

PROSUMER HIGHLIGHTS FROM BELGIUM

Short facts as of 2019

- 4.8 GW of total PV installed (i.e. 422 W per capita)
- 87 TWh of electricity production (gross), 9.4% from renewables (incl. 2.2% from PV)
- 25 to 30 Eurocents per kWh of total electricity price for a typical household
- Two energy community models in testing (cooperatives excluded)

Best practices which have been identified

- At national level, the latest and most important change is the update of the technical requirements relating to the connection of PV systems that will ease installations up to 30 kVA. This change will boost the segment from 10 to 30 kVA that until now had some difficulties.
- Despite the lack of legal framework, there are already some citizen cooperatives that have all the characteristics to be defined as energy communities according to the European directives.

Important barriers which need to be addressed

- For individual prosumers, Belgium is in a transition period with a lack of long-term vision. This causes potential investors to hesitate in the three regions.
- Renewable Energy Communities (RECs) still need a complete legal framework in Belgium including support schemes that could allow the development of new business cases.

Foreseeable path for overcoming barriers and developing the framework for prosuming

- For individual prosumers, the phasing out of annual net-metering needs to go faster in parallel with the rollout of smart metering. Extending net-metering in parallel of a prosumer tariff is not a long-term solution and should be avoided.
- Depending on the kind of support chosen, REC projects should at least be reasonably more profitable than individual projects.

Author and contact information: Gregory Neubourg, Becquerel Institute
(g.neubourg@becquerelinstitute.org)

May 2020

