

PROSUMER HIGHLIGHTS FROM FRANCE

Short facts as of 2019

- 10 GW of total PV installed (i.e. 149 W per capita)
- 133 TWh of electricity production (gross), 9.4% from renewables (incl. 2.1% from PV)
- Around 13 Eurocents per kWh of total electricity price for a typical household
- 20 energy communities active, more than 100 in development

Best practices which have been identified

- For individual self-consumption, the threshold for tenders has been changed from 100 kWp to 300 kWp. This will deblock a large potential of roofs.
- France has been a pioneer in terms of legislation for collective self-consumption. The latest positive change is the extension of the perimeter to 2 km without limitation in time. Time restrictions in support schemes or legislations can bring new business models into difficulties or even make them not feasible.

Important barriers which need to be addressed

- Until now, Renewable Energy Communities (REC) are not attractive enough mainly because of grid tariffs which make no business case positive. Electricity exchanged between participants of a REC sees the same grid tariff as the electricity purchased from outside the REC. Additionally, surplus electricity cannot apply for a feed-in tariff like other prosumers.
- Support is the same in the north of the country or in the south where PV production is 50% higher.
- The administrative complexity to create a REC is very high.

Foreseeable path for overcoming barriers and developing the framework for prosuming

- The REC should be seen as a unique prosumer and self-consumed electricity shouldn't have the same grid tariff.
- Surplus electricity from a REC should receive a feed-in tariff like any other prosumer's surplus.
- Support should be regionalized and adapted to the PV productivity.
- Simplification of the steps to create a REC.

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

May 2020



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 764786.