



(Cross border) energy communities
in the European context and here.

17/09/2026 in person workshop 1- Germany/Poland



**Funded by
the European Union**

with the technical support of
REScoop.EU



AGENDA

Agenda

- 14.00 Welcome Dr. Marek Jaskólski (EGZ) und Per Wiesner (ENO)
- 14:10 Dirk Vansintjan (REScoop.eu) From Awareness to a thriving ((quasi-) cross border) energy community
- 14:40 Joanna Tokarczuk, presentation project partner STORIE (PL)
- 15:00 DENA: Legal framework for cross-border energy projects (DE)
- 15:15 Short break
- 15:25 Stefan Schwind (Next2Sun): Experiences with cross-border activities
- 15:45 Gabreta-TBC
- 16:00 Expressions of interest participants- Conclusion - Q&A – Networking
- 18:00 End of Workshop 1

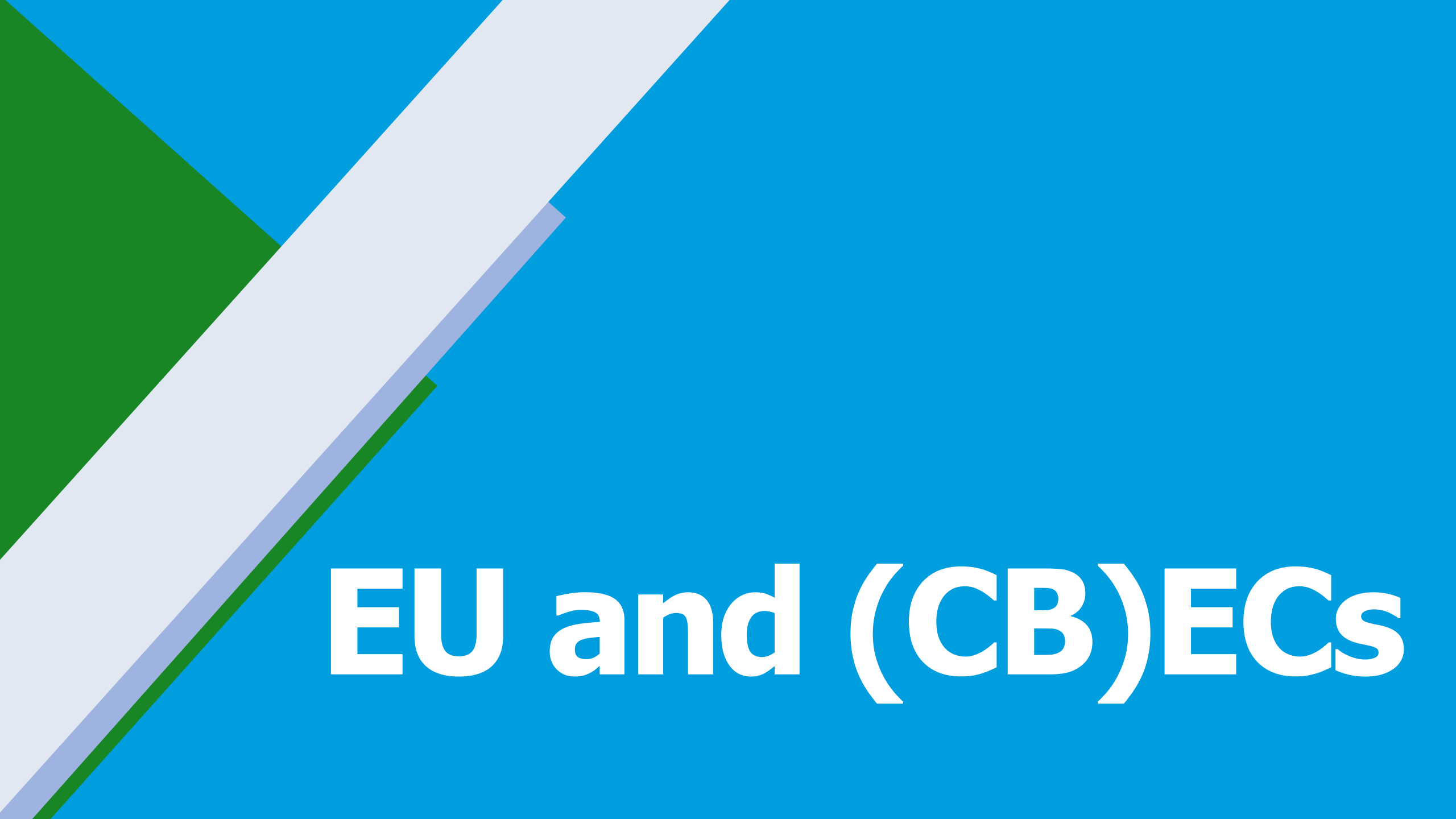


WELCOME



Welcome

Dr. Marek Jaskólski (EGZ) und Per Wiesner (ENO)



EU and (CB)ECs



From Awareness to a thriving ((quasi) cross border) energy community

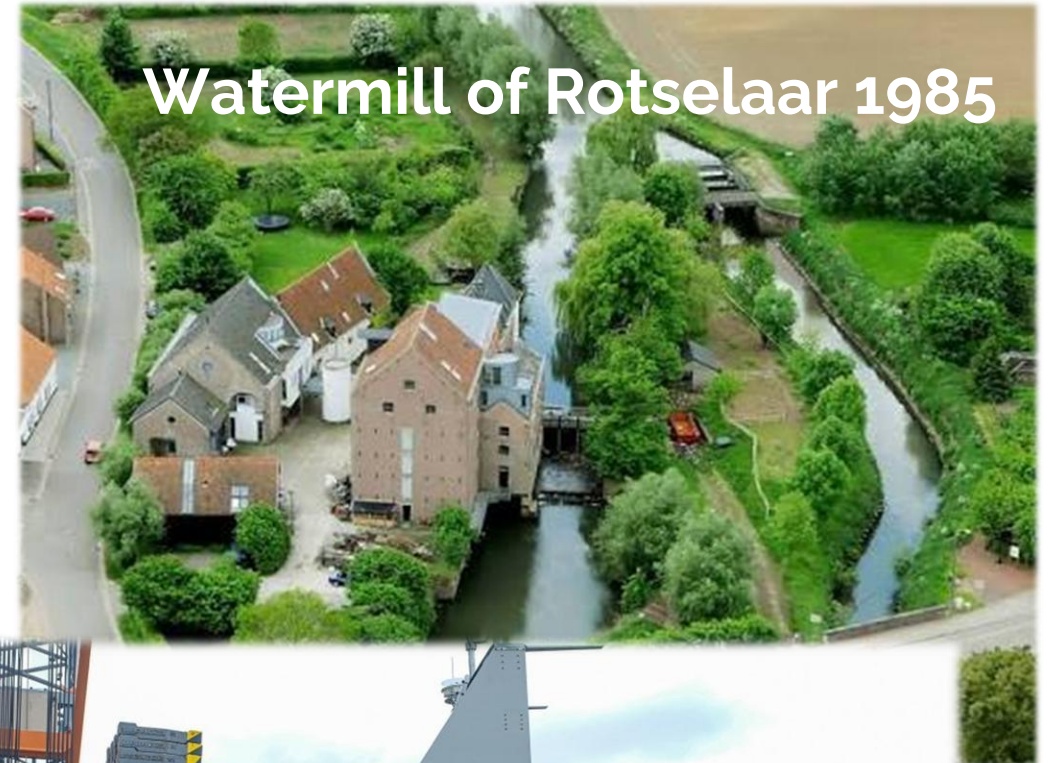
Dirk Vansintjan, REScoop.eu

Where do I come from?

Molen van Rotselaar – Ecopower – REScoop.eu



REScoop.eu °2013



Watermill of Rotselaar 1985



Ecopower °1991

REScoop.eu ?

REScoop.eu is

- the European federation of energy communities, most of them are cooperatives, but also associations, foundations and other not-for-profit legal entities;
- a growing network of 2,500 energy communities operating across Europe and jointly represent over 2 million citizens.

In Germany we have two federations as member: [BBEnergie](#) and [DGRV](#).

As EC-members we have: [Buergerwerke eG](#), [EWS Schönauf](#), [Green Planet Energy](#), [Netzwerk Energiewende Jetzt e.V.](#), [revoluSUN](#), [Sonnensegler BEG](#), and [Vianova](#). DGRV is board member of REScoop.eu.

In the Netherlands we have as federation member: [Energie Samen](#) and seven members: [CoöperatieAuto](#), [Coöperatie WOW](#), [DEEL Coöperatie](#), [De Windvogel](#), [HET Coöperatie](#), [Lochem Energie](#), [VGA - Vereniging Gedeeld Autogebruik](#). Energie Samen is board member of REScoop.eu.

REScoop.eu is a European federation

Through REScoop.eu, energy communities are heard in the European energy debate (EU Commission, Parliament, Member States).

REScoop.eu

- empowers citizens and energy communities and wants to achieve energy democracy;
- supports starting and established energy communities and provides them with tools and contacts to help them grow and prosper;
- facilitates international exchanges and cooperation between energy communities;
- promotes the cooperative business model in the energy sector.

REScoop.eu lobbies...

Since its creation in 2013 REScoop.eu advocates/lobbies in 'Brussels' for recognition of the special - not for profit - identity of its members in the energy sector.

As a first successful achievement 'REScoops' are -since 2018/2019- officially recognised in the EU's Clean Energy Package as energy communities - a not-for-profit business model where local stakeholders (citizens, municipalities, SMEs,...) jointly own and democratically control an enterprise that works on renewable energy, energy efficiency projects, ... even across borders...

Europe wanted to put 'citizens' in the center of the energy transition, and this in two different directives:

Renewable Energy Directive II (2018): REC (renewable energy community)

Internal Electricity Market Directive (2019): CEC (citizen energy community).

'Differences in the definitions are accidental, not intentional ...'

EU-member states can...

Both Directives (RED II and IMED):

- acknowledge the importance of cross-border cooperation, and
- include the possibility of creating "cross-border renewable energy communities" and "cross-border citizen energy communities".

In particular:

- RED II stipulates in Article 22 that RECs shall be open to cross-border participation, and
- Article 16 of the IMED Directive states the same for CECs.
- **Did NL and DE transpose this? And if they did, has the implementation followed?**

EU-member states have to:

- **Assess the barriers** that exists for citizens to take up an active role in the energy transition, e.g. through RECs or CECs.
- Set up an **enabling framework** to overcome the obstacles, like the effective CARES scheme in Scotland since 2013, see: <https://localenergy.scot/funding/> .

REScoop.eu monitors the transposition and implementation in every member state.

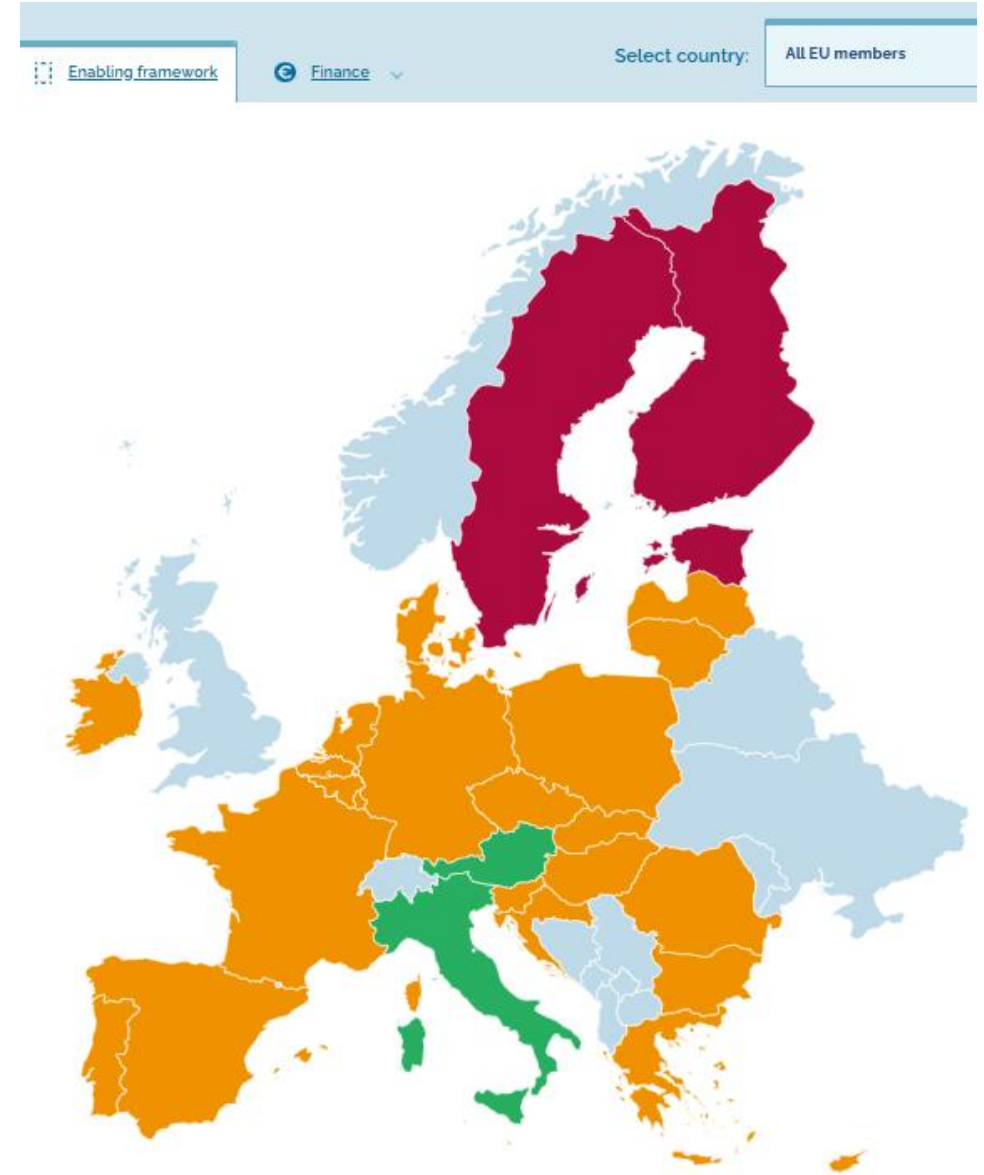
The REScoop.eu Policy tracker

Our Policy tracker assesses the progress of the national transposition and implementation of the main EU legal provisions on RECs and CECs, namely:

- **Definitions of RECs and CECs**, and
- **Enabling frameworks and national support schemes**.

Updated April 2026

So far REScoop.eu did not monitor the implementation of CBECs... but the Handbook looked into this aspect.

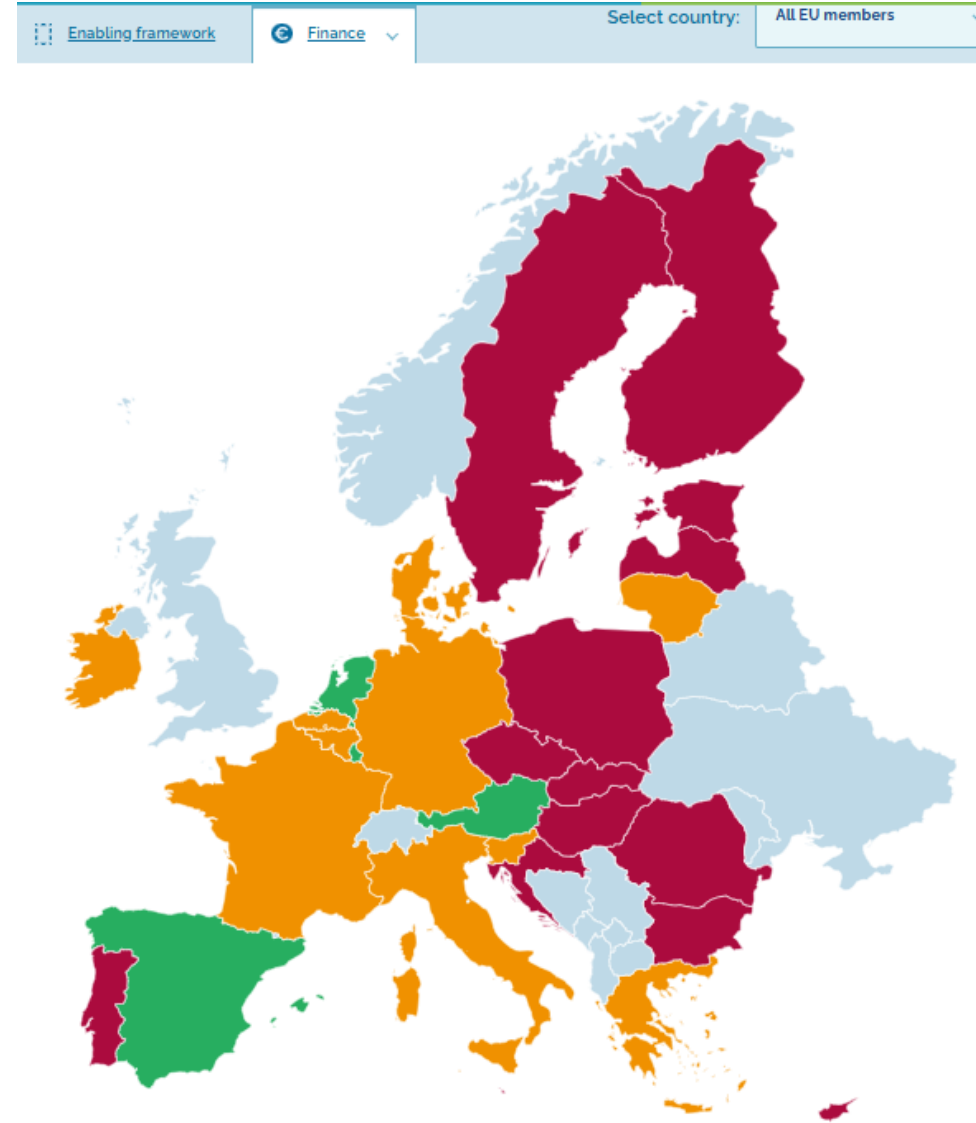


New: the Policy tracker on financing

Each enabling framework to promote and facilitate the development of RECs should also include tools to facilitate access to finance.

This [Policy tracker on finance](#) assesses whether and how EU public funds (Recovery & Resilience, Cohesion, Modernisation Funds, ...), are being used by Member States to support energy communities.

Updated June 2026



How are the support mechanisms in both member states?

Germany: average

See: <https://www.rescoop.eu/policy/policy-tracker/finance>

National funding however is good.

See: <https://www.rescoop.eu/policy/policy-tracker/finance/national-funds/germany>

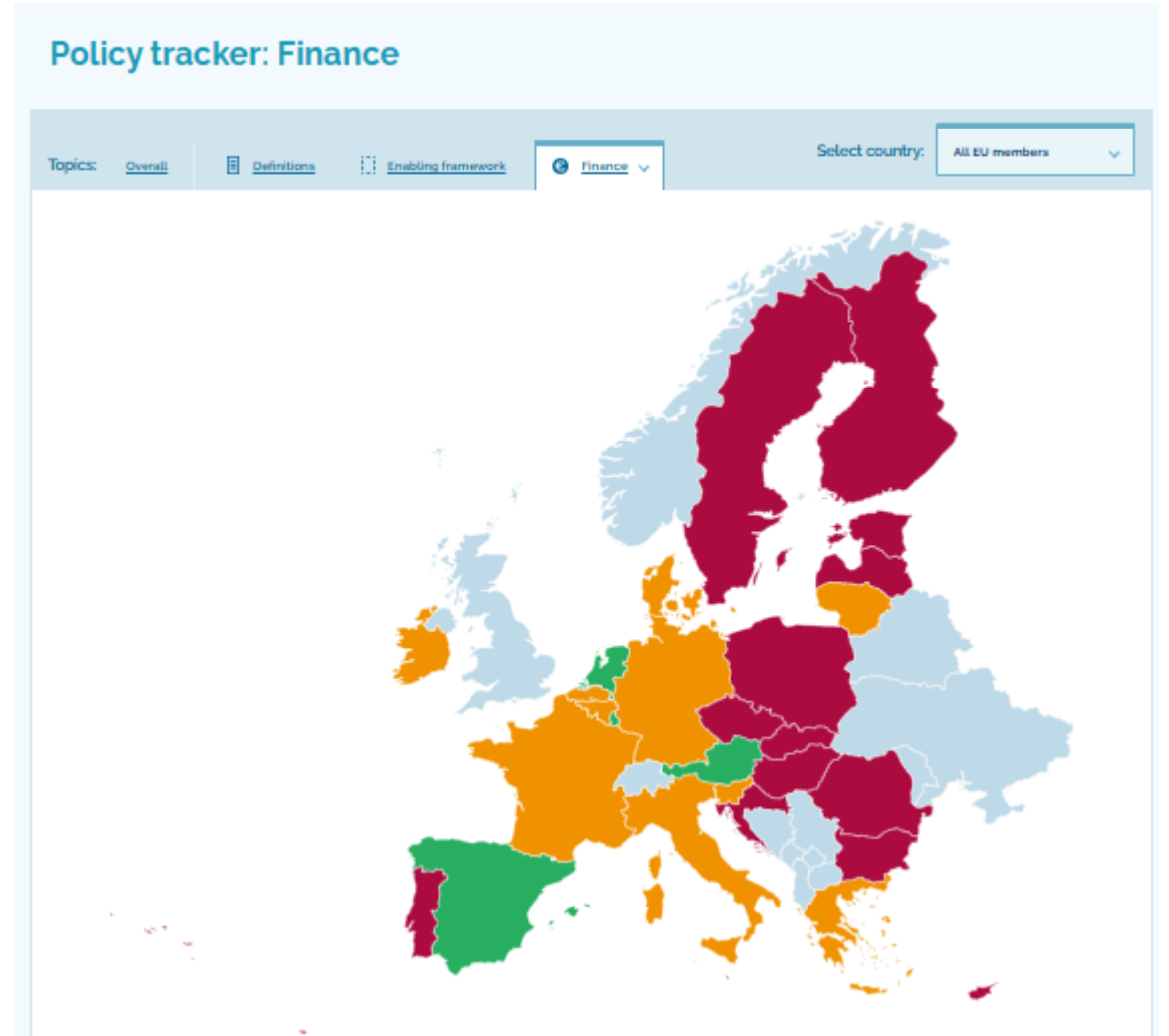
Poland: now bad, but ...

See: <https://www.rescoop.eu/policy/policy-tracker/finance/social-climate-fund/poland>

The [Polish National Social Climate Plan](#) has currently been opened to public consultation in its second, more advanced draft, which includes inputs from stakeholders proposed via a Working Group. The document is consistent, contains all parts required by the SCF regulation, among others: diagnosis, definitions and description of measures.

On the positive side: the authors analysed available funding programmes in Poland and included relevant ones in the Plan to use existing structures. Also, the plan includes support for energy communities and other pilot programs.

Unfortunately, the Plan still falls short in adequately addressing the need for educational measures. Moreover, there are no reforms planned whatsoever as part of the Plan. Also, the direct income support, which amounts to as much as 37.5% of the plan, needs to be revised as it is not linked with structural investments and the target groups are not properly identified.

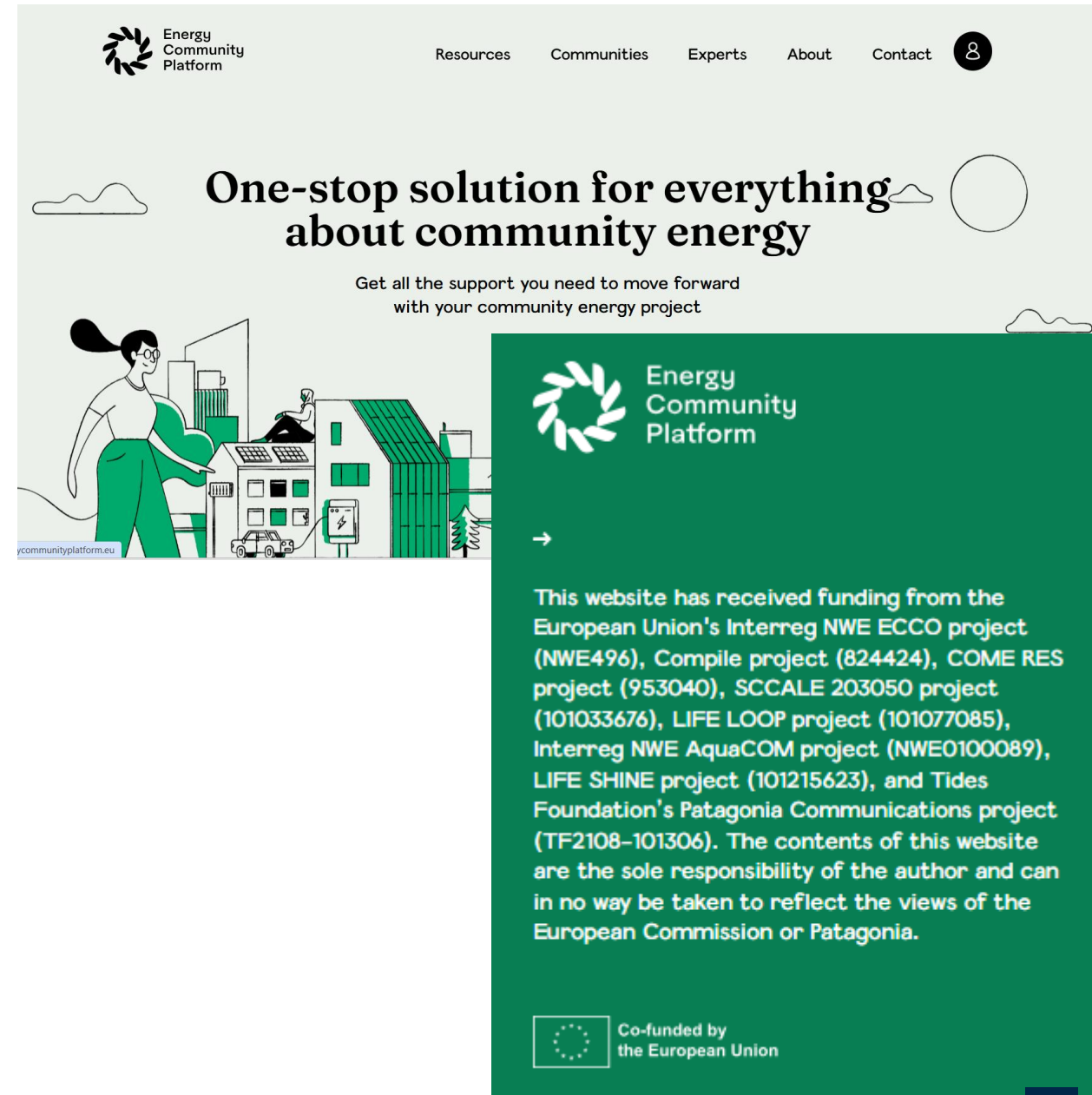


REScoop movement did not wait...

REScoop.eu and its members worked on the topic in several EU funded projects and created guides, one-stop-shops, ...

Participating in these projects is also a way for members to professionalise (Programs like LIFE, Horizon, Interreg, ...). Results were collected in a Toolbox on the REScoop.eu website, but now together with tools from likeminded projects gathered in the European 'Energy Community Platform' website:

<https://energycommunityplatform.eu/>



REScoop movement did not wait... (2)

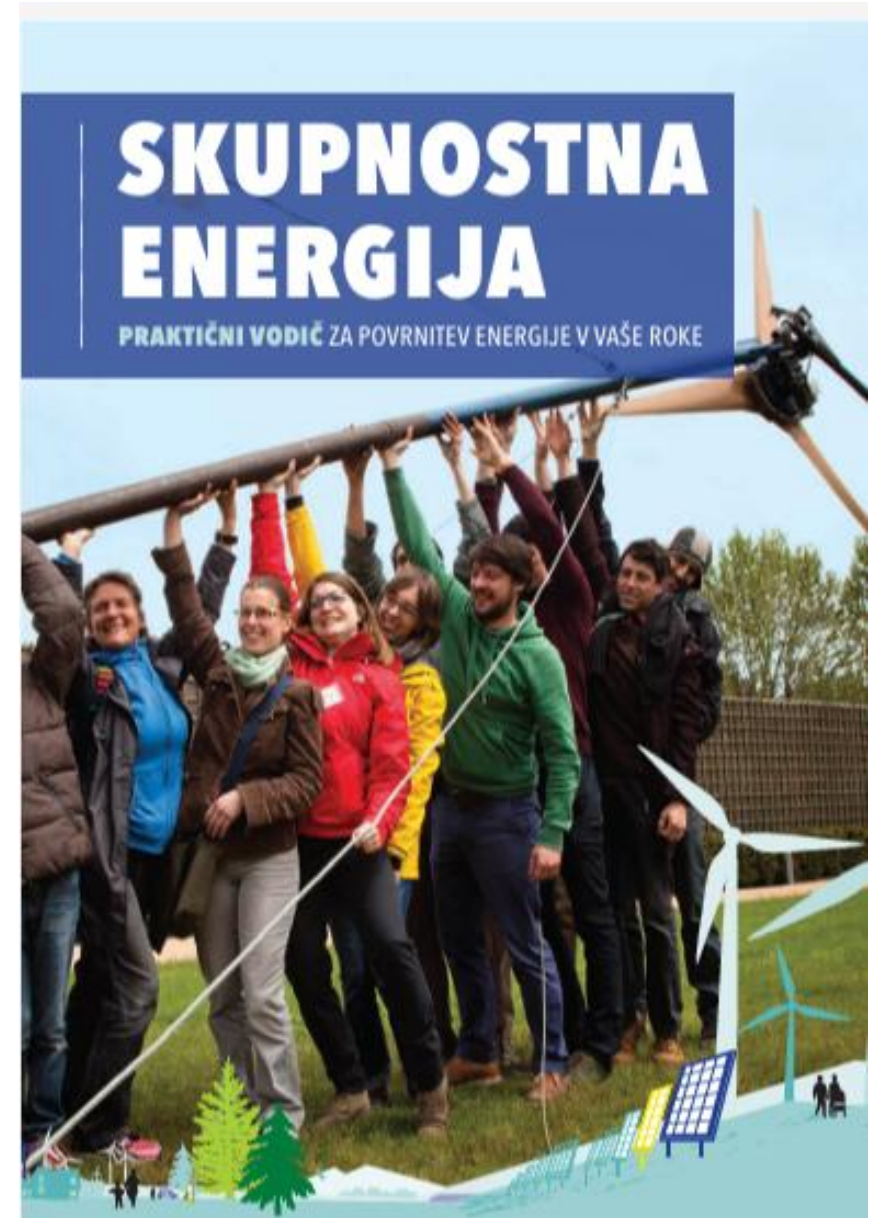
You can find there:

- a [self-assessment tool](#) that helps energy communities figure out where they stand;

and among many resources:

- the 'Community Energy Guide' in 13 languages (besides in English, also in Dutch, but not in German).

See: <https://energycommunityplatform.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Community-Energy-Guide-update-2024.pdf>

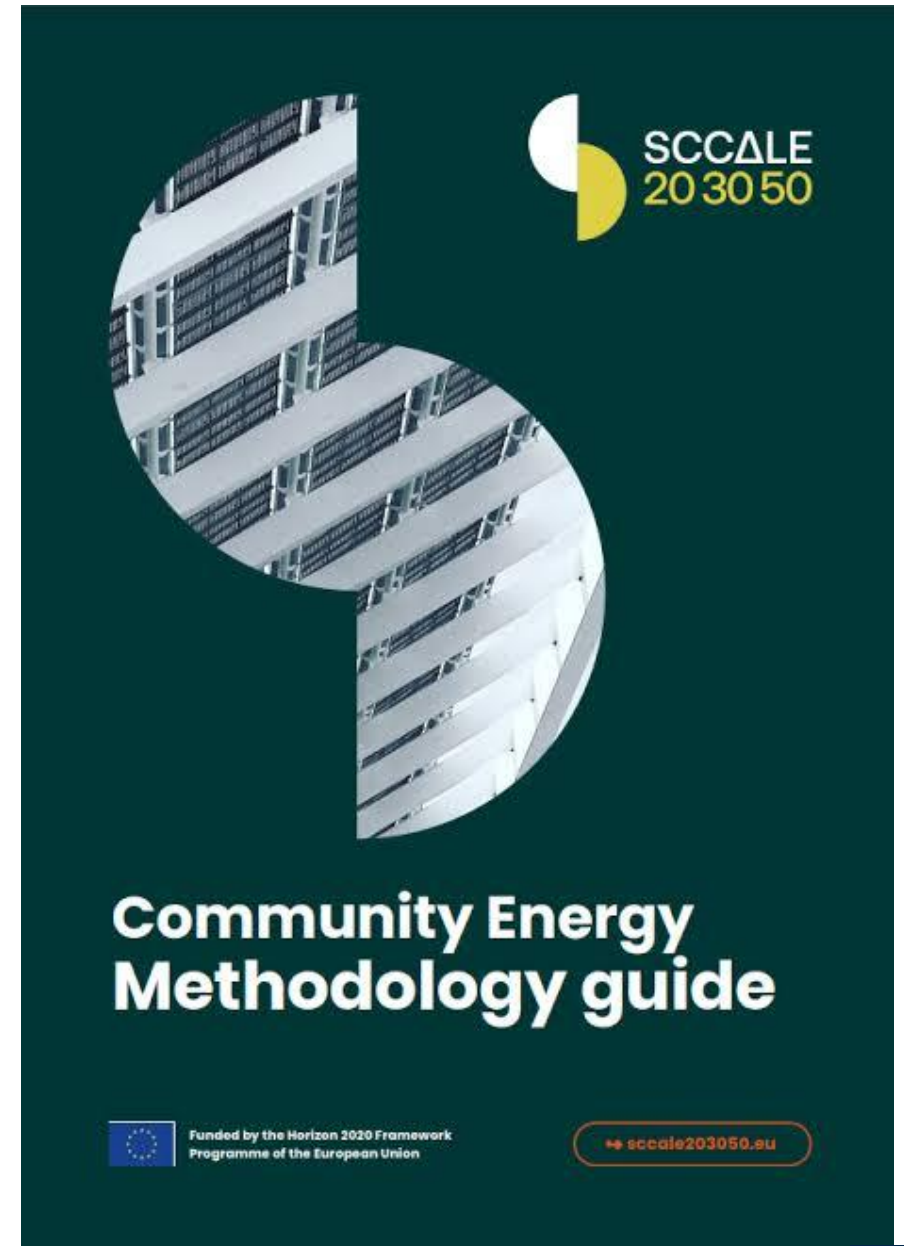


REScoop movement did not wait... (3)

Other –more recent and more detailed- resources are the guides developed in the EU funded Horizon 2020 SCCALE project:

- The SCCALE 203050 methodology guide, based on the LICHT-methodology developed by REScoop.eu in the Interreg NWE ECCO project.

See: <https://energycommunityplatform.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/SCCALE-Methodology-Guide.pdf>



REScoop movement did not wait... the LICHT methodology (4)



REScoop movement did not wait... the SCCALE methodology (5)

A tailor-made selection

Explore our resources

Our growing collection of go-to guides, best practices, technical documents, online tools and much more will help you move forward with your community energy project at any development stage. Filter them by different criteria or explore the full selection for each development stage of an energy community.

[Browse resources](#)



①



Inspiration

A core group of people starts shaping an idea and vision of a project



②



Preparation

A core group of people prepares the community energy project



③



Implementation

A community energy project is formally launched and becomes a reality



④



Operation

An operational energy community maintains and may improve its activities

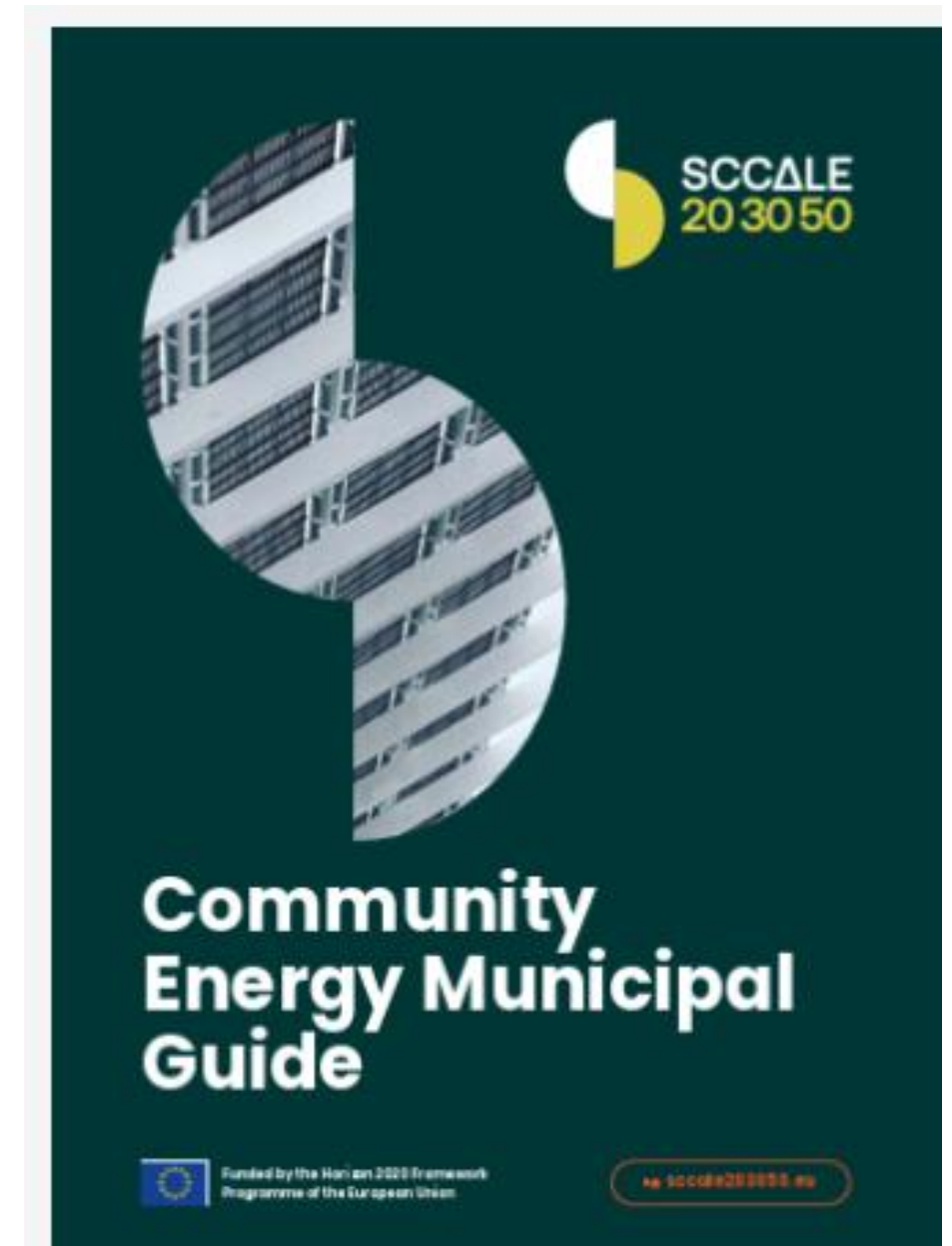


REScoop movement did not wait... (6)

Other very useful resources are the guides developed in the EU funded Horizon 2020 SCCALE project:

- The SCCALE 203050 community energy municipal guide

See: <https://energycommunityplatform.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/SCCALE-Municipal-Guide-Final-view.pdf>



REScoop movement did not wait... (5)

Other very useful resources are the guides developed in the EU funded Horizon 2020 SCCALE project:

- The SCCALE 203050 financing guide for energy communities

See: https://energycommunityplatform.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/SCCALE203050_financingguide_energycommunities.pdf

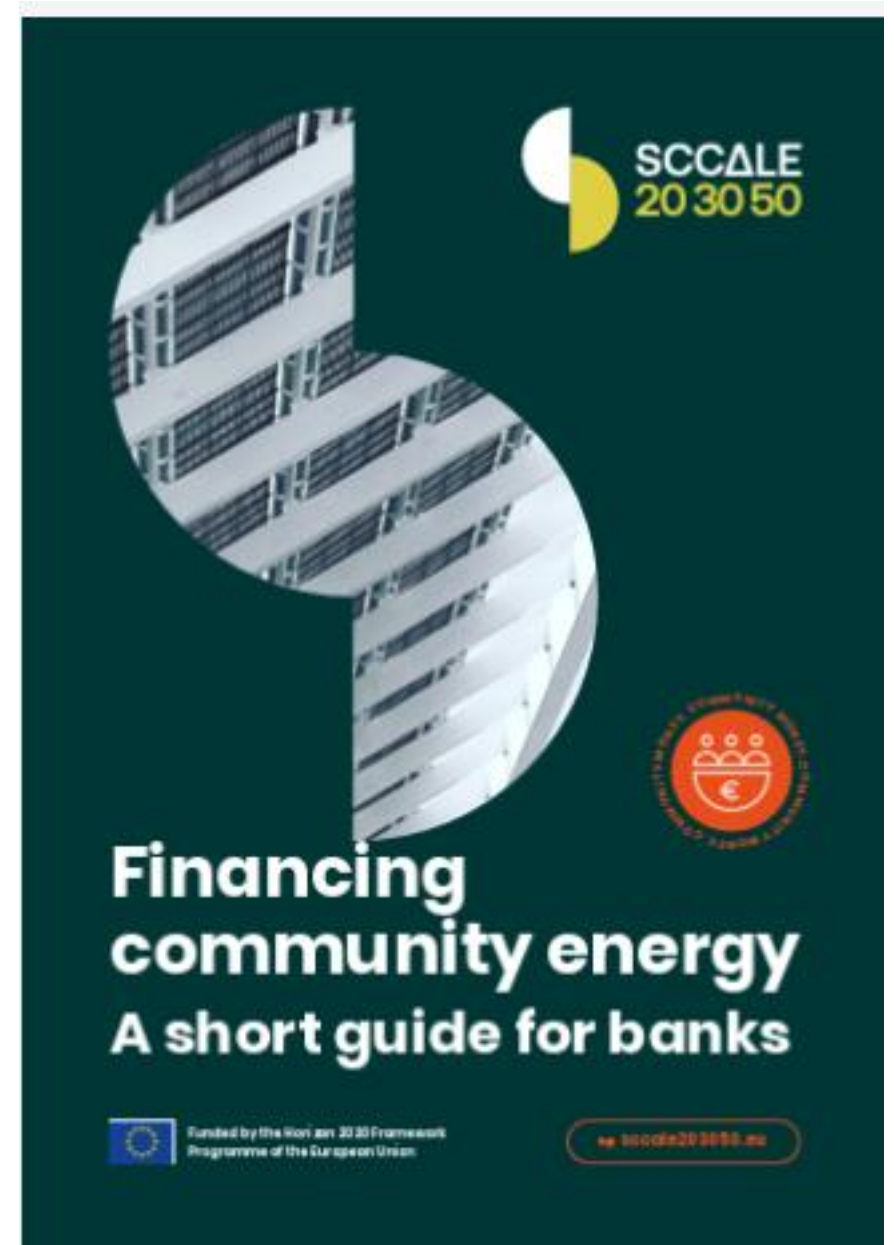


REScoop movement did not wait... (6)

Other very useful resources are the guides developed in the EU funded Horizon 2020 SCCALE project:

The SCCALE 203050 financing community energy -
A short guide for banks

See: https://energycommunityplatform.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/SCCALE203050_Financing-community-energy_A-short-guide-for-banks.pdf



REScoop.eu continues its advocacy work

And has tangible results, for example:

- Provisions for energy communities in the Revised State Aid Guidelines of DG Competition (2021),

and consequently in the

- [General Block Exemption Regulation \(GBER, 2023\)](#)

;

- (b) the following paragraphs 2a and 2b are inserted:

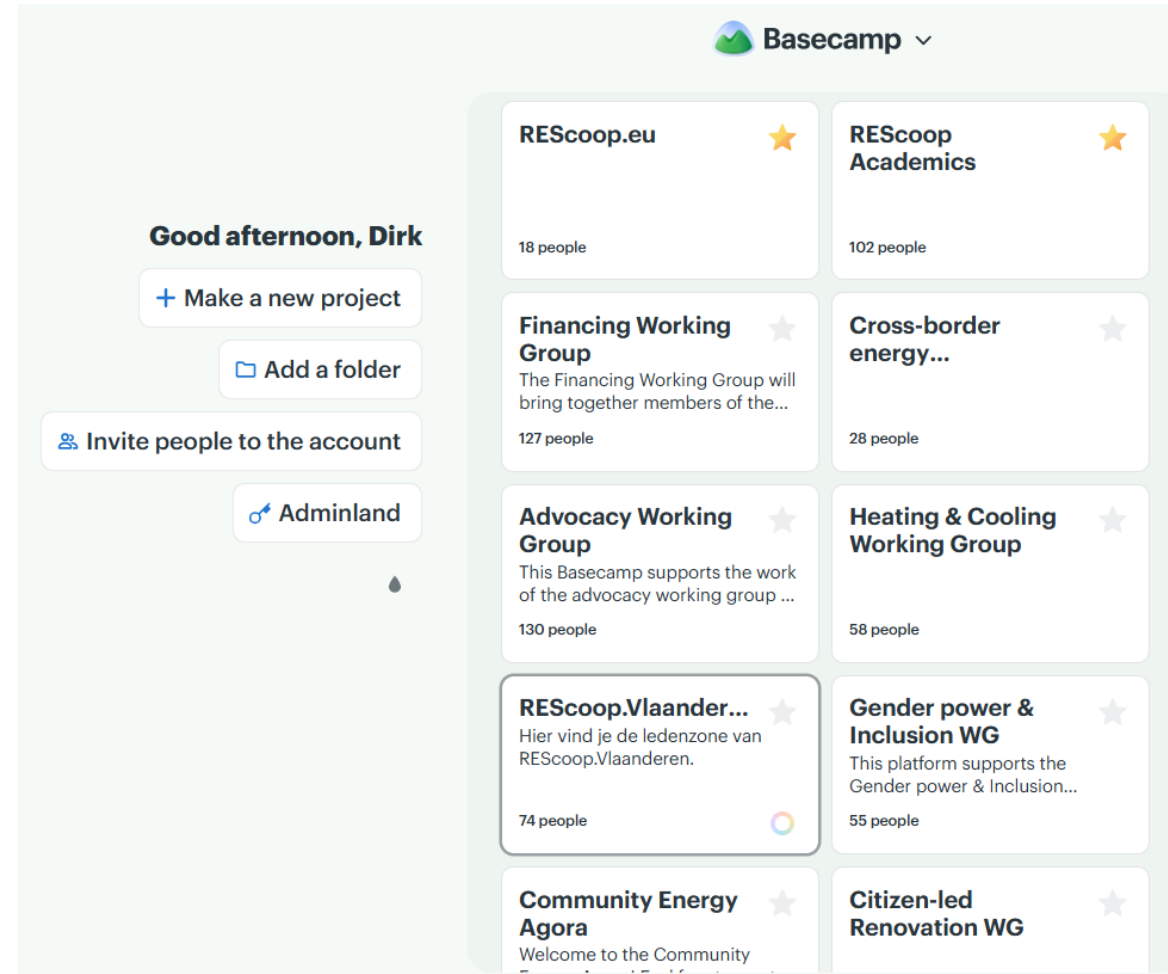
“2a. Aid to renewable **energy communities** shall be exempted from the notification requirement of Article 108(3) of the Treaty only for projects with an installed capacity or maximum demand below or equal to 6 MW from all renewable sources except for wind energy only, for which aid shall be granted to installations with an installed capacity below or equal to 18 MW.

BUT... to become effective...

REScoop.eu members in all EU-member states must see to it that in their country everything that is agreed to at EU level gets transposed and implemented in their country:

REScoop.eu supports this in:

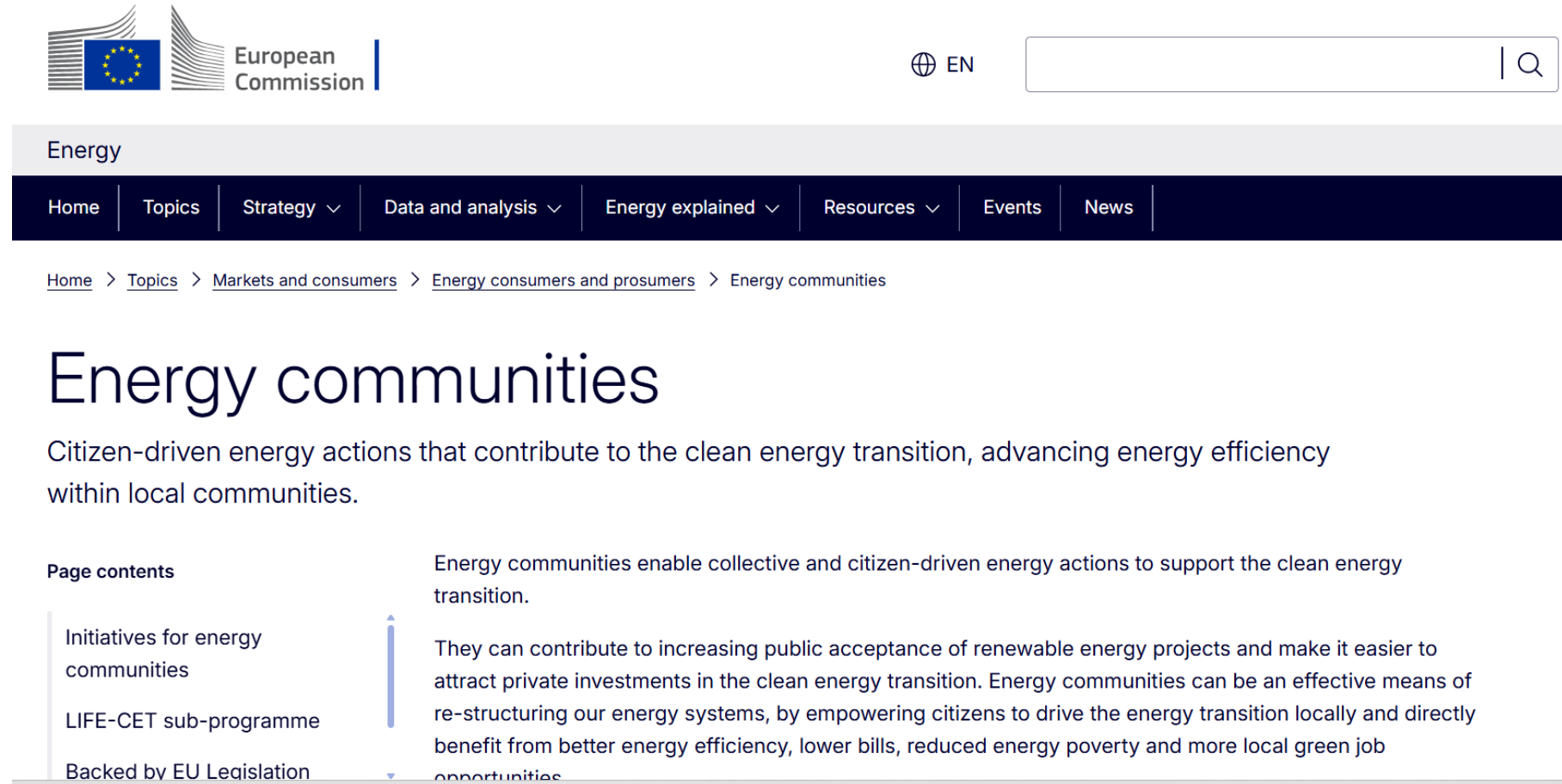
- REScoop.eu advocacy working group
- REScoop.eu financing working group



European Commission shows member states the way how to support energy communities

Here you can find the overview:

https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/markets-and-consumers/energy-consumers-and-prosumers/energy-communities_en



The screenshot shows the European Commission website. At the top, there is the European Commission logo and a search bar. Below the logo, the word "Energy" is displayed. A navigation bar contains links for Home, Topics, Strategy, Data and analysis, Energy explained, Resources, Events, and News. The breadcrumb trail reads: Home > Topics > Markets and consumers > Energy consumers and prosumers > Energy communities. The main heading is "Energy communities". Below it, a paragraph states: "Citizen-driven energy actions that contribute to the clean energy transition, advancing energy efficiency within local communities." On the left, under "Page contents", there are three items: "Initiatives for energy communities", "LIFE-CET sub-programme", and "Backed by EU Legislation". To the right, the text continues: "Energy communities enable collective and citizen-driven energy actions to support the clean energy transition. They can contribute to increasing public acceptance of renewable energy projects and make it easier to attract private investments in the clean energy transition. Energy communities can be an effective means of re-structuring our energy systems, by empowering citizens to drive the energy transition locally and directly benefit from better energy efficiency, lower bills, reduced energy poverty and more local green job opportunities."

European Commission

EN

Energy

Home Topics Strategy Data and analysis Energy explained Resources Events News

Home > Topics > Markets and consumers > Energy consumers and prosumers > Energy communities

Energy communities

Citizen-driven energy actions that contribute to the clean energy transition, advancing energy efficiency within local communities.

Page contents

- Initiatives for energy communities
- LIFE-CET sub-programme
- Backed by EU Legislation

Energy communities enable collective and citizen-driven energy actions to support the clean energy transition.

They can contribute to increasing public acceptance of renewable energy projects and make it easier to attract private investments in the clean energy transition. Energy communities can be an effective means of re-structuring our energy systems, by empowering citizens to drive the energy transition locally and directly benefit from better energy efficiency, lower bills, reduced energy poverty and more local green job opportunities.

European Commission shows member states the way how to support energy communities (2)

Initiatives for energy communities

The European Parliament provided funding for 2 projects that have contributed to the promotion of best practices and provided technical assistance for the development of concrete energy community initiatives across the EU. To inspire energy communities to further innovate and improve, the Commission launched a prize under Horizon Europe in December 2025.

- Renewable Energy Community Prize 2026

The [Renewable Energy Community Prize](#) celebrates European communities that are shaping new ways of organising and governing their collective energy future. The Prize will honour 10 outstanding energy communities that have developed creative, inclusive, and effective governance models. The initiative recognises approaches that promote fair participation, transparency and collaboration, supporting resilient, citizen-led energy systems for a sustainable European future.

Energy communities with up to 10 000 members were welcome to apply by **25 June 2026**. ☹

European Commission shows member states the way how to support energy communities (3)

- Citizen Energy Advisory Hub

The [Citizen Energy Advisory Hub](#) is a Commission initiative designed to promote a bottom-up approach to the energy transition across the EU to enhance citizen participation in the energy transition and strengthen the social dimension of the Energy Union. REScoop.eu is one of the expert organisations running CEAH.



European Commission shows member states the way how to support energy communities (4)

LIFE-CET sub-programme

For over a decade, the [LIFE Clean Energy Transition \(CET\) sub-programme](#) has been a vital engine for the growth of energy communities across Europe. By piloting enabling frameworks at both municipal and regional levels, the programme has achieved significant scale with:

- **more than 500 energy communities** supported in implementing innovative business models, from renewable generation to collective heating and cooling, and building renovation
- **more than 1000 municipalities** assisted in empowering citizens to take the lead in their local energy transition
- **more than 50 local services** facilitated through cooperation between energy communities and local/regional authorities to help citizens develop and scale up community-led projects

European Commission shows member states the way how to support energy communities (5)

European Energy Communities Facility

The [European Energy Communities Facility](https://energycommunitiesfacility.eu/) aims to empower and support the development of energy communities across Europe. See: <https://energycommunitiesfacility.eu/> .



By distributing small lump-sum grants (45.000€), it **assists at least 140 energy communities** in developing and implementing solid business plans for their renewable energy projects. The calls will be open to energy communities from any EU country, as well as Iceland, Ukraine, Moldova and North Macedonia.

The facility delivers targeted training and hands-on capacity building to help local initiatives develop their projects and implement replicable business models that ensure long-term sustainability.

Deadline: 05/07/2026, 599 candidates in second call

European Energy Communities Facility Learning programme

At the European Energy Communities Facility, we aim to help you develop a solid and impactful business plan for your energy community - and successfully implement it.

Our self-paced online training programme is designed specifically for energy community practitioners who want to **develop robust business plans** that support long-term sustainability and growth.

Whether you are refining an existing plan or creating one from scratch, this programme provides practical tools, real-world examples, and structured guidance to help you succeed.

Enrol here: <https://localtransitionslearning.eu/enrol/index.php?id=72>



Citizen Energy Advisory Hub – Technical Assistance programme

Reduce energy bills, tackle energy poverty and increase energy independence in your local community!

Get hands-on support to promote, plan, or scale energy initiatives through the Citizen Energy Advisory Hub's Technical Assistance programme.

Energy communities, local authorities, SMEs, NGOs, non-profit organisations, social economy actors and groups of citizens can access:

- ✓ Between 20 and 40 days of expert support
- ✓ Tailored financial, technical, legal, stakeholder engagement and capacity building support
- ✓ Experts matched to the initiatives' needs and focus
- ✓ Access to a peer exchange programme

The application window is open until 2 October: <https://lnkd.in/dhrJ9MqF>

EU programmes used by/interesting for (Q) (CB)ECs

Interreg

Interreg Italy - Slovenia
Interreg Italy – Austria
Interreg Austria- Slovenia

...

Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform

European Urban Initiative (EUI)

The Connecting Europe Facility-Energy (CEF-E) supports cross-border renewable energy projects, such as the GreenSwitch project involving Austria, Croatia, and Slovenia or the connection of the district heating grids in Görlitz (DE) and Zgorzelec (PL).

b-solutions initiative (dedicated legal support cross border activities)

LIFE e.g. EECF

Horizon Europe (Cluster 5)



Part 2

Cross-Border-Energy-Community Project



Introduction

The Cross-Border-Energy-Communities initiative



The Cross-Border Energy Communities initiative aims to promote.

- cross-border cooperation, and
- cross-border integration of energy communities in border regions.

Promoted by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (DG REGIO), the Cross-Border Energy Communities initiative (CBECs) for pilot actions aligns with the European Commission's mission "Cross-Border regions for the European Green Deal", which originates from the report [*EU Border Regions: Living labs of European integration*](#) (COM(2021) 393 final) published on 14 July 2021.

The Cross-Border-Energy-Communities initiative

Jointly managed by the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) and the Mission Opérationnelle Transfrontalière (MOT), the initiative offers financial and technical support to local actors in border regions to initiate and strengthen the development of cross-border or quasi cross-border Energy Communities through pilot actions. In a call 7 projects were selected by MOT and AEBR.

The technical support is outsourced to REScoop.eu and experts from its network.

The Cross-Border Energy Communities initiative is a follow-up of the [Handbook on Cross-border Energy Communities](#) published in January 2025.

Definitions used in the CBEC initiative (see Handbook CBECs)

Energy Community

Energy Communities are groupings of people who organise themselves to develop a common project related to energy. Their objectives are to provide energy benefits for its members. They put environmental, economic or social community benefits over profit.

Cross-border Energy Community

It is an energy community of a cross-border nature. Some its activities must be of cross-border nature: for example, energy is produced in one border region and distributed, stored, supplied, or consumed in the other border region.

Quasi-Cross-border Energy Community

It is an energy community that shares either its management, fundings or resources with a partner on the other side of the border but which energy activities or services it develops are located only on one side of a border, or separately on both sides of cross border region.

Examples from the Handbook

The "Zusamme Solar Colmar" project is the result of a cooperation between the German citizens energy cooperative "Fesa Energie Geno e.G." (located in Freiburg) and the French local citizens energy cooperative "Énergies Partagées en Alsace" (located in Kingersheim), which was supported by the French national structure of energy cooperatives "Énergie Partagée". This durable cooperation is only generating and distributing electricity on the French side of the border, but the joint venture is owned by German and French partners/shareholders.



Examples from the Handbook

The **UNITED HEAT** project is a pioneering €195 million cross-border district heating network connecting **Görlitz** (Germany) and **Zgorzelec** (Poland). Breaking ground in March 2026, the two cities are building a 3.8-kilometer cross-border pipeline and 12 kilometers of new connecting networks. Expected to achieve 100% climate-neutrality by 2030, it cuts carbon emissions by 50,000 tonnes annually.

Supported by EU funding, the network is designed with remarkable international cooperation features and technical specifications:

**** Merit Order Principle:**** The grid automatically prioritizes heat generation from whichever side of the Neisse River is most cost-efficient at any given moment.

Capacity: The central hub, powered partly by the local sewage treatment plant, can transport up to 15 megawatts of heat in either direction across the border.

Renewable Mix: Energy is generated using a combination of biomass, solar thermal energy, large-scale heat pumps, and heat recovery from wastewater and local lake water.

Operators: The initiative is jointly run by [Stadtwerke Görlitz](#) (part of the Veolia Group) and SEC Zgorzelec (part of E.ON).



Examples from the Handbook



" By 2027, this initiative will help cut 19,600 tonnes of CO₂ annually, lower heating costs, and support the region's clean energy goals.

Co-funded by **ERDF** through **Interreg VI-A France-Germany-Switzerland**, the project contributes to Strasbourg's 100% renewable heating target by 2050 and Kehl's climate neutrality goal by 2040.

A leading example of cross-border energy cooperation, it demonstrates how challenges like legal differences and infrastructure mismatches—outlined in the EU/DG REGIO [Handbook on Cross-Border Energy Communities \(CBECs\)](#)—can be overcome. This initiative paves the way for future CBECs, highlighting the benefits of working across borders to drive Europe's energy transition.

'Furthermore, energy markets do not yet function across borders as seamlessly as they do within a country. For example, cross-border electricity transactions are frequently limited because legal frameworks do not allow for low-voltage exchanges of electricity across borders'. (Handbook CBEC)

Challenges and Legal obstacles for CBECS

- **Legal obstacles at EU level** due to existing but inadequate EU legislation on aspects relevant to cross-border energy cooperation, in particular, to the impossibility of establishing local cross-border direct connections at distribution system level, due to the restrictive definition in Article 2(1) of the Electricity Market Regulation 2019/943/EU (EMR) (i.e. only the interconnection of transmission systems across national borders is allowed).

But... this article states:

'Article 2 Definitions The following definitions apply:

(1) 'interconnector' means a transmission line which crosses or spans a border between Member States and which connects the national transmission systems of the Member States;' according to me this does not exclude other connections...

Challenges and Legal obstacles for CBECS

- **Legal obstacles at national/regional level** due to the Member States' inconsistent implementation of existing EU legislation on energy-related aspects or other energy-related policy areas mostly due to an incomplete transposition of EU legislation into national law.

Examples are the lack of transposition of the optional provisions in Article 22(6) of the RED II and in Article 16(2)(a) of the IMED, stating that RECs and CECs may be open to "cross-border participation", the lack of transposition in some EU Member States of the mandatory provisions on "energy sharing" within CECs (Article 16(3)(e) of the IMED) and within RECs (Article 22(2)(b) of the RED II) as well as the lack of a general transposition of the optional provision allowing CECs to own, establish, purchase or lease distribution networks and to autonomously manage them (i.e. Articles 2(11)(c) and 16(2)(b) of the IMED).

Challenges and Legal obstacles for CBECS

Other obstacles at this level refer, for example, to uncertainty about the relevant national laws and regulations to be applied in a cross-border context, restrictions on feed-in tariffs/top-up payments and insufficient public financial support, which hinder all types of local cross-border energy cooperation or different national laws and regulations on national support schemes hampering the crossborder border energy transfer between neighbouring municipalities.

Challenges and Legal obstacles for CBECS

- **Administrative obstacles** caused by the lack of cross-border cooperation between national administrations and/or specialised national agencies with energy policy responsibilities to bridge structural differences between neighbouring energy systems, incompatibility of data or procedures, different administrative cultures or working procedures/routines of national or regional public authorities and agencies, or overly complex and lengthy regional or local administrative procedures in energy-related matters.

Challenges and Legal obstacles for CBECs

- **Physical or technical obstacles** relate, for example, to the lack of direct crossborder electricity connections at distribution grid level, technical challenges for the traditional distribution and transmission grids, the lack of adequate energy-related technical infrastructure, the incompatibility of existing energy infrastructures in the border region or the presence of a natural barrier at the border (e.g., a large river or lake, a high mountain range etc.), which makes energy cooperation more complicated or costly.

Challenges and Legal obstacles for CBECs

Consideration of the authors of the Handbook on CBEC:

'While the creation of a CBEC is a more complex venture, it might be a solution to start developing an activity that follows the definition of a quasi-CBEC. The use of the Q-CBEC figure can serve as a first step to start cooperation activities in this field, although the full potential, i.e. structurally establishing a full CBEC, may not be reached (yet) in a given border area.'