



# Community Energy in Fit for 55 and REPowerEU

Regional workshop on community energy

1<sup>st</sup> June 2022, Budapest



## CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK EUROPE

European NGO coalition on climate and energy

- Europe's leading NGO coalition fighting dangerous climate change
- Over 185 member organisations in 38 European countries
- Ambitious climate action to stay on track for 1.5°C and avert the worst impacts



TOGETHER FOR

**100% RENEWABLE**

**EUROPE**

Prosperous. Sustainable. For everyone.

- Campaign with our members for a fair, just, and sustainable transition to a 100% renewable energy system: **#TogetherFor100RE**
- Accelerating **the solar PV and wind deployment** at the pace and scale required by the **climate crisis**
- A decentralized energy system with faster but also **inclusive** rollout of **solar and wind energy** with people, communities, and biodiversity at the heart.

## CAN Europe is a member of Community Power Coalition

- 42 members across Europe: local, national, and international.
- Member organisations are NGOs, cooperatives, cities networks, experts...
- We meet monthly and share information and needs
- We track transposition and implementation of the new rights for communities and citizens, and do joint EU advocacy
- [www.communitypowercoalition.eu](http://www.communitypowercoalition.eu)

# Community Energy in EU legislation: Power to the people!

- The importance of community energy projects is acknowledged in European law ( EU clean energy package 2019) **STRONG SHIFT of citizens' role!**
- EU Renewable Energy Directive (RED II) gives rights! Citizens are granted the right to produce, store, sell and consume their own renewable energy
- It is the **responsibility** of national governments to ensure that citizens can access these rights and to promote renewable energy communities.

# An enabling framework to promote the development of Community Energy!!

- RED Article 22
- Member States **shall** provide an enabling framework to promote and **facilitate the development of** renewable energy communities.
- That framework shall include
  - Unjustified regulatory and administrative **barriers are removed**
  - Fair, proportionate and transparent procedures, including cost-reflective network charges,
  - Tools to facilitate access to finance and information are available
  - Capacity-building support is provided to public authorities in enabling and setting up renewable energy communities.

**Enabling frameworks will differ in every country depending on what the biggest barriers in that national context are**

# FIT FOR 55



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# European Commission presented proposal for revision of **RED II** in July 2021, as part of **Fit for 55 Package**.

- Upwards review of the 32% target (to at least 40%) for renewable energy at EU level
- Consideration of elements emanating from adopted strategies (hydrogen, offshore renewables, biodiversity, etc.)
- Measures focusing on sectors where progress has been slower so far (heating and cooling, transport)



# RED II under Fit for 55

- Current RED revision do not touch articles related to community energy!!
- Most important: The Renewable energy directive must have been put into national law by June 2021- but many member states **missed the deadline**.
- How is your country is doing?

While Fit For 55 was continuing full speed...

fossil fuel crisis coupled with energy price crisis  
and ongoing climate emergency

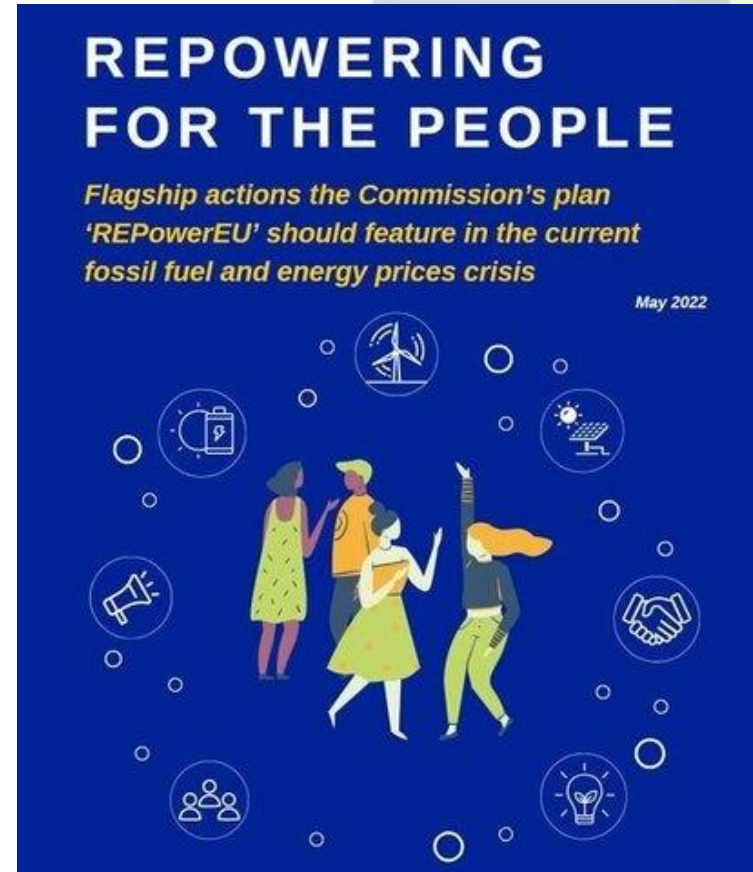


# REPowerEU: powering with community energy?

- REPowerEU (March 2022): Joint European Action for more affordable, secure and sustainable energy.
- Outline of a **plan to make Europe independent from Russian fossil fuels well before 2030**, starting with fossil gas
- Fossil gas diversification (LNG) and renewables roll-out
- Misses one important element: **PEOPLE**. No mention of community energy !

# REpowerEU Plan ( May 18<sup>th</sup>)

- Huge package: including EU Solar strategy + permitting recommendation
- REPower for the People!
- Europe's energy transition is at crossroads: what role for energy communities?



# Energy communities in REPowerEU!

- Recognises community energy as an **important tool** for accelerated and just energy transition (Permitting)
- Member States should remove barriers that energy communities are facing
- EU Solar Strategy
  - Set up at least one renewables-based energy community in every municipality with a population higher than 10 000 by 2025.
  - -Ensure that energy poor and vulnerable consumers have access to solar energy, e.g. through social housing installations, energy communities, etc
  - important distinction between energy communities and other commercial forms of collective initiatives around renewables.





# New report by CAN Europe!



## Engaging citizens and local communities in the solar revolution

Rooftop Solar PV Country Comparison Report

May 2022



Looked into **barriers in 11 Member States (including Romania and Bulgaria)** that are blocking the **uptake of solar rooftop PVS**: recommendations + good and bad practices



### Energy communities

Many Member States have not transposed the Electricity Market Directive (EMD) and the Renewable Energy Directive (RED) with regard to Renewable Energy Communities (REC) and Citizen Energy Communities (CEC), which were due in December 2020 and June 2021 respectively. Even though some Member States have adopted definitions, most are very superficial and provide very little detail (if any) on the actual principles. Essentially most Member States have copy-pasted the definitions of the directives. Despite adopting definitions, hardly any Member States have put enabling frameworks in place that allow these communities to emerge as requested in the directives.

<https://caneurope.org/rooftop-solar-pv-comparison-report/>



# Letter to CEE Governments

- On open letter sent from CSOs in Bulgaria, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia and the Czech Republic, calling for measures to **promote the higher uptake of rooftop solar PV** which will in the process, help empower local communities and citizens.
- Specific recommendations for the region
- [https://caneurope.org/content/uploads/2022/05/CEE-\\_REPowerEU\\_EU-Solar-Energy-Strategy\\_open-letter\\_EXT.pdf](https://caneurope.org/content/uploads/2022/05/CEE-_REPowerEU_EU-Solar-Energy-Strategy_open-letter_EXT.pdf)



**THANK YOU!**

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