

**We are looking for partners to work on a project proposal
for EU Horizon calls from the cluster “Civil Security for Society”**

e.g. EU Call HORIZON-CL3-2026-01-DRS-01

Designing new ways of risk awareness and enhanced disaster preparedness.

We would like to contribute to the project by researching how to adapt available decentralized energy sources to strengthen the resilience and the self-reliance of neighbourhoods in the event of disasters or crises involving power outages. We would like to investigate how to organize safe and solidary supply of electricity within neighbourhoods by using existing decentralised energy systems (e.g. photovoltaics, vehicle batteries, diesel emergency generators) in conjunction with the social ecosystem of all stakeholders.

The goal is to explore and promote existing opportunities for sharing electrical energy within neighbourhoods during emergencies. In selected neighbourhoods in Cologne area (and in other European places) existing balcony and rooftop solar systems, as well as bidirectionally chargeable electric vehicles, shall be prepared for ad hoc independent operation in the event of an outage. This will be achieved through the active involvement of the public and civil protection stakeholders in the spirit of a “whole-of-society” approach. Additionally, safe connection within microgrids and including other sources such as emergency power generators shall be explored.

We are looking for European partners like universities, NGOs to:

- complete their consortium for the above mentioned call or,
- complement, enrich or amplify the idea and
- continue to work on proposal preparation for 2027 calls together

We will contribute to the project by:

- improving preparedness of diverse citizens for off grid electricity usage
- developing self-preparedness trainings for citizens and preparedness trainings for professional helpers
- assisting partners in threat testing of the energy systems and discuss how to teach and train citizens to be prepared and act accordingly

We could bring the following competencies and assets to the project:

- energy simulation with open source tools
- energy system set up (electrical engineering)
- (micro)grid labs at Cologne Institute for Renewable Energy (CIRE)
- competencies of the interdisciplinary cluster Circular Transformation Lab (CTL)
- contacts to PV system SMEs and to bidirectional charging specialists as well as local fire department and aid organisations, reliability experts, repair cafés and non-commercial solar energy promoters

We are open to contribute to other EU Calls, in which our idea would fit.

If you are interested to work with us, please contact us!

Best Regards,

Prof. Johanna May

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