



**REGIONS
& CITIES**

European Week
Brussels 7-10 October 2019

Leveraging the Power of Local Stakeholders for Europe's Clean Energy Transition



**European Committee
of the Regions**

CLEAN ENERGY FOR EU ISLANDS

Clean Energy for EU Islands Pledge

Accepting the reality of climatic change and associated risks facing humanity, we islanders commit ourselves to concerted, practical action to enhance the sustainable wellbeing and resilience of our communities via decarbonising our local energy systems and economies.

As islanders together, we recognise that our communities can be especially vulnerable to extreme weather conditions affecting local infrastructure and communications.

We recognise that our own choices as consumers and behaviour as citizens makes a measurable difference to the climate of our home island communities and beyond.

We are aware of other islands successfully rising to the challenges of decarbonising energy generation and supply using many different means.

We are keen to exchange knowledge and share experiences with our peers on other islands.

We recognise ourselves as key stakeholders in the development of effective strategies for reducing carbon emissions in our own island context.

We aspire to early engagement and collaboration with relevant specialists and authorities at every level of governance to inform and inspire local plans to reduce every island's dependence upon fossil fuels.

We invite the collaboration of supportive technical experts to help build the capacity of every island to shape priorities and tailor details of its own low carbon sustainability programme.

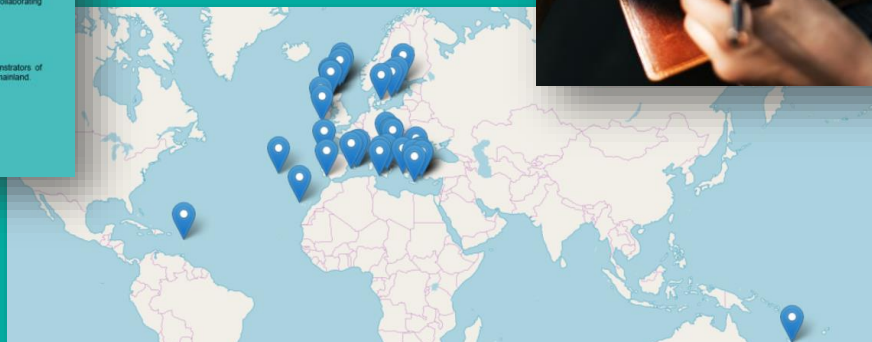
We share a common cause in reducing carbon emissions, and commit to collaborating with each other to better address our respective island challenges.

We expect to achieve valuable synergies through concerted action.

We plan to share stories of our progress.

We aspire to being frontrunners of the clean energy transition, and demonstrators of small-scale low carbon technologies to inform strategic developments on the mainland.

To this end,





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Energy Communities, new kids on the block?

Dirk Vansintjan, president of





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- **What is a REScoop? What is REScoop.eu?**
- **What is a Renewable Energy Community/Citizen Energy Community?**
- **What is the advantage for a local/regional authority to collaborate with an Energy Community?**
- **How can local/regional authorities support the creation of energy communities?**
- **Example: Licht Vlaams-Brabant**





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What is REScoop.eu? What is a REScoop?

- REScoop is short for renewable energy sources cooperative, and refers to a business model where citizens jointly own and participate in renewable energy or energy efficiency projects. We are also referred to as community power or community energy initiatives.
- REScoop.eu is the European federation of these initiatives (1500<3500, 1M EU-citizens)
- REScoops do not necessarily have the legal statute of a cooperative, but rather distinguish themselves by the way they do business. They typically respect 7 principles that have been duly outlined by the International Cooperative Alliance:
 - Voluntary and Open Membership
 - Democratic Member Control
 - Economic Participation through Direct Ownership
 - Autonomy and Independence
 - Education, Training and Information
 - Cooperation among Cooperatives
 - Concern for Community





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- **Benefits**

REScoops are leading the energy transition to energy democracy, and make it possible for citizens to actively participate in renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.

The REScoop model has many advantages:

- **REScoops foster social acceptance for renewable energy**

Local opposition to renewable energy projects (typically wind turbines) decreases when citizens are given the opportunity to invest in and co-own the production installations. This is especially true when local citizens are involved from the very start of the project. Stakeholder involvement and direct citizen participation foster social acceptance for renewable energy. Local citizens not only share in the profits, they also have access to clean energy at a fair price.



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- **REScoops keep the individual investment affordable**

Not everyone has a roof suitable for solar panels, nor does everyone have the financial capacity to make such an investment. REScoop production installations are typically owned by a large group of citizens, keeping the individual investment affordable.

- **REScoops benefit the local community**

REScoops have a clear concern for the community. They usually share part of the profits with their members and use the rest to develop new projects or benefit the local community as a whole. Some REScoops for example have financed the construction of a local sustainable concert hall, while others erected a charging point for electrical vehicles. In other words, all citizens benefit from the projects and the profits that they generate.





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- **REScoops take action on energy efficiency**

The revenues that result from renewable energy projects are often used to finance energy efficiency measures in public buildings. Some REScoops have paid for insulation material for public buildings, while others pay the wage of a local energy expert who helps citizens and the local municipality improve their overall energy efficiency.

- **REScoops keep money in the local economy**

REScoops use local energy sources and include local citizens. Thus they keep money within the local community that would otherwise be lost. In addition, REScoops stimulate local employment and boost the local economy.





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- **What is a Renewable Energy Community/Citizen Energy Community (CE4AE)?**

An Energy Community is a legal entity where citizens, SMEs and local authorities come together, as final users of energy, to cooperate in the generation, consumption distribution, storage, supply, aggregation of energy from renewable sources, or offer energy efficiency/demand side management services.

REScoop.eu argues that the EU Member States should recognise that energy communities contribute to social innovation and regional development objectives, as defined by the Commission. The definition of an energy community should be framed concretely around governing statutes of entities that integrate the following operative principles that distinguish them from traditional commercial energy undertakings:





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- **Concern for community** – the aim of the undertaking is to provide economic, social and environmental benefits for their members or the local area or areas where they are active, rather than being profit driven
- **Provide for open, voluntary participation** - Membership in an energy community is open to all persons, SME's, organization,... as final users of its services and that are willing to accept the responsibilities of membership.
- **Democratic governance of the undertaking** – direct democratic governance based on equal decision making rights (i.e. one-person-one-vote)
- **Autonomy and independence** – the undertaking is controlled by the members or shareholders who are participating as final users; outside investors or undertakings participating in the community must not have a controlling position within the board





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What is the advantage for a local/regional authority to collaborate with an Energy Community?

How can local/regional authorities support the creation of energy communities?

Example:



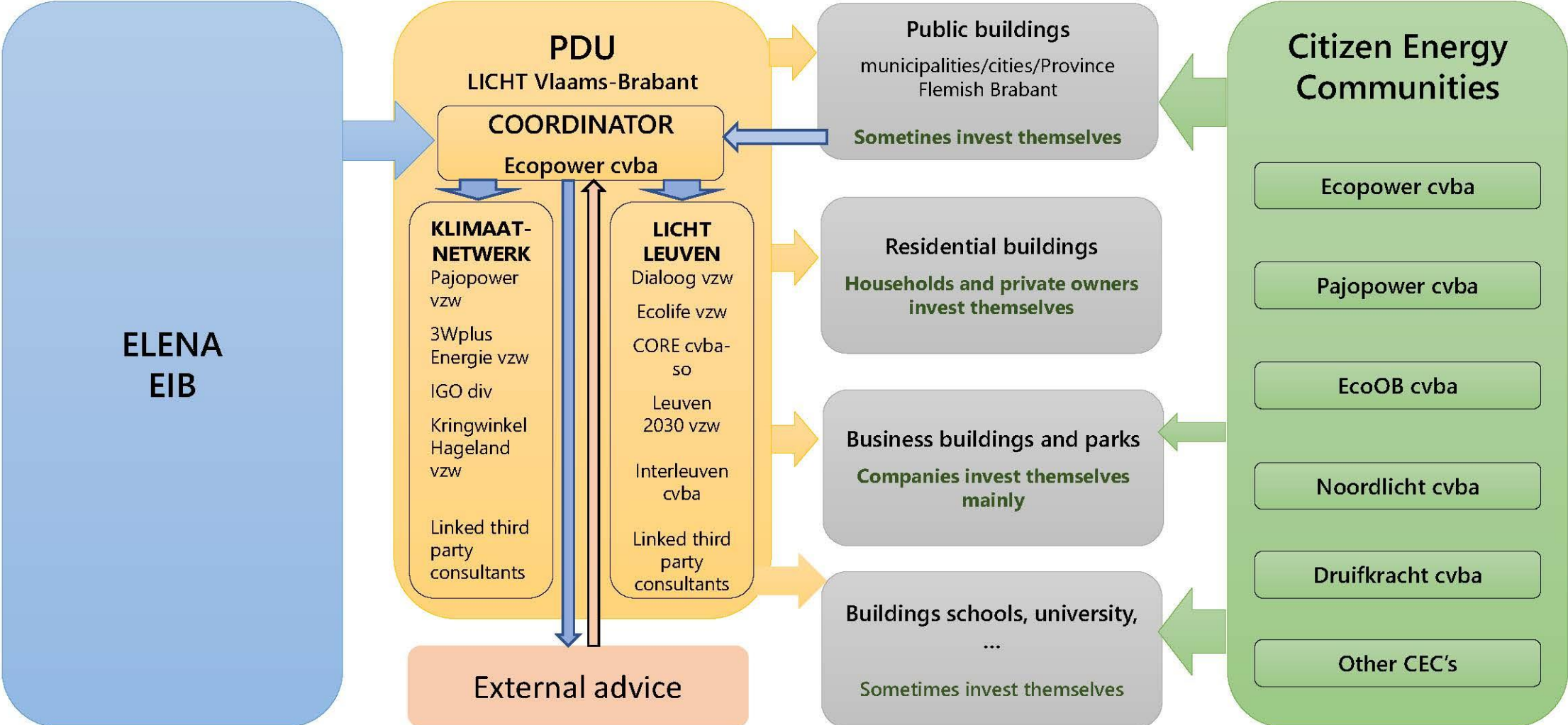
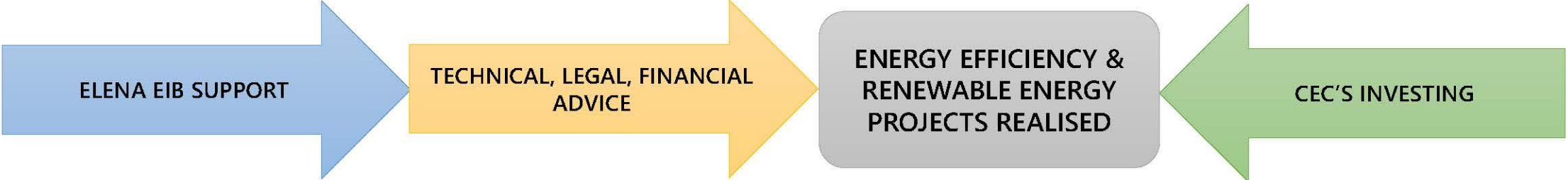


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- **Flanders 2017:** one big REScoop: Ecopower (50.000 members, 1,4% households, producer/supplier), 10 other smaller/small REScoops (5000 members, producers): together 4% of wind turbines
- **City of Leuven May 2017:** chooses Ecopower as its strategic partner to accelerate the energy transition: creation of consortium Licht Leuven
- **Licht Vlaams-Brabant 2019**
 - 9 Licht groups of volunteers
 - 4 new REScoops/ECCO's?
 - ELENA proposal: aggregation of projects of 30 municipalities, 46 M€





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

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La Palma Renewable

Leveraging the power of local stakeholders for
Europe's clean energy transition



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***La Palma
Renouvelable***



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La Palma Island

706 km² (> 50% protected)
83.159 inhabitants (2017)

643.500 Mwh (primary energy)
95,7% fossil fuels



The story of a citizen movement

- Ruta por la soberanía energética
- Manifiesto del electrón
- PINCE

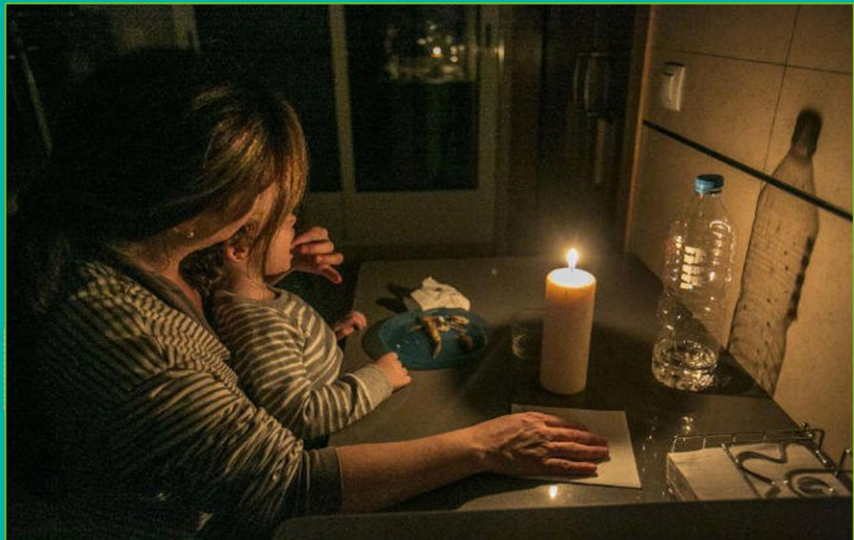




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What do we do?



Cantera Energética



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La Palma
Renovable

FIESTA DEL
AUTOCONSUMO
ENERGÉTICO

SÁBADO 29 DE JUNIO 9:30-22:00 H
CASA DE LA CULTURA DE LOS LLANOS DE ARIDANE

Fiesta!!



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Clean Energy for EU Islands

- Signing the pledge

**PARTICIPA EN LA CONSTRUCCIÓN
DE LA AGENDA DE TRANSICIÓN
ENERGÉTICA DE LA PALMA**



La Palma
Renovable



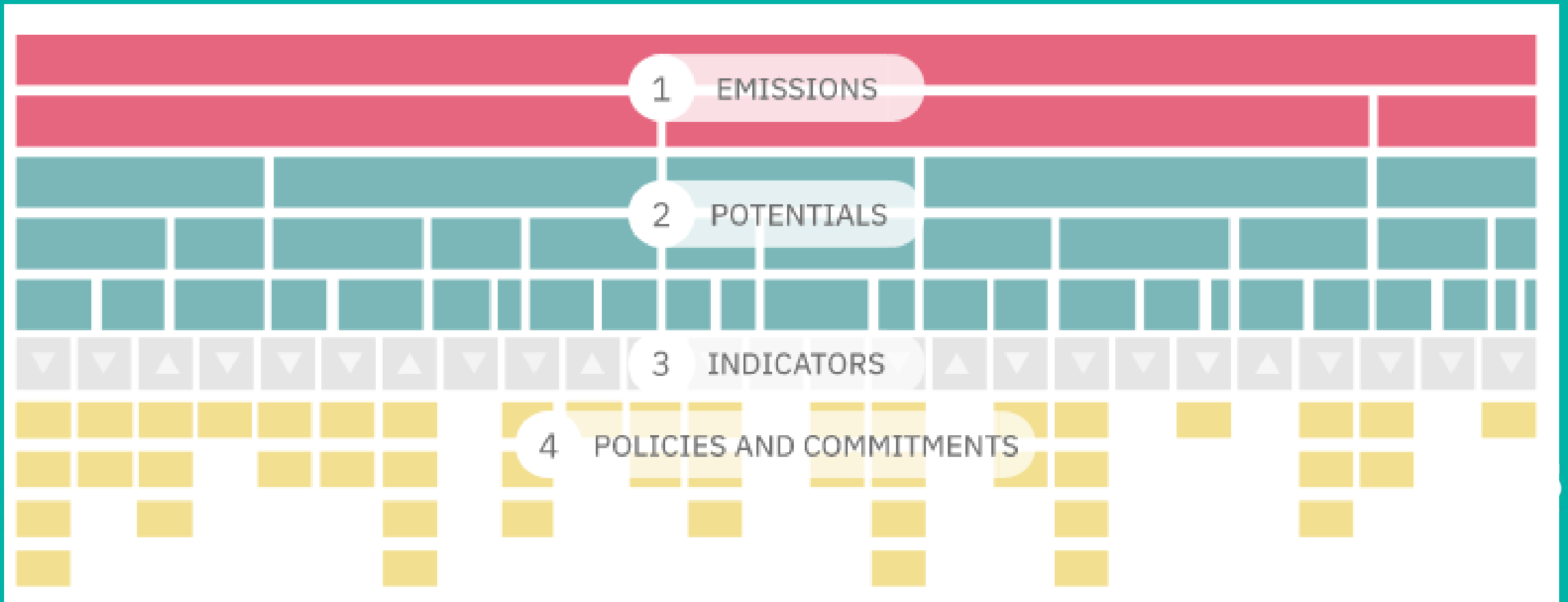


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- Collaboratively writing the transition agenda + ClimateView

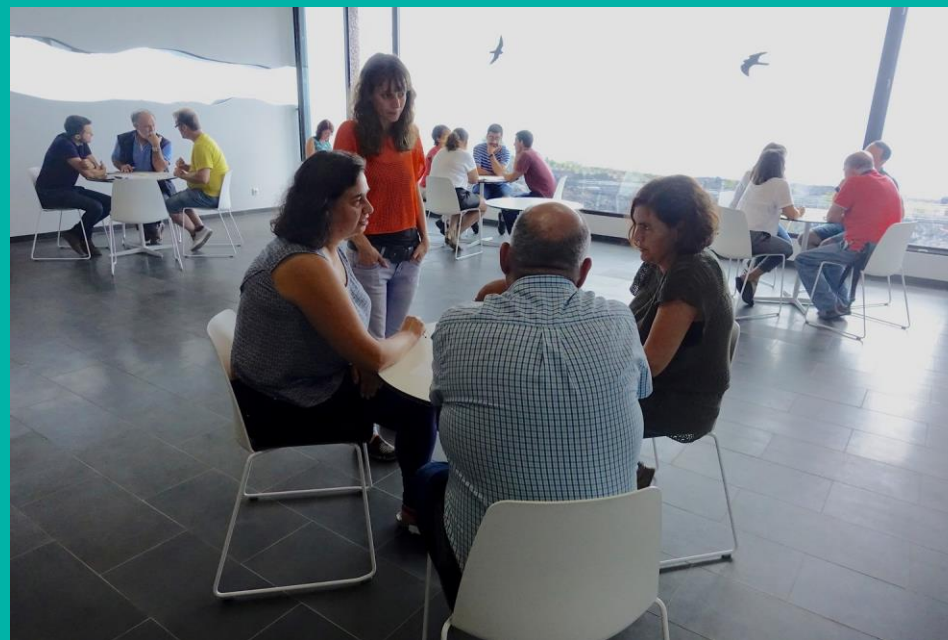


- Sectorial Workshops



Clean Energy for EU Islands

- Sectorial Workshops





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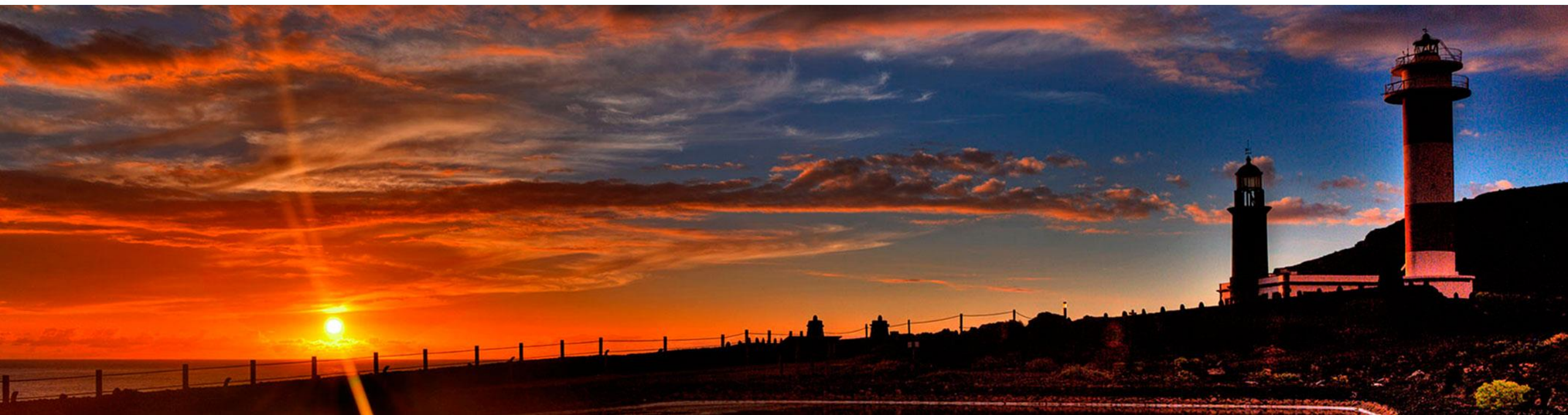
- Transversal Workshop



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Community Power



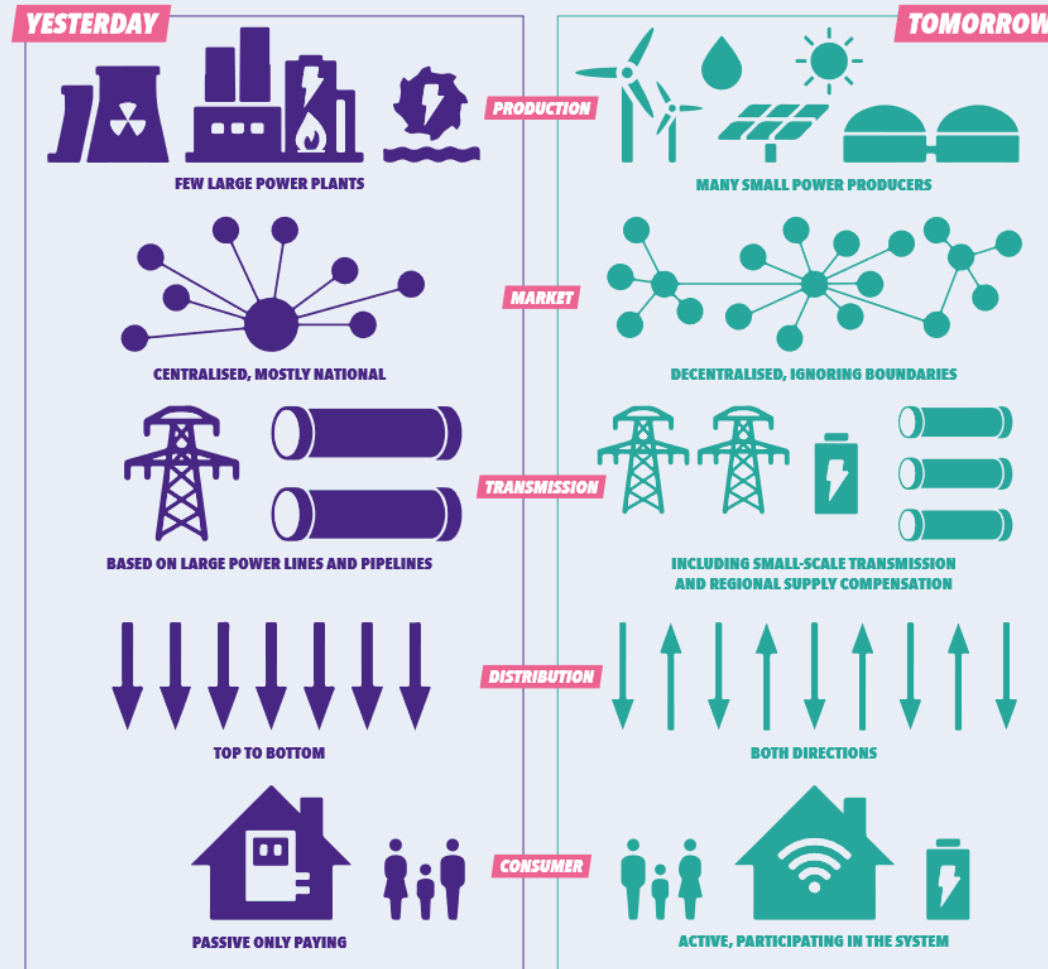
Ivan Zoković, Island Movement, Croatia



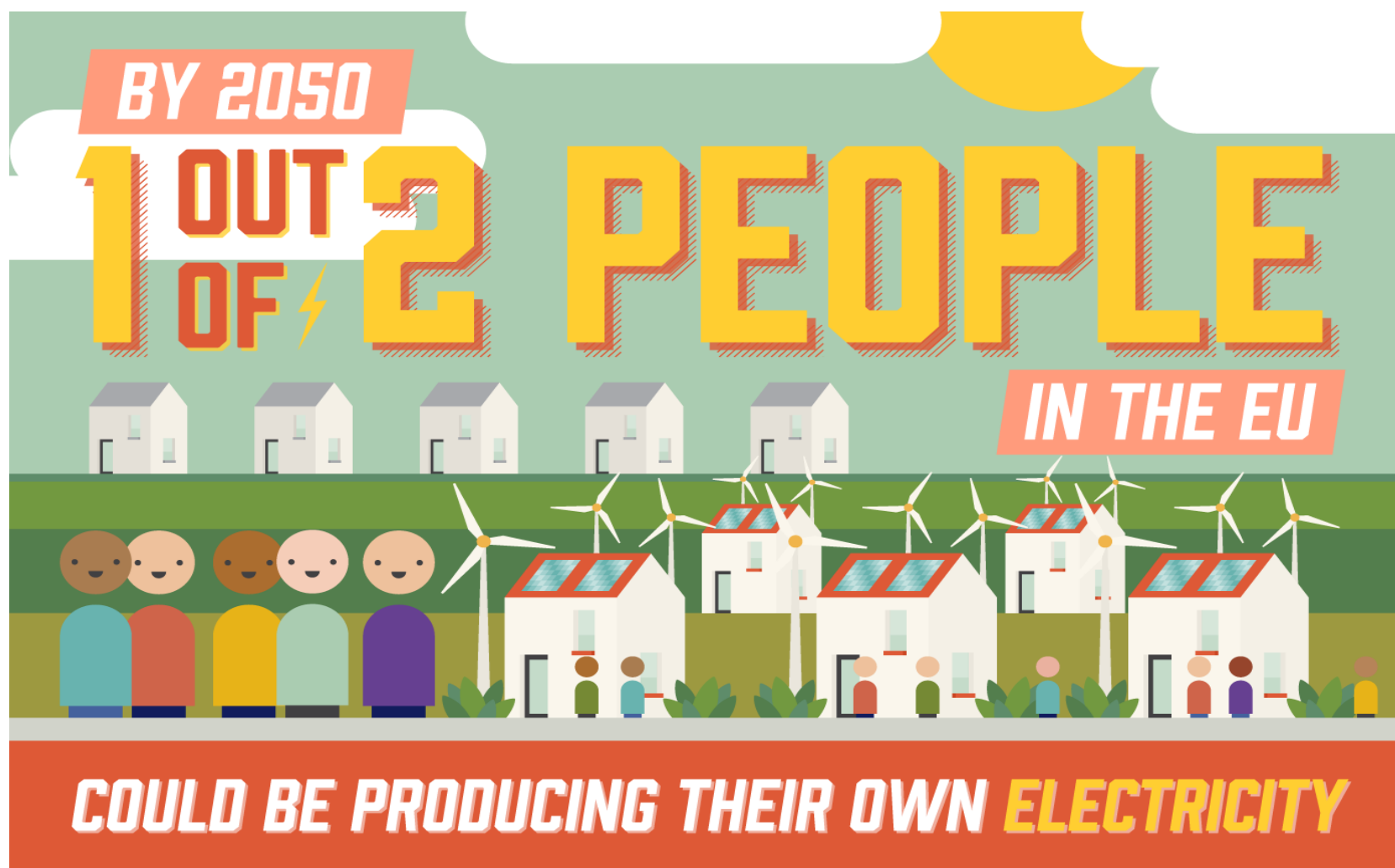
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STAYING BIG OR GETTING SMALLER?

Expected structural changes in the energy system made possible by the increased use of digital tools



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BY 2050
1 OUT OF 2 PEOPLE
IN THE EU
COULD BE PRODUCING THEIR OWN ELECTRICITY

BY 2050

264

MILLION

**PEOPLE IN THE EU
COULD BE PRODUCING
THEIR OWN ELECTRICITY**



Co-Design

Crowdsourcing

Crowdfunding

Crowdinvesting



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Get ready to ask questions!

1

How can local and regional authorities support the creation of energy communities?
Expert: Dirk Vansintjan

2

What are the challenges and opportunities around collaboration with citizens?
Expert: Laura Piñero Prieto

3

How can I plan and implement a crowdfunding campaign for a clean energy project?
Expert: Ivan Zokovic

4

Why are local authorities winning by collaborating with citizens?
Expert: Nuria Albet Torres

5

What are the barriers in financing local energy transition, and how can we overcome them?
Expert: Andy Deacon

