

# TANDEMS QUARTERLY

The Quarterly Newsletter  
from the LIFE TANDEMS  
Project

**#6 | June 2024**

Editorial 'Europe's Vote' | 2  
Project Updates | 3  
News, Events, Highlights | 6



TANDEMS

THOMAS STOLLENWERK

Europe has voted. At the beginning of June, around 350 million voters in 27 countries of the European Union were called upon to elect the members of the European Parliament. The national results are very different - including in the TANDEM countries of Belgium, Bulgaria, Austria and the Netherlands. But overall, what Politico Europe has dubbed "Europe's Trump moment" has materialised. **Parties that tend to reject the EU in general, but also the Green Deal, have made significant gains.** And in general, the parties with an interest in pushing ahead with the EU Green Deal have not exactly emerged stronger from the election.

The European elections have no direct influence on an EU-funded project such as TANDEM. However, **the election is a reminder that the EU's LIFE funding programme does not take place in a political vacuum.** The legal framework for the establishment of energy communities - which is ultimately what our project is about - was largely created by the revised renewable energy directive (2018/2001/EU). It is at least no more likely that such a directive would find a broad majority in the newly composed EU Parliament.

But what does the election result mean in concrete terms for TANDEM and similar initiatives? It could mean, for example, that **we as a consortium make a conscious effort to communicate the benefits of a fair and financially attractive energy transition from the bottom up,** and not just to those who are already convinced. And it may mean **listening more closely to where the idea of community energy sharing has so far met with ignorance or rejection.** Energy communities can be powerful vehicles for the energy transition that invite everyone. But they must also be perceived as such.

Incidentally, there is reason not to panic that the Green Deal could be cancelled. Eurobarometer surveys show that there is still a high level of support across Europe for driving forward the energy transition - according to Eurobarometer, **7 out of 10 Europeans consider climate change to be a serious problem and see the fight against it as an important political task.** How this fits in with the election result is truly a tricky question.

Source: <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/2954>



Thomas Stollenwerk  
CEO, Oikoplus

# Project Updates

## Project Midterm Meeting in Vienna



For its 4th consortium meeting, the partnership gathered in Austria's capital and delved into the Austrian ways of energy sharing.

Often, since the LIFE project kicked off in 2022, the members of the TANDEMS consortium have gathered in front of their webcams. The partnership has also met four times in real life to discuss ways and strategies for collaboration between citizen-led initiatives and city administrations in the establishment and operation of renewable energy communities. ...

[Continue reading](#)

## TANDEMS Chatbot Online: Your 24/7 Energy Community Support

Hi! How can I help you today?

Hey. I want to learn more about Energy Communities. What are they all about?

Attracting new members and keeping them engaged can be a challenge. That's where TANDEMS Chatbot steps in to take the lead! This nifty little tool shall help managing those curious crowds without breaking a sweat, all while building trust and fostering a positive experience for everyone.

[Continue reading](#)



# TANDEMS at EUSEW 2024

Our project was presented at the nucleus event of European energy transition policy.

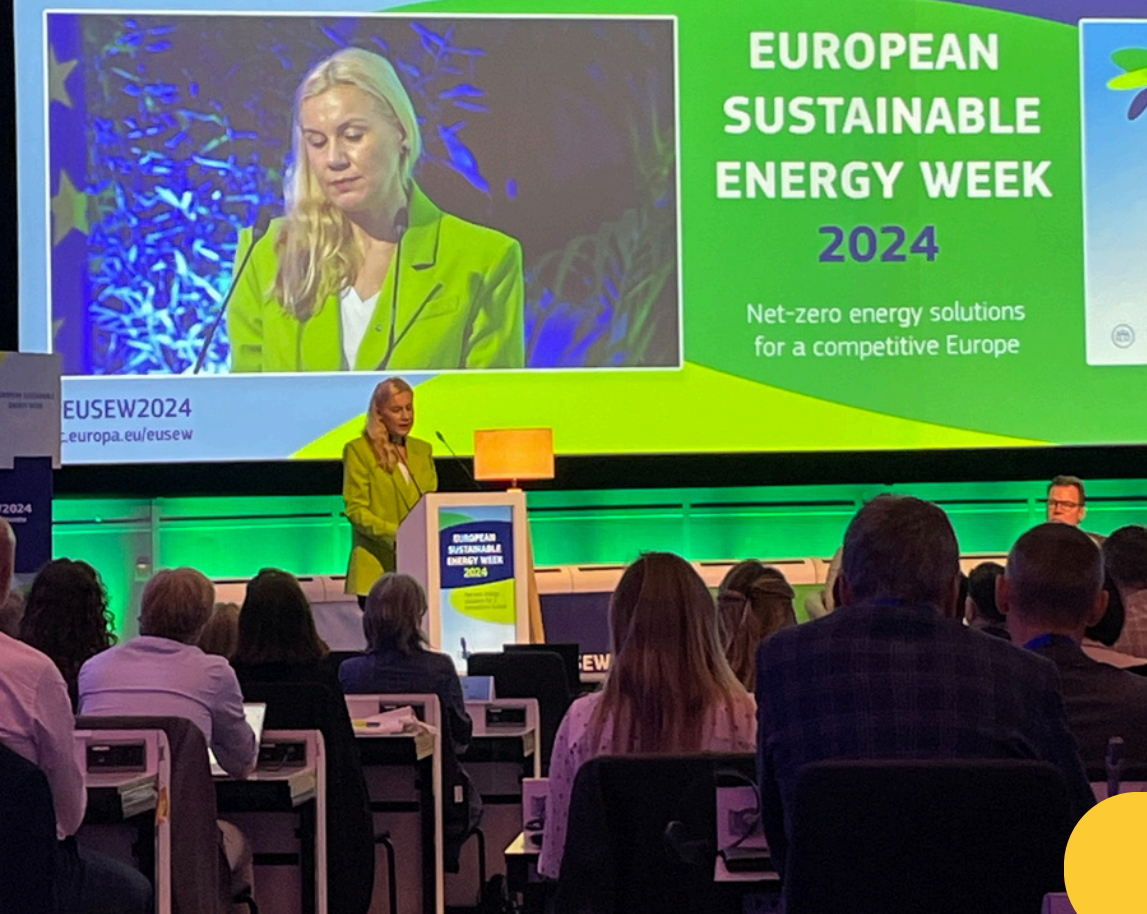
Once a year, the European Commission organises the EU Sustainable Energy Week in Brussels. The #EUSEW2024 was already the 19th edition of the three-day policy conference, which focusses on all aspects of European energy policy and technological, economic and social innovation related to the energy transition. The LIFE TANDEMS project was one of the EU-funded projects invited to present itself at the conference this year at a stand within the Energy Fair.

And so the TANDEMS Roadshow made a stop at the Charlemagne building in the heart of the European government district. The conference was opened by the EU Commissioner for Energy, Kadri Simson, and the Belgian Energy Minister, Tinne Van Der Straeten, as Belgium currently holds the EU Council Presidency. Two days after the elections to the European Parliament, both politicians, the conservative Estonian and the green Belgian, emphasised the importance of the success of the EU Green Deal in order to make Europe independent of fossil fuels and imports.



Many speeches emphasised how much the Russian invasion of Ukraine has shown that raw materials like gas and oil can quickly become a weapon. From the perspective of TANDEMS and many other energy transition projects represented in Brussels, this sounded like a political confirmation of the goals of their own work - namely the **provision of affordable, renewable energy in independent and socially acceptable, decentralised energy systems.** Energy communities make people independent - on several levels.





EU Commissioner for Energy, Kadri Simson, opening the conference

The energy transition was discussed and presented in all its facets. Ecologically and technologically; socially and economically. It is almost always political. This is because it is supported, promoted, but also restricted and in some areas prevented by political framework conditions.

Where politics is made, **the role of citizens** quickly becomes an issue. This is because citizens can play the rather passive role of customers in energy systems, who only have a very indirect influence on the energy market through their collective demand - or they can actively help shape the energy transition, for example as participants in citizen-led energy communities, or by being actively involved in the design of local energy networks at municipal level in their cities and communities.

The **panel on energy citizenship** on the last day of the policy conference, for example, focussed on such questions. Where citizens play an active role in energy supply, it is not just a question of electricity coming out of the socket. **Decentralised energy supply in the hands of citizens can also fulfil social functions, such as preventing and combating energy poverty**, a widespread phenomenon in Europe in which many people are relatively helpless in the face of their energy suppliers (and de facto also their landlords).

For the members of the TANDEM consortium who were present in Brussels, the discussions and presentations of the EUSEW provided many very interesting insights into possible ways to contribute to Europe's energy security and a just energy transition. **We are already looking forward to the next edition of the event in spring 2025.** In a year's time, TANDEM will be further advanced and will probably be able to provide very concrete and application-oriented recommendations for the establishment and operation of energy communities. **Stay tuned.**

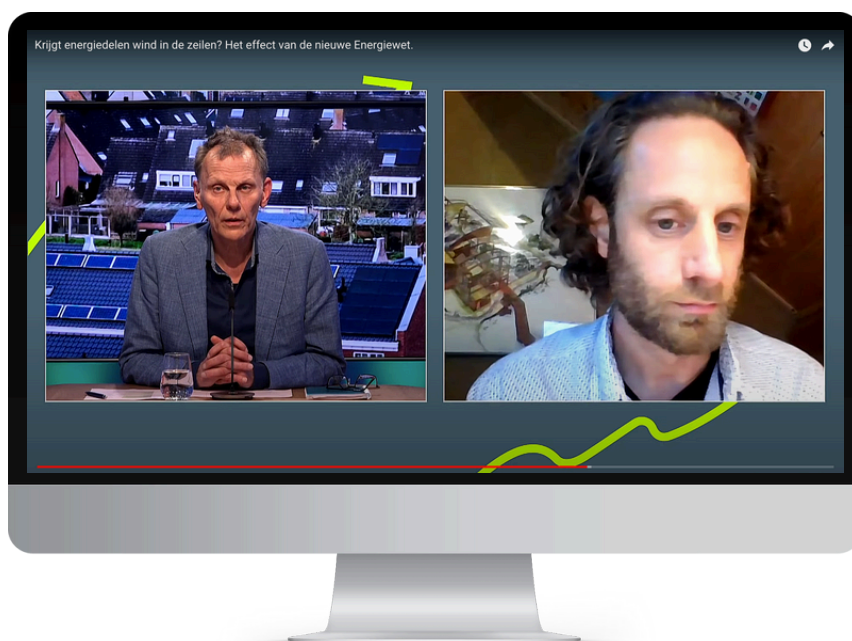


Stamatis Sivitos, CIENA Project Officer for the TANDEM Project dropping by the project booth

# News / Events / Highlights

## Burgas: Days of Energy Efficiency and Green Energy

With the ambition to increase knowledge among the public and to implement more projects in the future, the eighth edition of the annual forum "Days of Energy Efficiency and Green Energy" was launched in Burgas. The forum is organized by Burgas Municipality, Energy Efficiency Centre EnEffect and Municipal Energy Efficiency Network EcoEnergy.



## Online Talkshow: Krijgt energiedelen wind in de zeilen? Het effect van de nieuwe Energiewet

In an online talk show format by the Nationaal Klimaat Platform, innovations in climate legislation in the Netherlands were discussed with various experts. One of the guests: Justin Pagden from TANDEMS partner AGEM. If you have an interest in developments in the Netherlands, you can watch the approximately one-hour programme here on the climate platform's [YouTube channel](#).



## Uzana Polyana Fest in Gabrovo

The Uzana Polyana Fest is an ecological festival for people – and for nature. It combines music, arts, and knowledge to create shared emotions and impressions among its visitors. As an exhibition of good Eco practices, successful organic products and creative initiatives for eco-friendly innovations, it provides a great framework to also present energy communities as a tool for a just energy transition. TANDEM will be there. Will you, too?

July 19-21, Gabrovo, Bulgaria

<https://uzanafest.gabrovo.bg/>



### Webinar: Alleviating Energy Poverty through hard and soft measures

Back in autumn 2022, the EU Horizon 2020 project CEES (Community Energy for Energy Solidarity), which will come to an end in August 2024, published an interesting webinar online that provides some useful tips on how energy communities can also be used as an effective tool to combat and prevent energy poverty:

<https://www.energysolidarity.eu>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oUk3lw1b9LU>

**For information and updates  
please visit:**



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



<https://twitter.com/LifeTandems>



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



**Co-Funded by the European Union**

This project has received funding from the European Union's LIFE Programme under grant agreement No 101077514