



EU federation of citizen energy cooperatives

Workshop

New actors on the energy market: aggregators and energy communities

Dirk Vansintjan, president of REScoop.eu

REKK Online event Hungary

Wednesday 11/11/2020



What is REScoop.eu?



REScoops

Citizen Energy Cooperatives in Europe
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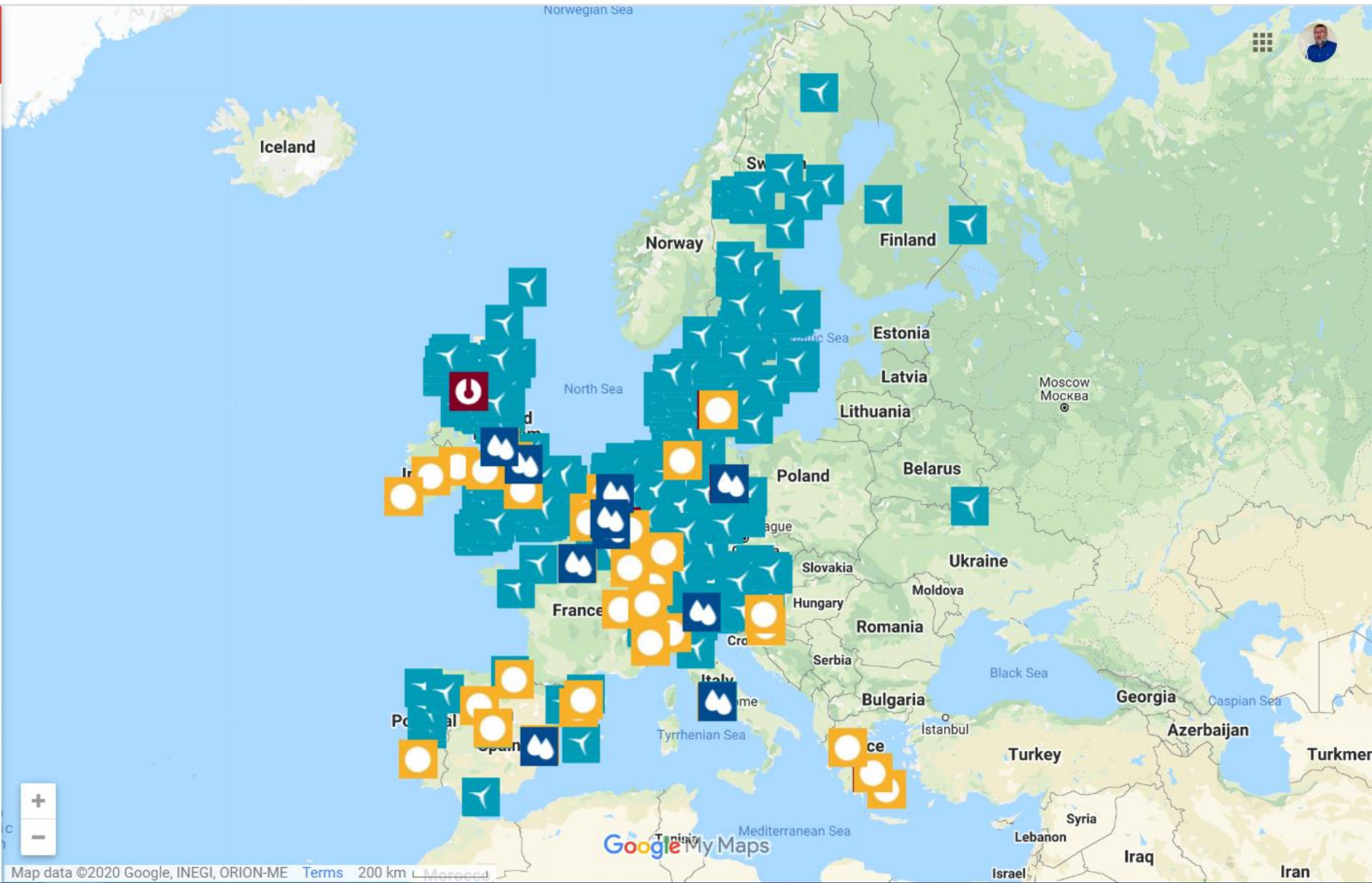
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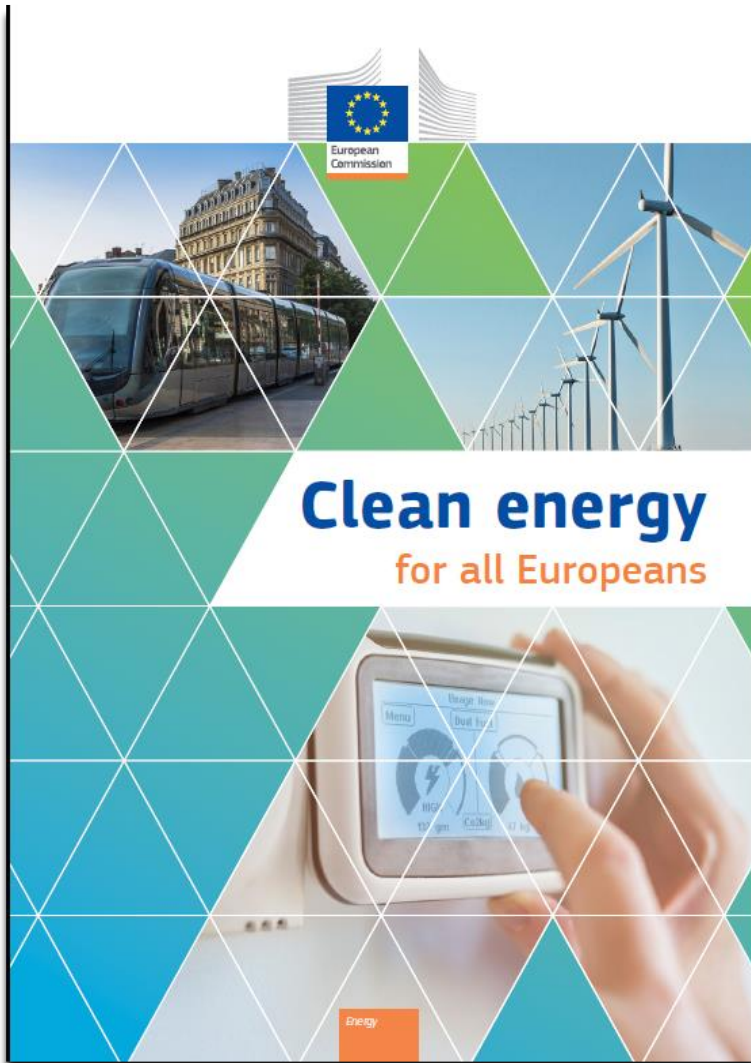
To do what?

Through REScoop.eu, we wish to make our voices heard in the European energy debate. Citizens after all are the ones who will be paying for the transition to a more sustainable energy system. REScoop.eu empowers them and wants to achieve energy democracy.

Our federation has four well-defined objectives:

- **We represent the voice of citizens** and **citizen energy cooperatives** to European policy makers
- **We support the start-up of new REScoops** and provide them with useful tools and contacts
- **We provide services for the European REScoops**, e.g. we are currently working on a financial tool
- **We promote the REScoop business model** throughout Europe

European Commission: CE4AE



The Commission published its Communication on Energy Union on February 25, 2015 [COM (2015) 80 final]. This Communication calls for a fundamental transformation of Europe's energy system: to speak globally with one voice; to, *inter alia*, build a sustainable, low-carbon and climate-friendly economy that is designed to last; where energy flows freely across borders, based on competition and the best possible use of resources; **with citizens at its core**, where **citizens take ownership of the energy transition**, benefit from new technologies to reduce their bills, participate actively in the market, and where vulnerable consumers are protected.

Definitions in CEP Europeans directives

Citizens energy community

a legal entity:

which is based on voluntary and open participation, effectively controlled by shareholders or members who are natural persons, local authorities, including municipalities, or small enterprises and microenterprises.

The primary purpose of a citizens energy community is to provide environmental, economic or social community benefits for its members or the local areas where it operates rather than financial profits.

A citizens energy community can be engaged in electricity generation, distribution and supply, consumption, aggregation, storage or energy efficiency services, generation of renewable electricity, charging services for electric vehicles or provide other energy services to its shareholders or members.

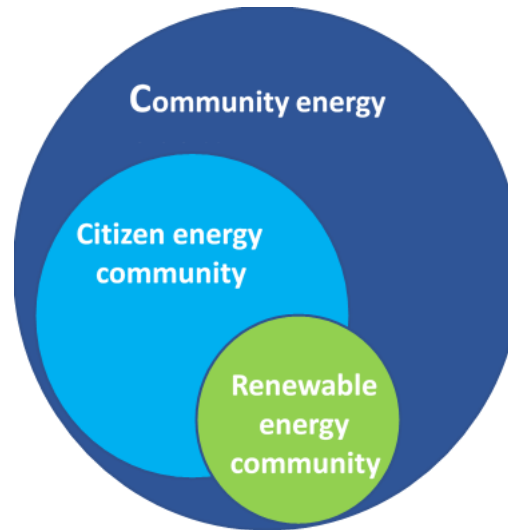
Renewable energy community

a legal entity:

which, in accordance with the applicable national law, is based on open and voluntary participation, is autonomous, and is effectively controlled by shareholders or members that are located in the proximity of the renewable energy projects that are owned and developed by that legal entity;

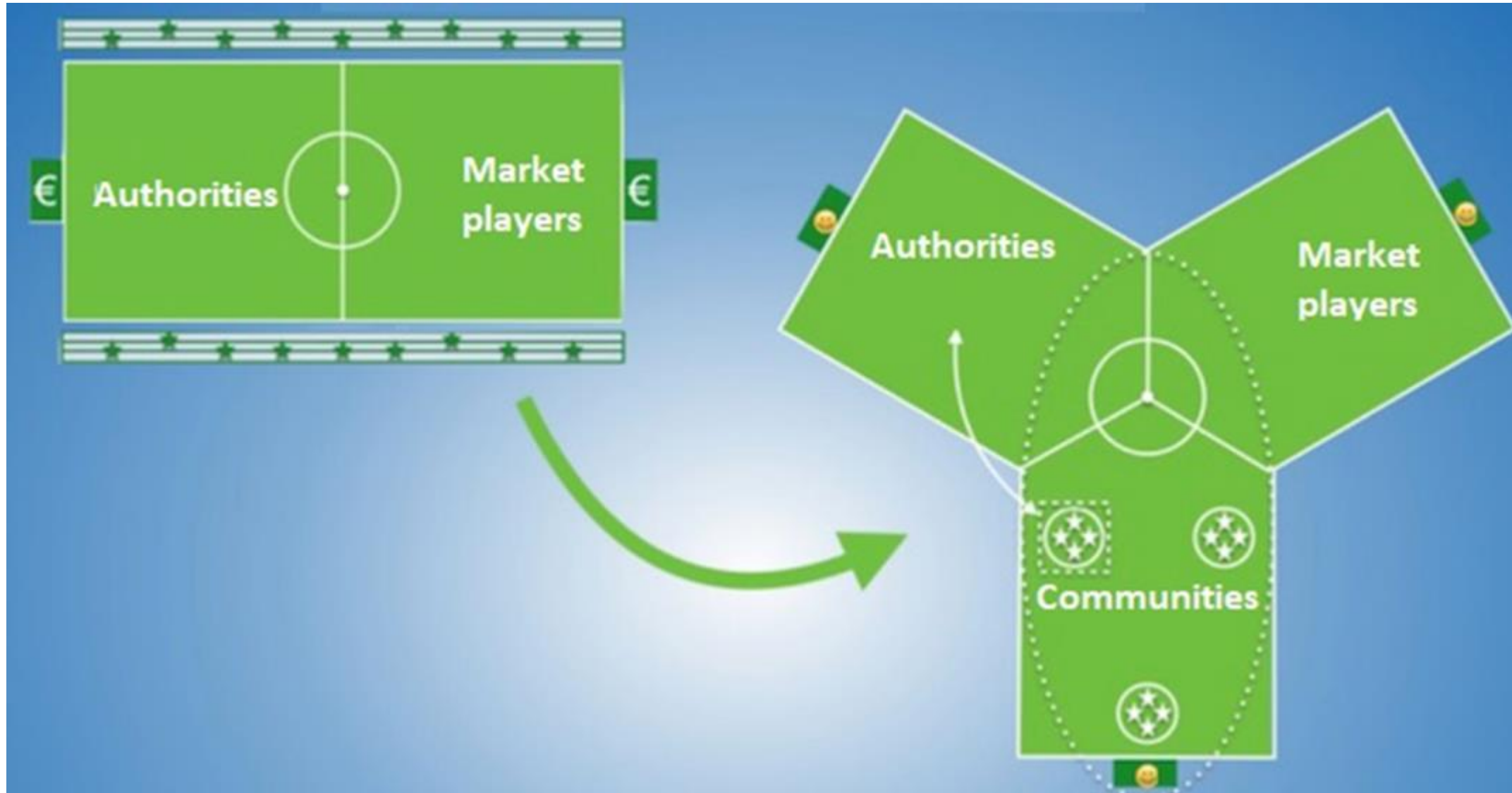
the shareholders or members of which are natural persons, SMEs or local authorities, including municipalities;

the primary purpose of which is 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.



All CEP directives should be implemented by mid 2021: what about Hungary?

For many this seems a new player, game and a field



Energy Communities: really something new?

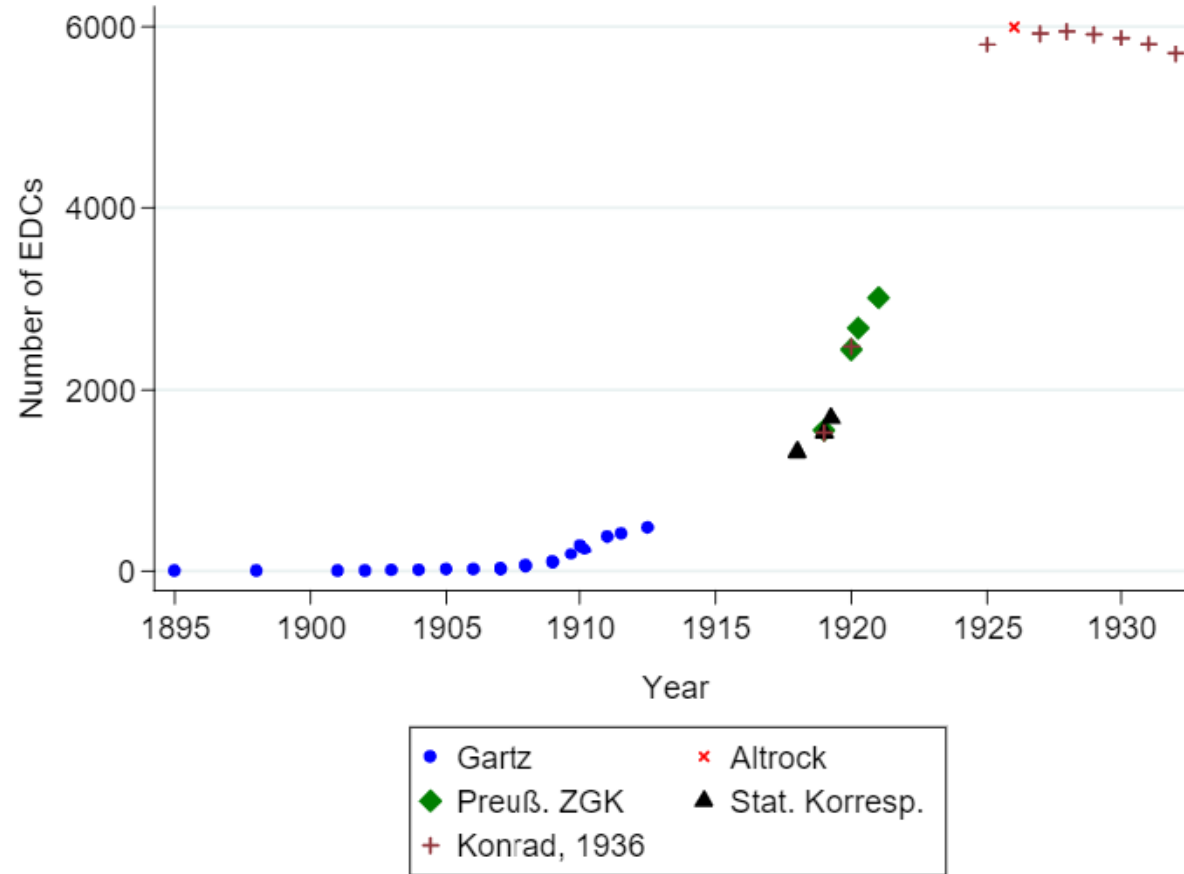


Figure 1: Numbers of Electricity Distribution Cooperatives (EDCs) in Germany until 1934

Sources: Gartz (1910, 1911, 1912); ETZ (1920a [Statistische Korrespondenz], 1920b [Preußische Zentralgenossenschaftskasse], 1921 [Preußische Zentralgenossenschaftskasse], 1926 [Altrock, 1926]); Konrad (1936).

How can EU-MS support energy communities?

Following the EU's Clean Energy for All Europeans legislative package, EU Member States are currently working on transposing the definitions of Renewable Energy Communities and Citizen Energy Communities into their national laws.

If done right, these definitions will allow citizens to become active participants in and owners of the energy transition, and will make community energy projects flourish throughout Europe.

But how can openness, democratic governance and autonomy be reflected in national level definitions of energy communities?

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Energy Communities under the Clean Energy Package

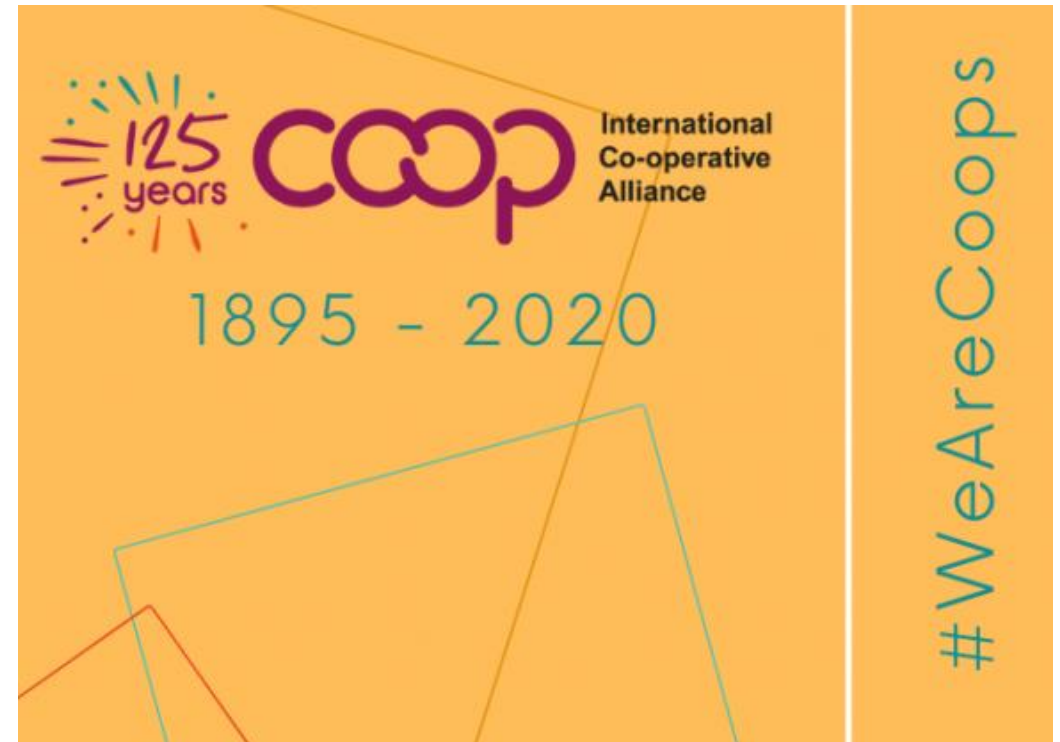
Transposition Guidance



Different business models

What is a citizen energy cooperative?

- Groups of citizens who cooperate on energy transition projects
- Legal entity is not always relevant
- 7 ICA principles
 - Voluntary and open membership
 - Democratic member control
 - Member economic participation
 - Autonomy and independence
 - Education, training and information
 - Cooperation among cooperatives



What is a citizen energy cooperative?

- Energy transition projects includes electricity, heating, transportation and energy savings
 - Production
 - Supply
 - Distribution
 - Flexibility – storage, vpp & demand response
 - Energy monitoring
 - Energy savings
 - District heating
 - E-car sharing
 - ...



What is a citizen energy cooperative?

- Energy transition projects
- Citizens (also local authorities, microenterprises)
- Project with collective character
- Cooperative principles
- Various activities and thus business models

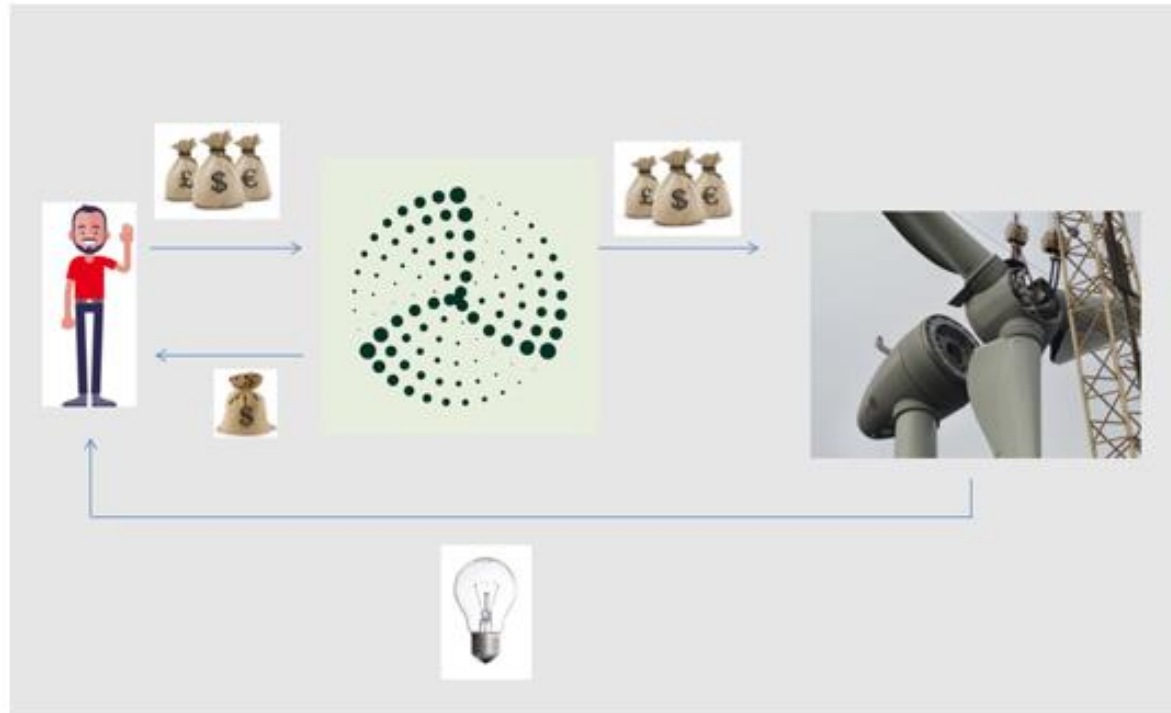
Producers



Suppliers



Producers & suppliers



Distribution system operators



Energy monitoring



“One person can make a difference
and everyone should try.”

– John F. Kennedy

Interactive invoicing

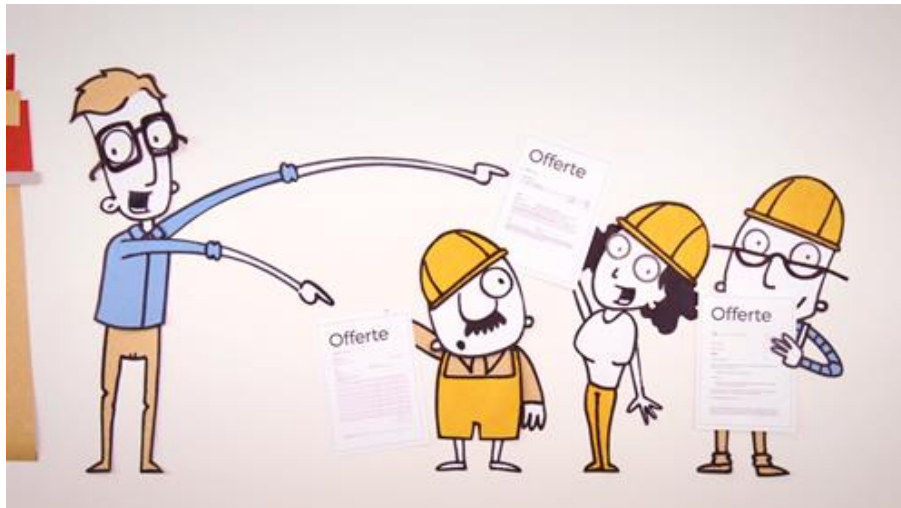


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Collective home retrofits



Training programmes



GENERATION ZERO WATT

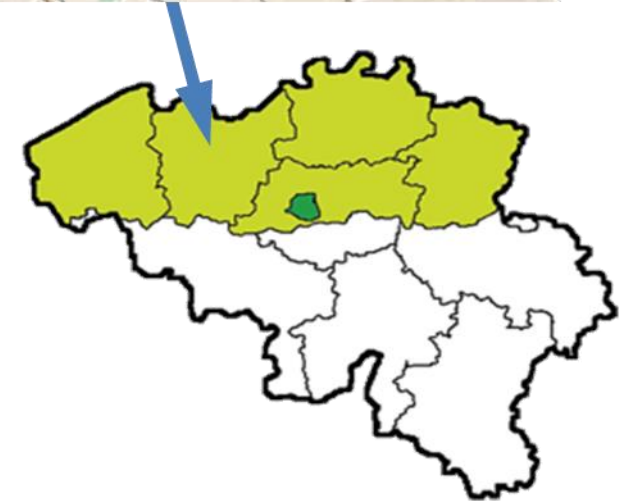
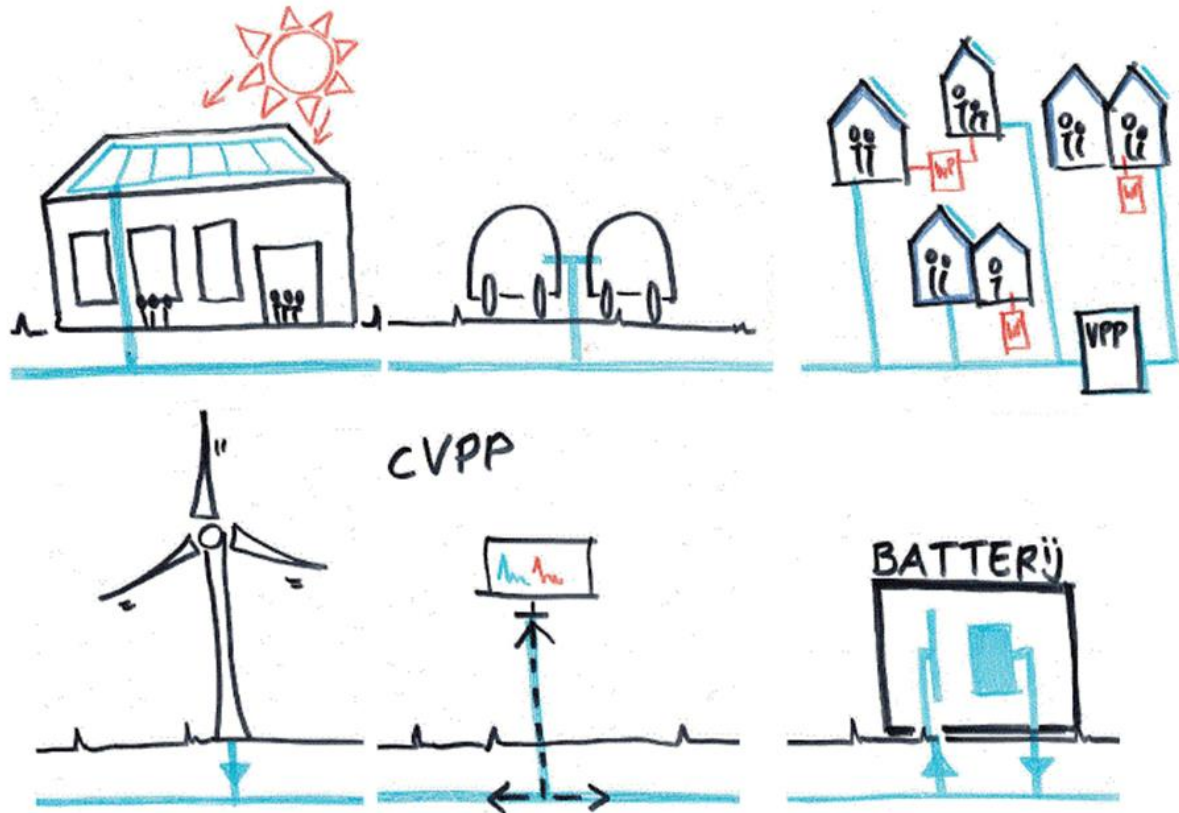
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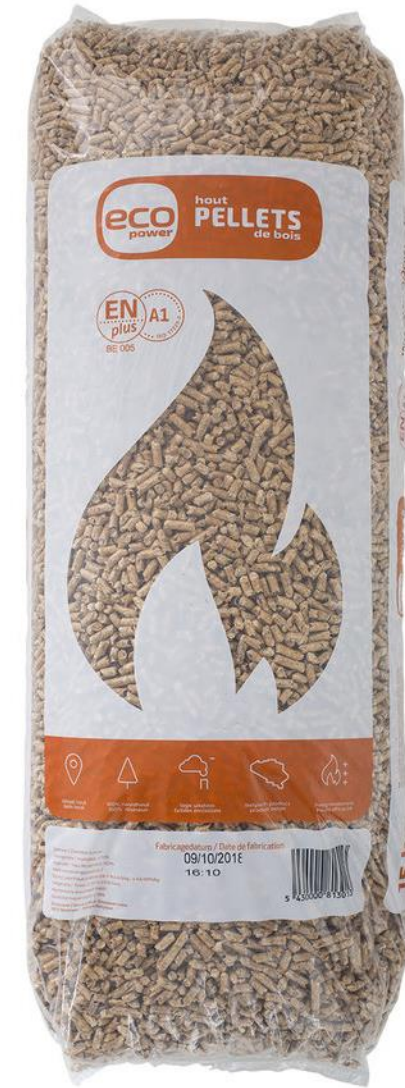
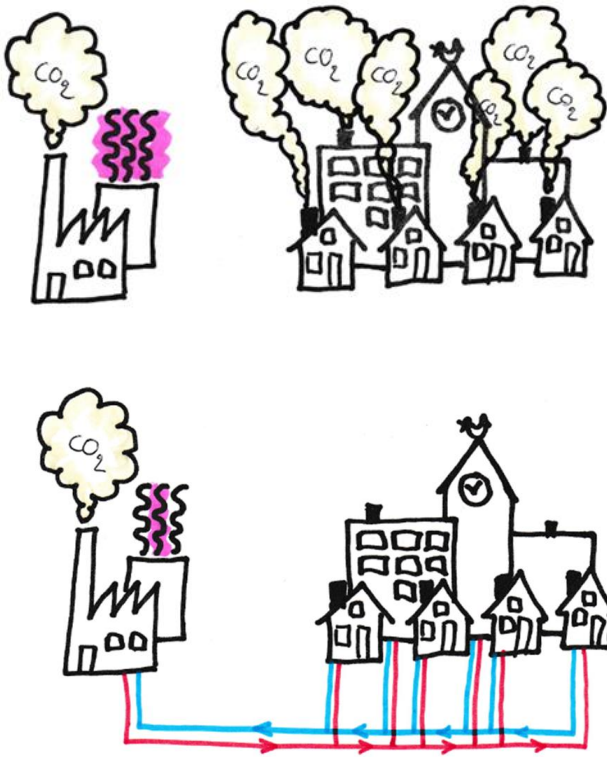
Public street lighting



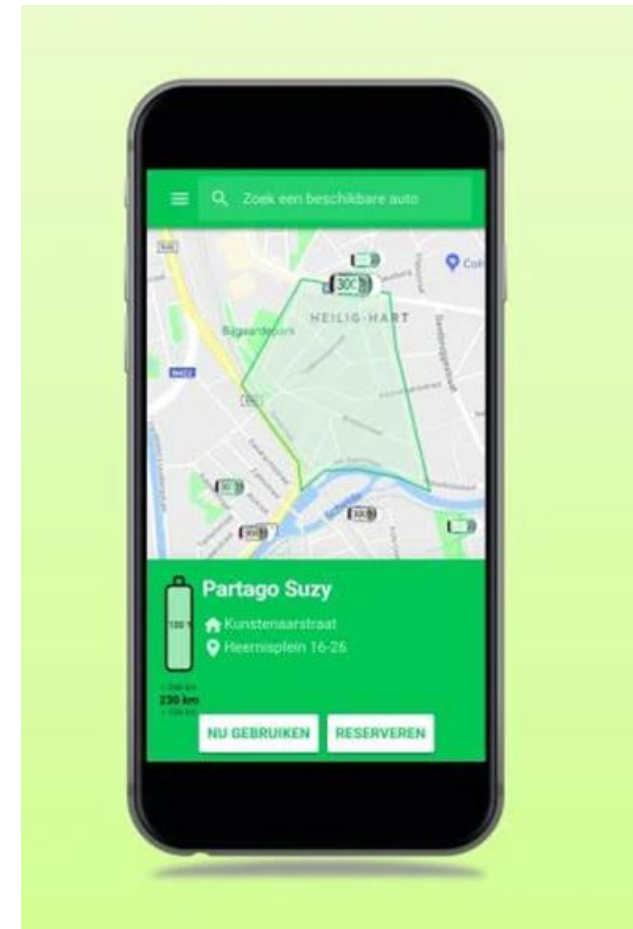
Flexibility, demand response and VPP



Heating



E-carsharing



How can EU-MS support energy communities?

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Example 30: Revolving funds to help de-risk investment in community renewables projects

A number of different funds have been established in the UK in order to help community energy projects get off the ground.

In Scotland, there are a number of funding opportunities provided under the Community and Renewable Energy Scheme (CARES). First, local non-profit community groups, community benefit societies and cooperatives, housing associations, faith groups and local authorities are eligible to receive up to GBP25k enablement grants, which can fund feasibility for energy systems or renewable energy projects, investigation of shared ownership opportunities or work to maximise the impact of community benefit societies with renewable energy projects. Second, these groups, along with rural businesses, are eligible to receive a loan of up to GBP150k for renewable energy projects with a reasonable chance of success. The loans can include a write-off facility that allows development risk to be mitigated.

REScoop.eu will try to monitor the transposition

- ECCO Interreg NWE project
- cVPP Interreg NWE project
- COME RES Horizon 2020 project
- European Climate foundation
- ...

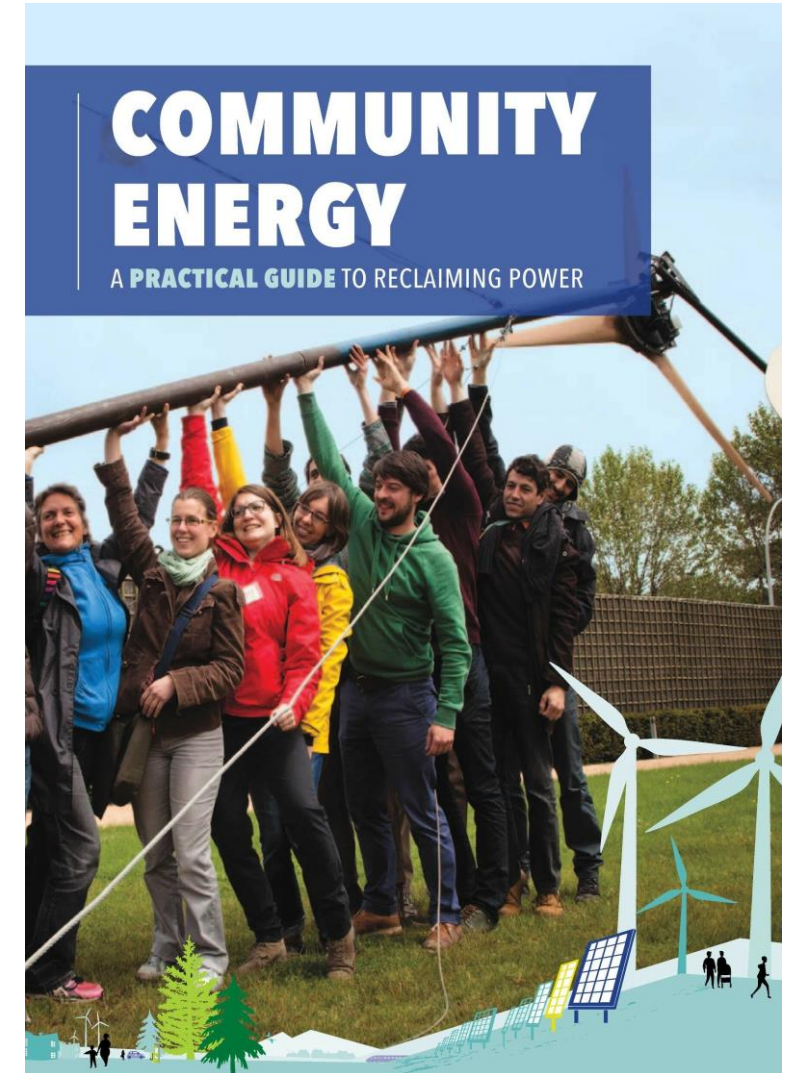


Energy Communities under the Clean Energy Package

Transposition Guidance

REScoop.eu+FOEE+Energy Cities help energy communities

- Practical guide
- <https://www.rescoop.eu/toolbox/community-energy-a-practical-guide-to-reclaiming-power> COME RES Horizon 2020 project
- Support European Climate foundation to reach out
- Movie Patagonia to promote CE worldwide



A resilient EU economy must be built on strong local communities

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By Dirk Vansintjan

3 apr. 2020

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and democratization of the green energy transition

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- DAY 1: European energy communities today and in the future
DAY 2: Regulation of energy communities and national implementation of EU directives
DAY 3: REScoop.eu annual general assembly (members only)

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