



LES GARRIGUES REGION, Spain



Located in Lleida Province (Catalonia), the Region Les Garrigues comprises 24 municipalities with a population of 19,000 inhabitants, unevenly distributed between rural areas and small municipalities of less than 1,000 inhabitants. Catalan households have a high Risk of Poverty or Social Exclusion rate (AROPE) (25.9% compared to the average 21.5 % of the EU), and a higher dependency ratio (61.5 %) than in Catalonia (51,5%), due to the seniority of the population (40,7%). The municipality is facing a high number of empty houses that coincides with energy-inefficient homes, resulting in a depopulation risk. They have limited resources to define and evaluate energy poverty, in order to strategically tackle it at a regional level.

The main objectives of the technical assistance are the **diagnosis of energy poverty** at the regional level and the promotion of **citizen energy communities** as a means to address it. Additionally, the region aims to define technical criteria regarding evaluation and improvement of the energy efficiency of buildings.

The Regional Council will collaborate with FITES Terres de l'Ebre and La Llena - Serveis ambientals for the implementation of the activities. They will work on the adaption of the methodology to establish relevant indicators and identify households with children and dependents to target . They aim to define a process for the assessment of energy demand of the homes, in order to implement a Geographic Information System, and overall, finalise a robust diagnosis.

