

# Putting the Clean Energy Package into practice in Member States: a focus on renewable energy communities

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# Energy communities in the CEP:

# 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

# Energy community definitions: an organisational concept

- Legal entity
- Non-commercial purpose
- Open and voluntary membership
- Emphasis on participation by citizens, SMEs and public authorities
- Emphasis on 'effective control' by members not engaged in the energy sector
- For RECs: democratic governance (i.e. autonomy)



# From paper to practice: Renewable Energy Communities

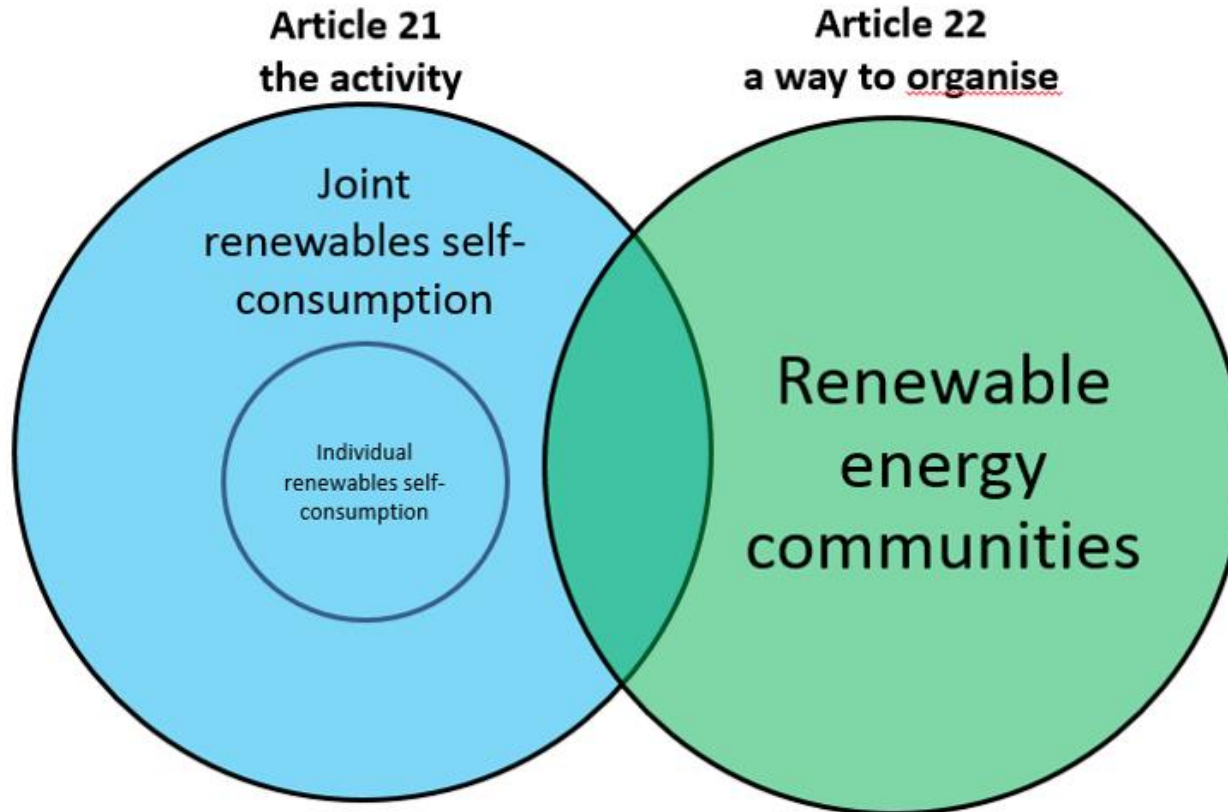
# Definitions

- New definitions of renewable energy communities in France, Portugal, Greece, Luxemburg, and Belgium (Wallonia)
- Lots of copy-paste
- Most are quite narrow and centre around a particular activity e.g. collective self-consumption (Wallonia)
- Strong emphasis on local participation (Luxemburg, Portugal)
- Strong limitations on participation by active energy companies (France, Luxemburg)
- Interesting examples of strong governance (Portugal)

## Best Practice: Greece

An Energy Community (E.C.) is the cooperative solely aiming at promoting social and solidarity-based economy and innovation in the energy sector, addressing energy poverty and promoting energy sustainability, generation, storage, self-consumption, distribution and supply of energy as well as improving end-use energy efficiency at local and regional level. It is non-profit, except in the case of paragraph 4 under Article 2.

# Link between renewable energy communities and self-consumption:



*\* National frameworks need to distinguish activities from business model/organisation*

# For more information...



## Q&A: What are 'citizen' and 'renewable' energy communities?

### Introduction

The final Clean Energy Package (CEP) contains two definitions of energy community: Citizen Energy Community (CEC) which is contained in Directive (EU) 2019/944 (recast Electricity Directive), and Renewable Energy Community (REC), which is contained in Directive (EU) 2018/2001 (the recast Renewable Energy Directive). They are similar, but not totally consistent.

Article 2(16) Recast Renewable Energy Directive 'Renewable Energy Community'	Article 2(11) Recast Electricity Directive 'Citizen Energy Community'
A legal entity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) which, in accordance with the applicable national law, is based on <b>open and voluntary participation</b>, is <b>autonomous</b>, and is <b>effectively controlled by shareholders or members that are located in the proximity</b> of the renewable energy projects that are owned and developed by that legal entity;</li><li>(b) the shareholders or members of which are <b>natural persons, SMEs or local authorities</b>, including municipalities;</li><li>(c) the <b>primary purpose</b> of which is to <b>provide environmental, economic or social community benefits</b> for its shareholders or members or for the local areas where it operates, <b>rather than financial profits</b>.</li></ul>	A legal entity that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>(a) is based on <b>voluntary and open participation</b> and is <b>effectively controlled by</b> members or shareholders that are <b>natural persons, local authorities, including municipalities, or small enterprises</b>;</li><li>(b) has for its <b>primary purpose to provide environmental, economic or social community benefits</b> to its members or shareholders or to the local areas where it operates <b>rather than to generate financial profits</b>; and</li><li>(c) <b>may engage in generation</b>, including from renewable sources, distribution, supply, consumption, aggregation, energy storage, energy efficiency services or charging services for electric vehicles or provide other energy services to its members or shareholders;</li></ul>



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## Collective self-consumption and energy communities: Overview of emerging regulatory approaches in Europe

Working paper, Mai 2019

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# An equal footing in renewables support schemes

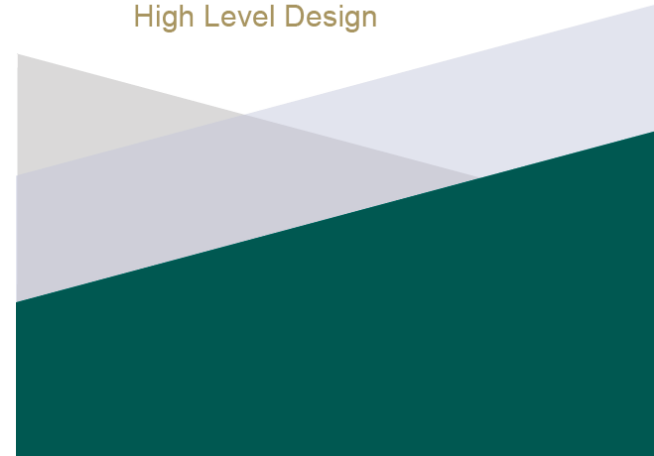
## Ireland

- Financial support for early phases of development for community-led projects
- Separate 'community' category in Ireland's auction scheme (up to 10%)
- Mandatory investment by communities into all projects seeking State support
- Project support (e.g. financial, legal, technical advice – public & private)



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

Renewable Electricity Support  
Scheme (RESS)  
High Level Design



**!! DG COMPETITION ALERT !!**

# Enabling frameworks

- A couple Member States included national objectives for community energy (Netherlands, Greece, and Wales/Scotland in the UK)
- Only 6 Member States included detailed policies and measures (11 said they planned to include)
- Most Member States overlooked potential of energy communities (e.g. in area of energy efficiency)
- Several Member States link energy communities to addressing energy poverty

CZ, ET, DE, LV, MT, SK,  
SL, SE (8)

AT, HR, EL, IE, NL (5)

BE, BG, CY, DK, FI, FR,  
HU, IT, LT, LX, PL, PT,  
RO, ES, UK (15)

# Main issues moving forward

- 1) Keeping definition flexible and open for different activities
- 2) Open and participatory national assessment of potential and barriers for RECs as the basis of developing enabling frameworks
- 3) Bike lanes for RECs in renewables support schemes
- 4) Clear, simple and proportionate regulatory frameworks for collective self-consumption and energy sharing activities
- 5) Reward system benefits that energy communities provide via remuneration (e.g. markets for flexibility, services) and network charges

*If you want to know more, please  
contact us!*

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