

**Interreg
Danube Region**



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D.2.2.3: Action plan of Master plan

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SO 2 / Title:	Transnational strategy for reduction of peak loads and the correct implementation of the Directive
Activity 2.2 Transnational Master plan development	<p>The activity focuses on the Transnational Master Plan development & implementation and supporting activities.</p> <p>The established co-working groups remain the same to interface among each other during the online meetings/workshops in order to co-design & co-develop the transnational strategy (Master plan). LP and PP10 will lead partners-to-partners transnational online interaction. LP and PP10 guide and direct each partner. Each PP contributes with the input. In the phase of the plan development the most important is the stakeholder involvement. They will be engaged in each involved country. The performed sessions with the stakeholders are the events on the local level. Each country organizes 1 focus group workshop, 1 SWOT analyse workshop, 1 finding measures workshops. Partners invite stakeholders (energy prosumers, energy distributors, operators, policy relevant bodies) for shaping Master plan.</p> <p>All partners prepare 1 transnational Master plan on integrating the pilot approaches into the national, regional and local policy level and how to rightful implement the Directive. In the strategy the following aspects should be covered: Relation of what pilots do or how the state should encourage the establishment of battery operation and harmonization of the action plan for all involved countries, so that countries do not intentionally violate the directive. PPs propose a list of measures tailored to national/regional/local needs but further developed through transnational cooperation. The Master plan base on the results of the pilot implementation, evaluation, stakeholder sessions and co-working groups interaction.</p> <p>The partners will inspire the national/regional authorities to adopt the Master plan (signed letters of adoption). In the frame of convincing phase, all partners will start encouraging authorities during Policy forums where the discussion will take place and the pilot evidence will be presented.</p> <p>Based on the adopted action plans from Master plan PPs will carry out online twinning actions contribute to the implementation of joint future measures, which will be a legacy of the project. All partners come prepared on an online facilitated brainstorming workshop where further detailing on their local good & core priorities will be defined, then partners with similar priorities are matched together & led through a process of developing mutual concept note for a future project. PPs will also explore opportunities for joint projects, initiatives, or partnerships on related topics or new challenges that emerge in the field. This involve leveraging the expertise, resources, established during the project to tackle new issues or expand on existing work. Joint commitment is signed.</p> <p>The strategy & action plan is communicated via on- and offline communication channels. At least 2 PPs present their procedure & share experience via online interviews. PPs organize press event in the frame of the policy forum. Activity leader is LP.</p>
Deliverable:	D.2.2.3
Title:	Action plan of Master plan
Author:	all project partners with the country specific input
Reviewed by:	Katja Karba
Version:	3
Date:	October 2025

Action plan

Introduction

The Action plan translates the strategic vision of the Master Plan into concrete steps for implementation. It provides a set of measures and recommendations designed to support renewable energy integration, manage peak loads and accelerate the transition towards smarter and more resilient energy systems.

These measures are targeted at different policy levels-national, regional and local-and are tailored to the needs of policy makers, grid operators, municipalities, investors and consumers. They include a mix of infrastructural, regulatory, financial, communication and organizational actions, recognizing that successful energy transition requires both technological innovation and supportive frameworks.

The Action Plan also defines the roles and responsibilities of key actors, including regulators, governments, municipalities, utilities and energy communities, while highlighting opportunities for replication and scaling up of successful pilot solutions across the Danube region.

By linking strategic priorities to actionable steps, this Action plan ensures that the Master Plan is not only a guiding vision, but also a practical roadmap for implementation, investment and policy alignment. It provides decision-makers and stakeholders with a clear framework to advance renewable energy integration, reduce peak loads and build a more flexible and consumer-driven energy system.

Concept and strategies of measure implementation

The successful implementation of the Master Plan requires not only clear measures but also well-defined approaches and tools that ensure their effectiveness across different contexts of the Danube region. The concept of implementation is built on three guiding principles: **flexibility, inclusiveness and scalability**. These principles ensure that measures can be adapted to national and local realities, involve all relevant stakeholders and expand from pilot projects to wider application.

Key strategies for implementation include the use of **regulatory frameworks, financial mechanisms, digital tools** and **participatory approaches**. Regulatory reforms are necessary to create an enabling environment for renewable integration, energy storage and demand-side management. New actors defined by the RED and EMD such as jointly acting renewables self-consumers and energy communities, need the same level of support as SME and start-up companies. Support to such new actors of the energy sector whose primary activity is not dealing with energy must nevertheless be fully recognised by economic and regional development

schemes. Financial incentives and innovative business models will mobilize investment from both the public and private sectors. Digital solutions such as smart metering, AI-driven optimization and interoperable communication standards will provide the technical backbone for managing flexible, decentralized systems.

Equally important are **communication and capacity-building strategies**. Awareness campaigns, training programs and knowledge-sharing platforms will increase the readiness of consumers, municipalities and businesses to adopt new solutions. Cross-border cooperation and regional platforms will further facilitate the exchange of good practices and harmonization of standards.

Implementation also requires a **clear allocation of responsibilities**. National governments should focus on regulatory alignment and large-scale investments, while regional and local authorities should lead in piloting, replication and stakeholder engagement. Grid operators, technology providers and energy communities act as the operational enablers, ensuring that technical solutions are effectively deployed. Regulatory alignment must allow for all those who want to participate in energy generation, storage, sharing and trade to find all relevant information and to manage all relevant processes such as conclusion of contracts, authorisations, etc. by consulting a **single contact point**.

Ideas for actions

The transition toward **flexible, resilient and renewable-based energy systems** requires not only innovative technologies but also the right enabling conditions. The measures in this Action Plan are designed to help national, regional and local authorities across the Danube region take forward the lessons of ESINERGY pilot projects, stakeholder feedback and best practices. Together, they form a **roadmap for aligning policy frameworks with real-world solutions**.

These **Joint actions** build directly on practical experiences from pilots (Deliverable 1.3.1) and insights gathered during stakeholder engagement activities (Deliverable 2.2.1). They address both pilot and non-pilot countries, offering inspiration and guidance on how tested solutions can be replicated, scaled, or adapted to different contexts. Importantly, the measures go beyond technology: they also emphasise **communication, awareness-raising, financing instruments and governance reforms**, which are often decisive for successful uptake.

To ensure clarity and usability, the actions are structured in a **consolidated transnational framework** of 14 active Joint Actions. Instead of listing country measures separately, the plan groups similar national actions together, showing how they complement each other and form **regional packages of solutions**. Each package combines technical, policy/regulatory, financial and awareness-raising aspects, ensuring that key themes-such as infrastructure upgrades, digitalisation, financial support and citizen participation-are addressed in a coherent way.

Each measure is assigned a reference code composed of the country abbreviation (e.g., AT for Austria, BA for Bosnia and Herzegovina, SI for Slovenia, ...) followed by a consecutive number (e.g., AT01, BA02, SI05). This referencing system ensures transparency, traceability and easier

comparison across countries; while also making it clear which measures originate from which national context, thus the country specific measures won't be presented separately in own subchapter.

For policy makers, this chapter is a **call to action**:

- **Translate pilot insights into enabling frameworks** that remove barriers and simplify participation.
- **Support investment in grids, storage and hybrid systems** through stable rules and financing instruments.
- **Embed communication, training and awareness strategies** into energy transition policies.
- **Empower citizens and communities** to take part in and benefit from the transition.
- **Promote cross-border cooperation** so that lessons learned in one country benefit the whole Danube region.

The 14 Joint actions are directly linked to the five strategic goals of the Master Plan:

1. **Strengthen flexibility** of generation and consumption, making better use of existing grids and increasing resilience through intelligent infrastructure, storage and digital tools.
2. **Enable consumer participation and energy communities** with simplified regulations, incentives, one-stop-shops and clear communication.
3. **Advance digitalisation and smart control** by rolling out smart meters, interoperable platforms and predictive management tools that unlock demand-side flexibility.
4. **Mobilise investment and financing** with stable frameworks, state funds, EU support, PPPs and crowdfunding models, ensuring affordability and scalability.
5. **Foster regional cooperation and knowledge transfer** by harmonising approaches, replicating best practices and ensuring pilot experiences can be scaled across borders.

Action Plan provides not just a catalogue of ideas but a **strategic roadmap for implementation**. The next step for policy makers is clear: to embed these actions into national, regional and local strategies, ensuring that the lessons of ESINERGY pilots become the **building blocks of a flexible, citizen-driven and cooperative energy system across the Danube region**.

1. Energy communities

Governance & support structures

Energy communities are emerging as a cornerstone of the energy transition, but they require clear governance and stable frameworks. This action promotes harmonised regulations, simplified procedures and support structures such as one-stop-shops and policy boards, ensuring that communities can flourish across the Danube region.

HU01, AT03	Type of measure: medium term
	Title of measure: Regional and national energy policy coordination platforms
Target groups addressed with the measure: Policy makers, regulators, energy agencies, researchers	
Short description of the measure: Creation of national and transnational boards to align policy and regulatory measures for decentralized energy, facilitating exchange of experiences. Regional or national policy boards ensuring regular dialogue between policymakers, regulators and stakeholders to harmonize legislation and share best practices for community energy frameworks.	
Responsible actors for the implementation of the measure: National ministries, regional energy agencies, academia	
Time plan for implementation: 2026–2030 (regular annual sessions)	
The achievement, the goal of the action/measure: Improved coherence of policy and regulation, better coordination in supporting renewable communities.	

RO01	Type of measure: medium-term
	Title of measure: Implementation of energy communities at the level of various Territorial Administrative Units
Target groups addressed with the measure:	

Public administration units in Danube countries
<p>Short description of the measure:</p> <p>There is currently no form of public funding dedicated to energy communities or information support. There is a need to implement the European Commission's recommendation to create an experimental, temporary regulatory framework that would allow energy communities in compact residential neighbourhoods/spaces to manage their own microgrid for a limited period.</p>
<p>Responsible actors for the implementation of the measure:</p> <p>National ministries of energy (legislation & funding), regulators (enabling frameworks, tariff schemes), municipalities & local authorities (establishing pilot communities), energy community associations / agencies (technical and advisory support)</p>
<p>Time plan for implementation:</p> <p>2026-2030</p>
<p>The achievement, the goal of the action/measure:</p> <p>The legislation to be adopted by the authorities, at least 1 energy community to be founded in the Danube country</p>

RS05	<p>Type of measure:</p> <p>long-term</p>
	<p>Title of measure:</p> <p>Extension of energy community operation area</p>
<p>Target groups addressed with the measure:</p> <p>Energy communities</p>	
<p>Short description of the measure:</p> <p>This measure aims to extend the operational scope of energy communities beyond the boundaries of local municipalities. By enabling energy communities to function across wider geographical areas, the measure will enhance cooperation between regions, promote resource sharing and allow more citizens, businesses and institutions to participate in renewable energy projects and collective self-consumption.</p>	
<p>Responsible actors for the implementation of the measure:</p> <p>Ministries of energy</p>	
<p>Time plan for implementation:</p>	

Up to 6 months, depending on regulatory adjustments and coordination with local authorities.

Achievements:

- Removal of geographical restrictions that limit the growth and impact of energy communities.
- Strengthened regional cooperation in renewable energy production, distribution and consumption.
- Increased number and scale of joint RES projects with shared benefits across municipalities.
- Improved grid flexibility and efficiency through collective management of distributed energy resources.
- Greater citizen participation and empowerment in the energy transition.

Goal of the action/measure: The main goal is to facilitate the expansion and integration of energy communities across multiple municipalities, thereby accelerating renewable energy deployment, enhancing energy independence and fostering social, economic and environmental benefits on a regional and national scale.

DE01, RS09	Type of measure: short-term
	Title of measure: One-Stop-Shops for Energy communities
Target groups addressed with the measure: Small new or potential actors in the energy sector such as SME, farmers, private households, citizens, municipalities, energy communities, etc., whose activity in relation to energy does not constitute their primary commercial or professional activity.	
Short description of the measure: The measure establishes one-stop-shop services to assist citizens, SMEs and municipalities in developing and operating small-scale renewable energy, storage and community energy projects. These centres centralize and simplify all procedures-technical, legal, administrative and financial-providing tailored support to new and existing actors in the energy sector. Services include access to approvals and licensing, standardized templates for contracts and community formation, guidance on funding opportunities and direct connections with suppliers, installers, grid operators and regulators. Information, contact points and materials are made available	

both online and through personal consultations and events. By streamlining communication and reducing bureaucratic complexity, one-stop-shops lower transaction costs, save time and accelerate the creation and sustainable operation of energy communities across the Danube region. Centralized service points providing citizens, SMEs and municipalities with legal, technical and administrative support to establish and operate energy communities. These hubs reduce bureaucracy and enable fair participation across the Danube region.

Responsible actors for the implementation of the measure:

The establishment and operation of one-stop-shops should be coordinated by local or regional governments, which may create new dedicated offices or delegate this role to existing entities such as regional energy agencies or municipal energy offices. their work must be supported and co-financed by national authorities, including the ministries of energy, local self-governance, construction, transport and infrastructure, to ensure sufficient staffing, training and legal and technical assistance. National or state governments are responsible for securing stable funding, providing capacity-building support and ensuring consistent implementation across the country.

Time plan for implementation:

Establishment in 2026 and successively building up of capacity until 2028 years. National funding should be available from 2026 onwards.

The achievement, the goal of the action / measure:

The measure aims to empower new and potential actors in the energy sector by providing all necessary information, contacts and materials for developing renewable energy and storage projects that strengthen local self-sufficiency and reduce grid load. By simplifying and streamlining administrative procedures, the one-stop-shops will enable the faster and more efficient establishment of energy communities, lower bureaucratic barriers and build trust in public administration through transparent and accessible service provision. The measure will also enhance local and regional capacities for managing the energy transition. Ultimately, the goal is to create a user-friendly, integrated and supportive environment that facilitates decentralized renewable energy production, increases citizen and business participation and contributes to national and EU climate and energy targets.

SK01, SK05	Type of measure: short-term
	Title of measure:

	Reform of national legal frameworks for energy communities
Target groups addressed with the measure: electricity distributor, energy sectoral agency, municipality, region, energy community, professional association of architects, professional association for energy systems optimization, power grid stabilization, homeowner´s association	
Short description of the measure: Across several Danube countries, electricity sharing within energy communities or multi-apartment buildings remains constrained by fragmented or outdated regulations. In many cases, sharing is permitted only between consumption and delivery points served by the same electricity supplier, which limits the practical implementation of collective self-consumption models. To enable fair and flexible participation, the concept of “community sources” must be explicitly defined and approved in national legislation, allowing energy sharing among different users and premises within local networks, regardless of their supplier. Harmonizing these rules across the region will remove legal bottlenecks, encourage investment in renewable generation and foster the wider deployment of energy communities as drivers of decentralized and citizen-led energy transitions.	
Responsible actors for the implementation of the measure: electricity distributor, energy sectoral agency, municipality, region, energy community, professional association of architects, professional association for energy systems optimization, power grid stabilization, homeowner´s association	
Time plan for implementation: 2025–2028.	
Achievement, goal of the action/measure: The measure aims to remove regulatory barriers to electricity sharing within energy communities, enabling collective self-consumption and peer-to-peer exchange across different users and suppliers. By defining “community sources” in national law and harmonizing rules across the region, it will empower citizens and SMEs, enhance local grid flexibility and accelerate the uptake of decentralized renewable energy in line with EU objectives.	

UA01	Type of measure: Short-term
	Title of measure:

	Update national technical standards for HP + PV + storage integration
Target groups addressed with the measure: Municipalities, DSOs, regulators	
Short description of the measure: This measure foresees completing the harmonisation of national energy legislation with Directive (EU) 2018/2001 (RED II). It includes the adoption of missing by-laws, such as the mechanism for guarantees of origin, net billing regulations and the framework for aggregators and energy communities. The measure ensures that local projects are supported by clear and transparent rules. Implementation will improve investor confidence, simplify administrative procedures and align countries with EU accession commitments.	
Responsible actors for the implementation of the measure: parliaments, national governments, independent national regulators	
Time plan for implementation: 2025–2027	
The achievement, the goal of the action/measure: The measure will ensure full legal and technical harmonisation of national frameworks with EU directives (RED II, EMD), enabling the seamless integration of heat pumps, PV systems and storage. It will create clear, transparent and investor-friendly standards, strengthening confidence among municipalities, DSOs and private actors. Ultimately, it will simplify administrative procedures, accelerate project implementation and support renewable energy growth and EU accession objectives across the Danube region.	

2. Energy communities

Awareness & participation campaigns

Active participation depends on informed citizens, municipalities and SMEs. Through targeted communication campaigns, education on benefits and promotion of good practices, this action builds trust and motivates wider involvement in energy communities.

AT01, AT05	Type of measure: short-term
	Title of measure: Targeted support campaigns for energy communities

<p>Target groups addressed with the measure: private households, municipalities, small and medium enterprises, local associations, energy advisors</p>
<p>Short description of the measure: The measure establishes a coordinated communication and awareness campaign to inform citizens, municipalities and local actors about the concept, benefits and participation options in energy communities, including the fact that members can take part even without owning PV systems. The campaign will combine brochures, infographics, videos, local events, webinars and municipal communication channels, supported by testimonials from existing community members. A toolkit for municipalities and energy advisors will offer practical guidance, legal templates and business model examples to facilitate the creation of new energy communities and foster citizen involvement across the region.</p>
<p>Responsible actors for the implementation of the measure: development and energy agencies, local municipalities, national ministries for climate action, climate and energy fund, regional energy agencies</p>
<p>Time plan for implementation: Immediate start possible, with rollout within 6 months and continuation for 2 years (18-24 months) to support the awareness, engagement and implementation phase of new energy communities across the region.</p>
<p>The achievement, the goal of the action/measure: The measure aims to raise awareness and participation in energy communities, empowering citizens and municipalities to take initiative by providing the necessary knowledge, tools and support. It will increase the number of active communities and help balance local energy production and consumption, strengthening engagement in the regional energy transition.</p>

<p>HR02, BA08, UA07, SI09</p>	<p>Type of measure: short-term, medium-term, long-term</p>
	<p>Title of measure: General renewable and flexibility awareness campaigns</p>
<p>Target groups addressed with the measure: Citizens, energy prosumers, households, municipalities, local decision-makers, energy communities, regional planners, businesses and civil society organizations involved in or supporting the development and promotion of renewable energy and energy community initiatives.</p>	

Short description of the measure:

The measure delivers a comprehensive awareness and education campaign to build knowledge among citizens, prosumers, municipalities and energy communities on the benefits of renewable energy, storage and peak load reduction. It combines media programmes, social networks, educational events, trainings and demonstration projects to showcase practical results and good practices, using ESINERGY pilot examples as flagship cases. The campaign emphasizes both the economic and environmental advantages of renewable self-consumption and aims to inspire replication and long-term behavioural change across the Danube region.

Responsible actors for the implementation of the measure:

National and regional energy agencies, ministries responsible for energy and climate, local governments and energy communities will lead the implementation, supported by public bodies dealing with energy efficiency, NGOs, media institutions and community organizations. C

Time plan for implementation:

The campaign will begin as a short-term action (2025–2026) and gradually evolve into a long-term, continuous programme (up to 10 years). Its activities-awareness campaigns, education and demonstration projects-will be maintained as a permanent assignment within national and regional communication and energy transition strategies.

The achievement, the goal of the action/measure:

The measure aims to promote the widespread adoption of renewable energy and flexible energy use by educating citizens and communities about the economic, environmental and social benefits of producing and using energy from renewable sources. It will strengthen public understanding and engagement, increase prosumer participation and foster behavioural change that supports energy communities, reduces peak loads and enhances renewable energy integration across the Danube region.

3. Capacity building & peer learning

Knowledge transfer and capacity building are essential for replication. By linking experienced and new communities, training SMEs and municipal staff and sharing lessons through regional platforms, this action ensures skills and know-how are widely available.

HU03, RO02, UA08, UA9	Type of measure: Medium- to long-term
	Title of measure: Comprehensive training and knowledge-sharing programme for energy communities and renewable sector actors
Target groups addressed with the measure: Existing and emerging energy communities, municipal authorities and technical staff, SMEs and professionals in the renewable energy sector, local decision-makers, research institutions and civil society organizations engaged in renewable energy, flexibility and community energy initiatives across the Danube region.	
Short description of the measure: This measure combines hands-on training, peer mentoring and digital knowledge sharing to strengthen skills, cooperation and policy alignment in the Danube energy transition. It integrates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity-building and mentoring between established and aspiring energy communities. • Professional and technical training for SMEs and municipal energy managers on renewable and flexibility project design, operation and financing (e.g. PV, heat pumps, storage). • Establishment of a transnational knowledge-sharing platform where countries, institutions and communities exchange best practices, performance data and lessons learned from pilot actions. 	
Responsible actors for the implementation of the measure: National and regional coordinators or promoters of energy communities, in cooperation with development and energy agencies, municipal authorities, national ministries for energy, climate and local development and training institutions. At the transnational level, coordination will be supported by the Danube Transnational Programme, state energy agencies and regional associations to maintain and operate the online platform and facilitate cross-border exchanges.	
Time plan for implementation: 2026–2035.	

Initial training and mentoring activities will start in 2026, followed by the launch of the digital knowledge-sharing platform by 2028. Both components will expand and interlink by 2030, continuing as a permanent regional capacity-building framework up to 2035.

The achievement, the goal of the action/measure:

The measure will result in a well-trained and interconnected network of energy communities, SMEs and local authorities capable of implementing high-quality renewable and flexibility projects. By combining capacity development with structured knowledge exchange, it will increase the number of successful energy communities, improve the quality and sustainability of renewable investments and enhance regional cooperation and energy security across the Danube region.

4. Smart metering for flexibility

Reliable data is the foundation of demand-side management and local balancing. This action promotes smart meter rollouts, consumer-owned sub-meters and bidirectional systems to give communities and prosumers the tools to actively manage their energy use.

DE06	<p>Type of measure: Short-term</p>
	<p>Title of the measure: Allow simple and cost-effective alternatives to smart meters</p>
<p>Target groups for which the measure is intended: Households, SMEs, prosumers, energy communities, DSOs, regulators, national ministries.</p>	
<p>Brief description of the measure: Current smart meter deployments are slow and expensive. However, many flexibility and tariff measures do not require real-time metering. The measure allows consumers to use simplified metering devices capable of interval recording for time-of-use tariffs, maximum load agreements or device-level control without full smart-meter functionality. This enables faster and cheaper preparation of grids for flexibility.</p>	
<p>Responsible actors for the implementation of the measure: National ministries for energy, national regulators, DSOs.</p>	
<p>Implementation timeline:</p>	

2025–2027 (immediate national regulation changes).

Achievement, goal of the action/measure:

To speed up the rollout of flexibility-enabling metering infrastructure, reduce costs, allow consumers to participate in time-variable tariffs sooner and support demand-side management without waiting for complete smart meter coverage.

HU02, BA03, SI05, ME03, ME06, ME15	Type of measure: Short- to long-term
	Title of measure: Smart metering and Demand-Side Management (DSM) package
Target groups addressed with the measure: Households, energy communities, municipalities, distribution system operators (DSOs), large consumers and industry actors involved in energy generation, consumption and management.	
Short description of the measure: This measure establishes a phased and regionally coordinated programme for the deployment of smart metering and demand-side management systems across the Danube region. It integrates multiple national approaches into a common roadmap that evolves through three stages: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Pilot installation and consumer empowerment (short-term): Installation of consumer- or community-owned smart meters and sub-meters in pilot areas to collect real-time consumption data, raise awareness and support energy-conscious behaviour at the household and municipal level.2. Systemic rollout and interoperability (medium-term): Gradual mass deployment of smart meters across medium- and low-voltage grids to enable dynamic pricing, support integration of renewable generation and reduce distribution losses.3. Automation and digital management (long-term): Introduction of advanced DSM and automation systems that link smart meters with digital platforms and flexible tariffs, allowing consumers, prosumers and large users to actively participate in system balancing and peak load reduction.	
Responsible actors for the implementation of the measure: Distribution system operators (DSOs) are the primary implementers, supported by national regulators, energy ministries, technology providers, local governments and energy communities. Collaboration with industry and ICT	

partners ensures technical interoperability and data security across the Danube region.

Time plan for implementation:

2025–2035.

Pilot installations will begin in 2025, followed by mass deployment by 2027 and full integration of DSM and automation systems by 2030–2035. Implementation will proceed in phases to align with infrastructure readiness, national digitalization plans and EU data standards.

The achievement, the goal of the action/measure:

The measure will result in region-wide smart metering coverage and the operationalization of flexible, data-driven energy management. It will enable dynamic pricing, reduce distribution losses, enhance renewable integration and empower consumers to manage their energy use actively. Ultimately, it will form the foundation for digital, participatory and resilient energy systems across the Danube region.

5. Smart & resilient grids

The grid must evolve to handle more renewables, electrification and flexible demand. This action supports modernisation, digitalisation and reinforcement of distribution networks, ensuring they are resilient, flexible and capable of integrating future technologies.

DE04	<p>Type of measure: Medium- to long-term</p>
	<p>Title of the measure: Expansion of the definitions of and scope for small, isolated networks and small interconnected networks in the EU Internal Electricity Market Directive</p>
<p>Target groups for which the measure is intended: Small DSOs, integrated utilities, municipalities in rural or mountainous areas, regulators, national ministries, EU institutions.</p>	
<p>Brief description of the measure: The measure proposes updating EU Directive definitions for “small isolated systems” and “small connected systems” by raising outdated consumption thresholds and expanding exemptions that allow local, low-cost innovation. It introduces mandatory unbundling exemptions for integrated utilities below 100,000 customers, expanded competences for regional regulators and new</p>	

rights for small DSOs to ensure island-mode operation during emergencies. Small DSOs must simultaneously provide non-discriminatory access to granular grid status data.

Responsible actors for the implementation of the measure:

European Commission, EU Parliament and Council; national ministries for energy; national regulators)

Implementation timeline:

2027–2035 (linked to amendment cycles of the Internal Electricity Market Directive).

Achievement, goal of the action/measure:

To modernise EU rules to reflect current grid challenges, strengthen resilience of small systems, enable innovative operation models and improve preparedness for climate and security-related shocks.

HR01, BA02, SI04, SI07, ME08, ME11, UA03	Type of measure: Medium- to long-term
	Title of measure: Smart and resilient grid modernisation and digitalisation programme
Target groups addressed with the measure: Distribution system operators (DSOs), national energy companies, ministries for energy, regulators, municipalities and energy communities, as well as policy-makers and infrastructure planners involved in electricity grid management and planning.	
Short description of the measure: This measure establishes a coordinated programme for grid modernisation and digitalisation across the Danube region to enhance the flexibility, reliability and capacity of power systems in line with growing renewable generation and electrification needs. It combines several complementary actions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grid reinforcement and capacity increase (medium term): Upgrading medium-voltage (MV) networks from 10 kV to 20 kV, strengthening low-voltage (LV) segments in high-demand and pilot replication areas and expanding grid capacity by up to fourfold in critical regions. 2. Digitalisation and automation (long term): 	

Progressive deployment of smart grid technologies, advanced monitoring systems and automated load management to optimise network operations and reduce distribution losses.

3. Strategic integration and policy alignment:
Embedding peak load reduction and RES integration objectives into national energy strategies and regulatory frameworks, ensuring long-term consistency across investment cycles.

Responsible actors for the implementation of the measure:

National energy ministries, distribution system operators (DSOs), national energy companies and regulators are the main implementing bodies, supported by municipalities, regional authorities and energy communities in identifying local needs and pilot locations. Coordination and oversight will be ensured by national strategy councils and transnational cooperation frameworks to promote consistency and shared standards across the Danube region.

Time plan for implementation:

2025–2040.
Initial MV and LV upgrades begin by 2025–2027, followed by full-scale network digitalisation by 2030. Continuous investments, maintenance and cross-border coordination will extend until 2040, ensuring scalability and adaptation to evolving technologies and policy targets.

The achievement, the goal of the action/measure:

The measure will deliver a robust, flexible and digitally enabled grid infrastructure capable of supporting renewable expansion, electric mobility and local energy generation. It will:

- Increase grid capacity and resilience.
- Reduce distribution losses and peak load congestion.
- Enable advanced flexibility services and dynamic system balancing.
- Strengthen regional energy security and policy coherence.

6. Dynamic tariffs for flexibility

Pricing mechanisms are powerful tools to shift consumption and reduce peak demand. This action introduces time-of-use tariffs, dynamic pricing and fair transmission charges to reward consumers who adapt their behaviour to system needs.

AT04, ME14, RS06	Type of measure: long-term
	Title of measure:

	Tariff reform and dynamic pricing package for flexibility and fair grid use
Target groups addressed with the measure: Households, prosumers, energy communities, grid operators, energy suppliers and regulatory authorities responsible for tariff design and network cost allocation.	
Short description of the measure: This measure introduces a comprehensive tariff reform to incentivize flexible electricity consumption and ensure fair cost distribution within the Danube region's power systems. It combines two complementary approaches: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dynamic and time-of-use tariffs for households and prosumers - encouraging off-peak consumption and load shifting through flexible electricity pricing supported by smart metering infrastructure and consumer awareness campaigns. 2. Proportional transmission tariffs for energy communities - applying fair, cost-reflective pricing based on actual grid use and voltage levels, rewarding local generation and consumption while reducing congestion on high-voltage networks. 	
Responsible actors for the implementation of the measure: National energy regulators, transmission and distribution system operators (TSOs/DSOs), ministries of energy and finance and electricity suppliers, in coordination with consumer associations and energy communities.	
Time plan for implementation: 2025–2030. Initial pilot design and regulatory framework development within 1 year, followed by gradual implementation of dynamic tariffs by 2027 and full rollout of proportional transmission tariffs and system integration by 2030	
The achievement, the goal of the action/measure: The measure will lead to a more flexible, efficient and equitable electricity system, reducing grid stress during peak hours and incentivizing consumers to shift demand. It will ensure fair cost allocation, enhance the competitiveness of decentralized renewable generation and strengthen the participation of energy communities in national energy markets, contributing to a more resilient and consumer-oriented energy transition across the Danube region.	

7. Hybrid PV and storage deployment

Combining PV with storage increases self-consumption and reduces pressure on the grid. This action promotes hybrid systems at household, SME, community and institutional levels, scaling their adoption through pilots, subsidies and support programmes.

BA04, BA05, BA06, BA07, AT02, ME09, UA02	Type of measure: Short- to long-term
	Title of measure: Hybrid renewable systems deployment programme (PV, storage, and heat pumps)
Target groups for which the measure is intended: Private households, SMEs, energy communities, educational and public institutions (schools, hospitals, municipalities), distribution system operators (DSOs) and local governments involved in renewable generation, energy efficiency and grid flexibility initiatives.	
Brief description of the measure: This measure establishes a comprehensive regional programme supporting the installation of hybrid renewable systems that combine photovoltaic panels, battery storage and heat pumps to strengthen local self-sufficiency, reduce peak loads and accelerate decarbonisation. It integrates several complementary actions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Private and commercial sector deployment: Financial incentives and support for SMEs, industries and households to install rooftop PV and battery systems for self-consumption and local flexibility. 2. Public sector integration: Subsidy schemes for public buildings—schools, hospitals and municipal facilities—to implement hybrid systems (PV + storage + heat pumps), lowering operational costs and serving as demonstration sites. 3. Community and pilot projects: Support for energy communities and municipalities to develop shared storage facilities and community-scale hybrid systems through technical assistance, citizen investment models and regional funding mechanisms. 	
Responsible actors for implementing the measure: National and regional governments, ministries for energy, environment and local development, distribution system operators (DSOs) and municipalities, supported by regional energy agencies, business support organisations, international funds and financial institutions.	
Implementation timeline: 2025–2040. Initial pilot and public-sector installations (2025–2027), followed by scaling through subsidy programmes and private investment (2028–2035). Continuous integration into urban and regional development plans until 2040 to support long-term energy transition goals.	

Achievement, goal of the action/measure:

The measure will lead to widespread adoption of hybrid renewable systems, reducing dependency on fossil fuels and improving grid flexibility. It will:

- Increase self-consumption and renewable energy generation capacity.
- Reduce CO₂ emissions and peak load stress.
- Strengthen energy resilience in private, public and community sectors.
- Support citizen participation and local investment in sustainable energy systems.

8. Public sector hybrid energy systems

Public institutions can lead by example in deploying hybrid energy solutions. By equipping hospitals, schools and municipal buildings with PV, storage and heat pumps, this action reduces operating costs and strengthens resilience of essential services.

BA05, UA 02	Type of measure: Short- to long-term
	Title of measure: Public sector hybrid energy systems programme (PV, storage, and heat pumps)
Target groups for which the measure is intended: Municipalities, educational institutions (kindergartens, schools, universities), hospitals and other public buildings and service providers involved in energy management and facility operation.	
Brief description of the measure: This measure promotes the integration of renewable and efficient energy technologies—notably photovoltaic systems, battery storage and heat pumps—across the public sector to reduce energy costs, emissions and grid dependency. It establishes national and regional support schemes providing targeted subsidies, grants and technical assistance for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Installing hybrid PV + battery systems on schools and other public facilities.• Replacing outdated fossil-fuel heating systems with efficient heat pumps.• Training local technical staff for long-term system operation and maintenance. The programme builds on successful pilot experiences such as the Khotyn hospital project, enabling replication and scaling across the Danube region.	

<p>Responsible actors for implementing the measure: National and regional ministries for energy, environment and education; local authorities; distribution system operators (DSOs); and educational and healthcare institutions, supported by energy agencies and funding institutions to coordinate financial incentives, technical standards and training.</p>
<p>Implementation timeline: 2025–2035 Short-term deployment of heat pumps (2025–2026), followed by progressive installation of PV + battery systems in educational and public facilities (2026–2035), until all eligible buildings are equipped where technically feasible.</p>
<p>Achievement, goal of the action/measure: The programme will achieve energy self-sufficiency and emission reduction in the public sector by combining renewable generation with efficient heating solutions. It will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce public expenditure on energy. • Cut CO₂ emissions and improve energy independence. • Increase grid flexibility and resilience. • Strengthen local technical capacity through training.

9. EV integration & V2G solutions

Electric vehicles are more than transport they are mobile storage units. This action creates the roadmaps, incentives and regulatory conditions needed to turn EVs into active participants in balancing and flexibility services.

DE05	<p>Type of measure: Medium- to long-term</p>
	<p>Title of the measure: Expansion of the powers of integrated undertakings</p>
<p>Target groups for which the measure is intended: Integrated DSOs, EV charging operators, municipalities, fleet operators, prosumers, national regulators, ministries for transport and energy.</p>	
<p>Brief description of the measure: The measure amends current restrictions that prevent DSOs from operating public EV charging points. It grants integrated DSOs the right to operate charging infrastructure and dynamically adjust charging power based on real-time grid conditions. DSOs may offer incentives to customers who allow flexible</p>	

charging. The measure strengthens EV-grid integration and supports electrification without overloading the network.

Responsible actors for the implementation of the measure:

European Commission, EU Parliament and Council; national regulators; ministries for energy and transport

Implementation timeline:

2026–2035, synchronised with EV deployment and grid modernisation

Achievement, goal of the action/measure:

To unlock EV flexibility potential, reduce peak load risks, accelerate the rollout of charging infrastructure and ensure stable, resilient grid operation through real-time control and coordination.

SI01, SI02, SI03, SI06	Type of measure: Medium- to long-term
	Title of measure: EV flexibility integration and bidirectional charging programme (V2G/V2B Roadmap)
Target groups addressed with the measure: National and regional transport and energy authorities, EV manufacturers, charging infrastructure operators, municipalities, fleet operators and energy market regulators, as well as prosumers and companies investing in electric mobility	
Short description of the measure: This measure supports the integration of electric vehicles (EVs) as flexible assets within the Danube region’s energy systems, transforming them from passive consumers into active contributors to grid stability and renewable energy use. It consists of four coordinated actions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transnational V2G/V2B Roadmap development: Creation of a joint roadmap defining technical standards, operational protocols and market participation models for bidirectional charging (vehicle-to-grid and vehicle-to-building). 2. Strategic integration: Inclusion of bidirectional charging and EV flexibility principles in national and regional strategic documents such as NECPs, SECAPs and urban mobility plans, ensuring policy alignment. 3. Regulatory and financial incentives: 	

<p>Establishment of feed-in tariffs, capacity credits and flexibility payments for EV discharging during peak hours to reward active participation of EV owners and fleets.</p> <p>4. Technical standardisation and interoperability: Enforcement of compliance with OCPP 2.0 and OSCP protocols across public charging networks to ensure interoperability, data exchange and cybersecurity for all participating systems.</p>
<p>Responsible actors for the implementation of the measure: National ministries for transport and energy, energy regulators, municipalities, charging infrastructure operators and automotive industry representatives. Coordination should be supported by regional and transnational energy agencies, ensuring interoperability and market harmonisation across borders.</p>
<p>Time plan for implementation: 2025–2035. The roadmap and policy alignment phase (2025–2027) will be followed by regulatory incentives and infrastructure integration (2027–2030). Full adoption of technical standards and large-scale deployment will continue until 2035, coinciding with broader EV market penetration.</p>
<p>Achievement, goal of the action/measure: The measure aims to unlock EV flexibility potential by enabling bidirectional charging and market participation across the Danube region. It will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen grid flexibility through distributed storage. • Reduce peak loads and improve renewable energy utilisation. • Stimulate innovation and investment in smart charging infrastructure. • Align transport electrification with EU decarbonisation and digitalisation goals.

10. Regulatory alignment with EU directives

Stable and transparent rules are a prerequisite for investment and innovation. This action ensures harmonisation with EU directives, elimination of outdated provisions and creation of clear frameworks for RES, storage and aggregation.

DE02	<p>Type of measure: Short- to medium-term</p>
	<p>Title of the measure:</p>

	Less detailed regulation, more explicit freedom for local innovative solutions
Target groups for which the measure is intended: Local energy suppliers, DSOs, small integrated utilities (<100,000 customers), municipalities, prosumers, energy communities, regulators, national ministries and EU institutions	
Brief description of the measure: The measure addresses the problem of effective legal uncertainty that prevents small actors from implementing innovative grid-supporting solutions. Current EU and national legislation provides high-level principles but often lacks clear permissions for simple, local optimisation actions—such as internal data exchange between DSO, generation and supply divisions. The measure proposes explicit legal permission for such activities, provided information is shared non-discriminatorily with third parties. It also foresees the creation of national one-stop shops that provide legal guidance, templates and examples to local actors.	
Responsible actors for the implementation of the measure: European Commission, Council and Parliament; national ministries for energy and economy; national regulators; regional energy agencies	
Implementation timeline: 2026–2030 (legislative clarifications), with immediate applicability via national guidelines.	
Achievement, goal of the action/measure: To remove legal ambiguity, reduce administrative burden and enable local actors to implement simple, low-cost, grid-relief measures. The goal is to increase adoption of innovative solutions, reduce peak loads, avoid unnecessary grid expansion and enable widespread replication of successful pilot approaches.	

DE03	Type of measure: Short- to medium-term
	Title of the measure: Unlimited special approval for small-scale solutions that work and have been successfully tested in funding projects but are not yet generally approved by law and regulation
Target groups for which the measure is intended:	

Municipalities, DSOs, prosumers, SMEs, energy communities, research institutions, national regulators, ministries for energy
<p>Brief description of the measure:</p> <p>Many innovative solutions proven to work in real-world laboratories and EU-funded pilot projects cannot be continued after project closure due to unclear or outdated regulation. The measure proposes the introduction of permanent exemptions or simplified approval procedures for such tested solutions (e.g. voltage stabilisation, island operation, local balancing). Legislative processes take time, therefore functioning solutions should be legally allowed indefinitely until formalised in law.</p>
<p>Responsible actors for the implementation of the measure:</p> <p>National governments and parliaments; national regulators; European Commission (approval of exemptions)</p>
<p>Implementation timeline:</p> <p>2025–2028, with immediate implementation possible through national decrees.</p>
<p>Achievement, goal of the action/measure:</p> <p>Accelerated transition from pilots to permanent operation, easier replication across regions, incorporation of practical experience into lawmaking and long-term optimisation of grid operation and renewable integration.</p>

BA01, ME10	<p>Type of measure:</p> <p>medium-term</p>
	<p>Title of the measure:</p> <p>Battery and storage regulation alignment with EU Directives</p>
<p>Target groups for which the measure is intended:</p> <p>Energy regulators, renewable energy producers, investors and storage operators.</p>	
<p>Brief description of the measure:</p> <p>This measure updates and harmonises national legal and regulatory frameworks to align with EU directives (RED II, EMD), defining clear rules for the installation, operation and market integration of battery storage systems. It ensures that storage assets can participate in energy markets, provide flexibility services and operate under transparent, consistent technical and safety standards.</p>	
<p>Responsible actors for the implementation of the measure:</p>	

Ministries of energy, national regulators and distribution and transmission system operators (DSOs/TSOs).

Implementation timeline:

By the end of 2026

Achievement, goal of the action/measure:

Ensure legal and market certainty for investors and consumers by creating an enabling framework for energy storage deployment, supporting flexibility, renewable integration and system stability across the Danube region.

ME01, ME02	Type of measure: short term
	Title of measure: Simplified and digitalised connection procedures for small-scale renewable energy systems
Target groups addressed with the measure: Prosumers, small renewable energy investors, installers, municipalities, distribution system operators (DSOs) and permitting authorities involved in the connection and authorisation of small-scale RES systems (up to 10 kW).	
Short description of the measure: This measure aims to simplify and digitalise administrative and technical procedures for connecting small renewable energy systems to the grid, thereby reducing barriers for citizens and SMEs to become active participants in the energy transition. It introduces: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Simplified permitting and connection steps for small RES (PV, wind, micro-hydro) installations, with standardised application templates and transparent requirements.• Digital one-stop-shop platforms enabling online submission, tracking and approval of connection requests.• Automated data exchange between DSOs, regulators and applicants to accelerate approvals and reduce processing times.	
Responsible actors for the implementation of the measure: National ministries for energy, distribution system operators (DSOs) and energy market regulators, in cooperation with municipal permitting authorities and IT/digitalisation agencies responsible for implementing online platforms and ensuring interoperability with EU energy data standards	
Time plan for implementation:	

2025–2026.

Initial design and development of digital platforms in 2025, followed by full implementation and operationalisation in all participating countries by 2026.

The achievement, the goal of the action/measure:

The measure will result in faster and more transparent grid connections for small renewable systems, leading to:

- Increased number of active prosumers and solar users.
- Reduced administrative burden and transaction costs for investors.
- Accelerated renewable energy integration at the local level.
- Greater alignment with EU single energy market and digitalisation goals.

**SK02, SK03,
RS01, RS02,
RS03, RS04,
SI10**

Type of measure:

medium- to long-term

Title of measure:

Fiscal and market alignment reforms for renewable energy deployment

Target groups addressed with the measure:

RES producers and consumers, energy communities, investors, municipalities, industries and regulatory authorities involved in renewable energy generation, trading and taxation.

Short description of the measure:

This measure introduces a comprehensive reform package to remove market distortions and create a fair, predictable investment environment for renewable energy.

It includes:

- Elimination of electricity subsidies and market barriers that discourage RES investments.
- Fiscal incentives such as VAT and import duty exemptions on renewable technologies and income tax reductions for RES producers.
- Regulatory adjustments to remove outdated mechanisms (e.g., “electricity liquidators”) and strengthen state support through public procurement and funding mechanisms.

Responsible actors for the implementation of the measure:

National governments, ministries of finance, energy and economy, parliaments and energy regulatory authorities, supported by network operators and relevant market agencies.

Time plan for implementation:

2025–2035.

Immediate implementation of tax and import reforms (2025–2027), followed by broader market and regulatory alignment by 2030–2035, depending on national legislative processes.

Achievement, goal of the action/measure:

The measure will reduce financial barriers, stabilize energy markets and stimulate renewable investment by ensuring fair pricing, simplified taxation and consistent state support. It will increase the share of renewables, enhance energy independence and align national frameworks with EU market and climate objectives

UA01	<p>Type of measure: Short-term</p>
	<p>Title of measure: Update national technical standards for HP + PV + storage integration</p>
<p>Target groups addressed with the measure: Municipalities, DSOs, regulators</p>	
<p>Short description of the measure: This measure foresees completing the harmonisation of national energy legislation with Directive (EU) 2018/2001 (RED II). It includes the adoption of missing by-laws, such as the mechanism for guarantees of origin, net billing regulations and the framework for aggregators and energy communities. The measure ensures that local projects are supported by clear and transparent rules. Implementation will improve investor confidence, simplify administrative procedures and align countries with EU accession commitments.</p>	
<p>Responsible actors for the implementation of the measure: parliaments, national governments, independent national regulators</p>	
<p>Time plan for implementation: 2025–2027</p>	
<p>The achievement, the goal of the action/measure: The measure will align national technical standards with EU requirements for integrating heat pumps, PV systems and storage. It will create transparent and harmonised rules, improve investor and stakeholder confidence and facilitate the rollout of renewable and flexibility projects. This will support faster permitting, administrative simplification and compliance with EU accession and climate commitments.</p>	

11. Fiscal & financial incentives

The energy transition requires significant investment and financial tools must make it affordable. This action combines tax reforms, state funds, PPP models and crowdfunding schemes to mobilise both public and private capital for RES and flexibility.

RS07	Type of measure: long-term
	Title of measure: Crowdfunding for renewable energy projects
Target groups addressed with the measure: energy producers, prosumers	
Short description of the measure: The measure aims to simplify and regulate crowdfunding schemes and equity management mechanisms for renewable energy projects. By enabling easier access to collective financing, both producers and prosumers will have new opportunities to fund RES projects, share ownership and actively participate in the energy transition.	
Responsible actors for the implementation of the measure: ministries for finance	
Time plan for implementation: up to 12 months	
Achievements and goal of the action/measure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased access to capital for small and medium-scale RES producers and prosumers. • Enhanced citizen and community participation in financing renewable energy projects. • Development of new financing models that reduce dependence on traditional banking loans. • Stronger public support for RES through shared ownership and community-based investment. • Acceleration of renewable energy deployment, especially for small-scale and decentralized projects. <p>The goal is to establish a supportive framework for crowdfunding and equity-based financing of renewable energy projects, thereby diversifying investment channels, empowering citizens and prosumers and ensuring</p>	

broader participation in the energy transition while fostering sustainable growth of the RES sector.

RS08	Type of measure: long-term
	Title of measure: Standardized delivery terms for energy
Target groups addressed with the measure: energy traders, energy producers, energy consumers	
Short description of the measure: The measure aims to define and adopt standardized rules for energy delivery terms, like INCOTERMS in commodity trade. Clear standards would regulate responsibilities, risks and obligations among producers, traders and consumers in energy transactions, improving transparency, reducing disputes and facilitating cross-border energy trade.	
Responsible actors for the implementation of the measure: Ministries of energy, Ministries of finance, Ministries of trade (economy)	
Time plan for implementation: Up to 12 months	
Achievements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of a transparent, harmonized framework for energy delivery. • Reduction of contractual disputes and transaction costs in energy trading. • Improved trust and security among producers, traders and consumers. • Better alignment with regional and EU market practices. • Facilitation of cross-border trade and integration of domestic energy markets into regional frameworks. 	
Goal of the action/measure: The goal is to create standardized, transparent and predictable rules for energy delivery, ensuring fairness, reducing risks and supporting both domestic and international energy market development while contributing to a more stable and efficient energy sector.	
Example of standardized delivery terms for energy:	
1. EX-PLANT (EXW-Energy)	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery point: At producer’s site (power plant, solar farm, etc.) • Risk & responsibility: Consumer/trader arranges transmission, balancing and grid fees. • Use case: Suitable for wholesale buyers with established grid access and balancing responsibility.
<p>2. GRID-DELIVERED (DDP-Energy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery point: At consumer’s metering point (final connection). • Risk & responsibility: Producer covers all costs and risks up to delivery, including transmission, distribution and balancing obligations. • Use case: Ideal for small consumers or prosumers without market participation.
<p>3. BALANCE-RESPONSIBLE (CFR-Energy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery point: At designated grid injection point. • Risk & responsibility: Producer ensures delivery into the grid and balancing responsibility until the nominated delivery point. Consumer assumes costs and risks after that. • Use case: Large traders and suppliers active in balancing groups.
<p>4. VIRTUAL DELIVERY (VDE-Energy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery point: No physical transfer, but contractual transfer via certificates (e.g., Guarantees of Origin, PPAs). • Risk & responsibility: Agreed between parties; typically linked to wholesale market prices. • Use case: Corporate PPAs, green certificates, or energy attribute trading.
<p>5. CROSS-BORDER DELIVERY (CBD-Energy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery point: At national border interconnection point. • Risk & responsibility: Producer delivers energy to border; consumer/trader arranges cross-border capacity, transmission and balancing beyond that point. <p>Use case: International energy trade and regional market integration.</p>

UA04, UA05	<p>Type of measure: Short- to medium-term</p>
	<p>Title of measure: Innovative financing and public-private partnership models for renewable and flexibility projects</p>
<p>Target groups addressed with the measure:</p>	

Municipalities, public institutions, private investors, ESCOs (Energy Service Companies) and state financial institutions
<p>Short description of the measure:</p> <p>This measure establishes new financial instruments and partnership models to scale up investments in renewable and flexibility solutions across the Danube region.</p> <p>It includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated financing windows within State Decarbonisation Funds offering preferential loans, blended finance, or guarantees for municipal projects. • Public-Private Partnership (PPP) and ESCO models enabling municipalities to provide infrastructure access while private investors finance and operate renewable systems.
<p>Responsible actors for the implementation of the measure:</p> <p>National and local authorities, state energy agencies, ministries for communities and energy and private investors, supported by national decarbonisation funds and development finance institutions.</p>
<p>Time plan for implementation:</p> <p>2025–2028.</p> <p>PPP schemes initiated in 2025–2026, complemented by operational financing instruments through State Decarbonisation Funds by 2027–2028.</p>
<p>Achievement, goal of the action/measure:</p> <p>The measure will mobilise blended public and private financing for renewable and flexibility projects, enabling large-scale replication of pilot actions. It will strengthen municipal investment capacity, reduce reliance on grants and foster sustainable, market-driven energy transition financing across the region.</p>

12. Awareness & training for demand-side management

Behavioural change is as important as technology in reducing peak demand. This action delivers campaigns, education initiatives and municipal training to raise awareness and encourage efficient, flexible energy use.

	<p>Type of measure:</p> <p>short-term, medium-term, long-term</p>
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HR02, BA08, SK04, ME05, UA07	Title of measure: Awareness and education campaign for energy efficiency and demand-side flexibility
Target groups addressed with the measure: Citizens, energy prosumers, households, municipalities, energy communities, energy suppliers, businesses and policy makers across the Danube region.	
Short description of the measure: The measure promotes broad awareness and behavioural change in energy use by informing citizens and institutions about the benefits of renewable energy, efficiency and peak-load reduction. It combines media campaigns, educational programmes, trainings and demonstration projects that highlight good practices and lessons from ESINERGY pilots. The campaign will build energy literacy, encourage efficient consumption and empower consumers and communities to actively participate in flexibility and renewable initiatives.	
Responsible actors for the implementation of the measure: National and regional ministries for energy, environment and education, energy agencies, universities, local governments, NGOs and media institutions, supported by regulators and technical experts.	
Time plan for implementation: 2025 - 2035. Initial national campaigns start in 2025–2026 and evolve into long-term education and awareness programmes integrated into national energy and climate strategies.	
The achievement, the goal of the action/measure: The measure will improve public understanding of energy efficiency and flexibility, leading to behavioural change, lower peak demand, greater renewable integration and stronger citizen participation in the energy transition throughout the Danube region.	

13. Microgrids & VPP development

Decentralised generation can greatly increase resilience and flexibility. This action fosters the growth of microgrids and virtual power plants, integrating small producers into market-ready, aggregated resources.

ME07, ME12, ME13, RO01, SI08, UA06	Type of measure: Medium- to long-term
	Title of measure: Development of decentralised generation, flexibility markets, and virtual power plants
Target groups addressed with the measure: Energy communities, aggregators, DSOs/TSOs, municipalities, local governments, regulators, investors and policy makers engaged in grid flexibility, decentralised generation and energy management.	
Short description of the measure: This measure supports the creation of decentralised and flexible energy systems by developing microgrids, virtual power plants (VPPs) and local flexibility markets across the Danube region. It will enable aggregators to pool small renewable producers and consumers into market participants, integrate forecasting tools and CPMS systems for demand management and establish regulatory pilots allowing local energy communities to manage microgrids. A complementary database for pilot replication will collect and share performance data to facilitate scaling and investment.	
Responsible actors for the implementation of the measure: National ministries for energy, regulators, DSOs/TSOs, market operators, municipalities, aggregators and research institutions, supported by energy agencies and donor organisations for technical and policy development.	
Time plan for implementation: 2026–2035. Initial pilot microgrids and flexibility market setups by 2026–2028, scaling to large-scale VPP and aggregator networks by 2030–2035.	
The achievement, the goal of the action/measure: The measure will create locally resilient, flexible and data-driven energy systems that integrate numerous small renewable sources into unified, market-ready structures. It will strengthen energy independence, grid stability and regional cooperation, forming the backbone of a decentralised energy market in the Danube region.	

14. Evidence & replication platforms

Scaling pilots requires transparency and solid evidence. This action develops databases and platforms that collect performance data, track impacts and facilitate replication and cross-border learning across the Danube region.

UA06, UA09	Type of measure: Medium- to long-term
	Title of measure: Transnational knowledge and replication platform for energy transition
Target groups addressed with the measure: Policy makers, local authorities, investors, research institutions and civil society organisations involved in renewable energy, flexibility and energy community development.	
Short description of the measure: The measure establishes national and transnational digital platforms to collect and share data, experiences and best practices from pilot and replication projects across the Danube region. These platforms will provide evidence for policy making, investment planning and cross-border cooperation, linking national databases with EU knowledge hubs to enhance transparency and learning.	
Responsible actors for the implementation of the measure: National ministries of energy, state energy agencies, academic institutions and regional associations, coordinated through the Danube Transnational Programme.	
Time plan for implementation: 2026–2030	
The achievement, the goal of the action/measure: Create a shared evidence base and learning network that supports replication of successful pilot solutions, strengthens policy alignment and improves regional cooperation in achieving a sustainable and resilient energy transition.	