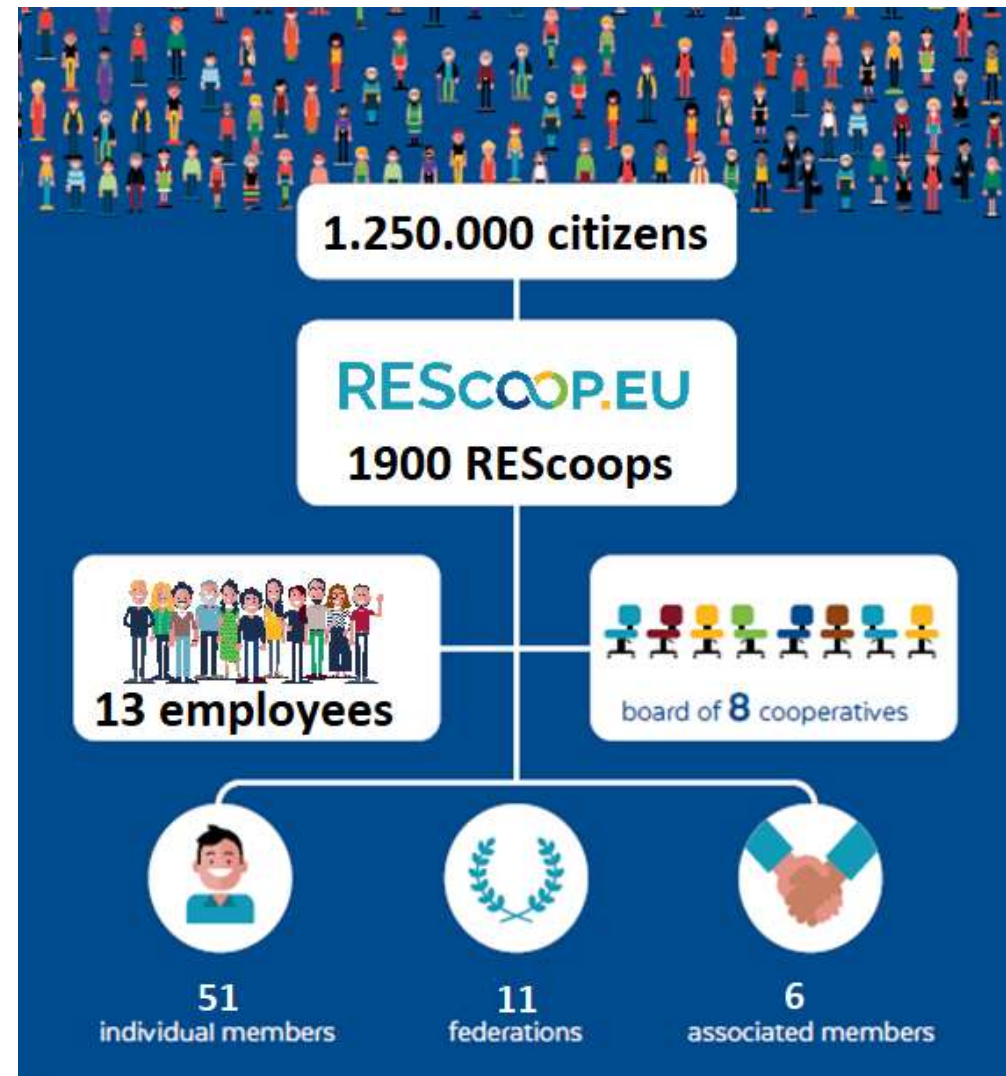
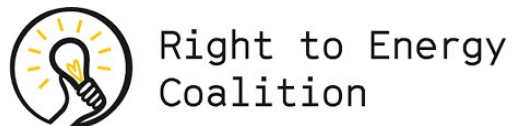


# Energy Communities in the EU and in CEE Countries – where are we?

Josh Roberts, Senior Policy Advisor – REScoop.eu

1 June 2022

# What is REScoop.eu?



# REScoop.eu: Cooperative principles applied to the energy sector

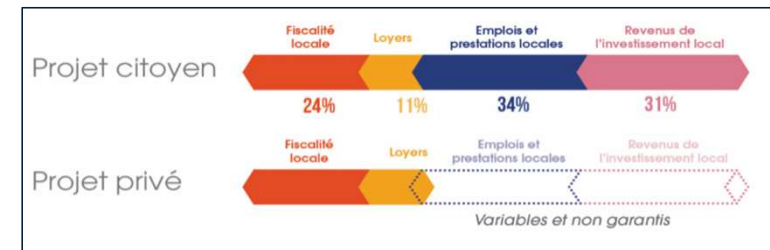
1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Member Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training, and Information
6. Cooperation among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

# REScoops in the energy sector

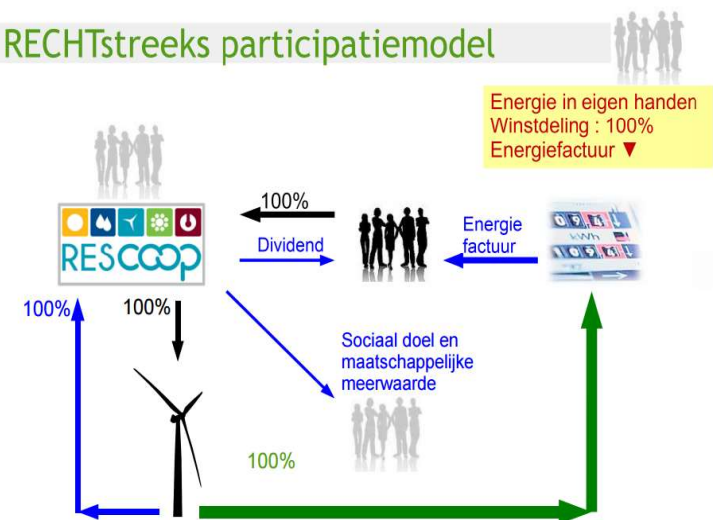
<b>Production</b>	 
<b>Supply</b>	 
<b>Distribution</b>	
<b>Services (energy efficiency, ICT)</b>	 
<b>Electrical vehicle sharing</b>	 
<b>Financing</b>	 

# Benefits of community energy ownership

1. Revenues from local renewables to meet local needs (e.g. supply, other services, education, renovations/EE, energy poverty)
2. Democratic community ownership, empowerment
3. Economic benefits for participants (e.g. energy bill savings, return on investment)
4. Public acceptance
5. Promotion of uptake of clean energy technologies & benefits to energy system



## RECHTstreeks participatiemodel



# Common barriers faced by RECs

## 1) Practical Challenges:

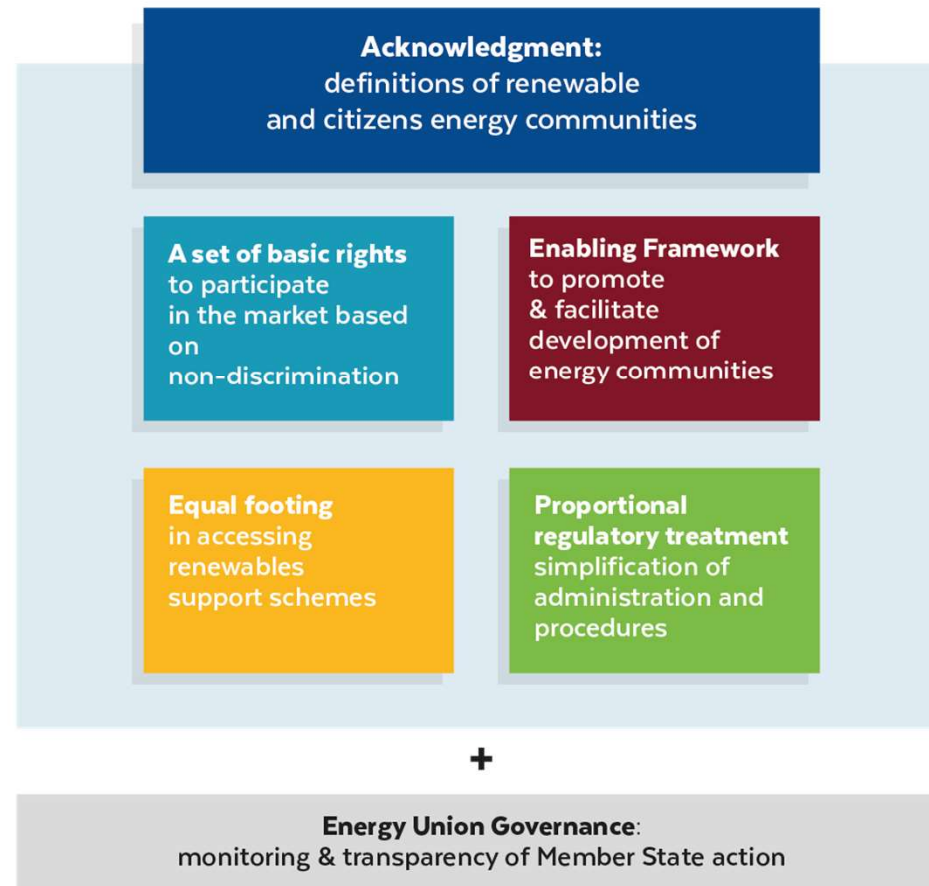
- Lack of experience/expertise & reliance on dedicated volunteers
- Lack of information
- Governance/decision-making efficiency
- Access to finance / investment risk mitigation
- Unequal access to means to invest

## 2) Policy-related challenges

- Lack of recognition or strategy/objectives for supporting RECs
- Unstable/market-based incentives structures, particularly for renewables production
- Overburdensome (strict licensing requirements, connection rules) and restrictive regulation (tariffs)
- Complex and non-transparent administrative procedures and related costs (e.g. grid connection, planning)
- Unsuitable company laws (i.e. available legal forms)
- Public procurement rules

# The Clean Energy Package

a policy foundation for energy communities



# Common challenges in transposition

- 1) Copy-paste of EU provisions
- 2) Lack of a clear definition and confusion with other concepts
- 3) Restrictive parameters being placed on energy communities
- 4) Assessment of potential and barriers to development not yet completed
- 5) Regulations (ex. Grid connection, network charges, oversight)
- 6) Revised state aid framework
- 7) Ability for local authorities to participate and/or support
- 8) For-profit entities taking advantage of energy community concept

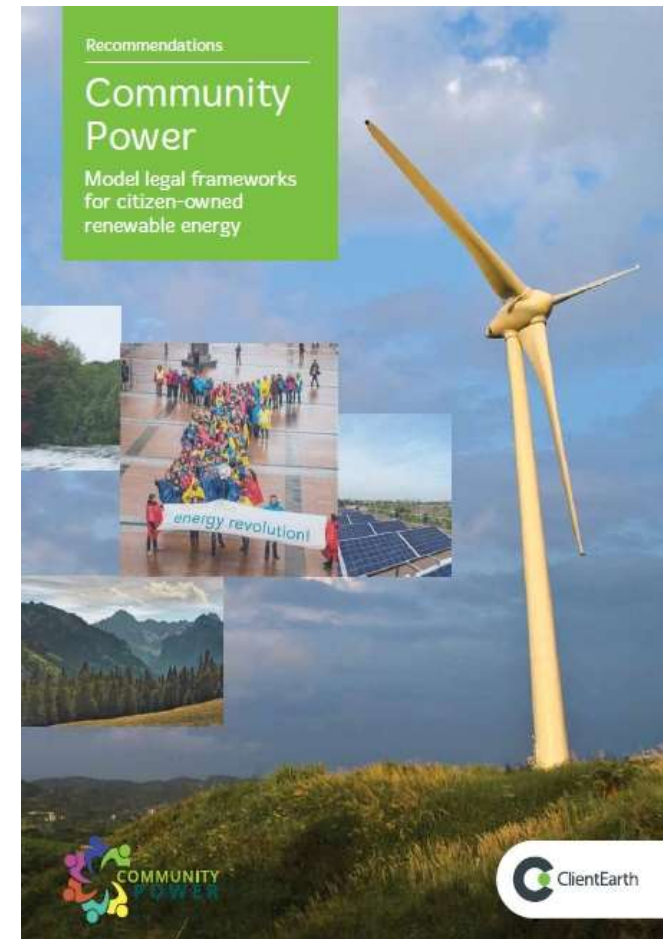


# Overcoming hurdles: solutions



# ‘Model Legal Frameworks for Citizen-owned Renewable Energy’

- Report intended to identify national best practices for supporting community energy
- ClientEarth carried out research and analysis of law and policy in Germany, Denmark, Spain and the UK
- Contains recommendations for creating a legal framework that enables community energy at national level



# Strategic Planning

Community energy needs a framework

- **Define** what is meant by community energy
- **High level policy objectives** at national/or local level (installed capacity, local ownership objectives)
- **Strategy** – government commitment to address specific challenges through concrete set of actions
- Government **support** and **communication**/dialogue
- **Buy-in/participation** by other government institutions and stakeholders



# Assessing barriers & potential

- Several examples exist (both by governments and NGOs)
- We are currently pulling together literature/experience from across the EU
- Currently developing a template
- Testing in DE and PL to contrast existing / non-existing community energy sectors
- **Aim:** tool to help Member States assess/learn about energy communities, the potential benefits they can provide, the existing barriers to development, and the potential measures to remove barriers.



# Access to information and technical expertise



ÖSTERREICHISCHE  
KOORDINATIONSSTELLE FÜR  
ENERGIEGEMEINSCHAFTEN

## Coordinating Office: Main Tasks

### Provision of Quality-assured Information

- Webpage
- Infographics
- Explanatory videos
- Factsheets / guidelines
- FAQs
- Sample contracts
- Best practice examples

Further information:  
[www.energiegemeinschaften.gv.at](http://www.energiegemeinschaften.gv.at)  
[info@energiegemeinschaften.gv.at](mailto:info@energiegemeinschaften.gv.at)  
Phone 0043 1 532 39 99

### Support for Projects

- Financial support through funding programme (Climate and Energy Fund)
- Identification of challenges (regulatory, operative) and solution-focused support
- Pilot projects in all 9 provinces
- Monitoring/communication of findings

### Stakeholder Communication

- Cooperation programme and information exchange with regional public advisory organisations
- Link to national stakeholders such as:
  - ministries
  - regulator
  - associations
  - interest groups
- Information campaigns



[www.energiegemeinschaften.gv.at](http://www.energiegemeinschaften.gv.at)

# Incentives to invest

## Operational support

- Financial support once a project is operational (E.g. Feed-in-tariffs, green certificates or premiums)
- Most successful have been ones that were simple and understandable

### Best examples:

Ireland: ring-fence for community projects – separate tender process

Germany: exempting community projects from tenders in line with new State aid guidelines

## Investment support

- All about **de-risking** early investments for pre-construction activities (e.g. feasibility studies, planning, grid connection, consultancy/legal fees, etc)

Best examples: Scotland's CARES Scheme, Danish scheme

- **For participants:**

Special tax treatment to incentivise investment by citizens

Best examples:

- Netherlands' Postcoderos
- UK SEIS scheme
- Local tax incentives in Spain

Reductions on energy bill (energy and network component)



# Promoting Inclusiveness

- Integrating the objective of tackling energy poverty into the concept of community (e.g. Greece)
- Financing programmes to help low-income households invest (e.g. on-bill finance)
- Requirements vs incentives for project developers
- Allowing for organization of citizens living in social housing (e.g. 'tenants' democracy' in Denmark)
- Reduced requirements for participation for target groups (buy-in, representation)



# Grids & local administrative support

## Grid connection

- Bike-lane for obtaining a **grid connection** – Ireland is a good example
- Grid **connection fees** that are simple and not over-burdensome (e.g. shallow vs deep connection cost) - Denmark
- **Licensing** – making it easy and affordable – Greece is a good example
- **Incentives** to manage connection to limit impact on grid/provide services
- Local **grid plan** to help provide clarity and transparency



## Local planning and assistance

- **Urban/heat planning** (e.g. building ordinances that require RES/EE integration in new and renovated buildings)
- **Guidance**/tools for citizens (e.g. online solar/heat maps) and **one-stop-shops**
- Allocating public spaces for community RES projects (**public procurement**)





# The Energy Community Repository

- Data collection & analysis
  - map energy communities in the EU
  - assess the impact of the energy communities mapped
  - policy analysis (incl. enabling frameworks)
- Technical assistance
  - 25 communities will receive **direct technical support**
  - 50 communities will receive support via **online twinning & peer learning**
  - 80 communities will receive support via **national capacity building workshops**
  - 6 **EU-wide capacity building webinars**
- Best practices & toolbox

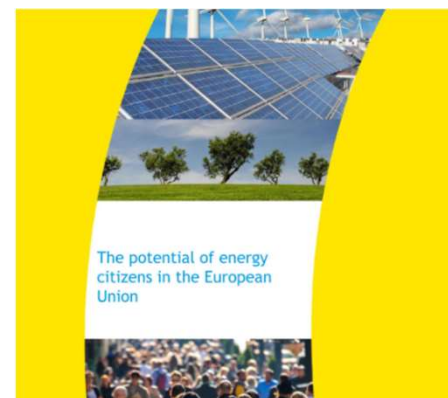
# Useful Resources

REScoop.EU

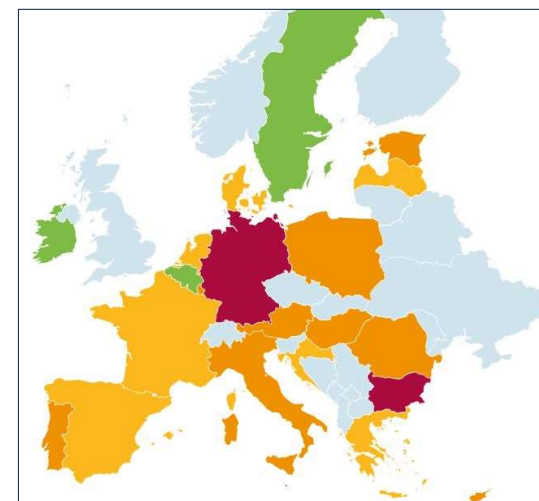


## Energy Communities under the Clean Energy Package

Transposition Guidance



## Transposition tracker: energy community definitions



**REPowerEU for Energy Citizens Manifesto**

# Useful resources

- REPowerEU for Energy Citizens Manifesto: <https://www.rescoop.eu/news-and-events/news/a-repowereu-for-energy-citizens-manifesto>
- Transposition Guidance (REScoop.eu, ClientEarth): <https://www.rescoop.eu/news-and-events/press/energy-communities-under-the-clean-energy-package>
- Community Power: Model legal frameworks for citizen-owned energy (ClientEarth): [https://www.communitypower.eu/images/Clientearth\\_report.pdf](https://www.communitypower.eu/images/Clientearth_report.pdf)
- Transposition Tracker (REScoop.eu): <https://www.rescoop.eu/policy#transposition-tracker>
- Potential for energy citizens in the EU (CE Delft): <https://cedelft.eu/publications/the-potential-of-energy-citizens-in-the-european-union/>
- Assessment report of potentials for RES community energy in the target regions (Come RES): <https://come-res.eu/resource?t=Assessment%20report%20of%20potentials%20for%20RES%20community%20energy%20in%20the%20target%20regions>
- Community Renewable Electricity Generation – Potential Sector Growth to 2020 (Department of Energy and Climate Change, UK): [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/274746/20140108\\_Community\\_Energy\\_Modelling\\_FinalReportJan.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/274746/20140108_Community_Energy_Modelling_FinalReportJan.pdf)
- Community Energy Strategy: Full Report (DECC, UK): [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/275163/20140126Community\\_Energy\\_Strategy.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/275163/20140126Community_Energy_Strategy.pdf)
- Roadmap for citizen renewable energy in France (Ministere de la Transition Ecologic): <https://www.ecologie.gouv.fr/10-mesures-developpement-des-energies-renouvelables-citoyennes>
- Barriers to renewable energy communities and opportunities in Hungary (Hnuti Duha, EMLA): [https://mtvsz.hu/uploads/files/Megujuloenergia-kozossegek\\_Ertekelo\\_tanulmany\\_MTVSZ-SZGK-EMLA\\_final.pdf](https://mtvsz.hu/uploads/files/Megujuloenergia-kozossegek_Ertekelo_tanulmany_MTVSZ-SZGK-EMLA_final.pdf)
- The local economic impact of citizen projects (Energie Partagee): <https://energie-partagee.org/ressource/etude-retombees-eco-2/>
- Study on potential of energy communities in the Czech Republic: [https://frankbold.org/sites/default/files/publikace/studie\\_egu\\_brno\\_-\\_komunitni\\_energetika.pdf](https://frankbold.org/sites/default/files/publikace/studie_egu_brno_-_komunitni_energetika.pdf)

# REScoop.EU

[www.rescoop.eu](http://www.rescoop.eu)

*If you want to know more, please contact us!*

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