB	8–11th August 2022	ICAE 2022 – International conference on applied energy	In person speaker	100+	
10.	NAPE	October 2022	Presentation on the National wide buildings	In person speaker	200+	



			managers forum 2022		
11.	VUB/DBL	27–28 September 2022	EUSEW	In person	200+
12.	VUB	September 2022	INTERPRETER Final Event	In person	30
13.	VUB	October 2022	Muse–Grids Final event	In person	60
14.	NAPE	06.10.202 2	Conference Thermomoder nization Forum	In person – speaker	120+
15.	NAPE	24– 25.06.202 2	Conference for property managers	In person – speaker	150

Table 23 – Conferences joined in 2022

4. Deployment of the stakeholder engagement strategy

In this section the above-mentioned products and activities are summarised in a more strategic manner, in order to highlight the cross-interaction of the project's communication and dissemination activities supporting stakeholder engagement at all levels.

4.1. ESG members involvement and events

ESG members have been involved with priority to all organised public events and their feedback about the project advancements and results. Their input has been required both via email and through questionnaires and interactive sessions. More specifically, ESG members have been involved in the evaluation of the overall RENAISSANCE approach, about policy and regulatory barrier analysis, about the concepts and early versions of tools such as the RENERGISE tool and the gamification tool. Moreover, participating ESG members have been interviewed during pilot site tours.

1st ESG meeting – online – December 2020

Due to Covid-19 restrictions the first ESG meeting was organised digitally, and a total of 18 people attended online. To this aim, DBL dissemination team collected all recent partners' updates about pilot sites' implementation process and tool development in an online interactive presentation, which was circulated prior to the meeting and presented live. During the presentation ESG members had the opportunity to comment on pilot sites implementation strategy and subsequently gave their input related with social, technological, economic and regulatory barriers in a PEST analysis interactive session (Figure 5). Their feedback has been collected on an

online Miro Board, managed by a moderating partner for each aspect (DBL, BAX, VUB). The links to the online reports are provided in Section 3.17.

Pilot-sites tours – in person – June 2021

ESG members have been invited to join pilot-sites tours in Greece, Belgium and Spain, in order to offer them the possibility of getting into direct contact with local partners in their own countries or abroad and discuss about implementation issues and lessons learnt. In return, project partners and external participants could collect their expert feedback on-site. Despite the low numbers of in-person participation, likely linked to the Covid-19 pandemic, it has to be mentioned that the 10 ESG members who joined at least one pilot site visit demonstrated a high and continuous interest about the project, exchanging questions and doubts whenever given the possibility to do so.

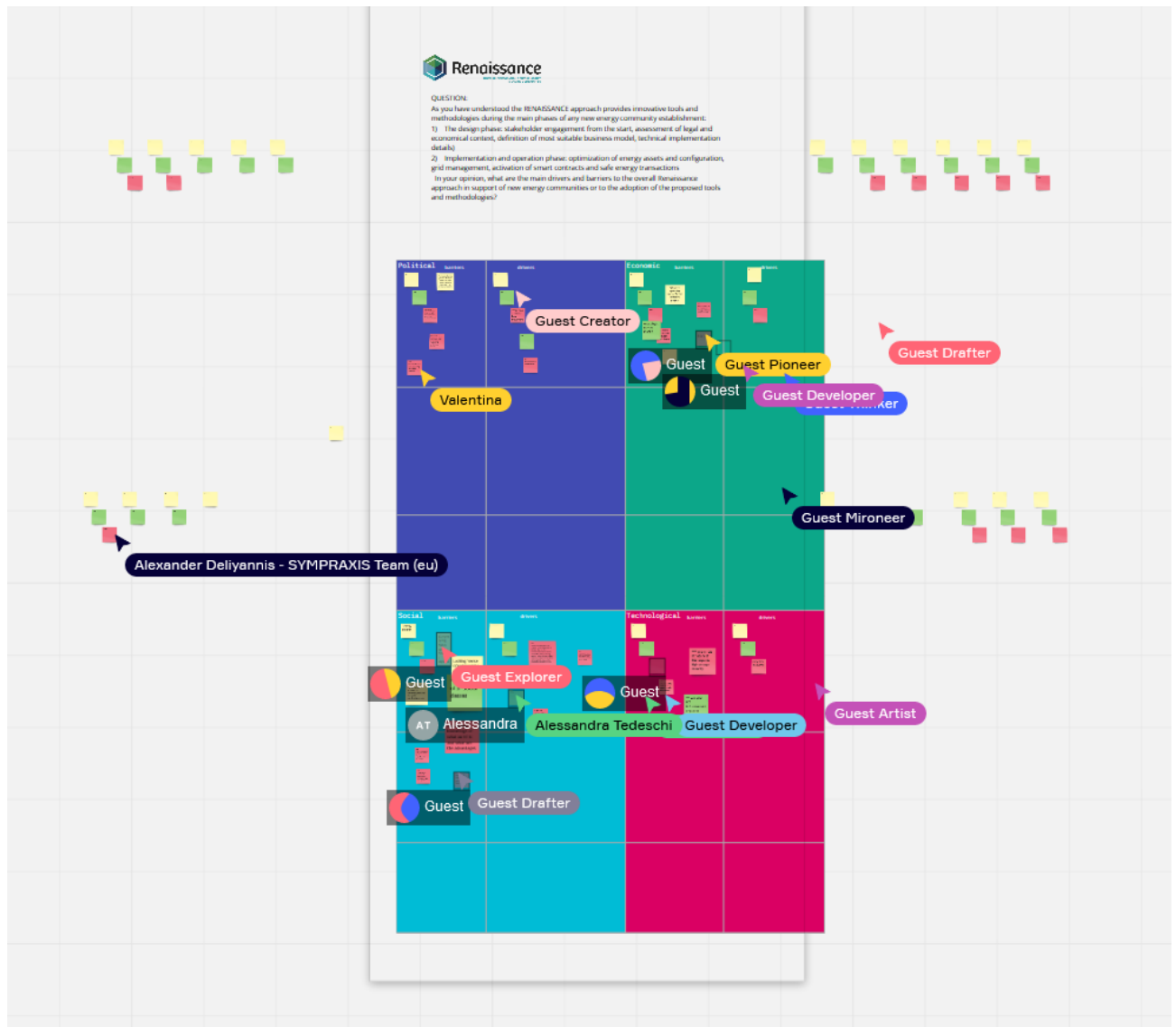


Figure 5 – PEST analysis exercise with MIRO board

2nd ESG meeting – in person – May 2022

All ESG members have been invited to join a second in person workshop in May 2022 at the VUB premises in Brussels. The workshop was divided into a first policy evaluation workshop and a second session for the validation of the RENERGISE tool (Figure 6). In total 22 people attended the meeting.

During the policy workshop ESG members, together with policy representatives, were involved in the validation of regulatory barriers through a team exercise. Afterwards, the validation of tool started, including the launch of the gamification tool presented by DBL “Can You RENew it?”. One of the main outcomes of this workshop has been that of receiving ESG members’ concerns about the potential exploitation of the RENERGISE tool. In their opinion by differentiating users navigation styles (e.g basic; advanced; master;), the user-friendliness of the tool could be increased: a basic version should be provided as default service for households and average citizens, while an advanced version should be available to expert users via a simple click. Notably, the developers’ team included “default” and “advanced” options in the fields where user input is required, yet a fully customisable tool was not envisioned to the suggested extent.



Figure 6 – Antje Nettelbeck and Maarja Meitern from BAX running the policy workshop

4.2. Community engagement in the European pilot sites

In order to accommodate the emerging and diverse needs of each pilot site, and considering the additional barriers posed by Covid-19 restrictions, the stakeholder engagement strategy had to be adapted to a more flexible and supporting style rather than imposing pre-determined actions, while keeping in line with pre-defined project objectives. Such adaptations included the translation of contents in the local language, the development of products not previously envisioned in the Communication & Dissemination plan and providing all partners support in the transition from an in-person engagement approach to a more digital one, to ensure that each target audience could reach out autonomously and find results in the most flexible way as possible. Adaptation envisioned the following:

1. Contents delivered both in English and in local languages, as printed products or with live translation during events;
2. Events participants directly involved in video interviews both in person and online;
3. Student communities in Jette involved in dedicated challenges launched on a separated website area and on social media (Instagram and Facebook), creating a different visual identity to catch their interest (See image XX);
4. Stakeholder engagement activities redesigned to ensure a safe and high- quality interaction and interpersonal exchange both online and in-person.

In each pilot the team followed a specific engagement path:

Jette:

- Stakeholder engagement:

- Collection of stakeholder needs and goals (VUB prevention and environmental service, technical staff, head of student housing department, head of VUB Green team, metering device company, VUB energy coordinator, leader of campus services)
- Pilot site tour
- 6 Video interviews to local energy stakeholders, ESG members and PhD students participating to the pilot site tour
- Students involvement (Enerjettic spin-off):
 - Dedicated logo
 - Dedicated web area⁴
 - Instagram monthly challenges
 - Layouted materials: roll-ups, posters, brochures, power point templates, event leaflets
 - Enerjettic onboarding onsite (Figure 7)
 - Enerjettic onboarding online through Qualtrics
 - Invitation to public events

⁴ www.enerjettic.be



Figure 7 – Enerjettic Onboarding

Kimmeria:

- Stakeholder engagement
 - MAMCA workshop (University representatives, campus students, local industry representatives)
 - Pilot site tour
 - 6 Video interviews to 2 Campus representatives and 4 students
- Students involvement
 - MAMCA workshops
 - Duth Facebook profile
 - Pilot site tour
 - Video interviews during pilot site tour
 - Strong distribution of acceptance surveys
 - Dedicated on-campus research activities

Eemnes:

- Stakeholder engagement
 - MAMCA workshops (local DSO, municipality, energy provider, tech provider)
 - 4 Video interviews to stakeholders during pilot site event
- Citizen onboarding
 - Two onboarding events, providing technical info and instructions
 - Dedicated contact point in the local municipality
 - Laid out materials in dutch: leaflets, brochure, save the date
 - 3 Video interviews to citizens during pilot site event

Manzaneda:

- Stakeholder engagement
 - MAMCA workshops (local municipality, tourism office, DSO, hotel manager)
 - Explanatory video of Manzaneda pilot site implementation
 - Pilot-site tour with spanish ESG members, local institutions, DSO, resort management and employees
 - 7 Video interviews to 6 local stakeholders and 1 ski-resort employee
- Tourists engagement
 - On-site brochures
 - Dedicated mention on ski-resort website
 - Circulation of pilot site video in the ski-resort facilities

4.3. Community engagement in the global replication sites

During the whole replication phase at the global level, DBL team supported VUB and BAX with the design of on-site activities. Other partners ABB, NAPE; ATOS, SDM, SUNAMP and CIRCE supported the replication team in finding the relevant contacts to identify replication sites. In total, workshops were organised in 11 replication sites (Section 3.17). Each visit not only had the objective of collecting and prioritizing local stakeholders needs and developing scenarios, but also that of promoting European research at large and raise the interest of local stakeholders towards project results and tools as much as possible. To this aim the preliminary onboarding meetings were supported by dedicated slide-decks, used to approach and engage local stakeholders. Further meetings, beyond testing the RENERGISE tool also focused on describing all other outcomes and assess their actual replicability in diverse energy ecosystems. For example, in case of Uganda, BAX met also with the distribution grid operator, sites owners, regulators and investors in order to have a deeper understanding of the market and validate the project assumptions. While in case of Colombia BAX was supporting the pilot site leaders in early-stage discussions and distributed the knowledge and learning from Europe to the Colombian stakeholder in an open webinar. Beyond the deeper market studies on the replication case, BAX has been engaging with the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) to keep them up to date with the Eemnes pilot progress. Similarly, on European level BAX has been involved in the framework of BRIDGE conducting interviews with policy makers on the topic of transposition of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED II) and Energy Market distribution (EMD). Furthermore, at the end of the project a workshop was held in Brussels where policy recommendations were formulated in collaboration with actors from the EU energy community. This task was strictly related with data collection and

validation of business cases reported more in detail in the D2.7 – Renergise replication tool [3], D3.2 – Benchmarked business model report [4] and D3.5 – Business model assessment results [5] and concerning exploitation of results in D6.3 – Report on replication validation [2], D6.5 Regulatory Barriers analysis [6] and D7.6 Exploitation and business plans of the project [7] and. It is important to mention here that, beyond the mere number of participants the replication process somehow unlocked the actual project potential and demonstrated the high interest of all communities met worldwide to energy communities in general and to the step-by-step approach proposed by RENAISSANCE in particular. This more qualitative aspect cannot be tracked among the quantitative KPIs derived from surveys but shall be considered as a positive lesson learnt of the research itself.

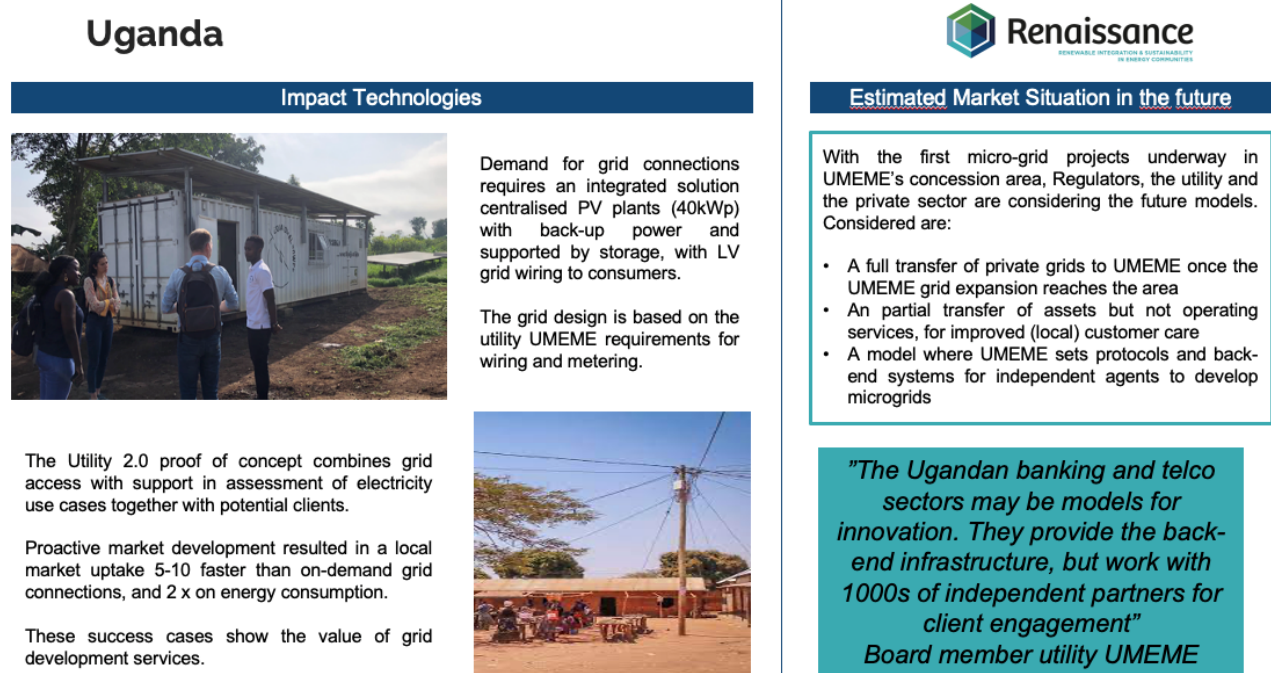


Figure 8 – Analysis of Ugandan energy market

4.4. Networking and engagement with other projects and organisations

Due to the strong collaborative approach of the whole research team, several projects and organisations have been involved in the project activities, since early phases (see Section 2). The networking and engagement with other projects and organisations was supported by a dedicated team composed by DBL, BAX and VUB whenever it had close links to the replication process (Eland, SCORE, ReVieval). With other projects the cooperation aimed at co-organising online and in-person workshops, panels or webinars (Compile, Creators, Hestia, AgroFossilFree, TheGreefa, Merlon, iElectrix, IntergridY, Interconnect), or publishing common news pieces and papers (Clim-Op, Lightness, ReDream, Sender, Hestia, eCrew, NRG2peers). With many other projects, networks and clusters, also thanks to the networking opportunities offered by the BRIDGE initiative, RENAISSANCE enabled long-lasting contact (Platone, MuseGrids, Interconnect, Interpreter). The main objective was to mutually share insights, results and other relevant issues (MuseGrids, EC2, Energy Cities network, Choice).

4.5. Internal communication strategy – connecting partners with interested audiences.

From an internal communication point of view, direct interaction of project followers with project partners was highly recommended and openly facilitated. Thanks to three dedicated email addresses (info@renaissance-h2020.eu; thierry.coosemans@renaissance-h2020.eu; getonboard@renaissance-h2020.eu) and the continuous presence of a communication team member contact in all products and organised events, the project was able to ensure that all requests could be timely addressed

by the appropriate partner. The most relevant exchanges worth to mention came from students from European universities looking for insights for their Phd thesis (e.g. University of Twente, Università di Camerino, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Zhaw University). In some cases online meetings have been organised to allow students ask questions to partners, other times they participated to pilot site visits or public events.

5. Lessons learnt

The RENAISSANCE project Consortium answered to a call that explicitly appealed scientists from technical domains join forces with social scientists to identify and help mitigate barriers preventing the adoption of technological and supposedly sustainable energy solutions in Europe. Accordingly, RENAISSANCE designed its tools applying user-centred design techniques and usability guidelines: the RENERGISE tool with its user-friendly user interface, the RENAISSANCE platform and its social engine and the serious online game “Can you RENew It?” are three different solutions aiming for a higher-than-average end-user uptake.

Nevertheless, what revealed essential throughout the project lifetime wasn't the tools' usability or the accurate diligence of the proposed LEC implementation process adoption. From the feedback received over time, the Consortium realised that what resulted more attractive of the project was its clear attempt of creating the pre-conditions for mutual understanding among stakeholders. The overall RENAISSANCE stakeholder engagement strategy itself can be seen as a self-replicating one, trying to reach out for specific targets to carry forward bits of important information about energy communities and bring back needs, barriers and innovative business models to overcome them.

Indeed, despite on the one hand the overall Communication, Dissemination and Stakeholder engagement strategy followed a quite ordinary process, on the other hand the products, activities and timeline had to be reconsidered and adapted on many occasions due to the following factors: the pandemic, the consequent need for a quick digitalisation of events, the diversity of stakeholders in the four European pilots, the even more diverse composition of stakeholders in international sites, the results emerged from our acceptance surveys. All these aspects could have an impact on the project success and as time passed by, adapting the project engagement plan

became more and more challenging. The majority of inputs and feedback received from the people we met, especially those that really helped enhance the project impact, cannot be tracked with quantitative KPIs. Stakeholder engagement is oftentimes thought of as a traditional dissemination activity by project partners and its KPIs are mostly defined and tracked as merely quantitative ones. It must be mentioned here that thanks to the continuous exchange with other projects, especially related with DBL participation in the BRIDGE Working group on Customer and Citizen Engagement, the RENAISSANCE project could learn from other research best practices and better steer its own activities.

6. Main barriers

The main barriers encountered during the project, in this sense, have been:

1. The difficulty in translating important technical aspects of the research into more understandable and relatable stories for non-expert audiences, especially for what concerned pilot sites implementation processes and tools development. Due to the low familiarity with the underlying structure of energy production, transmission and distribution systems, most citizens and consumers did not fully understand the benefits of local energy shared production and consumption schemes, despite being interested in the topic. It is also clear how citizens with low purchasing power who cannot pay for technical consultants and neither invest in renewable production technologies are the most impacted by this “information gap”. This issue has been explicitly mentioned through our feedback surveys by respondents who lamented the difficulty of grasping the contents of EU research results, incentive schemes and regulatory or legal aspect. Respondents asked that project such as RENAISSANCE directly involving citizens should be promoted massively.
2. The initial difference in what partners believed “engagement” means and what it actually is (e.g. social media interactions and workshop participants were considered the only accountable metrics for engagement).
3. The overall low level of confidence of both Consortium members and project stakeholders with online and in-person bidirectional interaction where different audiences were involved, which required prior familiarisation with collaborative tools and facilitation techniques.

4. The difficulty in ensuring a balanced participation of women among the target-users involved, both in terms of workshops and events participation and when looking for keynote speakers or panellists. Despite the shared efforts, the statistical disproportion in numbers was sometimes a challenge to reach acceptable targets. Nevertheless, all Consortium members contributed to counterbalance this risk by positively picking up proposed strategies and involving female research members and contacts in their networks more and more, resulting in a better performance in terms of gender balance.

7. Mitigation actions

To mitigate the barriers described above, the Communication & Dissemination team, backed by the coordinating team at VUB, executed the following activities:

1. Informed Consortium members about the difference between successful communication and dissemination and a meaningful level and quality of direct engagement.
2. Organised collaborative and ice-breaking activities for all Consortium members already during the kick-off meeting and in all General Assemblies to ensure partners could promptly reflect on the importance of mutual understanding and the risk of “jargonising” the potential benefits and impact of the research results.
3. Organised interactive and engaging activities with all stakeholders, previously informing and/or training involved partners about the underlying methodologies (e.g. ice-breaking exercises, pecha-kucha presentations, dot-voting, active listening techniques, online challenges) that were going to be applied to increase participation (Figure 9).
4. Ensured that, regardless the actual number of women participating in meetings or workshops, their voices would be heard at all times. To this aim, female keynotes and panellists were explicitly invited, among partners and/or external organisations, when organising in person or online events. During routine project meetings all partners contribution was required and called in to contribute, in order to ensure each Consortium member had a proper amount of time to speak. By doing so, female project representatives hopefully observed a higher degree of equality and provided input openly.

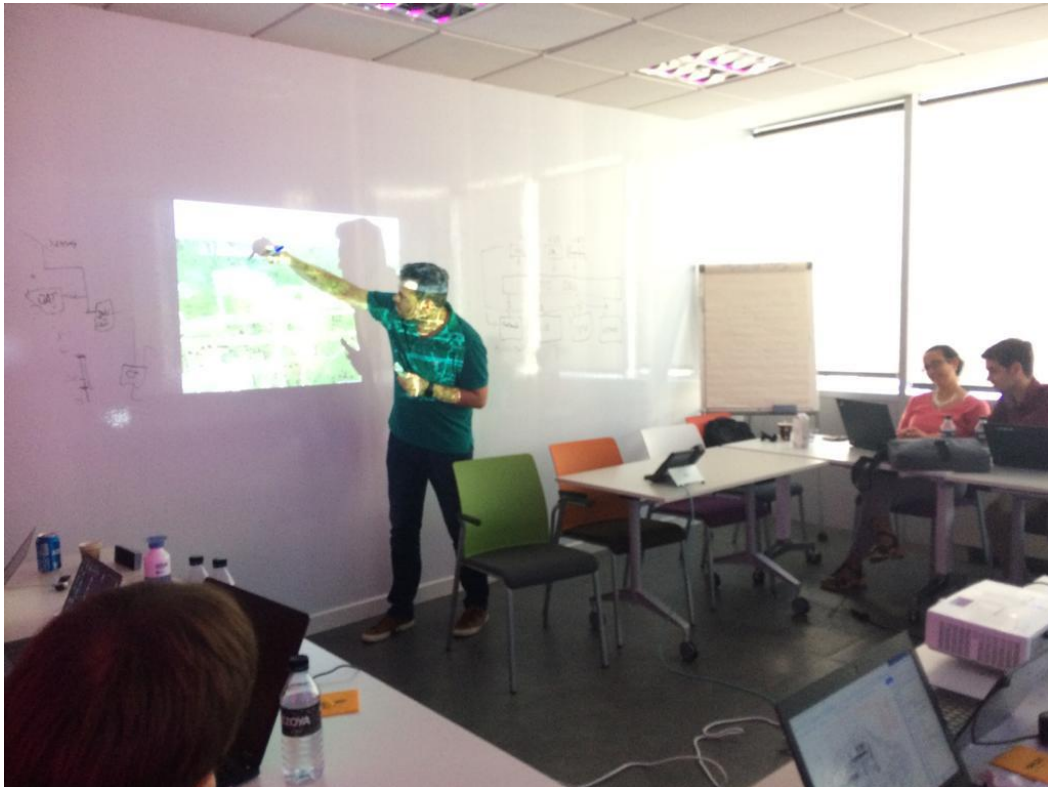


Figure 9 – Project meeting in Madrid – July 2019 – communication exercise

In the following bulleted list, a non-exhaustive description of qualitative insights about local community engagement that are valid for all sites visited, including European and international ones. Such insights mainly come from informal and face-to-face discussions reported by project partners, from semi-structured interviews in European pilot sites and from the direct experience of dissemination team members and they have not been collected or tracked systematically:

1. All people involved, no matter their background, have shown high interest in the project approach, especially for what concerns the attempt to engage diverse local stakeholders, from citizens to DSOs, since the early phase of deployment and to take their needs into consideration with a proven tool.

2. Whenever positive and proactive in-group dynamics were stimulated through voting or polling tools, discussions became more lively and participation greater than expected by partners and attendees.
3. Most participants had interest in exchanging perspectives and knowledge about the regulatory landscape and how supporting the creation of energy communities or renewable energies was (or was not) at large in their context.
4. Site tours represented (also in European pilot sites) a priceless opportunity of informal and mutual learning, enabling human connection across stakeholders' and beyond their domain silos.
5. A prompt follow-up via email, or sharing visit reports through social media after the research team visit, ensured long-term trust from local stakeholders and unleashed their full support to the project.
6. The highest consensus was received by citizen communities who were somehow approaching the concept of energy communities already, and found RENAISSANCE as the perfect match to clarify ideas and move towards the more operational phase of its creation.
7. Sometimes participants complained about (in person or via our event feedback surveys) the use of a jargonised language which was too complex for them to fully understand the topic, the low amount of information received and the poor promotion prior the event at the local level.
8. Involved partners commitment to promote the project objectives and approach grew, likely due to the fact that jointly presenting it to such a heterogeneous pool of stakeholders in diverse socio-cultural contexts pulled them out of their predefined mind-sets, thus reinforcing the team willingness to advocate for the validity of results.

8. Next steps

In conclusion, the RENAISSANCE project can be considered as a first step towards a truly integrated approach for the large-scale deployment of energy communities in Europe (Figure 10). Overall, the envisioned process demonstrated successful from a stakeholder engagement point of view in all project phases.

Future research steps could include:

1. Further developing the RENAISSANCE tools and test them in large scale pilots with the massive involvement of citizens and end-users through co-creation processes and living labs.
2. A stronger emphasis on energy poverty and inclusivity aspects of engagement. Beside innovative tools, the research should provide EU citizens with capacity building, training and engagement opportunities. To this aim social scientists, human-factor and UX experts should be more involved in all sustainable energy projects and innovative technologies related projects at large.
3. Engagement strategies designed and the related methodologies to implement them, should be thoroughly explained and transferred to project partners and to the energy research community in general, in order to create common knowledge and awareness on how to mitigate the gap between the scientific community and the general audience.

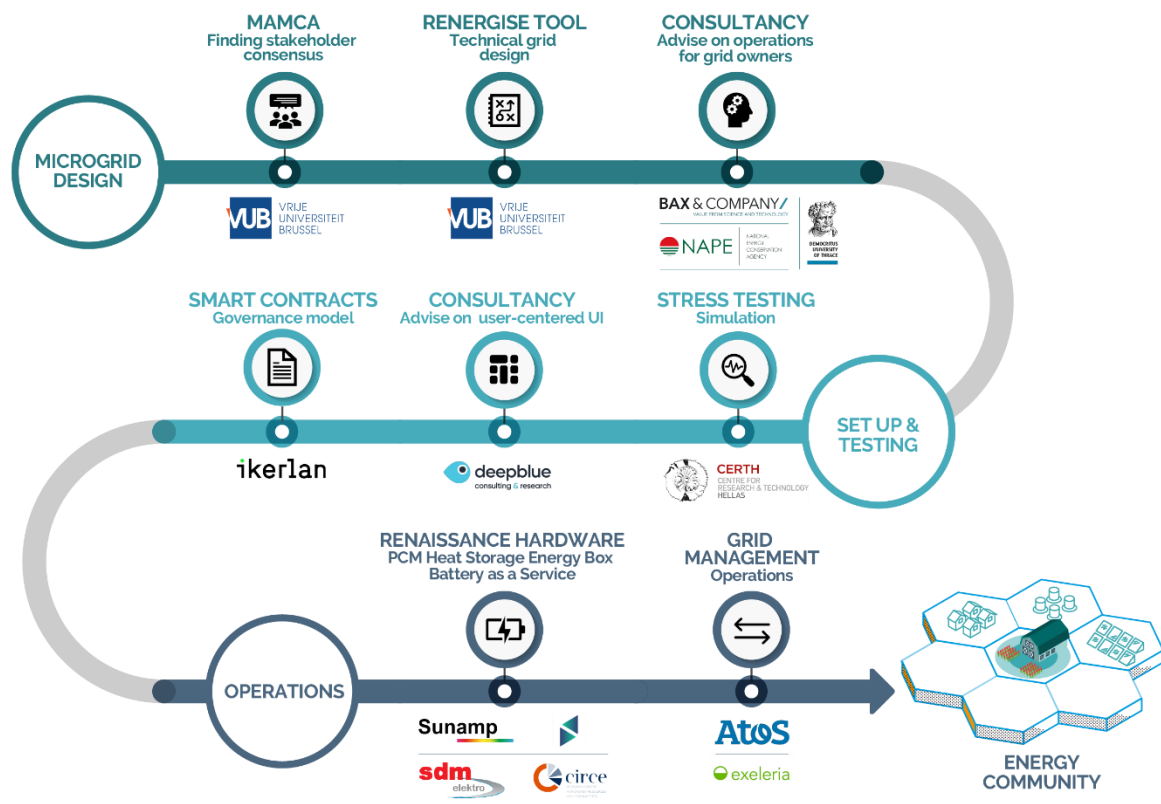


Figure 10 – Renaissance approach and process for pilot's implementation

References

- [1] Renaissance project, *D5.5 – Final validation report*, 2022.
- [2] Renaissance project, *D6.3 – Report on replication validation*, 2022.
- [3] Renaissance project, *D2.7 – Renergise replication tool*, 2022.
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- [8] R. Hueting, “RENAISSANCE H2020,” 2019. [Online]. Available: www.renaissance-h2020.eu.
- [9] Renaissance project, *D7.2 – Dissemination and communication plan*, 2021

Annex 1

Communication, dissemination and stakeholder engagement KPIs

Channel/Item	KPI	Result
WEBSITE	January–October 2022 Analytics	
/Home page	Unique visits	>11.000
	Average total navigation time	2 min
/News	Number of total reads of newspieces	>1000
	Number of unique reads of top article (launch of final event)	344
	Number of unique visits to 5 top pages (excluded “home page”, “about” and “resources”):	
	• Pilot sites	1092
	• Final event launch news	344
	• Steer-it-up launch news	265
	• Enerjettic	235
/Resources	Total downloads	464
12 deliverables	• % over total downloads	22%
6 interactive tools and media	• % over total downloads	16%
17 scientific publications	• % over total downloads	9%

Most downloaded resources	1 st glossy report	111
	Brochure	41
	D3.1 Benchmarked business case report	11
SOCIAL MEDIA		
Twitter	N. of total followers	284
	N. of tweets	258
	N. of total impressions	47.744
LinkedIn	N. of Followers	375
	N. of posts published	200+
	N. of reactions (to posts)	1000+
YouTube	Total number of videos	19
	Total visualisations	1900+
NEWSLETTER		
	N. of newsletter items produced	5
	N. of other promotional campaign items issued	12
	N. of people contacted	314
	% average of people opening contents	32%
	% average of self-subscribed people opening contents	70%
	N. of subscriptions after events (manually added)	60+
	N. of partners + PO	66
SURVEYS		
1 st acceptance in (SurveyMonkey)	Social survey pilots	N. of respondents 300+ (189 of which complete and valid responses)
2 nd acceptance survey in Europe (SurveyMonkey)	N. of paid respondents	500+

3 rd acceptance survey in pilots	shortened	N. of respondents	50+
Focus surveys in replication sites (Qualtrics)		N. of respondents	20+
MAMCA surveys		N. of respondents	230+
		Of which % of female respondents	47%
INTERACTIVE TOOLS			
Gamification tool		N. of people involved in user-testing	12 (6 partners, 6 externals)
Renergise tool		N. of people involved in the online usability survey	14 (of which 10 from Polish replication site)
RENAISSANCE platform		N. of people involved in user-testing	Only internal testing by CERTH
WORKSHOPS and EVENTS			
MAMCA workshops		N. of participants	50+
PS tours + events		N. of participants	200+ (50 pilot site tours, 150 Eemnes onboarding events)
ESG workshops		N. of participants	20 stakeholder representatives
Online webinars		N. of participants	50+
STEER-IT UP PAN-EU		N. of female/total participants	19/53
FINAL EVENT PAN-EU		N. of female/total participants	17/60

ALL EVENTS	N. of women “on stage” as keynotes, panelists, moderators or presenting results (online and in-person)/total	16/39
CONFERENCES		
European Conferences/Energy Fairs	N. of EU conferences in 2022	15
	• % of female presenters	30% (5/15)
STAKEHOLDER COMPOSITION (European and international)		
TARGET STAKEHOLDERS	% of Stakeholder groups contacted	100%
ESG MEMBERS	N. of entitites involved	30+
International and European energy actors including industry representatives	N. of entities involved	20+
EU and extra EU projects	N. of collaborations	20+
DSOs in EU and extra EU	N. of DSOs involved	5+
Decision and policy makers, municipalities, other institutional actors	N. of entities involved	10+
Energy technology providers	or N. of entities involved	10+
Academia	N. of entities involved	10+

Citizen customers	and	N. of citizens directly involved in Europe/ n. of citizens reached	300/5000
Students		N. of students directly involved/n. of students reached	100/1000