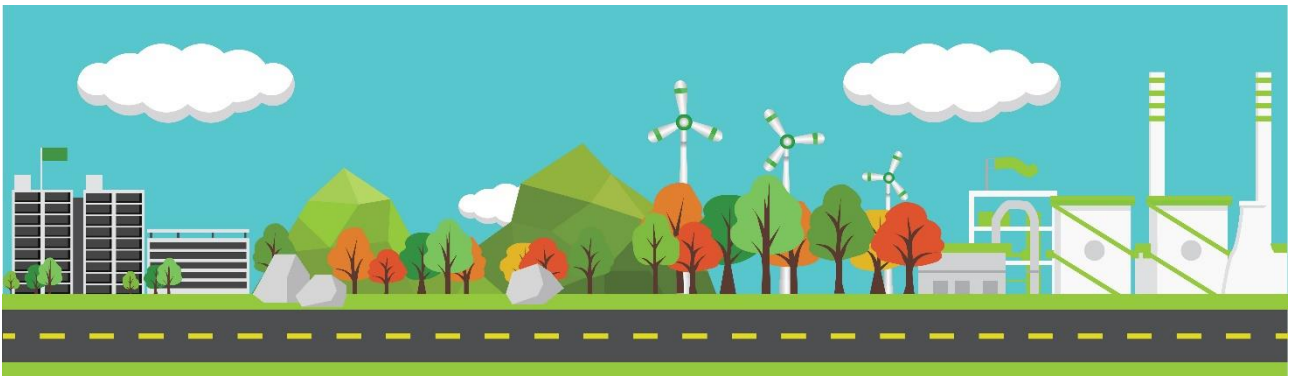


PRESS RELEASE

JULY 2023

ePLANET boosting the Clustering Governance

The EU-funded ePLANET project has developed a new strategy for an enhanced multi-level clustering governance of Energy Transition in the pilot regions. We highlight which are the principles of this approach and how it can enhance current governance practices.



The ePLANET project - funded under the Horizon 2020 programme of the European Commission - aims to develop and promote new tools and strategies to **enhance the governance of the energy transition in the public sector**.

Multi-level governance

Multi-level governance refers to the dispersion of governmental authority across multiple levels (e.g. EU, national, and regional levels) and across multiple actors. This is also known as vertical and horizontal governance, respectively. The concept as a whole reflects the growing interdependence of governmental and non-governmental actors.

Overall, EU institutions have stressed the need for establishing effective multi-level governance structures, emphasising the key role of such structures in the success of European integration. Put simply, there is a real need for a coordinated approach that involves the European Union, the Member States, and local and regional authorities. Without this multi-level cooperation, it is not feasible to plan and implement effective policies.

However, multi-level governance needs to be enhanced to efficiently foster the shift towards a more sustainable and low-carbon energy system. The energy transition requires collaborating and



coordinating various stakeholders, including governments, businesses, academic institutions and civil society organisations.

Clustering governance approach

Current multi-level governance practices can be more effectively achieved by adding a clustering element in it. Multi-level clustering governance refers to managing and governing a cluster of entities or organisations from different structural levels, working together towards a common goal. Effective clustering governance involves designing and implementing policies and procedures that encourage collaboration and cooperation among cluster members. In addition, effective clustering governance involves creating a supportive environment that facilitates innovation and growth.

All in all, clustering governance allows public authorities to focus multi-level governance on the needs and barriers specific to the cluster element, for example by defining specific energy transition strategies for the deployment of PV energy communities in rural municipalities, or by finding solutions to finance deep renovation of public buildings based on the deployment of new energy services.

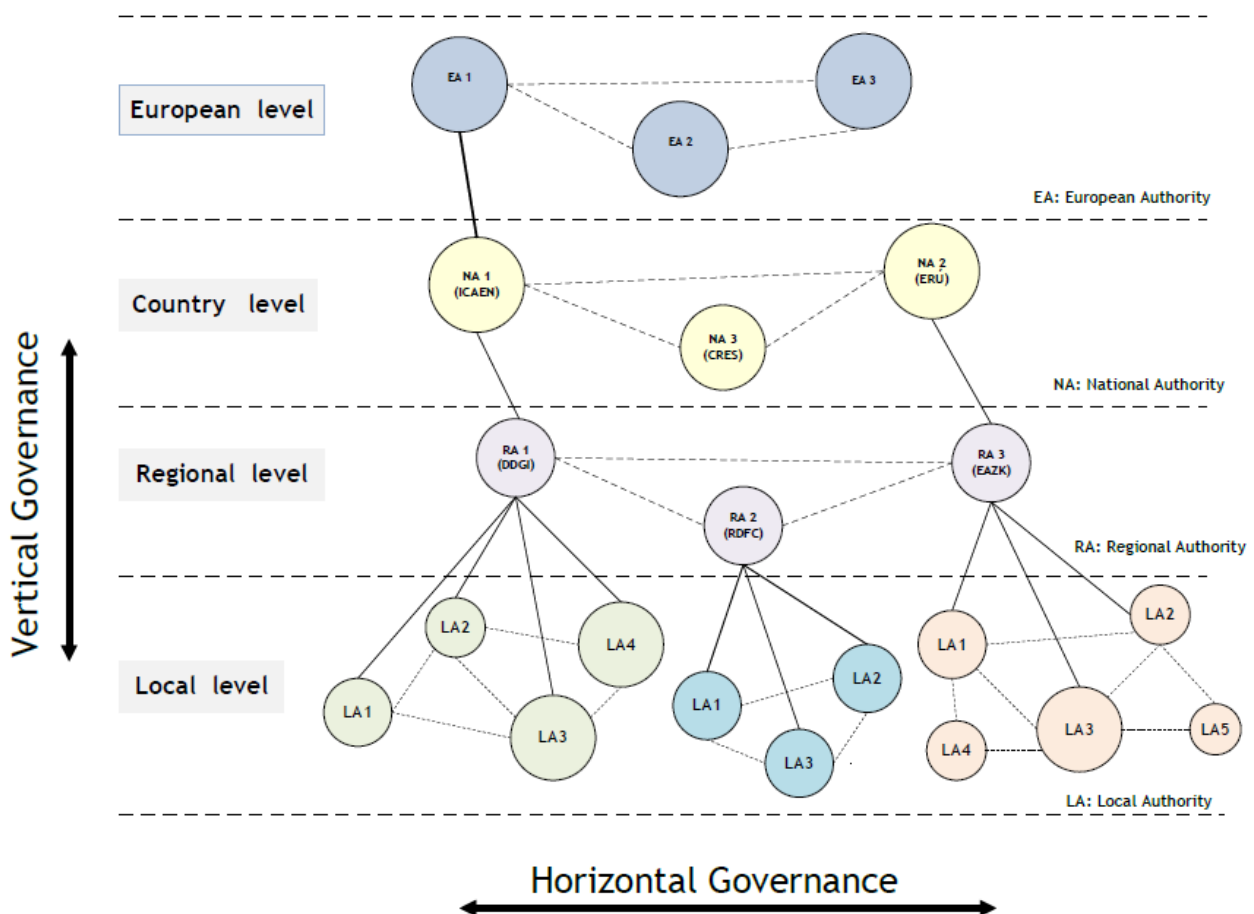


Figure 1: energy transition clustering governance approach

ePLANET Clustering governance principles

ePLANET has developed the strategy for multi-level clustering governance delivering the most efficient and smooth Energy Transition into the 3 pilot regions. The definition of the different structures and roles for an efficient clustering governance of energy transition has been a complex process needing the involvement of all ePLANET partners and most engaged stakeholders.

The project aimed to:

- Create an overview and stronger understanding of the current governance framework;
- Identify best practices, barriers, and lessons learned by different actors;
- Collaboratively develop improved clustering governance structures and tools, in order to further increase the efficiency of governance to speed up the energy transition.

To define the main principles of ePLANET Clustering Governance, the ePLANET team went initially through the identification and analysis of the user needs and requirements for Energy Transition at public level – including main barriers and obstacles faced by public authorities to establish effective vertical and horizontal coordination at local, regional and national levels.

In a second stage, the project team embarked on an in-deep analysis of the Energy Transition governance strategies – including best practices, governance structures behind existing EU networks and initiatives, and legal and policy frameworks – at EU level, including not only partners' territories but also EU-wide networks and initiatives.

Based on those analysis, the ePLANET team was able to further highlight different governance structures, methodologies, tools, and digital platforms that can be used to coordinate and monitor energy transition projects

Structures and roles for the Clustering Governance of energy transition

With those analysis in mind, ePLANET team has defined the main structures and roles that should be considered for an effective multi-level clustering governance that would facilitate smooth Energy Transition in pilot territories and across whole Europe, and the related flow diagram.

This innovative approach of clustering governance requires some new roles to be deployed within the governance structure (e.g. ePPA, PAET) together with the use of specific tools (e.g. ePLANET tool, or similar digital platforms) to facilitate data mining and information sharing, and fostering dialogues and common initiatives between the different cluster members.



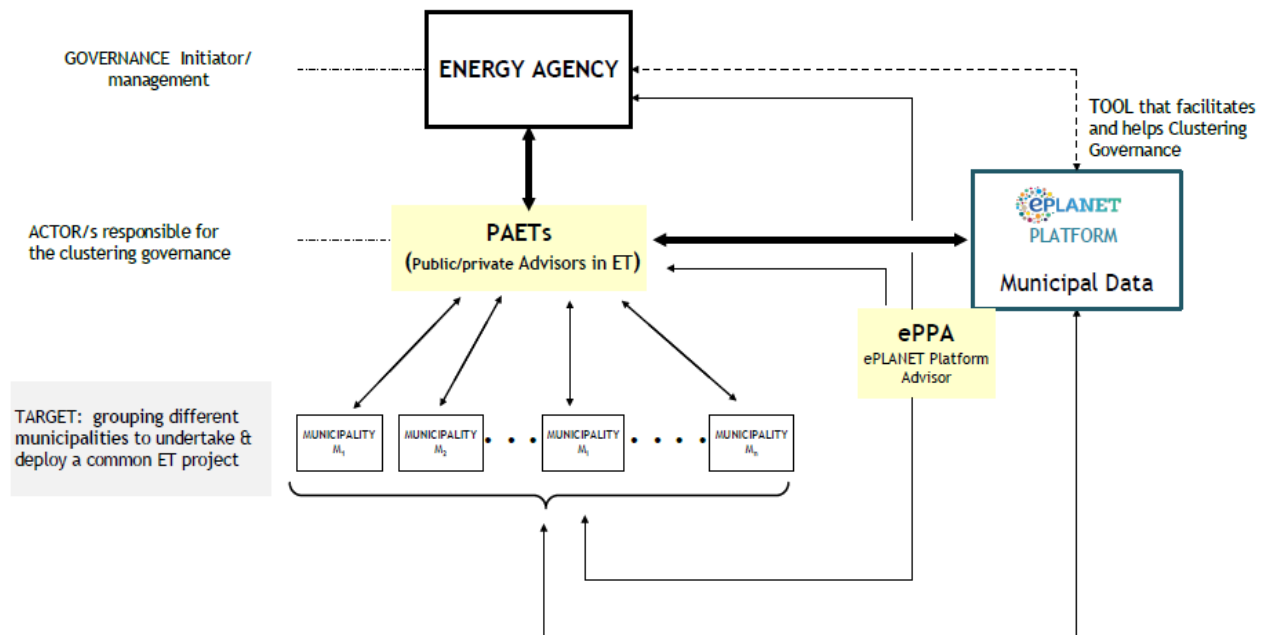


Figure: Principles of ePLANET clustering governance and roles

All the proposed developments on Clustering Governance have been presented to the most engaged ePLANET stakeholders within the 7th ePLANET Stakeholders Forum, on “Multi-Level Governance from a Regional Perspective” (held last 31st May 2023).

Within this Stakeholder Forum project partners presented the ePLANET clustering governance strategy, with specific emphasis on the actions to optimise decision-making processes and benefits of the clustering governance in the project pilot regions. Feedback from pilot regions and follower regions stakeholders on how to improve the proposed governance processes were collected and have been included in the final definition of the ePLANET multi-level clustering governance.

What's next? ePLANET activities in 2023

ePLANET partners will finalise some of the key outputs like the multi-level cluster governance strategy. The project will continue the deployment of the different developed solutions within pilot regions, as well as the scaling up at national level and the replication at EU-wide level.

ePLANET project

The project started in September 2021 and will last for 3 years. The consortium is composed of 10 partners from 6 countries (Catalonia, Czech Republic, Greece, Germany, Belgium and France).



More information

www.eplaneth2020.eu

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/eplaneth2020>

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You can also subscribe to our [newsletter](#) to be the first to receive the project updates.

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