



# Tandems Quarterly

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# Project Summary

Encouraging the collaboration between municipalities and energy cooperatives for a just and accelerated energy transition.

Energy communities (EC) can become the vehicles for energy transition and the drivers for positive energy policies. Tandems encourages their creation through connecting energy cooperatives and local authorities.

The project aims to empower citizens to take part in clean energy transition. Tandems is building replicable methods of cooperation and a variety of working models and trainings. It will also create a wide supporting framework and network for community energy.



Energy Community Otterbeek, Mechelen Belgium.  
Photo: Klimaan CVSO



36 month project.



Encouraging the creation and participation in energy communities for a just and accelerated energy transition.



Uniting 11 partners from 4 different countries.



ERDF funding of 1.75m€.



# Editorial

## What and for Whom?

Energy transition can be an unsettling process, because it gives citizens a sense of uncertainty about tomorrow. This is why TANDEMS under the coordination of Kamp C believes that more work is necessary to include the citizens in every step of energy transition, as this is the key to making this process sustainable, accessible and understandable. Additionally energy transition, which is the shift of the energy sector and energy market to renewable energy sources, is a process, which needs the collaboration of citizens, the cooperation of individuals and the group work of regions and countries. At Kamp C we believe that energy communities/cooperatives, collectives of individuals, who jointly own and democratically control their energy production, are the perfect vehicles for this to happen. They allow individuals to collaborate, to learn from each other, to participate, to be informed of energy changes and, most importantly, to be in control.

Serving as an example Kamp C will also create a renewable energy community on its own grounds, a business park that includes the first circular building in Belgium. Additionally, together with other project partners, Kamp C will develop in this project, an open learning and training centre, a safe haven for inspiration, experimentation and training, not only for municipalities, but also for energy cooperatives and starting citizens initiatives.

TANDEMS is all about collaboration. Already the name, referring to a tandem bicycle, suggests that no action, no individual and no idea is effective on its own. It needs the joint effort of many partners, citizens, stakeholders and regions. We need to work together and work together we will! Through the combined participation of partners from three different countries, Belgium, Netherlands and Bulgaria and supported by partners from Austria, TANDEMS aims to develop a wide variety of replicable models and trainings, trigger 67 community energy projects, support and/or create 23 citizen-led initiatives by the end of the project in 2025

We invite you to read about the project and we look forward to keeping up with everyone all along the duration of the three years of TANDEMS.



Maro Saridaki and  
Jet Groen, Kamp C

# Country Profiles

The province of Antwerp, Belgium with its 2 million inhabitants, is creating an energy landscapes masterplan and is home to 4 energy cooperatives including ZuidtrAnt and Klimaan.

The city of Mechelen is a climate pioneer in Flanders and Belgium. It is a frontrunner in climate and energy strategy. Mechelen supports bottom up approaches as a method of energy transition. The city works on existing legislation, paving the way for energy communities and introducing novel approaches in energy sharing in apartment buildings.

In the Netherlands, Northwestern Europe, there are already many small cooperatives active. They also engage local municipalities. The projects from this region provide groundbreaking models. One of them include a municipality, which sources its own energy to provide lighting to public buildings such as schools.

In the TANDEMS project, this will be a good example, providing a model that can be used by other governmental organisations, citizens and local businesses

Austria located in central Europe, is one of the prime investors in renewable energy such as wind power. The country wants to reach carbon neutrality by 2040. The Austrian government also passed a policy in 2021 to improve the energy regulations in the country, including the creation of renewable energy communities.

In Tandems Austria is represented by the communications partner.

Gabrovo is situated in central Bulgaria, by the Yantra River near the Balkan Mountains. It won the prestigious European Green Leaf Award for 2021 for their investments in energy efficiency and urban development.

Their achievements also include campaigns among citizens. Gabrovo, as a characteristic example for Bulgaria, participates in the TANDEMS project with models of a municipal building, commercial building(s) and multifamily apartment buildings.

Burgas is the second largest city on the Bulgarian Black Sea Coast. It is the capital of Burgas Province and an important industrial, transport, cultural and tourist centre. Population-wise it is three times the size of Gabrovo and has a long history of strong municipal administration and trust between citizens and authorities. Burgas is famous for its innovative and green projects and holds a lot of citizen-led projects potential, especially regarding solar energy.





# Partner Profiles and Work Packages



<https://www.kampc.be/>

## KAMP C (BE)

Kamp C is a knowledge centre for innovation and sustainable building in the Province of Antwerp, whose core mission is 'to accelerate the transition towards a sustainable society'. Kamp C supports municipalities with technical and juridical advice concerning construction and environmental matters, scanning buildings, prioritising energy efficiency projects and facilitating the construction phase. It also offers direct and pro bono advice and solutions to citizens in the Province of Antwerp region for sustainable renovation in their homes and neighbourhoods.

Currently the organisation is involved as partner or leader in 20 EU Funded projects and works with 69 local authorities.

Kamp C is the lead beneficiary for WORK PACKAGE 1.

Work Package 1 ensures the achievement of the project's objectives. It combines an effective technical and administrative coordination with an efficient organisational and financial management. WP1 focuses on :

1. Administration and management: financial management, risk review and management and technical support
2. Coordination: internal communication, decision-making, conflict resolution, internal peer review
3. Verification and assurance: quality assurance, periodic review, verification and data management



<https://vito.be/en>

## VITO (BE)

Vito is a leading European independent research and consultancy centre in the areas of cleantech and sustainable development. VITO's team has extensive expertise in multiple interdisciplinary projects concerning energy scenario analysis, sustainability evaluation of energy technology, transition management and smart grids/smart energy users. They were involved in several national or international research projects concerning engagement with smart-technologies, renewable heating and cooling, smart grid business models and energy communities.

Vito is the lead beneficiary in WORK PACKAGE 2. Work Package 2 will focus on:

1. Designing the blueprint of an open collaboration model for energy communities and identifying promising opportunities in pilot regions.
2. Evaluating which financial instruments work best for clean energy investment.
3. Identifying tailor made business models proposals by regions/ municipalities involved in Tandems.
4. Developing impact monitoring and evaluation tools and provide practical guidance to energy communities on how to use those tools.



<https://www.agem.nl/>

## Agem (NL)

As a non-profit, social enterprise Agem can participate in markets related to the energy transition, creating a self-sustaining business model while working for the common good. Agem offers knowledge and advice in the field of sustainability, energy transition for residents, knowledge exchange in large and regional network and pilot project support.

Agem is the lead beneficiary for WORK PACKAGE 3. Work Package 3 focuses on testing the models developed, pilot sites founded and scenarios identified in work package 2. WP3 focuses on three themes: solar tandems, wind and large solar tandems as well as heating and renovation. It aims to set up viable and innovative energy community projects. In this work package, hands-on tools and practices will also be developed, gathered and combined to form comprehensive scripts/manuals, referring to the identifiable local conditions and value systems with extensive do's and don't advice. Their effectiveness will be validated in the implementation of Energy Community projects.



<https://www.duneworks.nl/>

## DuneWorks (NL)

DuneWorks is a research and advice SME and focuses on sociotechnical energy and circularity transitions through action research, intervention, knowledge into strategy translation and monitoring. They transform findings into business models for new energy services, into advice for policy and into state of the art research.

DuneWorks is the lead beneficiary for WORK PACKAGE 4. Work Package 4 focuses on developing methods for multi-and transdisciplinary collaboration and implement them on pilot regions. WP4 works on organising train-the-trainer workshops, produces generic and more tailored training guides and holds co-creation workshops. It also monitors and evaluates the engagement approaches in each of the pilots and develops innovative awareness campaigns.



<http://www.eneffect.bg/>

## EnEffect (BG)

Centre for Energy Efficiency EnEffect is the oldest and most established Bulgarian organisation working in the area of sustainable energy development. EnEffect is strongly tied professionally and technically with the work of the Bulgarian municipalities in the area of energy efficiency and renewables, as energy cooperatives in both multifamily building renovation projects and initiatives for decentralised energy production.

EnEffect is the lead beneficiary in WORK PACKAGE 5. Work Package 5 focuses on creating a supportive local policy framework for the development of community energy projects and to facilitating a dialogue among different actors involved in community projects. WP5 focuses on:

- Researching the potential of Energy Communities
- Engaging local stakeholders in a structured dialogue
- Ensuring proper integration of the developed policy recommendations
- Supporting the replication of TANDEMS policy recommendations within different national and European contexts



<https://oikoplus.com/>

## Oikoplus (AU)

Oikoplus specializes in issues related to sustainability, scientific research and innovative communication through spreading future oriented knowledge in an unconventional but relevant and understandable way. The company acts as an external communication agency. It supports partners in their external presence and in doing so also encourages the rethinking of already established communication strategies and target groups.

Oikoplus partners up with Kamp C, who is the lead beneficiary, in WORK PACKAGE 6. This WP hosts all actions related to maximising the project's impact. Its goal is to ensure the sustainability of the project outcomes, by creating awareness and interest in the project and its results among target groups.

- To define and replicate the TANDEMS models
- To develop an After-LIFE exploitation Plan which will include an overview on relevant stakeholders and an outline for all measurable exploitation achieved.
- To develop a Communication/Dissemination Strategy
- To implement the communication and dissemination efforts starting from the digital dissemination and communication hub, develop and implement stakeholder specific actions in all partner countries and at the TANDEMS demonstration sites (in cooperation with WP 4 & 5), including networking with other LIFE projects.



<https://www.zuidtrant.be/>

## ZuidtrAnt (BE)

ZuidtrAnt, an energy cooperative founded in 2016, has built expertise in renewable energy projects, renovation guidance, shared e-mobility, participation processes involving energy and heating networks. ZuidtrAnt has enormous potential to grow into a powerful coop, engaging not only the citizens of the 'Southern border' but of the city of Antwerp itself and its 500.000 citizens. Key staff at ZuidtrAnt that will be involved in this project have extensive expertise in technical matters, coordination, citizens participation and communication.

ZuidtrAnt participates mainly in WorkPackage 3 and WorkPackage 4 more specifically through coordinating two district renovations in Antwerp, implementing energy communities in specified regions, testing business and collaboration models on pilot sites and engaging citizens in participation in energy communities. ZuidtrAnt will also provide local governments with tools to impose collective heating systems in municipalities.



<https://klimaan.be/>

## Klimaan (BE)

Klimaan is an energy cooperative founded in 2019 out of the non-profit organisation Klimaan vzw. Klimaan has an excellent record in citizen participation. In 2,5 years of existence, they have engaged more than 1000 citizens to invest in renewable energy systems and energy savings projects. Their growth potential at the heart of Flanders is extensive, engaging both citizens of the city of Mechelen as well as the surrounding rural municipalities. Klimaan has technical knowledge of the different measures necessary for the energy transition.

Klimaan participates mainly in WorkPackage 3 and WorkPackage 4 especially through giving local governments tools to transform buildings into solar tandems, implementing solar installations on public and private infrastructure around Mechelen as well as working with local authorities to support local, cooperative, renewable projects.



<https://gabrovo.bg/en>

## Municipality of Gabrovo (BG)

The Municipality of Gabrovo works hard on achieving energy efficiency in public buildings. In 2015 'The Sun Kindergarten', located in Gabrovo, was certified as the first passive building in Bulgaria. Gabrovo is in constant communication with businesses and citizens and has a well established and well knit community.

The municipality works on becoming CO2 neutral by 2030, wishes to create strong energy efficiency information channels for citizens and realize the potential of energy communities in Bulgaria.

The Municipality of Gabrovo participates mainly in WorkPackage 3 and WorkPackage 4. Gabrovo mainly focuses on: introducing citizen-led renovation projects, developing awareness campaigns, working closely with existing EC's to pick up the best practices to implement in Gabrovo, scouting locations and analysing legal environment for setting up of EC in Bulgaria. Finally Gabrovo aims to implement solar, heat and wind tandems.



<https://www.burgas.bg/en>

## Municipality of Burgas (BG)

Burgas, whose main priority is to achieve energy efficiency, has many achievements in this direction. In 2021 the municipality has renewed its entire bus fleet with electric ones. It also installs photovoltaic installations on public buildings and continuously studies the possibilities of transferring energy from renewable energy sources into industrial zones. Additionally Burgas focuses on building renovation, achieving 90% success rate.

Burgas aims to develop a municipal fund to boost PV installations and improve the collaborative model of working.

The Municipality of Burgas participates mainly in WorkPackage 3 and WorkPackage 4. Burgas will engage and empower citizens to get accustomed to citizen led energy projects, implement solar, wind and heat tandems, collaborate with existing EC's in Netherlands and Belgium to assess practices to be implemented in Bulgaria and analyse existing social and economic situation for the implementation of EC's.

## City of Mechelen (BE)

In the last decade, the city undertook numerous actions for households that currently consolidated the city's energy point for citizens. This energy point offers renovation coaching, energy loans and premiums. The city has co-created several collective renovation initiatives and is exploring an approach for collectively renovating apartments. As a climate pioneer the city council approved the second Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan in February 2020. The plan spans a variety of actions and gives way for the heat and energy strategy of the city. Mechelen is committed to accelerating the rollout of concrete cases on the basis of the REC and CEC legislation on its territory and aims to take an active role as 'director'.



<https://www.mechelen.be/>

The City of Mechelen participates mainly in WorkPackage 3 and WorkPackage 4. Mechelen focuses on monitoring and evaluating engagement approaches, engaging citizens in participating in EC's, developing awareness campaigns for citizen led energy projects and helping to co-create solutions by working closely in tandem with Klimaam.



**For information and updates  
please visit:**



[www.lifetandems.eu](http://www.lifetandems.eu)



<https://twitter.com/LifeTandems>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/life-tandems/>



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