

2nd Overview of DE-RISK

NEWSLETTER



Executive Summary

What has been done in the past six months within the DE-RISK project

The DE-RISK project has made significant progress in its mission to support the widespread and **safe deployment of Renewable Energy Systems (RES)**. Over the first 18 months, the project has hit key milestones that are paving the way for future developments in the energy sector.

One major area of focus has been understanding how consumers engage with Local Flexibility Markets (LFMs). Through **surveys, interviews, and research**, DE-RISK is developing strategies to **encourage participation** and **optimize consumer behavior** in these markets. This work is crucial for creating a more **flexible and resilient energy grid**. Another important aspect of the project has been evaluating the financial and regulatory landscape for LFMs across Europe. These insights are helping **shape policies and market**

strategies that will support the **growth of renewable energy**.

In parallel, DE-RISK has been working on pilot projects, **creating digital models and simulations** to test new ideas and methods for community engagement. The project has also identified key outcomes that can be used to **further drive market development and stakeholder engagement**. Finally, the project's communication efforts have been in full swing, with a strong presence on social media and the **launch of a consumers and professional interaction toolbox**. These activities are helping to spread the word about DE-RISK's work and ensure that the project's findings reach a broad audience.

During this period, we successfully submitted several key deliverables and achieved significant milestones, ensuring everything remains on track for future success.



DE-RISK Project: Paving the Way for Renewable Energy and Consumer Engagement

Initial Phases and Foundations

The DE-RISK project has made significant strides in its mission to **promote renewable energy systems** and **enhance consumer participation in Local Flexibility Markets (LFMs)**. During the initial phases, the project laid a strong foundation with meticulous planning and collaboration. Key documents were prepared to ensure smooth project coordination and adherence to international standards, while a platform was established to share research findings with the broader community.

In its efforts to engage consumers, the project thoroughly examined how citizens participate in LFMs and other energy communities. By identifying key factors that influence consumer behavior, the project provided **valuable insights into what drives or hinders participation**. These findings are crucial as global communities seek to embrace renewable energy and reduce their carbon footprint.

Exploring LFMs and Financial Schemes

Moreover, the project explored various aspects of LFMs through detailed analyses. It conducted a **PESTLE analysis** and benchmarked LFM implementations, **mapped innovative energy services across Europe**, and **explored financial schemes** to support consumer journeys. The project also launched a crowdfunding campaign aimed at democratizing investments in renewable energy systems, which is well on its way to completion.

On September 10th, **the kick-off meeting of the crowdfunding campaign** took place to increase the scope of the DE-RISK project by incorporating a new home into the local energy flexibility pilot being carried out in Murcia (Spain). In the upcoming period, this campaign will be an **opportunity for local investors** to be part of our project.

DE-RISK's **pilot case studies** were another area of focus, with detailed assessments of infrastructure, data collection techniques, and the development of digital twins and simulation scenarios. The integration of a new pilot site was achieved with minimal disruption, further demonstrating the project's ability to adapt and grow.





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Financiación participativa ciudadana (crowdfunding) e innovación energética

DE-RISK - Murcia

DE-RISK

MIV LUMINOSA

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José Luis Murrieta - Escopel (Te presentando)

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Consumer Journey in the Local Flexibility Market

As the world grapples with the transition to cleaner energy, understanding how to effectively engage consumers in renewable energy systems is more important than ever. The DE-RISK project, with **Nova University of Lisbon (UNL)** leading efforts in this area, has made significant progress in understanding the consumer journey in Local Flexibility Markets (LFMs), which are essential for a more sustainable energy future.



Exploring Consumer Behavior and Making LFMs More Accessible

Over the first 18 months, the project reached important milestones in exploring consumer behavior and developing strategies to increase participation in LFMs. By delving into what drives people to engage with these markets, the project identified key motivators such as **environmental concerns, personal values, and trust in the system**. It became clear that the success of LFMs relies not just on technological advancements, but on **active and willing participation from citizens**. This finding is particularly timely, as communities worldwide are increasingly seeking ways to take control

of their energy needs in response to current global energy challenges.

The project also examined various ways to make LFMs more appealing and accessible to consumers. **Empowerment** emerged as a crucial factor, with strategies like offering discounts, incorporating gamification, and promoting positive engagement proving effective in encouraging participation. These insights are especially relevant in today's energy landscape, where adopting new technologies is essential for the success of flexible, decentralized energy systems.

Focus on Smart Technologies and User Accessibility

In addition, the project focused on making smart technologies—such as home energy management devices, electric vehicles, and renewable energy systems—more user-friendly and accessible. The research emphasized that for these technologies to gain widespread acceptance, they need to be not only affordable but also easy to integrate into everyday life. The project's findings highlight the importance of designing these technologies with the user experience in mind, ensuring they are intuitive and beneficial to consumers.

As the global energy landscape continues to

evolve, the DE-RISK project's findings offer valuable guidance for how to engage and empower citizens in the transition to renewable energy. The strategies and insights from the project not only help to create a more resilient and flexible energy system but also ensure that consumers are at the heart of this transformation. For companies and communities interested in renewable energy systems, these findings provide a roadmap for successful implementation and consumer engagement in a rapidly changing energy world.



Insights from Recent DE-RISK Research: Unlocking the Potential of Local Energy Communities

Nova Information Management School (UNL – Portugal) recently published an insightful article by Catarina Neves that delves into the growing interest in local energy communities, which hold great potential for **mitigating environmental challenges and advancing the decarbonization of energy systems**. The article, part of the Consumer Journey in the Local Flexibility Market activity, presents a **meta and weight analysis** combining the quantitative findings from previous studies on citizen participation in these

communities. The study identifies key trends and theories, with the **theory of planned behavior** emerging as the leading framework. The findings provide valuable guidance for researchers and practitioners aiming to develop strategies that promote the creation and success of local energy communities.

For readers interested in exploring this topic further, **you can read the full article here.**



Latest News from DE-RISK

First Review Meeting

Upon completing the first reporting period for the DE-RISK Project, a review meeting was held on June 26, 2024, marking the end of a productive initial 18 months. The Project Officer and all consortium partners attended the meeting, where they reviewed the progress and achievements of the six DE-RISK work packages and discussed the roadmap for the upcoming period.

The DE-RISK Engagement Toolbox for End-Users and Professionals

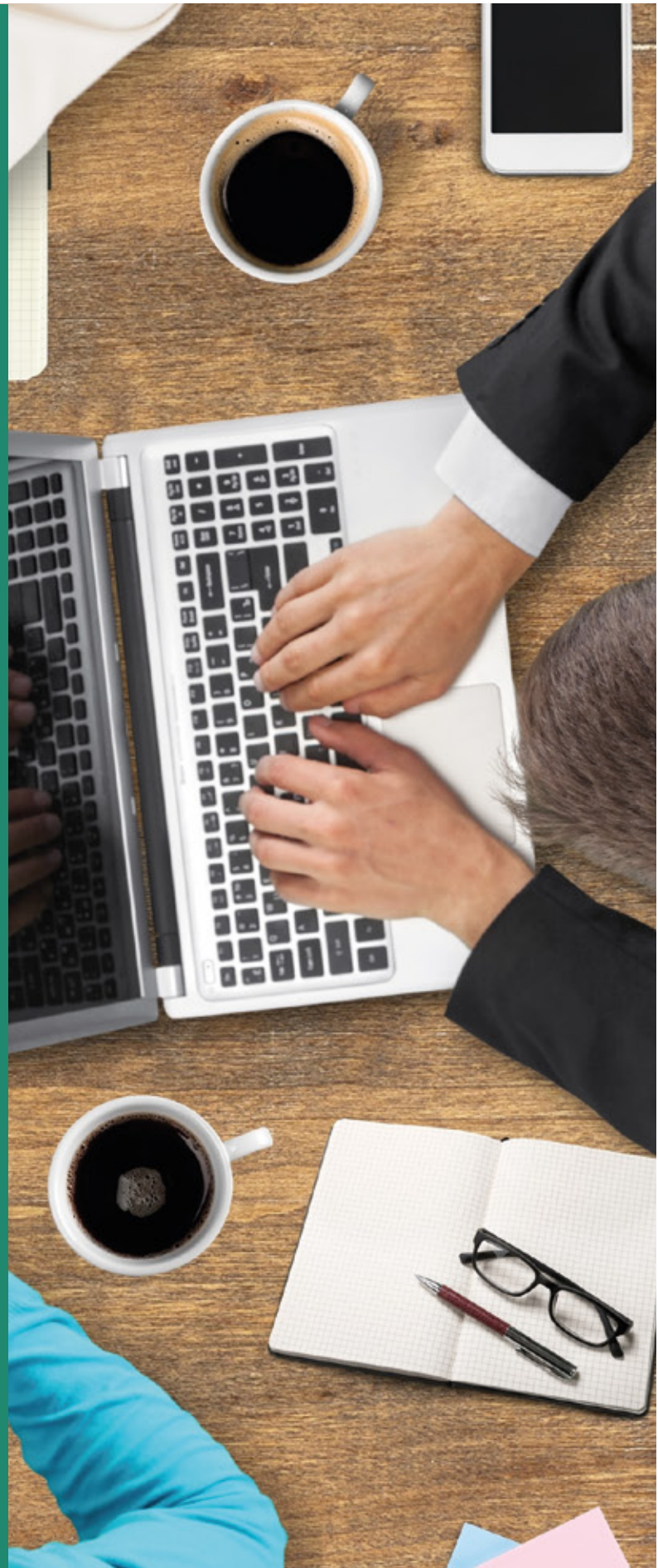
In addition to technical advancements, the project emphasized **communication and dissemination**. A comprehensive plan was developed to promote the project's objectives, identity, and results. This included the creation of a **toolbox to enhance interactions between consumers and professionals**, as well as active participation in events and collaborations with similar initiatives.

The toolbox published is a key resource that helps promote and communicate the DE-RISK project at the local level. It works alongside the project's Communication and Dissemination Plan to boost stakeholder trust and participation in Local Flexibility Markets. By focusing on inclusivity, cultural diversity, and accessibility, the toolbox ensures that all stakeholders—consumers, businesses, and policymakers—can engage and contribute to a sustainable energy future. Its influence goes beyond the project, encouraging ongoing collaboration and innovation.

For more details on the DE-RISK Engagement Toolbox and our ongoing efforts, interested readers are **invited to visit our website**.



As the global energy landscape continues to evolve, the DE-RISK project provides a blueprint for more sustainable and inclusive energy solutions. By focusing on both **technological innovation and consumer engagement**, DE-RISK helps to shape a future where renewable energy systems are accessible, effective, and widely adopted.



Event Highlights

The DE-RISK project has actively attended various conferences and networking events, demonstrating its commitment to advancing renewable energy technologies and fostering sector-wide collaboration.

In July 2023, MIWenergia discussed the adoption of Local Flexibility Markets to enhance renewable energy systems during the **Scientific Park Networking Meeting**, while SOFENA presented on regulatory impacts across EU countries at the **Annual Meeting of Bulgarian Energy Agencies**.

In August 2023, DE-RISK was represented at the Galway Energy Summit, where Michael M. Curran highlighted the project's role in R&D collaborations during the industry-focused event sponsored by ASHRAE Ireland.

Moving forward, DE-RISK was represented at **Enlit Europe in November 2023** by MIWenergia and QUE Technologies, with MIWenergia providing project brochures and QUE Technologies showcasing DE-RISK technologies for residential demand response.



Additionally, in April 2024, Ecrowd presented DE-RISK's work on Local Flexibility Markets for renewable energy systems at the ENTRACK Project Final Conference in Barcelona.

Recently, DE-RISK project partners – QUE Technologies, MIWenergia, University of Galway, and R2M Spain – took an active role in the **Sustainable Places 2024 Conference**. On September 25, the DE-RISK project was presented in a workshop exploring innovative approaches to minimizing risks in the energy transition. These discussions play a crucial role in shaping a resilient and sustainable energy future.

The aforementioned events, along with many others actively attended by DE-RISK partners, have provided valuable opportunities for the consortium to connect with stakeholders and share the project's progress in driving the transition to flexible and sustainable energy systems.

What is Next for DE-RISK

The DE-RISK consortium's enthusiasm and determination will be carried forward, with a strong focus on achieving even greater success in the next phase of the project. ***Stay tuned for more updates as we continue to push the boundaries of energy innovation!***



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