



## JASPERS Networking Platform

### Webinar on

## Insights and key challenges in establishing Energy Communities (ECs)

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**Date:** 20 May 2026, from 13:00 to 16:30 CET

**Location:** Virtual meeting - WebEx Events

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The EIB through the JASPERS mandates provides independent advice and capacity building support to beneficiary countries to help prepare and assess high quality projects to be co-financed by EU Structural and Cohesion Funds (including Just Transition Fund) and by the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF), by the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPAI) and the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF), the Ukraine Facility and the Neighbourhood Investment Platform (NIP).

In the 2021-27 programming period JASPERS has an increased focus on knowledge sharing and on strengthening the capacities of public administrations and project promoters involved in the preparation and implementation of EU-funded programmes and projects.

The [EIB Advisory/JASPERS Networking Platform](#) was created to complement project advisory operations by implementing knowledge sharing and capacity building activities, as well as fostering dissemination of good practices and exchange of experiences among all EU member states, pre-accession countries (including Moldova and Ukraine), Eastern neighbourhood countries and other EIB Advisory JASPERS Stakeholders.

### Description of the Webinar

Energy communities (ECs) are gaining momentum as individuals, communities and local authorities increasingly take an active part set up in developing, owning, and managing renewable energy projects. Through the JASPERS mandate, EIB Advisory aims to support the creation of an enabling framework and to identify and develop practical solutions for REC projects.

A key challenge for ECs lies in the complexity of their establishment and in the preparation of projects to effectively access EU funding. To address these challenges, JASPERS is organising this webinar to promote a more systematic approach to EC project preparation and to encourage the development of additional initiatives. The webinar will build on experiences from selected EU Member States, as well as on the challenges identified by stakeholders involved in setting up ECs.

The webinar will focus on:

- The role of the ECs in the clean energy transition and under Cohesion Policy
- How JASPERS can support the development of ECs and related grant financing schemes
- Good practices for ECs organisational models under Cohesion Policy, including their social dimension (e.g. addressing energy policy)
- State aid considerations relevant to ECs
- Case study examples of EC projects and financing schemes implemented by Member States, including under ERDF / JTF.

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For any further information this event and on the activities of the JASPERS Networking Platform please contact us at [jaspersnetwork@eib.org](mailto:jaspersnetwork@eib.org) or visit our website <https://jaspers.eib.org/knowledge/index>

- Discussion based on questions from Member States, addressing key challenges and related advisory needs

The webinar is targeted at Managing Authorities, State aid authorities, line ministries, regional and local authorities, as well as project beneficiaries planning to undertake EC projects under the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework and beyond. It will primarily address regions, municipalities, and relevant associations, and may also include observers from pre-accession and EU neighbourhood countries.

The event will be held in English and participants will have the opportunity to engage actively during the Q&A sessions and discuss their needs for further advisory and capacity-building support in this area.

Participants are encouraged to register and submit their questions in advance through the [pre-event questionnaire](#), which will help shape the discussions during the Q&A sessions and final roundtable.

### TENTATIVE AGENDA

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13:00 – 13:10	<b>Welcome and introduction</b> Massimo Marra, Lead Advisor, JASPERS Mandate and Capacity Building Coordinator, EIB/JASPERS
13:10 – 13:20	<b>Opening remarks - EU policy framing for ECs under Cohesion Policy</b> Joanna Jakubowska, DG REGIO, G1- Sustainable Growth Team
13:20 – 13:40	<b>Citizen Energy Package: what changes for ECs</b> Achille Hannoset, DG ENER, B1, - Consumers, Local Initiatives and Just Transition
13:40 – 14:00	<b>EIB Advisory/JASPERS experience and support for ECs investments</b> Nikolay Danev and Francesco Angelini, EIB/JASPERS
14:00 – 14:30	<b>Building local energy security and tackling the cost-of-living crisis: concrete examples of ECs</b> Chris Vrettos, REScoop
14:30 – 14:50	<b>Applying State aid rules and ECs</b> Sophia Zielinski and Emma Catros, DG Competition
14:50 – 15:00	<b>Q &amp; A</b>
15:00 – 15:10	<b>Coffee Break</b>
15:10 – 16:00	<b>Case studies: from idea to operation</b> G. Claudia R. Romano, Emilia Romagna Region, Italy. Ondřej Pašek, Energy Cooperative Hnutí Duha, Czechia. Myriam Schulte-Sturm, Energie Samen, The Netherlands. Discussion with panellists
16:00 – 16:15	<b>Q&amp;A session and discussion with the audience</b>
16:15 – 16:30	<b>Closing and next steps</b> European Commission - DG REGIO, DG ENER Ralf Goldmann, Head of Energy Advisory & Energy Efficiency Division, EIB/JASPERS

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## USEFUL RESOURCES

Participants may wish to consult the following optional prereading materials, which provide useful background on the EU policy framework, funding instruments and practical implementation of Renewable Energy Communities.

### 1. EU policy framework for Energy Communities (ECs)

- **European Commission – Energy Communities (DG ENER overview)**  
Authoritative introduction to RECs, legal forms, rights and role in the EU energy transition.  
[https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/markets-and-consumers/energy-consumers-and-prosumers/energy-communities\\_en \[energy.ec.europa.eu\]](https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/markets-and-consumers/energy-consumers-and-prosumers/energy-communities_en [energy.ec.europa.eu])
- **Renewable Energy Directive (RED II & amendments)**  
Legal basis for RECs (Article 22), permitting simplification and targets.  
[https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/renewable-energy/renewable-energy-directive-targets-and-rules/renewable-energy-directive\\_en \[energy.ec.europa.eu\]](https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/renewable-energy/renewable-energy-directive-targets-and-rules/renewable-energy-directive_en [energy.ec.europa.eu])
- **Electricity Market Directive (IMED)**  
Legal basis for Citizen Energy Communities (CECs) (Article 16).
- [Electricity market design; EUR-Lex - 02019L0944-20220623 - EN - EUR-Lex.](#)

### 2. Citizen Energy Package (CEP) – context for the webinar

- **Commission announcement: Citizens' Energy Package (March 2026)**  
High-level overview of objectives: affordability, citizen participation, tackling energy poverty.  
[https://energy.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-boost-access-affordable-and-clean-energy-all-europeans-2026-03-10\\_en \[energy.ec.europa.eu\]](https://energy.ec.europa.eu/news/commission-boost-access-affordable-and-clean-energy-all-europeans-2026-03-10_en [energy.ec.europa.eu])
- **Commission Recommendation and Staff Working Document** on energy communities and self-consumption (April 2026) - *Link to follow (adoption planned on 30 April (tbc)).*
- **Florence School of Regulation – Nine actions for a citizen centric energy transition**  
Analytical background explaining the structure and policy logic of the CEP.  
[https://fsr.eui.eu/nine-actions-for-a-citizen-centric-energy-transition/ \[fsr.eui.eu\]](https://fsr.eui.eu/nine-actions-for-a-citizen-centric-energy-transition/ [fsr.eui.eu])

### 3. Designing ERDF / JTF support for ECs

- **DG REGIO – Enabling energy communities: A toolkit for Just Transition regions**  
Practical guidance for authorities on promoting and financing RECs under the JTF, with good practices.  
[https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/funding/just-transition-fund/toolkit-enabling-energy-communities.pdf \[ec.europa.eu\]](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/funding/just-transition-fund/toolkit-enabling-energy-communities.pdf [ec.europa.eu])
- **JTPeers Knowledge Hub – Enabling energy communities (summary fiche)**  
Short, practitioner friendly version suitable for Managing Authorities.  
[https://just-transition-experts.ec.europa.eu/find-knowledge/enabling-energy-communities-toolkit-just-transition-regions\\_en \[just-trans....europa.eu\]](https://just-transition-experts.ec.europa.eu/find-knowledge/enabling-energy-communities-toolkit-just-transition-regions_en [just-trans....europa.eu])

- **Cohesion for Transitions (C4T) – Working Group on Energy**, supported by DG REGIO  
**Designing public financing calls for energy communities.**  
Practical guidance to Managing Authorities on the design of ERDF/Cohesion Fund calls supporting energy communities, including eligibility, proportionality, social impact and accessibility considerations.

[https://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/policy/communities-and-networks/cohesion-4-transition/C4T\\_WG-Energy\\_Public-financing-calls-energy-communities\\_final\\_.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/policy/communities-and-networks/cohesion-4-transition/C4T_WG-Energy_Public-financing-calls-energy-communities_final_.pdf)

#### 4. State aid and support schemes for RECs

- **RESCOOP.eu – How State aid guidelines can support energy communities (CEEAG briefing)**

Clear explanation of how RECs can be accommodated under State aid rules, with national examples.

<https://www.rescoop.eu/uploads/rescoop/downloads/CEEAG-assessment-briefing-final.pdf> [rescoop.eu]

- **European Commission – Support schemes for renewable energy**

Background on EU principles for renewable support schemes, exemptions and proportionality.

[https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/renewable-energy/financing/support-schemes-renewable-energy\\_en](https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/renewable-energy/financing/support-schemes-renewable-energy_en) [energy.ec.europa.eu]

#### 5. Business models, energy sharing and implementation

- **DG ENER – Energy sharing for energy communities: a reference guide**

Practical guidance on business models and regulatory approaches for shared energy.

<https://build-up.ec.europa.eu/en/resources-and-tools/publications/energy-sharing-energy-communities-reference-guide> [build-up.e...europa.eu]

- **IEA – Energy communities in the EU (policy overview)**

Comparative overview of how energy communities function across Member States.

<https://www.iea.org/policies/17802-energy-communities-in-the-eu> [iea.org]

#### 6. Energy poverty and the Social Climate Fund (SCF)

- **Commission Notice – Guidance on Social Climate Plans**

Official guidance on SCF design, consistency with cohesion policy and DNSH.

[https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:C\\_202501597](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:C_202501597) [eur-lex.europa.eu]

- **Energy Cities / Local Alliance – Social Climate Fund briefing**

Practical perspective on how local authorities and communities (including RECs) can contribute.

<https://energy-cities.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Local-Alliance-Briefing-Social-Climate-Fund.pdf> [energy-cities.eu]