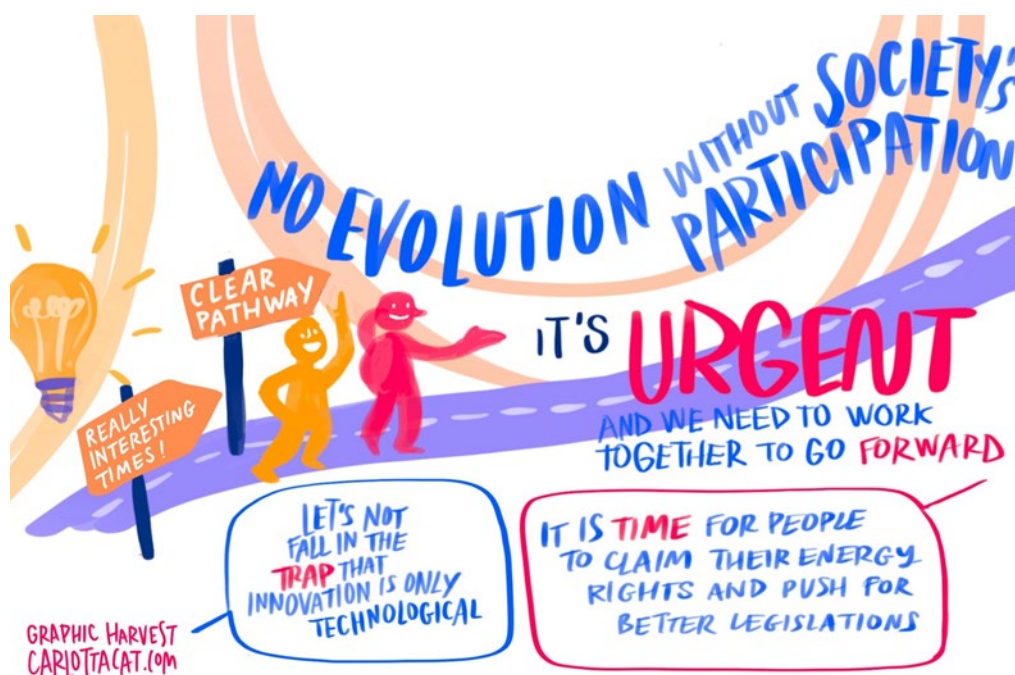


SOCIAL INNOVATION IN ENERGY MEETS THE 'FIT FOR 55' PACKAGE

Policy opportunities and challenges



EVENT REPORT

Breakfast at Sustainability's

14 January 2022

The **S**ocial **I**nnovation in **E**nergy **T**ransitions project **SONNET** brings diverse groups together to make sense of how social innovation can bring about a more sustainable energy system in Europe. Through a diversity of methods, it explores how social innovation has contributed to making our energy sources, use, and production cleaner, as well as how social change helps reduce our carbon footprint in the future. For more information, visit sonnet-energy.eu



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April 2022

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Panel presentations

Tessa de Geus (DRIFT) kicked off the policy dialogue on behalf of the SONNET organising team, welcoming participants and panellists, and presenting the agenda. Adrienne Kotler (ICLEI Europe) provided information about ICLEI, the *Breakfast at Sustainability's* event series, and the composition of the audience.

The following seven speakers contributed to the policy dialogue:

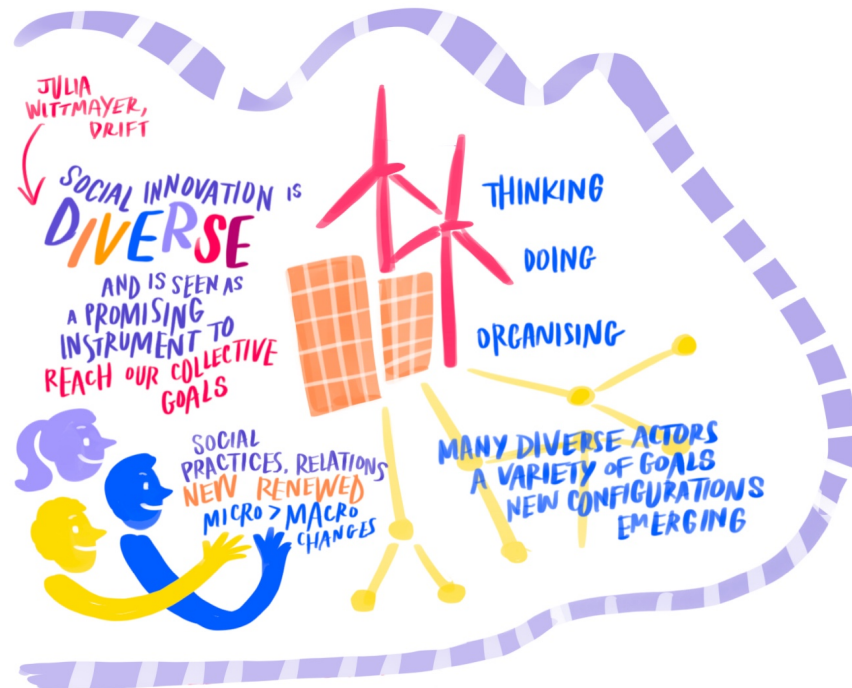
- Julia Wittmayer (DRIFT)
- Karoline Rogge (Fraunhofer ISI; University of Sussex)
- Emilie Vandam (European Commission, DG Research and Innovation)
- Cristina Marchitelli (European Commission, DG Energy)
- Giorgia Rambelli (ICLEI Europe)
- Dimitris Tsekeris (Friends of the Earth Europe)
- Stavroula Pappa (REScoop.eu)



Figure 2-1: Graphic harvest of the presentations given at the policy dialogue

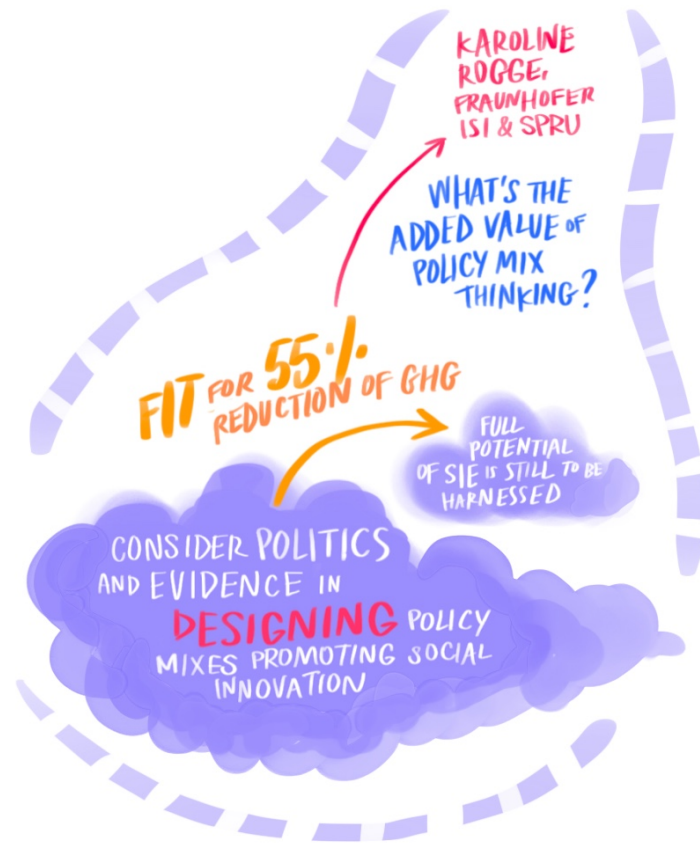
Illustration (and its component parts, displayed in the pages that follow): Carlotta Cataldi

Research perspectives: Two SONNET researchers set the scene by highlighting the diversity of social innovation in energy, and illustrating how policy mix thinking can inform discussions about how to better consider social innovation in energy in the Fit for 55 package.



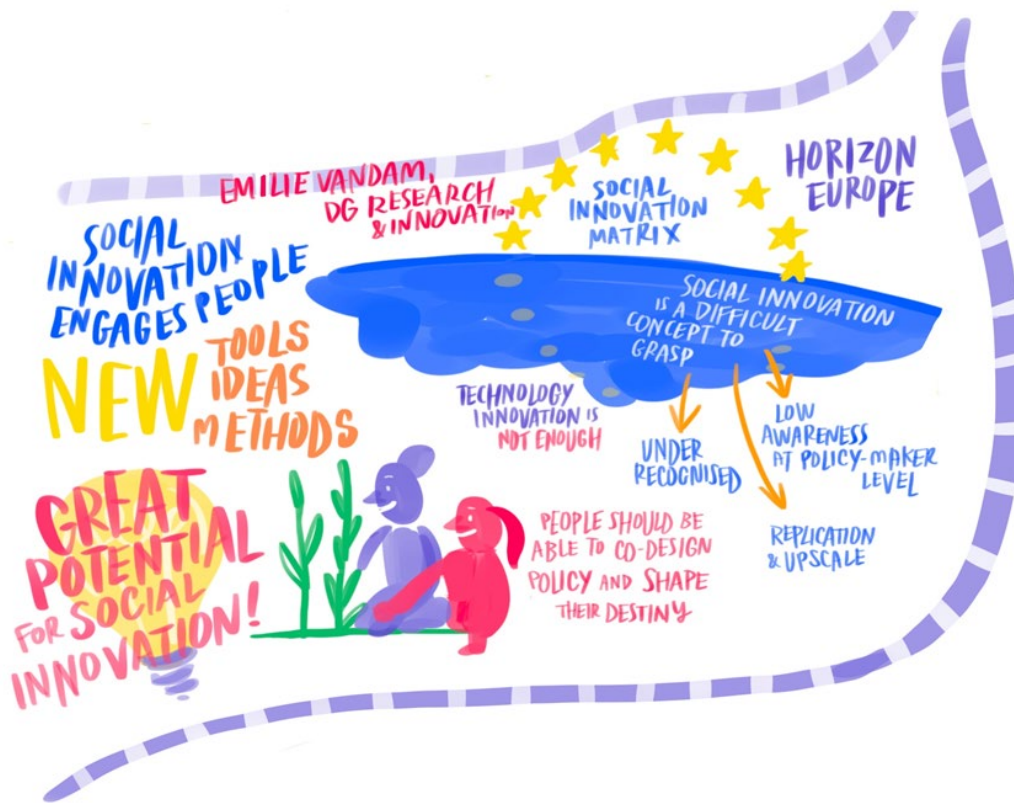
- Julia Wittmayer** introduced social innovation, its plurality of definitions, as well as its history in EU-level policy making. For her, a central question is *whether and how social innovation contributes to changing social relations around energy*. Julia highlighted that what is new (i.e. the object of change) in such innovations is social – namely renewed, new or reinvented practices, relations or ideas – and provided SONNET's definition of social innovation in energy as a combination of ideas, objects and/or actions that change social relations and involve new ways of doing, thinking and/or organising energy. Based on this broad definition, she presented the different types of social innovation in energy that SONNET has identified, which differ in the ways in which they contribute to changing social relations. This highlights the role that different actors (such as policy makers, businesses, citizens, etc.) play in social innovation in energy. Acknowledging the diversity of social innovation in energy also provides insights into the need to reflect on what kinds of social innovations in energy can and should be supported by the Fit for 55 package¹.

¹ This refers to the European Union's planned "revision of its climate, energy and transport-related legislation" in order to ensure that such policies are aligned with the EU target of reducing emissions by at least 55% by 2030, and reaching climate neutrality by 2050. For more information, visit: consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/green-deal/eu-plan-for-a-green-transition/.



- Karoline Rogge** presented a 'policy mix thinking' approach to looking at social innovation in energy, describing the Fit for 55 package as an example of applying policy mix thinking to EU energy and climate policy. A 'policy mix' includes a policy strategy and instruments to implement this strategy. To reach the more ambitious Fit for 55 targets for 2030, it is important to ensure that the instruments in the mix are tightened and thus made consistent with the target. Research conducted as part of the SONNET project shows how different types of social innovations in energy are affected by different instruments across different policy fields and governance levels. To fully grasp the potential of social innovation in energy, and to design policy instruments that promote diverse types of innovations, it is important to identify the policy fields and instruments that matter. Furthermore, policy mix thinking acknowledges the political nature of the policy-making processes involved in designing policies that promote social innovation. She concluded that the impacts of policies on social innovation in energy should be monitored as part of policy evaluation so as to generate evidence, which can contribute to redesigning policies for social innovation in the future.

Policy perspectives: reflections on **opportunities** for better consideration of social innovation in energy in the Fit for 55 package, and **challenges** that could act as barriers to considering social innovation in energy in the Fit for 55 package.

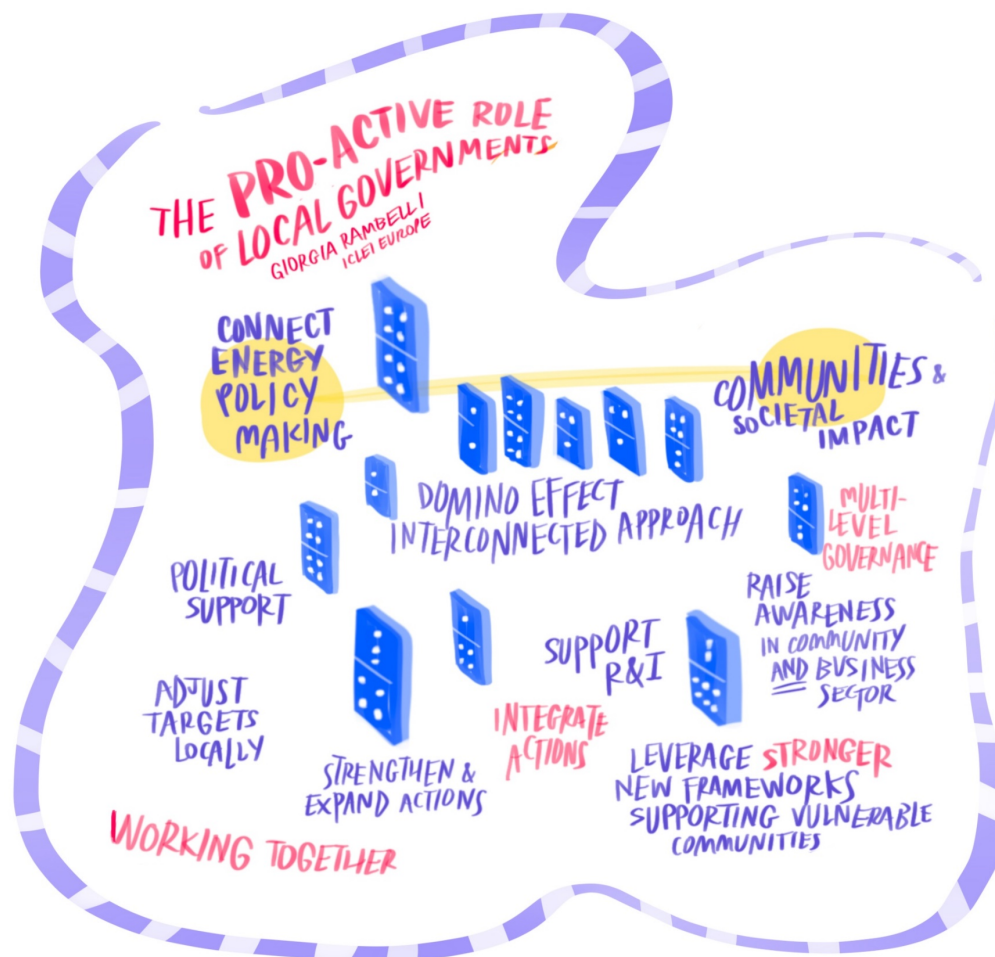


- According to **Emilie Vandam**, the recent European research programme [Horizon Europe](#) understands social innovation as a cross cutting issue. While social innovation may not be directly mentioned in the Fit for 55 package as such, it is indirectly addressed. She sees making policy-makers aware of social innovation as a major **challenge**. Another challenge is to upscale and replicate social innovations that are often being developed at local level. Furthermore, to replicate and upscale social innovation, it is crucial to convince all policy makers from all levels about the benefits of such innovation. This, however, also links to **opportunities**: technology alone cannot be the answer to challenges like climate change, because such challenges require changes in social practices and behaviours. Social innovation can achieve that and give people a sense of agency. This underlines the need for a mix of technological and social innovation. According to her, the Fit for 55 package can be seen as a great opportunity for social innovation to achieve climate goals while addressing social needs.

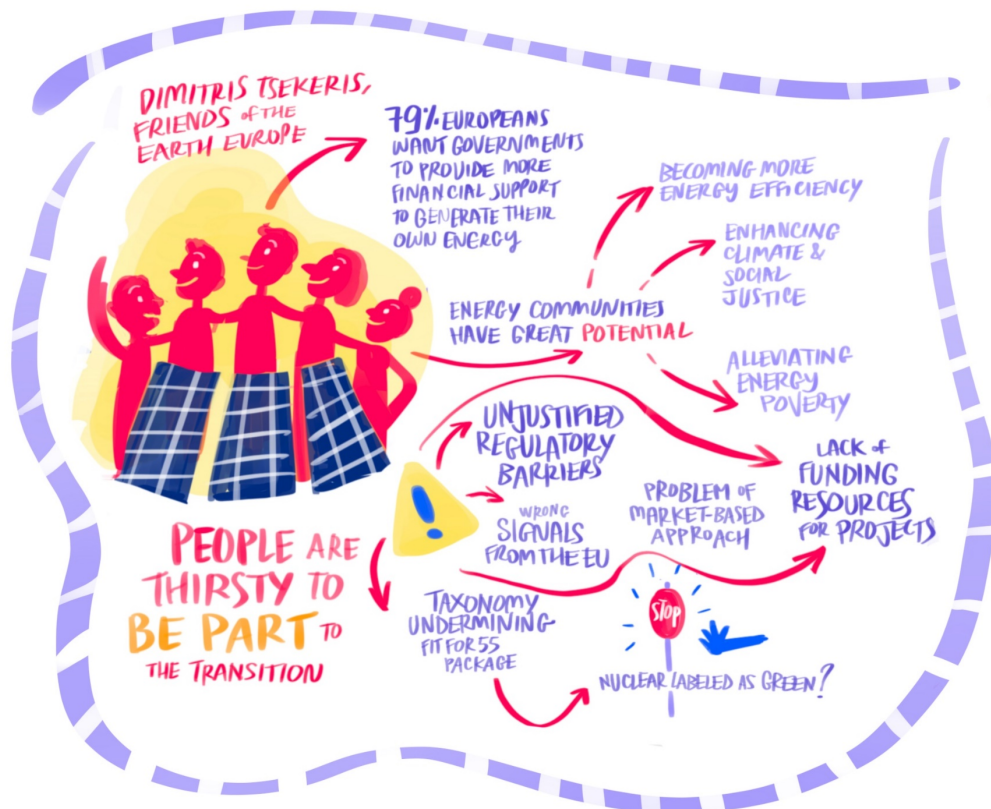


- Cristiana Marchitelli** described social innovation as an approach that enables citizen engagement, helps to overcome trust issues and contributes to a human-centric energy transition. This links to **opportunities** presented by social innovation in energy: they allow for inclusion of citizens from the beginning, listening to citizens' needs and gaining knowledge about how to address and support people. Social innovation in energy can help to inform policy making, create trust and overcome the digital divide. The **challenges** she identified around including social innovation in the Fit for 55 package lie in how difficult it can be to raise awareness among policy makers of the potential of social innovation, especially as it remains unclear how social innovation can be sustained over time. According to her, it is important to create synergies between policies, such as ensuring that a digital transition supports the energy transition.

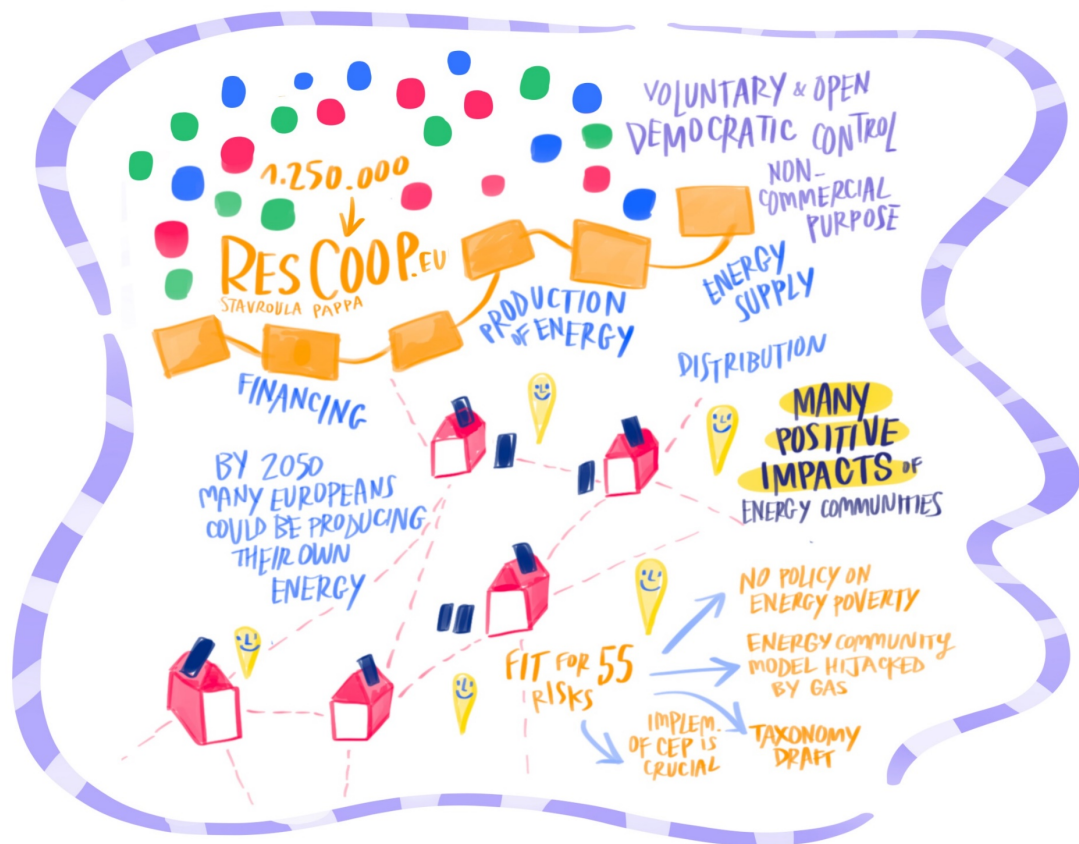
Practitioner perspectives: reflections on **opportunities** for better consideration of social innovation in energy in the Fit for 55 package, and **challenges** that could act as barriers to considering social innovation in energy in the Fit for 55 package.



- **Giorgia Rambelli** highlighted the important role that local governments can play in connecting policy making with citizens. Regarding the Fit for 55 package, local governments can, for example, play a proactive role in: bringing forward climate action plans; reassessing plans, adjusting and measuring targets locally; implementing appropriate policies or new initiatives; and acting as testbeds for innovations. She identified several **opportunities** for social innovation in energy to support vulnerable communities, advance gender equality, reduce energy poverty, and enable new forms of collaboration between actors. The **challenges** she identified are speeding-up the energy transition, and making better use of data to quicken and understand its impacts on the ground.



- Dimitris Tsekeris** highlighted the high acceptance of energy communities and renewables across Europe, with 86% of Europeans supporting new wind and solar projects in their local area and 79% of Europeans wanting their government to provide more financial support for renewables (see: cross-EU polling on renewable [energy](#)). From this perspective, there are many **opportunities** that social innovation in energy can bring to the Fit for 55 package, and ways in which energy communities can contribute and play a role in it. Energy communities can help to speed-up the energy transition through democratic participation, reduce energy poverty, increase energy efficiency, increase the acceptance of renewable energy and contribute to solidarity and social justice. Legal barriers in the Renewable Energy Directive ([RED II](#)) present **challenges**, as they can turn energy communities into competitors. Additional challenges lie with the proposed EU taxonomy that labels nuclear and gas energy as 'green'. With social inequalities rising, and 10% of richest responsible for 49% of CO₂ emissions, more political will for change is needed.

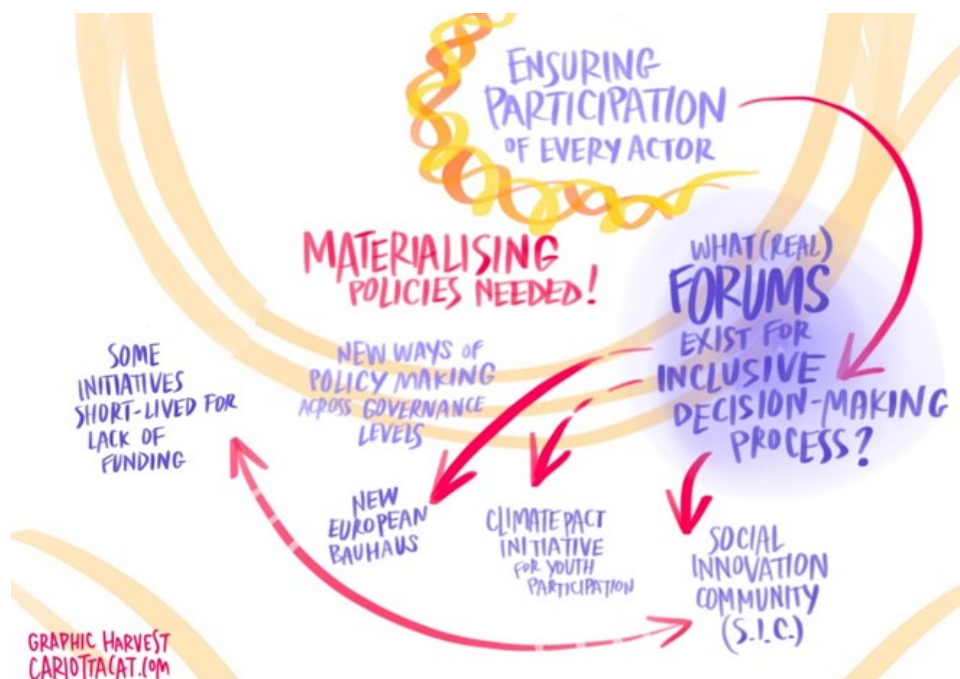


- Stavroula Pappa** identified potential for energy cooperatives to help people at the local level by engaging with local community and energy projects and driving social innovation. According to her, the **opportunities** of energy cooperatives and citizen participation across the EU were identified in the [clean energy package](#) and are now further acknowledged in the Fit for 55 package. Two directives ([EED](#) and [EPBD](#)) recognise the potential of energy communities. However, to really build out the role of energy communities, the directives need to be more precise and to have stronger language. This displays some of the **challenges** she saw with the Fit for 55 package. Namely, recognition of energy communities is not yet backed-up by supportive policies, even though they are much needed, both at the EU- and the national-levels. Another risk emerges around gas energy communities that were introduced with the Commission's proposal for the Gas Directive – these provisions should prevent such energy communities from being 'hijacked' by larger gas companies.

Fishbowl discussion

The subsequent Fishbowl discussion – moderated by Tessa de Geus (DRIFT) – was informed by questions collected via the online tool Mentimeter. Participants asked questions anonymously, and voted for the questions that they would most like to see discussed. The subsequent discussion has been synthesised into five main topics; the order of the responses in this report does not follow the chronological order of the discussion (for which the reader can refer to the event video).

First, **tacking stock of existing forums**, the panellists discussed opportunities to include social innovators in EU decision-making processes. The question for the discussion was formulated as follows: “What forums do we have to concretely (actually!) bring social innovators and local leaders into the EU decision-making process?”

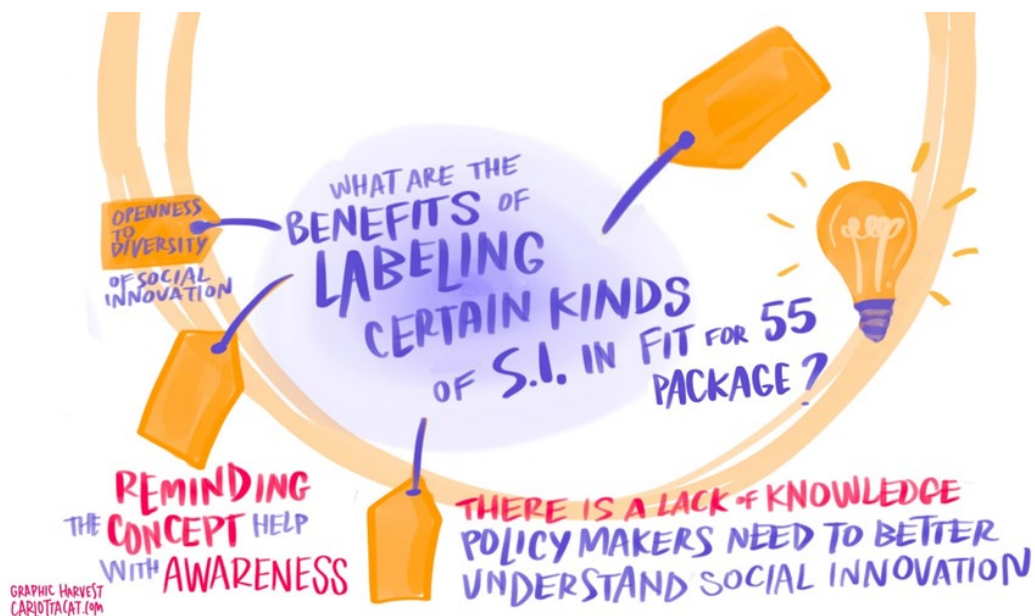


- **Cristina Marchitelli** mentioned that there are currently no new platforms being developed, but existing platforms already allow for citizen participation on the EU level. Examples include the [Climate Pact initiative](#), the citizen panel at the [Conference on the Future of Europe](#), initiatives as part of the European Year of Youth and the [European Youth Energy Network](#).
- **Emilie Vandam** additionally mentioned networks among social innovators linked with the European Commission that emerged as part of projects funded in the EU's H2020 framework, such as the '[social innovation community](#)'. One challenge of such project-funded networks is to keep them up when funding stops. Also, at the heart of the New European Bauhaus lies the aim of bringing diverse actors together, following a quadruple helix approach. This also invites social innovation actors to join. Finally, the [R&I days](#) organised by DG R&I allow for citizen contributions.
- **Stavroula Pappa** highlighted the opportunities for exchange and participation that exist as part of the REScoop.eu network, e.g. through

internal working groups and the community power coalition as a forum that enables participation.

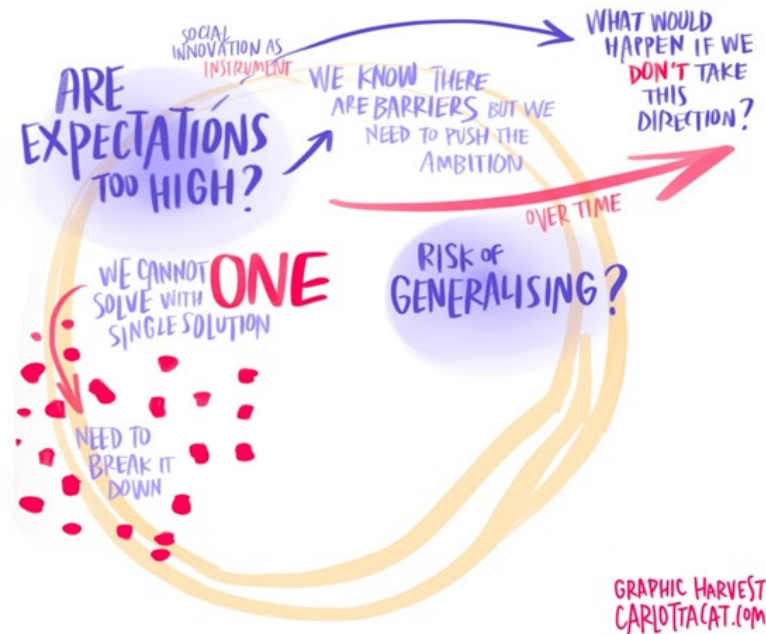
- **Giorgia Rambelli** argued for the importance of already existing networks to scale-up initiatives, share knowledge across Europe, and reach beyond innovations on the ground, citing the Covenant of Mayors. One opportunity for networking that she mentioned was the newly launched [European Mission on Climate Neutral and Smart Cities](#)

Second, the importance of strengthening a **shared understanding of the term ‘social innovation’** was discussed. This was linked to the question addressed directly to Emilie Vandam and Karoline Rogge: “*You criticize that SI is not explicit in Fit for 55, but specific forms of it are. Could you elaborate which benefits you see to label these explicitly as SI?*”



- **Emilie Vandam** argued that using the term ‘social innovation’ would contribute to awareness-raising. It would acknowledge the contribution of social innovation and do justice to it. In many cases, people working on social innovation would often not recognise their work as such. Furthermore, using the term would allow policy makers to include it in future policy proposals.
- **Karoline Rogge** emphasised that, especially in the field of energy, the notion of innovation as technological development still dominates. Mentioning social innovation could contribute to shifting mind-sets of people working in the energy sector and remind them that both technological and social innovation are needed for a successful socio-technical transition. Furthermore, mentioning social innovation, rather than just specific types of social innovation in energy, would better acknowledge its diversity and may provide more opportunities for novel forms of social innovation in energy to emerge.
- **Stavroula Pappa** agreed that more specific wording shows acknowledgment and furthermore gives a strong signal to different Member States regarding the implementation of EU policies on a national level.

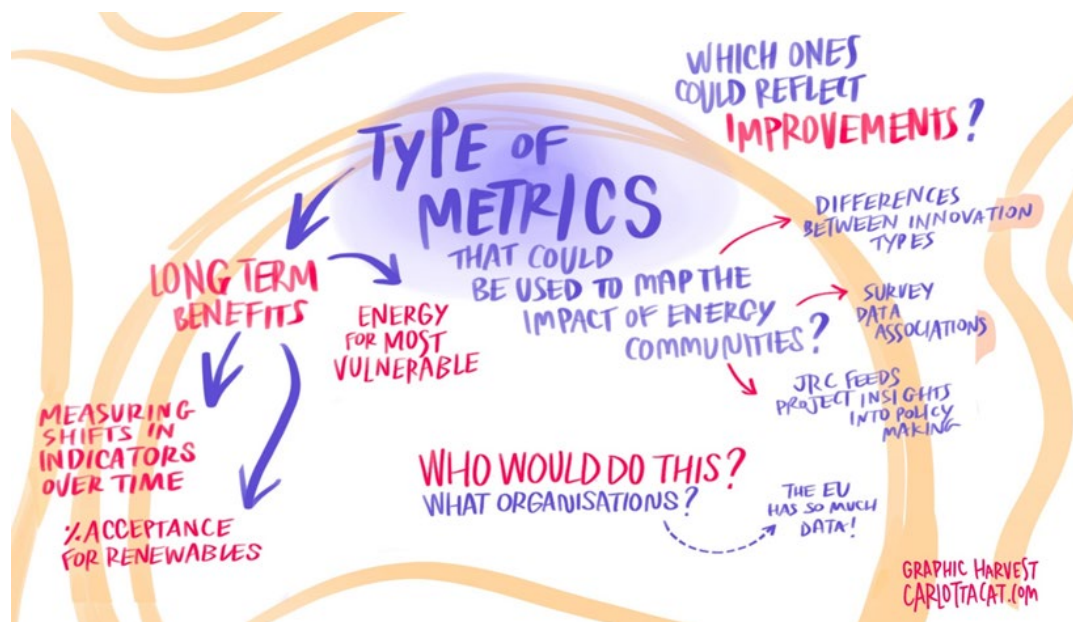
Third, and linked to the previous question, the **expectations towards social innovation in energy** were discussed, guided by the questions: “Are the expectations of social innovation as a tool not too high? And shouldn’t we rather be more critical and conscious about the limitations of the generalisation of social innovation?”



- **Giorgia Rambelli** argued that this very much depends on the underlying understanding of social innovation. From the perspective of local governments, there would be great further potential – not only for innovation on the ground but also in terms of new governance frameworks that strengthen the role of local governments across governance levels. The expectation might be high, but so is the potential that lies in changing our thinking around how to implement energy transitions on the ground.
- **Emilie Vandam** added that there is a need to break down specific aspects of social innovation in different policy fields. This would allow acknowledging their potentials to overcome societal challenges, while staying realistic. She also stressed that we cannot solve everything with social innovation, but need to combine different approaches.
- **Cristina Marchitelli** further elaborated on the need to reduce barriers so that the outcomes of social innovation can be fully grasped or sustained over time. According to her, it is important to understand the ways governments on different levels can be included in designing policies through a social innovation lens. She describes thinking about social innovation as a self-sustaining ambition – if we push the ambition now, we can push even further next time.
- **Dimitris Tsekeris** emphasised that social innovation should not be understood as a tool, but rather as a process. The benefits of including different perspectives in processes would be clearly visible (e.g. leading to greater effectiveness), and he warned of the consequences when these potentials are not recognised.
- **Stavroula Pappa** highlighted the need to back-up existing initiatives with legally binding EU policies to strengthen the position of socially innovative

initiatives in all countries in Europe. Otherwise, social innovation will stay at a more theoretical level.

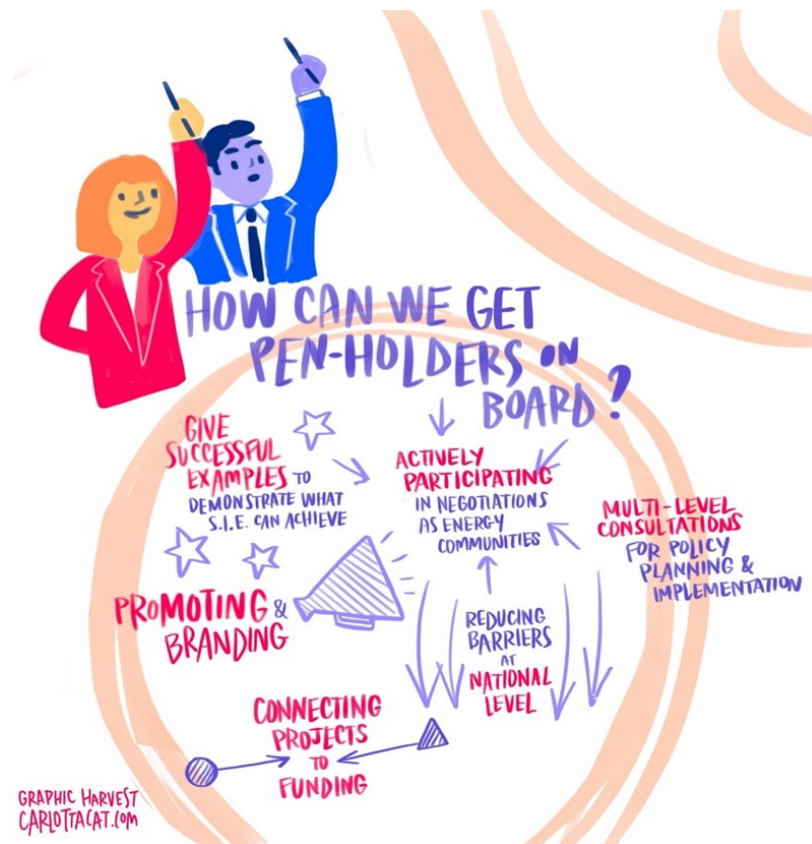
Fourth, the metrics that exist to gather **data on social innovation in energy** were discussed. The question was: “What type of metrics could we introduce to gather better data on SI impacts in the energy sector? Data are important to policy makers and attract attention”.



- **Dimitris Tsekeris** described different indicators that could be used to keep track of SI-based initiatives, for example changing levels of energy poverty, data on the adequacy of the building stock, income levels, the penetration of renewables, long-term unemployment rates, and more. According to him, the main question is *what metric could reflect the impact of energy communities (over time)*. Concerning further potentials of social innovation, [a recent poll by European Climate Foundation](#) showed that 61% of people would be willing to participate in energy communities. Furthermore, when projects are successful, acceptance of renewable energies and energy communities increases.
- **Stavroula Pappa** reported from a survey and mapping conducted by REScoop.eu and two other organisations on the [social impact of energy communities](#). This was complemented by a workshop with experts in the field, and the aim of the mapping was to develop indicators for the social impact of energy communities. This project focusing on the social impact of energy communities is still under development and more results are expected.
- **Karoline Rogge** shared insights from the SONNET project on this question. The project gathered data from different types of social innovation in energy and analysed whether the goals of socially innovative initiatives align with EU policy goals. However, in particular quantitative data availability was a key issue, with differences in its availability across different types of social innovation in energy. She concluded that gathering data on the rich diversity of social innovation in energy and its various impacts remains a challenge and that so far it is still unclear who is responsible for this.

- **Cristina Marchitelli** added that data gathering would also be done by the [Joint Research Centre \(JRC\)](#), the European Commission's science and knowledge service based on EU-funded projects. The analysis included the topic of social innovation, behavioural changes and the impact of the project on energy issues (e.g. reducing energy poverty, involvement of energy communities, etc.). The data would also feed into further policy-making.

Finally, the discussion closed with a question on further steps and especially **how to get those writing the Fit for 55 energy and climate policy proposals** to adequately consider social innovation: *"What can be done (by whom) to get the penholders on board with social innovation?"*



- **Emilie Vandam** argued that the best way to do so is by raising awareness through concrete examples and the sharing of success stories. This would demonstrate what social innovation can actually achieve.
- **Stavroula Pappa** mentioned the need to actively participate in policy making and to push for amendments and revisions, both at the European level and at national levels. Especially on the national level, it is particularly important to reduce regulatory barriers.
- **Giorgia Rambelli** emphasised that it would be crucial to foster shifts in mind-sets around the importance of acting together in the same direction. From a practical point of view, on the national level it is important to pass on the message that consultations need to happen together with local and regional governments and communities – not only in the planning and implementation of policies, but also in their roll-out, available funding mechanisms and access to different resources.

Status quo reflection of the discussion

After sharing the graphic harvesting of the event (produced by **Carlotta Cataldi**, see Figure 2), the panel closed with a final round of reflections by all the speakers:

- **Cristina Marchitelli** concluded that the ambition to further push social innovation has to be understood as a self-fulfilling prophecy. The higher the ambition is, the more social innovation is integrated into policy-making, the more impactful it will be and the more we could get out of it. *"If we don't bring the impact to the surface and fully grasp the benefits of social innovation, this cannot happen."*
- **Dimitris Tsekeris** emphasised that the work on social innovation needs to be advanced. According to him, a clear pathway is needed and actors must work together on the shared goal of further acknowledging social innovation in energy. *"We need to be more ambitious to fight the climate crisis and find new ways of collaborating to do so."*
- **Giorgia Rambelli** highlighted the danger of falling into the trap of thinking that innovation is purely technological. This must not be the case. Regarding local governments, rethinking and reframing cities' roles in transitions, as well as their responsibilities and abilities to work together with communities, is necessary to meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement. *"We cannot reach the goals of the Paris Agreement and make the changes that are needed without including all actors."*
- **Emilie Vandam** closed with the positive conclusion that things are starting to move in the right direction. Policies increasingly allow leaders to make the changes that are needed, e.g. local governments are more and more participative. *"We are heading towards really interesting times with many social, as well as technological innovations that are currently emerging."*
- **Stavroula Pappa** highlighted that many people on the ground are interested and motivated to contribute to the transitions needed. As there are still barriers in many countries, backing this up with supportive policies provided by the EU is crucial. *"It is time for people to claim their energy rights and push for better legislation."*



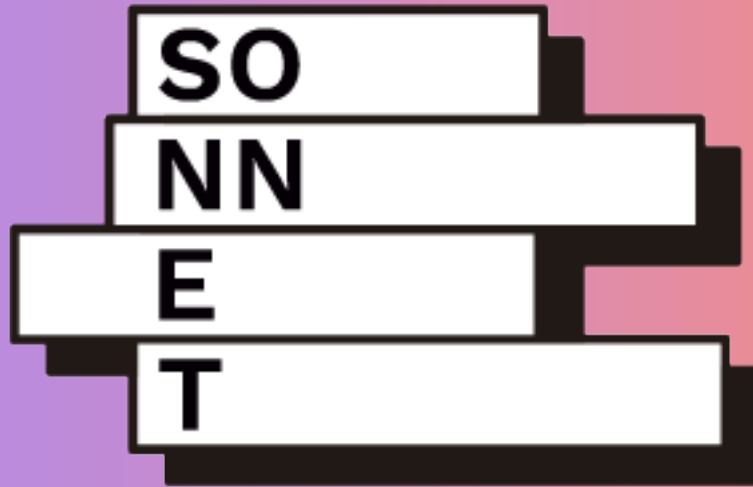
Figure 2-2: Graphic harvest of the Q&A session at the policy dialogue

Illustration (and its component parts, displayed in the preceding pages): Carlotta Cataldi

Breakfast at Sustainability's

→ the 36th edition of this flagship ICLEI Europe event series





Social Innovation in Energy Meets the Fit for 55 Package

Policy opportunities and challenges

Friday January 14th, 2022



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N°837498.



Purpose of the day

“Bringing together local and European policy makers, advocacy groups and researchers to explore what role social innovation in energy can play in the ‘Fit for 55’ package, and how could this role be enhanced.”

Also see the briefing:

Social Innovation in Energy Meets the Fit for 55 Package

Policy opportunities and challenges



BRIEFING in advance of the SONNET policy dialogue, hosted as part of the *Breakfast at Sustainability's* event series, on 14 January 2022.

Programme

09.30 - 09.50 - Part I: Introductions

- Julia Wittmayer, Exploring the diversity of social innovation in energy
- Karoline Rogge, Policy mix thinking and social innovation

09.50 - 10.45 Part II: Panel Presentations

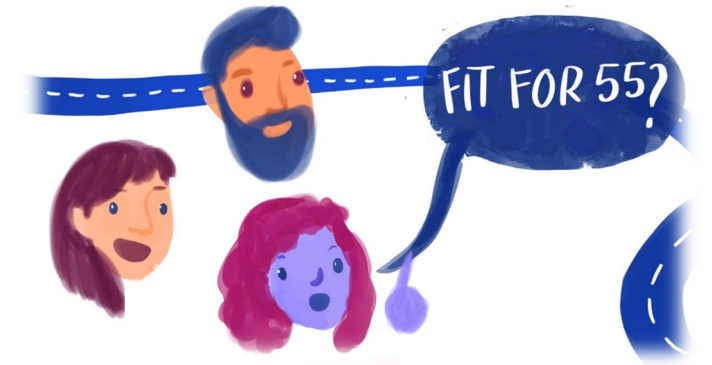
- Emilie Vandam, DG Research and Innovation, European Commission
- Cristiana Marchitelli, DG Energy, European Commission
- Giorgia Rambelli, Climate Policy and Energy Governance, ICLEI
- Stavroula Pappa, REScoop.eu
- Dimitris Tsekeris, Friends of the Earth Europe

10.45 - 10.55 Break

10.55 - 11.40 Part III: Discussion with voted questions

11.40 - 11.55 Part IV: Reflection on the discussion and graphic harvest

11.55 - 12.00 Part V: Wrap up





Examples of my work

**Carlotta
Cataldi**

GRAPHIC RECORDING AND FACILITATION
WWW.CARLOTTACAT.COM



SONNET

Notes in advance



Start with your **video** turned on - it's nice to know who's in the room



This event is being recorded and will be shared online afterwards.



If you have a **question** for our speakers, save it for Mentimeter



Technical difficulties? Use the chat to message Magdalena Pitzer.

≡ Social Media

- #BreakfastAtSustainabilitys
- #Fitfor55
- #SocialInnovation
- #EnergyTransitions

Twitter:

- @SONNET_energy
- @ICLEI_Europe





Introduction ICLEI



Part I: Introductions



Julia Wittmayer



Karoline Rogge

Breakfast at Sustainability's
Policy dialogue: Social innovation in energy
meets the Fit-for-55 package

drift for transition



Exploring the diversity of social innovation in energy

Dr. Julia Wittmayer
DRIFT, Erasmus University Rotterdam

January 14th, 2022
Zoomiverse

www.sonnet-energy.eu
[@SONNET_energy](https://twitter.com/SONNET_energy)
[@drift.eur.nl](https://twitter.com/drift.eur.nl)

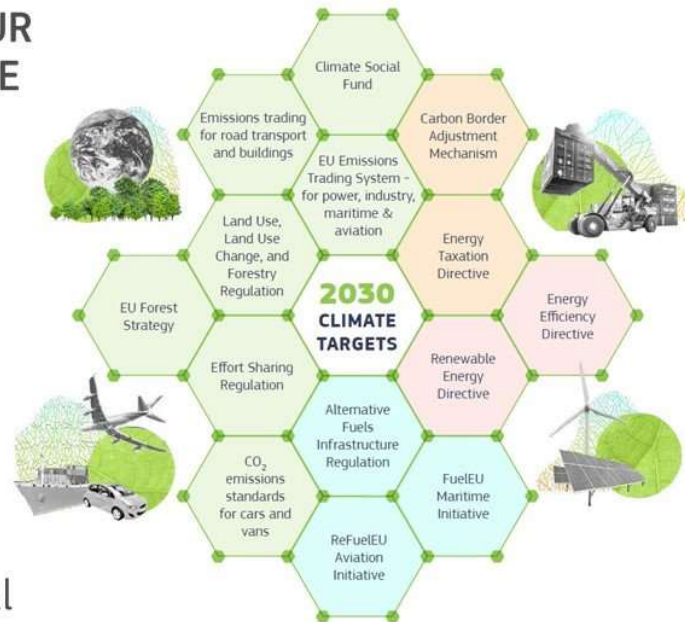


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Social innovation and Fit-for-55

EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL

REACHING OUR
2030 CLIMATE
TARGETS



#EUGreenDeal



Longer history of high expectations



BEPA (2010):

“At a time of major budgetary constraints, social innovation is an effective way of responding to social challenges, by mobilising people’s creativity to develop solutions and make better use of scarce resources”.



Former EU commission president JM Barroso (2012):

“Social innovation is not a panacea but if encouraged and valued it can bring immediate solutions to the pressing social issues citizens are confronted with.”

EU Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation, C Moedas (2018):

“The EU will fund more social innovation because it’s the future of innovation”.



Recent linking of social innovation to energy



Social innovations in energy transitions

.. capable to **satisfy human and societal needs** underpinned by energy. It **contributes to a low carbon energy transition** while in parallel **empowering vulnerable social groups** and cultivates civic traditions of trust, equity and solidarity within and beyond the spatial context on which they occur...

(Koukoufikis, G, 2021)



Social innovation?

Many different definitions

- Focusing on the 'social' (or 'immaterial') as being the object of change: practices, relations, ideas
- Referring to something that is 'new' or 'renewed'
- Changes on micro-level to macro-level
- Driven by actors motivated by addressing a certain social need, and/or by contributing to certain societal goals

What is social innovation in energy?

Social innovation in energy (SIE)

is a combination of ideas,
objects and/or actions

that changes social relations

and involves new ways of doing,
thinking and/or organising
energy.

*(Wittmayer et al. 2022
building on Pel et al. 2020, Avelino et al. 2019)*



Photo by Eelco Böhlingk on Unsplash

including energy generation, transmission, distribution and consumption



SONNET

Example: Cooperative RE production



Illustration by Maria Fraaije



[https://www.maasenwaalkanter.nl/nieuws/algemeen/616592/duurz
aam-opgewekt-maas-waal-](https://www.maasenwaalkanter.nl/nieuws/algemeen/616592/duurz-aam-opgewekt-maas-waal-)

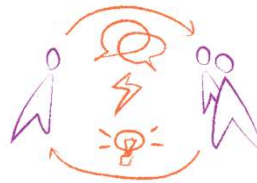


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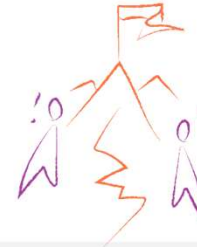
Cooperation



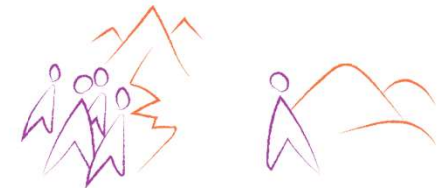
Exchange



Competition



Conflict



DOING



Local energy production & consumption

Cooperative energy production & consumption

Collaborative eco-efficient housing

Local peer-to-peer electricity exchange

For profit services and technologies

Action against specific energy pathway

THINKING



Advocacy for specific energy pathways

Energy education

Non-profit consulting

Peer to peer learning

For-profit consulting

Campaigns against specific energy pathways

ORGANISING



Participatory energy dialogues

Participatory experimentation and incubation

Platforms for direct energy transactions

Investment and finance mechanisms

Energy gamification & nudges

Networks against specific energy pathways



SONNET

Social innovation and Fit-for-55

There is a whole range of **diverse social innovations** in energy

A **diversity of actors** engages in social innovation in energy

Competing understandings of what is desirable for society: trade-offs & tensions

Emerging new configurations require to rethink what to support or phase out

Energy read #1

Social
INNOVATION
in Energy
Transitions

SOCIAL INNOVATION MEETS ENERGY



About the social dimension of
energy transitions

<https://sonnet-energy.eu/project-outputs/>

SONNET

Thank you and
stay in touch

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@drifteur
sonnet-energy.eu



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POLICY DIALOGUE

Social innovation in energy
meets the
Fit for 55 package:

*Policy opportunities
and challenges*

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N°837498.

Policy mix thinking for social innovation in energy

Prof. Dr. Karoline Rogge
Fraunhofer ISI & University of Sussex

Breakfast at Sustainability's | January 14th, 2022

www.sonnet-energy.eu
[@SONNET_energy](#)
[@karogge](#)



EU's CLIMATE POLICY MIX IS ADJUSTED TO MAKE EUROPE

FIT FOR A 55%.

REDUCTION OF ITS GREENHOUSE
GAS EMISSIONS BY 2030



BY TIGHTENING EXISTING POLICY
INSTRUMENTS EX: EMISSION TRADING

BY PHASING OUT INCONSISTENT MEASURES
EX. TAX EXEMPTIONS FOR FOSSIL FUELS

BY INTRODUCING NEW MEASURES
EX. SOCIAL CLIMATE FUND

POLICY
MIX
thinking
FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION



What is the role of policy mixes for diverse types of social innovation?



Renewable energy cooperatives



Local electricity exchange



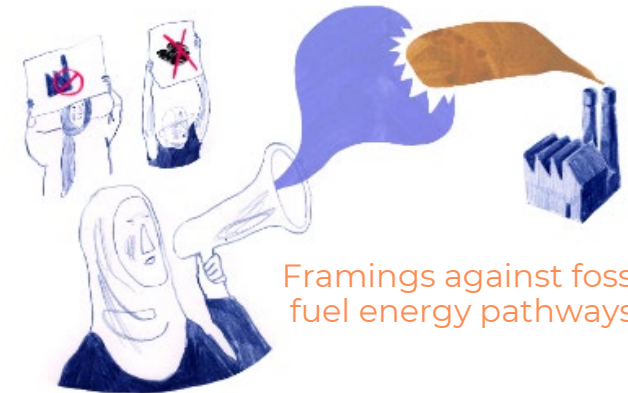
City-level competitions



Financing and subsidies for renewable energy



Participatory incubation and experimentation



Framings against fossil fuel energy pathways



POLICY MIXES OF RELEVANCE FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION IN ENERGY ENCOMPASS POLICY STRATEGIES & INSTRUMENT MIXES AT DIFFERENT GOVERNANCE LEVELS AND POLICY FIELDS WHICH ENABLE OR IMPEDE THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL INNOVATION IN ENERGY.

POLICY MIX OF RELEVANCE FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION IN ENERGY

- DIFFERENT POLICY STRATEGIES AND INSTRUMENTS MATTER FOR DIFFERENT TYPES OF SOCIAL INNOVATION IN ENERGY

- ORIGINATE FROM MULTIPLE GOVERNANCE LEVELS

- ORIGINATE FROM VARIOUS POLICY FIELDS

- ACTUAL DESIGN OF POLICIES MATTERS MORE FOR IMPACT ON SOCIAL INNOVATION THAN INSTRUMENT TYPE







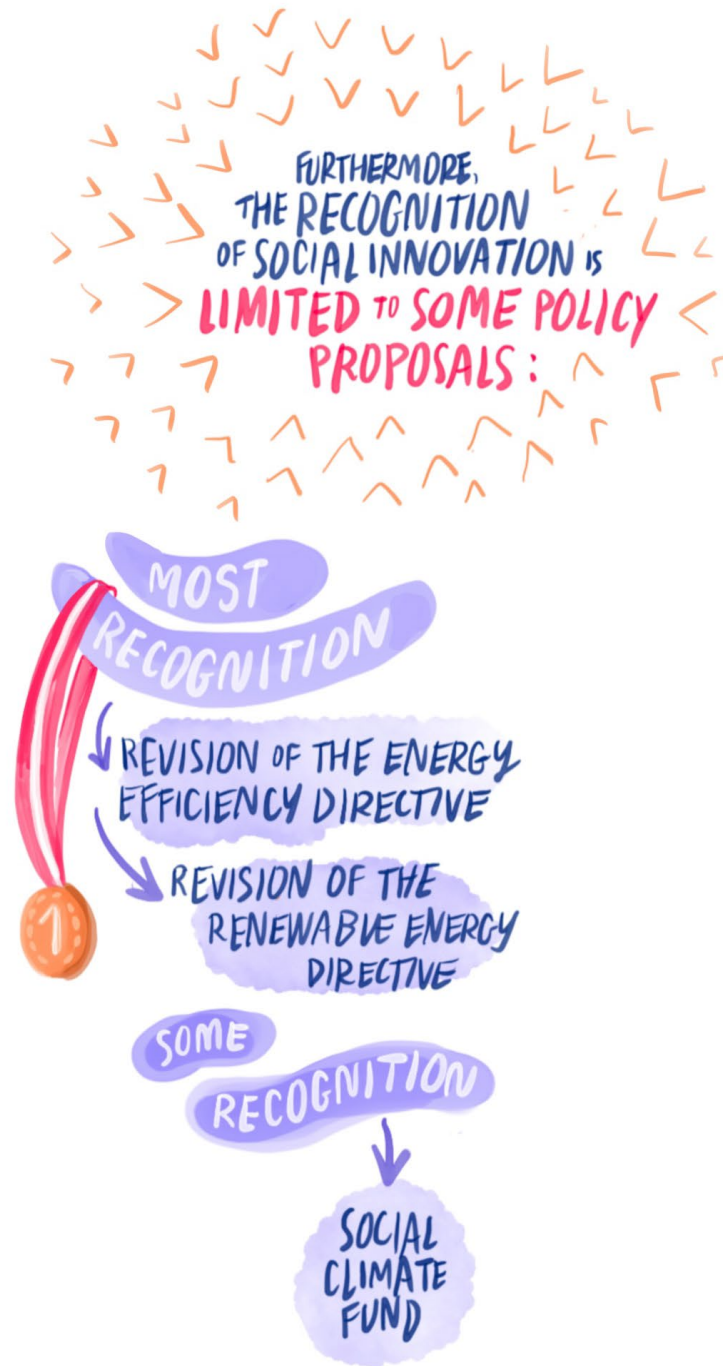
IN FIT FOR 55 PACKAGE

Q social innovation IS NOT
MENTIONED AS SUCH...





Consideration by policy proposal





Harnessing social innovation through Fit for 55 package

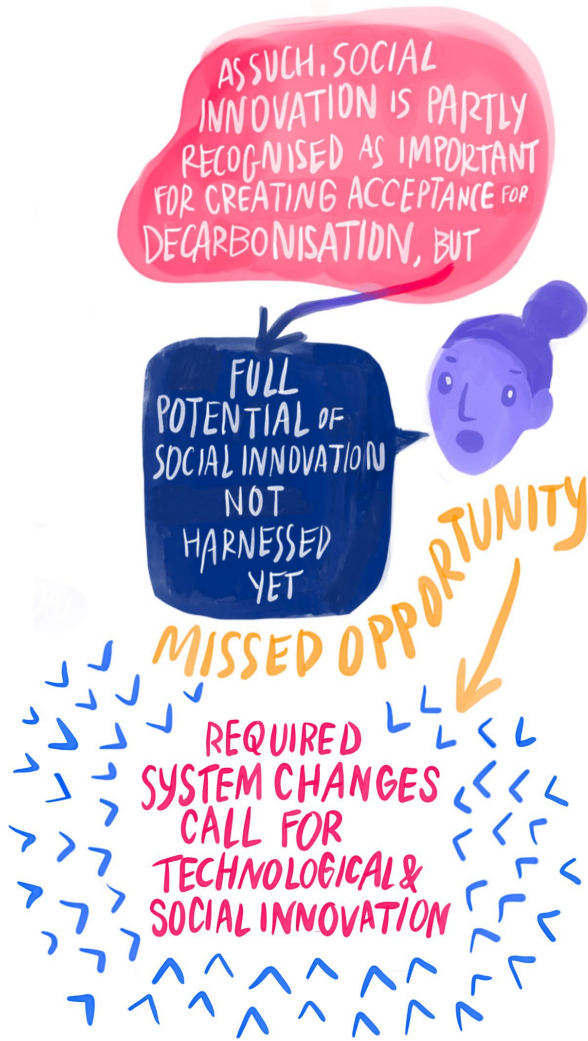
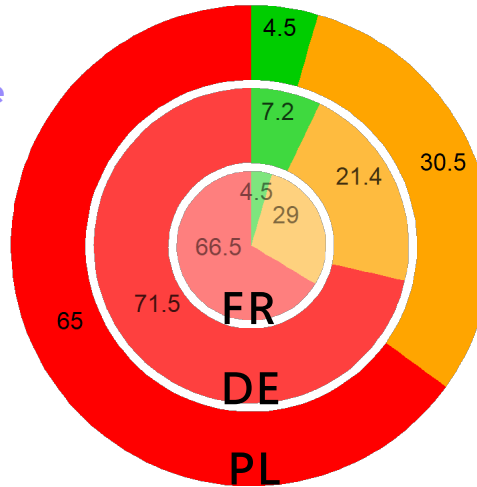
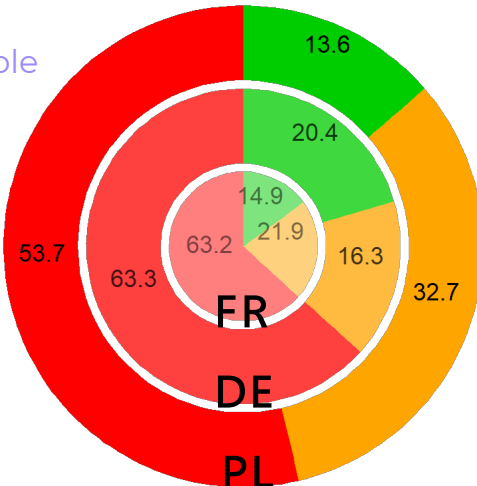


Illustration by Carlotta Cataldi

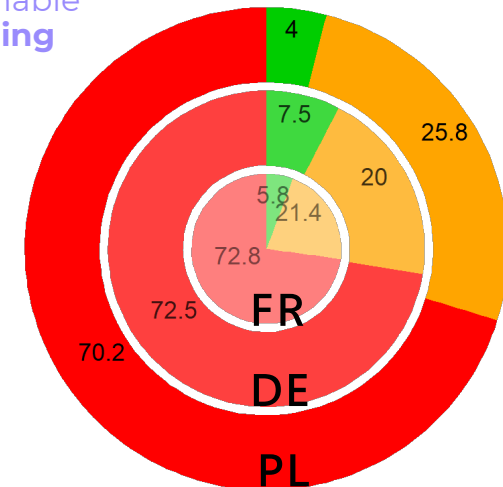
Invested in a
renewable
energy
cooperative



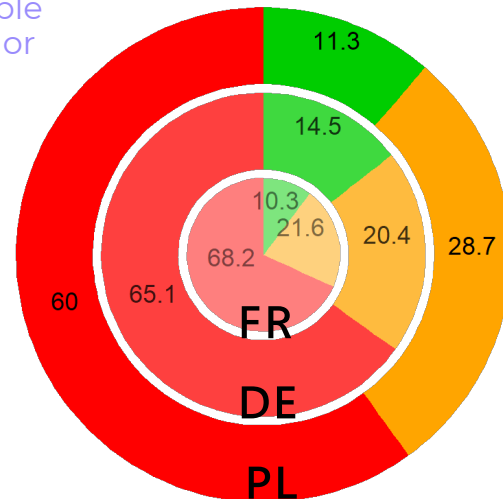
Participated in
campaigns
supporting
green/sustainable
energy



Invested in a
green/sustainable
crowdfunding
project



Volunteered for a
green/sustainable
energy project or
organization



Yes

No, but I am planning to

No, and I am not planning to

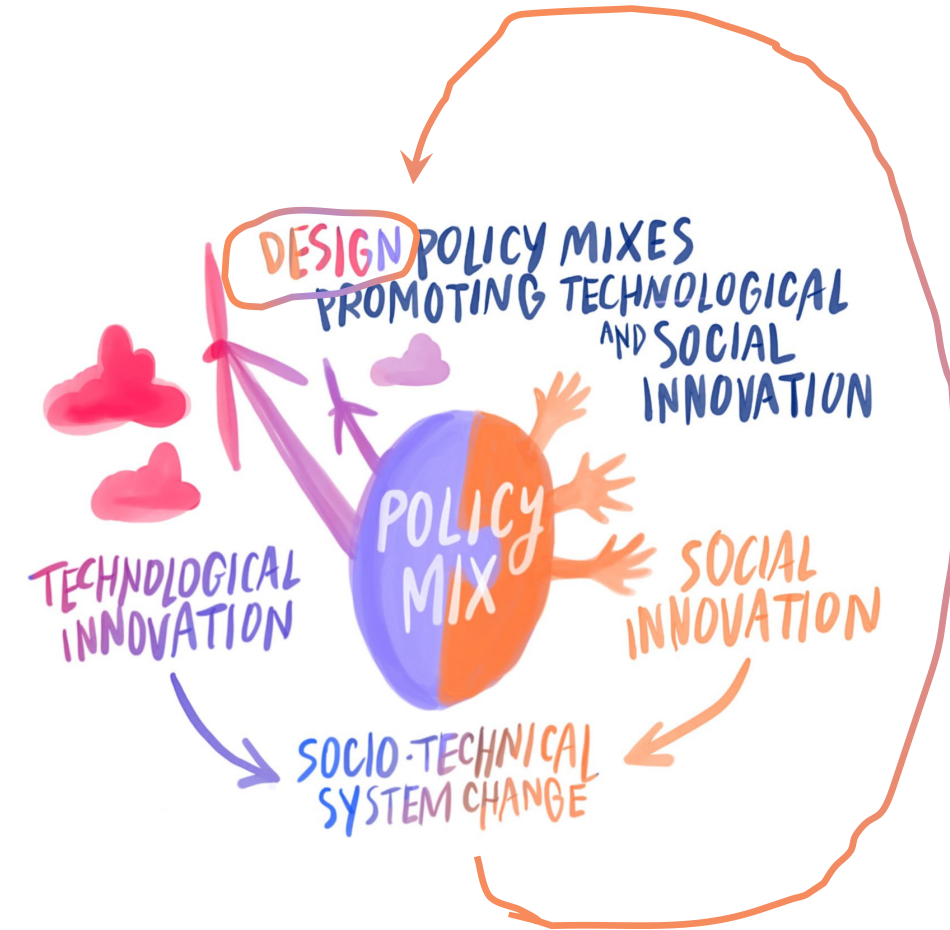
Process view

(Re)designing policy mix design

- **Politics:** access, power, vested interests
- **Evidence:** impact assessment, monitoring, evaluation, learning, redesign

POLITICS

EVIDENCE

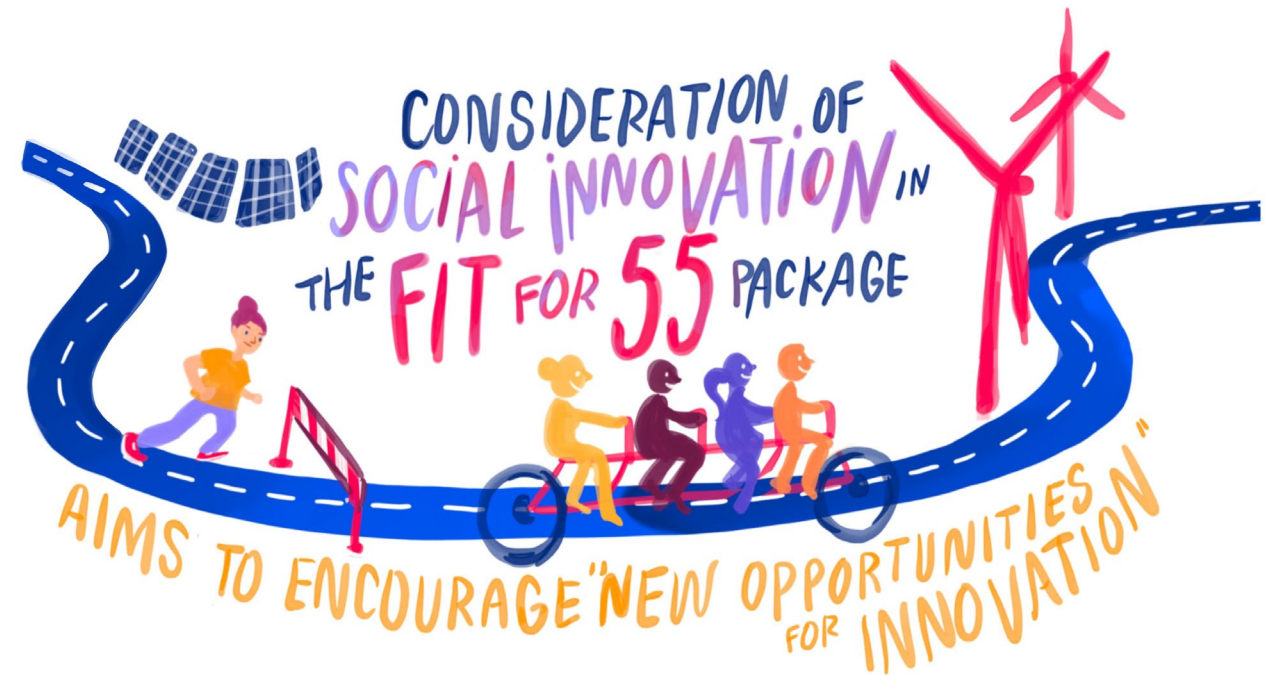




- **Opportunities:** Which opportunities do you foresee for the consideration of social innovation in energy in the 'Fit for 55' package?
- **Challenges:** Which challenges do you foresee for the consideration of social innovation in energy in the 'Fit for 55' package, and what are some ways of how they could be overcome?

**Thank you and
looking forward to
the panel discussion!**

SONNET



*Stadler, M. and Rogge, K. S. (2022):
Social innovation in energy meets the
'Fit for 55' package: Policy opportunities
and challenges. Briefing for Breakfast
at Sustainability's on January 14, 2022.
SONNET, Fraunhofer ISI: Karlsruhe.*

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

Illustration by Carlotta Cataldi

Social **I**NNovation in **E**nergy **T**ransitions

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- **Opportunities:** Which opportunities do you foresee for the consideration of social innovation in energy in the 'Fit for 55' package?
- **Challenges:** Which challenges do you foresee for the consideration of social innovation in energy in the 'Fit for 55' package, and what are some ways of how they could be overcome?





Part II: Panel presentations



Emilie Vandam



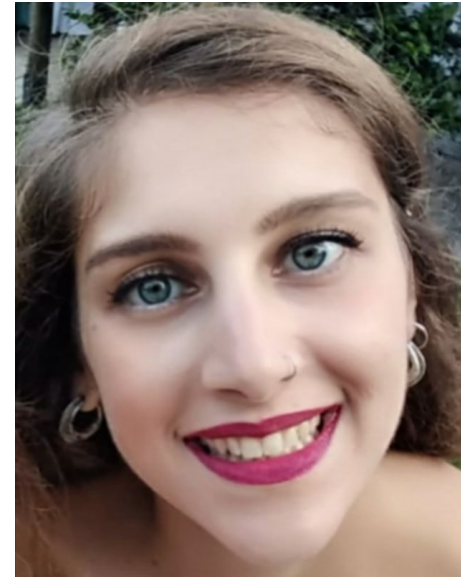
Cristiana Marchitelli



Giorgia Rambelli



Dimitris Tsekeris



Stavroula Pappa

Remember your questions for the panel for Mentimeter



Social Innovation in Energy meets the Fit for 55 Package

Policy Opportunities and Challenges
Friday, 14 January 2022, 9:30-12:00

*Emilie VANDAM, Directorate-General
Research & Innovation European
Commission*

What is social innovation?



Social innovation concerns the development of new products, methods, and services for and with society involving citizens, public authorities, business and industry, and academia — the “**Quadruple Helix**” — in their design, development, and implementation.

Social innovation engages and empowers citizens, enhances the resilience of communities, increases the relevance, acceptance and uptake of innovation, and helps foster lasting changes in social practices, therefore acting as a **system changer**. It thus helps answering societal and environmental challenges, connecting society with innovation.

(Horizon Europe Programme Guide)

SOCIAL INNOVATION
BRINGS TOGETHER
CITIZENS,
RESEARCHERS,
BUSINESS &
POLICY MAKERS



© European Union, 2021

#SocialInnovation
#ResearchImpactEU



Social Innovation in DG R&I

- Social innovation is supported since 1994
- Social innovation Matrix since 2019
- Horizon 2020 Green Deal Social Innovation Calls:
 - Towards climate-neutral and socially innovative cities
 - Demonstration of systemic solutions for the territorial deployment of the circular economy

Calls in Horizon Europe First Work Program

- Cluster 3 “Civil Security for Society”:
 - Social innovations as enablers of security solutions and increased security perception
- Cluster 4 “Digital, Industry and Space”:
 - European Technological and Social Innovation Factory
 - Social and affordable housing district demonstrators
- Cluster 6 “Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment”:
 - Understanding the impacts of and the opportunities offered by digital transformation, new emerging technologies and social innovation with respect to biodiversity
 - Social innovation in food sharing to strengthen urban communities’ food resilience
 - Smart solutions for smart rural communities: empowering rural communities and smart villages to innovate for societal change
 - Revitalisation of European local communities with innovative bio-based business models and social innovation



Adaptation to
Climate Change



Restore our
Ocean and Waters



Cancer

Climate-neutral
and Smart Cities

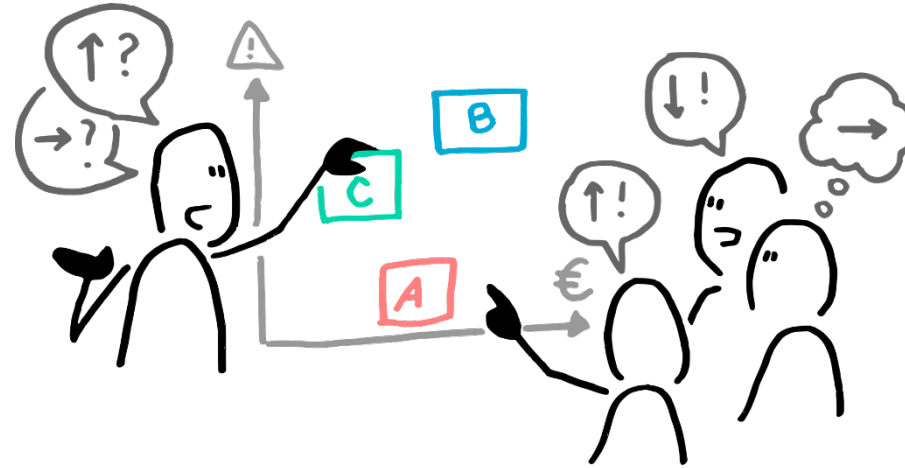


Soil Deal
for Europe

Social innovation and citizens' engagement to advance EU Mission objectives



Education including
skilling, re-skilling, and
up-skilling



Co-Design
+ Co-Development
+ Co-Implementation



Changes in social practices

Social innovation in energy in the Fit for 55 package: Challenges

Social innovation not always well known by policy makers



Under-recognition of social innovation in the Fit for 55 package



Need to raise awareness among policy makers

Social innovation in energy in the Fit for 55 package: Challenges

Replication
and upscaling
of successful
social
innovation

“

“Missions put emphasis on **demonstrating, scaling up and replicating** existing and new solutions **including social innovations**. This will ensure a tailor-made innovation approach including social innovation, in which solutions will be fully adapted to **fit local circumstances**.”

Communication on European Missions

Social innovation in energy in the Fit for 55 package: Opportunities

Need to scale up technological and social innovation



**European Social
Innovation
Catalyst Fund**

The **European Social Catalyst fund** would enlist experts in social innovation and leverage additional public and private money. These experts would select the most promising existing, demonstrably successful social innovations for the replication and upscaling of these social innovations in service of the Missions.”

Missions Work Programme 2021-2022

Social innovation in energy in the Fit for 55 package: Opportunities

- Technology alone can't succeed on its own to achieve the Fit for 55 targets
- Changes in social practices and lifestyles are essential
- Social innovations plays a crucial role in this

Thank you!

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Slide xx: **element concerned**, source: **e.g. Fotolia.com**; Slide xx: **element concerned**, source: **e.g. iStock.com**



Social innovation in energy meets the “Fit for 55” Package

B@S

Cristiana Marchitelli

ENER.B5 Research, Innovation, Competitiveness and Digitalisation

14 January 2022

Role & Opportunities

Challenges

Why does it matter to be Fit for 55



- The transition towards climate-neutrality cannot be achieved through technology and markets alone
- The energy transition involves a social transformation in which civil society and citizens will play a crucial role too
- To engage citizens in the energy transition, it is important to identify potential accelerators – such as **social innovation** – as well as social or behavioural barriers and levers to greater citizen engagement.

Source: [The Lisbon Declaration: Social Innovation as a Path to a Sustainable Resilient and Inclusive Europe](#)

SI: pivotal to address EU challenges

Cross-cuts are central to Horizon Europe: focus on transversal, societal challenges

H2020	In Horizon Europe
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 212 projects were SI-related in H2020• Total EU funding 1.092.929.409,74€.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6 topics in WP 2021 – 2022• Current development of 2023-2024
Other programmes / initiatives	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• synergies to be built within Horizon Europe and with other EU programmes such as EFS+, the InvestEU “Social investments and skills” window, the European Pillar of Social Rights and the digital transformation• For example: the New European Bauhaus movement (bottom-up, concrete and tangible)	

Social innovation will serve the environmental, economic, digital, cultural, sovereignty, and democratic priorities set by the Commission.



Citizen and stakeholder engagement

- Facilitating the transformation to a climate neutral society through more effectively **engaging and empowering citizens** to participate in the transition, from planning to decision-making and implementation
- **4 topics in 2021** (17.5 M€)
- Issues: just transition, SSH platform, Transition Super Labs, NCP-network

Why is social innovation important in HE

- because most innovations are sociotechnical
- **to connect society and innovation**
 - to empower citizens by supporting their initiatives and engaging them from the design stage throughout the innovation life cycle, thereby enriching it
 - to activate citizens and give engaged citizens who want to act an opportunity to do so
 - to make innovation more relevant, increase buy-in and diffuse technological solutions
- **to novel offer solutions** to societal problems inadequately or ineffectively addressed the State or the Market
- **to act as a “system changer”**

SI embedded in EU initiatives

- Twin green and digital transition → Digitalisation of the Energy System
- Literacy & empowerment
- Citizens & Youth → European Climate Pact, 2022 European Year of Youth

Role & Opportunities

Challenges

When working to translate interest in SI into concrete policy action

- Getting penholders on board → EC Social Innovation Matrix
- Avoid any loss of knowledge generated by funded EU projects → Feedback to Policy



Thank you

[Delivering the European Green Deal |
European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)



Local Governments
for Sustainability
EUROPE

Connect • Innovate • Accelerate

Social innovation & the Fit -for -55: opportunities, challenges and the role of Local Governments

Giorgia RAMBELLI ,
*Coordinator, Climate Policy & Energy Governance,
Sustainable Resources, Climate and Resilience team
ICLEI Europe*

11 October 2021



ICLEI – Local Government for Sustainability



ICLEI EUROPE REPRESENTS LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND ASSOCIATIONS OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES

2500+ LOCAL
AND REGIONAL
GOVERNMENTS

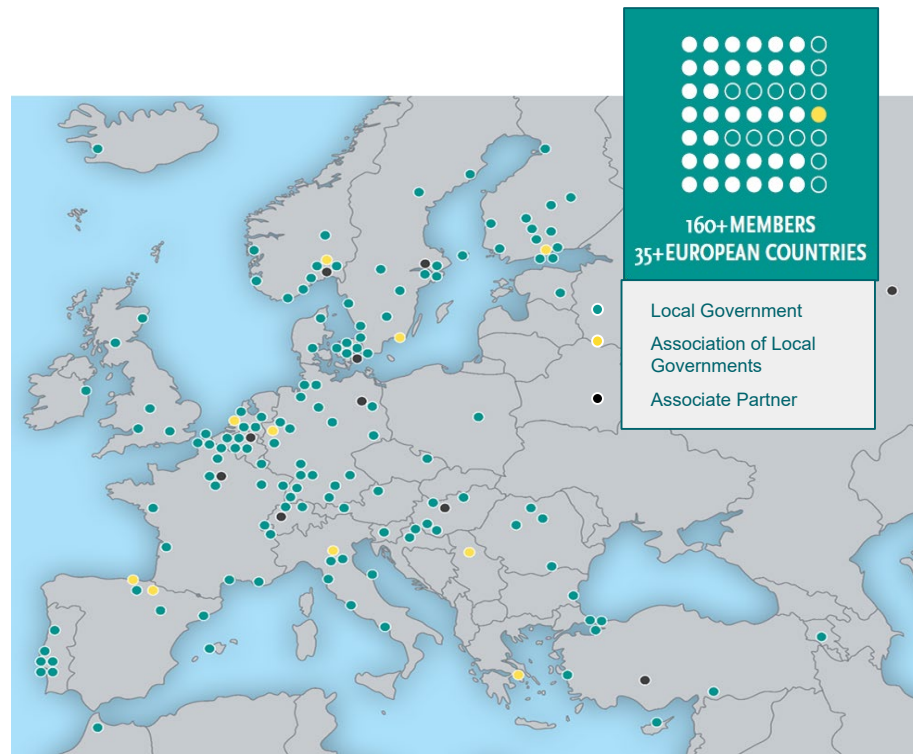
22 OFFICES
WORLDWIDE

IMPACTING MORE THAN
25% OF THE
GLOBAL URBAN POPULATION

AND MORE THAN
20% OF THE
GLOBAL URBAN POPULATION

ACTIVE IN
100+ COUNTRIES

5 INTERCONNECTED
DEVELOPMENT
PATHWAYS



THE FIVE ICLEI PATHWAYS



**LOW EMISSION
DEVELOPMENT**



**NATURE-BASED
DEVELOPMENT**



**EQUITABLE
AND PEOPLE-
CENTERED
DEVELOPMENT**



**RESILIENT
DEVELOPMENT**



**CIRCULAR
DEVELOPMENT**

The **FIVE ICLEI PATHWAYS** reflect ICLEI's approach to achieving a sustainable city as well as local contributions to implementing the goals laid out in international frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals. Any of our individual projects or initiatives can be oriented along one or more specific pathways. We also look at how the pathways connect to bring about change in an **INTEGRATED** way. For example, we consider how nature-based development contributes to resilience, or how to bring equity into low emission development.

Social innovation in the Fit-for-55 and the role of Local Governments



How does Fit -to -55 relate to social innovation?

Role of local governments: lead by example, policy maker, planner, service provider, community engagement, etc.

Domino effect: Energy related policies will have an impact on many other aspects of society.

From the LGs point of view the new proposal would for example affect:

- Design and delivery of services
- Priority setting and action implementation
- Criteria for procurement
- Budget allocation and fiscal measures

Local governments can support & lead the way

Provide political support & embed in existing/revise policies and climate action plans (e.g. SECAPs)

Co-create, consult & foster buy-in of the community in designing steps forward

Act as test beds for innovation and support R&I

Leverage new frameworks to support vulnerable communities - tackle energy poverty, foster local employment, and gender equality

Inform and raise awareness – make information accessible to individuals, organizations and SMEs (support behavioral change and energy sufficiency)

Aggregate interested stakeholders and facilitate the matchmaking (change in energy production or consumption)

Facilitate the initiation of local initiatives, design (dis)incentives (e.g. nudging, taxes and levies)

Support monitoring, assessment and controlling

Support implementation of NECPs, NDCs, and SDGs

Opportunities

Working together towards more ambitious targets

- **change in energy production and consumption:** unlock citizens participation; tapping in investments for energy transition; energy democracy and citizens empowerment
- **Clarity and stability in legal frameworks:** market signal, impact assessment, alignment of policies across levels; acceptance of technological innovations and policies
- **reduction in waste of energy/energy efficiency improvement and emissions reduction:** behavioural change, reinvest in the community, co-creation
- **Support to vulnerable communities and energy poverty reduction:** self-sufficiency, innovative business models and financial solutions, renovation support schemes, increasing the level of trust
- **Integrated actions:** cross-sectoral planning, connection to circular economy, biodiversity, integration of the energy system
- **Multi-level governance:** cost efficiency, fit-for-purpose solutions/policies, implementation of NECPs, accountability, and meeting NDCs

Challenges ... and possible solutions

Time

Strengthen multilevel governance

Mismatch of regulation and planning across different level of governance



Make citizens part of the solution (e.g. citizens science)



Data access and capacity for application into policy making; monitoring and reassessment



Make use of available tools (as Energy Communities) to alleviate energy poverty



Challenges

Ensuring the transition is fair and just for everyone ...and at the pace needed

Time and framework conditions

- Transposition speed
- Consultation process
- Clarity of provisions for stable legal environment
- Mindset shift (no longer “desirable”, urgency, innovation & testing, co creation)

Rethinking and aligning

- Consultation and collaboration with subnational level
- Tapping the potential of local action planning, citizens science and innovation
- Silos-thinking
- Technical and financial capacity
- Level playing -field, red tape, mandates, access to resources

Data, monitoring and impact assessment

- Access to data and application into policy making
- Mandates and capacity for monitoring
- Accountability and transparency

Food for thought



DECIDE - Developing Energy Communities through Informative and collective actions



decide4energy.eu



- **How** energy communities and energy efficiency services are **established** and **managed**?
- Which kind of **communications** and **interactions** work best to encourage participation in energy communities for specific types of individuals and groups?
- **Test** and **transfer** knowledge in pilot projects across Europe.



CONTACTS

ICLEI EUROPE

The ICLEI European Secretariat is based in Freiburg (Germany) with offices in Brussels (Belgium) and Berlin (Germany).

Giorgia RAMBELLI
Coordinator, Climate Policy &
Energy Governance,

Giorgia.rambelli@iclei.org



iclei-europe.org



[ICLEI_Europe](https://www.youtube.com/ICLEI_Europe)



[@ICLEI_Europe](https://www.whatsapp.com/channel/0123456789)



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Policy dialogue: Social innovation in energy meets the Fit for 55 package

14/01/2022



Dimitris Tsekeris

Climate Justice & Energy Campaigner
European Community Power Coalition Coordinator

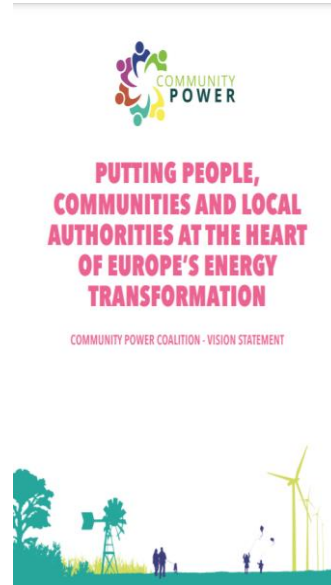
Who we are - What we do



- **Dimitris Tsekeris**
- Climate Justice & Energy Campaigner (FoEE) / Coordinator of European Community Power Coalition
- Get in touch!
dimitris.tsekeris@foeeurope.org



@TsekerisDim



- Promotion of the development of citizen and community ownership.
- Diverse network of 40+ like-minded organisations across Europe
- Energy cooperatives, cities and local authorities, the renewable energy industry, legal experts & NGOs
- Visit our Website:
<https://communitypowercoalition.eu/>

Our activities



Advocacy work

Communication

Capacity Building

BARRIERS AND THREATS TO THE PEOPLE-OWNED ENERGY REVOLUTION

BARRIERS TO COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP COVERED BELOW

- Inadequate grid access
- Difficulty accessing financial capital
- Problematic legal framework
- Burdensome bureaucracy and permitting

THREATS TO COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP COVERED BELOW

- The switch from support schemes to bidding systems
- Poor definition that allows for abuse
- Nimbyism and local backlash against renewable energy

Acceptance of Energy Communities

IMAGINE A
WORLD

WHERE ENERGY IS
CLEAN AND LOCAL

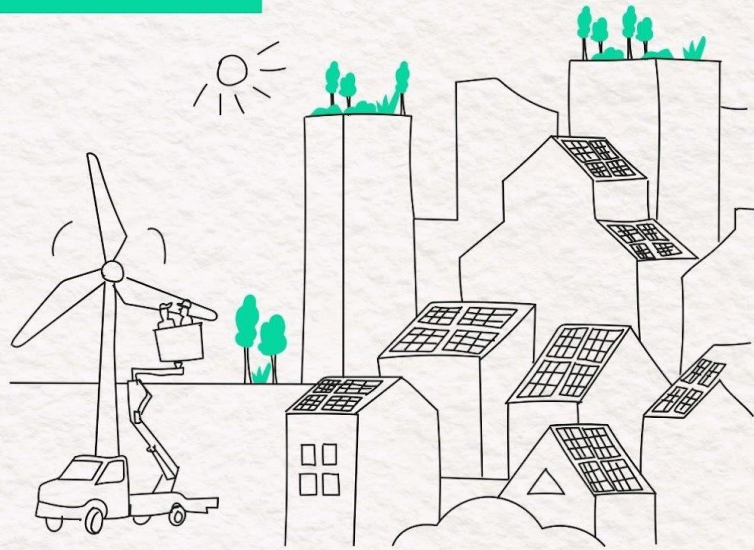
86%

of Europeans
support new wind
and solar projects in
their local area



TOGETHER FOR
100% RENEWABLE
EUROPE

Prosperous. Sustainable. For everyone.



Across Europe, **86% of people questioned said they would support new wind and solar projects near to where they live.** They also expressed a strong interest in joining a local energy cooperative and supported government measures to accelerate the rollout of wind and solar power.

This is in a nutshell what is revealed in a recent poll conducted in 10 European countries (United Kingdom, France, Germany, Spain, Poland, Italy, Czech Republic, Greece, Romania and Bulgaria) to better understand the public support for wind and solar.

IMAGINE A
WORLD

WHERE ENERGY PRODUCTION
IS OWNED BY LOCAL PEOPLE.

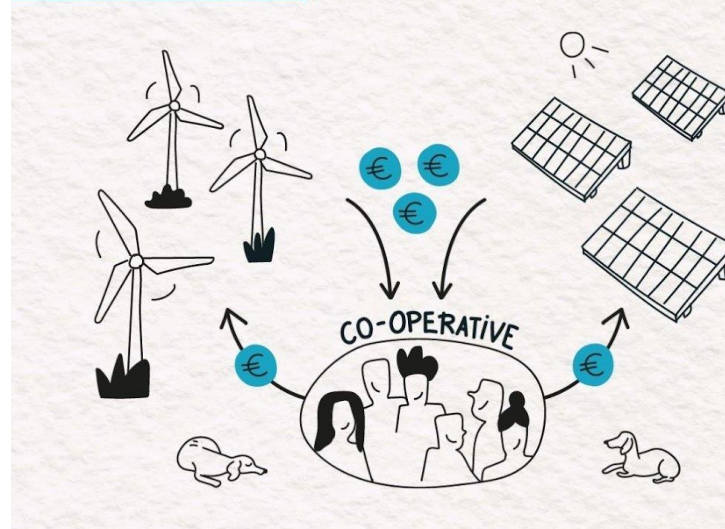
61%

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



TOGETHER FOR
100% RENEWABLE
EUROPE

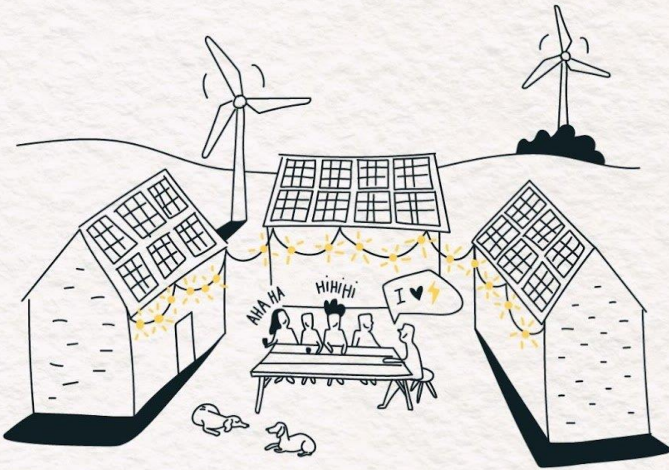
Prosperous. Sustainable. For everyone.



Acceptance of Energy Communities

IMAGINE A
WORLD

WHERE COMMUNITY GROUPS GENERATE
THEIR OWN CLEAN ENERGY...

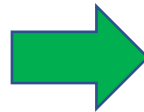


79%

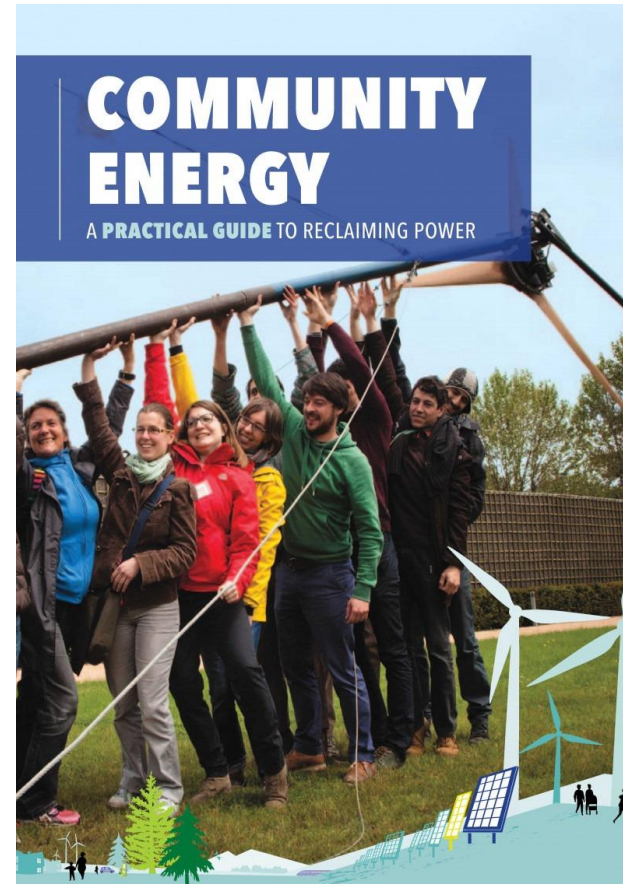
of Europeans want
their governments to
provide more financial
support for community
groups to generate
their own solar and
wind energy



Community Energy Guidebook available now in 6
languages (English, Czech, French,
Greek, Polish and Spanish)



A handbook filled with practical tips and
wisdom from projects all across Europe

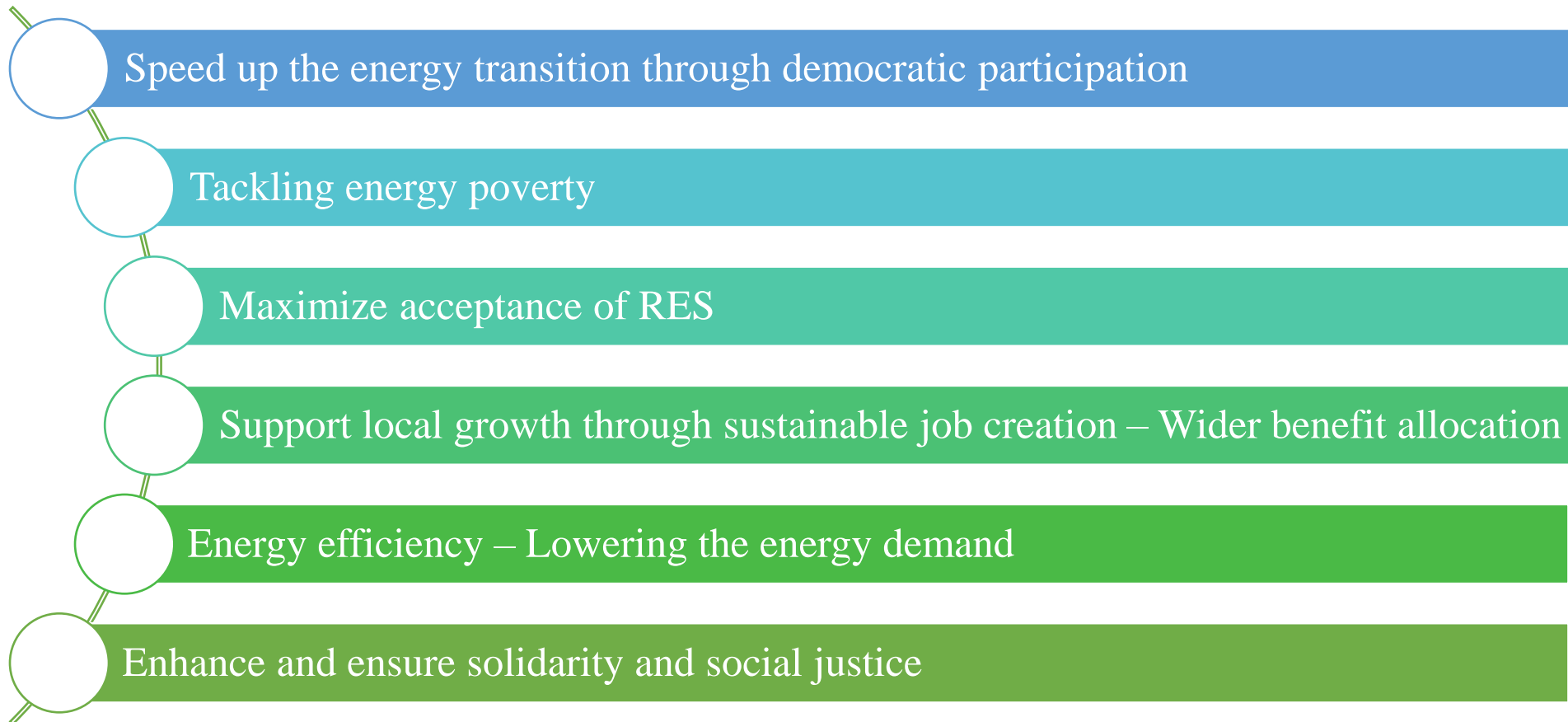


- 160 pages
- 26 chapters
- 22 inspiring success stories
- Over 80 links to additional resources

Opportunities

Social innovation in energy in the Fit for 55 package

Energy communities can significantly contribute to:



Challenges

Transposition of Directive RED Art.22 – Adequate frameworks in the EU member states

Funding resources & Financing of projects

Auctions and solely market-based approach

EU signals (Taxonomy, Gas Package)

That framework shall include

- Unjustified regulatory and administrative **barriers are removed**
- Fair, proportionate and transparent procedures, including cost-reflective network charges,
- Tools to facilitate access to finance and information are available
- Capacity-building support is provided to public authorities in enabling and setting up renewable energy communities.

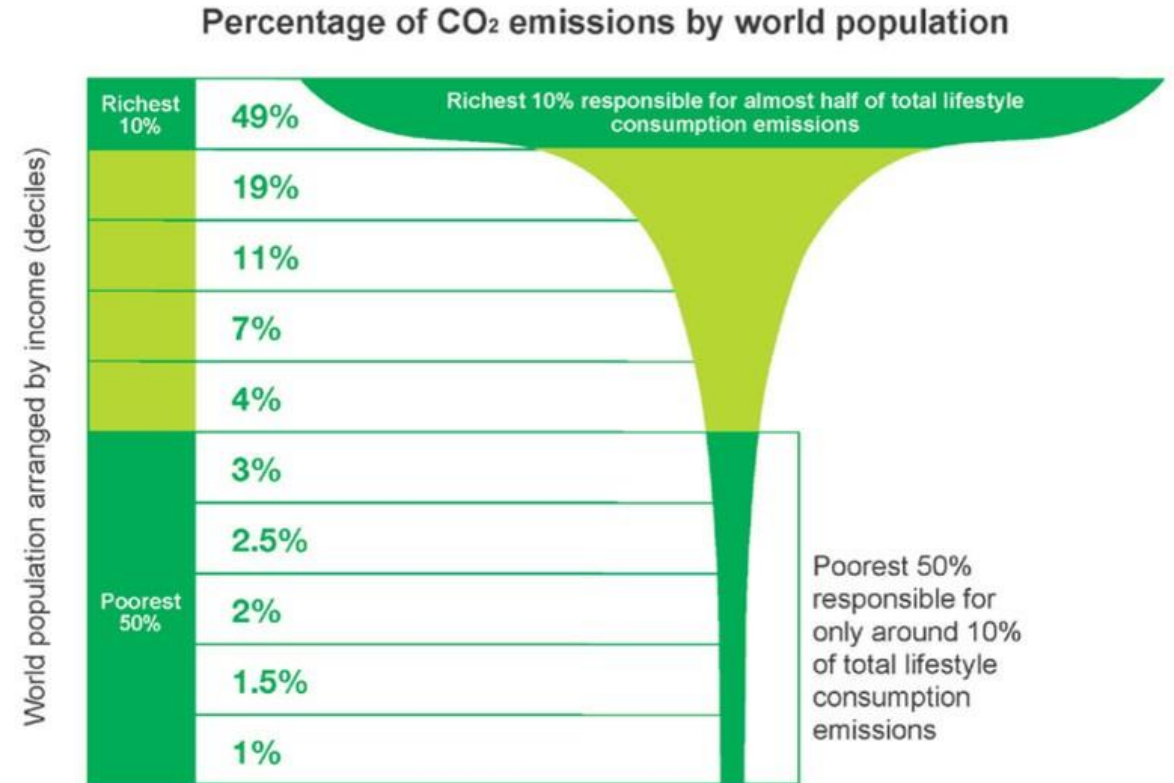


The Commission's commitment to support the development of citizen ownership through renewable and citizen energy communities is commendable but including certain measures related to citizen energy communities within the reform of the EU's gas market rules, could create too many risks, says a letter written by the European Community Power Coalition.

Wrap-up

- Climate crisis is accelerating with devastating impacts especially to the most vulnerable ones
- Inequalities rising
- We have the technological tools available
- It is time to unleash the immense potential of Community Energy so as to accelerate the energy transition through citizens and municipalities participation that results in:
 - Increased local acceptance for Renewables
 - Wider benefits allocation
 - Solidarity that leads to system transformation through social transformation
- EU must provide the right signals

Figure 1: Global income deciles and associated lifestyle consumption emissions



Source: Knoxville Community-Wide Climate Action Plan

Finally..

- Hold your government to account, make sure there is pressure and attention to them
- Read our book, take the first steps in your community
- Get in touch!

THE END

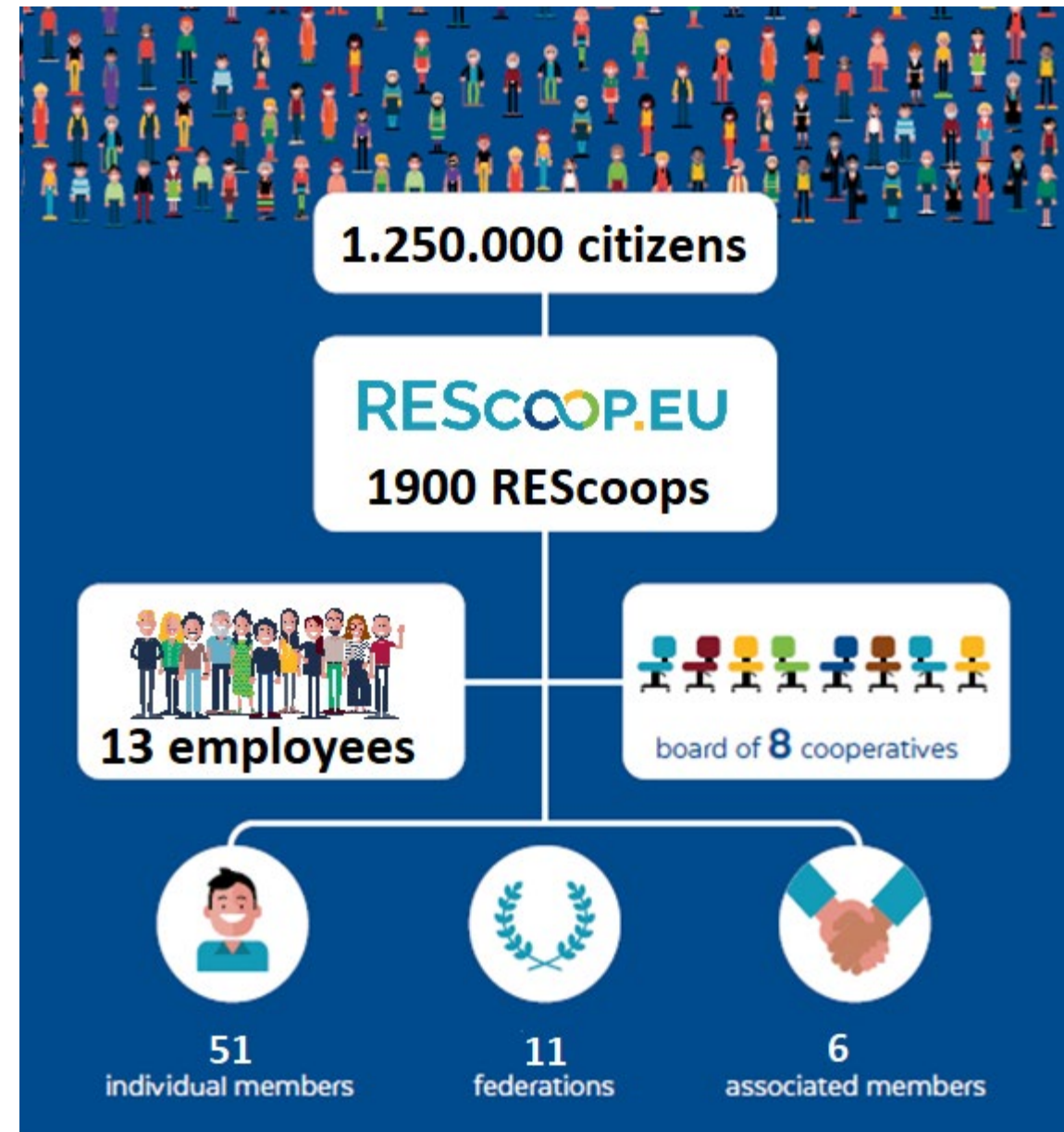
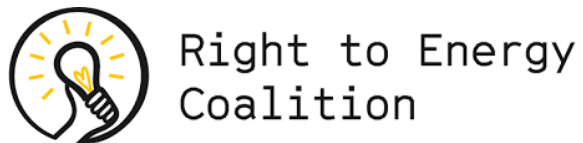
**Climate justice
now.**

Social Innovation in Energy and Energy Communities

Stavroula Pappa, Project Manager, REScoop.eu

14 January 2022

What is REScoop.eu?



REScoop.eu: Cooperative principles applied to the energy sector

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Member Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training, and Information
6. Cooperation among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

REScoops in the energy sector

Production	 
Supply	 
Distribution	
Services (energy efficiency, ICT)	 
Electrical vehicle sharing	 
Financing	 

Energy communities in the CEP: an organisational concept

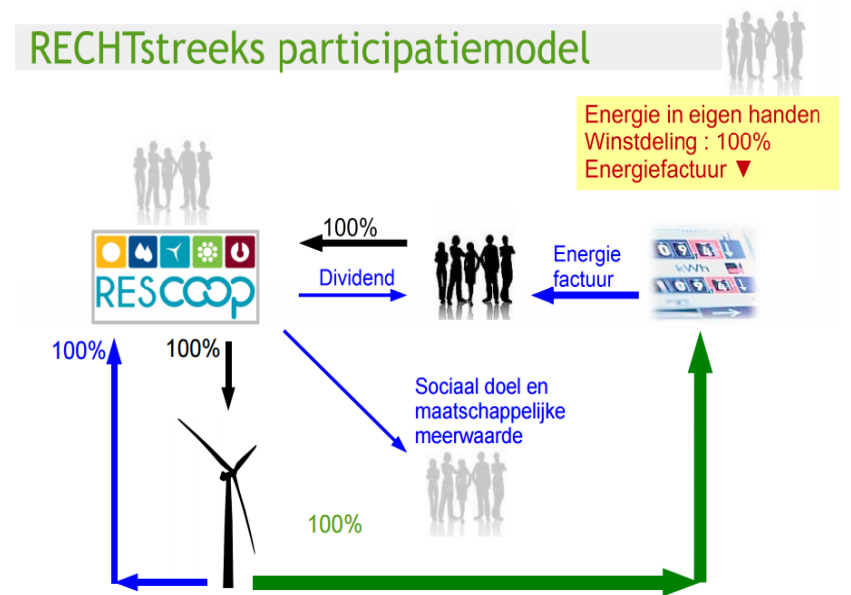
- Legal entity
- Non-commercial purpose
- Open & voluntary membership
- Emphasis on economic participation by citizens, small and medium enterprises and public authorities
- Emphasis on 'effective control' by members not engaged in the energy sector

***For RECs: requirement for autonomy ~~to~~ emphasis on 'local'*

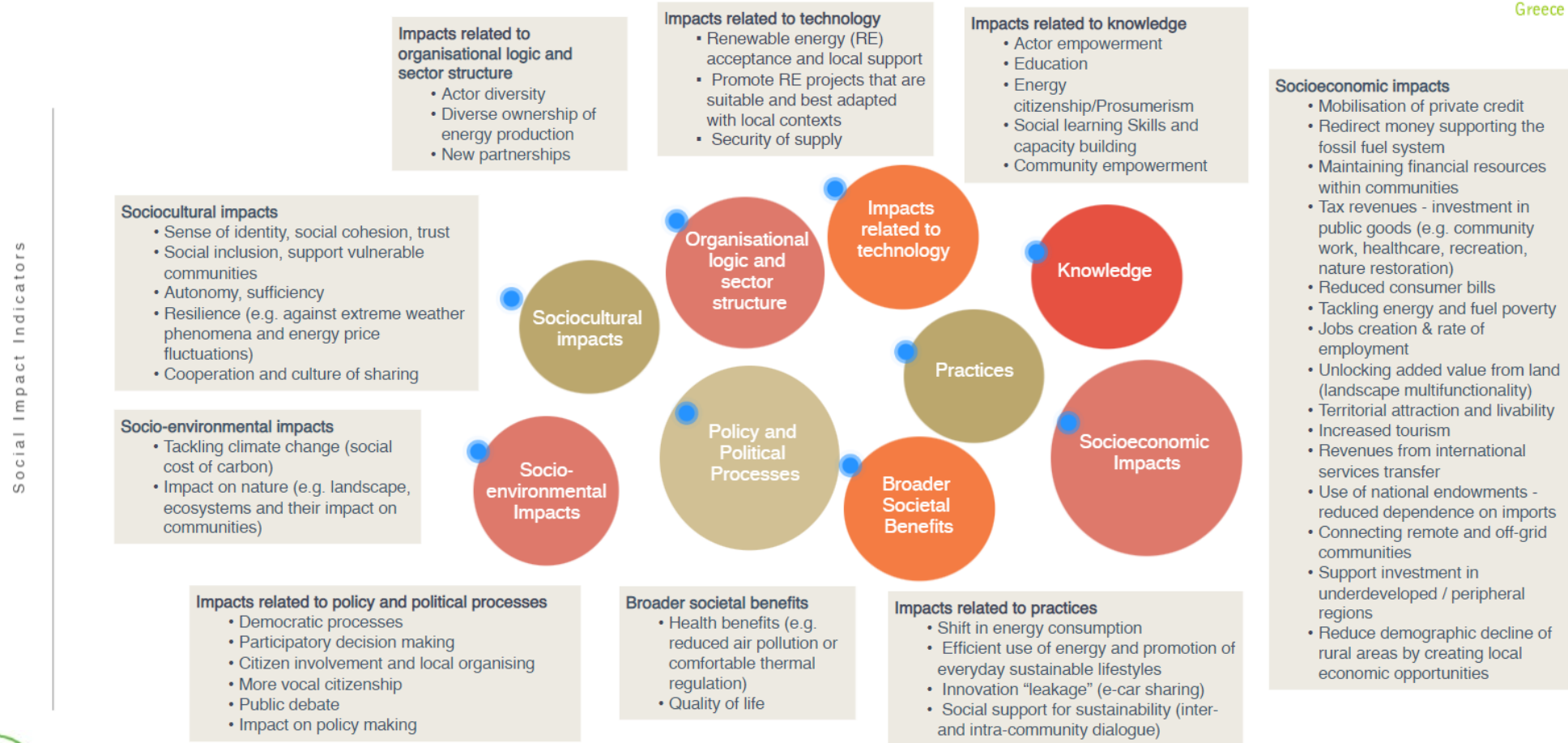


Benefits of community energy ownership

1. Revenues from local renewables to meet local needs (e.g. supply, other services, education, renovations /EE, energy poverty)
2. Democratic community ownership, empowerment
3. Economic benefits for participants (e.g. energy bill savings, return on investment)
4. Public acceptance
5. Promotion of uptake of clean energy technologies & benefits to energy system



Mapping the social impact of energy communities

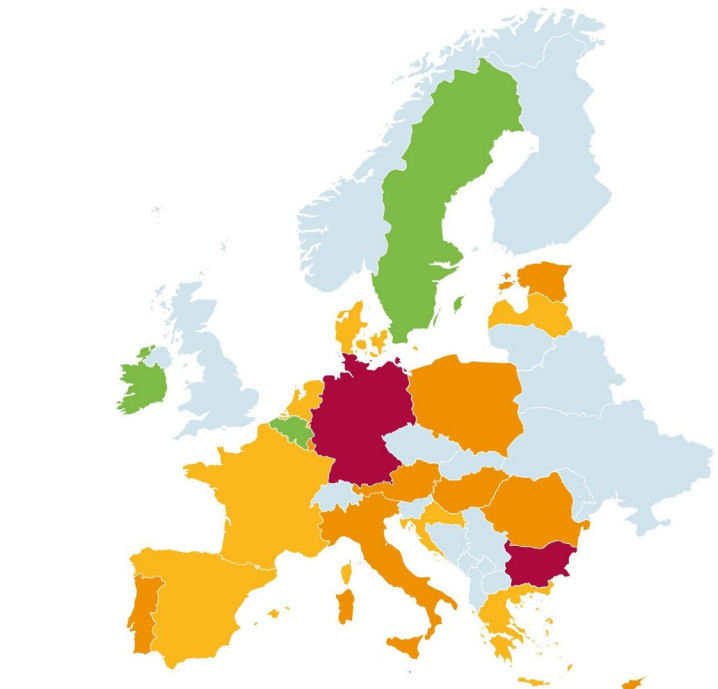
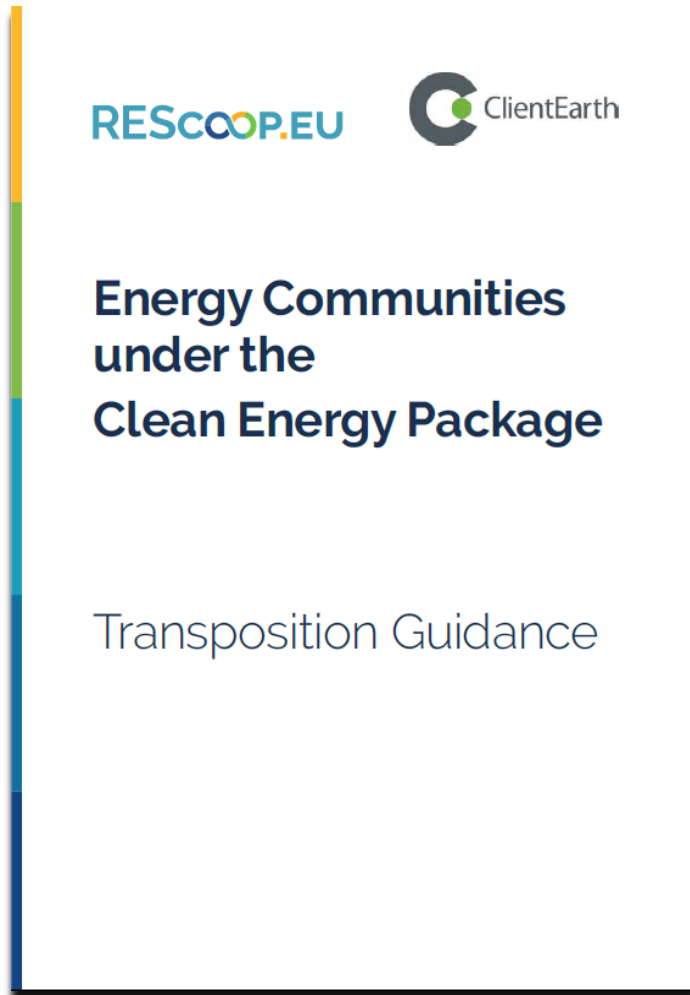


Social impacts associated with energy communities grouped in categories

Fit for 55 Package and energy communities

- Opportunities : further acknowledges the potential of energy communities (new recognition in EED, EPBD and their role in energy poverty)
- Risks:
 - no comprehensive policy on energy poverty
 - Gas energy communities
 - ETS in buildings and transport
- Not to forget the CEP – Implementation is crucial!

REScoop.eu follows the transposition of the clean energy package's provisions on energy communities



REScoop.eu transposition tracker

REScoop.EU

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Part III: Discussion with voted questions



- Submit your questions on the Mentimeter platform (ideally addressed to specific panel members)
- Vote for the questions you think should be discussed by our panel
- We will select the most popular questions for our panellists to discuss
- Several rounds



Part IV: Reflection on Discussion

- Graphic harvest by Carlotta Cataldi
- Responses by our panellists:
“Does this image reflect your perspective of opportunities and challenges of SIE in the Fit for 55 package? Are we missing anything?”





Looking ahead

- Read our Policy Dialogue briefing for more background information
- Event report and reflections on Dialogue outcomes will be online early Spring '22
- January 27: SONNET on tour Central and Eastern Europe
- April 28/29: Final SONNET conference in Antwerp
- New Breakfast at Sustainability's events coming up
- **Stay in touch! @SONNET_energy/
info@sonnet-energy.eu**

Social Innovation in Energy Meets the Fit for 55 Package

Policy opportunities and challenges



BRIEFING in advance of the SONNET policy dialogue, hosted as part of the Breakfast at Sustainability's event series, on 14 January 2022.

SONNET

27 January 2022 | 10:00-13:15 (CET) | online
**Social innovation in energy in
Central and Eastern Europe**