UNFCCC SB58 - BONN, GERMANY

SIDE EVENT: INFORSE - FRAUNHOFER - REScoop.eu - SE

Saturday, 10 June, 2023

Time: 14:45-16:00   Room: Berlin

Sustainable Lifestyles for Climate Action and Policies for ALL

FULFILL

Project Funded by the Horizon 2020 Research & Innovation Programme of the European Union

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SustainableEnergy

INFORSE
International Network for Sustainable Energy

Fraunhofer

INFORSE-EUROPE
International Network for Sustainable Energy

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ASSOCIATION négaWatt

Zalā brīvība

Who is RESCoop.EU ?

- European Federation of Citizen Energy Cooperatives

- Not for profit association

- Based in Belgium

- Founded in 2013

- 1.900+energy cooperatives

- 1 250+ million EU citizens

What is an energy cooperative?

- Groups of citizens who jointly cooperate on energy transition projects

- Legal entity (many times adopts the cooperative form)

- 7 ICA principles

  - Voluntary and open membership

  - Democratic member control

  - Member economic participation

  - Autonomy and independence

  - Education, training and information

  - Cooperation among cooperatives

  - Concern for Community

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Acknowledgement at EU level: the 2019 Clean Energy for all Europeans Package

- **½ of EU citizens could be producing their own energy by 2050, meeting 45% of the EU's energy demand. 89% could be participating in some sort of energy system activity** (e.g., demand response)

- RECs = Recast Directive 2018/2001 (Renewable Energy Directive II, or REDII)
- CECs = Recast Directive 2019/944 (the Internal Electricity Market Directive, or IEMD)

- Requires Member States to secure certain rights of energy communities and establish enabling frameworks to ensure a level playing field and promote their development.
  - Deadline of transposition: summer 2021

What kind of activities do citizen energy cooperatives focus on?

- Production

- Supply

- Distribution

- Flexibility – Storage, Demand response, & VPP

- Energy monitoring

- District heating

- Transportation - E-car sharing

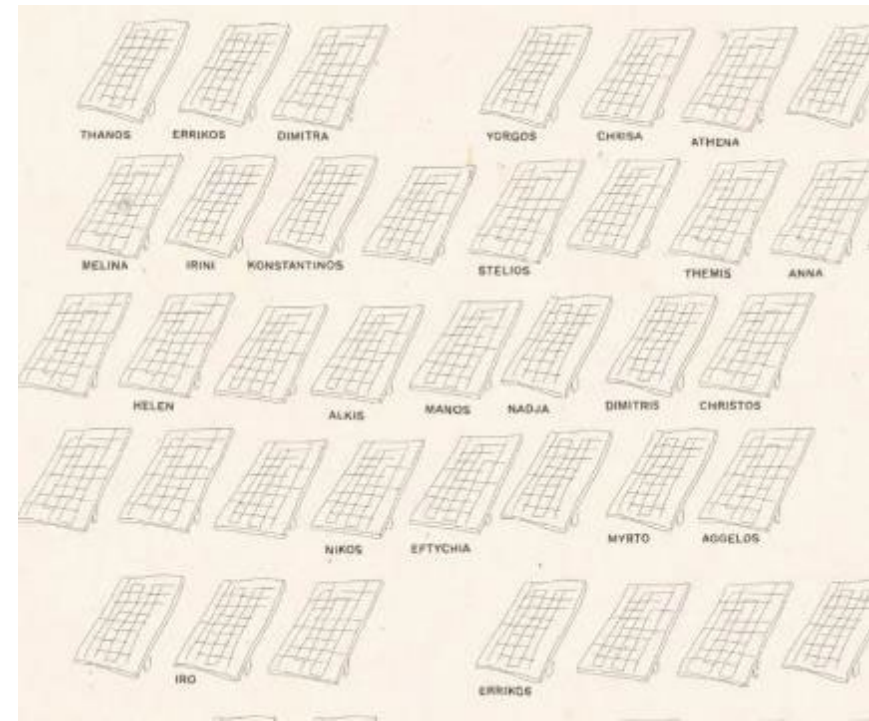- Energy savings - Collective home retrofits

Citizen Led Renovation & Community Heating and Cooling

- Buildings are responsible **for 36% of GHG** emissions, and **H&C represents 50%** of our energy consumption.

- In Ireland, a local energy community has renovated over **800 homes** and 25 communal buildings, they have seen **8.8GWh of energy savings**.

- In Denmark **75%** of all district heating systems are owned by cooperatives

- Profits from these activities are are re-invested in the local community, creating added value and jobs.

Transforming how we use energy (and other resources)

- Decommodifying energy: moving from profit orientation to self-sufficiency
  - Across the EU, energy cooperatives own projects of 7.2–9.9 GW capacity, i.e., able to cover the needs of their 2+ million members

- Reinvesting profits into their local communities

- Tackling energy poverty (Hyperion - Greece)

Democratic governance

- In many EU countries energy communities function under a 1 member = 1 vote system.

- Transparency checks and balances (GA, BOD, Oversight Board)

- Gender Equality & Inclusion Action Plans (Goiener is a good example!) /
  - REScoop working to make this a statutory commitment

PEOPLE POWER NOW!

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In the (k)now: climate finance

- 2020-2030: decade of implementation.
  From 'what' to 'how'

- Climate finance dominating global
  climate politics (including COPs)

- Finding the money, but also channeling it
  towards the right directions

- To de-risk community energy
  investments and crowd-in private finance,
  public finance is needed

Public Financing Tracker: Purpose and objectives

This tracker is a collaboration between **REScoop.eu, CEE Bankwatch Network and CAN-Europe.** Its purpose is to inform community energy practitioners and policy makers of the availability of supportive programs for Energy Communities at National level.

Key objectives

1. Create **transparency** in the utilisation of EU funds.
2. **Support conversations** with managing authorities, and **allow for civil participation**.
3. **Provide guidance** to set up successful programs dedicated to energy communities.

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Building the map

Methodological Steps

1. Mobilised campaigners from various Member States -> combed through national plans

2. Corroborating the findings: Bilateral discussions with NGOs & Managing Authorities

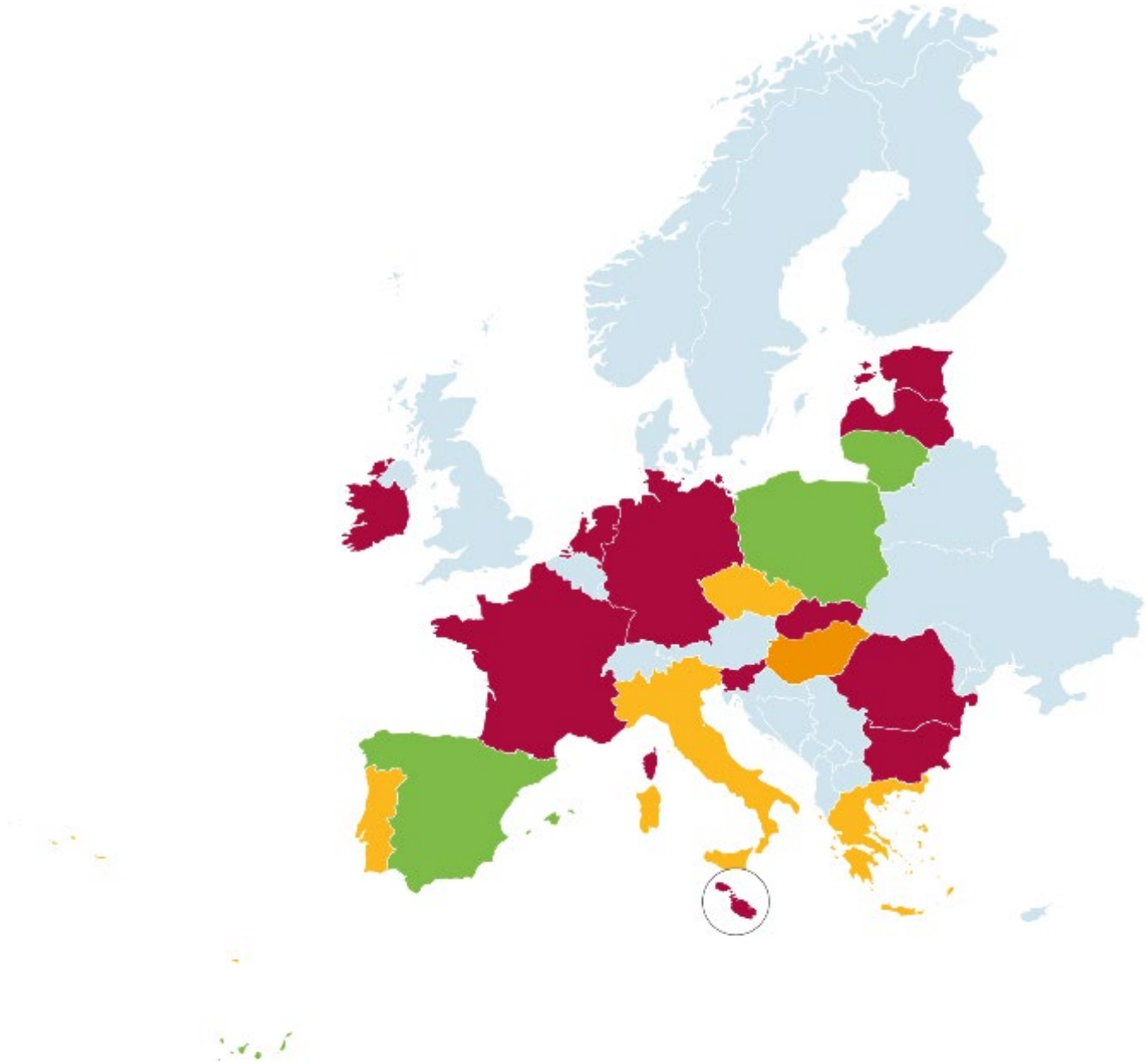**Colour assignment based on Analytical Framework**

*   Allocation & transposition

*   Link to a wider scope of activities and objectives
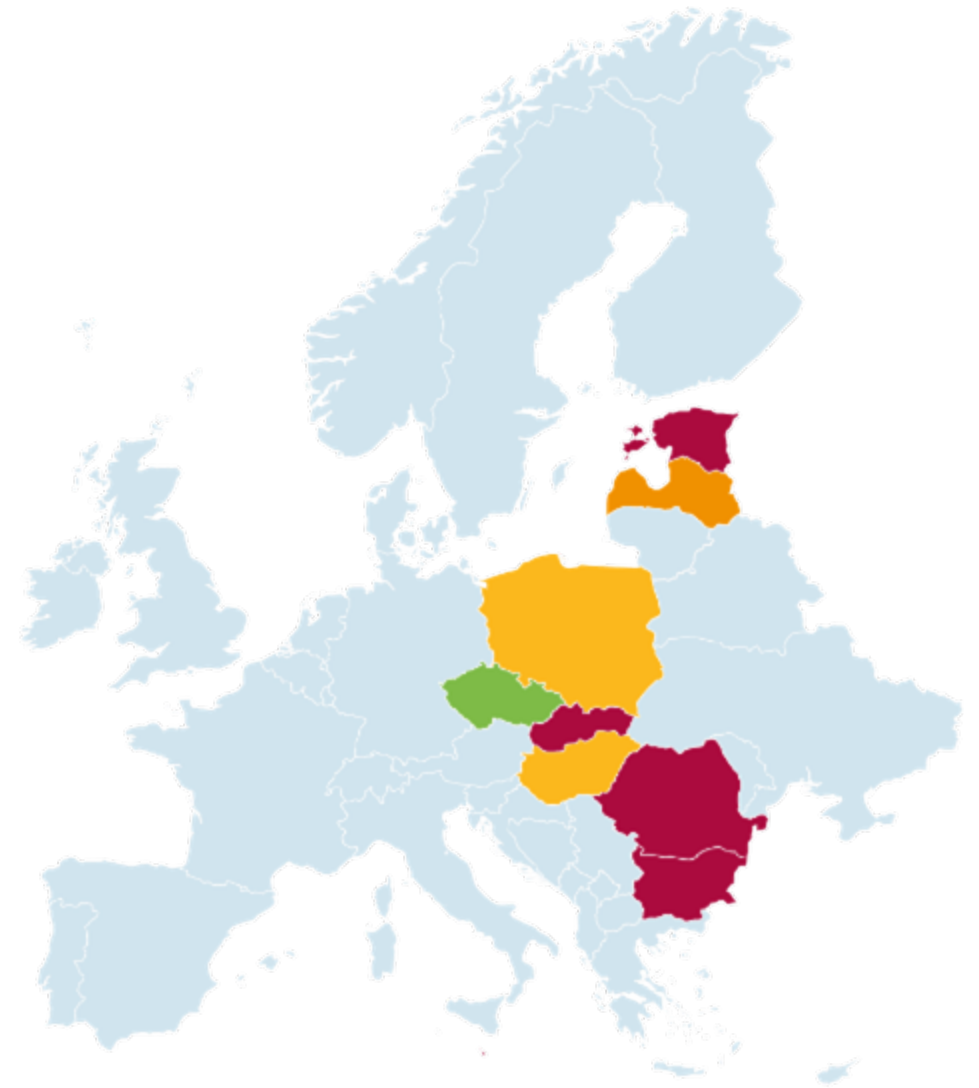
*   Transparency and inclusiveness

Colour Grading

Here is an explanation of the logic behind the colours:

🟥 No mentions of energy communities or related concepts	🟧 Mentions of energy communities but in a limited capacity

🟨 Specific mentions of energy communities, but limited to a specific type of actor or activity

🟩 Specific mentions of energy communities with a full scope of activities and actors included

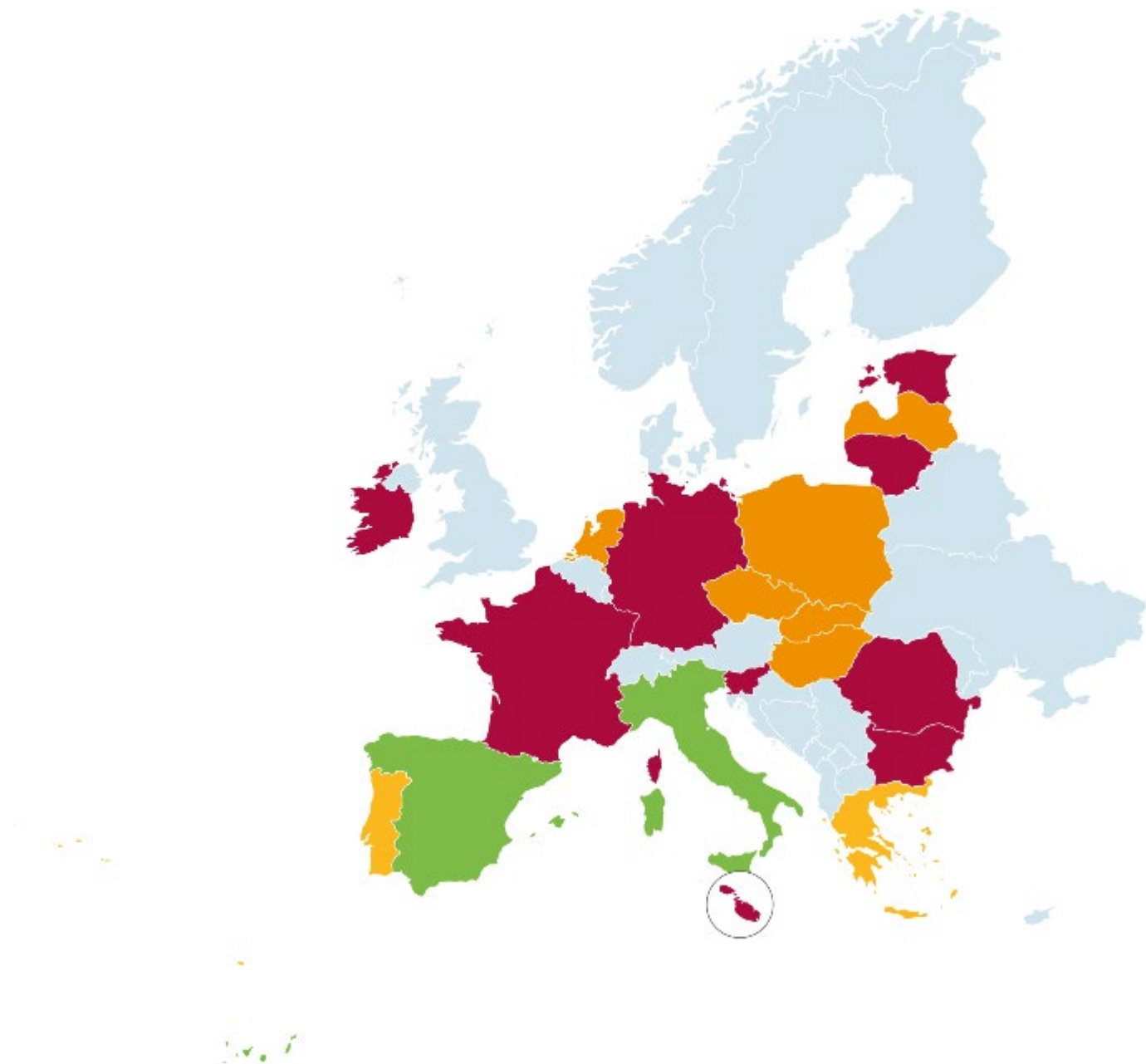RESCOOP.EU

Recovery and Resilience Fund (19 Member States)

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Modernisation Fund

Cohesion & ERDF

What makes Italy and Spain stand out?

- They integrate specific budget lines for ECs OPs

- Alignment with EU definitions & set strong social criteria to tackle corporate capture (minimum citizen inclusion, tackling energy poverty…) and promote a just, inclusive transition

- Holistic support: legal, admin, capacity building, grid connections / in most cases only parts of the project development chain are targeted

- Process is transparent and inclusive (civil society + ECs are part of the Monitoring Committees)

Explore our tracker!

https://www.rescoop.eu/financing-tracker

Civil society in CEE is ringing the alarm bell: EU funds must not be misused

https://www.ceeweb.org/ducuments/publications/EUKI_CSO_position_paper.pdf

- Money is spent without transparency, or CSO involvement -> pervasive risk of corruption

- Investments that counter the EU's goals / REPowerEU proposals to fund fossil fuels!

- Bureaucracy & red tape discourages smaller actors

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Other policies to unlock the potential of energy communities

- One Stop Shops: aggregating information, easy access

- Permitting: bike lanes for energy communities (add social elements to tackle corporate capture)

- Legal framework & policy targets: transpose the EU Directives and set % policy tagets by 2030-40 (NL, Scotland)

- Creating a level playing regulatory field: simplify administrative processes, provide financial incentives

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