



European Sustainable Energy Seminar

17-19 August, 2026

Venue: Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy, Ydby, Denmark



Energy Communities and their Roles in a Just Transition. Good Examples, Barriers, Next Steps on EU-Level

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Presentation is part of Proceedings: [https://inforse.org/europe/seminar_2026 INFORSE-Europe Denmark.htm](https://inforse.org/europe/seminar_2026_INFORSE-Europe_Denmark.htm)



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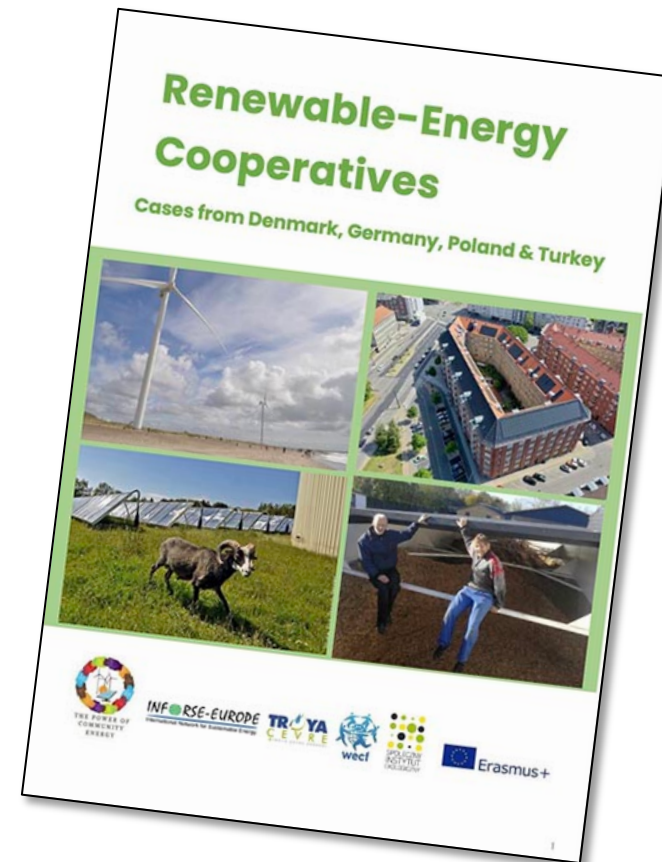
International Network for Sustainable Energy - Europe - Cooperation for Community Energy

Gunnar Boye Olesen



Energy Communities

INFORSE-Europe promotes local solutions, as Community Energy, as important elements in the transition to 100% renewable energy that INFORSE is working for



Energy Communities

Energy Communities

- Energy communities are groups of local people who produce and use energy together.
- They usually use renewable energy, such as solar or wind power.
- The energy is produced and used locally in the same area.
- This helps reduce dependence on large energy companies.
- People in the community decide together how the energy is produced and used.



Energy Communities

8 Reasons to Start or Join a Community Energy Project

- To fight the climate crisis.
- Keep money in your local community.
- Reduce energy poverty in your area.
- Strengthen your community neighborhood, meet new people.
- Produce your own clean renewable energy.
- Educate others about energy, climate, and democracy.
- Inspire other communities to act.
- Create the kind of sustainable world you want to live in.

- INFORSE-Europe participates in European coalitions for community energy, for energy efficiency with ecodesign etc, and in Climate Action Network.
- We involve our members in common positions and projects to strengthen the work for local energy in Europe and nationally.
- Several members are active energy communities
- INFORSE-Europe participated in the Power of Community Energy Project, 2019-2022

Many Energy Communities in the EU



CommonEn: 55 greek people share and sell power through the public grid with virtual measuring of total energy



The NGO KESZ install solar power plants as energy communities in cultural houses with state support, 60 kW on the Juranyi cultural center in Budapest and others



In Portugal 3900 share power through the energy community Coopernico

Danish Energy Communities

- 350 district heating companies are cooperatives
- Ca. 50 windmill guilds (cooperatives) that own windmills
- Ca. 50 energy community initiatives that want to share electricity across the public grid
- 3 operating energy communities that share electricity across the public grid, but difficult rules
- More and more sharing electricity inside building with own grid connected to public grid

Difficult Danish Rules for Energy Communities

- Minimum implementation of EU directive articles for energy efficiency: no use of public grids, very limited supporting frameworks, minimal preferential treatment compared with other producers and users of public grids
- No sharing of electricity in own network in a plot with more buildings
- In 2026 started local tarif, but only for electricity users within one 400V/10 kV transformer (as 200 dwellings or small business + institutions + fewer dwellings)

EU Citizens' Energy Package

- Launched March 10, 2026 as a communication and part of the Affordable Energy Action Plan, followed with more details in April. Main parts relevant for energy communities:
- Propose 10-doubling of citizen energy communities by 2030, regulation on inter-operability for easy electricity sharing
- Propose reduced tariffs for use of electricity networks to share electricity locally, flexible consumption
- Proposal for better access to clean energy for low-income citizens (proposal 4th quarter 2026)
- Reduce energy poverty by EU help to countries
- Implementing EU regulation better for energy communities

Next EU Steps for Energy Communities

- Follow and support implementation of The Citizens' Energy Package at EU level and in countries
- Include priority grid access for local energy communities. with the “permitting directive” for local energy communities. Recognise their potential to reduce grid extension, when they combine local production and use of electricity in a coordinated way.
- Follow up on the The Citizen Energy Package with creating support opportunities in the new budget period from 2028.

Thank you



- Read <https://inforse.org/europe>

