

Empowering the energy transition energy cooperatives and energy communities

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Who am I?

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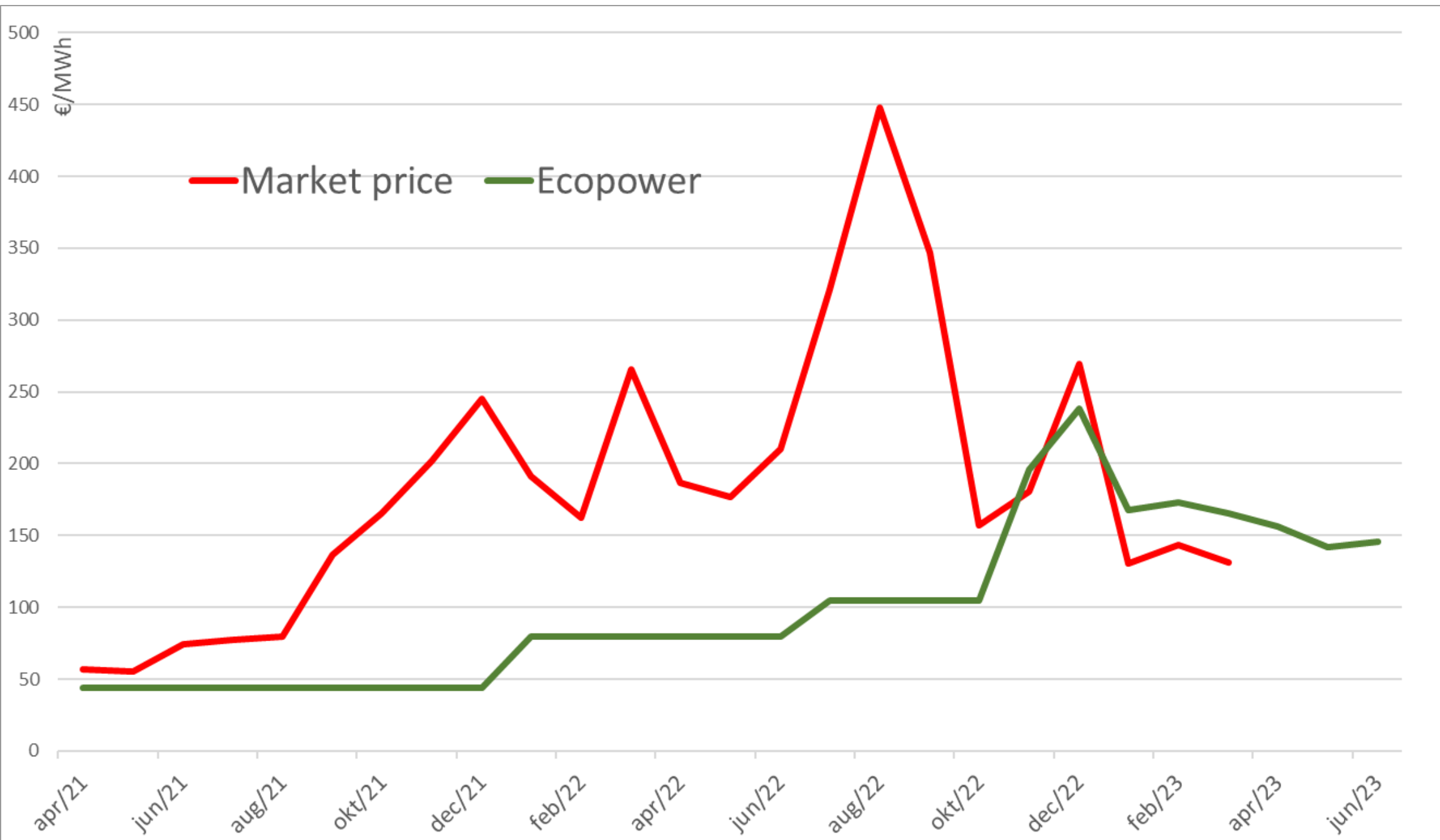


[@DirkVansintjan](https://twitter.com/DirkVansintjan)





- Organic farm? 1983
- Watermill of Rotselaar 1985
- Vzw TSAP
- Ecopower cv 1991
- ODE-
Vlaanderen 1996
- REScoop.be 2010
- REScoop.eu 2013
- REScoop Wallonie 2014
- REScoop Vlaanderen 2015



REScoop.eu

- Established in 2013 as a Belgian not-for-profit association (French statutes)
- REScoop.eu is the European Federation of Citizen Energy Cooperatives
- Citizen energy cooperatives are groups of citizens who cooperate in energy transition projects





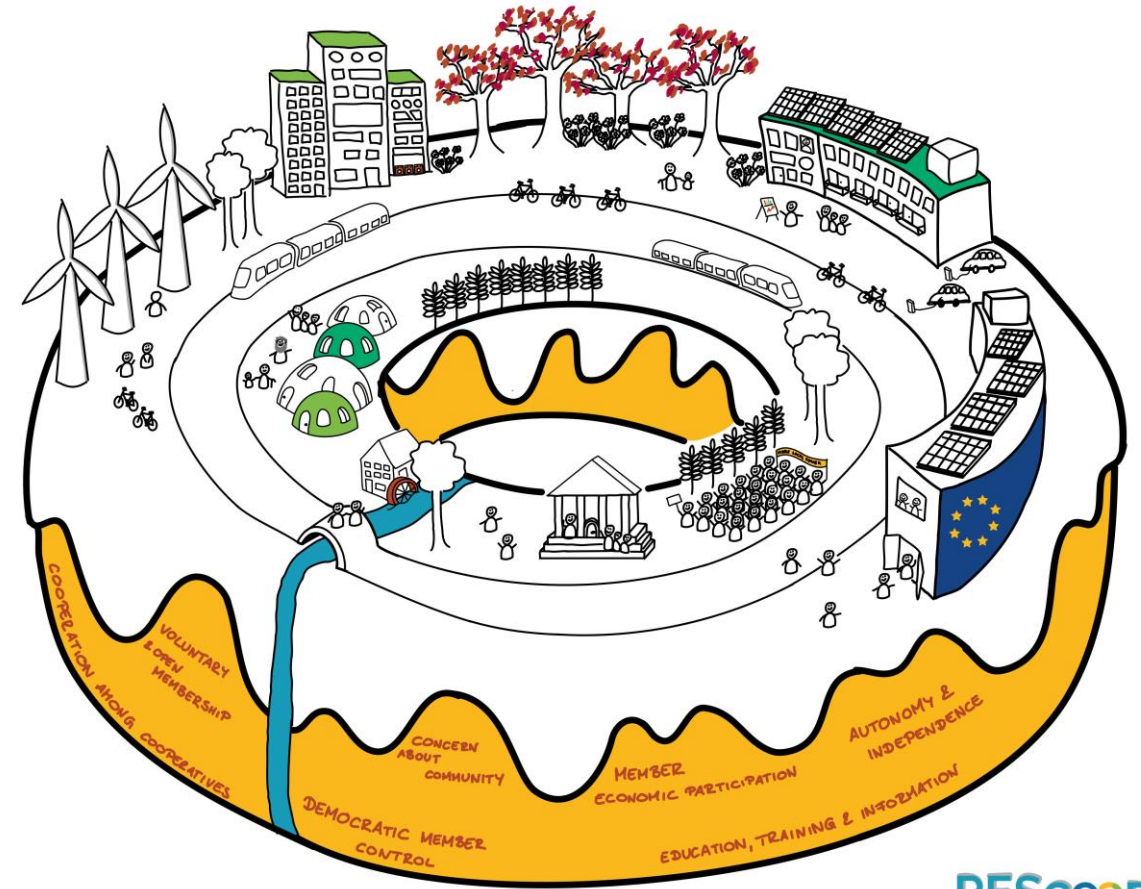
What does REScoop.eu do?

- Represent the voice of citizens and citizen energy cooperatives to European policy makers
- Support the start-up of new REScoops and provide them with trainings, useful tools and contacts
- Provide services for the European REScoops
- Facilitate international exchanges and cooperation between energy cooperatives
- Promote the REScoop business model throughout Europe



What do we have in common?

The REScoop.eu Charter



REScoop's
EU 2050

See: https://www.rescoop.eu/uploads/REScoopEU_Charter.pdf

What is Energy Democracy ?

REScoop Vision

Given the challenges we are facing today, a global shift from fossil and nuclear energy sources to renewable energy sources is required for the transition to a sustainable future.

Access to energy is a basic right, people depend on its daily use for heating and cooling, light or transport. Therefore, we consider the production and distribution of energy to be **civic responsibilities*** and as citizens and communities, we choose to take part in it.

What is Energy Democracy ?

REScoop Vision

We promote **a model based on cooperation***: a decentralised approach to the **energy transition***, one that gives the means to people across Europe to produce and consume their own energy and to invest together in renewable energy, energy efficiency, and other clean energy technologies: **energy democracy***.

What is Energy Democracy ?

This common vision for the future of energy is based on various aspects:

- reduction of the energy consumption through a more rational energy use*:
energy efficiency*;
- transition from fossil/nuclear to renewable energy sources;
- collaboration between different local actors or stakeholders;

What is Energy Democracy ?

- solidarity between the rural areas and cities, as well as between vulnerable and low/income households and those that are well-resourced;
- development and appropriate planning of the use of renewable energy sources to the advantage of citizens and the local economy;
- the need to integrate local renewables through flexibility, and ensuring the efficient functioning of the grid throughout the energy transition; and
- a direct democratic model for the energy market concerning prices, planning and pollution reduction.

What is Energy Democracy ?

REScoop Mission

- Given the challenges we face and the vision we share, we choose to give every citizen and other local actors the chance to play an active role in the production, distribution, supply, and management of energy and related services.
- Cost and benefits of projects must be shared in time and space: between present and future generations, between people close to the projects and beyond.

Why work on Community Energy?

ENERGY REVOLUTION

10 REASONS TO START OR JOIN A COMMUNITY ENERGY PROJECT

- 1** Help build the system needed to **stop the climate crisis**

- 2** Community renewables **redirect money** from fossil fuels



- 3** It can **reduce energy poverty** in your area

- 4** You'll get to **know your neighbours** and strengthen your community

- 5** You will **produce your own** renewable energy

- 6** Helps **educate** people on the issues of energy, climate and democracy

- 7** It keeps the **money locally** in your community

- 8** You will **show other communities** what is possible

- 9** It will contribute to creating a **more local, more circular economy**

- 10** You will be building the kind of **world you want to see**


Benefits

- Community energy is part of the solution needed to stop the climate crisis
- Energy communities foster social acceptance for renewable energy



Energy communities keep the individual investment affordable through

- Community Energy Production Installations
- Access to sustainable transport



Community energy can reduce energy poverty in your area

- Electricity at low cost
- Programs for energy poor households



Community energy keeps the money locally in your community

- Community energy projects generate 3 to 8 times more local revenue than a project carried out by an external investor
- They create jobs
- Create local energy markets where consumers can buy energy at a stable and fair price.



Community energy creates spaces to educate people on the issues of energy, climate and democracy

- Raise awareness about the energy transition in the community
- Empower citizens to take action such as energy savings



In community energy projects people get to know their neighbours and strengthen their communities

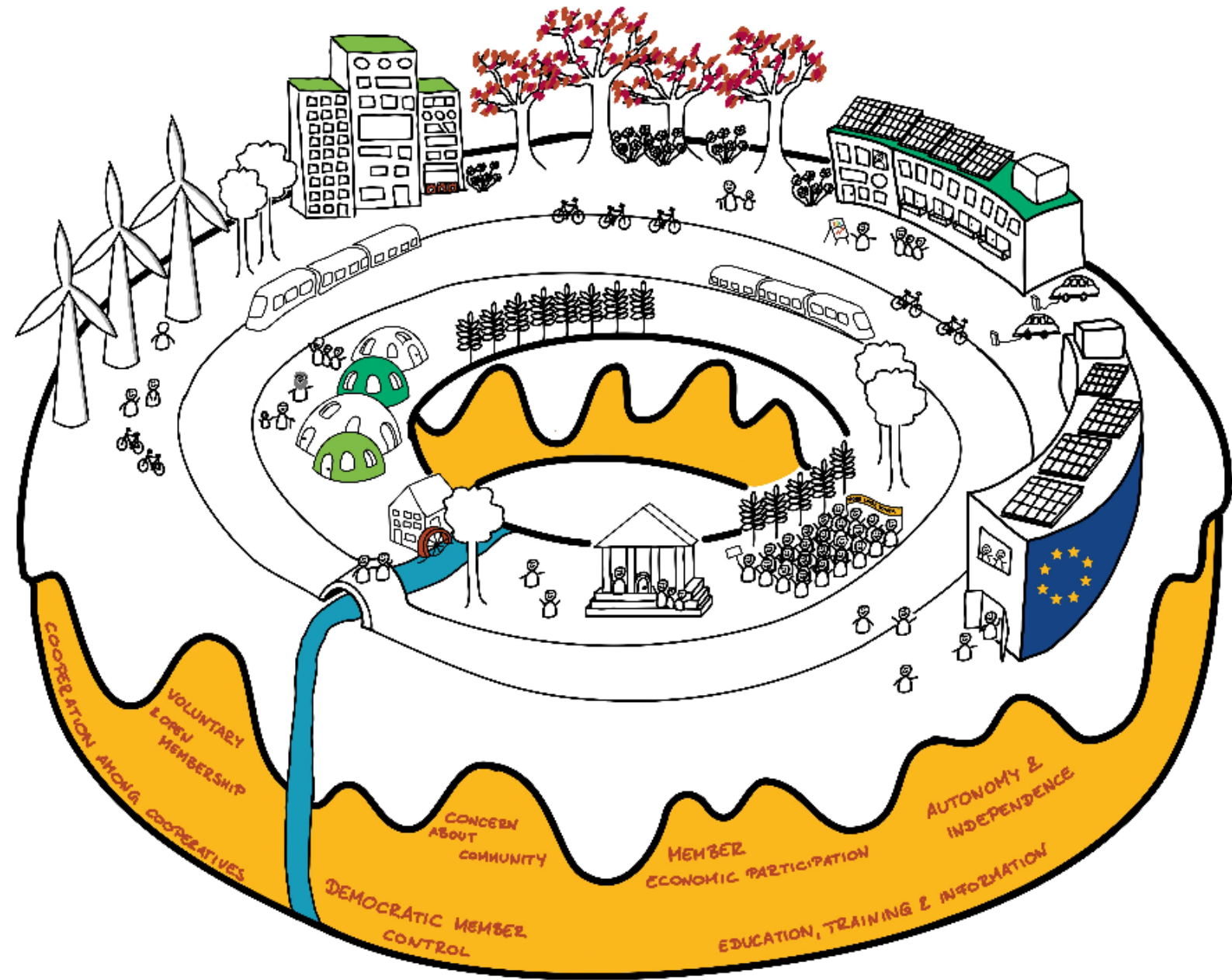
- Develop a sense of pride and confidence
- Set in motion other projects which also benefit the community



Community energy will contribute to creating a more local, more circular economy

- More likely to support local or regional manufacturers
- Many community energy projects have small funding schemes that distribute grants to local voluntary groups and clubs.





New rights for communities in the EU

- REScoop.eu got recognised as a stakeholder by the European Commission and was able to give its input when the energy directives were revised (2015-2019). Then we did a tremendous effort together with our allies in the [Community Power Coalition](#) to convince not only the fractions in the European Parliament but also the 27 Member State representations.



New rights for communities in the EU

- The Renewable Energy Directive II gives every EU-citizen the right to be part of an energy community
- New rights for communities:
 - Citizens and communities **recognised** as actors in the energy system
 - Citizens are explicitly given **the right to produce, store, consume and sell** their own renewable energy
 - Governments **must** create **an enabling legal framework** to support citizens and energy communities
 - Governments must **simplify administrative proceedings** for citizen and community projects
 - Governments must **assess the barriers** and potential of community energy



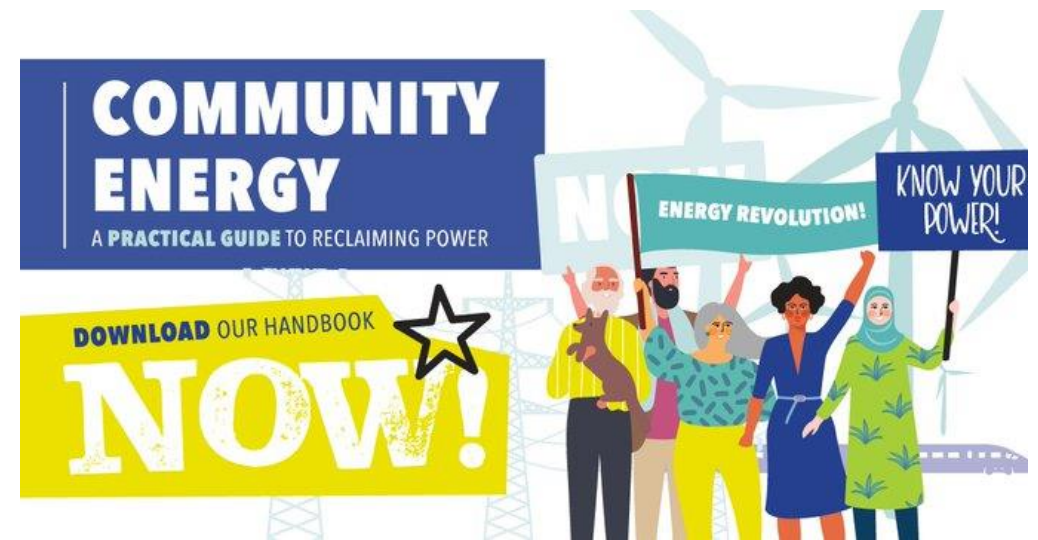
Transposition progress

- Member States still have some way to go...
- The energy community concept = often very new and it takes time to introduce in the legislation
- REScoop follows up on the transposition with its Transposition Tracker:
<https://www.rescoop.eu/transposition-tracker>



Keep in touch!

- <https://www.rescoop.eu>
- <https://www.rescoop.eu/policy>
- <https://energycommunityplatform.eu/>



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