MATURITY SCALE

Compile

WHAT DO YOU NEED FOR THE SESSION?

- CLOCK
- MARKERS
- DASHBOARD
- CARDS
- PINS/STICKY NOTES
- FACILITATOR

AN INTERESTED GROUP OF PEOPLE

MATURITY SCALE WORKSHOP
STEPS: 1–3

1 START THE PROJECT AND DEVELOP THE IDEA

2 LOOK AT THE INDICATORS AND SORT THEM
For an easier distinction mark cards with a DOT, DASH and CROSS.

- ● THRESHOLD INDICATORS
- — CONTINUOUS INDICATORS
- ✕ IRRELEVANT

3 MAP OF THE INDICATOR ON THE DASHBOARD

CREATE & GROW THE COMMUNITY
STEPS: 4–6

4 USE THE INDICATORS TO CREATE A PLAN
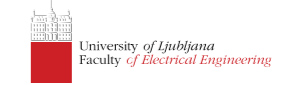
5 COLLECT RESOURCES AND CREATE EnC

6 GROW THE COMMUNITY
Track the plan and indicators.

Compile

Find out more / Follow us

www.compile-project.eu

@CompileH2020   Compile Project   @CompileH2020   @compile-project

The maturity scale is a tool built by the COMPILE project with the goal to support the community leaders developing energy communities.

WHAT IS THE MATURITY SCALE

The Maturity Scale is a **dashboard supporting energy community leaders and organizations** providing them with a more complete view of the development stage and resilience of their collective initiative. It is a **tool providing insights and deeper understanding** of the development level, the core strengths and key weaknesses of a community group dealing with energy related issues in order to guide them on the way to a mature, stable and democratic organization.

The maturity scale consists of **a set of stable key performance indicators (KPI)** that will provide insights in the level of readiness, the growth, and the environment of a community. **It focuses on local energy communities** – those embedded in an existing local network – although it can as well be applied to any other energy community.

The maturity scale is linked to a set of tools and techniques that can be tailored to the local needs and deployed by groups to move from one stage of development to the next.

WHAT THE MATURITY SCALE CAN AND CANNOT DO

Maturity scale:

Is a self assessment tool	**Is meant to improve resilience of communities at large**
Is not a tool to rank communities	**Is not a template to build an energy community**

DEFINITION OF MATURITY

Maturity in this tool, is understood as the **resilience and robustness of a community against unexpected changes in the energy system.** A mature community is capable of coping with external influences of the energy system "by responding or reorganizing in ways that maintain its essential function and structure while also maintaining the capacity for adaptation, learning and transformation". Thus, maturity encompasses a community's ability to respond to a favourable environment (by recognizing and leveraging its opportunities) as well as to respond to an unfavourable environment (by surviving crises, cushioning adverse impacts, and bouncing back to a stable state).

A community scoring high on the maturity indicators proposed here is **better prepared to withstand or even ride the ups and downs in the energy system.**

Maturity **may result in longevity of a community** and in the community maintaining a stable position in the energy system over a long period of time.

HOW WAS THIS TOOL TESTED

The COMPILE team ran two process of validation for the maturity scale. The first one in relationship with other research projects, such as INTERREG ECCO and H2020 SCCALE 20-30-50. This process had the goal to confront our tool with other research approaches. The second is a series of validation workshops with community leaders from across Europe. Those **7 workshops** allowed us to test our dashboards and the stages of maturity.

BASIC ASSUMPTIONS OF THE MATURITY SCALE

The maturity scale is starting from **three basic assumptions** related to the development of energy communities. **Those assumptions are that energy communities are**:

1 **GUIDED BY A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE MODEL:** energy communities are directly linked to the concept or energy democracy. The Maturity scale is looking to qualify the level of democratic decision making implemented in energy communities.

2 **GROWING VERTICALLY RATHER THAN HORIZONTALLY:** energy communities are based on a decentralized approach to the energy transition. Therefore those organisations tend to integrate vertically rather than growing horizontally like most energy businesses.

3 **UNIVERSAL IN THEIR CONSTRUCTIONS BUT NOT THEIR ACTIVITIES:** despite the high variety of energy communities across Europe, the basic principles of governance and structure of the concept is unified around the principles of energy democracy. This allows us to assume that through qualifying governance, we can create relevant indicators for all energy communities across the continent.

THE STAGES OF MATURITY

The Maturity Scale is built around **4 maturity stages of energy communities:**

Stage 1 and stage 2 are developed with a help of a workshop.

1 **GATHER A GROUP OF PEOPLE INTERESTED IN THE ENERGY TRANSITION** – A phase defined by formating of the citizen collective. The group is forming and collectively agreeing on a common vision. The start of the energy community is often described as the "kitchen table stage".

2 **DEVELOP A PROJECT & CREATE A PLAN** A developing phase for the energy community' activity. The community gets structured and starts planning ahead for the local needs. The phase culminates in the moment of the first round of fundraising to kickstart the activity. In this point the community becomes visible to the wider public.

3 **COLLECT RESOURCES & CREATE AN ORGANIZATION** A phase of community structuring as an organization. Activity gets launched while the governance is put in practice. The community becomes visible as a market player. The phase culminates when reaching the breakeven point or its operational stability.

4 **MAINTAIN & GROW THE COMMUNITY** A growth phase for the energy community. The first activity is stable and the governance system is functioning. It is often the time for the collective to decide on the growth path of the community and to start expanding vertically the activities of the energy community.

The stages of maturity should be considered as a cycle rather than linearly. Indeed, more communities will get through the four stages every time they start the next activity or a new project.

For a **simple guide** how to use COMPILE maturity canvas and indicator cards to help you start and grow the community – **flip around!**

HOW TO USE THE MATURITY SCALE ?

The Maturity Scale is composed of a pool of indicators organized in dashboard:
THRESHOLD INDICATORS
Tipping points: when passing the threshold EC undergoes a profound change (e.g. defining rules for selecting leaders, business plan available, defining feedback mechanisms)
CONTINUOUS INDICATORS
Captures spectrum in design and outlook of a community (rated by scoring system).

The Maturity Scale is filled in two stages:
STEP 1: FILL IN THE THRESHOLD QUESTIONNAIRE
The questionnaire will allow you to know in which stage of maturity your community is so you can identify the most relevant dashboard for your initiative.
The Questionnaire is a list of questions referring to specific threshold indicators allowing to allocate the initiative at a stage of maturity.
STEP 2: FILL IN THE SELECTED DASHBOARD
The dashboard will support a collective discussion in the community to qualify the specific strengths and weaknesses of the initiative to create an action plan.
The maturity scale is made up of 4 dashboards, each specific to a stage of community maturity. The dashboards are made up of both threshold and continuous indicators. Each dashboard is allowing to progress inside a single stage of maturity.

Those indicators are organized in 5 categories:
Community factors: Criteria directly linked to community's capacity to collect social capital, aligning and communicating expectations and actions while also building trust.
Staff & Organization factors: Criteria based on know-how and support on which community can rely on.
Financial factors: Criteria based on typical market values and business indicators.
Political & network factors: Criteria on how community is embedded in external networks and amount of support community can expect.
Technical factors: Criteria related to knowledge and technical capability of community.

Each category is meant to represent an area of development of a community, and each should be balanced to allow for a resilient community. We invite community groups to reflect around the strong and weak areas of their particular inititative. The strengths should provide a path for growth while weaknesses should be reinforced.