

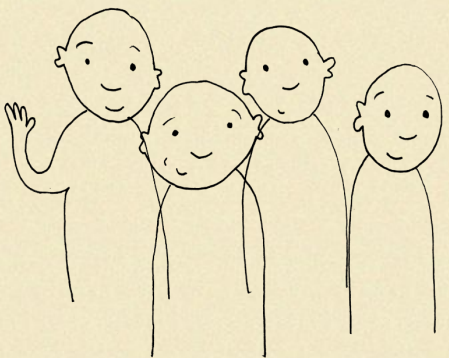


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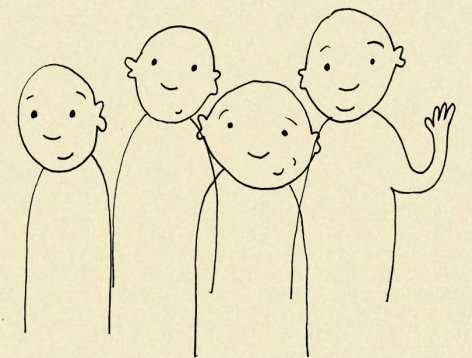
# Hyperion Energy Community

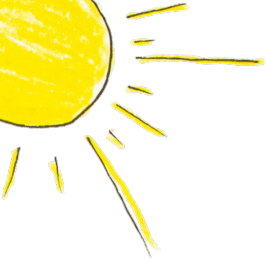
**Chris Vrettos, Electra Energy Cooperative**

Energy Communities Repository Webinar | 13/07/2023



*Working Towards Energy Democracy*





# Hyperion at a glance



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Based in Athens

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Not-for-profit EC / 500kwp solar park under construction

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120 members and growing / physical and legal persons (NGO offices & SMEs) 2 part time employees

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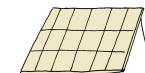
Diversity of member backgrounds

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Community-building actions + participatory planning

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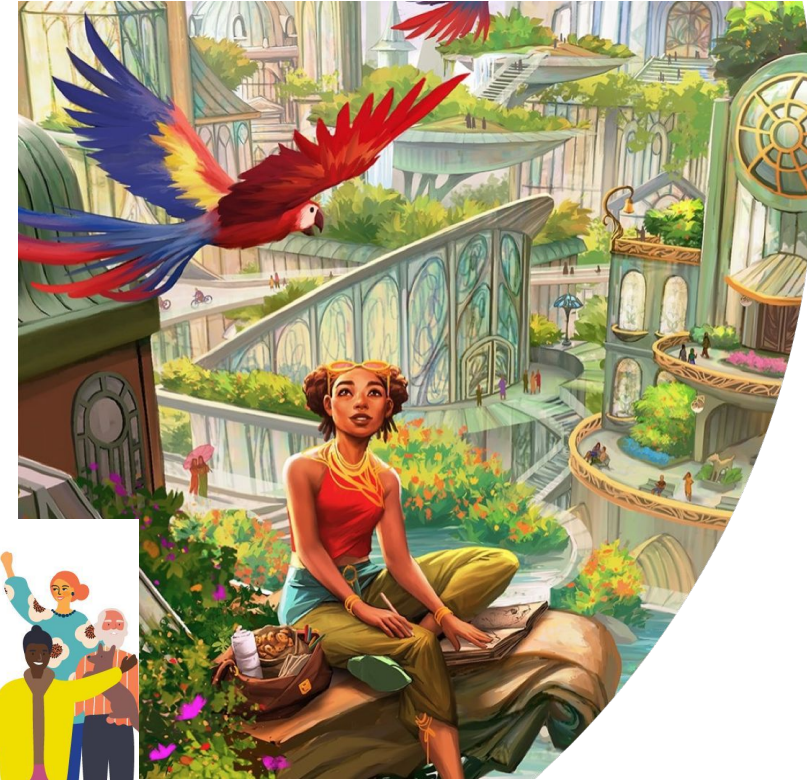
Founded in 2020





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# Step 1: find the core team of visionaries, find the common goals



*Tailor your message and seize the narrative*

## SOCIAL IMPACT 10 BENEFITS OF ENERGY COMMUNITIES

- 1 They provide local and clean energy 
- 2 They mobilise local capital 
- 3 They strengthen local development 
- 4 They contribute to the protection of the environment 
- 5 They help save energy 
- 6 They address the environmental crisis 
- 7 They fight energy poverty 
- 8 They contribute to the social acceptance of renewables 
- 9 They strengthen social cohesion 
- 10 They reinforce democracy 

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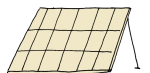
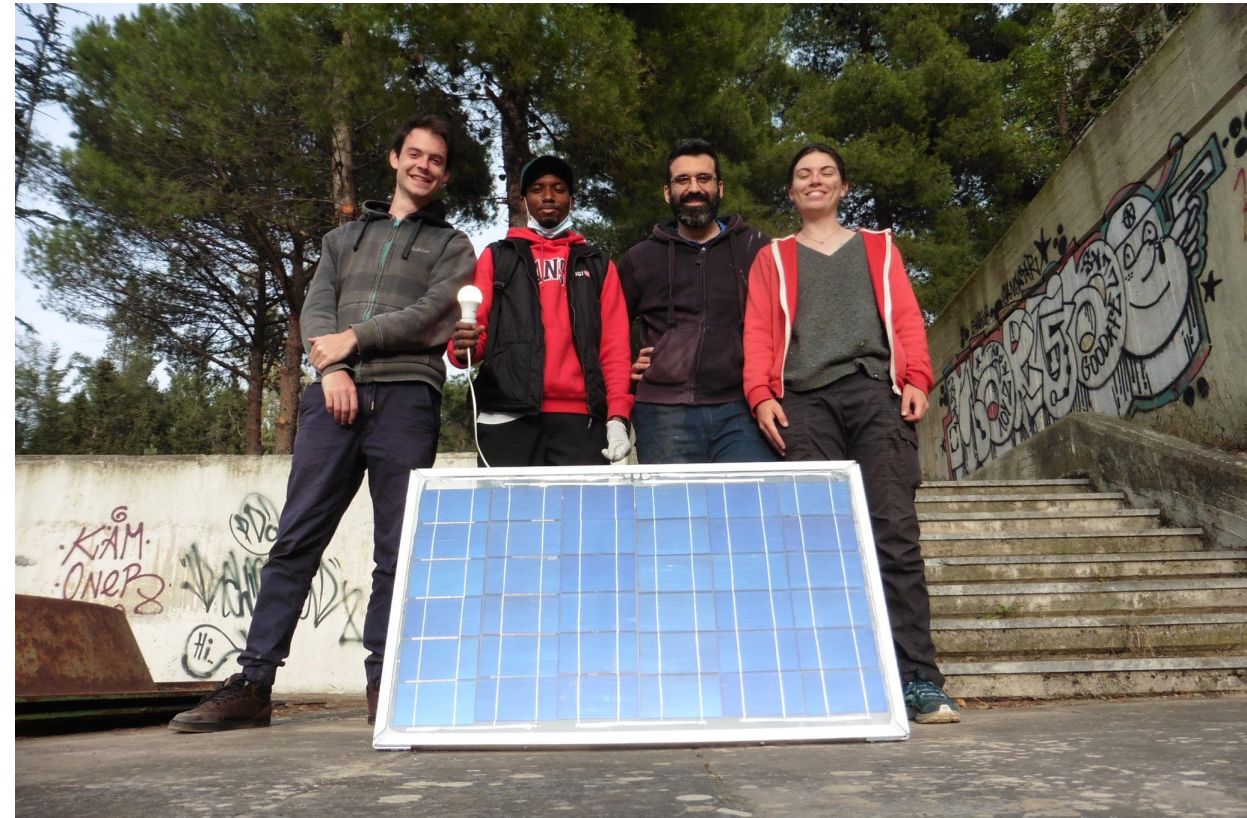


Source: The social impact of energy communities in Greece (https://bit.ly/4zQPMkx)



## Step2: Delegate roles

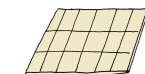
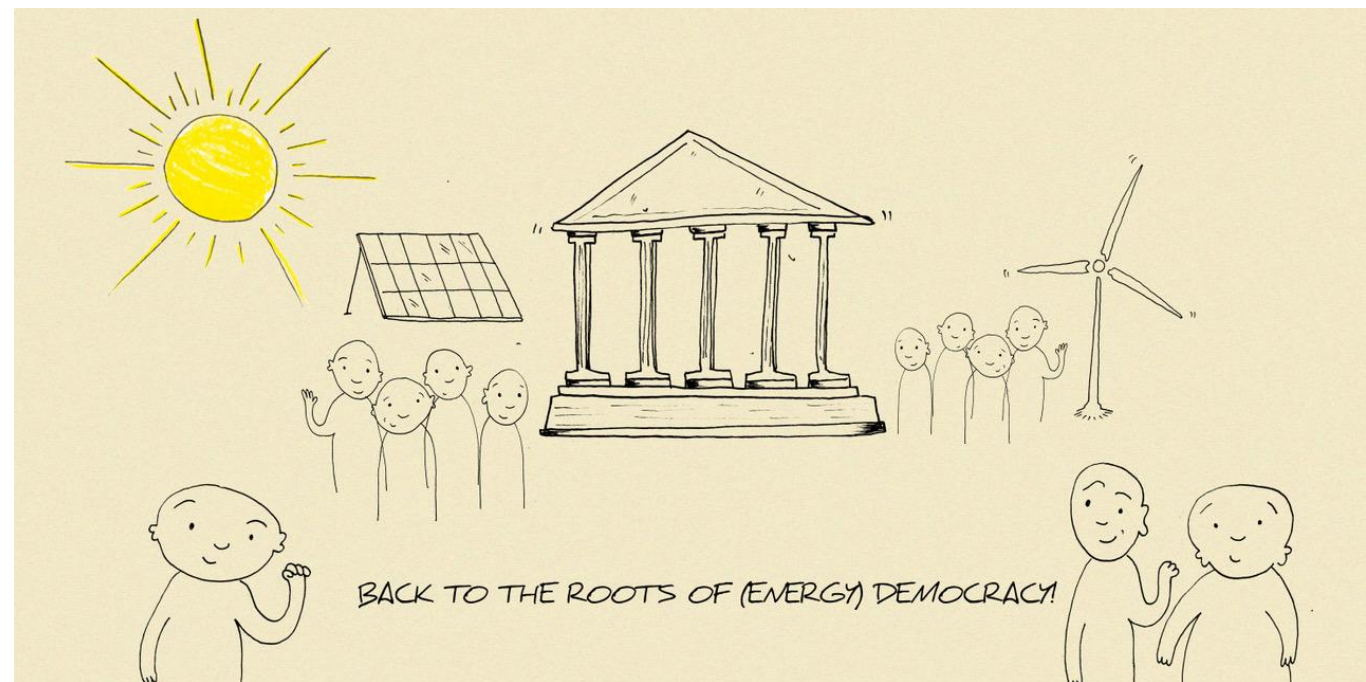
- ! Big barrier (& opportunity)
- Assign the roles early on, and share burden equally
- Key competencies identified through Hyperion (and others):
  - Legal
  - Engineering
  - General coordinator
  - Social engagement





## Step 2a: Scope the legal framework

- > Scope the national legislation
- > Define your legal form(s) / usually cooperatives
- > For Hyperion: the law on ECs is based on the law for cooperatives
- > Clearly defined rules & governance structure (BOD, GA)





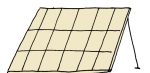
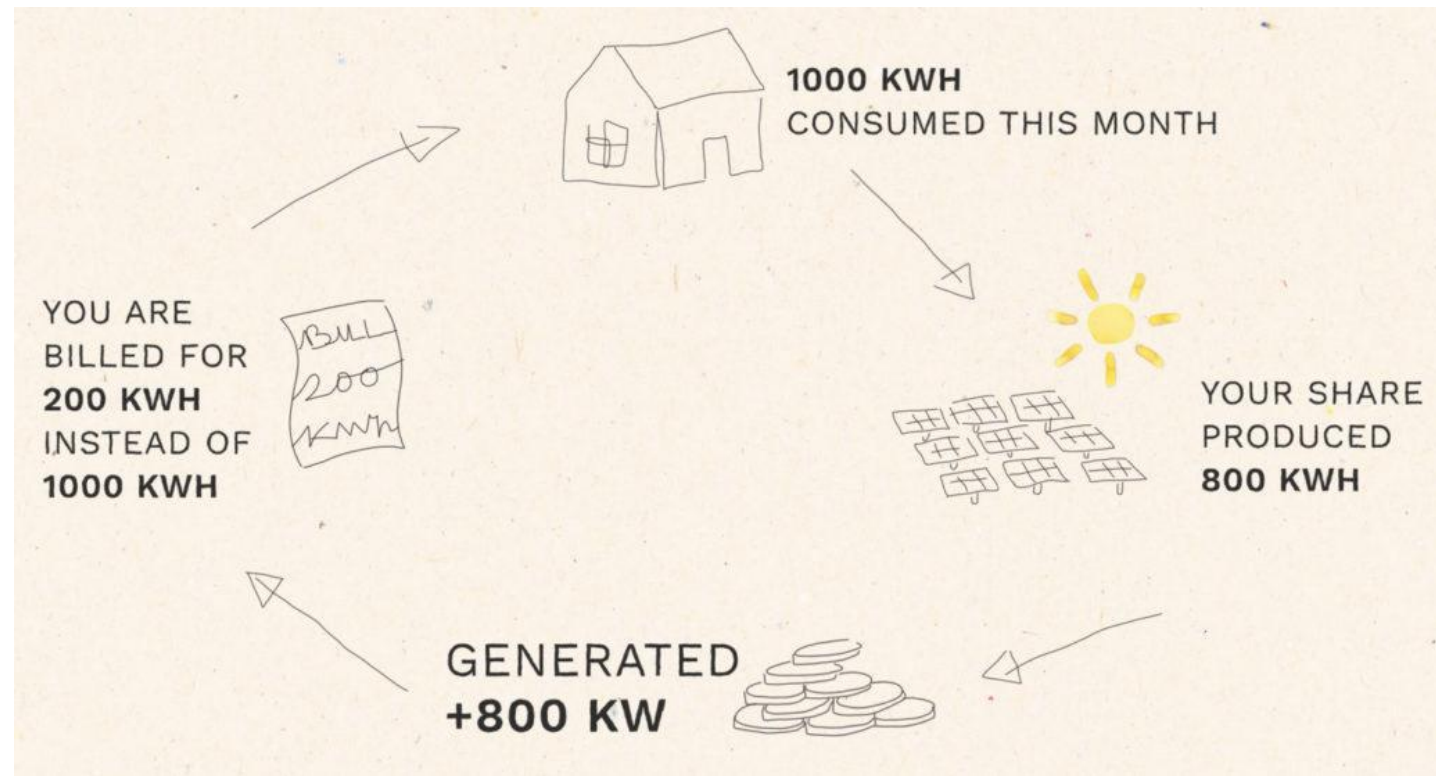
# Step 2.a: scope the regulatory framework

**Choose your activity.** In Greece -> Collective Self Consumption

Payback period: ~3.5 years  
(life span = 25 years)

Straightforward business plan -> easy to attract members

Obliges DSO & suppliers to cooperate with the EC

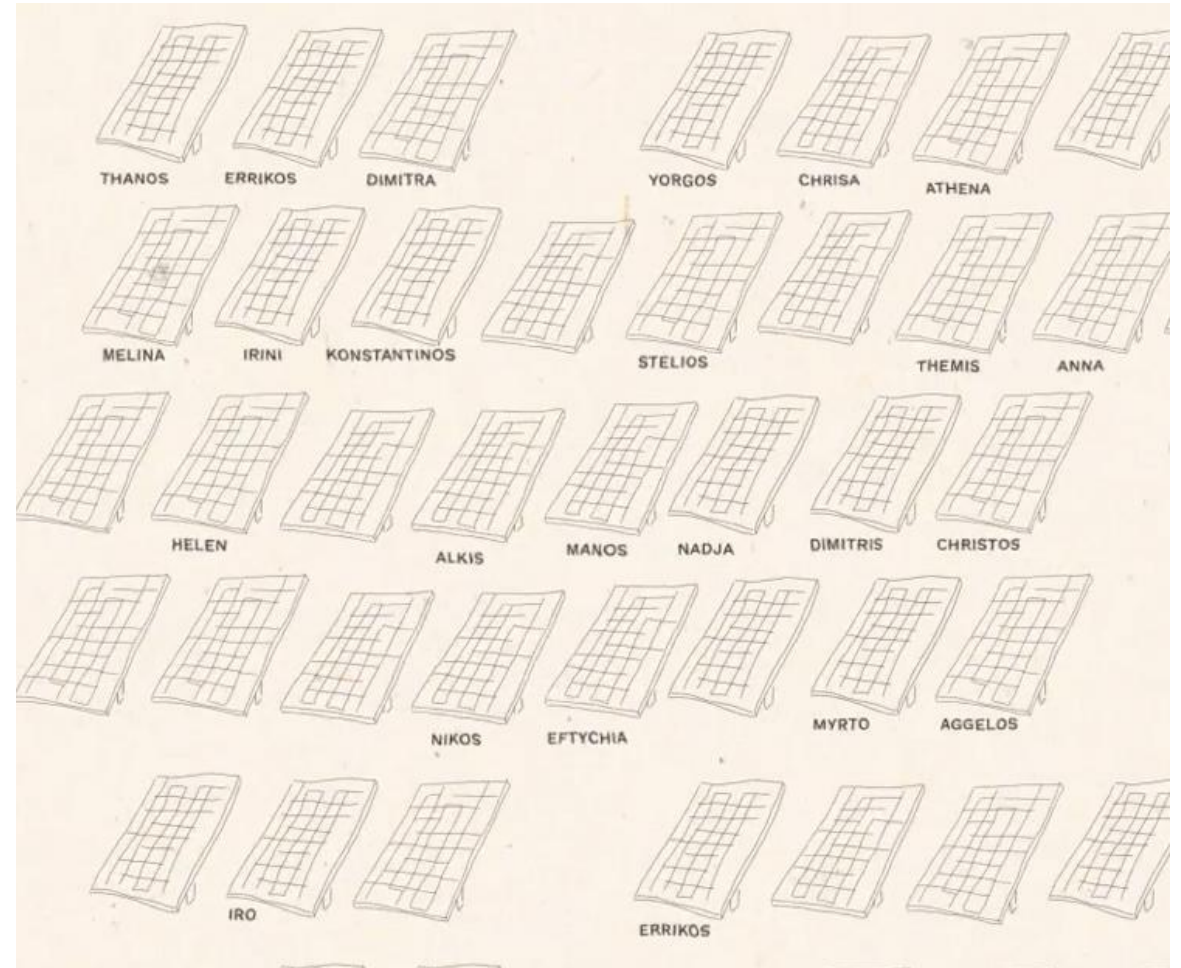
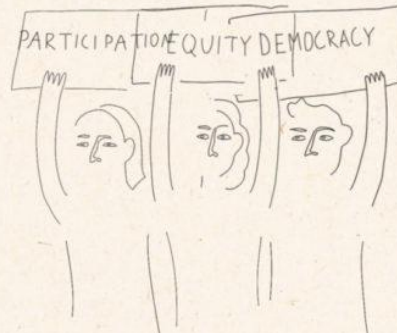
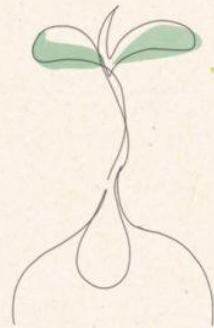
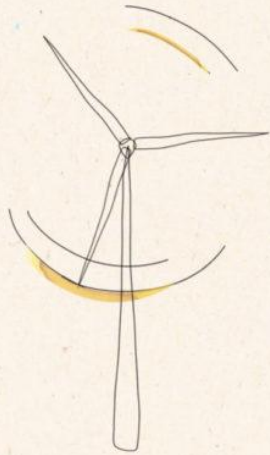




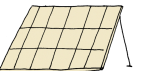
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...and back the business plan with some nice visuals

# PROSUMERS



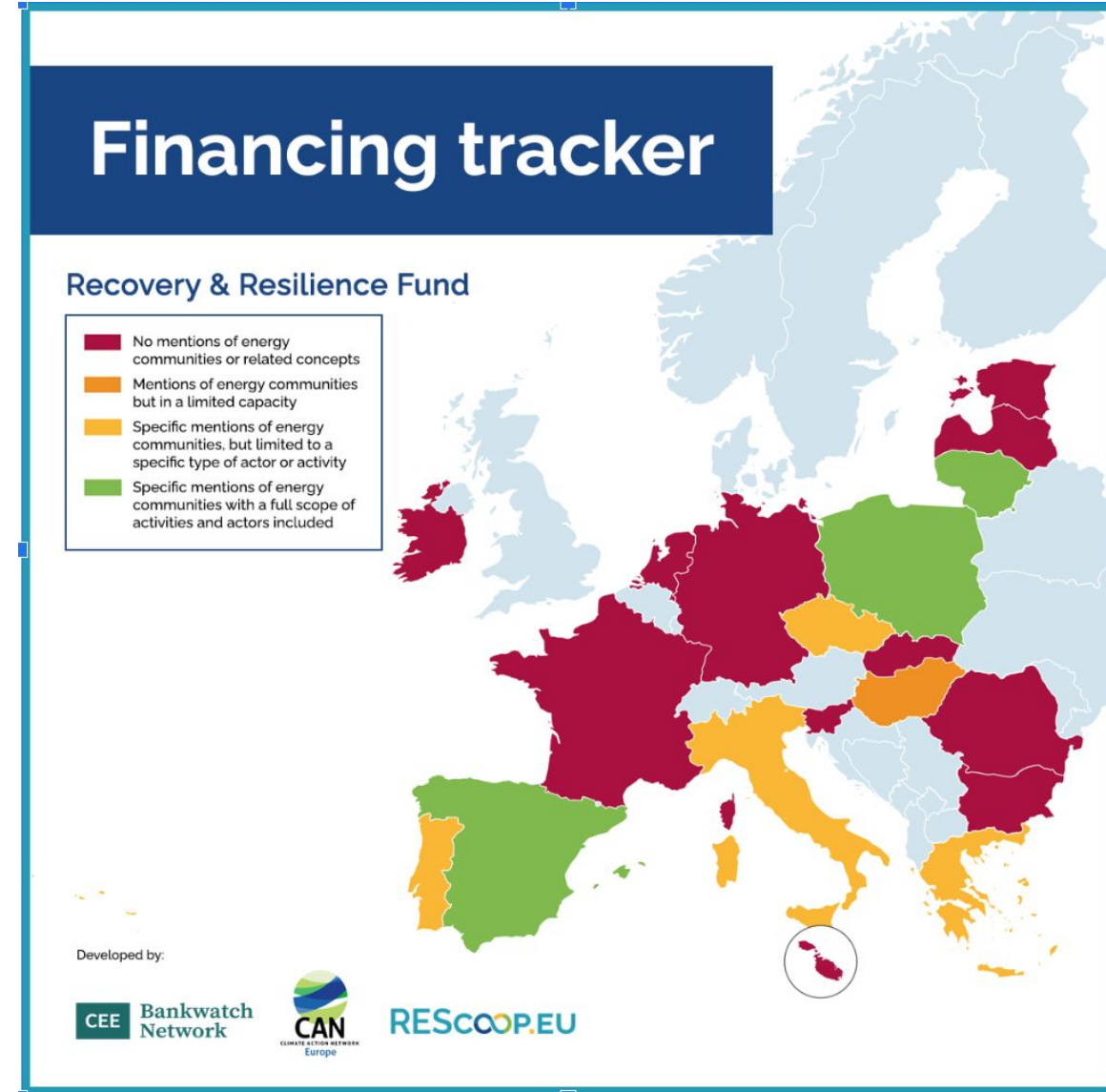
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## Step3: build your business & strategic plan based on enabling financing tools

- Public EU financing opportunities available in most countries (Currently open: Lithuania, Italy)
- National funding schemes (NL, FR, DE)
  - Hyperion used this!
- Crowdlending platforms (Genervest, ZEZInvest)
  - Hyperion used this!
- Small projects -> donation based crowdfunding (Serbia, Albania)

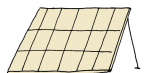






## Step 4: start small and realistic, & network

- Small pilot projects can **inspire, build trust** and snowball
- Get ready for disappointments, but to minimize them -> **P2P learning!**
- Network!
- Intercooperative solidarity -> reach out, synergize, ask for help





# Step ∞ : The sky is the limit

- Beyond your core business model, what else can you do?
- Hyperion:
  - Energy poverty
  - Collective housing renovations
  - Hyperion cafes / socials
  - New technologies (e.g., demand response)
- (Informal) Working Groups -> **Delegate!**

## Hyperion energy cafés

- Ακολουθούμε το παράδειγμα της [Ecopower](#)
- Δια ζώσης ή διαδικτυακές συναντήσεις
- Ενημέρωση, συζήτηση και εκπαίδευση για διάφορα θέματα
- Παράδειγμα: προβολή βίντεο στην αρχή κάθε διαδικτυακού Energy Café και στη συνέχεια υπάρχει χώρος για ερωτήσεις και συζήτηση.
- Θέματα: Τι αλλάζει στην αγορά ηλεκτρικής ενέργειας, διαφορετικές δραστηριότητες που μπορεί να αναλάβει μια ΕΚΟΙΝ, πιο τεχνικά θέματα κ.λπ..



Copyright: Ecopower





# ...and pat yourself on the back

The work we're all doing is quite groundbreaking!

Pause and reflect, and celebrate the wins

if we wait for the government it will be too late...

...if we act as individuals it will be too little...



...if we act as communities it might just be enough...



Thank you!



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