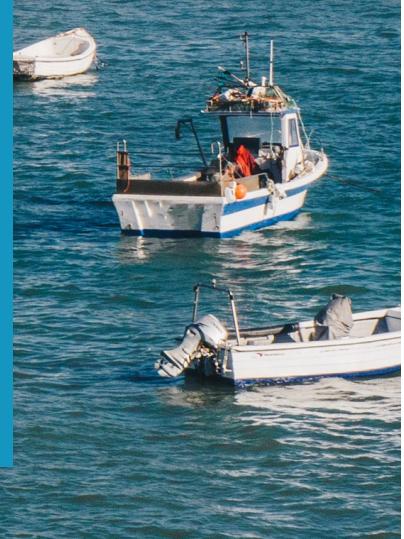




**To support its carbon neutrality efforts, Cascais intends to develop a renewable energy community by installing 184 MW of solar energy.**



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 864212. The sole responsibility of this publication lies with the author. The European Union or EASME are not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.



# "Pioneering Local Energy Communities in Cascais, Portugal"

Beneficiaries success story

## BACKGROUND

Cascais was the first Portuguese municipality to adopt a roadmap for carbon neutrality (with a 2050 timeline). A national legal framework has been recently introduced to promote and facilitate the creation of *Local Energy Communities*, which are key to uphold a swift energy transition towards renewable sources. Considering that the urban municipal area has a high ratio of rooftop square meters per inhabitant, this community-based project seeks to install 184 MW of photo-voltaic solar energy. An ambitious figure, representing a total generation of 213 GWh per year or 24% of the total electricity consumption within the municipality.

## THE PROJECT

To support its carbon neutrality efforts, Cascais intends to develop community-based renewable production by installing 184 MW of solar energy. Their application to the EUCF and the investment concept they aim to develop will strengthen the implementation of *Local Energy Communities*. This will be achieved through market analysis, creation of a *One-Stop-Shop* and an economic analysis of the investment required, amongst other key aspects.

### EXPECTED SIZE OF TOTAL INVESTMENT

250,424,308 (EUR)



### EXPECTED ENERGY SAVINGS GENERATED FROM THE INVESTMENT PROJECT

213 GWh/YEAR



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## TIPS FROM THE PROJECT LEADERS

JOAO DINIS,  
HEAD OFFICE OF  
“ACCELERATING URBAN  
TRANSITION” (CASCAIS  
AMBIENTE- DEPARTMENT  
OF CASCAIS, PORTUGAL)

"We recommend a very well assessed proposal, particularly with respect to energy savings and expected investments. So, you have to start with your existing Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP) or any other planning instrument. But once you have this, focus on replication and get your neighbouring municipalities on board!"

## APPLICATION SUCCESS FACTORS



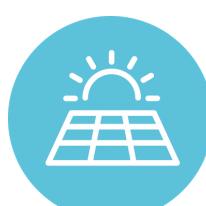
The **expected investment size and energy savings are very ambitious** in relation to other applications in the regional call and to the local context. The application is well aligned with EU CF objectives and gives an idea how the project could be potentially replicated and/or upscaled.



The application clearly **describes the governance structure**. The organisational structure is presented in a very comprehensive manner, with tasks and position of each person in charge of the development of the investment concept.



Of particular interest is the topic of **stakeholder engagement**. Thanks to the municipality's large outreach, the project merges different actors and fields of expertise. The Cascais Town Hall (through EMAC Municipal Company) can identify and mobilise both stakeholders and citizens. Both are eligible for energy community projects and can attain gains (e.g. self-sufficiency) while making an impact on climate action. Stakeholder engagement is achieved throughout the project with a set of workshops providing a knowledge base, feedback opportunities, dissemination of results and other useful exercises.



With a decentralized energy production and consumption based on self-sufficiency (when possible), the **development of innovative smart grids** is also considered in the project. As such, it is imperative to assess the conversion models for future energy distribution and power needs, including the foresight for electric mobility.