



Energy communities – EU legislation and support initiatives

Interact webinar, 8.10.2025

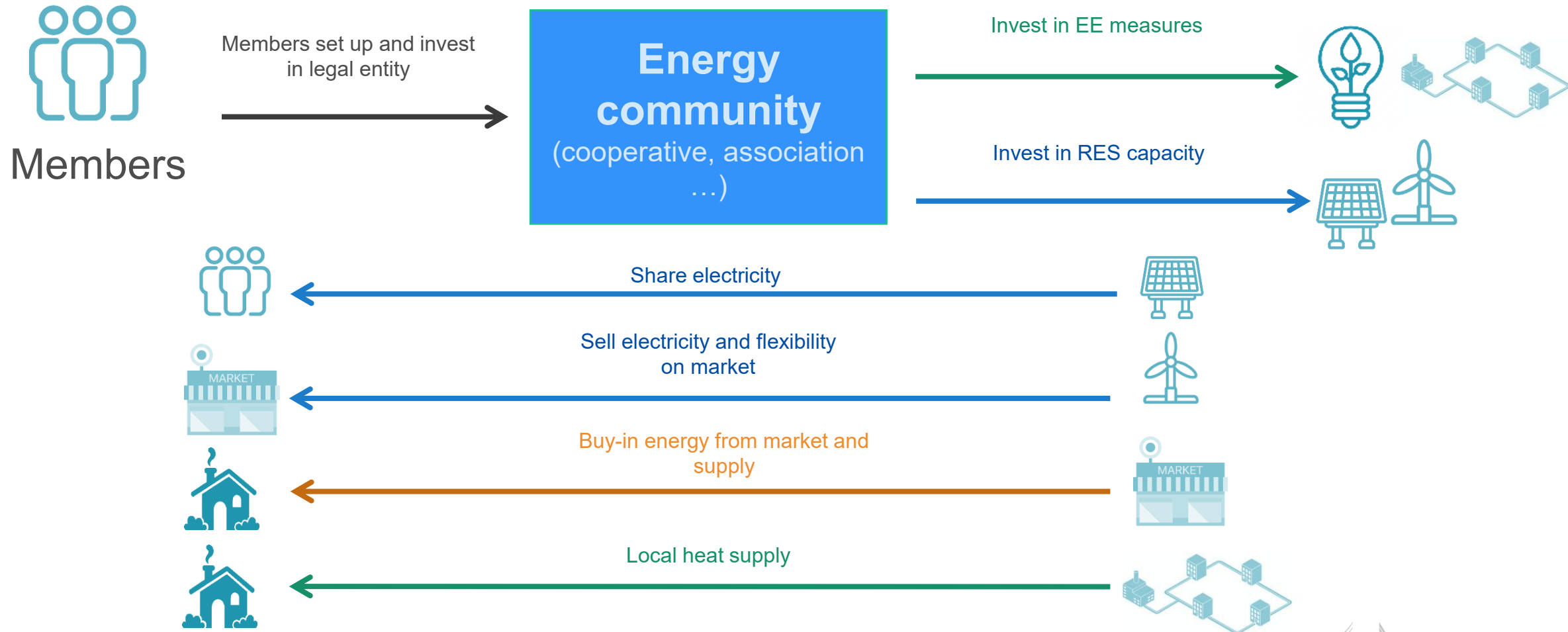
Vera Kissler, European Commission, DG ENER, Unit C1

Business models and benefits of energy communities

Energy communities – what is it?

- **A legal entity** (cooperative, association, limited liability company etc.)
- That **brings together citizens, SMEs and local authorities**, allowing them to become active in the transition;
- With a **voluntary and open** organisational structure;
- To collectively **produce, store, share, supply or consume** renewable energy (heat/electricity);
- And **reinvest benefits within the community**, therefore reinforcing solidarity between members
- **Several categories** (RECs, CECs) – with specificities depending on the type of energy and services provided.

Energy communities – business models



Potential benefits

Social

- Citizen participation
- Social cohesion

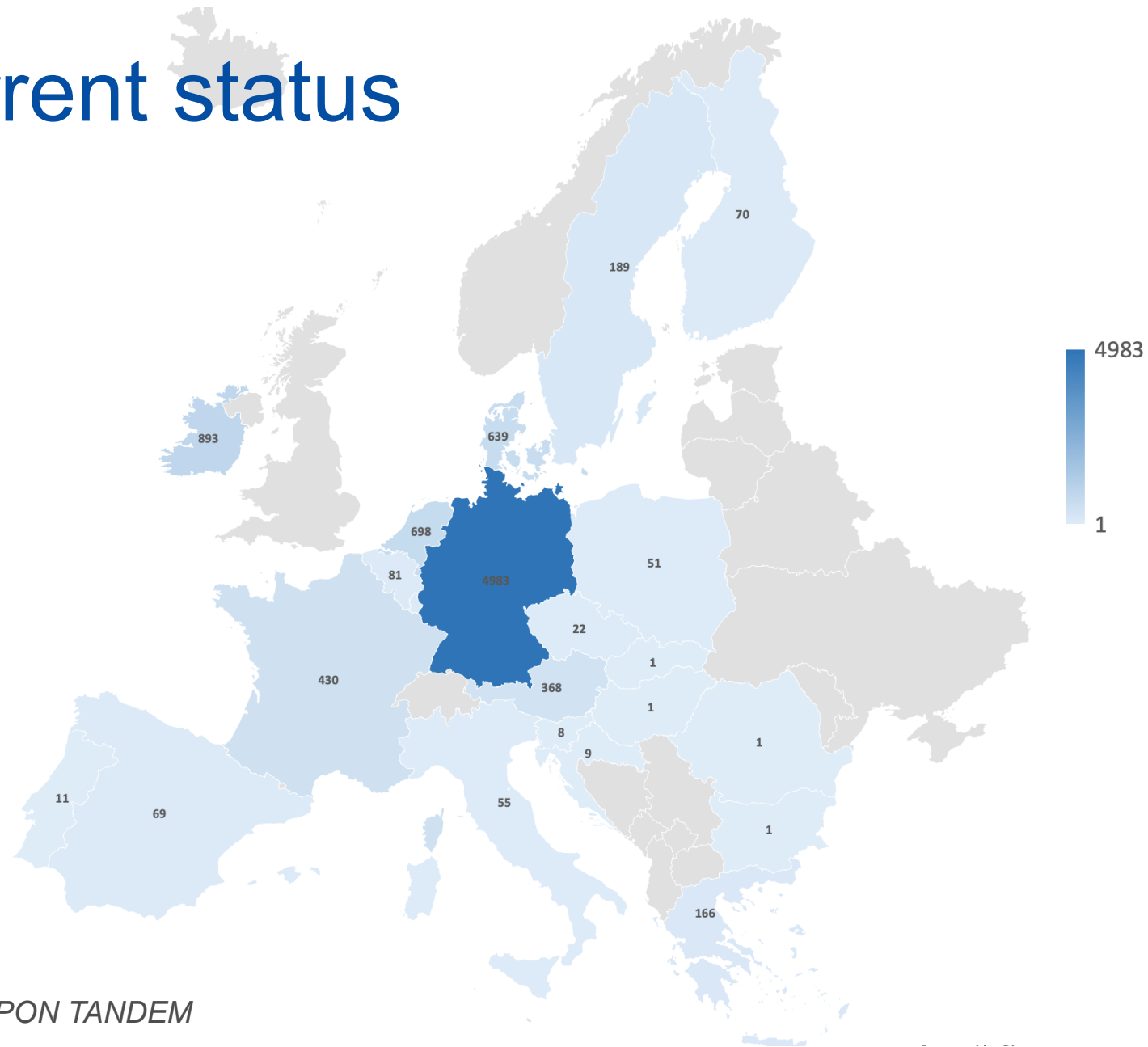
Environmental

- Decarbonisation
- Energy efficiency

Economic

- Profits
- Stable energy prices
- Jobs
- Group deals

Current status



Source: ESPON TANDEM

EU legislation on energy communities

Models defined in EU legislation

Citizen Energy Communities

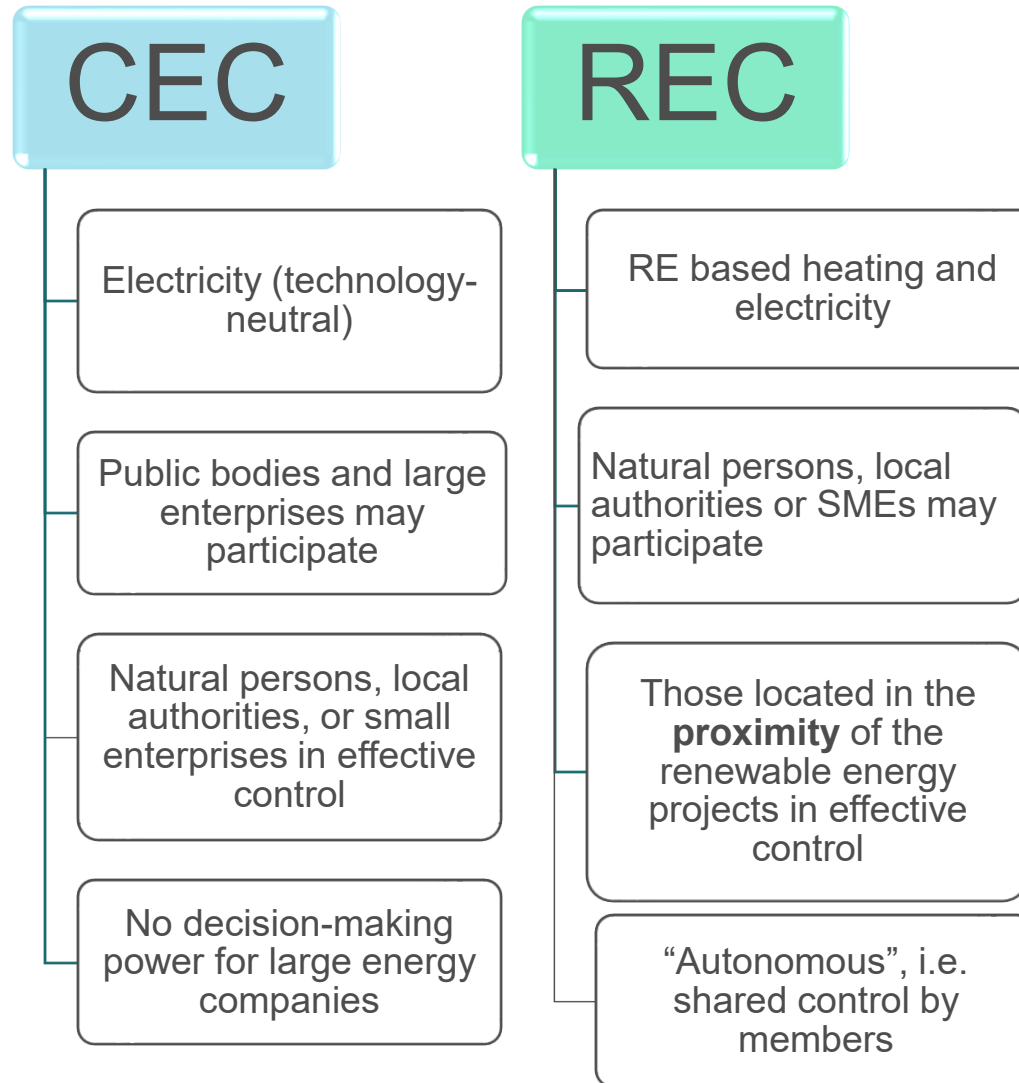
- Article 16 Electricity Market Directive 2019/944

Renewable Energy Communities

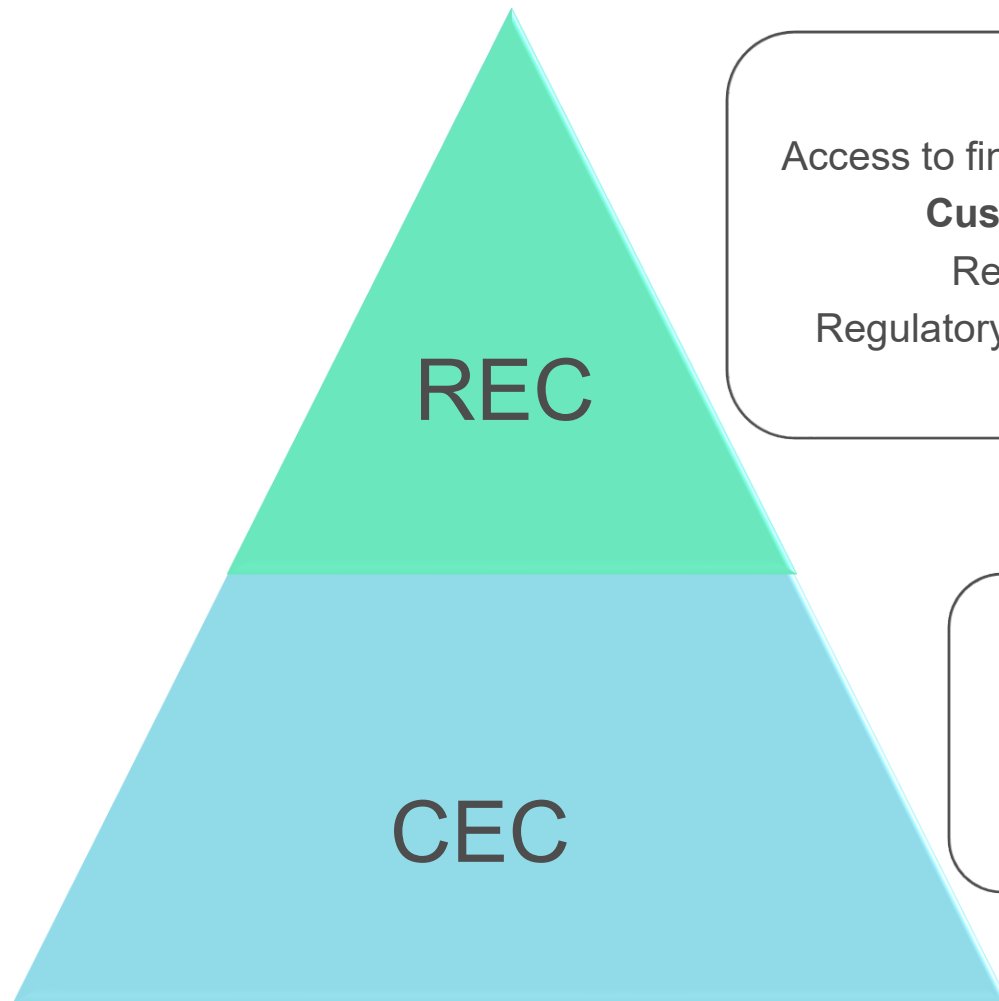
- Article 22 Renewable Energy Directive 2018/2001

Art. 2 on definitions: makes clear that renewable energy communities are a social concept, rather than technical/commercial

Differences



Enabling framework REC & CEC



Privileges:

Access to financial instruments and information

Customised support scheme

Removal unjustified barriers

Regulatory and capacity-building support to public authorities

Rights and responsibilities:

facilitating market integration (procedures, tariffs and activities)

DG ENER support initiatives for energy communities

Pilot projects and LIFE programme



Citizen Energy Advisory Hub (CEAH) - main activities

Capacity building and technical assistance

- **Direct technical assistance** for 120 citizen energy initiatives
- **Citizen Energy Panels** hosted in each of the 27 EU Member States
- **10 Capacity-building workshops** tailored to diverse stakeholders

Networking and peer-to-peer opportunities

- Two large **public conferences**
- A **Citizen Energy Network**
- Webinar series:
 - **Energy Breakfast Sessions** – showcasing success stories
 - **Chatting on Citizen Energy** – exploring energy citizenship, supporting policies, and how it can look in practice

Website with publishable outputs (<https://citizens-energy.ec.europa.eu>)

- **Interactive Map** of EU Citizen Energy initiatives
- 20 **Guidance Documents**
- 60 **Best Practices**
- **Country policy profiles** on EU Member States' Legal and Policy Frameworks
- Quarterly **Newsletters**

Energy Communities Facility



Where?



- Energy communities from:
- EU Member States, Iceland, Ukraine, Moldova and North Macedonia

How?



Access to targeted training and hands-on capacity building



7 mil. Euros for 45k lump sum grants to develop solid business plans

When?

First call closed on 30th of September 2025

Summer 2026
First cohort of business plans

September 2026
Second call for proposals

Citizen-Led Renovation

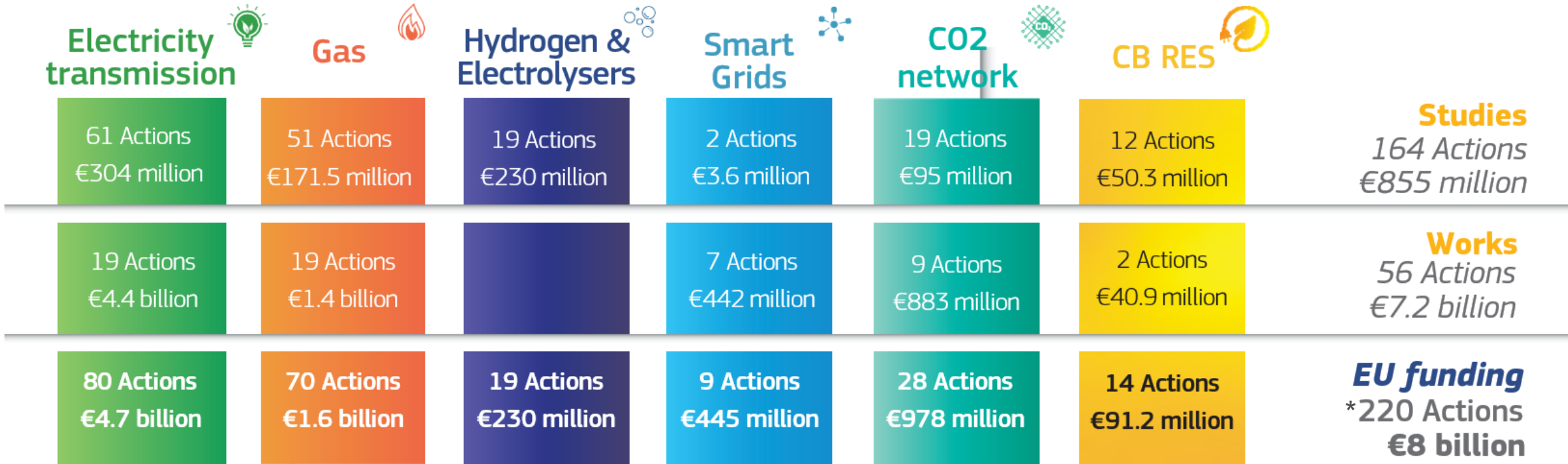
*“Citizen-led renovation is an activity carried out by an **energy community** aiming at engaging in and **implementing building energy renovation** (notably at street or district/neighborhood level) and develop local businesses and the **skills of people involved**”*

jschrod@gobiernodecanarias.org (Julieta Schallenberg,

- Phase I and II provided direct support to pilot entities
- Phase III (2025-2028) will support **enabling entities**, i.e. intermediate structures aiming at **delivering support services and enabling conditions** to new or existing Energy Communities targeting energy renovations
 - Enabling entities among: network or umbrella association, OSS, energy agencies (incl. local/regional), local authorities, NGO
 - Renovation is a local activity = localised/regionalised approach preferred versus EU wide initiative
- More details under: https://citizen-led-renovation.ec.europa.eu/index_en

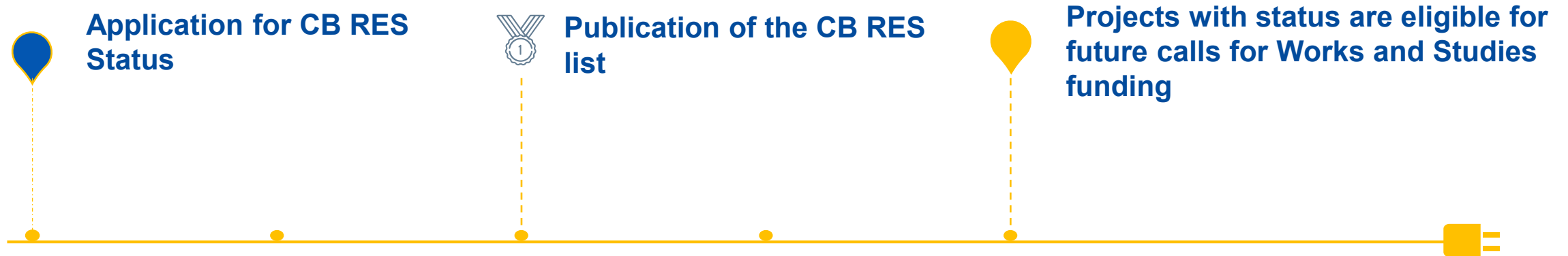
Connecting Europe Facility

Connecting Europe Facility - CEF Energy



- EUR 8 billion already allocated in CEF-E (2014-2024)
- EUR 91.2 million already allocated to CB RES projects
- Approx EUR 3 billion to be allocated until 2027

CB RES Process



Eligible projects include:

- Renewables generation based on any renewable energy source
- All sectors – electricity, transport, heating & cooling
- Storage / IT systems / grid connection, **provided** it forms an integral part of the project, effectively enable the integration of and are ancillary to a renewable generation facility

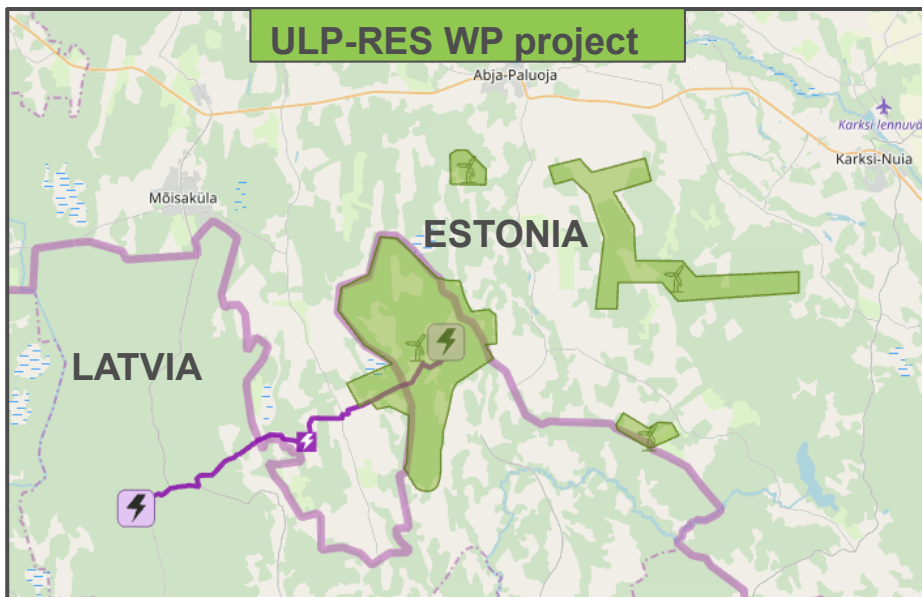
Note also:

- No pre-defined capacity thresholds, locations or technology type in CEF regulation

What projects are eligible ?

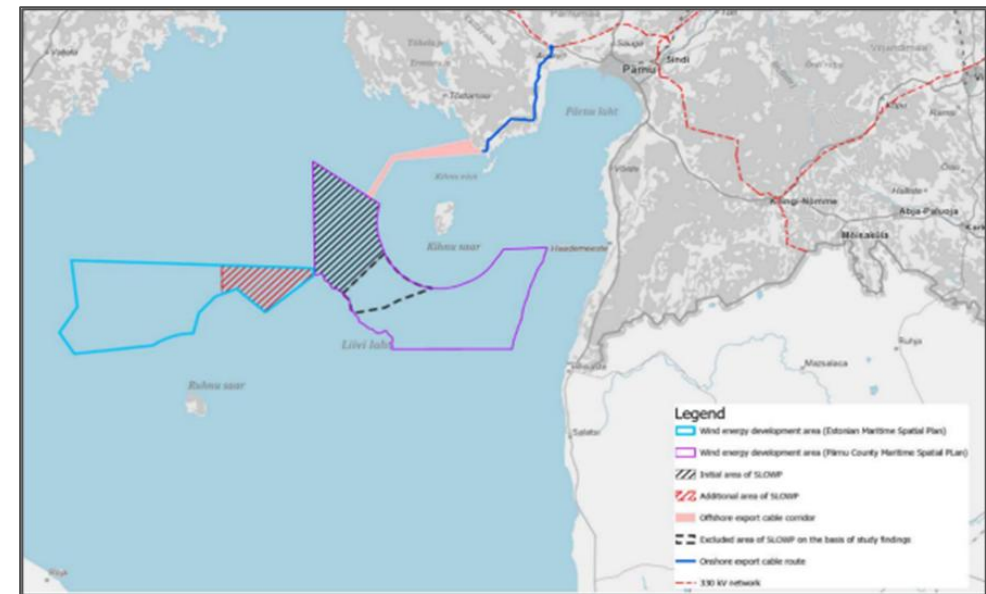
Physical cross-border impact

e.g. RES project at the border of two countries, connected to both grids

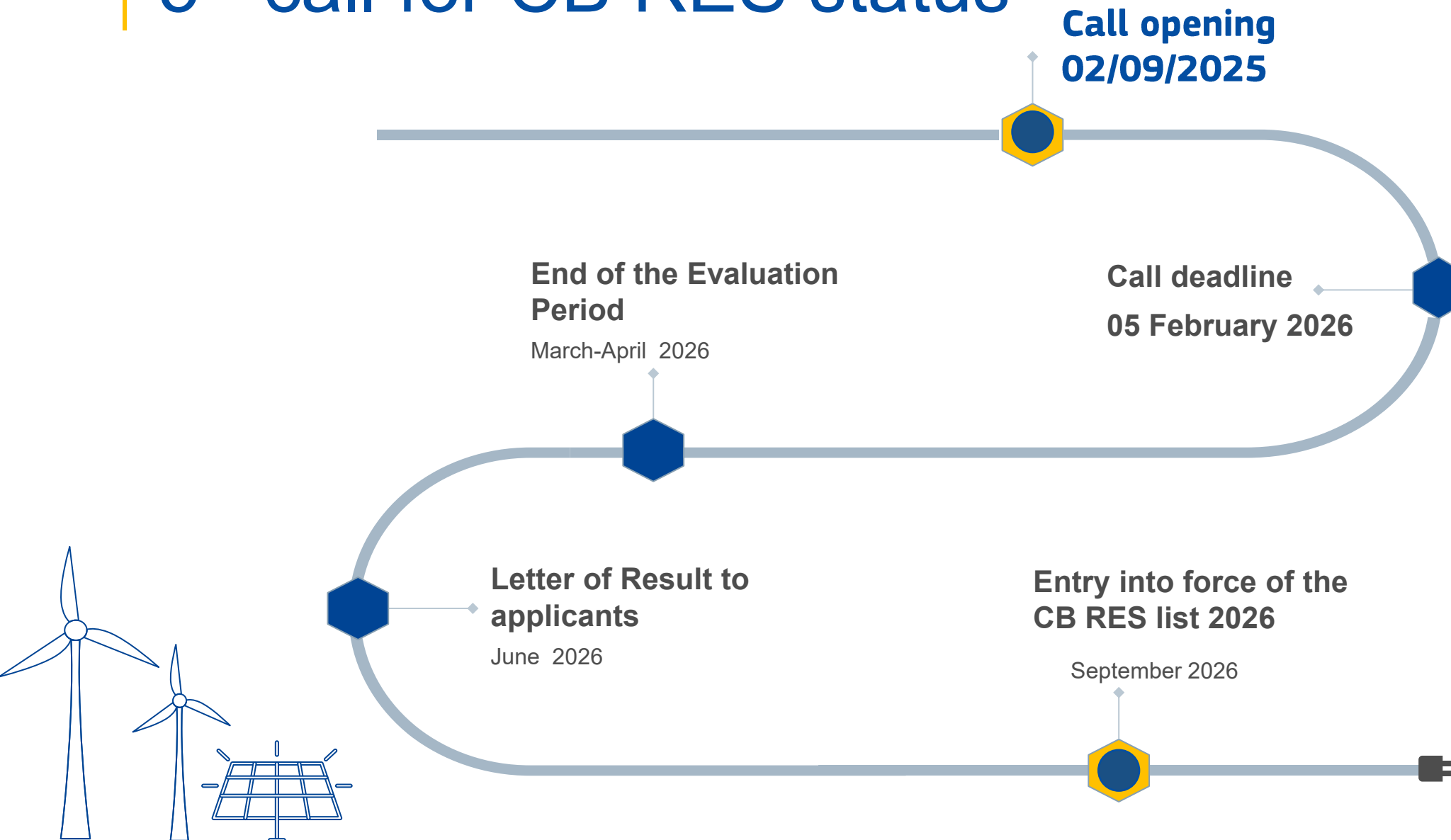


No physical cross-border impact

e.g. two distant countries jointly financing a wind offshore park



5th call for CB RES status



Thank you



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