



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	€ 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) 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 the 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 the Mediterranean Islands). This will target local governance and consider the 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 program. 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>WP1: Project management and coordination WP2: Step-WISE framework: Skills Gap Analysis and Use Case Definition WP3: Capacity building program planning and preparation, including Step-WISE toolkit development WP4: Stakeholders engagement and CBP first-wave implementation WP5: Second wave implementation for capacity building per each Use Case WP6: Sustainability, replication, and exploitation of project results</p>