

# Pilot Greece



Partner contributing to the 1<sup>st</sup> pilot, fully responsible for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and this report



Contribution to 1<sup>st</sup> piloting

POWER to the PEOPLE:  
Energy Communities (EnrgCom) & wellbeing for ALL

*Energy for all Women*

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101000797.



# Social innovation

we tried to bring the SI (from our FARMWELL database) “Energy Communities” closer to farmers (especially focusing on women farmers)



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# Our inspiration...

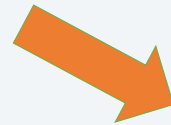
The piloting of **Energy Communities** in Greece was implemented in two stages/phases/places because...

...we wanted to inspire (a) **farmer's cooperatives from North Evia**; a severely hit rural area due to the recent summer fires, with great loss of income and stress to farming families (b) **women farmers from Women In Olive Oil**; a group engaged in our PG meetings from the start of the project



In this twofold piloting we aim to test a SI that tackles challenges identified in the project & highlighted on our first report evaluation

- energy poverty
- farm (rural) women's social integration/identity



through  
women's energy  
communities



# Concrete practice from piloting the *EnrgCom*

- bring the SI<sub>*EnrgCom*</sub> closer to farmers:
  - ✓ Farmers hit by the recent disasters (fires) in North Evia
  - ✓ Women farmers facing social stress /exclusion
- inspire them on how an *EnrgCom* can be used towards their wellbeing—especially those at risk of poverty and social exclusion
- tailor made solutions to the needs of our farmers
- collection of data for the evaluative & forecasting SROI
- provide material for New Heros video



2-day event:  
21-22 Sept '22

A. **phase:** members of a **farmer's Cooperative** (not part of our PG) from North Evia visit the Myrmidones energy community in Lamia-Central Greece and participate in a peer-to-peer meeting with the local farmers & field visit the solar panels

Filming  
with New  
Heros

[ Evaluative SROI ]

2-day event:  
4-5 Dec '22

B. **phase:** a group of **women farmers** from WIOO (part of our PG) comes to Thessaloniki/Halkidiki: field trip to an Agricultural Women's Cooperative (peer to peer exchange), workshop on energy democracy led by the 1st Women's energy Coop in Greece & in Europe

[ Forecasting SROI ]



# What is the logic of the choice of the *EnrgCom*

Provide justification/explain logic how got to pilot

- In line with the **challenge** of high energy prices leading to high costs of agriculture, high cost of everyday living in a rural area, high stress and risk of poverty
- when farmers gain **power** over their problems/challenges they get a sense of achievement, self completion which provides a sense of achievement and overall wellbeing
- Energy Communities is one of the selected SI on the **database**
- Is a **business model (social economy)** where citizens jointly own and democratically control resources and energy efficiency
- Doing this within a cooperative increases their skills and overall community involvement
- Energy community 'charges' farmers emotionally and socially: (em)powering members by building a farming community based on solidarity.
- **Especially women's energy communities empower women farmers** and provide a sense of identity and achievement



# Energy Communities

Provide justification/explain logic how got to pilot

The term "**energy community**" covers a broad range of communal energy activities that entail **participation** from the general public in the energy system (**energy democracy**). Various levels of community involvement in decision-making and benefit sharing define community energy projects. They could refer to a community that is geographically constrained or a community of interests.

According to European law, the Clean Energy Package recognizes some types of community energy initiatives as "energy communities" serving as an opportunity to "organize" communal energy acts around transparent, democratic participation and governance and the supply of **benefits** for the participants or the local community.

For the first time, an EU legislative text offers a legal framework that permits widespread citizen participation in the energy system. It defines energy communities as new kinds of entities whose main goal is to provide environmental, economic or social community benefits rather than prioritise profit making (social economy).





# Aim- Goals of the pilot

Pilot was organised with the intention to achieve impact on farmers' wellbeing in the longer term:

- Communicate the Database of SI
- Map the challenges to apply the specific SI
- Present clear steps of the transition to SI
  - ✓ By bring certain knowledge (SI) closer to farmers
  - ✓ Increase the flow of practical information between farmers
  - ✓ Allow co-learning (peer-to-peer)
- Bring farmers together so they will not feel “bowling alone”
- Demonstrate the Social Return of the investment



## A' Phase of the piloting (at Lamia)



- ➔ 2 (female) Farmers from the Cooperative of North Evia (Rovies Coop & Taxiarchis Coop) & 7 famers from Mirmidones Energy coop (3 women+4 male). Out of which 4 are also members of Stevia Coop

Filming  
with New  
Heros

Evaluative  
SROI (all  
farmers of  
Myrmidones)



# Target group (direct)

farmer group that did test and may implement the social innovation

- 2 Farmers from the Cooperative of North Evia (Rovies Coop & Taxiarchis Coop)

other groups (e.g. farming organisations) were involved in the pilot

- 7 farmers from Myrmidones Energy Coop at Lamia
- 4 farmers from LamiaStevia coop
- 1 stakeholder from LaMiaStevia farmer's coop at Lamia
- 1 regional representative of the prefecture Central Greece

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Change of targets reached due to change in Greek legislation (initially we aimed at reaching more)

In the middle of the energy crisis, the Government announced that all the big projects, focusing on big communities of people will be postponed



## Target group (indirect)

partnerships emerged through the pilot

- A social enterprise driven by women in North Evia
- Agrifood Partnership of Central Greece will play a catalytic role on the establishment of the Cooperative in North Evia
- Electra Energy Coop will support all the steps, from discussions to implementation



# Agrifood Partnership of Central Greece

is a non-profit organization founded by the Region of Central Greece, as a joint venture between public and private institutions active in the agrifood sector. The primary goal of APCG is to raise the awareness of the Central Greek agrifood sector as well as to validate and promote locally produced agrifood products. **APCG offers a wide range of supporting and consulting services to businesses of the primary and secondary sector of the regional Central Greek economy.** APCG's members comprise municipalities, chambers of commerce, agricultural cooperatives, federations, and private enterprises.



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# Target group

farmers reported that they (very likely) will implement the innovation you piloted

- Farmers that are members of the existing cooperatives in Evia Island (approximately 50 farmers per cooperative)
- Most of them have been affected from the economic & the energy crisis and they are looking for alternative solutions



Measured  
by feedback  
from the 2  
participants  
upon their  
return





# Methodology

- **Small group** -due to the change in the Greek Law on energy communities that onwards supports only small schemes
- **Peer2peer** (farmer to farmer) exchange\_matchmaking session through face-to-face meeting and networking amongst farmer's cooperatives
- **Hands-on, field trip** with specialists experts

the pilot methodology created conditions for exchanging knowledge and innovative ideas and practices that may inspire potential applicants to take create their own energy coop.

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# Methodology

## selection of participants & collection of data

- Prior to the piloting all farmer's cooperatives from North Evia were reached and the concept was explained -An invitation to participate to the piloting was made via telephone calls -Only those with a strong interest were reached
- During the piloting in depth **personal interviews\*** with the 2 farmers from Evia and the 2 farmers from the local energy community were made in order to collect data on the future outcomes of their involvement in an energy community (both for the evalSROI & forSROI)

\*Attached report (in Greek)







## Filming with NewHeros



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# Course of the pilot

## Wednesday 21.09.2022

- Welcoming Women from Evia at the port of Arkitsa together with Stevia Hellas' farmers and starting our trip to Lamia in order to meet with farmers, members of Stevia Hellas Coop and Mirmidones Energy Coop as well.
- Presentation of Project FARMWELL at Stevia Hellas' premises after a small walk-through different departments of the Cooperative.- Interviews with the farmers by AUTH
- A day full of discussions and many, many questions... during the lunch and especially at the dinner, in companion with the two presidents of the boards. Vaggelis, Stevia Hellas' president and Thanasis Mirmidones' president. A night with a lot of knowledge exchanged through friendly discussions. Lunch and Dinner took place in different places of Fthiotida's area, since we are aiming to meet and discuss as many farmers as we could.

## Thursday 22.09.2022

- Presentation of Energy Cooperative Mirmidones by **Thanasis Argiris**, president of the Energy Cooperative.: What is an Energy Community - Who can participate in an Energy Community? – Which are the 7 International Cooperative Alliance principles? What are the main benefits being a member of an Energy Community?
- Panagiotis Karageorgos, stevia farmer and new member of the energy cooperative presented his point of view on energy communities and how they can tackle energy crisis. He gave specific examples.
- A field visit at a solar park took place with both farmers from Fthiotida and Evia also. Christos Stamatis, CEO of Stevia Hellas Cooperative explained how a solar park works and what are the main advantages of such an investment. Technical and Financial questions about the total project answered, since it was something that the Evia's farmers want to know about. In parallel funding schemes and funding organizations was on top priority of the discussions.

## Friday 23.09.2022

- One and a half hours discussion with the CEO of the Stevia Hellas Coop and Co-Founder of Mirmidones Energy Cooperative. After two days, including meetings with farmers and local people, a sum up of all these information needed for the women from Evia. A lot of conclusions and a promise to start something similar in the Northern Evia.

## **Variations from the original agenda**

We didn't make big changes to our original program, just a few small ones, concerning the schedule of the farmers that we have met during the day





Communicating  
the pilot to social  
media & Agrotica  
Farmer's expo at  
Thessaloniki  
21.10.2022



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# Did the pilot go as you planned?



- In the middle of the energy crisis, the Government announced that all the big projects, focusing on big energy communities of people will be postponed.
- The only projects that will run, are those dealing with individual households, or even on small consumptions.
- After this change we had to turn our focus to individual farmers/small groups instead of the big farmer's groups initially planned





# Learnings & other remarkable findings



- **late night dinners** served as a friendly environment also for interesting discussions
- From the farmers reached **only women farmers** made it possible to travel to Lamia –in this 1<sup>st</sup> pilot *we wanted also male farmers on the tour, but they declared too busy to leave their farm!!*
- participants left full of knowledge, happier and even more optimistic about the future
- such initiatives need a lot of time in order to be digested from the interested parties (**follow up is needed**)
- only a few people must be involved (no more that 5-6). It's the only way to make quick desicions.
- “Seed capital” for such initiatives is very crucial for the sustainability of the project. Funds must be secured before the beginning of the project.



# What now?



- Will these women collaborate with farmers from the two Cooperatives for the establishment of an Energy Cooperative?
- Will regional government support the project till the end?
- Do they have enough funds to run the project?

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# Budget\_spend by partner SteviaCoop Hellas

Wednesday, 21/09/22	1	Travel from Evia to Arkitsa and from Arkitsa to Lamia and from Lamia to different locations for meetings with farmers, lunch and dinner, for the women from Evia	340,00 €
	2	Travel from Lamia to Arkitsa port and back to Lamia, Christos Stamatis & Panagiotis Karageorgos and lunch	185,71 €
	3	Dinner at Loutra Ipatis	180,00 €
	4	Accommodation	125,00 €
830,71 €			
Thursday, 22/09/22	1	Travels to Makrakomi, meeting with Thanasis Argiris	217,50 €
	2	Travels to Solar Park all together and snacks	
	3	Accommodation	125,00 €
342,50 €			
Friday, 23/09/22	1	Travel from Loutra Ipatis to Lamia and from there to Arkitsa and from Arkitsa to Evia with a ferry boat.	168,84 €
168,84 €			
<b>1.342,05 €</b>	<b>total</b>		

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## B' Phase of the piloting (at Thessaloniki/Halkidiki)



➔ 6 Women from the group Women  
in Olive oil Greece &  
5 women from the WenCoop





# Target group

## Main target Group:

- Women in Olive Oil Greece (member of the PG)



## Other Groups:

- Members of the 1<sup>st</sup> women's Energy Cooperative WEnCoop
- Members of SEGE – Greek Association of Women Entrepreneurs
- Experts working on energy sector (Mr. Kyanides - Energy consultant for saving energy and improving energy efficiency)
- Women's agricultural Cooperative Agios Antonios



# Methodology



an intensive **2-days workshop** that aimed to:

- Increase the flow of practical information between female farmers;
- Provide hands-on experience on creating new energy communities;
- Foster peer-to-peer learning and knowledge sharing amongst the participants;
- Achieve greater participation of farmers in the energy sector;
- Increase the wellbeing of farmers by engaging them in “greener” activities.





Αγαπητή Συμμετέχουσα,

Καλησπέρα σας και Καλή σας Εβδομάδα!

Η Ενεργειακή Κοινότητα WEnCoop Π.Ε. και ο Σύνδεσμος Επιχειρηματιών Γυναικών Ελλάδας - Σ.Ε.Γ.Ε. ως εξωτερικοί σύμβουλοι και συνεργάτες του Έργου με τίτλο *"FARMWELL" «Βελτιώνοντας την ευημερία των γεωργιών μέσα από Κοινωνικές Καινοτομίες» / Improving farmers' wellbeing through social innovation*, HORIZON 2020, που υλοποιείται από το Αριστοτέλειο Πανεπιστήμιο Θεσσαλονίκης σας προσκαλούν στο διήμερο εργαστήριο ενδυνάμωσης που θα πραγματοποιηθεί στη Θεσσαλονίκη και αφορά την ενθέρωση και ενδυνάμωση της γυναικείας συμμετοχής στις ενεργειακές κοινότητες.

Η ανάγκη για αυξημένη συμμετοχή των γυναικών σε πρωτοβουλίες όπως οι ενεργειακές κοινότητες είναι σημαντική και απαραίτητη για την ανάπτυξη νέων αγορών εναλλακτικής ενέργειας με κοινωνικό, περιβαλλοντικό και οικονομικό αντίκτυπο.

Σκοπός του εργαστηρίου είναι η πιλοτική εφαρμογή (piloting) της έννοιας της ενεργειακής κοινότητας ως κοινωνική καινοτομία και η εκπαίδευση **γυναικών γεωργιών και γυναικών της υπαίθρου**, όπου με διαδραστικό τρόπο θα ευαισθητοποιήσει και θα διευρύνει βασικές και σύνθετες ιδέες πίσω από την συμβολή της ενεργειακής κοινότητας -ως κοινωνική καινοτομία- στην επίτευξη της ευημερίας των γυναικών της υπαίθρου.

Οι συμμετέχουσες, θα έχετε τη δυνατότητα μέσω του διήμερου εργαστηρίου **να επισκεφθείτε το χώρο που βρίσκεται το πρώτο φωτοβολταϊκό πάρκο της Ενεργειακής Κοινότητας WEnCoop στη Χαλκιδική, να εκπαιδευτείτε για τις Ενεργειακές Κοινότητες στην Ελλάδα και τη φιλοσοφία της Πράσινης Κατανάλωσης, καθώς και θα γνωρίσετε και θα ανταλλάξετε απόψεις και εμπειρίες για την ένταξη σας στην πράσινη μετάβαση και πως αυτή μπορεί να επηρεάσει την ευημερία σας (σωματική, ψυχική, κοινωνική).**

Μετά την ολοκλήρωση του Προγράμματος, οι συμμετέχοντες θα γνωρίζετε σχετικά με:

- τη συμμετοχή των γυναικών στον τομέα της Ενέργειας
- την Ενεργειακή Δημοκρατία
- την Ενεργειακή Κοινότητα WEnCoop, ως παράδειγμα βέλτιστης πρακτικής
- την εκπροσώπηση των γυναικών τις υπαίθρου στις ΕΚΟΙΝ

Το παραπάνω εργαστήριο θα πραγματοποιηθεί δια ζώσης στη Θεσσαλονίκη, 04 & 05 Δεκεμβρίου 2022.

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Επισυνάπτομένο θα βρείτε το **Πρόγραμμα του διήμερου σεμιναρίου ενδυνάμωσης**, καθώς και θα επιθυμούσαμε να συμπληρώσετε το παρακάτω **Ερωτηματολόγιο έως τις 02/12/2022**, του οποίου οι απαντήσεις θα αξιοποιηθούν αποκλειστικά και μόνο στο πλαίσιο αξιολόγησης των δεικτών αποτελεσματικότητας της συνάντησης στο τέλος του διήμερου.

**Ερωτηματολόγιο** <https://forms.gle/kQwWeAILkv9lytSX6>

**Παρακαλούμε ενημερώστε μας γραπτώς το συντομότερο δυνατό για την αποδοχή της πρόσκλησης και της συμμετοχής σας στο διήμερο σεμινάριο ενδυνάμωσης, καθώς και αν υπάρχει κάποια τροφική αλλεργία, τροφική δυσανεξία ή χορτοφαγική διατροφή.**

Για όποια διευκρίνιση ή απορία, μπορείτε να επικοινωνείτε και τηλεφωνικά στο 2310 224440.

Παραμένουμε στη διάθεσή σας.

Με εκτίμηση,  
Η Ομάδα της WEnCoop

19/12/22 2:55 μ.μ.

WEnCoop Seminar / Mailchimp

WEnCoop Seminar

Sent 22/11/22 16:28

## Overview

1,258 Recipients

**Audience:** Ενημερωτικά Δελτία - Μέλη

**Delivered:** Tue, 22 Nov 2022 16:28

**Subject:** Διήμερο Εκπαιδευτικό Σεμινάριο για Μέλη του Σ.Ε.Γ.Ε, 04/12-05/12 στη Θεσσαλονίκη

370 Opened	8 Clicked	5 Bounced	1 Unsubscribed
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Successful deliveries	1,253	99.6%	Clicks per unique opens	2.2%
Total opens	599		Total clicks	
Last opened	9/12/22 14:33		Last clicked	29/11/22 10:
Forwarded	0		Abuse reports	



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An invitation was sent to all women farmers from the WIOO & women farmers from WEnCoop & SEGE

Measure aspirations

Upon selection of the small group the full programme was sent with a link to an on line Quest in order to collect perceptions on what they expect from their participation



ΑΡΙΣΤΟΤΕΛΕΙΟ ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗΣ

### Ερωτηματολόγιο Συνάντησης

Εξ ευχαριστίας που δηλώνετε συμμετοχή στο διάτριο σεμινάριο ενδυνάμυνσης που διοργανώνει το Αριστοτέλειο Πανεπιστήμιο Θεσσαλονίκης σε συνεργασία με την Κοινωνική και την ΨΥΧΕΣ Επικοινωνία Επαγγελματιών Γενικής Εκπαίδευσης, στο πλαίσιο του έργου FARMWELL «Βελτιστοποίηση των επιμέρειών των γονέων μέσω της Κοινωνικής Κοινωνικής J. Improving farmers' wellbeing through social innovation» (<https://farmwell-h2020.eu/>) Horizon 2020, με συγχρηματοδότηση της Ένωσης.


την Αναστασία Καλλιγένη Μαρία Παπαδόπουλου [maria.papadopoulos@uni.gr](mailto:maria.papadopoulos@uni.gr)

Θα χαίρεμαι να σας δω και να συζητήσουμε από κοντά θέματα που αφορούν στην επιμέρεια των γονέων της επιμέρειας και το ρόλο της δικτύωσης και των επικοινωνιών κοινωνικών στην εκπαίδευση εκτός και των συστημάτων που σας απασχολούν.

Παρακαλώ να συμπληρώσετε το παρακάτω ερωτηματολόγιο μέχρι την Παρασκευή 12.12.2022.

Το ερωτηματολόγιο είναι ανώνυμο και οι απαντήσεις θα αξιοποιηθούν αποκλειστικά και μόνο στα πλαίσια αξιολόγησης των θεσμών εκπαιδευτικής της συνάντησης στο τέλος του σεμιναρίου.

Εξ ευχαριστίας πάλι!



Γραφείο Επικοινωνίας (for communication)

Ενδειξη λογότυπου

\* Αναστέλλει

Τι παίρνει από τη συνάντηση.

12) Η ζωή μου είναι:

1 2 3 4 5

Δεν είναι καλή 1 2 3 4 5 Δεν είναι καλή 1 2 3 4 5

13) Η ζωή μου δεν είναι καλύτερη λόγω του COVID-19:

1 2 3 4 5

Δεν είναι καλή 1 2 3 4 5 Δεν είναι καλή 1 2 3 4 5

14) Η ζωή μου είναι καλύτερη λόγω του COVID-19:

1 2 3 4 5

Δεν είναι καλή 1 2 3 4 5 Δεν είναι καλή 1 2 3 4 5

15) Η ζωή μου είναι καλύτερη λόγω του COVID-19:

1 2 3 4 5

Δεν είναι καλή 1 2 3 4 5 Δεν είναι καλή 1 2 3 4 5

16) Η ζωή μου είναι καλύτερη λόγω του COVID-19:

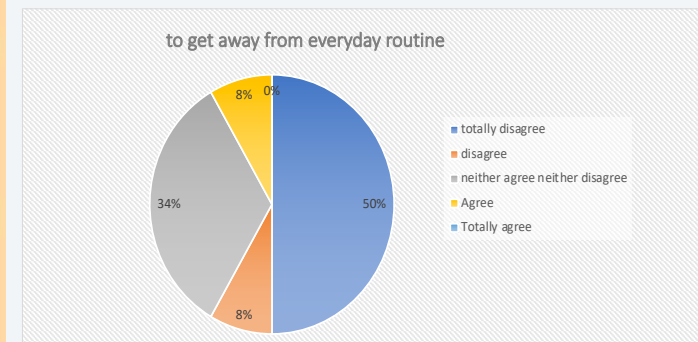
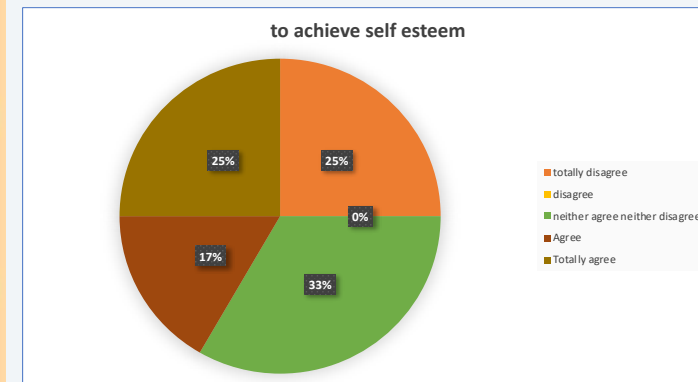
1 2 3 4 5

Δεν είναι καλή 1 2 3 4 5 Δεν είναι καλή 1 2 3 4 5

**Τέλος**

Εξ ευχαριστίας που δηλώνετε συμμετοχή στο διάτριο σεμινάριο ενδυνάμυνσης που διοργανώνει το Αριστοτέλειο Πανεπιστήμιο Θεσσαλονίκης σε συνεργασία με την Κοινωνική και την ΨΥΧΕΣ Επικοινωνία Επαγγελματιών Γενικής Εκπαίδευσης, στο πλαίσιο του έργου FARMWELL «Βελτιστοποίηση των επιμέρειών των γονέων μέσω της Κοινωνικής Κοινωνικής J. Improving farmers' wellbeing through social innovation» (<https://farmwell-h2020.eu/>) Horizon 2020, με συγχρηματοδότηση της Ένωσης.

Τι παίρνει από τη συνάντηση.



\* Full rerport from the responds attached, used for the EvalSROI

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# Methodology



## Day 1 - On tour training

**Study Visit:** Institute of Genetic Improvement & Plant Genetic Resources - IPGRB ELGO Dimitra in Thessaloniki to learn more about ICAS – Intelligent Control of Aquaponic System, especially the development and support of an aquaponic culture and the fish welfare. Presentation by experts for the innovation ICAS-Smart Aquaponics.



Visit on the **Agios Antonios Women's Agricultural Cooperation of Traditional Products (also included on our SI database)**. The aim of the Cooperative is to employ rural women, strengthen their family income, develop the village, preserve and spread the tradition through the production and distribution of a range of healthy, quality handmade products. Empowerment Speech by the President and women of the cooperative and discussions with the participants on networking and collaborations.



# Methodology

## Day 2 – Educational workshop

Training activity for energy communities and how can women farmers participate in an energy community to improve the overall welfare of farmers. Promoting learning networks, discussion and remarks of how can the welfare of the farmers improved by participating in energy communities. Presentations took place regarding the energy communities and how -within an energy community- can the overall welfare of women farmers be improved:

- presentations of Maria Partalidou, Associate Professor at Aristotle University (AUTH) and Scientific Coordinator of the project FARMWELL, analyzed the logic of the choice of the EnrgCom as a pilot case in the framework of FARMWELL project,
- presentations about Energy Communities by Mrs. Nasia Ioannidou, Member of Energy Cooperative WEnCoop and what can they do.
- Mr. Ioannis Kyanidis, President of Energy Community of PV Producers Prefecture of Thessaloniki, Halkidiki, Kilis showed information about RES & Energy Communities
- Mrs. Katerina Gani, Member of WEnCoop presented the history of the Energy Cooperative WEnCoop and how can someone participate in.

A discussion took place about the possibilities of implementation of Energy Communities by rural women and what are the difficulties and the advantages to improve the welfare of farmers.

The agenda also included a round table where participants responded to the Forecasting SROI questionnaire and provided also one poster Journey of Change. Follow up on whether their aspirations were achieved / measure the impact of the pilot.



## Ενεργειακές Κοινότητες

Νάσια Ιωαννίδου, Διευθύντρια Σ.Ε.Γ.Ε., Μέλος WEnCoop



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## ΕΝΕΡΓΕΙΑΚΗ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΑ WEnCoop



## ΑΠΕ ΚΑΙ ΕΝΕΡΓΕΙΑΚΕΣ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΕΣ

Καλές Πρακτικές, Προβλήματα και Προτάσεις Πολιτικής

06/12/2022

ΓΙΑΝΝΗΣ ΚΥΑΝΙΔΗΣ (MBA, Ph.D.Cand.)  
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## Σωματική, Ψυχική & Κοινωνική Ευημερία των γεωργών: Προκλήσεις και Κοινωνικές καινοτομίες



<https://farmwell-h2020.eu>

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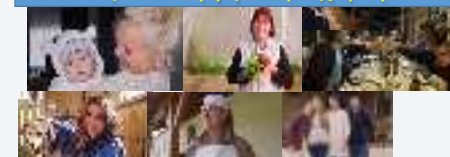
This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101000797.



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Ας καλλιεργήσουμε συμπεριφορές!  
Δίκτυα! υγιείς σχέσεις!  
Ας καλλιεργήσουμε χαμόγελα!



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Power point presentation  
(also distributed to the  
women) + the leaflet of the  
project in Greek



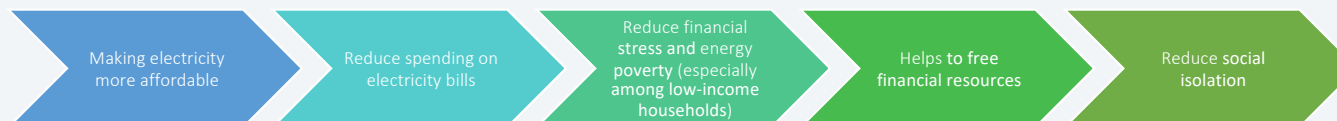


# Impact

Expected impact in terms of improved physical, mental and social wellbeing of farmers.

Engaging women through collective energy activities can promote the energy transition and reinforce good social norms. Community energy can encourage community engagement and control over renewable energy decision-making. Additionally, it has the potential to be socially innovative because it can include women regardless of their financial situation or capital access, making sure that everyone benefits from decentralization.

By participating in an energy community, our participants will be able to produce their own energy and increase their income locally and within their community. Improving the energy efficiency of their homes and businesses has been shown to be able to lead to improvements in health. Energy efficiency interventions can produce improvements in general health, respiratory health, and mental health. Below you can find an example:



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# Impact

Expected impact on farmers' wellbeing: improved skills, educational presentations, knowledge and discuss problems.

Through their participation in the pilot, women farmers were able to:

- Understand the main features of the renewable energy source;
- Determine the impact energy communities have in community;
- Understand the opportunities and barriers of energy sector, especially for women in rural areas.
- Also see the challenges of cooperation

The knowledge they acquired will help them deal with renewable energy sources in their farms and local communities and be able to solve barriers related to the energy efficiency of their homes and businesses.



Gaining more expertise and becoming more well-rounded on renewable energy sources and energy communities will increase women's understanding on climate and energy issues, improve their energy literacy and appropriate skills and create mutual respect towards the environment. Hence strengthen their professional identity and improve their social wellbeing in rural areas.



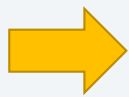
# Impact

**Direct (farmers who participated) and indirect (e.g. through the activities of other participants/support organisations) impact.**

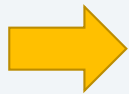
We all depend on energy in our everyday lives, as we need to have sufficient levels of heating, cooling and lighting in our homes and businesses to have a decent standard of living and help guarantee our health. Energy poverty occurs when energy bills represent a high percentage of consumers' income, or when they must reduce their household's and businesses energy consumption to a degree that negatively impacts their health and well-being.

In order to have a fair and inclusive energy transition, it is crucial to address energy poverty. Over the past few years, there has been a dramatic increase in energy poverty throughout the EU. Rapidly growing energy costs and inflation have recently made the problem worse by driving more people into energy poverty and lowering their quality of living.

Energy communities can serve as an innovative solution to tackle energy poverty, since they have the potential to provide direct benefits to citizens by increasing energy efficiency, lowering their electricity bills and creating local job opportunities.



The direct impact of the pilot relates to the improved skills of the participants, since they had the opportunity to learn about energy communities and discuss about their problems and how they can achieve a better living.



The indirect impact of the Greek pilot relates to the overall wellbeing of the farmers and especially women farmers. Through their participation in energy communities, they can protect the environment, increase their income and even generate some or all of their own electricity, and use that electricity anytime.



# Impact

‘Institutional’ impacts (i.e. expected change in the practices of support organisations/ networks etc. that is likely to positively impact on farmers’ wellbeing in the longer term).

Despite the fact that energy communities are indeed more women-friendly than the rest of the energy sector, yet we are still far from parity.

Energy communities struggle to entice female members, particularly vulnerably positioned women, even while they seem to employ enough of them. In spite of the fact that they are the most likely to be aware of and to define their demands and concerns, women are still often excluded from energy cooperatives. Implicitly, women are excluded from empowerment and training due to time constraints and a lack of technical expertise.

BSOs, CSOs, farmers cooperatives and other relevant actors following the example of WEnCoop and the Greek pilot will take into consideration the participation of women and be able to understand the need and include gender issues more in their strategies and in their employment and training policies.



# Impact

Possibilities to scale up the social innovation.

We need everyone's help to tackle energy poverty and improve the wellbeing, not only of farmers, but all population. Energy communities, where people organize themselves and implement energy projects, might be the best solution, since they can bring prosperity to the whole community, by improving the wellbeing of citizens and creating local employment opportunities.

The potential of energy communities is enormous. In the EU alone, it is predicted that by 2050, half of the renewable energy installations in the area would be owned by the people. Energy communities strive to form partnerships with local communities or with other actors that wish to help the clean energy transition in order to realize this potential to the fullest.

Women farmers have the chance to stand up and assist in removing the bias and the obstacles that still exist in the way of a bright future of distributed, safe, and clean energy.

WEnCoop, as the first women energy cooperative in Europe, can serve as a best practice example on how an Energy Community has positively impacted the local community.

The possibilities for scaling up are endless:

- More women can participate in the energy sector;
- More women energy cooperatives can be developed;
- Other energy forms can be introduced to women;



# Learnings & other remarkable findings

- **By the farmers**
  - How women can participate in the energy sector;
  - What energy communities are there;
  - What is energy democracy, energy poverty and energy efficiency;
  - How energy communities bring prosperity to women farmers;
  - How to participate in an energy community;
- **By other stakeholders**
  - What problems women farmers face;
  - How to empower women through local trainings;
  - How to engage more women farmers in energy sector;
  - How to replicate the best practice of WEnCoop;
- **By you! What did strike you most?**
  - Despite the difficulties women farmers face -with the right mentoring-they can thrive!



# Course of the pilot

## Timeline

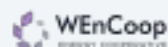
### Sunday 04.12.2022 – First Day of the 2-day event

- Study visit at ICAS – Intelligent Control of Aquaponic System with presentations by experts about the aquaponic culture and the fish welfare
- Study visit to the Agios Antonios Women's Agricultural Cooperation of Traditional Products where the President of the Cooperative and other women empowered the participants with their speeches

### Monday 05.12.2022 – Second Day of the 2-day event

- Presentation of Project FARMWELL - What is the logic of the choice of the EnrgCom as a pilot case in the framework of FARMWELL project (Mrs. Maria Partalidou, Associate Professor at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH) and Scientific Coordinator of the project FARMWELL)
- Presentation of Energy Communities: What is an Energy Community - Who can participate in an Energy Community? - What an Energy Community can do for the empowerment of women? (Mrs. Nasia Ioannidou, Member of Energy Cooperative WEnCoop)
- Presentation of WEnCoop: From idea to action and from action to implementation (Mrs. Katerina Gani, Member of WEnCoop)
- Presentation «RES & Energy Communities» (Mr Ioannis Kyanidis, President of Energy Community of PV Producers Prefecture of Thessaloniki, Halkidiki, Kilkis)
- World Café – Possibilities of implementation of Energy Communities by rural women and what is the impact of this pilot, what are the difficulties women farmers face





2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot Project- AGENDA  
4-5 December 2022 - Greece, Thessaloniki-Halkidiki

4 December 2022

Timing	Agenda item	Contents
<b>Welcome &amp; Field Trip</b>		
10.00 – 10.10	Meeting Point: Thessaloniki Royal Theater for Departure to the «HELLENIC AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATION – DIMITRA»	
10.30	Welcome & Icebreaker Aim – Goals of the pilot Pilot was organised with the intention to achieve impact on farmers' wellbeing in the longer term Introductory round – All participants	Coordinated by Mrs Lina Tsaltampasi, President of Energy Cooperative WEnCoop
11.00 – 12.00	On Tour Presentation to the Hellenic Agricultural Organization – DIMITRA Thessaloniki, P.C.: 570 01	
12.00	Departure to Agios Antonios Women's Agricultural Cooperation of Traditional Products, Agios Antonios P.C. 57006	
12.30 – 13.30	Visit and Empowerment Discussion with Founding member, Elder of the Agios Antonios Women's Agricultural Cooperation of Traditional Products, Mrs Despoina Ioannidou	
13.30 – 14.30	<b>Lunch break – Social Time</b>	
[15.00] Return to Thessaloniki		



## Variations from the original agenda

Unfortunately, due to some heavy downpours the days before the event, it was not feasible to visit the PV plant park of WEnCoop in Chalkidiki, which is in a remote, inaccessible area.

With the change in plans we had a very interesting visit in Thessaloniki, at ICAS-Smart Aquaponics and Agios Antonios Women's Agricultural Cooperation of Traditional Products where we learned and discussed two different ways of how women farmers and women in agricultural areas can improve their welfare and benefit through collaboration.



5 December 2022

Timing	Agenda item	Contents
<b>Welcome &amp; introduction</b>		
10.00 – 10.10	Welcome and take away messages from yesterday's visit	Coordinated by Mrs Lina Tsaltampasi, President of Energy Cooperative WEnCoop
10.10 – 10.30	Presentation of Project FARMWELL What is the logic of the choice of the EngCom as a pilot case in the framework of FARMWELL project	Mrs. Maria Partalidou, Associate Professor at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH) and Scientific Coordinator of the project FARMWELL
10.30 – 11.30	Energy Communities: <i>What is an Energy Community - Who can participate in an Energy Community? - What an Energy Community can do for the empowerment of women?</i>	Mrs. Nasia Ioannidou, Member of Energy Cooperative WEnCoop
11.30 – 12.00	Discussion with women attendees	
12.00 – 12.30	<b>Coffee break</b>	
12.30 – 13.00	Presentation of WEnCoop <i>From idea to action and from action to implementation</i>	Coordinated by Mrs. Katerina Gani, Member of WEnCoop
13.00 – 13.30	Presentation «RES & Energy Communities»	Coordinated by Mr Ioannis Kyanidis, President of Energy Community of PV Producers Prefecture of Thessaloniki, Halkidiki, Kiliki
13.30 – 14.00	World Café – <i>Possibilities of implementation of Energy Communities by rural women</i>	Coordinated by Mrs Lina Tsaltampasi, President of Energy Cooperative WEnCoop
14.00 – 15.00	<b>Lunch break</b>	
15.00 – 16.00	Questionnaire distribution and completion Journey of change & impact	Coordinated by AUTH Project Team
16.00	End of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Pilot Project – take away messages	
20.00	<b>Dinner</b>	





## Budget spend by AUTh for pilots [6,252.28euros]

- 500 euros [taxi services for 2 days for filming team during 1<sup>st</sup> piloting]
- 757.06 euros [AUTh team travel costs for participating at the 1<sup>st</sup> pilot]
- 4,960 euros [all costs for 2<sup>nd</sup> piloting: catering, travel costs of farmers, accommodation for all women, venue, equipment for presentations, bus for field trip etc]
- 35.22 euros [AUTh team travel costs for participating at the 2<sup>nd</sup> pilot]



# Communication material

- **Key message:**

Farmers can get projects off the ground and reap advantages that go far beyond the farm by including local communities in renewable energy initiatives.

- **Communication materials:**

Photos, short video, testimonials of the participants, press release, articles

- **Dissemination media:**

Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, project's website, websites of other organizations, online magazines and newspapers

- **Video New Heroes (February 2023): testimonials of people participating in the pilot**

During the two days of the 2-day event we uploaded stories on Instagram and Facebook, and by the time the event ended we sent a press release to media, and uploaded it as a post on Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn





<https://www.sege.gr/category/δελτία-τύπου/>



<https://www.thrakikiagora.gr/diimero-seminario-endynamosis-gynaikon-ypaithroy-melon-s-e-g-e-se-themata-energeiakon-koinotiton>







Communicating the  
pilots to social media &  
Conference of  
International  
Agricultural Students  
Association IAAS Greece  
at Thessaloniki (key  
note speech) 26-27  
November 2022



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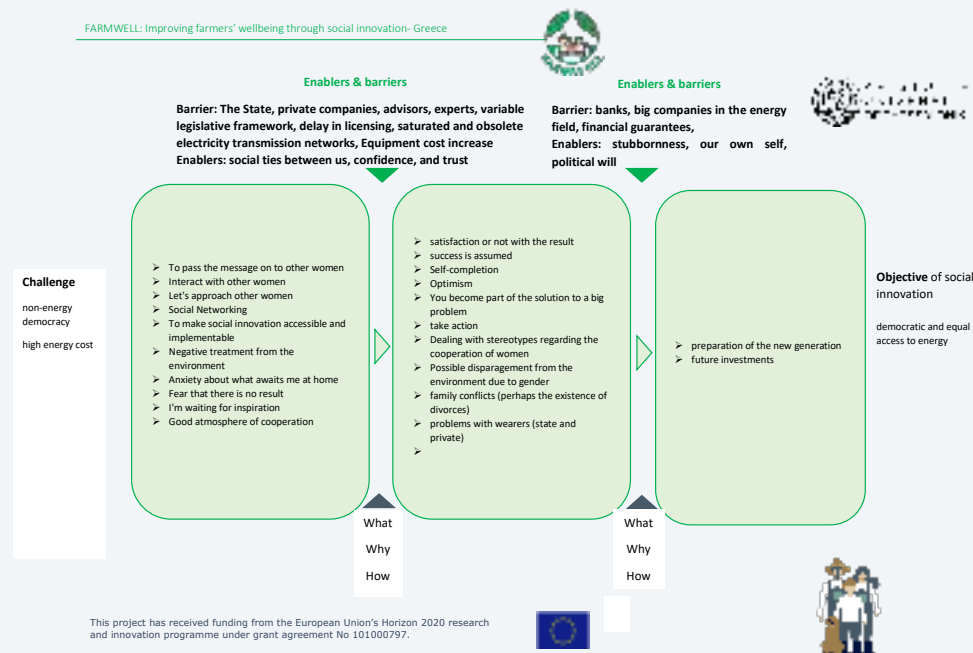


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# Forecasting & Evaluative surveys on SROI

- 1 survey before starting (forecasting)
- 2 surveys during pilots (forecasting) 3 interviews during the 1st piloting & 11 questionnaires during the 2nd
- Full survey to energy community members (evaluative)
- 1 Journey of change for women (Forecasting)
  - Measure changes



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# And now...

- Will the pilot continue somehow?

We have the intention to replicate the pilot with more women, targeting more regions in Greece. Furthermore, the participants will serve as antennas and will disseminate the knowledge to other women in their regions & networks.

- How the social innovation is expected to be implemented with farmers (exploitation) in the future? (By whom? When?)

Women farmers showed interest in participating in WEnCoop and/or structuring their own energy community. Since the social innovation is easily replicable, WEnCoop will support the participants in all phases of implementation.

- What institutional/ policy changes are expected that can help more effective exploitation of the social innovation?

A reformation of the law related to Energy Communities and a simplification of the procedures will inspire more groups of women to create their own energy community and engage actively in the energy sector.

- What will happen next?

We intend to invite a woman farmer that participated at the pilot to the next European Thematic meeting

