

Citizens Energy Package

Supporting the development of energy communities

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Energy communities in EU law

Citizen Energy Communities

- Article 16 Electricity Market Directive 2019/944
- National leadership, flexible governance and membership
- Enabling framework for electricity market integration

Renewable Energy Communities

- Article 22 Renewable Energy Directive 2018/1999
- Local ownership, democratic governance and strict membership
- Enabling framework for renewable energy projects

Art. 2 on definitions: makes clear that renewable energy communities are a social concept, rather than financial profits



What's in a name?

- **A legal entity** (cooperative, association, limited liability company etc.)
- That **brings together citizens, SMEs and local authorities**, allowing them to become active in the transition;
- With a **voluntary and open** organisational structure;
- To collectively **consume, produce, store, share or supply** renewable energy (gas/heat/electricity);
- And **reinvest benefits within the community**, therefore reinforcing solidarity between members
- **Several categories** (RECs, CECs) – with specificities depending on the type of energy and services provided.



The Action Plan for Affordable Energy

4 Pillars, 8 Actions

Action 1: Making electricity bills more affordable

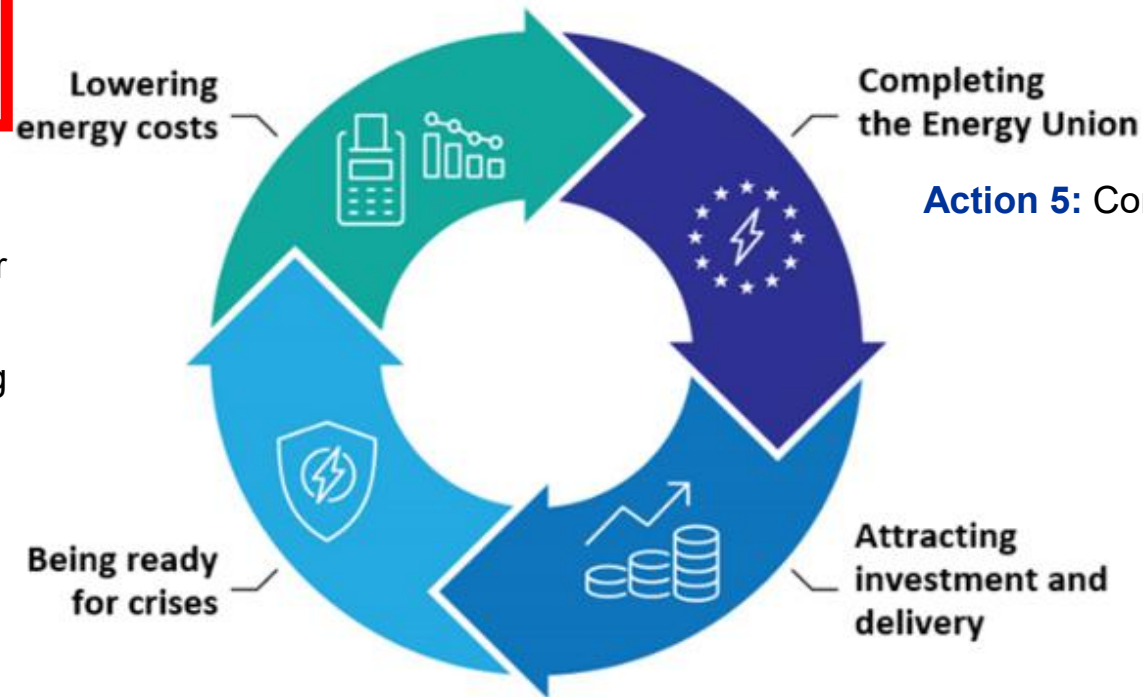
Action 2: Bring down the costs of electricity supply

Action 3: Improve gas markets for fair energy prices

Action 4: Energy efficiency: delivering energy savings

Action 7: Security of supply for price stability

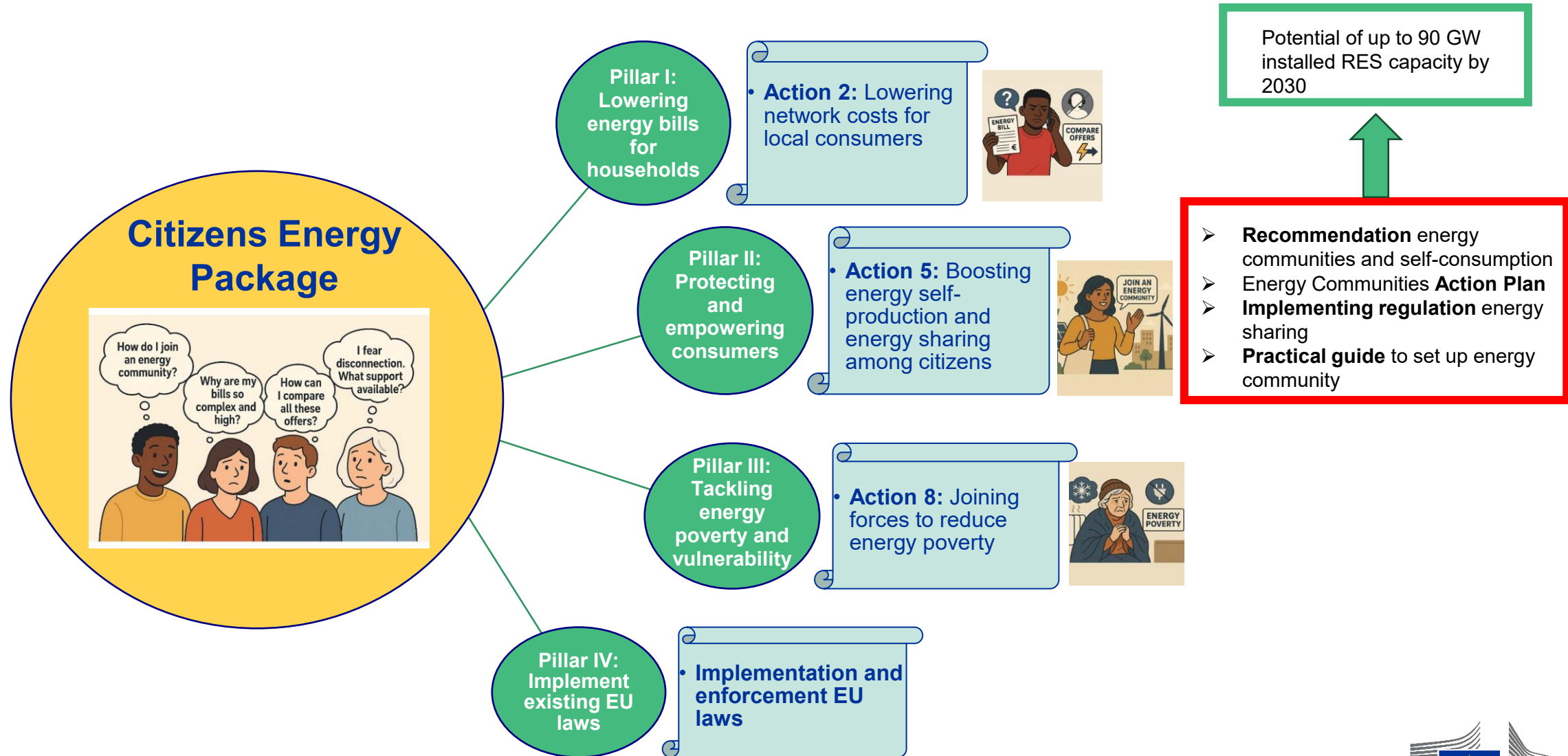
Action 8: Price crisis preparedness



Action 5: Completing the Energy Union

Action 6: A tripartite contract for affordable energy for Europe's industry

Citizens Energy Package Communication



Action Plan for Energy Communities

Goals:

- To **support Member States** in the Implementation of the Recommendation
- To **remove technical and financial barriers** for energy communities.
- **To tap into the potential of** energy communities to increase installed RES capacity **up to 90 GW by 2030.**

Structure:

1. **Effective Enabling Frameworks**
2. **Access to Financing**
3. **Awareness-raising and Capacity-building**
4. Social Inclusion and Public Participation
5. Digital Innovation and System Integration



Actions (non-exhaustive)

Chapter	Example
1. Effective enabling frameworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide comprehensive guidance to EU Member States based on good practices and recommendations
2. Access to Financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refinance the Energy Communities Facility to provide early-stage grant support • Raise awareness among financial intermediaries and energy communities on the use of InvestEU guarantees to unlock affordable loans • Set up a working group on energy communities under the Energy and Managing Authorities Network, following consensus on its establishment, to strengthen the uptake of Cohesion Funds • Publish a financing toolbox on community energy with possible financing models and options
3. Awareness-raising and Capacity-building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support peer-to-peer learning opportunities and secondary structures (LIFE-CET programme)



Recommendation on energy communities and self-consumption (non-exhaustive)

Structure:

1. Definitions and Frameworks
2. Governance and Monitoring
3. Permitting and System Integration
4. Standardised Approach to Energy Sharing
5. Remuneration to Maximise the Value of Self-Consumption
6. Access to Relevant Energy Markets
7. **Access to Public Funding and Private Financing**
8. **Awareness-raising and Capacity-building Support**
9. **Social Inclusiveness**
10. **Digitalisation and Innovation**

Enabling Frameworks

+ **Staff Working Document with good practices** to guide Member States in the implementation of the Recommendation.



Access to Public Funding and Private Financing

Recommendation	Example
<p>Identify funding or financing gaps and put in place dedicated funding programmes and financing instruments for energy communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Ireland, the Sustainable Energy Community Network provides support to plan, develop and finance energy efficiency and smart RES projects in accordance with a ‘learn, plan, do’ approach. Today there are almost 900 active sustainable energy communities.
<p>Make full use of the existing EU funds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Italy, the region of Emilia-Romagna has set up two calls under the 2021-2027 ERDF regional programme, one to finance planning and establishment expenses and another to build the PV plants up to 25% of eligible expenses for energy communities. The first call resulted in the establishment of 53 energy communities and seven plants financed at the end of 2024.
<p>ensure that such programmes and instruments have specific frameworks that facilitate accessibility for energy communities, in particular through federations of energy communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the Netherlands, Energie Samen, a federation of energy communities, together with the Ministry of Economic Affairs, InvestNL and the Green Fund, has set up a development fund for specific types of energy community (energy cooperatives) based on a loan-to-grant model.



Awareness-raising and Capacity-building Support

Recommendation	Example
<p>Leverage existing or set up one-stop-shop structures or similar mechanisms, with the option to submit applications and monitor progress of permits, licences and support schemes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Spain, community transformation offices (OTCs) are specialised support structures established under the national Recovery, Transformation and Resilience plan to facilitate the creation, development and consolidation of energy communities.
<p>Provide support to local authorities to set up or support energy communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Czech Republic the KOMUNERG programme will assist and guide municipalities in establishing energy communities. Capacity-building support includes technical training, legal guidance for project set-up and the use of funds.
<p>Promote federations and secondary structures of energy communities and support capacity building</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the Netherlands, EnergieSamen, a federation of energy cooperatives, works together with secondary structures at regional level to provide OSS services to energy communities to develop projects and access to dedicated funding and financing opportunities.



Thank you

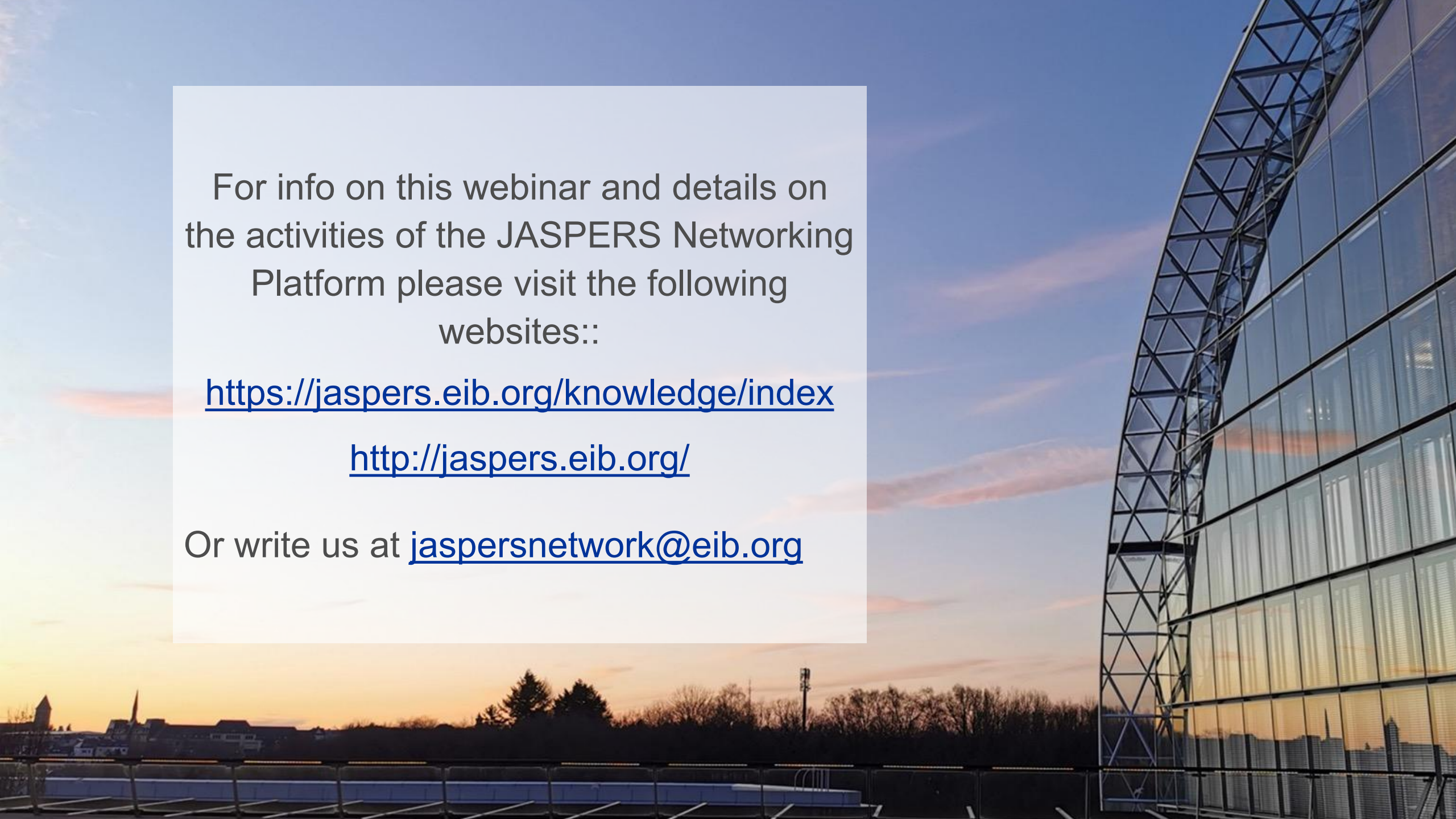


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A photograph of a modern glass skyscraper at sunset. The building's curved facade and steel framework are visible on the right side. The sky is a mix of blue and orange, with a city skyline reflected in the glass. In the foreground, there is a parking lot with a metal railing.

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