## Deliverable 4.2: UP-STAIRS Digital Platform Users Guide

#### **Training Guide**

Henrik Schapp, GCN V3.0 – August 2023





# D4.2 UP-STAIRS Digital Platform Users Guide



Project details				
Project acronym	UP-STAIRS	Start (Duration)	1 September 2020 (36)	
Topic	LC-SC3-EC-1-2018-2019-2020			
	The role of consumers in changing the market through informed decision and collective actions			
Call identifier	H2020-LC-SC3- EE- 2019	Project Number	892037	
Coordinator	University College Cork – National University of Ireland Cork (TYN)			
Contact person	Pádraig Lyons	Website	www.h2020- upstairs.eu	

Deliverable details				
Deliverable Number	4.2	Title	UP-STAIRS Digital Platform Users Guide	
Work Package	WP4: Creating UP- STAIRS digital tool to facilitate individual interactions and collective actions		Public	
Deliverable responsible	GCN	Contributing beneficiaries	All	
Due Date (M)	30.11.2022 (M27)	Submission date	24.08.2023 (M36)	

### **AGENDA Training Digital Platform**



- 1. Targets of the UP-STAIRS digital platform
- 2. Timeline for the development of the UP-STAIRS digital platform
- 3. Description of the different User Groups of the UP-STAIRS digital platform
- 4. The User-Journey for Citizens and Implementation Champions
- 5. Use Cases of the UP-STAIRS digital platform
- 6. Administration of the UP-STAIRS digital platform
- 7. How to use the UP-STAIRS digital platform to create awareness, continuous engagement and enable collective actions?

#### Names, roles, abbreviations



- Users general expression for people using the functionality of the UP-STAIRS digital platform (users can be citizens, SME's, OSS operator staff, Implementation Champions)
- Citizens one group of users
- SME's Small and midsized Enterprises
- IC Implementation Champion
- GCN UP-STAIRS partner and responsible for the digital platform (development, changes, new features, support)
- OSS One Stop Shop
- · CRM Customer relationship Management (system), for UPSTAIRS, the CRM system "Microsoft Dynamics" is used
- RE/EE Renewable Energy / Energy Efficiency
- Room/ project-room the word "room" is used for project-related areas in the post-registration area of the digital platform, where citizens/SME's are gathered to work together with an IC on collective RE-/EE-measures
- KPI Key Performance Indicator, an expression for key figures that relate to the success, performance or utilization of a RE-/EE-project on the OSS digital platform (e.g. saved kWh, renovated m², CO<sub>2</sub> saved,...)

#### How can the digital platform be reached?

All Pilot OSS's can be reached in 2 different ways

#### 1. General landing page for all OSSs

The general landing page for all OSSs can be reached at

#### http://www.upstairs-energy.com

There, a selector is available to forward users towards the Pilot website they want to visit.

This solutions should be recognized as the "fall-back" scenario for users who cannot remember the pilot special URL (2.). In online-marketing activities the pilot specific landing page should be used.

#### 2. Pilot specific landing pages

Each Pilot website can also be reached directly

#### AMB/Spain

http://www.upstairs-energy.com/ca-es/amb

#### CCC/Ireland

http://www.upstairs-energy.com/en-ie/ccic

#### ESV/Austria

http://www.upstairs-energy.com/de-at/esv

#### ASEN/Bulgaria

http://www.upstairs-energy.com/bg-bg/asen



nis project has received tunding from he European Union's Horizon 2020 research and nnovation programme under grant gareement No 891775



The digital platform off the UPSTAIRS project can be reached in different ways. There is one general URL, which is upstairs-energy.com and then there are pilot specific URLs which are directly linked to the content from the respective pilot OSS. The reason for having a general landing page is that in marketing materials and communication this shorter URL might be easier to use. Also in personal discussions with citizens, it is easier to remember a shorter URL then a very long complex one.

In some pilot OSS digital platforms, the platform is provided in different languages. The Spanish platform is for example provided in Spanish and in Catalan. The Austrian website is provided in German and in English and so on. Therefore, the URL' contains language locators, which you can see in the slide. For Spain, /ca-es/ means "Catalan/Spain", so language/Country.

#### Targets of the UP-STAIRS digital platform

The **UP-STAIRS digital platform** is **one channel** to deliver services and communication of the OSS towards citizens and other persons, companies or institutions involved.



**OSS** office

@ Municipality, Townhall or other locations of OSS Operator



Direct interaction between OSS/ Implementation Champions and citizens



Digital Platform

www.upstairs-energy.com





The original concept of the digital platform was that the services offered by a pilot OSS can be completely offered through the digital platform, also without having a physical office. In fact, in the end all pilots decided to also have a physical office for citizens to directly talk to staff of the OSS operator and/or the implementation champions. As a matter of that, there are different ways for target customers of the pilot OSS to get in contact with the OSS. These ways are in the first place the digital platform, the physical office or offices and the direct communication and the direct contact with implementation champions, either on site, via telephone or in person in the OSS offices.

#### Targets of the UP-STAIRS digital platform

The digital platform is structured in two parts: The Pre-registration and Post-registration part



Pre-Registration part

General information about OSS and services offered

Sign Up

Post-Registration part

Project based communication- & collaboration-tools and additional content & services



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 891775

One of the main targets of the digital platform, besides realizing energy efficiency and energy community projects, is to get citizens registered on the platform. Therefore, there are different parts on the platform. The first part, when citizens visit the platform is the so called pre-registration part. Here the citizen can collect information, read about the OSS services,, find email addresses and telephone numbers of the OSS and so on. This part can be visited without having a registration. Act of buttons and links are inserted on the platform to enter the registration process. If a citizen clicks on such a button or link h/she e is taken to the registration process. This needs to be done only once. The concrete registration process is described later. After a successful registration the citizen is taken to the so called post-registration part. Here the OSS can offer additional content, videos and so on. But the main functionality of the post-registration part is getting citizens on boarded into so called project rooms. In these project rooms citizens and implementation champions shall work together on energy efficiency end energy community projects. To support project management collaboration and communication tools are included in the rooms. On top, additional tools and services are included which are explained later on.

#### Targets of the UP-STAIRS digital platform

- The UP-STAIRS project aims to accelerate the creation of energy communities and energy efficiency measures of citizens.
- Therefore UP-STAIRS facilitates citizen participation in the energy transition and supports them in becoming prosumers or in upgrading the energy efficiency of their homes.
- The UP-STAIRS digital platform will help to facilitate the organization and coordination of collective action.
- It will help to bring citizens, municipalities, SMEs, ICs and local and regional authorities together by addressing energy needs at the local and regional level.
- The digital platform will foster interaction between the members of the collectives and provide peer-to-peer advice.





#### Timeline for the digital platform development -**Activities** Get access/ Can browse on web- and · Can use communication- and · Can use communication- and mobile app of OSS digital platform for collaboration tools of digital platform collaboration tools of digital platform the first time · Work together with IC's to bring RE-/EE-· Work together with IC's to bring RE-Can register on digital platform projects further /EE-projects further · Receive training (for digital platform · Ongoing testing of platform and feedback · Work with digital platform · Work with digital platform ongoing and OSS) · Give feedback on final · Start working on/with digital platform · Report/deliver RE/EE project best information & training platform · Test platform and report bugs practises Initial launch of the digital platform to Final scope of digital platform reached · Ongoing bug-fixes and the public · testing of platform ends addition/change of content · v1 of training guide delivered · training guide finalized for IC's · Final documentation of training · Continued development of the platform platform for IC's and staff

On this and the following slide the timelines for different activities concerning the platform and tools and content for the platform are described.

UP-STAIRS Upt

The digital platform will be available as a web version and a mobile version, but there won't be separate mobile apps available in app stores, instead the digital platform is programmed in responsive design, which means that it is displayed on all kinds of devices such as laptops, tablets and mobile phones in the best possible way.

To understand the scope of the platform and to operate and edit the platform, this training guide has been developed for the implementation champions and employees of the operator of the OSSs. It is updated, if additional functions are added. The final version of the training guide should be available in September 2022, when all tools and services are developed and live.

## Timeline for the digital platform development – Content & Tools

From April 2022 until the end of the UP-STAIRS project in autumn 2023 the OSSs digital platform will be in operation. At launch, mainly general content about the OSS and the services offered will be available. Later on, additional content and especially tools will be added successively, as shown below.



- General description of the OSS
- General information about the services offered
- Hints to processes and external information regarding services offered
- More detailed information on technical, legal and financial aspects of the OSS services offered
- Best practises documentation, as available
- · Initial set of training materials for IC's
- · Additional best practises
- Additional training materials, also for other areas of the OSS



- General landing-page with option to navigate to Pilots OSSs
- Registration process
- · Language selector

- Project-rooms, in which IC and Citizens gather to work on collective RE-/EE-actions
- · Communication-tool (chat)
- · Progress-meter & Project-steps
- Document library

(eventually earlier)

Additional Pilot-specific tools
 (e.g. retro-fit diagnostic tool, ...)



April 2022 – Sept./Oct. 2022

Sept./Oct. 2022 - 2023



project has received funding from European Union's Horizon 2020 research and



In April 2022, the initial version of the digital platform is launched. When that happens, the pre registration part with free content is available to all visitors of the platform. Also, the registration process is enabled. In the background, GreenCom Networks, the developing partner of the Upstairs consortium, continues to develop the post registration services and tools, which will be added as soon as they are programmed.

As mentioned above, the platform is continuously developed further. Currently, we estimate that all services are finalised and implemented on the platform until late summer. Most of the tools should be already available in spring 2022.

With this timeline it is possible for the pilots to operate the one stop shops for 18 months, even though the full functionality of the platform is not available at the very beginning.

#### User Groups of the digital platform



#### **CITIZENS**

Individuals or community groups are the core users of the digital platform. They who want to learn more about collective action in the energy field, existing RE / EE projects The specific end user profile depends on each pilot region.



#### **UP-STAIRS AUTHORITIES**

These can be Municipalities or public administration bodies or energy savings associations who act as the operator of an OSS.



#### **IMPLEMENTATION CHAMPIONS**

Implementation Champions are the counterparts of the citizens interested in RE/EE measures. They initiate projects, administer the digital platform and deliver technical, financial and / or legal advice. The specific profile of the IC's depends on each pilot region.



#### **SMALL/MEDIUM ENTERPRISES**

SMEs are not a core user group of the digital platform, but can be involved in RE/EE measures, depending on the OSS services delivered in each pilot region.



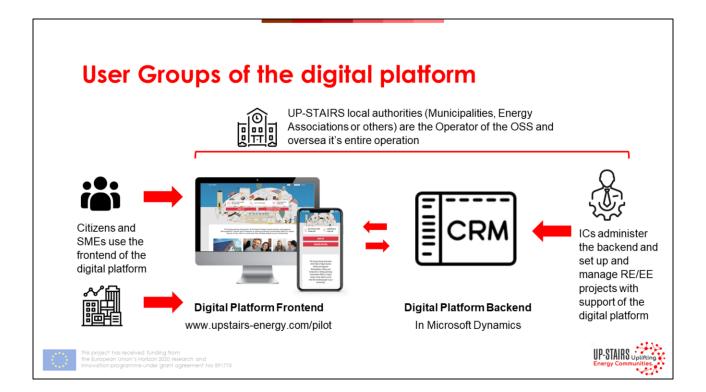


There are different user groups acting on, for and with the platform.

The upstairs authority is the operator of the OSS, the digital platform is mainly targeted towards the citizens of the region, in which the OSS is offered. These citizens are either interested in the same collective activity or want to establish a renewable energy community or to retrofit their house.

The Implementation Champions are providing their expertise in energy efficiency and energy community measurers and using the platform to actively working with citizens or groups of citizens in the so called project rooms of the digital platform.

Besides citizens, also Small and Medium Enterprises might be interested in the services offered by the OSS and join the platform as citizens do.



In this picture, the responsibilities and usage scenarios of the different user goups is shown.

The operator of the OSS has the overall responsibility for the platform and oversees all processes, changes and additions.

The Implementation Champions are administering the backend of the platform, which is done with the software tool "Microsoft Dynamics". They open and close project rooms as needed, communicate with groups of citizens or individually, enter process steps for the projects they are working on, so that the citizens can understand which steps n<eed to be taken in order to realize a project.

The citizens and SME's are using the frontend of the OSS digital platform. They are the "visitors" and are seeking for advise and help, which is offered by the IC's.

#### The costumer journey for citizens and IC's

- The customer journey map is a visual representation of the customer journey (for citizens and for IC's)
- It helps to understand which steps future users (citizens and IC's) need to take in order to get to the digital platform, register and use the communication-, collaboration and project-management tools available on the platform
- Mapping the customer journey out visually helps ensure that all partners and IC's of the UP-STAIRS
  project have a common view on the digital platform. It can also help to better optimise and
  personalise the 'customer experience' in the future, by adding steps to the journey or leaving steps
  out.
- If the customer journey starts by the citizen having a direct, personal contact with an OSS representative (OSS staff, IC), this is an ideal moment to explain the advantages of the digital platform (collaboration, communication, project-management etc.) towards the interested citizen and helps increasing the sign up rate on the platform





#### Costumer journey citizens/IC's: Pre-registration

- The "journey" citizens take on the platform until they are registered can vary largely from each other.
- Depending on the depth of information they already received prior to coming to the platform (through personal interaction, marketing materials etc.), their journey might be longer or shorter
- Citizen

  Marketing,
  Word of mouth

  Interest In participating in collective action

  Lands on OSS plasform website

  Supported
  Collective Actions
  Information on Collective Actions
- Instrumentation
  Champion
  (The properties of the properties of the
- If IC's need to take a
   "journey" on the platform
   in order to be registered,
   depends on their
   deployment relationship
   with the OSS operator and
   if the operator strives to
   "acquire" IC's through the
   platform or not.
- Most ICs are probably already present at the launch of the platform.
- If new ICs shall be found through the platform, relevant content needs to be provided onto the platform

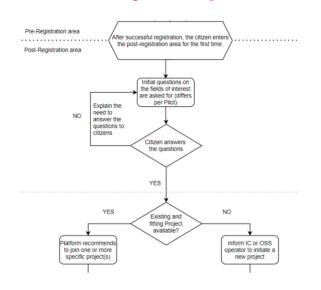


The customer journey shown here is of course the ideal-typical journey a citizen or IC could take. In real life, these journeys look different, of course. But User journeys help to understand, which steps a visitor of the platform needs to take to fulfill certains tasks, here especially the registration.

For the IC's who are already "employed" by or engaged with the OSS or work for the operator of the OSS, the journey looks different, as they are most probably registered on the platform before the operation of the OSS starts.

If an OSS would like to "win" additional IC's through the platform, the process shown above comes into action. In that case, content describing the work an IC's is doing needs to be added in the pre-registration area to inform potential new IC's.

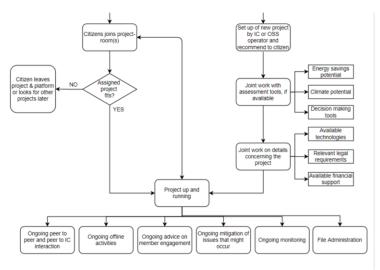
### Costumer journey citizens/IC's: Post-registration



- After the initial registration the citizen enters the post registration part of the platform for the first time.
- Now, the platform asks for additional information to evaluate, what the citizen would like to achieve on the platform or what the fields of interest are.
- Based on the information provided by the citizen, projects and project-rooms are recommended to the citizen.
- Either there is a fitting project available the citizen can join or the OSS operator and/or an IC is informed that no corresponding project exists.

UP-STAIRS Uplifting

### Costumer journey citizens/IC's: Post-registration



- The operator / IC can then decide to launch a new project room and inform the citizens about it's existence.
- If the project proposal or desire of a citizen does not match the kind of service offered by the OSS, the citizen cannot be part of an active project on the digital platform (=mismatch)
- The breadth and depth of interaction within the digital project rooms between citizens and IC's largely depend on how the IC's organize the project work with the citizens (online vs. offline/in person)



### Use Cases of the UP-STAIRS digital platform

- A use case is a description of how a person who actually uses a process or system will accomplish a goal.
- The use cases we will introduce in this training manual for the UPSTAIRS digital platform will describe how users perform core tasks.
- We will describe the core use cases, available with the launch of the digital platform, and add more use cases once they are set live on the digital platform in the coming months.
- The main purpose of the digital platform is to provide citizens and IC's a place to collaborate, communicate and to inform each other within collective RE / EE measures.





### Pre-registration use cases: Get OSS contact

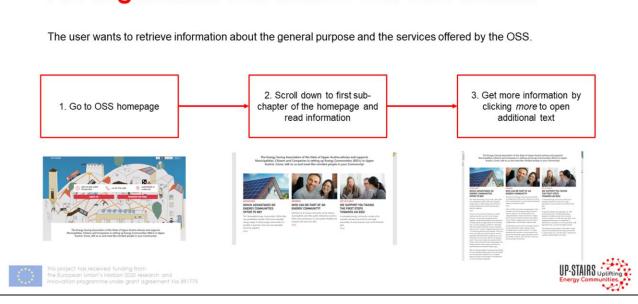
The user wants to retrieve the OSS contact details (opening hours, contact by phone, email, address).



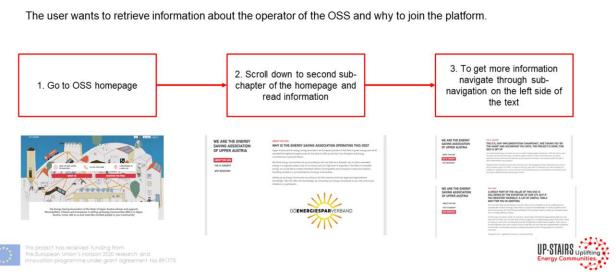




## Pre-registration use cases: Get OSS details



## Pre-registration use cases: About us (=OSS)





The user wants to retrieve information about the EU-funded project UP-STAIRS.



 Scroll down to the last chapter of the homepage and read information. For more information, click on external link to UPSTAIRS website

Reach UPSTAIRS website
 and find additional information
 about the project, partners,
 pilots, news and more



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## Pre-registration use cases: Legal & Social Media

The user wants to retrieve information about the Terms of Use, Privacy, GDPR and Social Media.

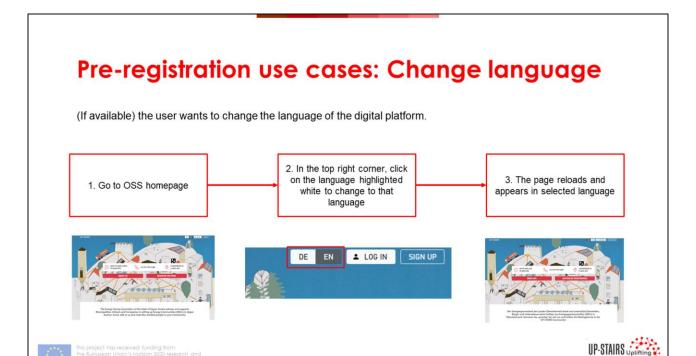


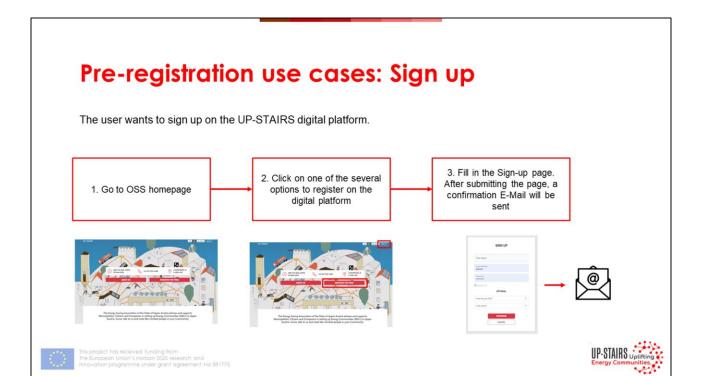














The user wants to sign up on the UP-STAIRS digital platform.







## Post-registration use cases of the platform

- The UP-STAIRS digital platform will be the operational and technical information source for the UP-STAIRS Energy Service model framework.
- Therefore, the value of the UP-STAIRS digital platform lies in the communication-, collaboration- and project management tools, that are available after citizens have registered themselves.
- Through the UP-STAIRS digital platform, the Implementation Champions will be able to facilitate the organization and coordination of collective RE-/EE-action.

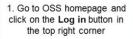






### Post-registration use cases: Join a project-room

Based on available service(s) offered by the OSS and the users intention/interest, the user is taken to a room (=project) or can actively choose to join a room.



 Enter the E-Mail address and the Password and click submit to access the digital platform The user is taken to the project-room, based on available services offered and the intention/interest the user expressed







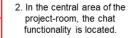




## Post-registration use cases: Communicate w/ IC

Once a user joined a room, he/she wants to directly communicate with an IC.





3. The right tab of the communication tool is the Private chat. Here, the user can communicate directly with the Implementation Champion









nis project has received funding from ne European Union's Horizon 2020 research and If a new message is entered (by a User and/or by an IC), an E-mail notification is sent to the User and or IC to inform about the new message



## Post-registration use cases: Communicate w/ other citizens or the entire group (in the room)

Once a user joined a room, he/she wants to directly communicate with other users or with the entire project-group.

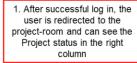
notification is sent to the User and or IC to inform about the new message





## Post-registration use cases: Get information on project steps & status of these steps/the project

The user wants to know the necessary steps that must be taken to successfully complete the project.





The Project contains the different steps until completion of a project and can be edited by IC's



#### Only fir IC's

3. To edit Project steps, click on a step, enter/edit stepname and status of step (not started, started, finished)



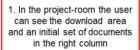


## Post-registration use cases: Download document(s)

The user wants to access the project related document library and download (a) document(s).

**DOWNLOADS** 

dest file 2.txt





 By clicking on one of the documents, a new browser window opens and the document library can be accessed (OneDrive)

 Here, the document can be downloaded by the user by clicking on "Download" and saved



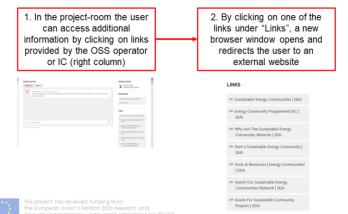


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# Post-registration use cases: Get additional information through external link(s)

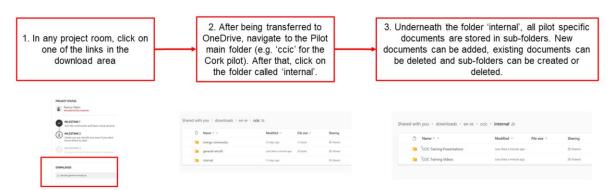
The OSS operator/IC wants to provide additional 8external) information to the user.





## Post-registration use cases <u>for IC's</u>: Access and download/upload IC-training materials

An Implementation Champion wants to access the training materials for her/his OSS and download or upload documents from/to there.



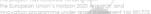


#### Administration of the UP-STAIRS digital platform

- GreenCom Networks leads the development of the digital platform (web and mobile application)
  as well as testing the platform, editing content and adding tools and features. All other project
  partners provide input and feedback during the development time and are testing in live operation.
- Once the digital platform goes live for the first time, there are different ways to change or add content and tools on the platform.
- The administration of the digital platform in regular operation is carried out by the operator of the OSS or the Implementation Champion(s). With regard to the post-registration area, administration means the creation of new project-rooms, the adaptation of existing project-rooms and the deletion of project-rooms that are no longer required, as well as changes of the document library, the project progress area and calendar.
- The tools and features mentioned above include those offered at the launch of the platform to the
  public. The further development and changes of tools and features as well as content are described
  on the next page.

**UP-STAIRS** 





## How can parts of the platform be edited/administered?

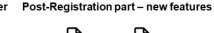
Pre-Registration part - edit



After the initial set up of the OSS digital platform, content in the pre-registration part can be edited upon request. The OSS operator must decide, which persons manage requesting changes towards GCN.

Changes can be done for text, images, videos up to the addition of subpages.

Post-Registration part – administer





The post-registration area of the digital platform is mainly composed off tools. Content is the form of documents, links, progress steps, calendar entries can be administered through the "backend" (Microsoft Dynamics) of the platform by the IC's or the operator of the OSS.

In the backend, the project-rooms are also set up by the IC's or the operator of the OSS.



If, from the perspective of an OSS operator, tools or features are missing in the post-registration part, these can be requested towards GCN. In coordination with the other OSS pilots GCN makes an evaluation of the programming efforts of the requested tools and proposes the implementation options.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 89177



### Changing/editing content in the preregistration part

- The initial set up of the pre-registration part of the UP-STAIRs digital platform in programmed in HTML5 a content management system is not used currently.
- To address changes of content (text, images, videos, links, structure & subpages), please use a blank presentation, add screenshots of the area changes shall be made and add the new/changed content, comments or any other changes as shown below.
- Send the input/presentation to info@upstairs-energy.com



Normally, larger websites presenting a lot of Content are using so called "Content Management Systems" (CMS) to structure and edit content (text, images, videos, etc.) through a web interface. Examples for such CMS's are Wordpress or Typo3.

As in the current layout of the digital platform not too much content is presented and the focus is on providing tools and services, we decided to not use a CMS in the first place, because it is very time cunsuming to programm the CMS templates which hold the content.

If we see that a lot of change requests and much more content is added to the platform, we will re-evaluate the usage of a CMS.

### Administering the post-registration part

- As soon as the first citizens have registered on the UP-STAIRS digital platform, project-rooms have been
  created and projects initialized, the administration of the tools located in the project rooms begins, so that they
  have the greatest possible benefit for the registered citizens.
- The following project-room related topics can be administered in the back-end (MS Dynamics):
  - Setting up project rooms with title and description and, if available, images
  - The **definition of process steps** relevant in a project
  - The provision of documents that are relevant for the project progress and/or the citizens involved
- The following User related topics can be administered in the back-end:
  - Deleting (or setting to inactive) a user upon request of the user (Data privacy)
  - Moving a user from one project-room to another (if requested by user)

For all use cases mentioned above, please send a descriptive E-Mail of what you want to get changed to: <a href="mailto:info@upstairs-energy.com">info@upstairs-energy.com</a>





## Create awareness, engagement and enable collective actions with the digital platform

- One of the main overall goals of UP-STAIRS is to engage with citizens and to realize collective RE-/EE-projects
- User engagement is the act of building a relationship with citizens who are users of the services offered by the OSS.
- The digital platform can be one key element to increase the users' satisfaction by having a positive interaction with them on the platform.
- Very often, an underestimated fact is the difficulty to onboard users onto a web-platform initially. Therefore, once realized, it is essential to use the platforms tools to continuously engage with the users on the platform.

User engagement relies on several aspects that are faced through the whole process of delivering a service:

- Reaching the users through proper channels and interfaces.
- Having a continuous communication with them, with the appropriate language.
- Creating value for the users.
- Building trust, using transparent procedures, promoting a personal contact.
- Having the proper focus on their needs and barriers to access the services offered.
- Gathering feedback of users' satisfaction.





#### Lifecycle of user engagement through the **UP-STAIRS** digital platform 1. Initial user interaction & acquisition 2. Onboarding & registration 3. Engagement, Retention & feedback Personal interaction Social Media, Adwords Ongoing collaboration through chat, document exchange, tasks, calendar-On-Site visits invites, progress-meters etc. Phone calls E-Mail marketing Optimization of platform tools and Physical OSS visits engagement strategies through feedback processes **UP-STAIRS**

If the OSSs are going into operations, probably not much happens on the digital platform instantly. Citizens do not know about the platform, as long as the operator and/or Implementation Champions don't tell them about it.

Telling citizens about the platform can be done in many different ways as you see above under point 1. and for the OSS's engagement strategies have been developed on top.

It is important to keep in mind that whenever there is an option to get in contact with an citizen, tell them about the platform and to direct them towards it.

If citizens are on the platform (2) and want to register, but struggle, please try to help them with advise.

The most important part starts after citizens have joined the platform. Here, in the post-registration part, the real work with the citizens begins for the Implementation Champions. It is important to engage with citizens in person, no doubt, but to keep the project running and to add value on top, the tools provided in the project rooms can be very helpful to support the progress of the projects.

### Questions, issues, requests – how to handle?

- For all open questions, issues and requests regarding the UP-STAIRS digital platform, please contact Henrik Schapp @ hschapp@enphaseenergy.com
- If possible, we will try to solve your questions by E-Mail directly.
- If this shouldn't be possible, we will set up a meeting via Microsoft Teams to discuss your questions personally.





## **THANK YOU!**

for your interest in the

Training Guide UP-STAIRS digital platform



