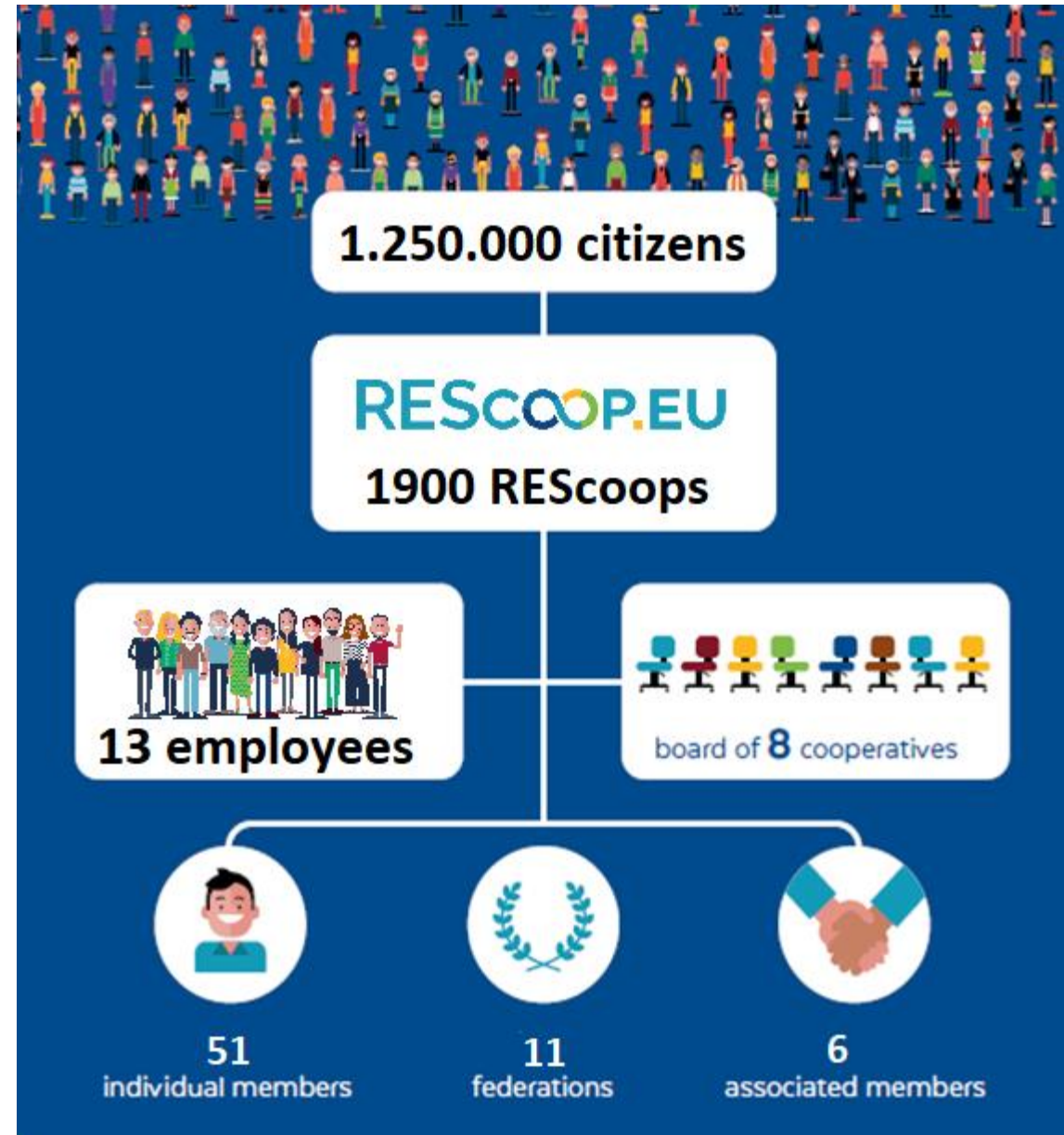
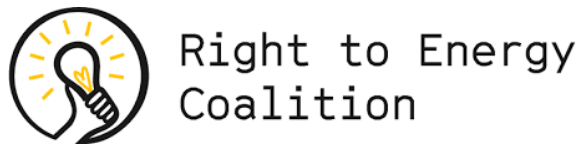


Challenges and opportunities for energy communities in the EU

Josh Roberts, Senior Policy Advisor, REScoop.eu

9 June 2021

What is REScoop.eu?



REScoop.eu: Cooperative principles applied to the energy sector

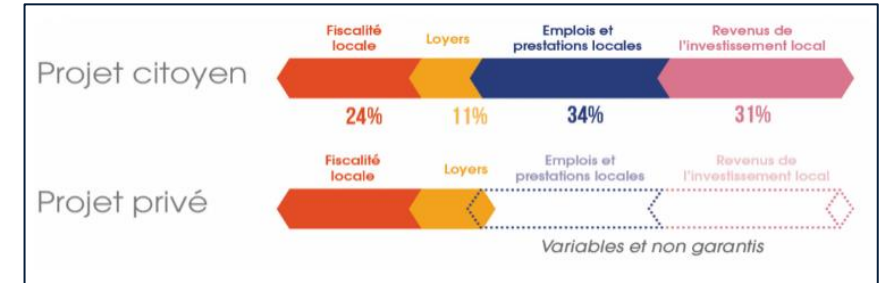
1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Member Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training, and Information
6. Cooperation among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

REScoops in the energy sector

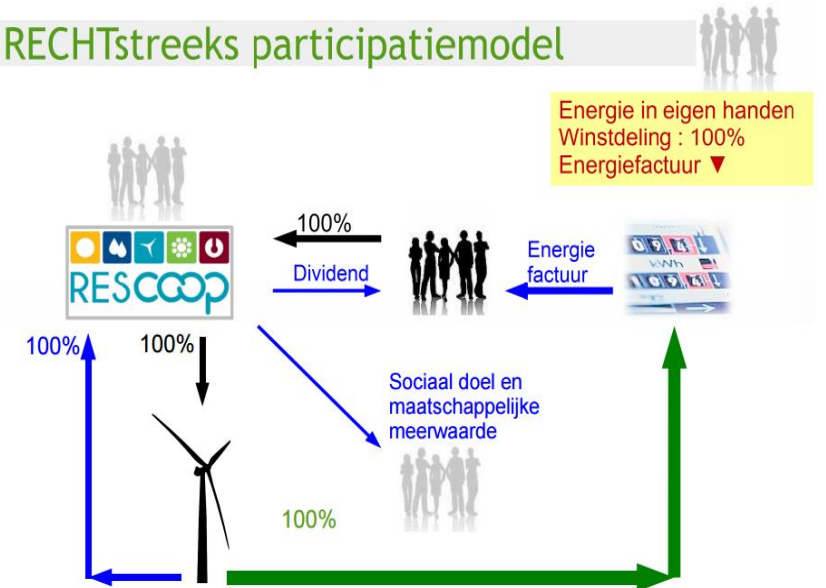
<p>Production</p>	 
<p>Supply</p>	 
<p>Distribution</p>	
<p>Services (energy efficiency, ICT)</p>	 
<p>Electrical vehicle sharing</p>	 
<p>Financing</p>	 

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



Joining technical & social innovation: Brixton, London (UK)

- Solar PV cooperative projects on social housing estates throughout London
- Agreement with local Council to lease roofs
- Reduced investment requirements for residents of estates
- Energy Savings Fund: portion of profits go into EE/renovation initiatives, education
- Brixton Energy: using storage, testing block-chain powered P2P trading to allow cheap, clean energy supply



POWER TO, FOR
AND BY THE PEOPLE



The Clean Energy Package

a policy foundation for energy communities

Acknowledgment:
definitions of renewable
and citizens energy communities

A set of basic rights
to participate
in the market based
on
non-discrimination

Enabling Framework
to promote
& facilitate
development of
energy communities

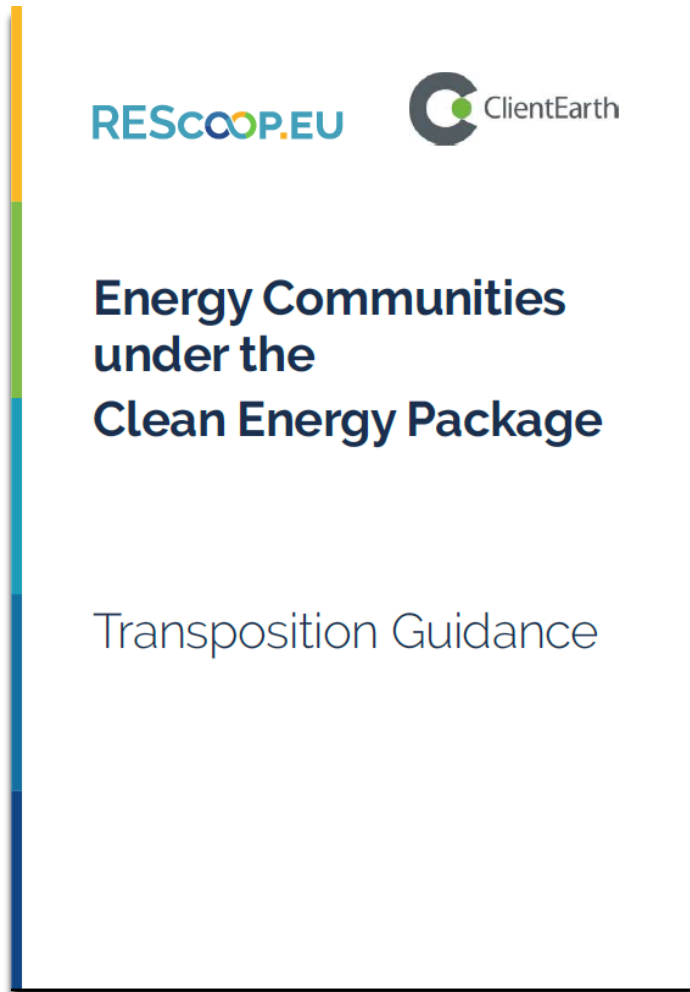
Equal footing
in accessing
renewables
support schemes

**Proportional
regulatory treatment**
simplification of
administration and
procedures

+

Energy Union Governance:
monitoring & transparency of Member State action

REScoop.eu follows the transposition of the clean energy package's provisions on energy communities



The transposition process: Where are we at?

Deadline for transposition

The Electricity Directive

31 December 2020

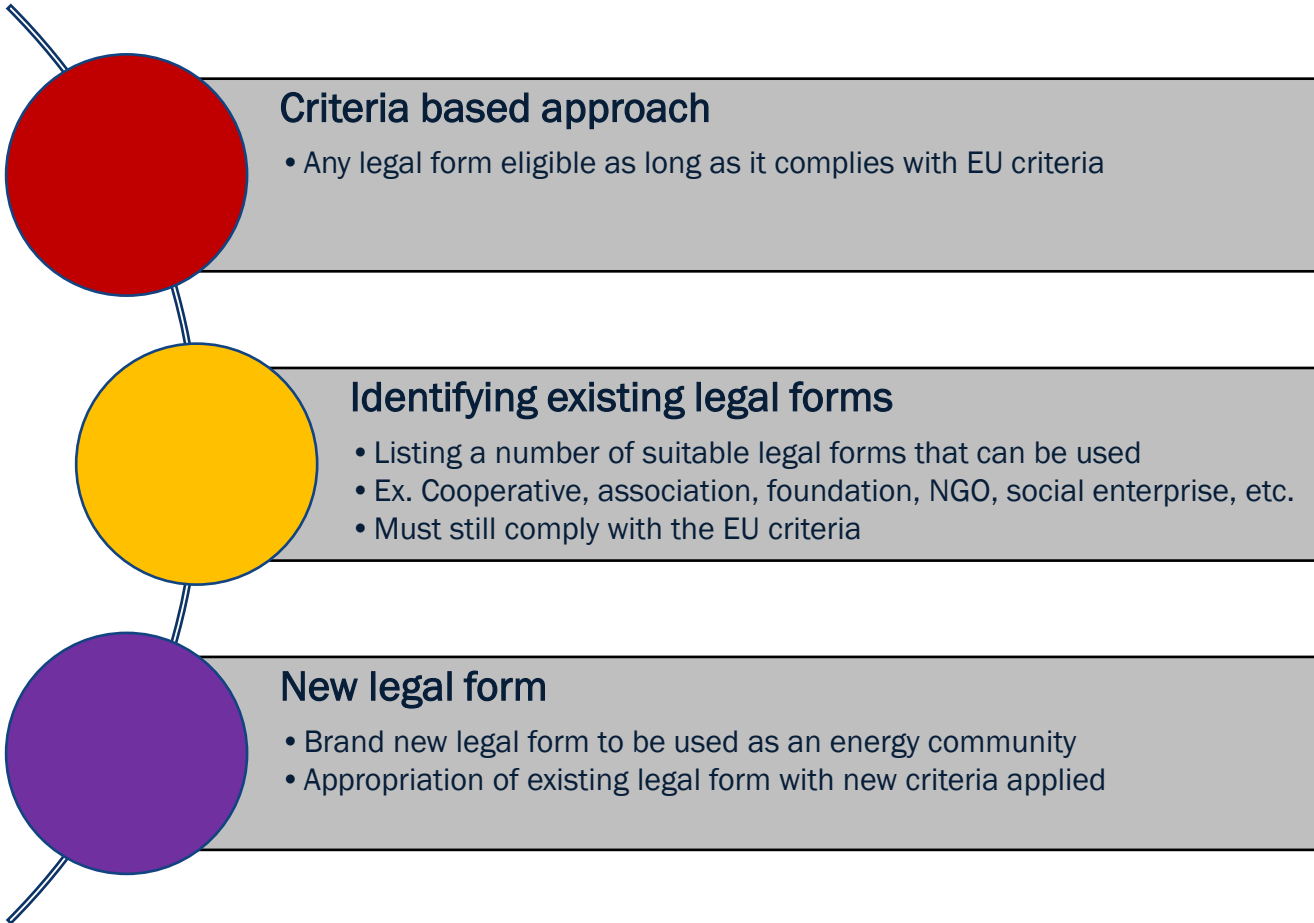
The Renewables Directive

30 June 2021

BE	DE	ES	IT	LV	NL	PL	PT	SE	FI	DK	FR	LU	AT	HU	RO	HR	EL	CZ	SI	SK	LT	EE	IE	MT	CY	BG
Green	Red	Light Green	Light Green	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Light Green	Red		Light Green	Light Green	Light Green	Yellow	Light Green	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Light Green		Light Green		Light Green			



Choosing national legal forms for energy communities



From principles to details: local context matters!

- 1) **Aims/purposes:** elaborate concrete aims around socio-economic and societal benefits, and empowerment of citizens
- 2) **Openness:** needs to be adapted/differentiated according to particular activity
- 3) **voluntary:** need to distinguish between consumer & member dimensions
- 4) **Geographic proximity/scope:** needs to be adapted/differentiated according to particular activity
- 5) **Effective control:** consider adopting minimum participation requirements for citizens; to prevent abuse limit share of capital/voting power of larger/non-local members (including through subsidiaries); use existing company law
- 6) **Autonomy:** limit share of capital and decision making power of individual members and outside business partners, financiers; consider one-person-one vote to promote democratic participation
- 7) **Eligibility:** consider whether it is better to have energy companies as member/shareholders or as partners/service providers

Enabling frameworks for RECs

- 1) First: assess potential, and existing barriers

- 2) Resulting enabling frameworks should:
 - Address unjustified regulatory and administrative barriers
 - Ensure proportionate and non-discriminatory treatment
 - Tools to access finance and technical expertise (coupled with new informational rights)
 - Regulatory capacity building for local authorities
 - Promote inclusion of vulnerable/low-income households, tenants
 - Should utilize single contact points for renewables

Integrating energy communities into the market

“The Energy Transition must provide consumers with the necessary tools and framework for them to participate in efforts to achieve a sustainable and carbon neutral society.”

- CEER

Energy communities need a level playing field - how regulation can help:

- Simplified rules and procedures for licensing and obtaining a grid connection
- Tariffs and tax incentives
- A fair chance to access incentive schemes
- Tools to enhance transparency, clarity, technical expertise and information on how to access to finance
- Regulatory capacity building for local authorities
- DSOs – network planning, transparency and enhanced dialogue
- Monitoring the development of common architecture in emerging flexibility markets
- Space to try new things

The Green Deal + 'Fit for 55%'

The Energy Performance of Buildings Directive

- Long-term Renovation Strategies
- Supporting local collaboration between energy communities and municipalities

The Energy Efficiency Directive

- Building out enabling frameworks for energy communities to include energy efficiency
- Linking energy communities to a more just and inclusive energy transition where no one is left behind



Conclusions

- 1) Energy communities can help deliver EU energy and climate objectives, while delivering social innovation at the local level**
- 2) Member States need to meet their legal obligations by faithfully transposing the energy community provisions contained in the Clean Energy Package**
- 3) There is a need to further acknowledge and support the role of energy communities in driving energy savings and creating a more just and inclusive energy transition**

REScoop.EU

www.rescoop.eu

If you want to know more, please contact us!

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