



State aid to renewable energy communities

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Application of State aid rules to renewable energy communities

Renewable energy communities

The Renewable Energy Directive defines a renewable energy community (REC) as:

‘a legal entity:

- a) which, in accordance with the applicable national law, is based on open and voluntary participation, is autonomous, and is effectively controlled by shareholders or members that are located in the proximity of the renewable energy projects that are owned and developed by that legal entity;*
- b) the shareholders or members of which are natural persons, SMEs or local authorities, including municipalities;*
- c) the primary purpose of which is to provide environmental, economic or social community benefits for its shareholders or members or for the local areas where it operates, rather than financial profits’*

Notion of aid

Article 107(1) of the Treaty defines State aid as:

*‘any aid granted by a Member State or through State resources in any form whatsoever which distorts or threatens to distort competition by favouring certain undertakings or the production of certain goods [...], **in so far as** it affects trade between Member States’*



- Undertakings are entities engaged in an economic activity
- An economic activity is any activity consisting in offering goods and services on a market
- The economic use of an asset may be ancillary

Notion of aid for RECs

A REC qualifies as an undertaking if:

- at least one of its members/shareholders is an undertaking, i.e., it offers goods or services on a market
- irrespective of the nature of its members/shareholders, it performs an economic activity which is not ancillary

RECs and State aid

The Renewable Energy Directive requires Member States to:

- ensure that RECs can participate in available support schemes on an equal footing with large participants.
- take into account the positive impact of RECs in the choices relative to the development of the energy market
- carry out an assessment of the existing barriers and potential of development



Under State aid rules, RECs can receive support under the same conditions as other actors and they can benefit of additional flexibility in the application of certain requirements

State aid for renewable energy communities

State aid framework

LEVEL OF COMPLEXITY

GBER

No notification to the Commission for aid below the notification thresholds.

- Current revision of the GBER with focus on simplification
- Public consultation closed on 23 April
- Formal adoption expected in December 2026

CISAF

Notification to the Commission

Simplifications compared to the CEEAG (possibility to grant aid administratively in certain cases).

CEEAG

Notification to the Commission.

Generally, aid shall be granted in a competitive bidding process open to all technologies and may reach the funding gap.

GBER revision : investment aid

Article	Threshold	Scope	Aid intensity
Article 41	30 M per undertaking per project	<p>Investment aid for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ renewable energy production ➤ Storage (electricity, thermal, renewable fuels) if directly connected to the installation ➤ high-efficiency cogeneration ➤ Dedicated infrastructure for hydrogen. <p>2026 proposal to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>standalone storage</u> ➤ <u>demand response</u> ➤ <u>dedicated infrastructure to any types of project.</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Competitive bidding: aid up to 100% of the total investment costs - Administratively: aid up to 45% or 30% of the total investment costs (+ SME bonus)

GBER revision : operating aid

Article	Threshold	Scope	Aid intensity
Article 42			Aid granted in a <u>competitive bidding process</u> open to all generators producing renewable electricity
Article 43	<p>30 M per undertaking per project and 300 M per year for the budget</p> <p>2026 proposal :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Thresholds to be removed (EUR 30 M threshold removed just for <u>electricity production</u>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Renewable electricity production ➤ Renewable energy production and electricity storage 	<p>Option for REC projects up to 6 MW installed capacity or 18 MW for <u>wind</u></p> <p>Aid can be granted administratively, up to the <u>funding gap</u></p> <p>2026 proposal :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Replacement with the simplified funding gap (no counterfactual)

CISAF

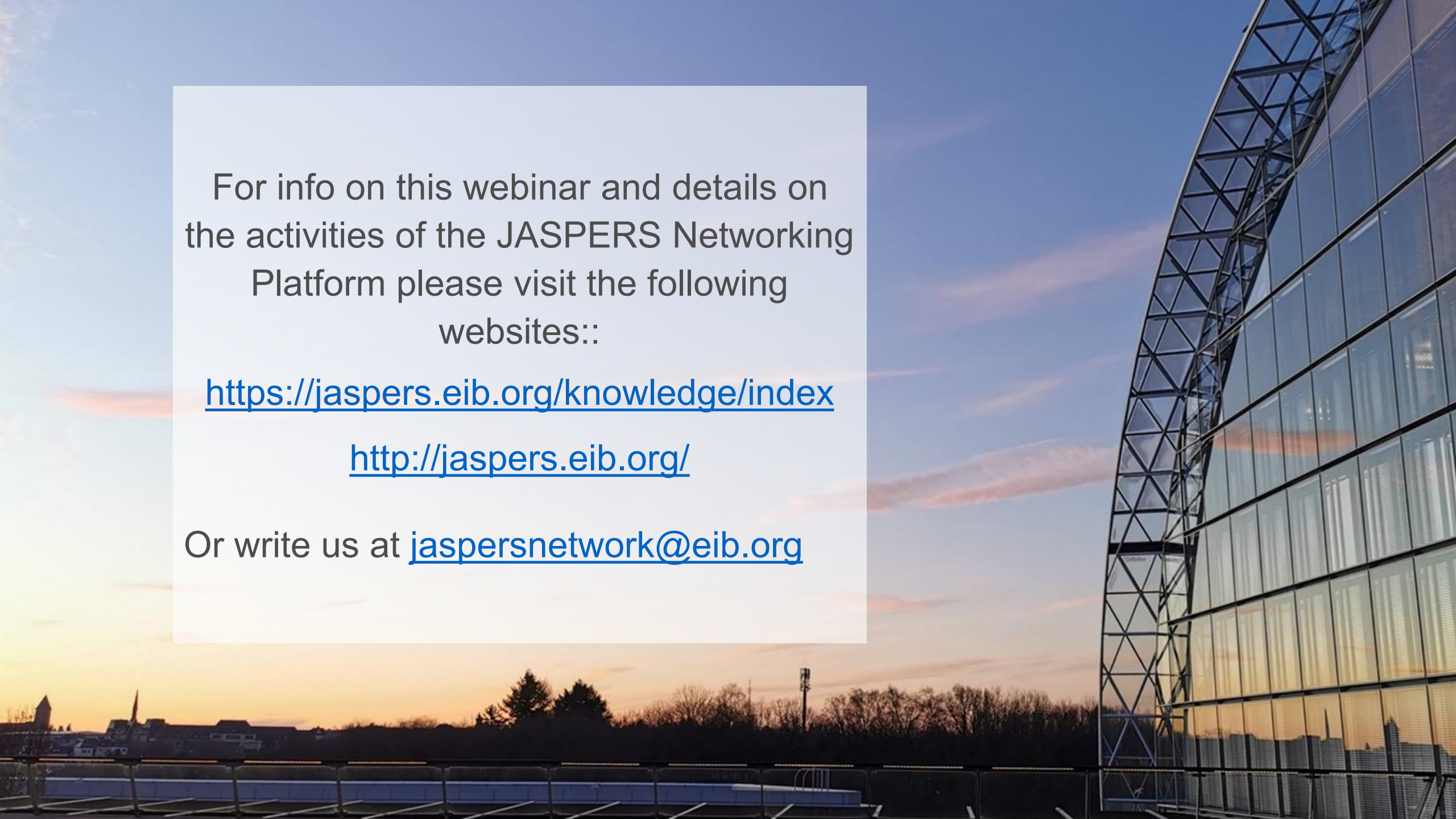
Section	Scope	Aid intensity
Section 4.1.1	<p><u>Investment and operating aid schemes for:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> renewable energy, Storage (electricity, thermal, renewable fuels) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitive bidding: 100% of the total investment costs OR option for <u>RECs projects up to 6 MW installed capacity or 18 MW for wind:</u> administratively up to 45% of the total investment costs
Section 4.1.2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitive bidding: strike price of the two-way CfD set based on bids Or option for <u>RECs projects up to 6 MW installed capacity or 18 MW for wind :</u> strike price of the two-way CfD set administratively to cover expected net costs.

CEEAG

- Facilitations for the RECs in view of their important role in the energy transition:
 - The Commission will look favorably at features to facilitate the participation of RECs in competitive bidding processes, in particular pre-qualification requirements
 - Exemption of RECs projects up to 6 MW /18 MW for wind from the competitive bidding.
- See Italian measure for the support for the development of Renewable Energy Community (decision SA.106777):
 - Operating aid : 20-year premium tariff applied to electricity (mainly PV) shared within RECs, up to the funding gap.
 - Investment aid : 40% of the investment costs for RES installation, funded through the RRF. Maximum 5 GW.

Thank you for your attention



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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