



10-12 JUNE 2025

EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE ENERGY WEEK

Powering a fair and competitive
green transition



POLICY CONFERENCE

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UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF ENERGY COMMUNITIES TO EMPOWER CITIZENS FOR AN INCLUSIVE TRANSITION

THE EUROPEAN CLIMATE PACT



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Session structure



- Introduction
- Energy communities: EU policies and available support
- Energy communities: first-hand experiences
- Q&A
- Conclusion: tips to create an energy community



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Speakers



**Katharina
Hartmann**

DG ENER,
European
Commission



**Delia
Bonsignore**

DG REGIO,
European
Commission



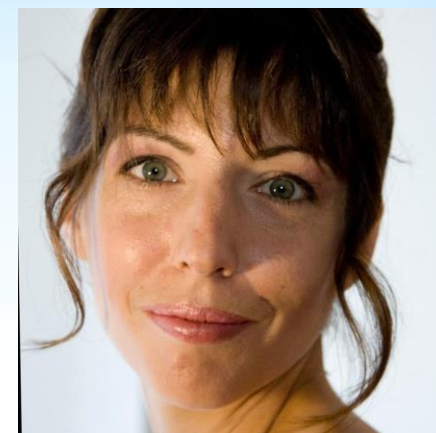
**Miguel
Macias
Sequeira**

Climate Pact
Ambassador
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Cristobal
López**

Climate Pact
Ambassador
Spain



**Aurore
Dudka**

Climate Pact
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Italy



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INTRODUCTION

ENERGY COMMUNITIES AND THE EUROPEAN CLIMATE PACT



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WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN CLIMATE PACT

- The European Climate Pact is an initiative launched by the European Commission aiming to create a movement of people united around a common cause: climate action.
- As part of the European Green Deal, it is helping the EU meet its goal to become climate-neutral by 2050.



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ENERGY COMMUNITIES: EU POLICIES AND AVAILABLE SUPPORT



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Energy communities in EU policy

Katharina Hartmann, European Commission, DG ENER, Unit B1

1. Models of consumer empowerment



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Renewable Energy Directive: all types of *renewable energy*

Electricity Directive: all types of *electricity*



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2. Clean Energy Package

Citizen Energy Communities

- Article 16 Electricity Market Directive 2019/944

Renewable Energy Communities

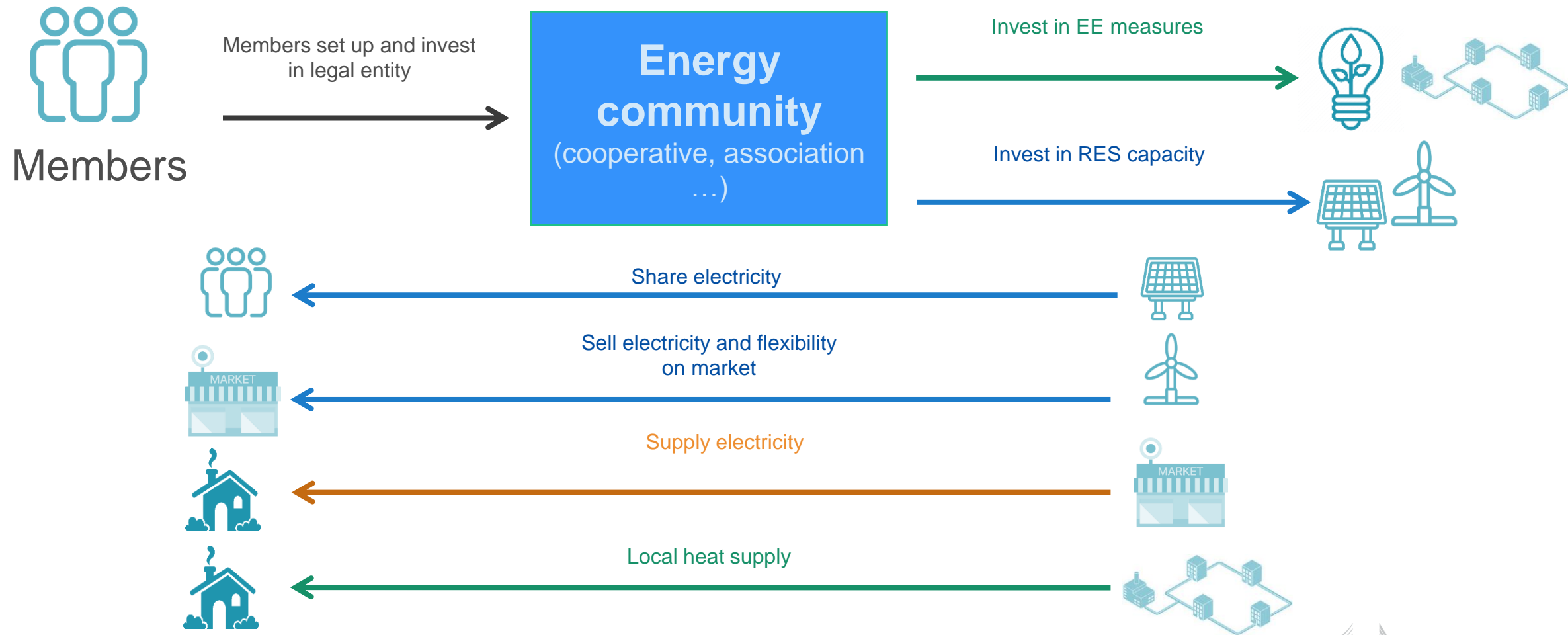
- Article 22 Renewable Energy Directive 2018/1999

Art. 2 on definitions: makes clear that renewable energy communities are a social concept, rather than financial profits

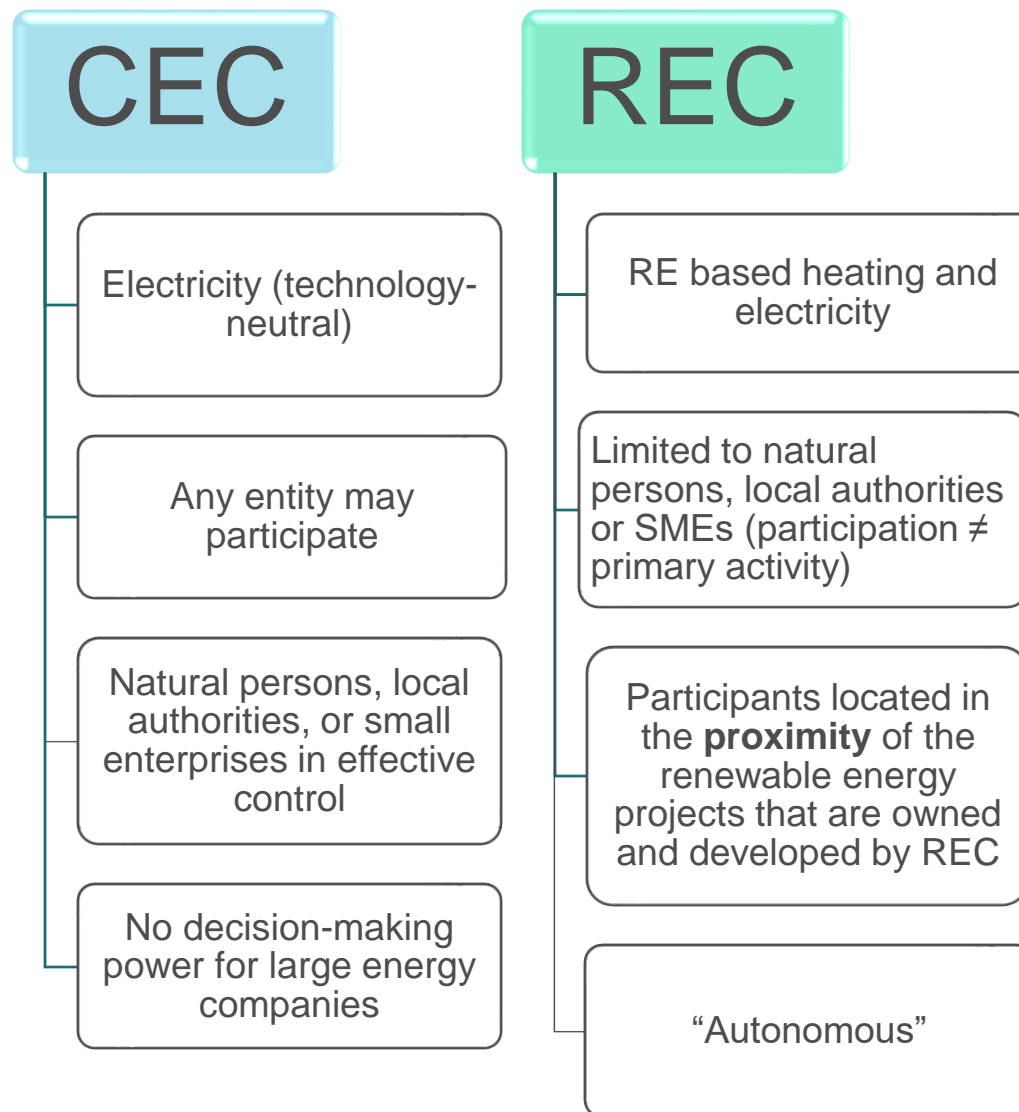


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Business models



Differences



3. Fit for 55 Package

RED (Renewable Energy Directive)

- Potential role in offshore wind, heat production, and the development of district heating and cooling networks
- Tailored information in single points of contact for permitting
- Fast track permitting procedures for small-scale RES installations
- Simplified registration processes and reduced registration fees for guarantees of origin

EED (Energy Efficiency Directive)

- Assessment and promotion of role in tackling energy poverty and achieving energy saving obligations
- Assessment of role in helping deliver local heating & cooling plans
- Accessible information on energy efficiency improvement measures

EPBD (Energy Performance of Buildings Directive)

- Renewable energy communities can contribute to zero emission buildings
- Accessible information on methods and practices that serve to enhance energy performance
- Building renovation plans should report on energy communities

SCFR (Social Climate Fund Regulation)

Social Climate Plans may include energy community related measures to target vulnerable households, micro-enterprises, and transport users

Citizen Energy Package

Where we are – energy sector at a cross-roads

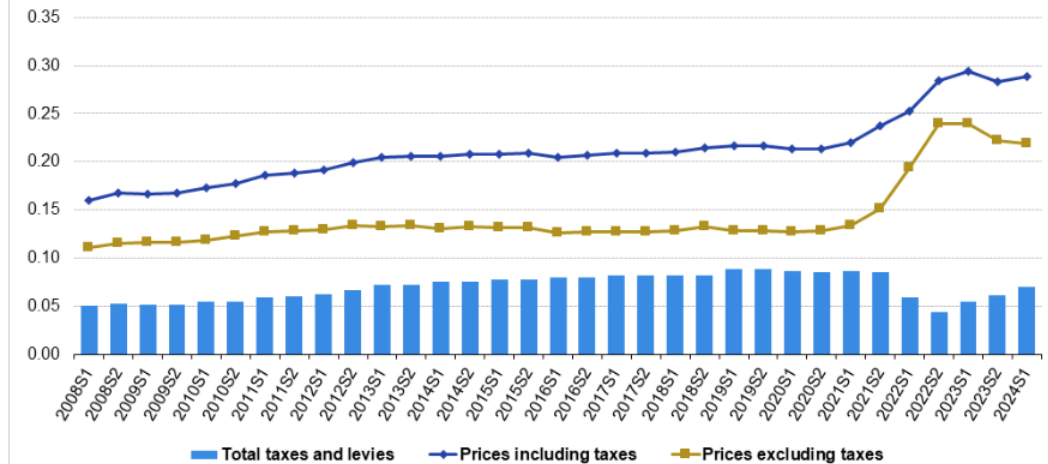
Effects of high energy prices in Europe

- Retail electricity prices for **households** remain higher than pre-crisis levels
- **Energy poverty** affects more than **46 million** Europeans

What's driving up energy costs?

- **Reliance on fossil fuel imports** causing price volatility & high supply costs.
- Inefficiencies & **lack of electricity system integration**
- **Increasing system costs** covered by network charges & taxes and levies (584 billion EUR necessary investments this decade)

Development of electricity prices for household consumers, EU, 2008-2024
(€ per kWh)



Source: Eurostat (online data codes: nrg_pc_204)

eurostat

Development of electricity prices for household consumers, 2008-2024

(€ per kWh)

Source: Eurostat ([nrg_pc_204](#))

The Action Plan for Affordable Energy

4 Pillars, 8 Actions

Action 1: Making electricity bills more affordable

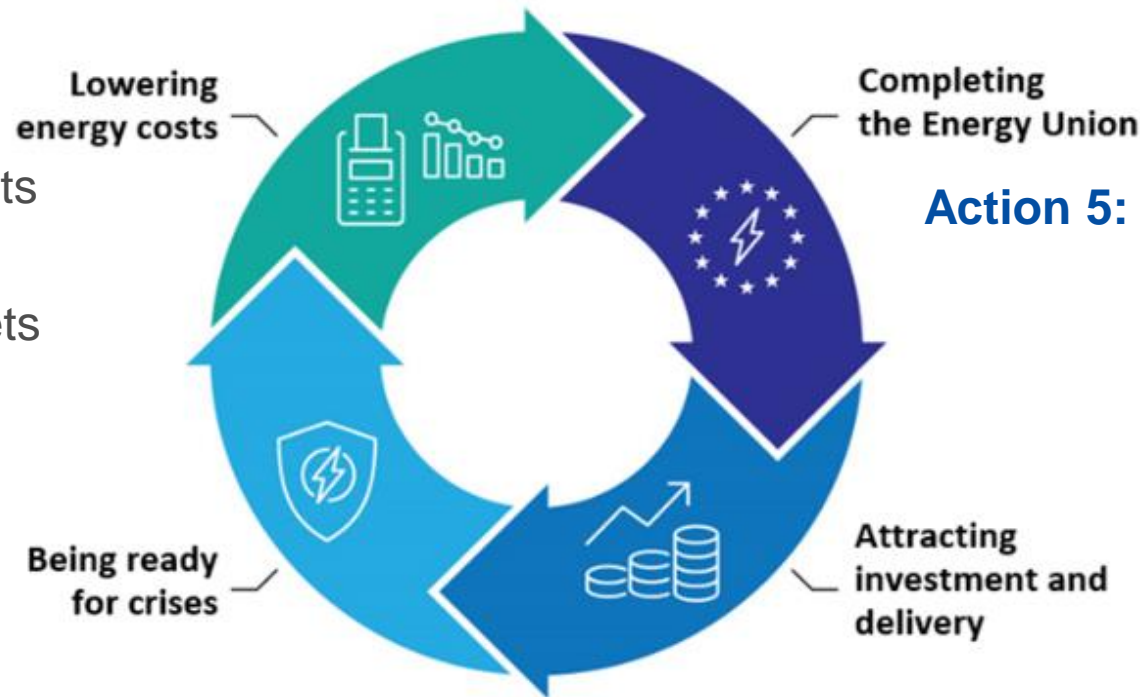
Action 2: Bring down the costs of electricity supply

Action 3: Improve gas markets for fair energy prices

Action 4: Energy efficiency: delivering energy savings

Action 7: Security of supply for price stability

Action 8: Price crisis preparedness

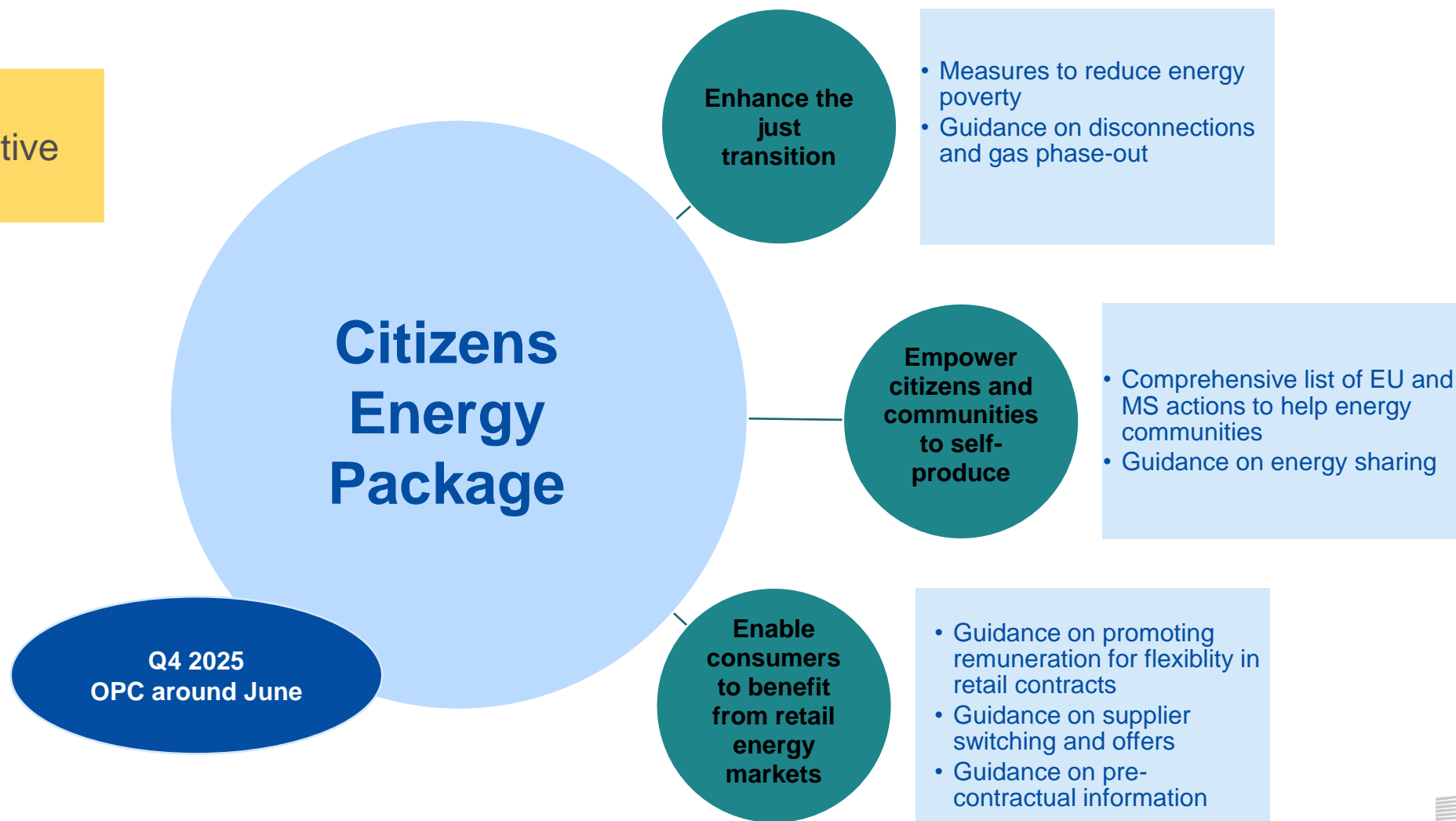


Action 5: Completing the Energy Union

Action 6: A tripartite contract for affordable energy for Europe's industry

Action 1: Making electricity bills more affordable

Indicative



Benefits to European consumers

Energy communities

Households **can save EUR 500-1,100 per year** by participating in energy communities.



Switching

Switching to the electricity supplier that offers the lowest prices **can save households EUR 150-200 per year**.



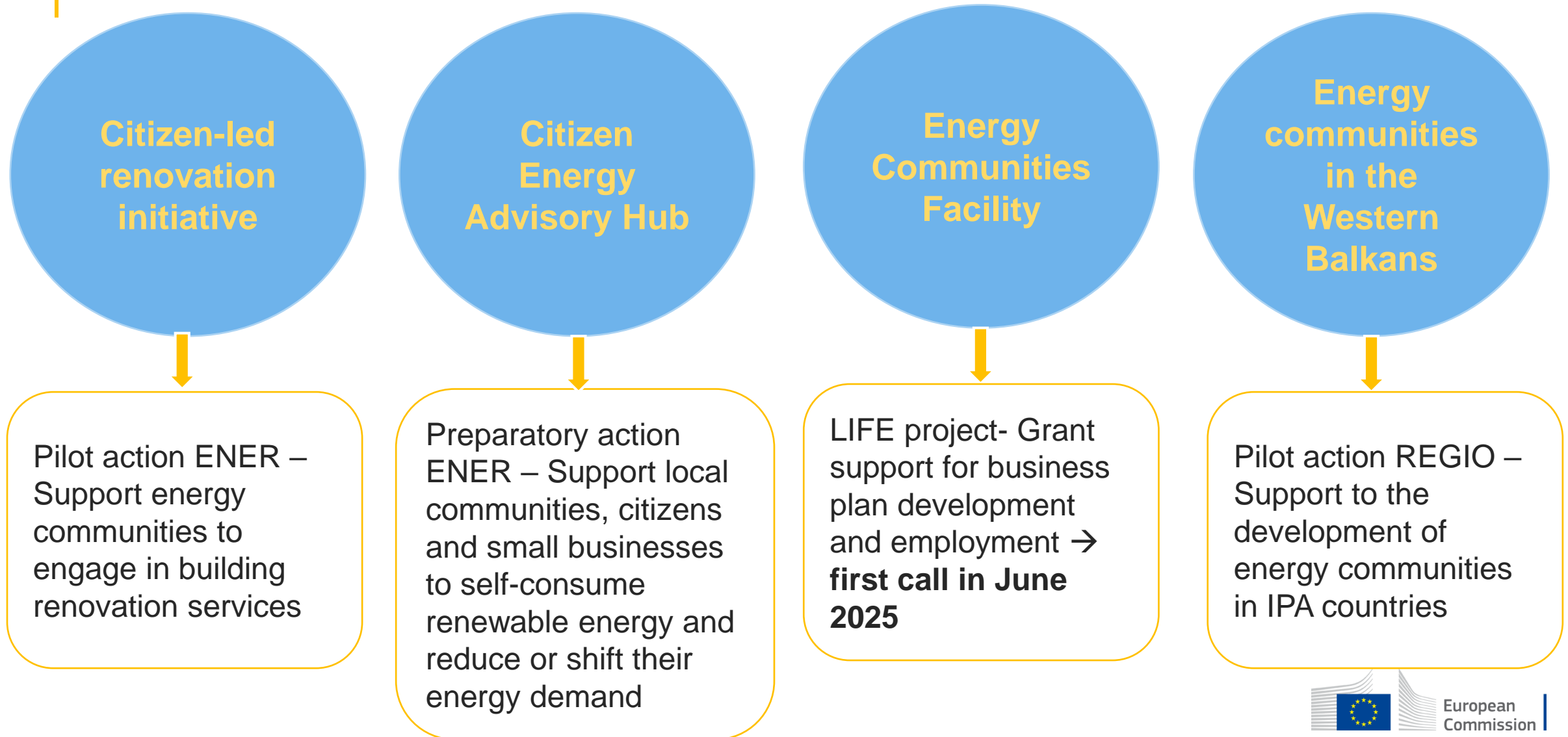
Demand-side flexibility

Fair remuneration in retail contracts of flexibility **can reduce electricity costs by up to 12-42%**



Support initiatives

7. EU assistance for energy communities



Citizen Energy Advisory Hub (CEAH) – main activities

Capacity building and technical assistance

- **Direct technical assistance** for 120 citizen energy initiatives
- **Citizen Energy Panels** hosted in each of the 27 EU Member States
- **10 Capacity-building workshops** tailored to diverse stakeholders

Networking and peer-to-peer opportunities

- Two large **public conferences**
- A **Citizen Energy Network**
- Webinar series:
 - **Energy Breakfast Sessions** – showcasing success stories
 - **Chatting on Citizen Energy** – exploring energy citizenship, supporting policies, and how it can look in practice

Website with publishable outputs

- **Interactive Map** of EU Citizen Energy initiatives
- 20 **Guidance Documents**
- 60 **Best Practices**
- **Country policy profiles** on EU Member States' Legal and Policy Frameworks
- Quarterly **Newsletters**

Energy Communities Facility



Where?



Energy communities from:

- EU Member States, Iceland, Ukraine, Moldova and North Macedonia

How?



Access to targeted training and hands-on capacity building



7 mil. Euros for 45k lump sum grants to develop solid business plans

When?

2nd of June 2025

First call opens

<https://tinyurl.com/45tenfa7>

30th of September 2025

Deadline for the first call

Summer 2026

First cohort of business plans

September 2026

Second call for proposals



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Thank you



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Cohesion policy support to energy communities

Delia BONSIGNORE, delia.bonsignore@ec.europa.eu
DG REGIO Unit D2 - Interreg, cross-border cooperation, internal borders

Cohesion Policy 2021-2027

Cohesion Policy: EU policy for Regional and Urban development → funding based on local needs (5 Cohesion Policy Objectives)

➤ Support to energy communities:

- **Policy Objective 2:** a greener, low carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon economy

➤ PO 2.2: funding for energy communities

- **Policy Objective 5:** Europe closer to citizens

➤ Technical Assistance Support: **Cohesion for Transition (C4T)** Community of Practice

Interreg: an overview

Interreg: key EU instrument for **territorial cooperation** between regions and countries beyond administrative boundaries

- Part of Cohesion Policy and funded by ERDF, Interreg supports a **large set of possible interventions** <https://interreg.eu/about-interreg/> including ESF+ type of activities
- Cooperation 2021-2027 → **86 programmes EUR 10 billion** → 4 distinct strands:



- **Two Interreg specific objectives:** on Better Cooperation Governance (ISO1) and on a Safer and more secure Europe (ISO2)

Interreg: cooperation for energy communities

- **Calls for projects** under each Interreg programme on:
 - Cohesion Policy Objective 2 on Greener Europe, SO 2.2
 - Cohesion Policy Objective 5 on Europe Closer to citizens
 - Interreg Specific Objective 1 on Better Cooperation Governance
 - Small Project Funds: civil society and new types of beneficiaries

- **Border Focal Point:** support to cooperation beyond Interreg funding through different actions:
 - 1) knowledge production (studies)
 - 2) piloting cases/demonstration
 - 3) knowledge sharing ([Border Focal Point Network](#))

More support for energy communities

Communities for Climate (C4C)

Pilot action (closed) –
Support to 50 local climate-related community projects, including energy communities

Coming soon!

Better cohesion in the Western Balkans through development of renewable energy communities

Pilot action (ongoing) –
Support to the set-up and/or development of renewable energy communities in 5 IPA candidate countries (AL, BiH, ME, MK, RS)

Available online!

Handbook on cross-border energy communities



SCAN ME

Tool for local actors on how to set up and run cross-border energy community projects (includes good practices)

Coming soon!



Call for pilots on cross-border energy communities

7 cross-border energy community pilot actions will be selected and receive 15.000 EUR + technical support

Handbook on cross-border energy communities



- Tool for citizens and local actors that provides a practical step-by-step methodology for setting up a CBEC or Q-CBEC and for developing its activities.
- Support to institutions at European, national, regional and local level in understanding and promoting the benefits of CBEC and Q-CBEC for territorial development.

Call for pilots: Cross-border energy communities



- **Call for proposals** opening in July 2025 to select **7 Cross-Border Energy Community pilot actions**
- Initiative coordinated by MOT, AEBR, with the support of REScoop.eu, on behalf of the European Commission
- **15.000 EUR** for each pilot action + **Technical support** by REScoop.eu (2 dedicated workshops per pilot, continuous technical assistance and organization of thematic webinars)
- Key dates:
 - **Call for proposals: July to November 2025**
 - Selected pilot actions: January 2026
 - Implementation: March 2026 to February 2027

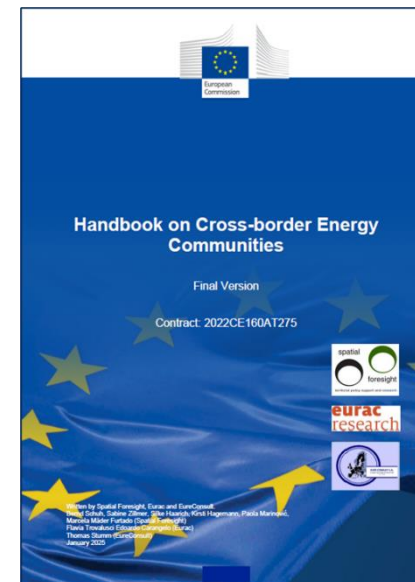
Call for pilots: Better cohesion in WB5 through 10 pilot RECs

- **Two-round call system for Expression of Interest:** opening planned for June 2025 to select **10 Renewable Energy Community pilot lighthouse projects**
- Initiative coordinated by Emilia-Romagna Region (managing authority of the Interreg IPA Adrion programme), with the support of REScoop.eu, on behalf of the European Commission
- Max **200.000 EUR** for each pilot project + **Technical support** by ERR, ART-ER and REScoop.eu
- Key dates:
 - **Call for proposals: June to December 2025**
 - Selected pilot actions: October 2025 and January 2026 (two-round call)
 - Implementation: October 2025 to June 2027



Useful links

- [Cohesion for Transitions \(C4T\) Community of Practice](#)
- [Communities for Climate \(C4C\)](#)
- [Better cohesion in the Western Balkans through development of Energy Communities](#)
- [Interreg – European territorial cooperation](#)
- [Border Focal Point Network](#)
- [Handbook on cross-border energy communities](#)
 - [Annex: Border Fiches](#)
- More info about call for pilots on CBECs:
 - cbec@mot.asso.fr
 - [Cross-Border Energy Communities \(CBECs\) - AEBC](#)



SCAN ME

Thank you!



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ENERGY COMMUNITIES: FIRST-HAND EXPERIENCES



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Telheiras/Lumiar Renewable Energy Community

Pioneering community energy in portugal



PORTUGUESE CONTEXT



- Portugal has transposed the European Directives on energy communities in 2019 and 2022.
- Still, **very few energy communities exist** (data obtained in May 2025 pointed towards around 400 collective self-consumption projects but only 9 renewable energy communities registered).
- Most projects currently being developed are from (small and large) energy companies, where **citizens remain passive clients at the end of the wire**.
- The Portuguese Government estimates that **29% of the population may be energy-poor**.
- Energy poverty mitigation has not been a priority in commercial energy communities.
- **The full potential of energy communities is not being explored and might be lost.**

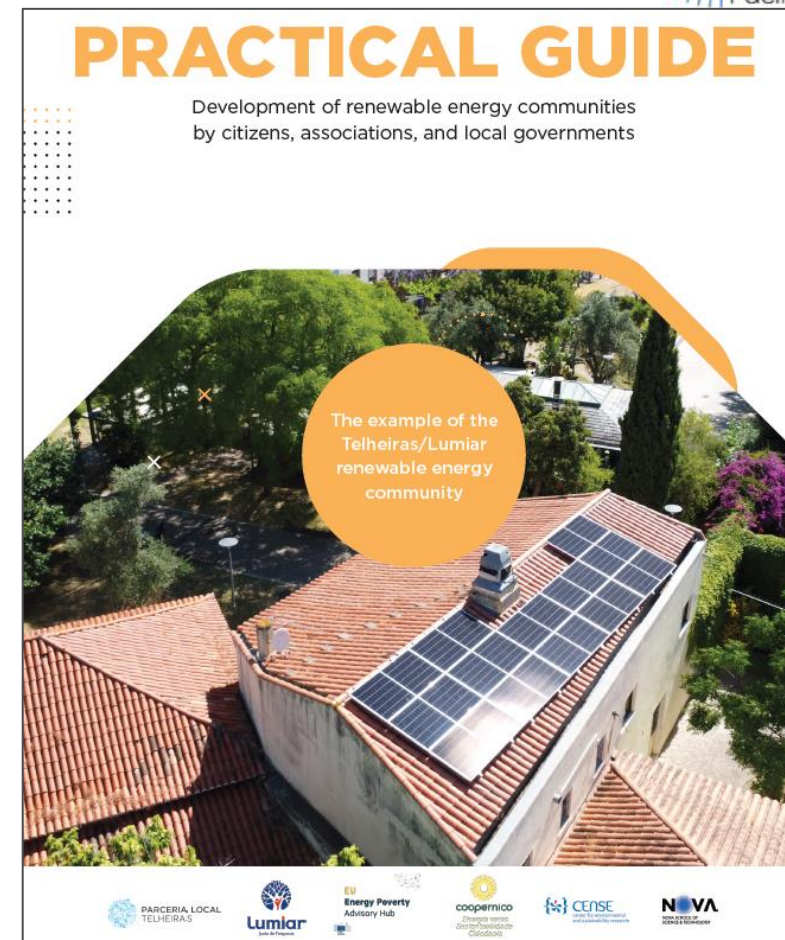
REC TELHEIRAS/LUMIAR



Location



Local Partnership of Telheiras



Practical Guide:

<https://fireflyenergylab.com/research/publications/107>

1) PITCHING THE IDEA TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

“Let’s produce our own renewable energy and share it among neighbours!”



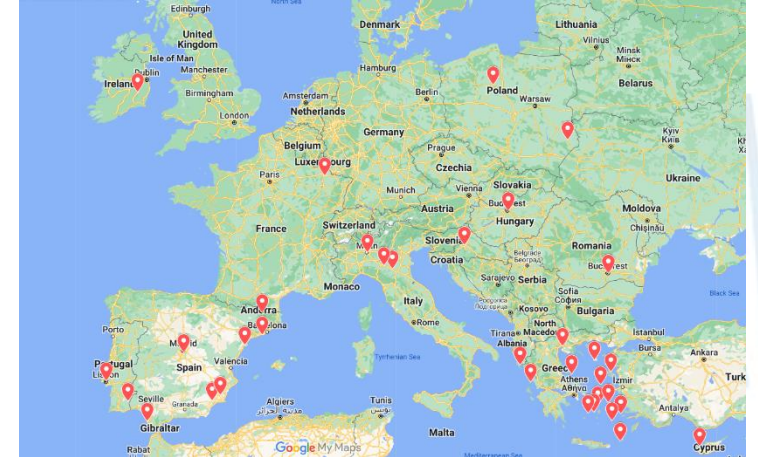
Collection of ideas (September 2020)



Brainstorming session (September 2021)

2) SEEKING BENEFICIAL PARTNERS

- REC Telheiras/Lumiar, promoted by the **Local Partnership of Telheiras** and the **Lumiar Civil Parish**, was one of 23 projects selected by the **European Union Energy Poverty Advisory Hub (EPAH)** for the 1st call of the technical assistance.
- Support by **Coopérnico** and **CENSE NOVA-FCT**.
- From October 2022 to July 2023.
- **Goal:** setting-up one of the first citizen-led and inclusive renewable energy communities in Portugal, tackling energy poverty and promoting energy democracy.



1st call of EPAH technical assistance



Kick-off meeting of the technical assistance (October 2022)

3) ASSESSING THE LEGAL AND REGULATORY CONTEXT

- Members must be within a **2 km radius** (low-voltage) or **4 km radius** (medium voltage).
- It is only possible to share the electricity which is not self-consumed in the building.
- Electricity sharing through 2 types of coefficients: **fixed or variable**.
- Virtual metering and sharing of the electricity every 15 minutes through **smart meters**.
- The REC needs to **pay grid access tariffs** to use the public grid.



4) SELECTING LOCATIONS AND SIZING RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS

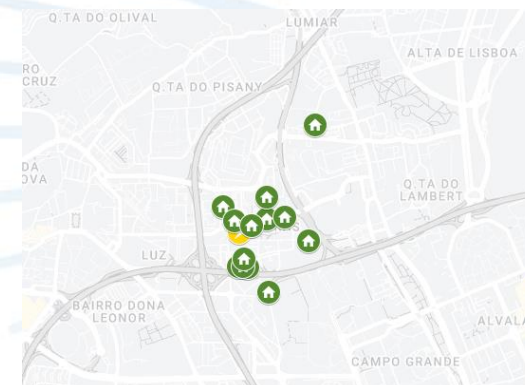
The pilot project has 16 participants:

- The building itself managed by the Lumiar Parish,
- 12 member (families/residents) that signed up to invest in the project and consume electricity,
- **3 social members (vulnerable families) identified and selected by the Lumiar Parish that are beneficiaries and active participants.**



Pilot project location “The Old Winery of Saint Vicent’s Farm”

Area	50 m ²
No. PV panels	13
Installed power	7,15 kWp
Electricity generation	11,5 MWh/ano
No. members	16



Technical characteristics of the pilot project and radius of REC Telheiras/Lumiar

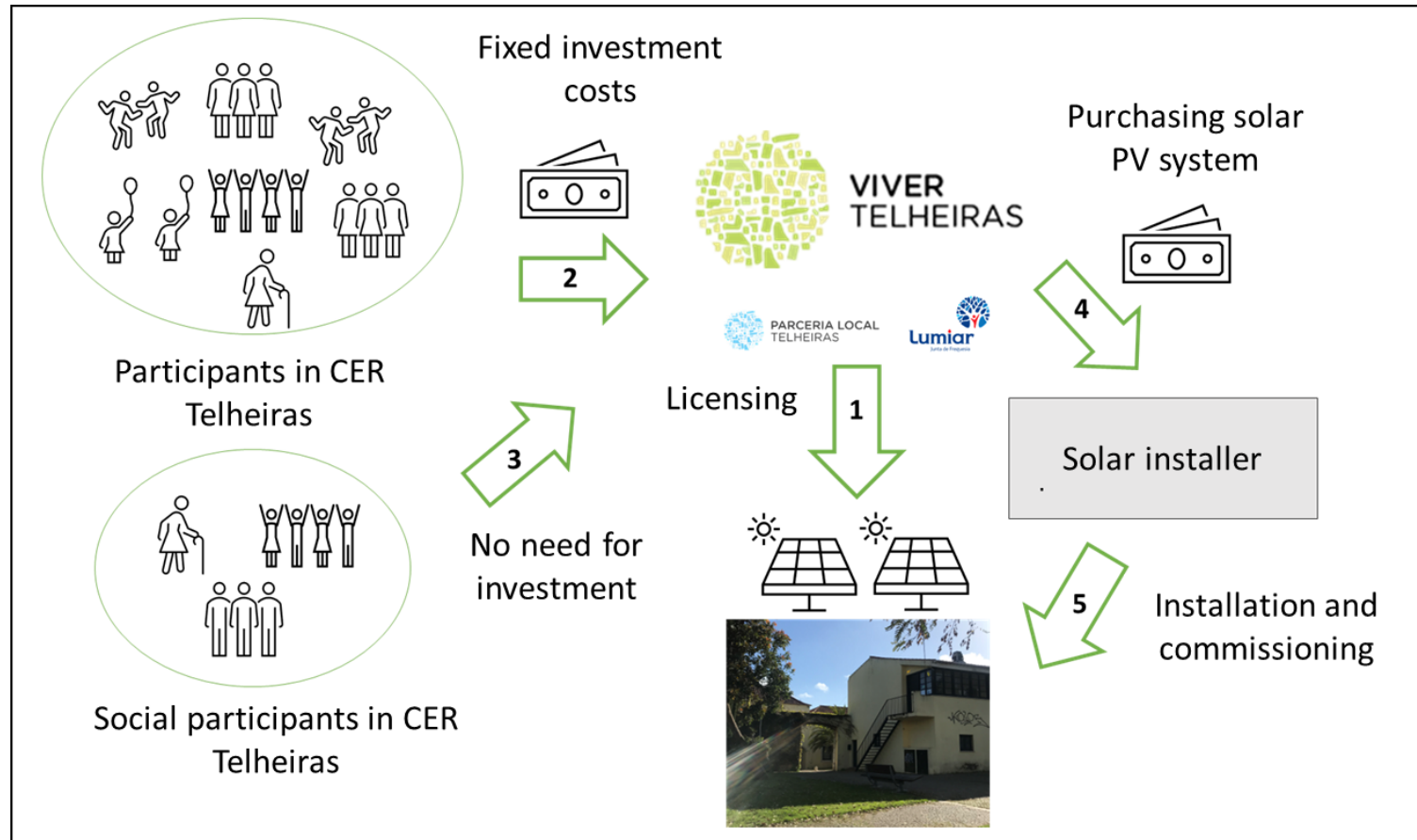
5) DEFINING THE LEGAL ENTITY

- Updating the statutes of **an already existing non-profit association**.
- Creation of a nucleus within the association dedicated to the energy community members.
- Adoption of a secondary NACE for renewable energy production.
- The Association has management responsibilities for REC Telheiras/Lumiar, in which decisions are taken at the **General Assembly** by the associates who are the members of REC Telheiras.



ASSOCIAÇÃO
VIVER TELHEIRAS

6) DEVELOPING THE FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL MODEL – INSTALLATION PHASE

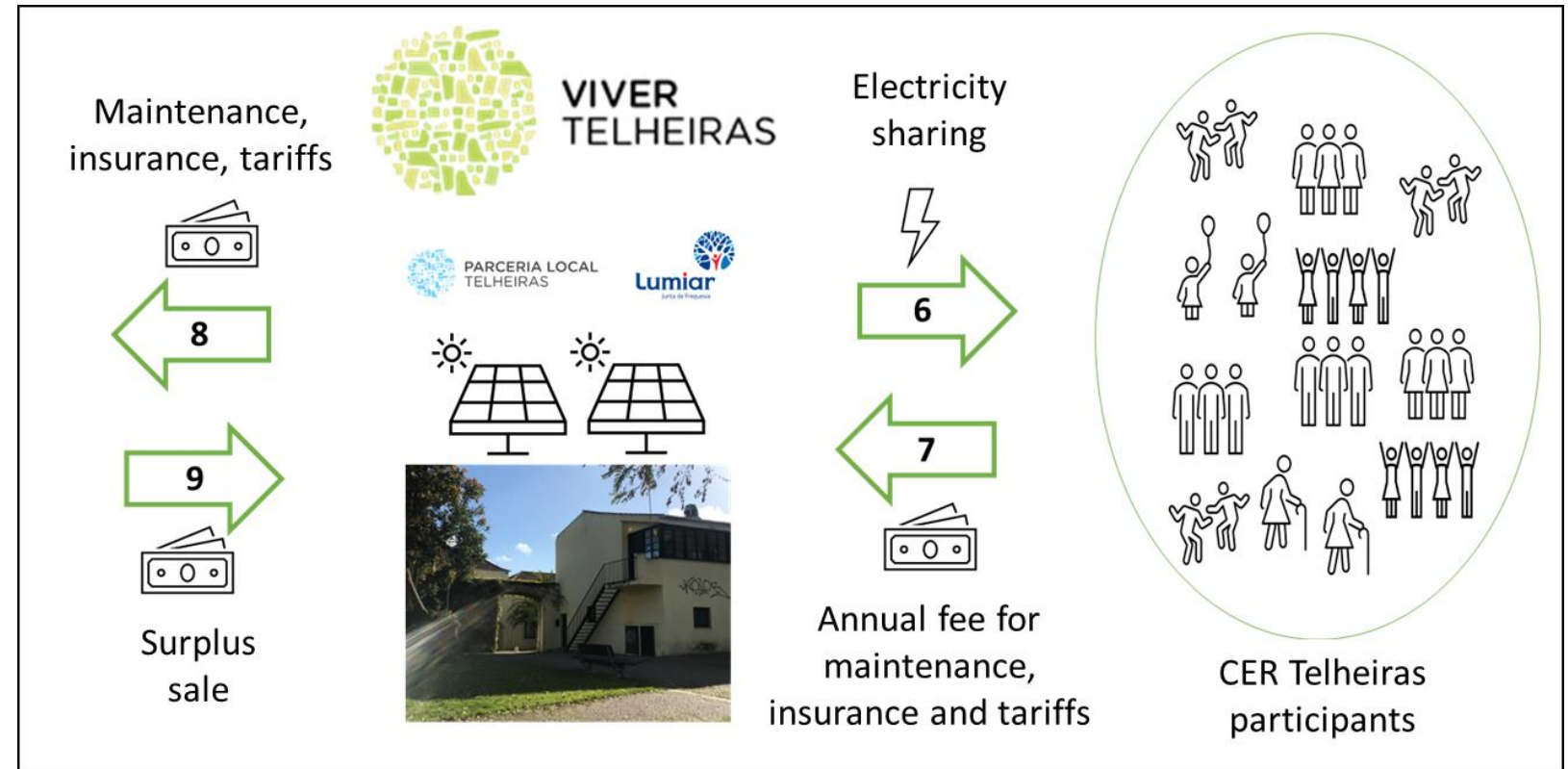


Partners meeting (August 2022)

6) DEVELOPING THE FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL MODEL – OPERATION PHASE



Partners meeting (March 2023)



7) DEFINING INTERNAL REGULATIONS

➤ Internal regulations (approved by the members) define:

- i) types of members and their rights and duties,
- ii) member access requirements,
- iii) departure of members,
- iv) electricity sharing mode,
- v) payment of annual fees,
- vi) destination of surplus production,
- vii) general assemblies and decision-making method.

➤ **Each member has the right to one vote in general assemblies.**



First General Assembly of REC Telheiras/Lumiar (November 2023)



All members are associates of
the association.



8) COMMUNICATION WITH THE COMMUNITY

- Work with the local stakeholders of the Local Partnership of Telheiras.
- Open and transparent participation in all processes for the local population.
- Local communication channels (events, social media, posters, word-of-mouth)



Telheiras Festival (June 2022)



Flyers REC Telheiras



Social media post



Public session (May 2023)



Energy bills workshop (September 2023)

9) IDENTIFYING VULNERABLE FAMILIES



- Identified by the Lumiar Civil Parish and its social partners, as **they already receive social support.**
- Selected according to their location (2 km radius) and specific socio-economic indicators.
- Engaged by the social assistants and other intermediaries, **whom they already trust.**
- Active decision to join the project and **equal voting rights**, promoting social inclusion.
- Random lottery to decide the participants that join the pilot project and the ones that must wait for the next one.

10) LICENSING THE ENERGY COMMUNITY

- Licensing with national authority (Directorate-General for Energy and Geology) from June to December 2023.
- Municipal licencing started in early 2023, approval obtained from the heritage department in April 2023, previous notice of installation in May 2024.
- Installation complete in May 2024.
- Registration of the unit and civil liability insurance.



Technical visit with installer (December 2023)

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PORTUGAL



- **Observe:** Strengthen the availability of data through the creation of a Portuguese Observatory of Decentralized Renewable Energy.
- **Inform:** Improve access to technical and regulatory information on procedures for the constitution, licensing, management and maintenance of REC according to the actors involved.
- **Facilitate:** Consolidate, improve and simplify the regulatory framework to facilitate access to public funds and to streamline licensing, energy sharing, and management of RECs.
- **Support:** Empower local agents, support social economy projects, foster the inclusion of energy-poor families, and reinforce exemptions on grid access fees for RECs.

Thank you!



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Comunidades de energia: O passo para a democratização energética

<https://youtu.be/E1X7zNd09oQ?si=3ryutpDgjFgT22Jz>



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Energy community models JALON and AURORA cases

Dr. Ana B. Cristóbal

Instituto de Energía Solar, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Madrid (SPAIN)

Session: Unlocking the potential of energy communities to empower citizens for an inclusive transition



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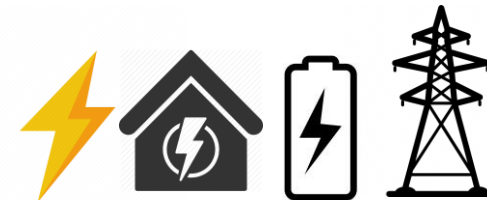
POLITÉCNICA

Definition

Renewable Energy Community

Renewable energy directive (2018/2001/EU)

- **Entity**
 - Legal form: cooperative, foundation, etc
 - Based on open and voluntary participation
 - and is effectively controlled by shareholders or members who are located in the proximity of the renewable energy projects that are owned and developed by that legal entity
- **Participants:** the shareholders or members of which are natural persons, SMEs or local authorities, including municipalities
- **Purpose:** to provide environmental, economic or social community benefits for its shareholders or members or for the local areas where it operates, rather than financial profits;
- **Activity:**
 - produce, consume, store and sell renewable energy, including through renewables power purchase agreements;
 - share, within the renewable energy community, renewable energy that is produced by the production units owned by that renewable energy community
 - access all suitable energy markets both directly or through aggregation in a non-discriminatory manner.

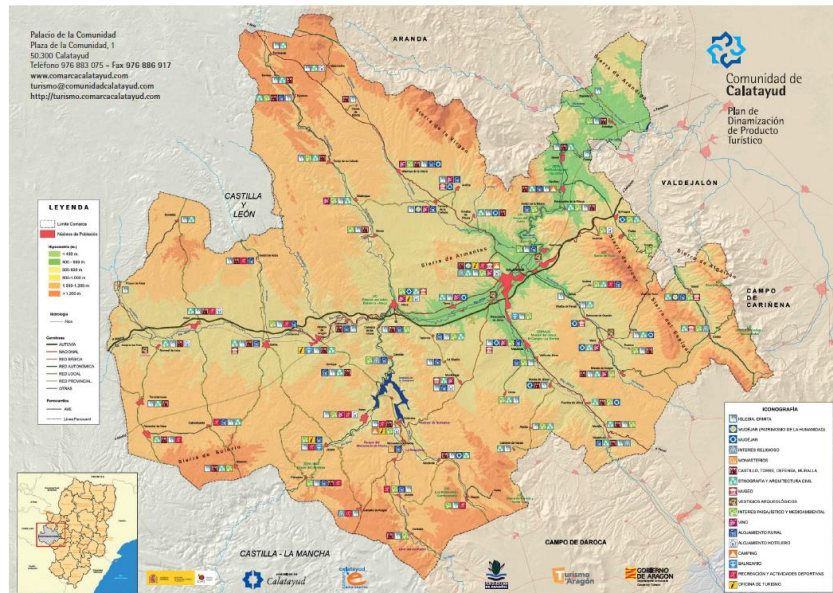


We aim to do more than just generate green and low-cost energy

HOW can Renewable Energy Communities be articulated to be a **VEHICLE** for

A Better Future for Rural Depopulated Areas?

Education And Social Commitment In Line With Energy Transition Goals?



JALON



AURORA



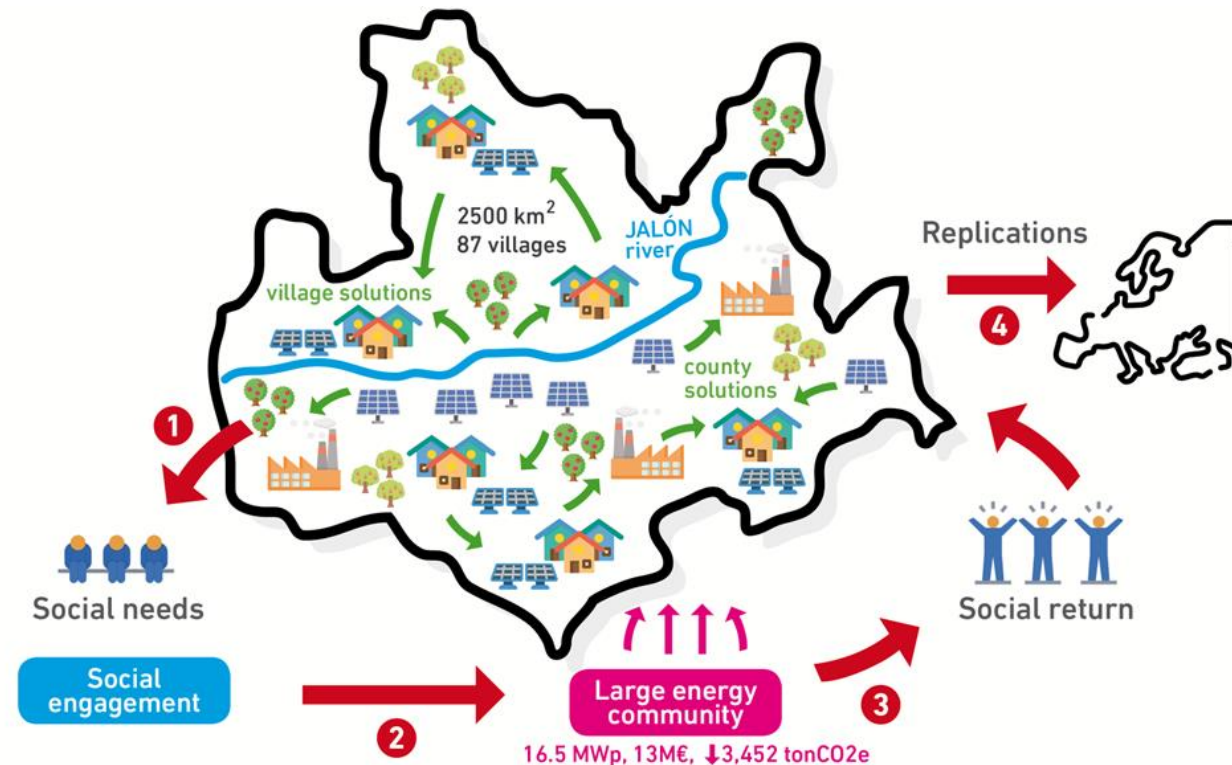
JALON



A regional rural renewable energy community uniting 67 municipalities, aiming to find ways to create added value and help retain population

Reversing the 'future' of emptied-out Spain requires:

- 1- local activism and true civic engagement.
- 2- It is essential to find appropriate models for energy valorization
- 3- develop the capacity to measure change.



JALON: REAL LOCAL CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

ENABLING 6 WAYS TO ENGAGE WITH CERCA

- ✓ CERCA Member Contributing Rights and/or Money to Enable and/or Finance PV Installations Owned by CERCA
- ✓ CERCA Member Who Owns Their Own PV Installation and Contributes Surplus Energy to CERCA
- ✓ Collaborator Who Owns Their Own PV Installation and Contributes Surplus Energy to CERCA
- ✓ CERCA Member Supplied by CERCA
- ✓ Collaborator Supplied by CERCA
- ✓ Collaborator Investing in CERCA's Activity

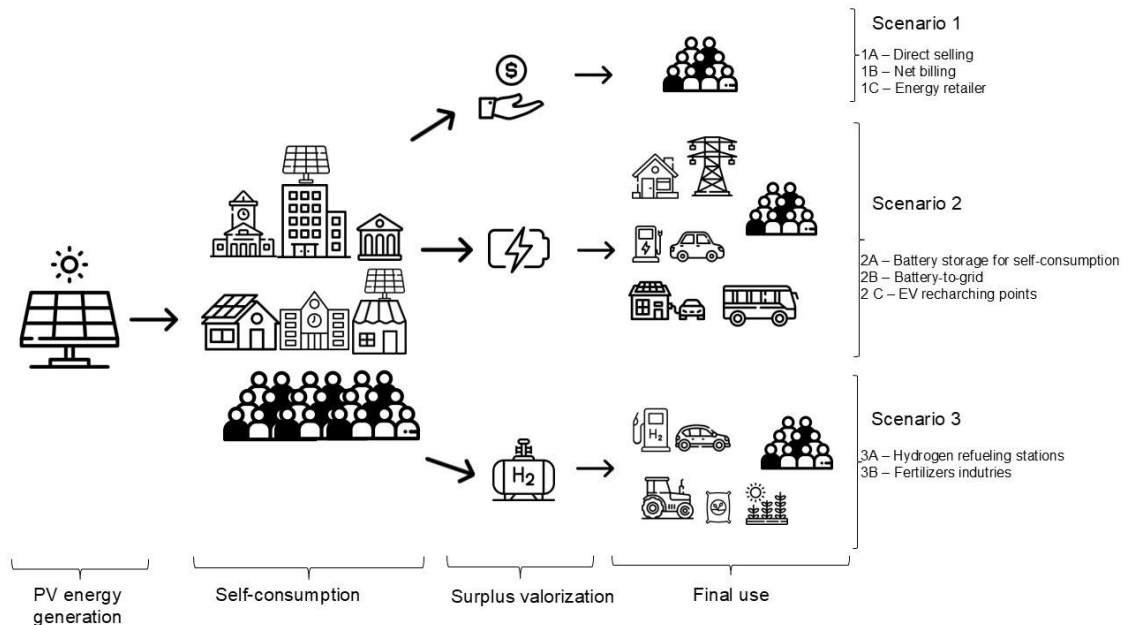


CERCA: Current status

	Installation	Power (kWp)	Village	Cost (€)	Participants	Quatity	CUPS
1	CHERRYWORLD	104,4	Munébrega		Industry	1	1
2	CODOS	72,6	Codos		Collective	15	20
3	EMPRESA MEDIAVEGA	69,85	Calatayud		Collective	4	4
4	RUESCA	29,97	Ruesca		Collective	14	17
5	MIEDES DE ARAGÓN	22,2	Miedes de Aragón		Collective	8	9
6	CARENAS	97,68	Carenas		Collective	6	6
7	BUBIERCA	44	Bubierca		Collective	17	18
8	POZUELARIZA	11	Pozuel de Ariza		Collective	9	10
9	MUNÉBREGA	16,5	Munébrega		Collective	9	12
10	ASOCIACIÓN AMIBIL	64,5	Calatayud		Association	1	1
11	MALUENDA + RAÍCES IBÉRICAS	116,48	Maluenda		Industry and collective	24	25
12	CERVERA CAÑADA	12,3	Cervera de la Cañada		Collective	7	10
13	VALTORRES	35,2	Valtorres		Collective	9	10
14	ARIZA	15	Ariza		Collective	1	4
15	URBANIZACIÓN GOLF	6,82	Calatayud		Individual	1	1
16	BELMONTE	14,175	Bemonte		Collective	8	9
17	MEDINACELI PUEBLO	83,655	Medinaceli		Collective	15	20
18	TORRIJO	8,8	Torrijo de la Cañada		Collective	1	3
TOTAL		825,13		625.563,71 €		150	180

CUPS: Electric counters

Can really energy communities serve to reverse depopulation trends?



Article

Energy Valorization Strategies in Rural Renewable Energy Communities: A Path to Social Revitalization and Sustainable Development

Cristina Sanz-Cuadrado , Luis Narvarte and Ana Belén Cristóbal

Instituto de Energía Solar, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, C/Alán Turing s/n, 28031 Madrid, Spain; cristina.sanz@upm.es (C.S.-C.); luis.narvarte@upm.es (L.N.)
* Correspondence: anabelen.cristobal@upm.es

Abstract: Energy communities led by local citizens are vital for achieving the European energy transition goals. This study examines the design of a regional energy community in

- ✓ Technical design alone is not sufficient for energy communities to deliver the expected social impact : reverting depopulation trend (in the JALON pilot)
Effective management of energy surpluses is essential to create added value and attract funding that can be reinvested in community development—beyond merely providing cheaper electricity.
- ✓ None of the analysed scenarios is capable of reversing depopulation, but they can significantly contribute to mitigating the trend.
- ✓ The cost of each person-month generated varies depending on the technical scenario considered.

AURORA

HOW can Renewable Energy Communities be articulated to be a VEHICLE for Education And Social Commitment In Line With Energy Transition Goals?

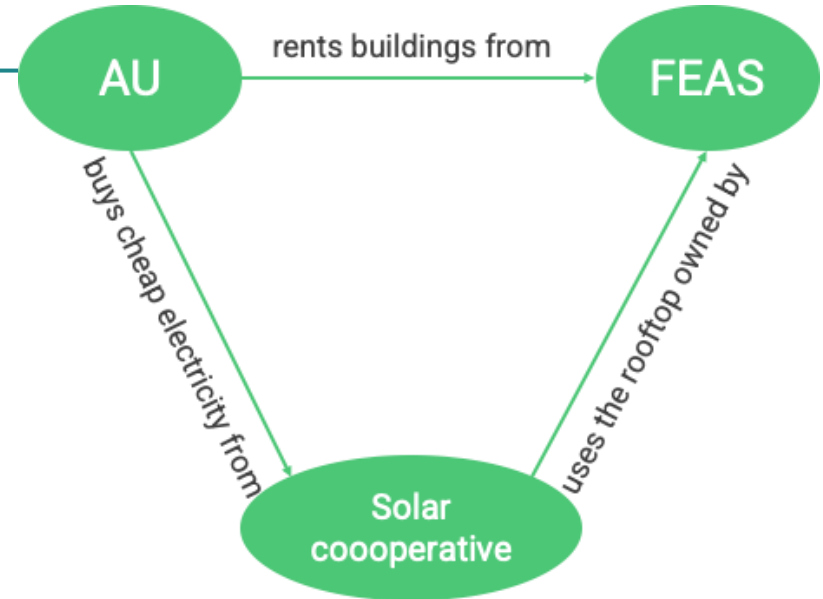
- ✓ Public Entities whose goal is EDUCATION
- ✓ Rather than using a traditional approach to finance their renewable facilities are using micro-investments from the local citizens.
- ✓ Local citizens are considered “indirect self-consumers,” and/or “private investors”
- ✓ We are using CERs as a tool to leverage private financing for local projects and to integrate them into an educational process.



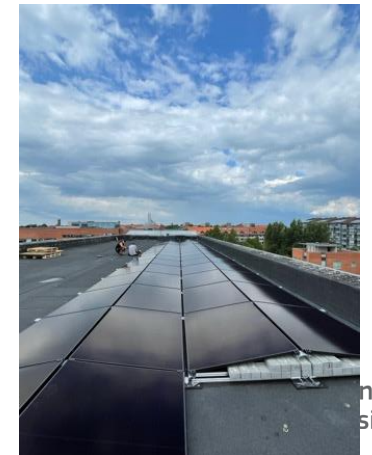
AURORA: Aarhus University



Prosumer via third party



- Independent cooperative
Universitetets Energifællesskab F.M.B.A (UEF)
Founded Aug 2023, registered Sept 2023
- Complicated business triangle
- Crowdfunding
Nov 2023 – Apr 2024
876 shares, **120 members**, 105,480 € (791,100 DKK)
- Installation of 98 kWp PV power plant complete
- Danish advantage
Long history of cooperatives
Excellent consultant from existing wind cooperative
Prosumer via third party

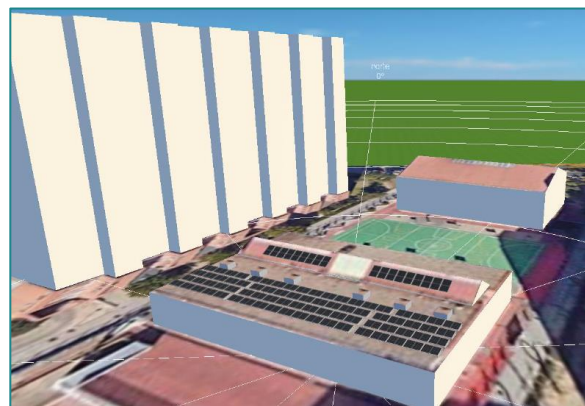




UNIVERSIDAD
POLITÉCNICA
DE MADRID



- Pre-existing educative cooperative in Spain (Madrid)
- Renewable energy project for self-consumption at the school
 - 42.3 kWp PV power plant
 - 2 Heat pumps (39 and 26 kW)
- Crowdfunding successful
 - 163 participants, 145.314€ invested
- Installations in July (holidays period)



Research Article | [Open Access](#) | [CC BY](#)

Igniting University Communities: Building Strategies that Empower an Energy Transition through Solar Energy Communities

Ana Belén Cristóbal, Luis Narvarte, Marta Victoria, Luís Fialho, Zhe Zhang, Cristina Sanz-Cuadrado, Matevz Bokalič

First published: 21 October 2023 | <https://doi.org/10.1002/solr.202300498>

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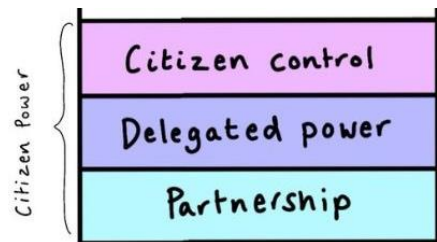
Abstract

Universities as centers for innovation by nature can play a relevant role in serving as education hubs for citizens in energy, promoting individual and collective behavioral



Ladder of Participation

(Arnstein, 1969)



Stakeholders have the idea and set up the project

Goal created by a facilitator but resources and responsibility given to citizens

Stakeholders have direct involvement in decision making

Contests

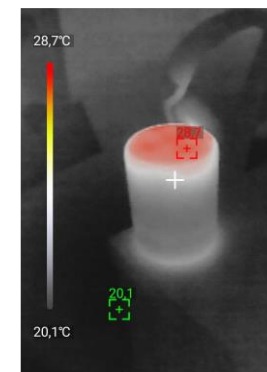
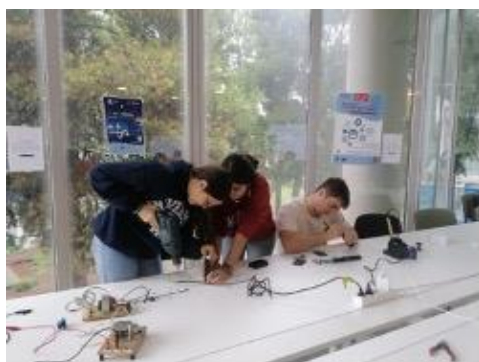
Workshops

Debates

Co-Creation

AURORA Educational CERs also have their own citizens' labs.

Actions



More info



<https://jalon-ce.eu/es/>



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Thank you for your attention

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Happy to take your questions



We gratefully acknowledge the support of these institutions:





From Kilowatts to Connections

Energy Communities as Opportunities to Reconceptualize Energy as a Social Relation

Aurore Dudka (Ph.D.)

Researcher at the University of Trento-ECOEMPOWER project

European Sustainable Energy Week

Powering a fair and competitive green transition

10-12 June 2025, Brussels



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Energy is social

- As we move into a context of decarbonisation, decentralisation, and digitalisation, energy is no longer just about electrons.
- It's about flows of:
 - **Affiliations**
 - **Trust**
 - **Emotions**
 - **Meanings**
- The energy transition is not only economical or technical—it's deeply relational.



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The role of energy communities



- **Energy communities** act as laboratories for rethinking energy:
 - Beyond kilowatts and cost savings...
 - ...Toward **connection, care, and political engagement**
- A new way to **make energy social**, rooted in shared values and practices.

“It’s not enough to hang up a poster; genuine participation requires building connections.”



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Unlocking Energy Challenges Through Collective Action

- Working together at the community level can help tackle key energy challenges—like getting people involved **in flexibility or electric vehicles**—which have often been seen as technical or economic issues.
- Through **peer-to-peer influence and shared value**, collective action can shift behaviours and support new social practices.



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Unlocking Energy Challenges Through Collective Action



"I'm currently identifying neighbours who own electric vehicles as potential participants in local flexibility initiatives."

"We're running experiments using trackers for water heaters."



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Reaching the most vulnerable: social innovations at the core of energy communities

Social innovations lie at the heart of energy communities across multiple domains, including:


- **Inclusive outreach strategies** aimed at building meaningful connections with the most vulnerable households, ensuring **no one is left behind in the energy transition.**
- **Innovative retrofit approaches** that prioritise **citizen-led renovation**, such as assisted self-renovation models that foster autonomy, strengthen local skills, and support place-based employment.



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What does it mean in terms of policy?

“A relational approach requires research and policy that sees social relations not as means to an end, but as ends in themselves, and thus develops ways of better understanding, facilitating and resourcing diverse social relations to allow just and sustainable energy futures to emerge” (Hargreaves and Middlemiss 2020).



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**Thank you for your
attention!**

If you have any
questions, feel free to
reach out:

aurore.dudka@unitn.it



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CONCLUSIONS



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Visit the [Climate Pact website](#) to find stories from the Pact community and useful resources.

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Any questions? Don't hesitate to contact the Secretariat at: contact@euclimatepact.eu

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