

## ECHO gathers in Lisbon

Last week, amid Lisbon's historical texture and its unmistakable and architectural rhythm, we gathered for ECHO's second General Assembly. The meeting had a simple purpose, to understand what the next phase of work requires and agree on how each hub will move forward.



The discussions made the priorities clearer. Every partner brought their own context, and together those pieces showed where action is needed in the coming months.

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## Strategic importance of Portugal in ECHO

ECHO's purpose is to build the foundations for three national hubs that can guide the long-term development of energy communities. The project is designed to bring structure to a field that is still fragmented, by connecting technical work, regulatory understanding, business models, and citizen engagement under one coordinated framework.



Portugal portrays an important role in this process. Its regulatory environment is more settled than in the other partner countries, and its early experience with collective energy models offers concrete examples that help the consortium move from theory to workable practice. The Portuguese ecosystem is smaller but more coherent, which makes it a useful testing ground when the project needs clarity on what is feasible, what is scalable, and what needs adjustment before being transferred to Türkiye and Greece.





The agenda also gave space to the parts of the project that will carry most of the practical work in the next cycle. The joint session on training, co-creation, and local engagement showed how these activities will support the hubs once they begin operating. They are the channels through which partners will work with communities, test ideas, and share knowledge in a way that can be carried across countries. The discussions on dissemination and communication followed the same direction. Partners looked at how the project's work will reach people outside the consortium, how progress will be shared across the three hubs, and how the narrative of ECHO should develop as the activities expand. These conversations helped clarify the actions and responsibilities for the coming months.