



EU perspectives on energy communities

EURegionsWeek close to you webinar – 21 October 2024

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1. Energy communities: background & model

Energy System of the future

Liberalised and competitive

Digitalised

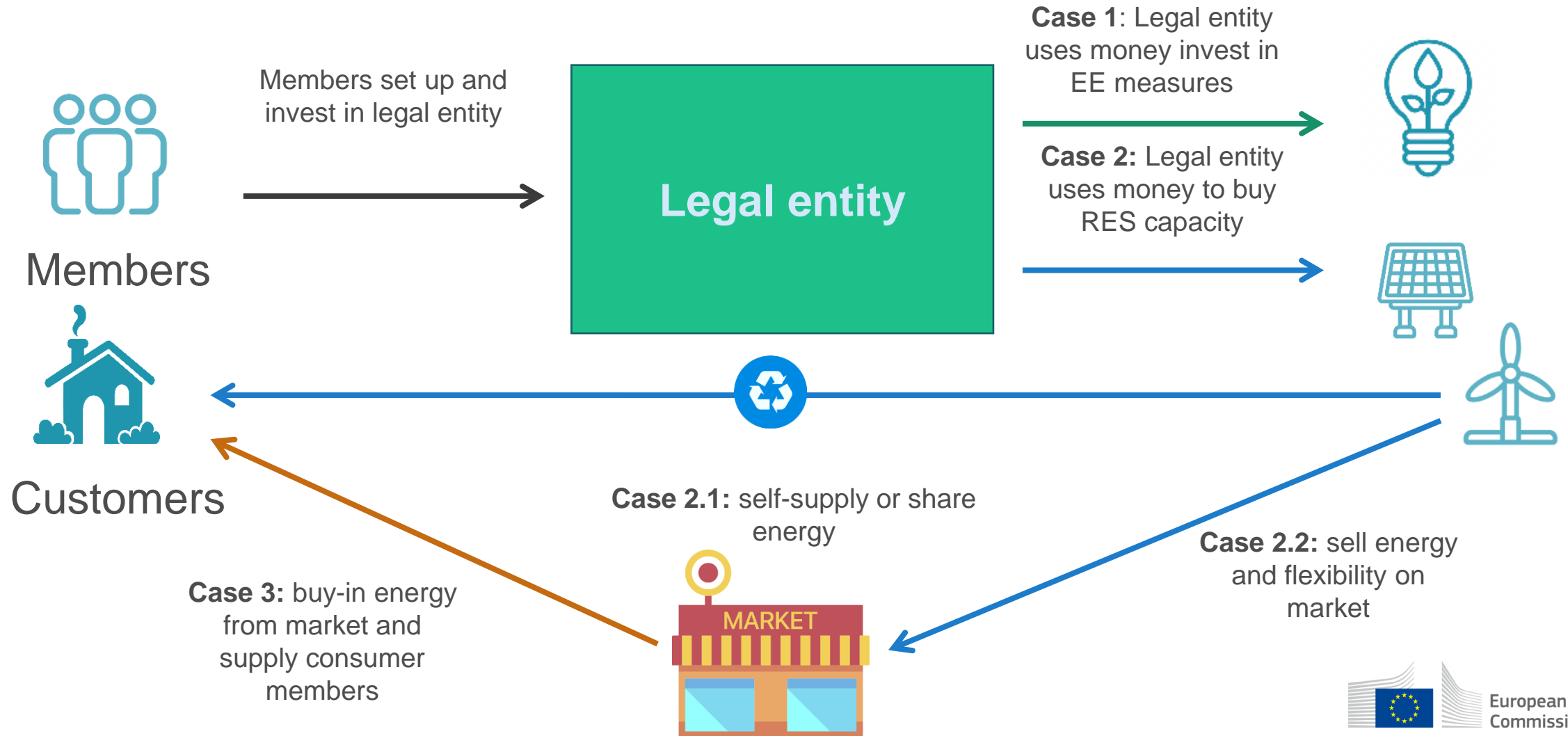
Decentralised and consumer centred

Integrated

Decarbonised



Energy communities – business models

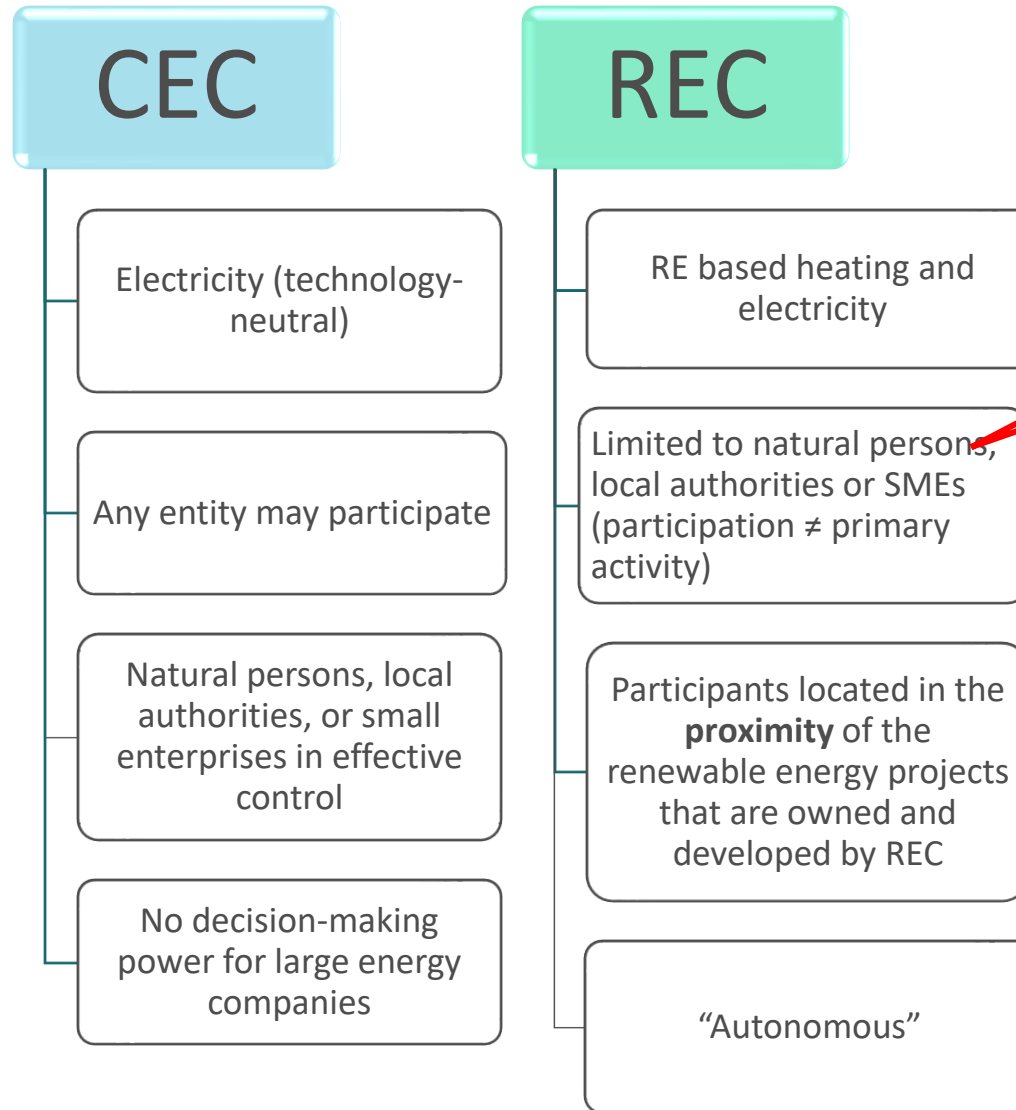


Purpose of energy communities



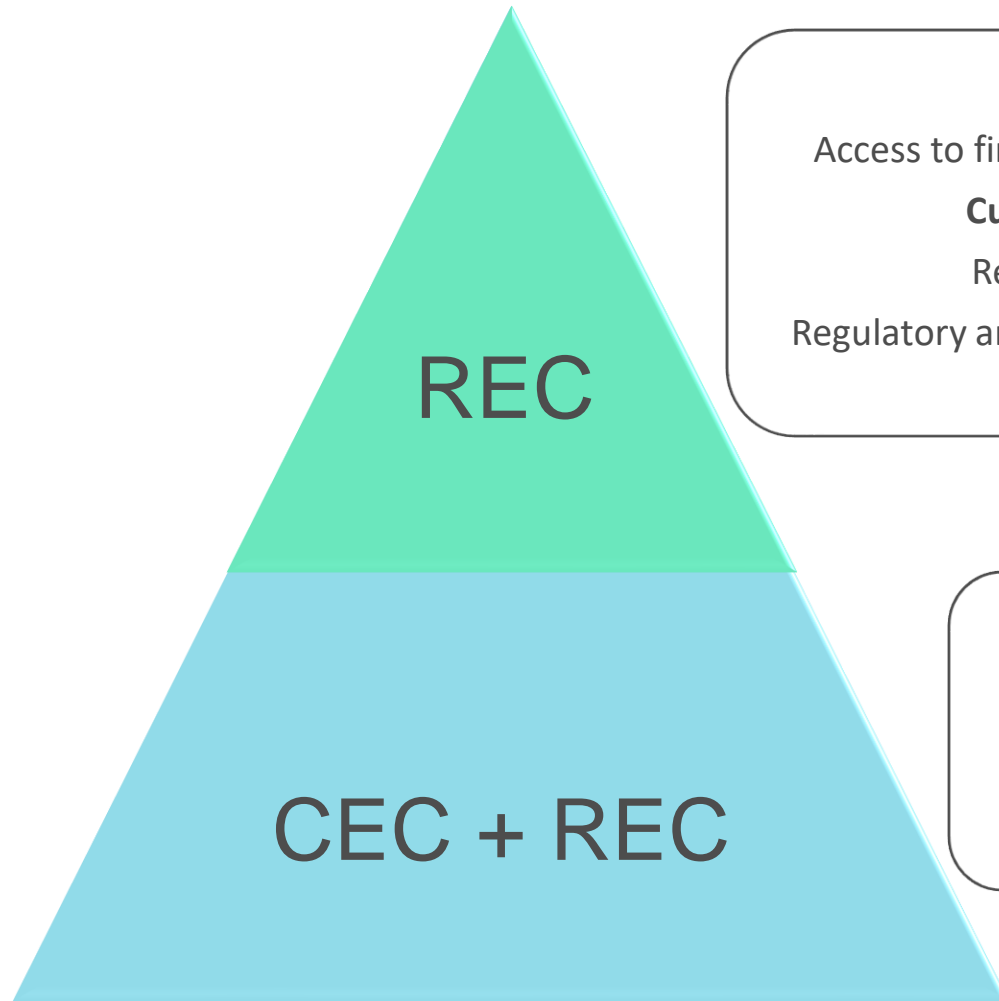
- Can be an effective tool to increase **public acceptance** of new projects
- Mobilise **private capital** for the energy transition
- Could be a tool to increase **flexibility** in the market

Differences



RED II
Participation is accessible for low-income households

Enabling framework REC & CEC



Privileges:
Access to financial instruments and information
Customised support scheme
Removal unjustified barriers
Regulatory and capacity-building support to public authorities

[State aid guidelines](#)
Possible exemption bidding procedures and/or eased participation requirements

Rights and responsibilities:
facilitating market integration (procedures, tariffs and activities)

2. Fit for 55 Package

Legal developments

RED (Renewable Energy Directive)

- Potential role in offshore wind, public procurement, heat production, and the development of district heating and cooling networks
- Tailored information in single points of contact for permitting
- Fast track permitting procedures for small-scale RES installations
- Simplified registration processes and reduced registration fees for guarantees of origin

EED (Energy Efficiency Directive)

- **Potential role in tackling energy poverty** and achieving energy saving obligations
- Assessment of role and impact in local heating plans
- Accessible information on energy efficiency improvement measures

EPBD (Energy Performance of Buildings Directive)

- Building renovation plans should report on the role of energy communities.
- Renewable energy communities can contribute to zero emission buildings.

SCFR (Social Climate Fund Regulation)

Social Climate Plans may include **energy community related measures to target vulnerable households, micro-enterprises, and transport users**

3. Citizen led renovation

About the support service

The **Support service for citizen-led renovation** is an **EU initiative** to empower energy communities and to **put citizens in the driver's seat for energy renovations**. The service will strengthen your community building and it will enable you to replicate energy renovations projects in the buildings of your members and others, including insulation, the installation of new technical systems and renewables.

Citizen-Led Renovation support service overview


Phases I and II

CLR PHASE I

(2022-2024)

4 PILOTS



Energent, Belgium 




Coopernico, Portugal 



Izgrei, Bulgaria 



Triple Sec, Ireland 

CLR PHASE II

(2023-2025)

6 PILOTS

Girona Provincial Council Spain 

ZuidtrAnt, Belgium 

Wien Ybbsstraße, Austria 

Castello Green House, Italy 

CER Antrodoco, Italy 

REC Postua & Guardabosone, Italy 

15 LEARNERS

38 FOLLOWERS

Pilots of phase I



Energent | Belgium

Energy cooperative driven by a dedication to renewable energy and community involvement.

- Extend reach of the community enabling more clr actions
- Trainings on user journey & persona guides
- Increase consulting actions for clients



Izgrei | Bulgaria

Community-based energy initiative driving change from the ground up in Bulgaria.

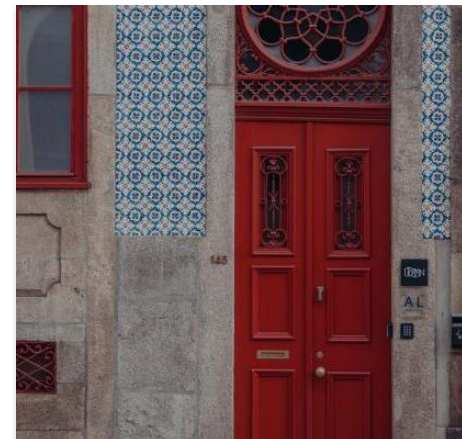
- Planned renovation of a multi-family house in the city of Sofia, start August 24
- Establish guide on “how to citizen-led renovation”



Triple SEC | Ireland

Volunteer energy community to promote sustainable change in the north of Dublin City

- Retrofit min. 3 homes with energy-saving features
- Disseminate knowledge on available grants
- Foster community participation



Coopérnico | Portugal

Renewable energy cooperative operating at a national level.

- Set up OSS for clr and support energy renovations in 5 communities
- Establish financing model for the collective purchase of RE Production Facilities (PV)

Pilots phase II

Citizen-led renovation phase II

Empowering citizens to do energy renovations and creating replicability in Citizen-led renovation services to achieve bigger impact →

6 pilots

- 1 CER - Castello Green House
- 2 Comunità Energetica Rinnovabile di Antrodoco
- 3 REC of Postua and Guardabosone
- 4 Girona Provincial Council
- 5 ZuidtrAnt cv-so
- 6 Ybbsstraße Wien Wohnungseigentümergeinschaft



Image Upklyak, Freepik

Renovation goals of pilots

30%

reduction in energy use targeted through efficiency and renovations

100%

citizen involvement through participatory processes, meetings, and workshops



residential buildings across all 6 pilots

300+



non-residential buildings across 4 pilots

27+



Image Upklyak, Freepik

Phase 3 : from pilot project to preparatory action

- Concept still not completely defined with clear delineation
- Important to brainstorm on **how do citizen-Led Renovations (CLRs) differ from usual practices** in the residential sector?
- Proposed definition :

“Citizen-led renovation is an activity carried out by an **energy community** aiming at engaging in and **implementing** building energy renovation (notably at street or district/neighborhood level) and develop local businesses and the **skills** of people involved”

Phase 3 : from pilot project to preparatory action

- Necessity of **legal entity**
- **Scale**: renovation of several buildings at street or district/neighborhood level
- Going beyond “preparatory actions” and **trigger actual implementation**
- Improve citizens and professional **skills**
- Expected benefits: **Trust and ownership**, Snowball effect , Reduced costs, Improved skills of citizens and local business, durability/long-lasting effects

Phase 3 : from pilot project to preparatory action

- From direct support to pilot entities to support **enabling entities**
- Intermediate structures aiming at **delivering support services and enabling conditions** to new or existing Energy Communities targeting energy renovations
- Enabling entities among: network, umbrella association, OSS, energy agencies (incl. local/regional), local authorities, NGO
- Renovation is a **local activity** = localised/regionalised approach preferred versus EU wide initiative

Proposed approach for preparatory action

- Contract service will select enabling entities
- Contract service will **coach and assist 10 enabling entities** to support local/individual energy communities (“**train the trainer**”)
- Enabling entities will :
 - **Identify** energy communities to **support, create and animate a local network**
 - **Support them in:** organization/governance; engage with local authorities; capacity building including technical, direct support, financial engineering, etc..

Phase 3 : timeline

- **May 2024: tender publication**
- September - October 2024 : offer submission and evaluation
- **December 2024: signature**
- **First semester 2025** : selection of remaining enabling structures

LOOKING AHEAD : MISSION LETTER OF COMMISSIONER DESIGNATE FOR ENERGY

- **Citizen Energy Package**
 - Boosting participation of citizen in the energy transition and strengthen the social dimension of the Energy Union
 - Energy communities action plan
- **EU Affordable and Sustainable Housing Plan**
 - Technical Assistance to cities and countries
 - Focus on investments and skills
 - Pan-european investment platform for affordable and sustainable housing
 - Double cohesion investments in affordable housing in next MFF
 - State aid rules to adapt

Thank you



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