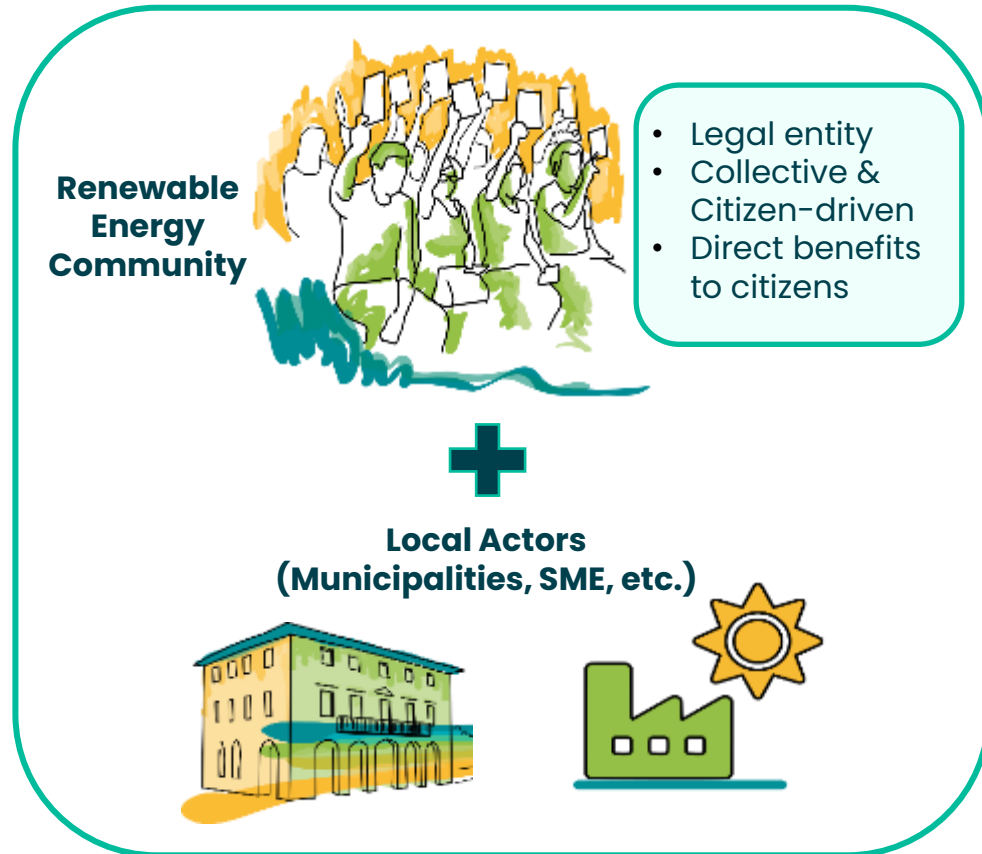


Energy communities: a fair way out of the energy crisis



Chris Vrettos | REScoop.eu | 20th of May

WHAT IS COMMUNITY ENERGY?



Private capital mobilisation

2.5 €
return to local economy
(per euro invested)

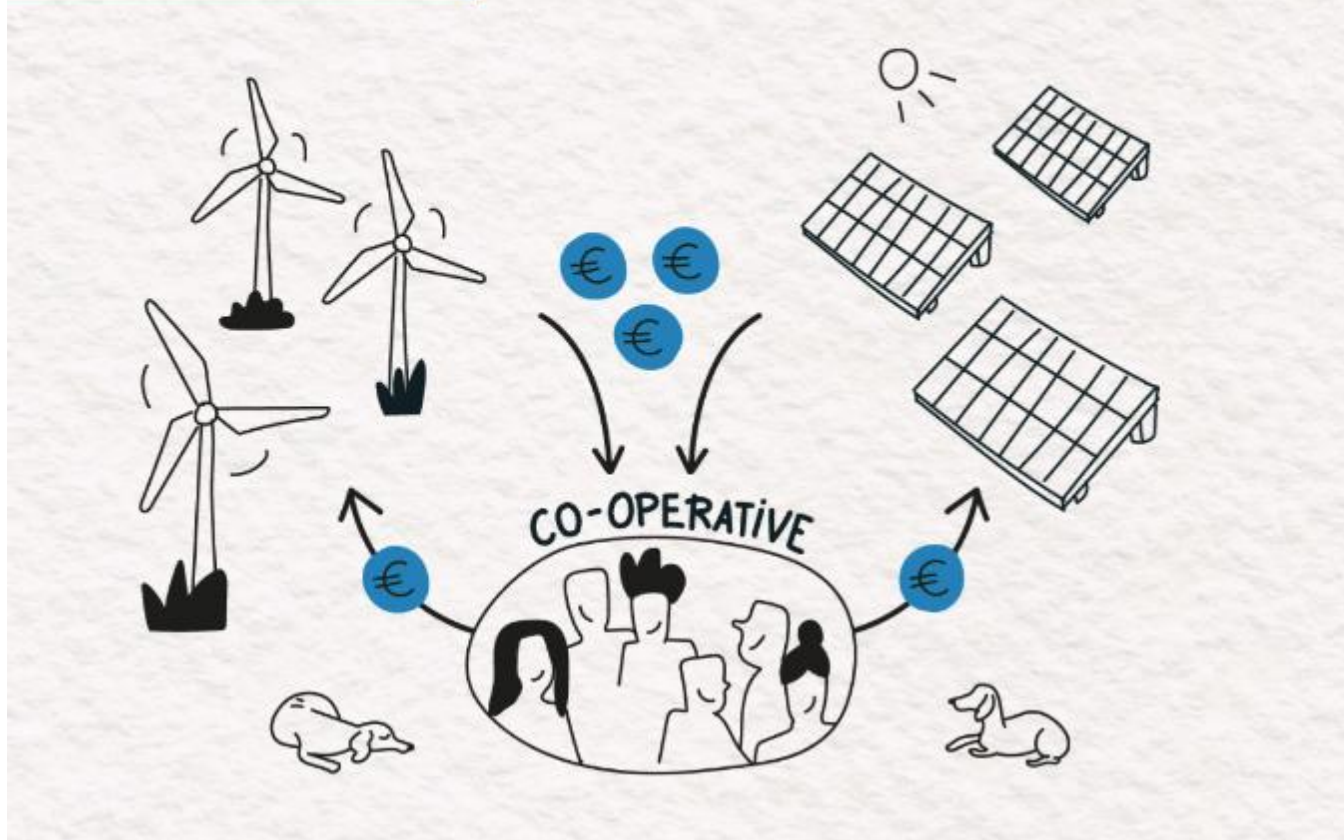
176 billion €
just for community owned wind projects by 2030

Significant potential

50% of EU citizens
producing their own energy by 2050

IMAGINE A
WORLD

WHERE ENERGY PRODUCTION
IS OWNED BY LOCAL PEOPLE.



61%

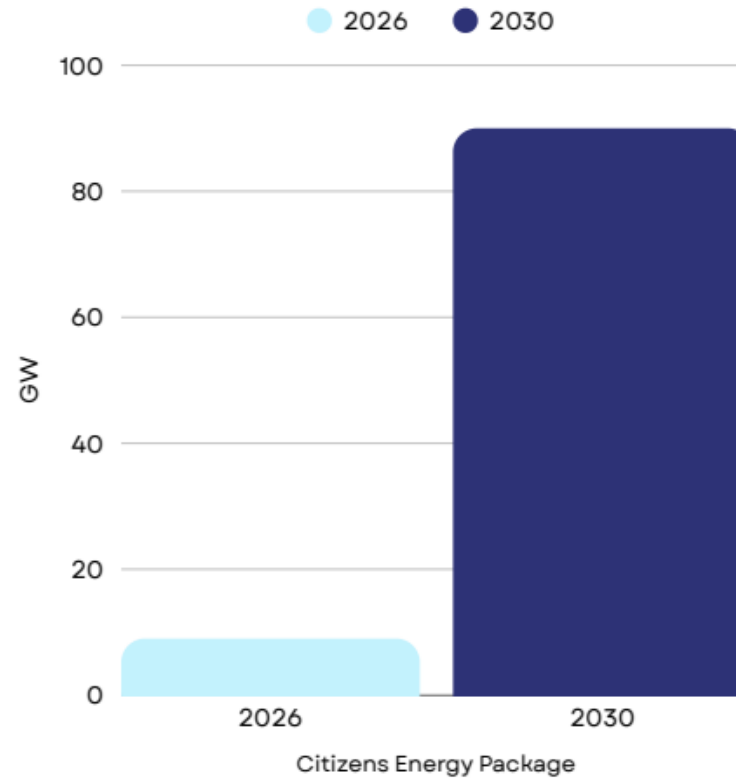
of Europeans would
be likely to join an
energy cooperative
if one were set up in
their local area

RESCOOP.EU

By 2050, 1 in 2 Europeans could be producing their own energy, **covering 45%**
of the EU's electricity demand



Potential of energy communities



**90 GW
by
2030!**

by 2030

16 million	+	300,000	+	630,000
Households		Public entities		SMEs

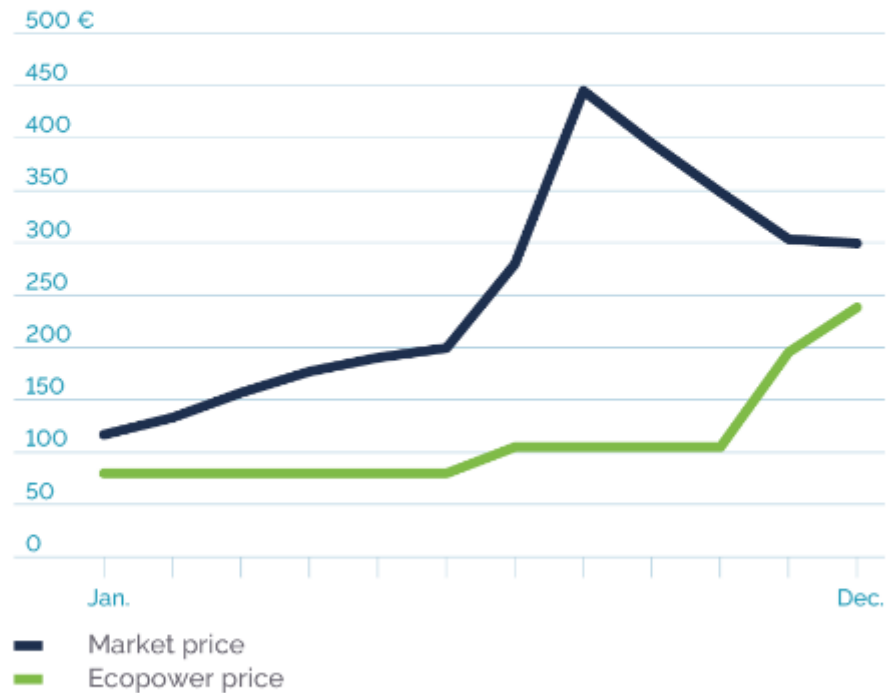
can be producing their own energy, covering 8% of the EU's electricity demand

From Ukraine to Iran: A buffer against energy crises

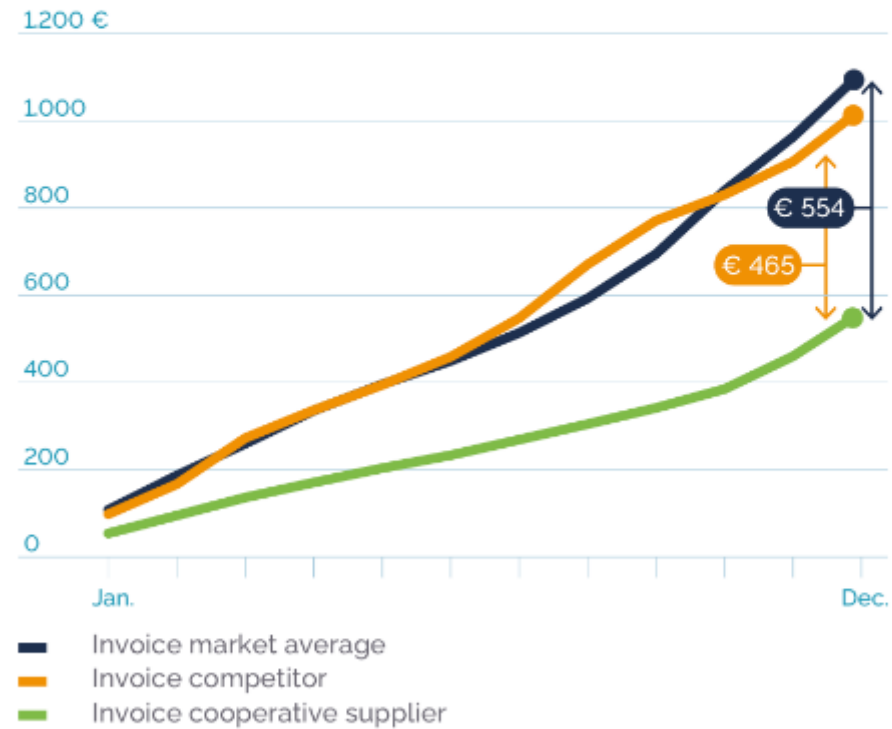
Market prices vs. cooperative prices

Cooperatives can shield their members from high volatile energy prices

Electricity price



Invoices



Start Small



Go big on impact

NEO ΥΠΟΒΟΛΙΣΤΕΣ ΦΠΑ	ΣΥΝΟΛΟ	ΧΡΕΩΣΕΙΣ ΠΡΟ ΦΠΑ (C)	ΣΥΝΟΛΟ
ΑΝΑΛΥΣΗ ΧΡΕΩΣΕΩΝ ΛΟΓΑΡΙΑΣΜΟΥ Η αναλυση απεικονει τον λογαριασμό για την αναλυση απεικονει τα περιεχόμενα του λογαριασμού και αναφέρει τους αναλόγως υπολογισμούς.			
ΧΡΕΩΣΕΙΣ ΗΛΕΚΤΡΙΚΟΥ ΡΕΥΜΑΤΟΣ Ποσών αναλυση των χρεώσεων ηλεκτρικού ρεύματος και των οφειζόμενων χρεώσεων παρακαλώ να δείτε τη σελίδα 4.	0,00€	ΕΥΘΥΜΙΣΜΕΝΕΣ ΧΡΕΩΣΕΙΣ Χρέωση χρέωση διατήρησης Χρέωση χρέωση διατήρησης διατήρησης Χρέωση κοινόχρηστο διαμέρισμα Λοιπός επιδοτέο Είδος Τόπος Μικρών Επιταγών Αρτοποιία Πάσης	93,57€
		ΣΥΜΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΙΚΕΣ ΧΡΕΩΣΕΙΣ	0,00€
		ΑΞΙΑ ΡΕΥΜΑΤΟΣ ΠΡΟ ΦΠΑ (C)	93,57€
ΓΕΛΙΑ & ΦΟΡΟΙ	-6,60€	ΠΡΟΠΡΟΫΜΕΝΕΣ ΟΦΕΙΛΕΣ	-120,18€
Αναδομηκή Χρέωση Δήμων	0,00€	ΣΥΜΜΕΤΟΧΗ ΣΕ ΠΡΟΣΩΠΙΚΗ ΕΝΕΡΓΕΙΑ	0,00€
Χρέωση ΕΡΤ	0,00€	ΕΝΕΡΓΕΙΑΚΕΣ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΕΣ	0,00€
Είδος Τόπος 0,5%	0,15€	Smartwatt	0,00€
Είδος Φόρος και ανάκλιση	3,37€	Απόδοση	0,00€
ΦΠΑ -17,55%	-10,52€	Παρόδοση	0,00€
Τόπος Υπερμετρίως	0,00€	Family	0,00€
Είδος Τόπος ΑΓΕ	0,00€	αύστηλο	0,00€
		Άλλες Υπηρεσίες	0,00€
		Χρέωση	0,00€
		Παρόδοση	0,00€
		Family	0,00€
		αύστηλο	0,00€
		Λοιπές χρεώσεις υπηρεσιών ΦΠΑ	0,00€
ΜΕΙΩΝ ΕΝΑΝΤΙ ΑΞΙΑΣ ΡΕΥΜΑΤΟΣ	-272,39€	Τόπος Υπερμετρίως	0,00€
		Προηγούμενες Οφειλές	0,00€
		Ενεργειακών Υπηρεσιών	0,00€
ΣΥΝΟΛΟ ΛΟΓΑΡΙΑΣΜΟΥ ΡΕΥΜΑΤΟΣ	-185,42€	ΓΕΝΙΚΟ ΣΥΝΟΛΟ ΛΟΓΑΡΙΑΣΜΟΥ	-305,60€

Active across all energy market segments



Transport / E-car sharing - Som Mobilitat (ES)

- **4,166 members**
- **106 cars** and a digital sharing platform
- **34 municipalities,**



Housing Retrofits & energy sobriety



Ecovision - Ireland

- **A One-Stop-Shop for Community-led renovations**
- Assist in all stages of a housing retrofit (grant aid, sourcing of contractors and project overseeing)
- Between 2012 – 2019 already 827 houses renovated, leading up to **8.8 GWh in energy savings** through a **10.2 million Euro** investment



Stable and increasingly supportive policy & regulatory framework

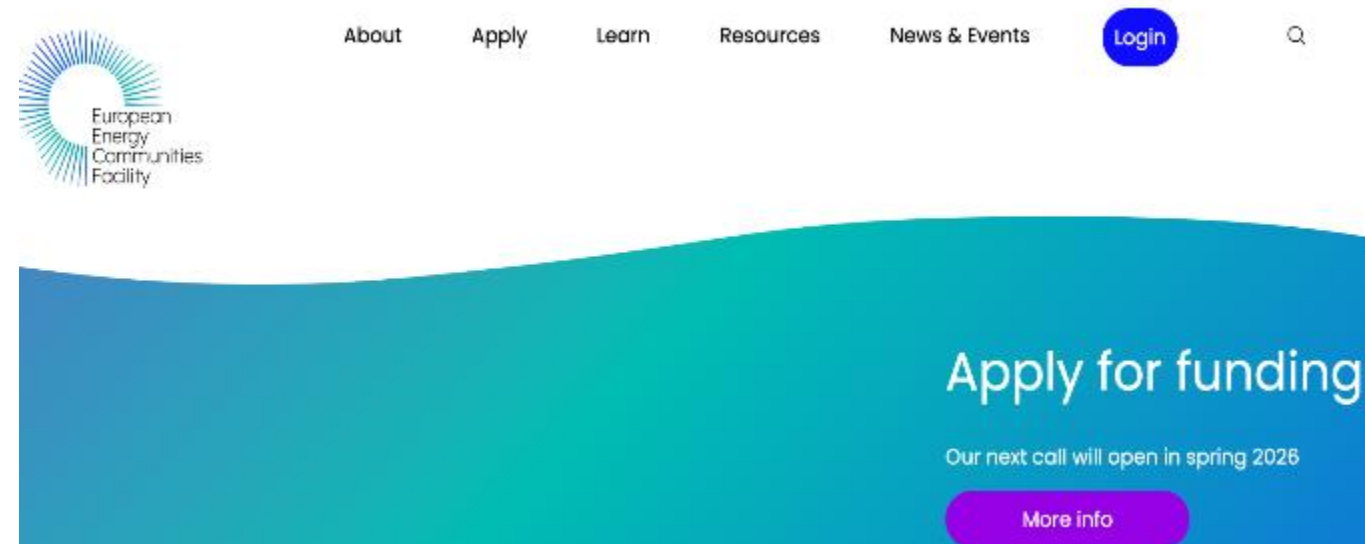


Enabling Frameworks Tracker

- Clean Energy Package for all Europeans (2019)
- Action Plan on Energy Communities (Q2 2026)
- Recent opinion from the European Economic and Social Committee
- **European Investment Bank Energy Sector Orientation -> support for energy communities**

Pipelines of projects building up across Europe

- **European Energy Communities Facility** -> 700 application in the first call
 - Lump sum grants of 45000 euros & technical assistance
 - If repeated 5 times -> 3455 energy communities supported
 - Assuming an average investment of 550k per project -> **Potential to crowd in 2 billion euros in citizen capital (1.7GW of projects)**
- Applications from EU27 + Ukraine, Moldova, Iceland, North Macedonia



Two major gaps for the development of energy communities in Europe

- 1) Lack of transposition by Member States
- 2) Lack of funding schemes



Public Funding

Key gap: lack of capacity and awareness by Managing Authorities

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EU member states said they would fund **103** energy communities between 2021-June 2024 with Cohesion funds.

They funded **one.**

Develo

CEE



Helping Managing Authorities design the right funding calls

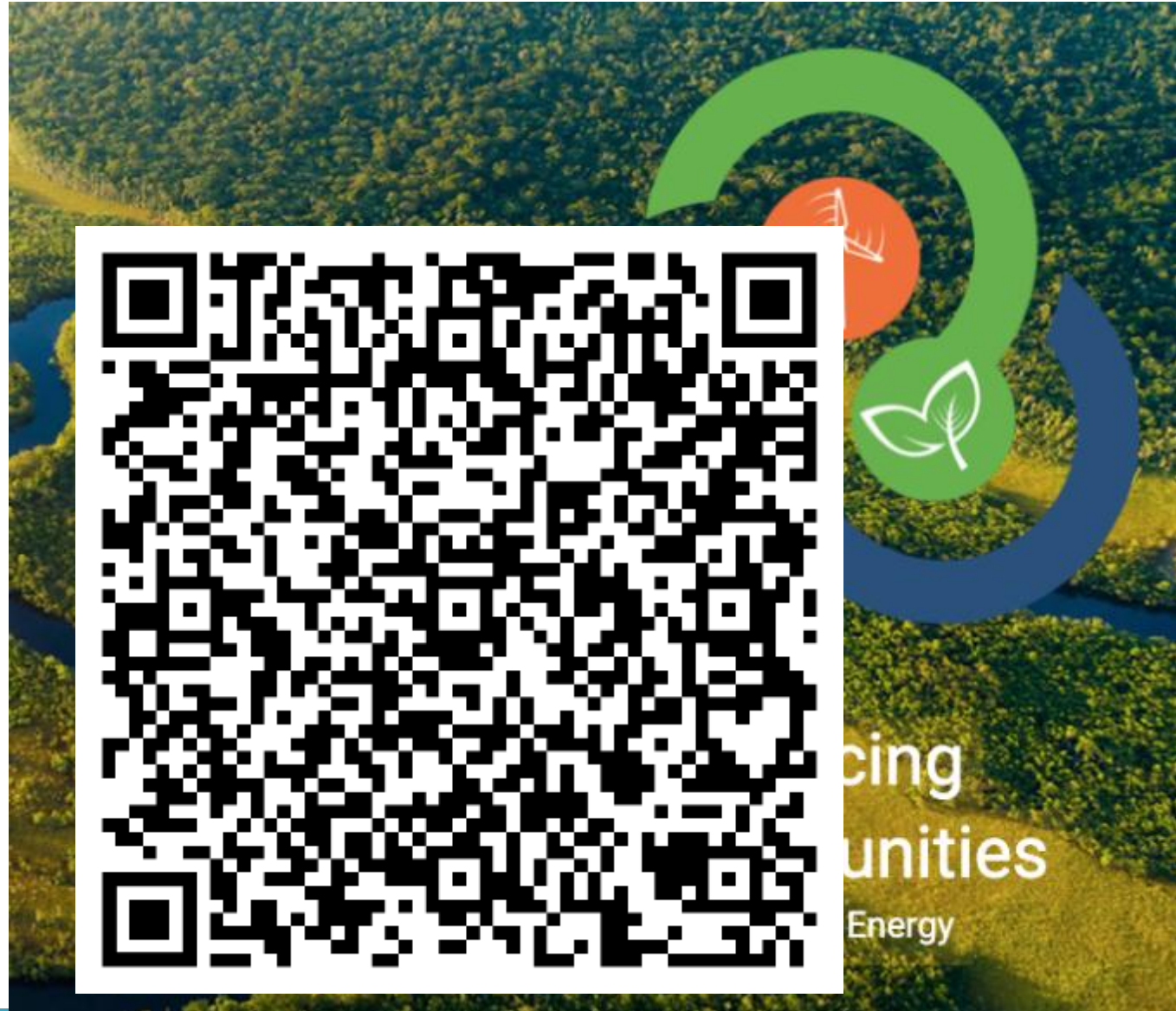
Cohesion for Transitions Initiative (DG REGIO)

- Action led by REScoop.eu

Concrete guidance document & checklist of criteria

Assign extra points to community projects that tackle energy poverty

Translations: PL, IT, FR, GR, BG, SE



Concrete and proven tips (drawing from past calls)

- Partner with national community energy experts to disseminate the call
- Single portal for all financing calls
- Keep the call open long enough / avoid holidays
- 3 stage call (pre-feasibility, feasibility, implementation)

Social Climate Fund

- Energy communities are eligible to implement projects that include vulnerable households
- **REScoop.eu's analysis shows that >350 million euros have so far been committed** to energy communities (notably PL, BG...)

Social Climate Fund Tracker



Member States can immediately activate funds from the SCF to support citizens

- European Investment Bank Frontloading Facility
- Leverage municipal/public areas, install renewables (& batteries) and implement local energy sharing projects

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Renewable Energy Communities: A Safe Haven in Times of Crisis

How Energy Communities shield consumers from energy prices volatility and ensure affordability in times of crisis

Creating energy communities as a response to the Iran war

Spain has announced a 10mln euro funding call through IDAE

Good value for money

- **Every 1 euro of public subsidy** put in a community energy project **generates 50 euros** for the territory
- The money stays local -> creates jobs, steady and fair supply of energy

2028-2034 EU Budget

- **Linking the National and Regional Partnership Plans with community energy**
- 21+ Member State factsheets
- Interest from BE, NL, FR, SK, IE



THE ROLE OF ENERGY COMMUNITIES IN NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP



PRIVATE FUNDING: Main Barriers

- Risk perception of banks
- Small ticket size of projects
- Low financial returns
- Raising equity for the first project or in big projects

How to reduce risk for (national) banks, and unlock (cheaper) lending

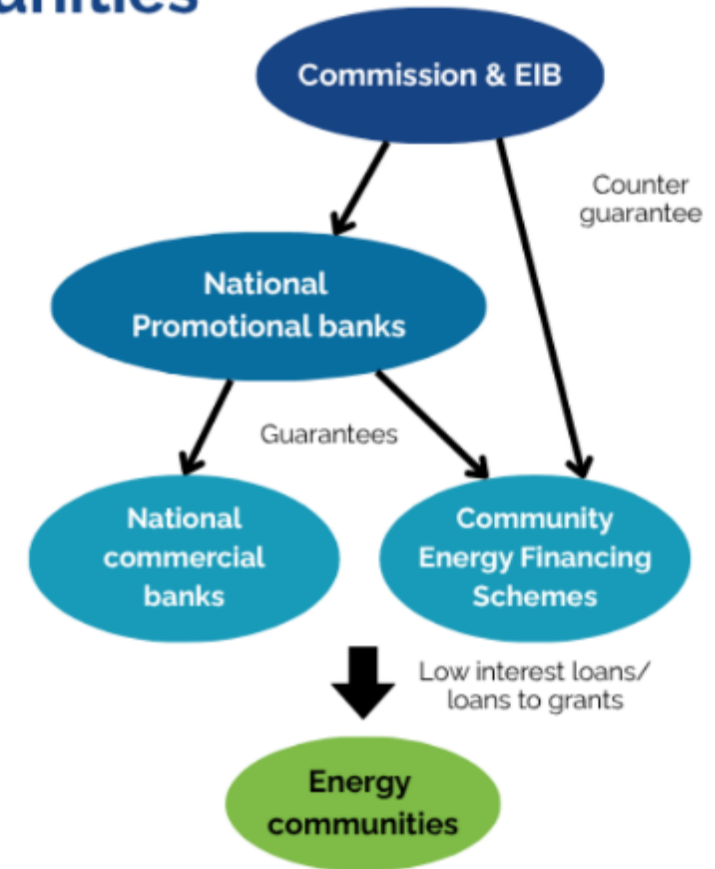
An InvestEU for energy communities

Helping unlock finance across EU countries, especially in the CEE and Southern regions

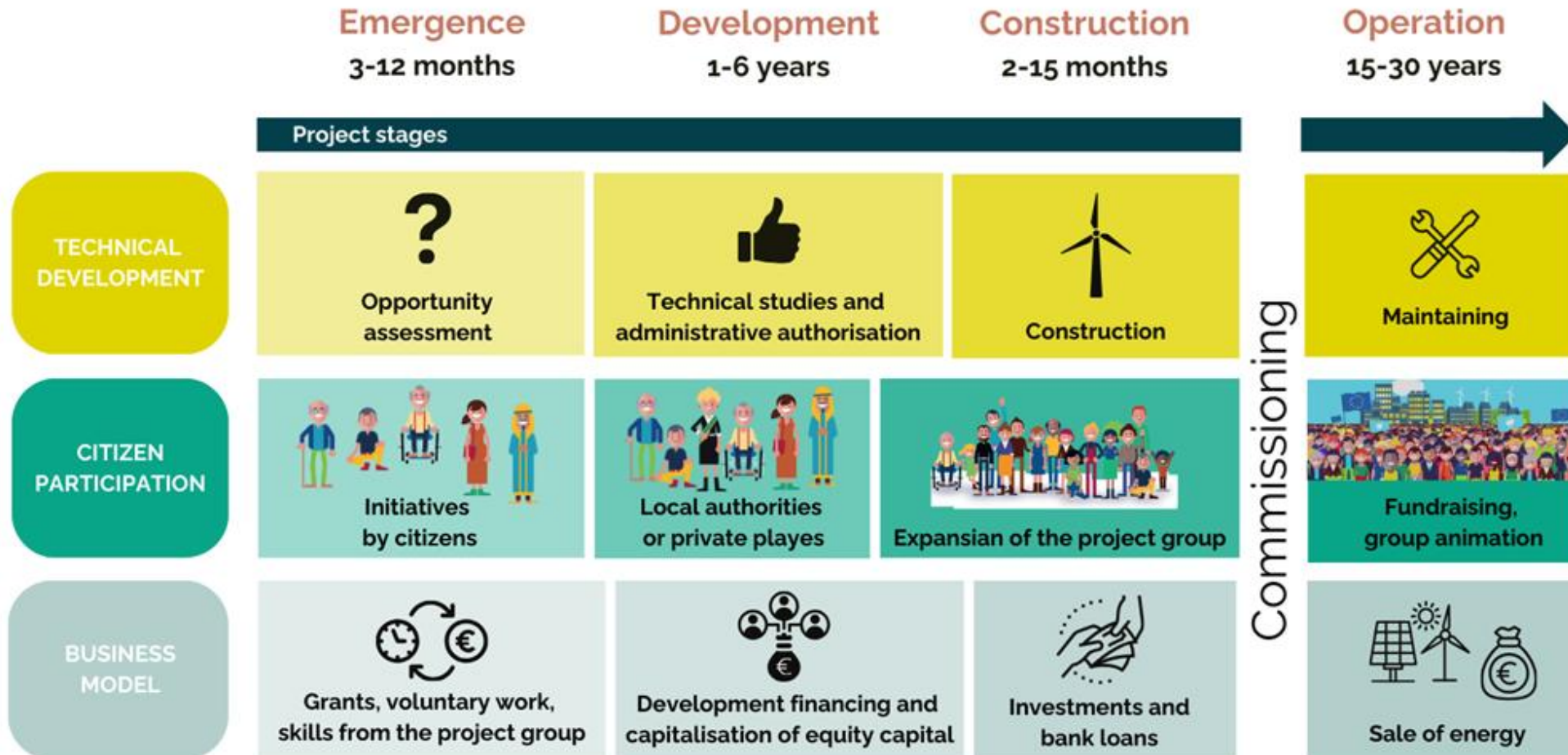
An InvestEU for energy communities

Setting up revolving funds in all EU27

- The Commission, through the European Investment Bank, could **provide a counter-guarantee** to national financial intermediaries (e.g. Promotional Banks) or CEFS, in all member states
- InvestEU → funded by EU funds
- The Promotional Banks could then provide **guarantees to commercial banks**, who would then provide **lower-interest rate loans to energy communities**
- **National community energy federations** (*depending on maturity on each country*) could provide a supportive role through capacity building & project bundling



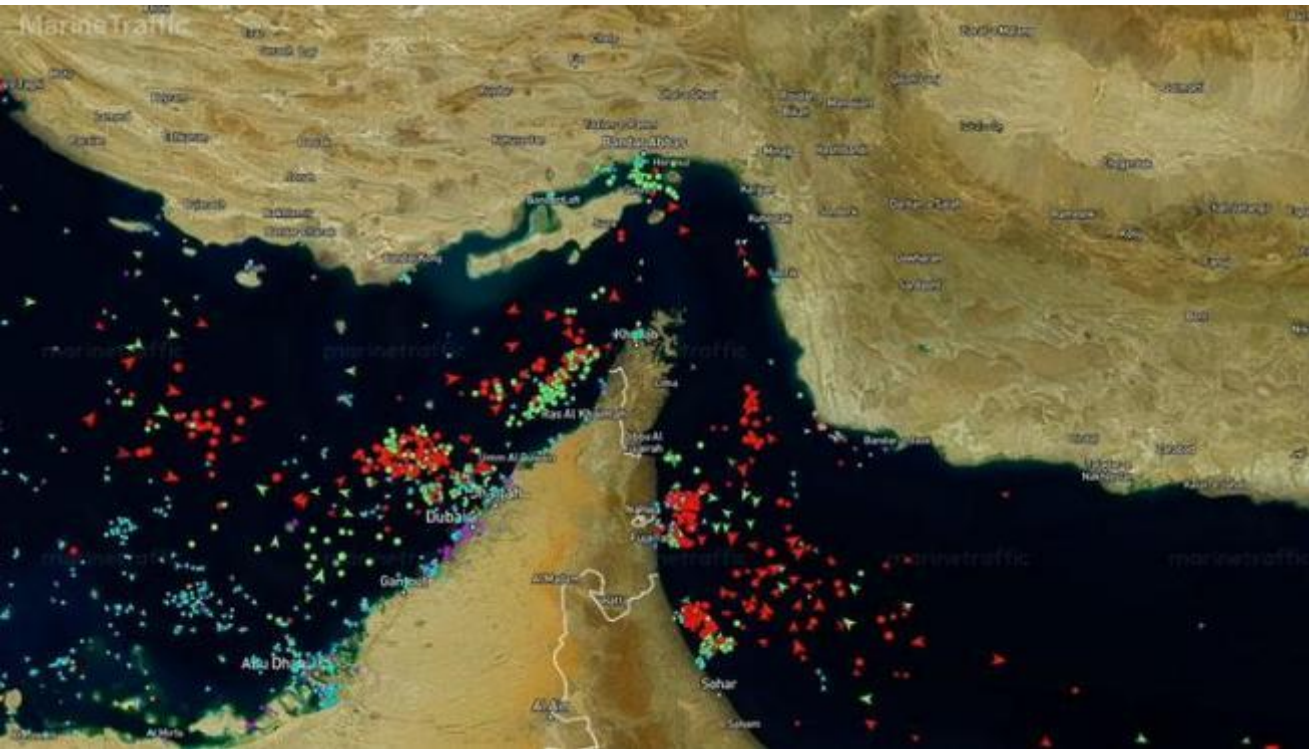
The Missing Link: an EU-level, permanent “Facility” for energy communities



Key conclusions for Managing Authorities

- Use the C4T (DG REGIO) guidance document
- Collaborate with national expert organisations in community energy (e.g., federations)
- Tools for different stages of project development (eg business model preparation, purchasing of equipment)
- Use energy communities as a tool for local development -> tackle energy poverty, maintain revenues in the community

Energy communities as a tool against the energy crisis



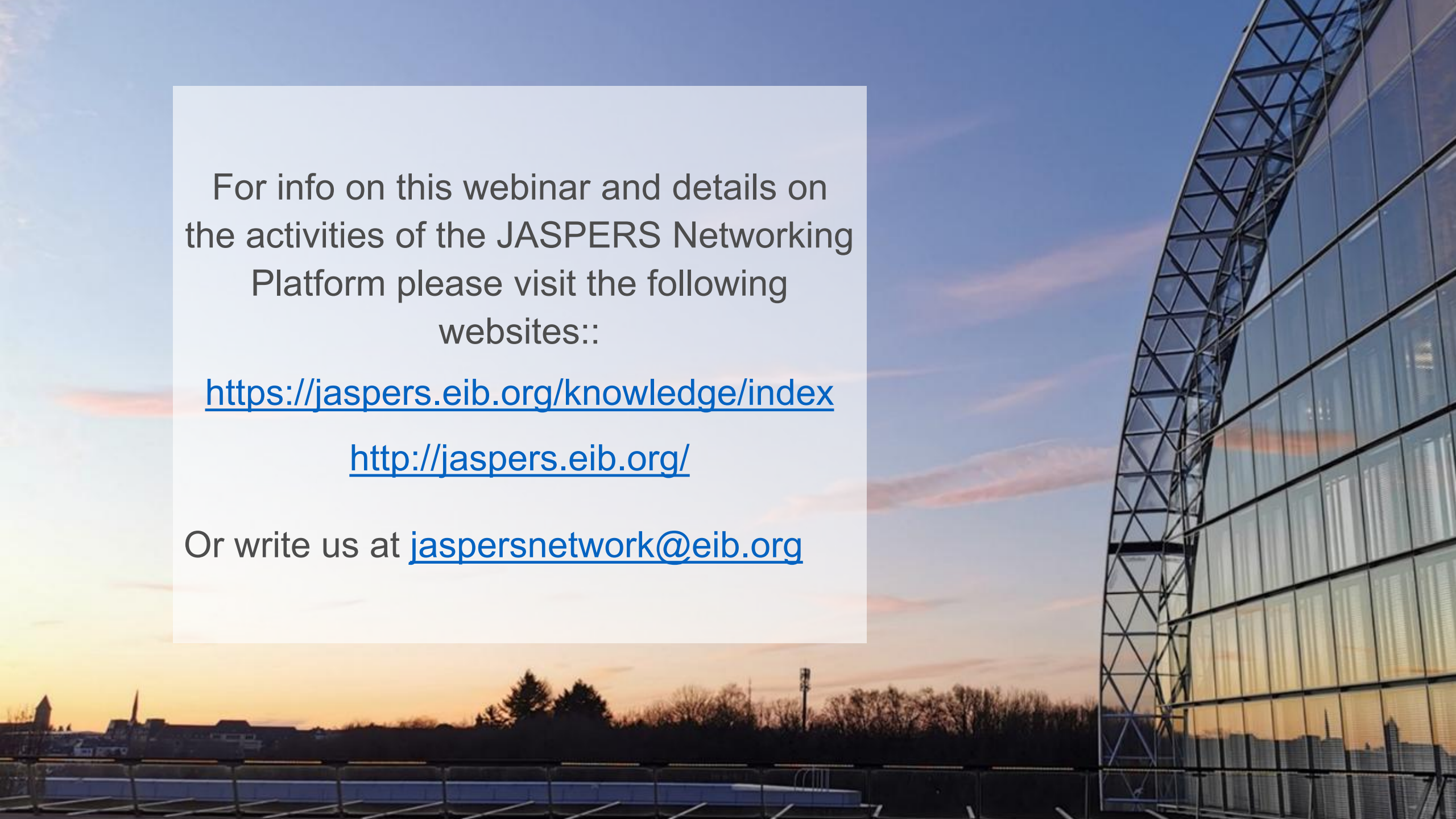
Energy communities, the sun and the wind, cannot get stuck in the Straits of Hormuz

REScoop.EU

Get in touch!
chris.vrettos@rescoop.eu



www.rescoop.eu

A photograph of a modern glass skyscraper at sunset. The building's curved facade and steel framework are visible, reflecting the warm colors of the sky. The sky transitions from a pale blue at the top to a soft orange and yellow near the horizon. In the foreground, a dark silhouette of a city skyline and some trees are visible against the bright horizon.

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