

REMOVING POLICY, COMMERCIAL AND REGULATORY BARRIERS CURRENTLY RESTRICTING THE USE OF DISTRIBUTED GENERATION IN EUROPE

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ELEP - EUROPEAN LOCAL ELECTRICITY PRODUCTION

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ABSTRACT

The uptake of distributed generation (DG) in Europe is currently being restricted by a number of “non-technical” barriers, including the lack of DG interconnection standards and standardised certification procedures, the existing commercial and market policy barriers, the lack of knowledge about the true value of DG and the lack of a DG specific policy at European Union level. The European Local Electricity Production (ELEP) project is providing key recommendations to help removing these barriers, including: i) the implementation of a novel, consistent and pan-European approach to DG interconnection and standardisation, ii) the enforcement of the introduction of fully transparent interconnection procedures, connection charging mechanisms and connection cost evaluation, iii) the incorporation of DG in grid planning practice as a standard option, iv) the exemption of stranded costs or fees for DG developers, and, iv) the development of EU energy policy considering DG in a more generic sense, taking into account both energy efficiency and demand side managing benefits that it can provide.