

Annex I

Funded Research Projects Fact Sheets

StepWise – Research Project Fact Sheet

Title of Project	A tailored and dynamic capacity building programme to transform local and regional authorities into autonomous early adopters of digitised, integrated, and ambitious Clean Energy Transition plans	
Project Acronym	StepWise	
Funding Program	LIFE Clean Energy Transition (CET)	
Project Identifier	LIFE-2022-CET-LOCAL	
Total Budget/FredU Budget	€ 1 498 834 / €145 360	
Starting – Ending Date	09/2023-02/2026	
Consortium	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. IES RD (IR) 2. R2M Solutions Srl (IT) 3. Sinloc Sistema Iniziative Locali Spa (IT) 4. Energy Agency Plovdiv Association (BG) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Cyprus Energy Agency (CY) 6. Frederick University (CY) 7. CERES (ES)
Project Objectives	<p>Step-WISE acknowledges the pivotal role that Local and Regional Authorities(LRAs) play in reducing energy consumption and GHG emissions through the development of local Clean Energy Transition Plans(CETPs). Step-WISE recognizes that there is no single solution or easily transferrable practice that can be adopted universally to develop these plans. The multiplicity of local geographical, political and social contexts adds more variations at local governance level as stakeholders have roles, activities and skills that differ based on the characteristics of the area they administer. Step-WISE builds on a thorough understanding of this “local DNA” and embeds this into the decision-making process of LRAs as a first step towards a systemic, future-appropriate CETP development. Step-WISE provides LRAs with an inclusive, adaptive and effective support package leveraging i) Use Case(UC) based learning streams, which establish local partnerships to understand how to engage stakeholders and their contexts ii) a unique intuitive digital toolkit enabling LRAs to create their own, cross-sectoral digitized and dynamic model, with energy and socio-economic and regulatory aspects to make CETP development, implementation and monitoring easier, faster and more accurate. A 2-wave cascade Capacity Building Programme(CBP) will empower LRAs across 4 UCs(Bulgaria, Spain, Cyprus and Mediterranean Islands). This will target local governance and consider challenges of different areas, and stakeholder engagement. The 1st wave will "Train the Trainers" to co-create, implement and refine the Step-WISE toolkit, its operational guidelines and the capacity building programme. The 2nd wave will pass on the knowledge to local authorities, by guiding them step-by-step through the Step-WISE toolkit for their CETP.</p>	
Work Packages	<p>Work Package 1: Project management and coordination Work Package 2: Step-WISE framework: Skills Gap Analysis and Use Cases definition Work Package 3: Capacity building programme planning and preparation, including Step-WISE toolkit development Work Package 4: Stakeholders engagement and CBP first wave implementation Work Package 5: Second wave implementation for capacity building per each Use Case Work Package 6: Sustainability, replication, and exploitation of project results</p>	
External Reference		
Role in the Project	Principal Investigator	