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**TERRITORIAL ANALYSIS OF DECENTRALISED
ENERGY MARKETS //**

CeBASE

Florence (IT)

Case Study // December 2024

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CeBASE, Florence (IT)

Relevant Local Practice: Energy sharing carried out by private enterprises

This local practice refers to situations where private companies manage energy sharing schemes in collaboration with residents, offering them access to renewable energy resources or energy savings under more favourable conditions. These enterprises facilitate the distribution of energy, allowing residents to either share or purchase energy at competitive rates. By managing such schemes, private enterprises can provide consumers with the benefits of lower energy costs, increased energy security, and more sustainable energy usage. Additionally, this practice can help build stronger local partnerships, support community-based energy solutions, and drive further investments in renewable energy infrastructure.

Relevant Local Practice: Energy-as-a-service (EaaS)

Energy-as-a-Service (EaaS) is a local practice, where energy communities expand their portfolio to offer a wide range of energy services. These can include the installation of renewable energy sources, consultancy, grid connection, and ongoing management of energy systems. EaaS allows consumers, including businesses and households, to access advanced energy solutions without the need for large capital investments, making renewable energy more accessible and affordable. One notable variation is Micro-grid-as-a-Service (MaaS), in which an energy community offers a service model, building, operating, and maintaining localised microgrids, to provide tailored, flexible energy solutions. Through these services, EaaS promotes energy efficiency, cost savings, and greater energy independence, all while helping to achieve sustainability goals.

Executive Summary

CeBASE, an energy community based in Florence, Italy, was established through collaboration between a PhD graduate and the regional multi-utility company *Convoi*¹². It builds on years of feasibility studies assessing the possibility of setting up a local service provider supporting citizens and municipalities in energy related matters. Inspired by Solidarity Purchasing Groups, CeBASE promotes energy sustainability, active citizenship, and affordable services. Operating as a non-profit association, CeBASE supports diffused self-consumption schemes through the work of 16 volunteers. Members enjoy benefits such as reduced energy costs, access to feasibility studies for renewable installations site allocation, and guidance on financial and bureaucratic processes.

The community has achieved notable social, environmental, and economic impacts, fostering cooperation across diverse groups, advancing the energy transition, and addressing energy poverty through innovative and inclusive practices. By negotiating favorable terms with partners and engaging in public education, CeBASE exemplifies a scalable model for community-driven energy solutions. Its most significant achievements, including volunteer dedication, collaborative governance, and partnerships with public authorities, offer a replicable framework that can be adapted to other contexts. In order to facilitate further growth, recommendations are made which include the maintenance of the cooperative ethos, the broadening of inclusivity, and the expansion of the impact through collective bargaining and solidarity-based initiatives.

CeBASE is able to offer its members a variety of services that are ranging from free techno-economic feasibility studies, discounted prices, electricity supply, energy consultancy services, support with bill payment for those affected by energy poverty and discounted services through partner collaborations. All these services fall within the category of Energy-as-a-Service, one of the key local practices showcased in this case study. Furthermore, having the majority of these services carried out by private companies as well as the energy sharing activities makes CeBASE being described also a local practice focused on private companies providing these different services.

1. Key characteristics and context

CeBASE was established as a joint initiative between a PhD graduate and *Convoi*, a multi-utility company of the area with the objective of providing citizens with assistance on all matters related to energy. This section will subsequently describe the activities of the community, present a concise overview of the contextual elements that enabled its

¹ More information available here: <https://convoisrl.it/>.

² Multi-utility company refers to a company that offers a wide range of services. In this case, the Italian company provides energy efficiency services, support to the realisation of energy communities, energy audits and other energy-related services.

establishment, and provide information on the energy technologies that the community has deployed. Additionally, it will delineate the national and regional enabling framework within which the energy community was able to deploy and offer its services.

1.1. Location and geographical scope

CeBASE is situated within the Italian city of Florence, which is located in the region of Tuscany. The energy community operates within the area of Florence and its surroundings. Furthermore, its services are available to the municipalities in this area. In particular, the energy community has engaged in successful collaborative activities with the local authorities of Fiesole, Bagno a Ripoli, and Pontassieve. Additionally, it has initiated the process of implementing similar activities in Rome, which will allow the energy community to expand its geographical scope.

1.2. Foundation & history

The president of CeBASE, Mattia Pasqui, carried out his PhD thesis at University of Florence on the topic of energy communities and the management of their energy storage systems. Such technical expertise and knowledge on delocalised energy markets, complemented by the interest of a local multi-utility company with its connections and presence (*Convoi srl*) facilitated the realisation of CeBASE. These elements were key in the establishment and development of the energy community, as will be shown in the following paragraphs.

Prior to its official establishment, the founders of CeBASE decided to carry out techno-economic feasibility studies in collaboration with the University of Florence. The positive outcomes and considerations stemming from such studies led to the establishment of CeBASE. The energy community follows a similar approach to that of Solidarity Purchasing Groups (SPGs)³ albeit operating in the energy market⁴. A SPG is an organisation focused on promoting critical and sustainable consumption. SPGs prioritise fairness, solidarity, and sustainability in their purchases. They establish direct connections between consumers and producers, bypassing large-scale distributors and intermediaries. Producers are selected based on criteria like environmental sustainability, product quality, and support for local producers.

CeBASE is constituted by a group of citizens who collectively organise for the purpose of purchasing energy products. The key driver motivating the establishment of the community was the intention of providing support to individuals who wanted a better understanding of how the energy market work, hence becoming more alert of energy-related problematics and understand how to behave and what to choose in determined situations, in view of saving money and reduce energy costs as well as contributing to the local energy transition. In this regard, the internal statutes of the association (which has been the selected legal structure of the energy community) delineate four specific objectives: (i) to contribute to the acceleration of the energy transition of the territory in which it operates; (ii) to enhance levels of active citizenship and environmental and social protection; (iii) to promote the economic and social development of the territory in which it operates; and (iv) to facilitate the participation of its members in electricity markets and in community projects, as well as to facilitate their access to goods and services related to energy at affordable tariffs.

The energy community has now been registered as a non-recognised association⁵ of diffused self-consumption schemes (*configurazione di autoconsumo diffuso*, in Italian). The official registration of the energy community as a third-sector entity (*ente del terzo settore*) was initiated in April of last year. The process is still ongoing, with the final bureaucratic steps to be completed imminently, as all the requisite documentation has already been submitted to the Italian authorities. Registering as such an entity is a fundamental step according to the Italian legislation in order to fully access the benefits and incentives of energy community support scheme.

1.3. Activities conducted and energy technologies applied

CeBASE functions as a sort of **one-stop shop**, providing a comprehensive, integrated service offer, designed to facilitate access to a wide range of resources and expertise within the energy sector. Simultaneously, the energy community identifies potential partners companies for the negotiation of preferential rates and conditions for the provision of services to its members. In this capacity, the energy community carries out the purchase, sale and provision of energy goods and services on behalf of (and for) its members. Additionally, the energy community has facilitated

³ <https://antropocene.it/en/2023/05/02/solidarity-purchasing-group/>

⁴ SPGs are actors more commonly found in the food and agricultural markets.

⁵ In Italy the non-recognised association is a legal entity that the association can take (see https://www.fiaspitalia.it/images/Guida_Associazioni.pdf).

the establishment of a series of **diffused self-consumption schemes** based on renewable energy sources, which have been installed by private individuals with the objective of reducing their energy costs. The schemes comprise groups of buildings situated in close proximity to one another, connected to a single distribution point (*cabina primaria*), and engaged in energy sharing. In this regard, the energy community has requested the activation of three diffused self-consumption support schemes, to be granted by the Italian entity responsible (*GSE – Gestore dei Servizi Energetici*) for their activation. This entity has requested minor adjustments and clarifications to ensure positive assessment of the application. Currently, CeBASE is waiting for the response on its amended documentation.

The range of services provided by the community is extensive. In particular, the community offers the following services to its members: i) Free techno-economic feasibility studies to assess the installation of a photovoltaic system and/or a storage battery; ii) Electricity supply at discounted prices on bills to energy community members; iii) Assistance with the identification of financial opportunities as well as the support in preparing the administrative requirements to access financing; iv) energy consultancy services; v) Support with bill payment for those members affected by energy poverty (low-income groups in this specific case); vi) Discounted services through collaboration with partners, including real time energy consumption monitoring, the opportunity to participate in local flexibility markets as well as energy management services.

In the future, the community's objective is to expand its portfolio of services to undertake collective projects (for example, installing a charging station for members to recharge their electric vehicles) while maintaining its role as a point of reference to assist citizens, businesses and companies in making informed decisions on their energy choices.

In order to facilitate the provision of the aforementioned services, the association benefits from the contributions of a group of 16 volunteers, who offer their technical expertise and assistance to members of the energy community for free.

1.4. National/regional enabling frameworks and policies

The Italian regulatory framework governing collective self-consumption and energy communities had a significant impact on the development and evolution of CeBASE. Within CeBASE there are various energy communities that have been granted non-repayable loans to cover 40% (under the Recovery and Resilience Facility) of the investment costs for the purchase and installation of renewable energy sources. This support was contingent on the fact that communities must be established in municipalities with a population under 5000 inhabitants⁶.

Furthermore, the Italian legislative framework allows the establishment of an energy community through the utilisation of a non-recognised association, a legal form that associations can take in Italy⁷. This flexible approach, which does not necessitate the official legal recognition (and requirements such as distribution of liabilities and establishment of third bodies within the entity to support audits and decision-making processes) of an association to constitute an energy community has enabled CeBASE to initiate its activities while concurrently undertaking the registration process to become a third-sector entity. Furthermore, this approach is relatively quicker than going for a third sector entity in the first place, as this requires longer back and forth with legal advisors. In fact, most energy communities in Italy first establish themselves as non-recognised associations to register for the support on the GSE portal and later on they establish themselves as third-sector associations to better adjust their legal statute with Italian legislation⁸.

2. Governance and internal organisation

CeBASE involves a number of actors and stakeholders, both within the activities that it carries out and beyond. This chapter examines the governance model of the community, including its owners and members, the decision-making process, and the key stakeholders that have contributed to the community's development. Furthermore, the challenges associated with the administration of the community, the business model employed, and the primary sources of funding are studied.

⁶ [DECRETO CACER e TIAD – Regole operative per l'accesso al servizio per l'autoconsumo diffuso e al contributo PNRR](#)

⁷ In Italy the non-recognised association is a legal entity that the association can take (see https://www.fiaspitalia.it/images/Guida_Associazioni.pdf).

⁸ This legal form is (alongside the cooperative one) the best-fitting legal model to comply with Italian legislation. Also, the majority of energy communities grow up in numbers few months after they are established. Hence, the non-recognised association form is not suitable anymore for energy communities after a while.

2.1. Governance model

Ownership and legal model

As previously stated, CeBASE is a non-profit association which takes the form of a non-recognised association, as the registration process has not yet been completed⁹. However, it was anticipated that the registration process to become a third sector entity will be finalised in the near future, providing CeBASE the status of a third sector entity.

The association is comprised of 50 shareholder members. In order to become a member, it is necessary to possess a POD (Point of Distribution) or to be an end-user thereof. The community is comprised of members belonging to various categories. The founders are defined as those who established the Association by signing its Memorandum of Association. Ordinary members are producers and/or end-users who possess one connection point POD to the national electricity grid or are end-user thereof. They may be natural persons, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), public bodies, associations with legal personality under private law, territorial bodies and local authorities, including municipal administrations, religious bodies and research and training bodies. The sole exception to this is that in the case of enterprises, participation in the Association shall not constitute their principal commercial and industrial activity¹⁰.

The objective of the community is to increase the number of members and to reach 500 associates by the end of 2025. This would provide the energy community with greater bargaining power when negotiating with partner companies thus the possibility of offering more favourable conditions (electricity prices) to its members.

Decision-making

Regarding the matter of voting rights, the internal statutes of the community establish the General Assembly as the sovereign body of the Association, and its decisions are binding for all members. In this context, each member is entitled to one vote in the General Assembly. Additionally, the community is governed by a board of directors, an operational committee, and technical advisors. The Board of Directors is an executive body, vested with all powers to conduct the Association's activities and the achievement of its purposes, with the exception of those powers that the law or the Articles of Association reserve to the General Assembly.

A noteworthy aspect of CeBASE is its policy of allowing considerable autonomy within each scheme for diffused self-consumption. This autonomy extends to the right of each scheme representative to veto decisions concerning the utilisation of the incentive collected in their respective area, as determined by the council.

2.2. Key actors and stakeholders

The University of Florence and the multi-utility company *Convoi*¹¹ based in the Florence area played a pivotal role in the formation and advancement of the Italian energy community. In particular, the University allowed the community to use its software to conduct techno-economic feasibility studies. Furthermore, *Convoi* played a pivotal role in providing support to the members of the community.

The energy community has also collaborated with several companies and organisations, including Legambiente¹², ProCer, Convoi¹³, and Zeromy¹⁴, who offer their services at more advantageous conditions to the members of CeBASE.

⁹ The Italian legislation allows non-recognised associations to be the entity establishing the energy community (page 49) <https://www.mase.gov.it/sites/default/files/ALLEGATO%201%20Regole%20operative%20CACER%20def.pdf>

¹⁰ This is a requirement from the Italian legislation, DM 414/2023, art. 1.2.2.2 comma c: “*la comunità è autonoma e ha una partecipazione aperta e volontaria (a condizione che le imprese siano PMI e che la partecipazione alla comunità di energia rinnovabile non costituisca l’attività commerciale e/o industriale principale)*; ”. <https://www.mase.gov.it/sites/default/files/ALLEGATO%201%20Regole%20operative%20CACER%20def.pdf>

¹¹ <https://convoisrl.it/>

¹² <https://www.legambiente.it/>

¹³ <https://convoisrl.it/>

¹⁴ <https://zeromy.it/>

For instance, FlexyGrid¹⁵, a platform for energy management, provides energy monitoring systems free of charge for members of the energy community.

The public administrations have also collaborated with CeBASE. In particular, the regional authority of Tuscany contacted and hosted CeBASE in a number of dissemination activities, such as the organisation of events and the provision of a pivotal platform for the visibility of community activities. The role of the municipal/local authorities is also important in this context, given that they are responsible for the historical buildings and therefore have the authority to approve or reject any proposed new installations and their location. The energy community has established relationships with various municipal authorities, including those in Fiesole, Bagno a Ripoli, and Pontassieve. Furthermore, the community engages with public administration through the sharing of experiences and the provision of consultancy services, with the objective of identifying the EC's requirements and disseminating information about their activities to potential stakeholders.

2.3. Administration

While the involvement of the actors in the collaboration with the community has facilitated the administration of the community, the primary challenge in managing the energy community has been the complexity of the bureaucratic processes required by the Italian public administration to register officially the energy community.

2.4. Business model and access to finance

The community has been constituted as a non-profit non-recognised association, comprising exclusively voluntary members, and consequently incurring very limited costs (i.e., administrative costs and the costs of maintaining the website). Moreover, the registration and participation in the community are offered free of charge. This approach is also a deliberate strategy of CeBASE to facilitate quicker growth in numbers.

The limited funding the community faces is covered by: (i) the government incentives for energy communities, (ii) Voluntary contributions by its members, and the (iii) service delivered free-of charge by partner companies. It should be noted that redistribution of benefits among members is not implemented in CeBASE, except in very limited cases that are defined by the association's internal statutes¹⁶. Therefore, the intention is that contributions stemming from the community's self-consumption services will be used to cover the administrative and accounting costs of the Association, as well as to pursue the objectives set out in the Association's Statute.

2.5. Grid connection

In the context of the CeBASE energy community, it is important to underline the significance of their relationship with energy providers. In this regard, the energy community showed to possess a certain degree of bargaining power as a collective consumer purchasing group, enabling it to negotiate competitive prices for its members. This ability to negotiate favourable terms has been identified as a significant accomplishment of the energy community, enabling it to offer its members services at competitive prices.

3. Impact and Analysis

The activities conducted by CeBASE have had and will continue to have a variety of impacts on the local community. This chapter presents an overview of the key social, environmental and economic impacts, followed by an analysis of the energy community's inclusiveness elements as well as key characteristics for its success. This includes an identification of the contributing conditions and actions, an assessment of their transferability and replicability, and a synthesis of the key takeaways from the analysis. A particular emphasis is placed on the local practices of energy sharing carried out by private enterprises, as well as energy-as-a-service.

¹⁵ <https://it.flexygrid.com/>

¹⁶ Only the following categories of ordinary members may request the redistribution of a share of the contributions relating to the configuration to which they belong: 1. Condominium end-customer and producer, with a system connected to the condominium meter. 2. Producer and end customer with two or more electricity consumers within the same configuration. 3. Pure producer not final customer, i.e. with plant not connected to a withdrawal unit. 4. Producer who decides to oversize his plant in relation to his consumption in order to promote energy sharing. 5. End customer in energy poverty

3.1. Social, environmental, and economic benefits

Social impacts

A salient element of the social impacts of CeBASE's activities pertains to the promotion of a cooperative culture within the Italian region of Tuscany. In this regard, the energy community has facilitated the establishment of a collective comprising individuals who share analogous interests concerning the energy transition, thereby engendering a social impact that has united individuals from diverse backgrounds, including age, socio-economic status, and other characteristics.

Furthermore, the initiatives undertaken by the community showed to have a significantly positive social impact. It can be argued that the provision of free services has the potential to assist those who are more in need first in gaining an understanding of the projects from which they could benefit and secondly in obtaining free advice on how to undertake energy activities. It is imperative to allocate time and resources to engage with these demographic groups, as it can be contended that becoming a member necessitates a certain degree of awareness regarding energy management, knowledge that is particularly difficult to find among those belonging to more vulnerable categories.

Moreover, as previously stated, the community also strives to contribute to the fight against energy poverty. Given the community's current lack of resources, a primary objective is to cultivate the capacity to undertake projects with a discernible social impact, contingent on the acquisition of required resources. It should be noted, however, that the community statutes stipulate that incentives obtained are not to be returned to community members except in certain specific cases, one of which is when an individual is in need of assistance due to being affected by energy poverty conditions. In addition, the community assisted individuals with an annual income below 15,000€ to apply for the call for loans to purchase photovoltaic energy. Despite this assistance, the loans were fully utilised within a fortnight, and the energy community was unable to successfully collect the necessary documentation.

Finally, it can be argued that the provision of services at more favourable conditions for members of the community represents a positive social impact of the energy community activities. In this regard, it can be argued that this encourages a higher level of active “energy” citizenship.

Environmental impacts

CeBASE has been established with the principal objective of accelerating the energy transition and thereby contributing to the mitigation of the challenges posed by climate change. The services that CeBASE offers have a discernible positive environmental impact. Specifically, the installation of renewable energy sources by the energy community is expected to enhance energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions from energy consumption. Furthermore, the provision of complimentary services by the energy community is instrumental in raising awareness about environmental challenges. Moreover, the educational and dissemination activities conducted by CeBASE will contribute to an increase in knowledge, which ultimately influences citizen behaviour affecting the environmental impact of the community. Finally, the strategy of purchasing energy-related technologies and services collectively contributes to making the energy transition more affordable for the affected parties.

Economic impacts

Despite the indication by the community that making profit from their actions is not their principal objective, the activities they have undertaken have unquestionably resulted in economic benefits for individuals within the community. In that regard, the members of the community will benefit from energy savings resulting from the self-consumption activities. Furthermore, the surpluses generated by the incentive mechanisms are regarded as significant, despite the intention to reinvest these surpluses within the community and not distributing them amongst its members.

The community also has significant potential for generating additional economic benefits for both current and future members. An increase in the number of community members would enhance the community's bargaining power when negotiating with partner companies offering services, which could lead to improved economic conditions for its members.

3.2. Innovativeness

The community's innovative approach is characterised by its comprehensive range of services offered, which are provided on a voluntary basis. In this context, it is notable that the level of involvement of the community members is a significant factor that contributes to the provision of innovative services to the community members. The community's approach to bargaining with partner companies is another noteworthy aspect of its innovative strategy. The services it offers its members are more advantageous than those typically available on the market and this is a positive innovative element.

3.3. Inclusiveness

CeBASE has a clear commitment to promoting inclusivity in its initiatives. In this regard, the community has explicitly articulated its objective to address energy poverty, and it does so by distributing contributions to members who are affected by energy poverty. Another important practice of CeBASE has been to try to involve as many stakeholders as possible through its various communication and dissemination channels, as well as public events. The community has even provided educational activities in schools to enhance its visibility and raise awareness about energy-related issues amongst young citizens and future generations. Furthermore, it can be argued that the community has adopted an inclusive approach by offering free or reduced cost services to its members through the various partnership agreements it has with companies.

3.4. Key drivers for success

The analysis of the Italian CeBASE community has produced clear results as to what are the key drivers for its successful establishment and expansion.

Firstly, the technical expertise and knowledge that CeBASE president was able to acquire through his PhD was a distinctive feature of the energy community. More specifically, it allowed the energy community to start their establishment process with more information compared to other Italian energy communities. This made the establishment and development process smoother and was one of the key drivers of the success of the energy community.

Secondly, the work carried out by volunteers in providing free or discounted services after negotiation with partner companies has been an important element of the community and has helped to increase the number of associated members. This will also be important in future negotiations with partner companies and will result in better conditions for the Community's associated members.

Thirdly, the Community has made important efforts to engage with the various stakeholder groups. More specifically, as described above, the Community has organised and participated in various events where it has been able to increase the visibility of its activities and promote their added value.

Fourthly, the cooperative culture approach of the Italian region is fundamental to engage as many civil society groups as possible and to have a high level of collaboration, which has also been key for the energy community when carrying out its activities.

Finally, the community's cooperation with public authorities at both regional and local level has been crucial. This cooperation has been reported by the community itself as very positive for the development of its activities and has helped the public authorities to understand the needs of the communities.

3.5. Replicability and transferability

Following an analysis of the activities conducted by CeBASE, two practices have been identified as potentially replicable and transferable to other contexts.

Firstly, the close collaboration of energy community members to jointly purchase energy supply is a key characteristic of the CeBASE model. Thereby allowing local communities to better negotiate favourable conditions with local providers enhancing the power of joint citizens interested in understanding and engaging with the electricity market actors.

Secondly, **providing services free of charge to those in need of support** in relation to energy-related activities, and with the further objective, constitutes a practice that can be sought out in other contexts. The Italian community's emphasis on solidarity has been a recurring theme throughout this case study, offering valuable insights that can be applied elsewhere.

Thirdly, the community's diverse **engagement strategies**, encompassing events, collaborations with public administration and authorities, and educational initiatives in public schools, have twofold benefits. They enhance the community's visibility and raise awareness about energy issues among potential stakeholders.

3.6. Main takeaways and recommendations

Takeaways and recommendations on the local practice on energy sharing carried out by private enterprises

The analysis of CeBASE's activities in the domain of energy sharing carried out by private enterprises, has yielded two primary conclusions.

CeBASE is bringing together its members to collectively negotiate better prices

CeBASE connects its members (renewable energy self-consumers) and collectively negotiates deals with private companies managing energy sharing. As such, CeBASE members can join these systems at more favourable rates than they would usually be able to.

CeBASE relying on private companies to access high quality services

The quality of the products accessed through CeBASE follow high standards, given the energy community's reliance on tested relationships with private companies specialised in the topic. Normally, these services are at market price, which makes the unattainable for most energy communities in Italy. The reduced price through CeBASE provides a special value to its members and even serves as a recruitment tool for the energy community.

CeBASE is not charging its members, and its services are attractive for already active actors

Being a member of CeBASE guarantees the provision of services from the energy community free of charge, as its running costs are low and most of its work based on volunteers. This, combined with members having access to more favourable conditions with private companies makes the energy community attractive for actors already active as self-consumers. This allows the energy community to grow quickly and integrate the knowledge and experience of other local actors.

Takeaways and recommendations on the local practice on Energy-as-a-service

The analysis of CeBASE's activities in the domain of Energy-as-a-service carried out by private enterprises, has yielded one key conclusion.

CeBASE as a local energy service platform to enhance local awareness on the energy transition

Offering energy-related services free of charge to community members showcased how citizens are more prone to favourably welcome innovative initiatives such as energy communities (especially for rural contexts such as the suburbs of Florence in which CeBASE is active), when they are already engaged with energy-related topics despite not directly producing/consuming their own energy.

Other takeaways and recommendations

It is important to emphasise that the successful operation of CeBASE yielded several takeaways and recommendations useful for learning energy communities and forward looking the broader policy landscape of energy communities' initiatives in the EU.

Creating an Energy as a Service platform to act as a one-stop shop to raise awareness

As emphasised above, CeBASE does not end at the mere production and consumption of energy, it entails a variety of services offered to its members and also to the municipalities nearby. As such, the activities of CeBASE are understood as falling under the broad scope of a local one-stop shop. This approach favoured the realisation of CeBASE project and it shows how providing a variety of services related to energy positively influences the attitude of local citizens towards energy community initiatives.

Establishing a Solidarity Purchasing Group to strengthen community identity and realise energy community projects

Creating a Joint Purchasing Group to facilitate purchase power in the negotiations with energy providers is a key feature of the CeBASE energy community. As such, this approach enabled the realisation of the energy community at a later stage, but an important starting point and added value of the initiative is the ability of offering energy at discounted prices thanks to this specific set-up.

This case study was developed as part of the project Territorial Analysis of Decentralised Energy Markets conducted for ESPON EGTC. It is based on information that is publicly available online, on the energy community's own webpage, as well as on information collected through a semi-structured interview with representatives of the energy community. The reviewed documents include:

- Decreto milleproroghe:
https://www.ancrel.it/it/documenti_publici.php?sc_id=46&id=436&label=DL%20162%20MILLEPROROGHE%20CONVERTITO%20IN%20LEGGE%20n.%208%20del%2020%20febbraio#:~:text=IN%20LEGGE%20n.-,8%20del%2020%20febbraio,amministrazioni%2C%20nonch%C3%A9%20di%20innovazione%20tecnologica.
- DECRETO CACER e TIAD – Regole operative per l'accesso al servizio per l'autoconsumo diffuso e al contributo PNRR. Available at: <https://www.mase.gov.it/sites/default/files/ALLEGATO%201%20Regole%20operative%20CACER%20def.pdf>
- CeBASE website: <https://cebase.it/>
- Regolamento interno dell'Associazione. Available at: <https://cebase.it/#servizi>
- Statuto dell'Associazione. Available at: <https://cebase.it/#servizi>

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