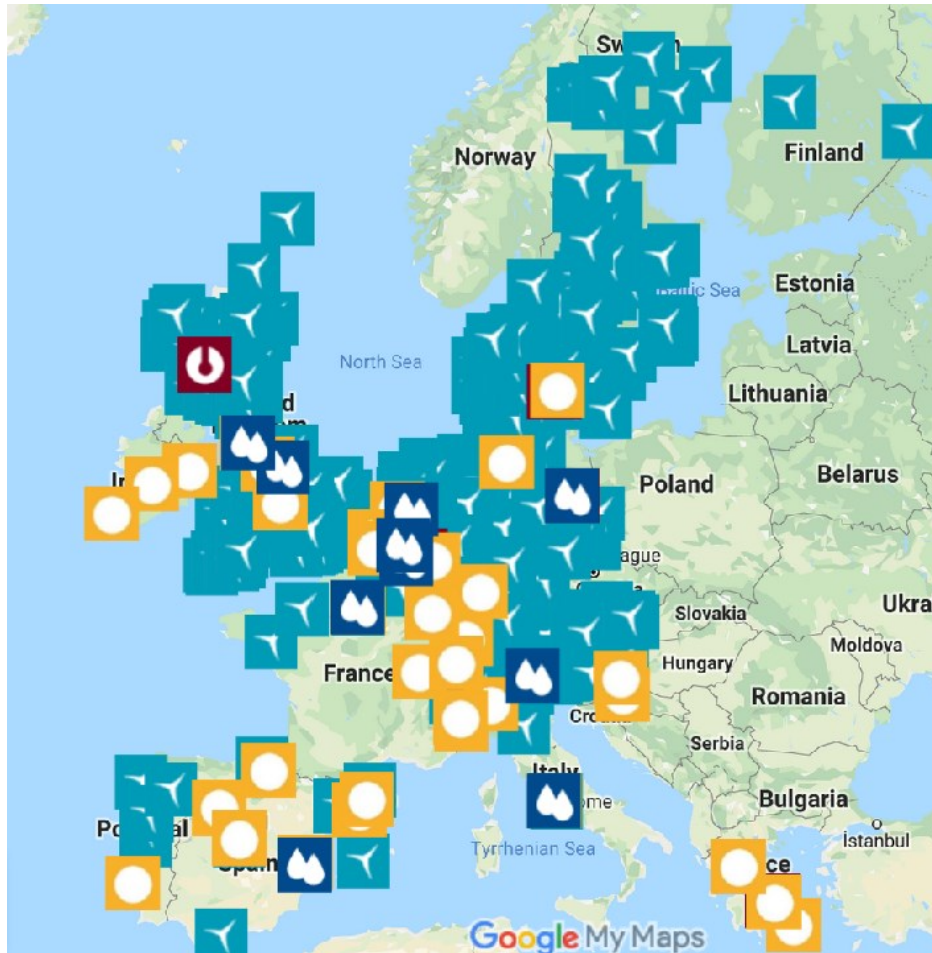


Transposing renewable energy communities into national law: looking for best practices

by Dirk Vansintjan, president of REScoop.eu
Czech-Austrian energy expert group event
26 November 2019

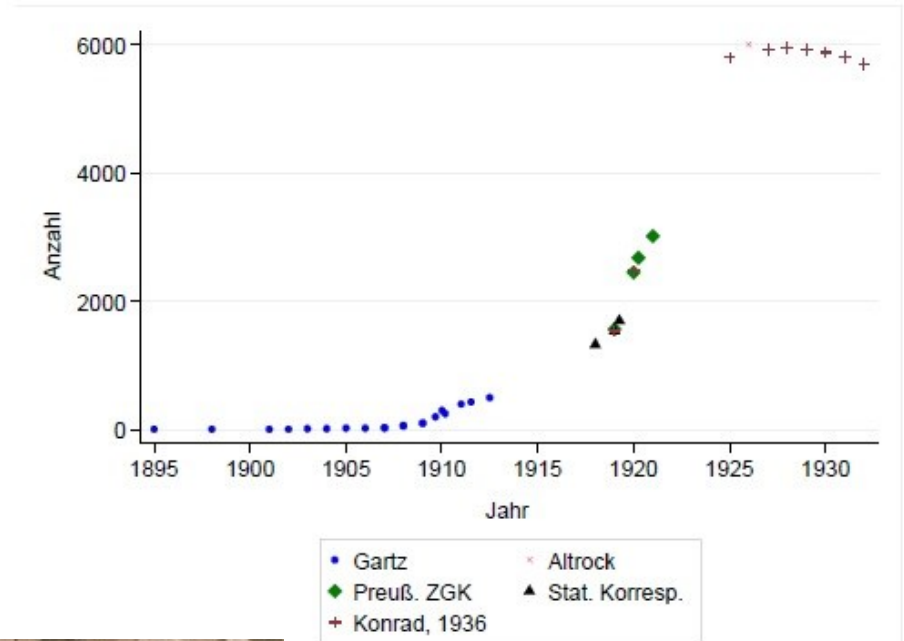
REScoops are renewable/citizen energy communities



- Renewable Energy Sources cooperatives
- Community Energy
- Community Power
- Energy citizens
- More than 3500 REScoops
- Mainly NW-Europe
- Almost none in Eastern Europe
- 1500 represented by REScoop.eu
- Growing network
- Community Power Coalition in Brussels

<https://youtu.be/ZTmeNmWEupg>

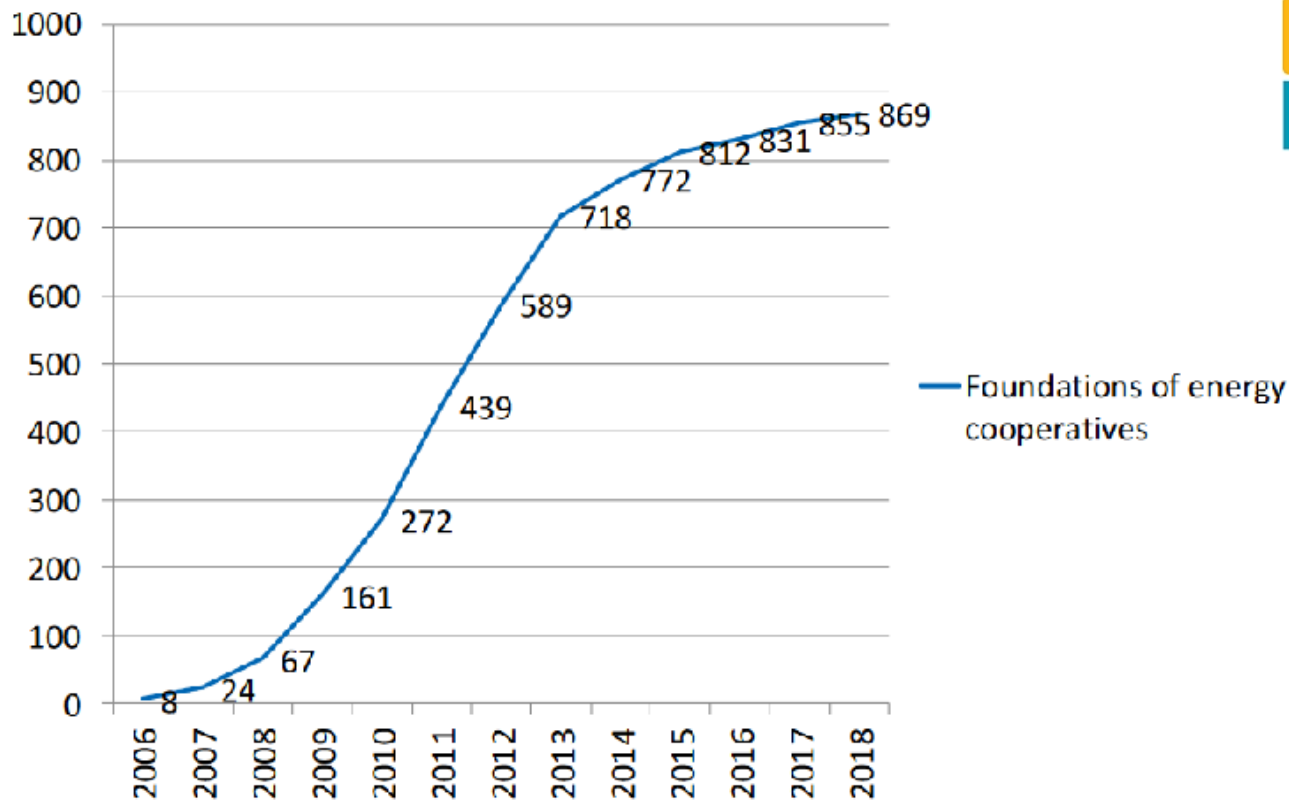
REScoops: some old survived



<https://eg-roethenbach.de>

REScoops: most new

Foundations of energy cooperatives since 2006 (cumulated)



Diverse activities of REScoops

<p>Production</p>	<p>Members of:</p>  
<p>Supply</p>	 
<p>Distribution</p>	
<p>Services (EE, ICT)</p>	 
<p>Electrical vehicle sharing</p>	 
<p>Financing</p>	 

REScoops engaging in emerging activities

Micro-grids /virtual
power plants



Demand response



FLEXCoop

Peer-to-peer trading



+



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: requirement for autonomy



Best Practice so far...

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.

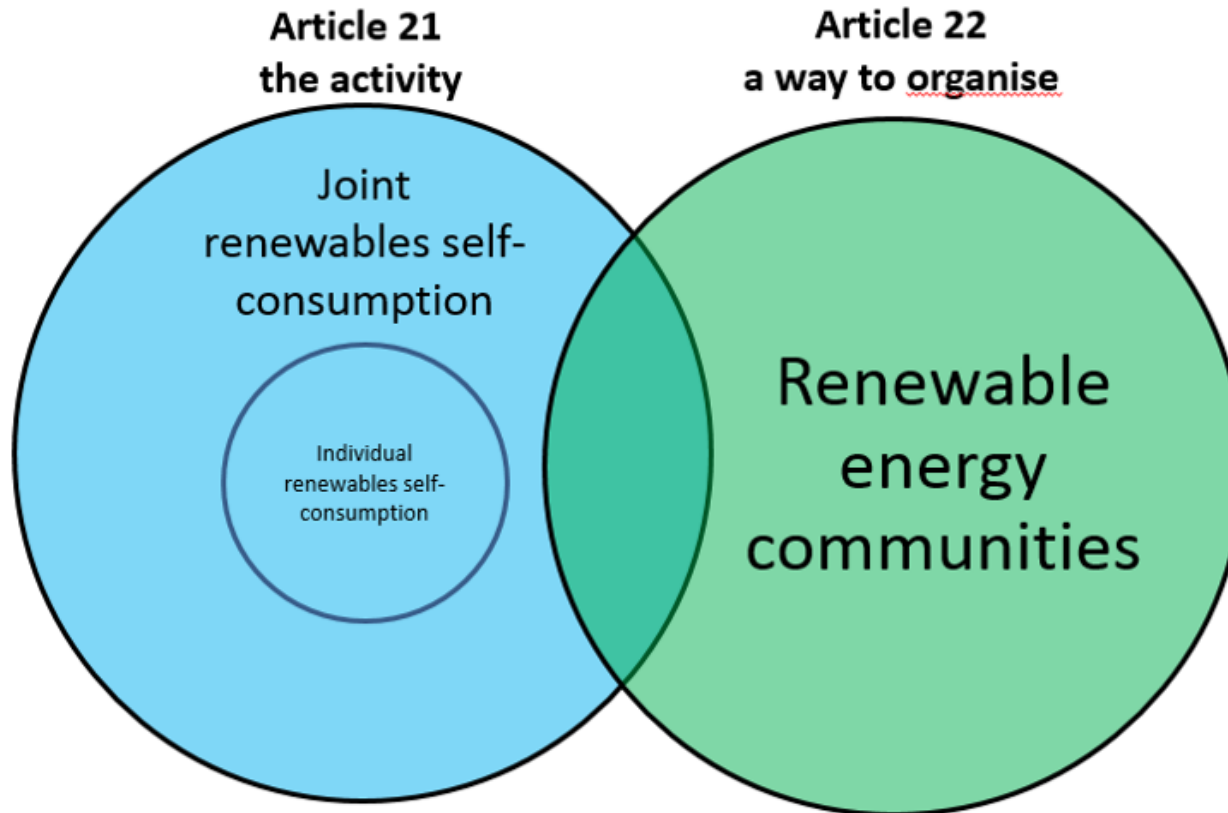
Lithuania (draft law)

A cooperative society, association, public office, apartment building or other building owners' associations or gardeners' associations are recognized the Renewable Energy Community, provided that they meet the criteria ...

RECs vs CECs: comparing activities



Link between renewable energy communities and self-consumption:



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

Allowing energy communities to operate across the market

In practice: GREEK law on energy communities

- Generation, storage, self-consumption or sale of electric, thermal or cooling energy from RES and CHP plants.
- Supply of energy products to reduce energy consumption and use of conventional fuels and improve energy efficiency.
- Supply of members with electric vehicles & vehicles burning natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas or biogas.
- Distribution of electricity, or thermal / cooling energy.
- Supply of electricity or natural gas
- Demand management to reduce end-use of electricity.
- Development, management and operation of EV charging stations

In practice: Lithuania's draft legislation

- Sale or transfer (sharing) of energy produced by community facilities
- Supply of heat and power
- Production and sale of electricity directly or on organized markets

Ensure communities are not excluded from support schemes

Member States must take into account ‘specificities of REC’s’ when designing support schemes – must be allowed to compete on equal footing

Just some examples:

- ***Provision of information, technical and financial support***
- ***Reduce administrative requirements***
- ***Community-based bidding criteria***
- ***Tailored bidding windows for RECs***

For small installations, exemptions from auctions/tenders & direct price support schemes (sliding or fixed market premium)

May adapt support schemes for islands and outermost regions

An equal footing in renewables support schemes

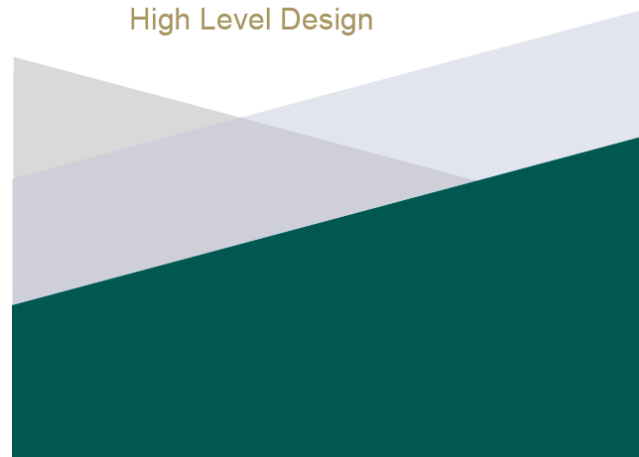
Ireland

- 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



An enabling framework for renewable energy communities

Member States must assess potential, and existing barriers

Member States must develop enabling framework to ‘ensure’, inter alia:

- Reduction of unjustified regulatory and administrative barriers
- Non-discriminatory treatment
- Fair, proportionate, and transparent licensing and registration procedures & charges
- Tools to facilitate access to finance and information are available
- Ensure a ‘just’ transition – ensure access for citizens that are vulnerable, low-income, tenants
- Capacity building for municipalities/local authorities so they can support, and participate in, renewable energy communities
- DSOs must cooperate to facilitate exchange of RES within the community
- Communities that supply or provide aggregation services subject to relevant provisions

Recommendations

- 1) The definitions:
 - Keep flexible/open for different activities
 - Tailor to national context (go beyond simple copy-paste approach)
- 2) Bike lanes for RECs in renewables support schemes
- 3) Clear, simple and proportionate regulatory frameworks for specific activities such as collective self-consumption and energy sharing
- 4) Open and participatory national assessment of potential and barriers for RECs as the basis of developing enabling frameworks

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

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