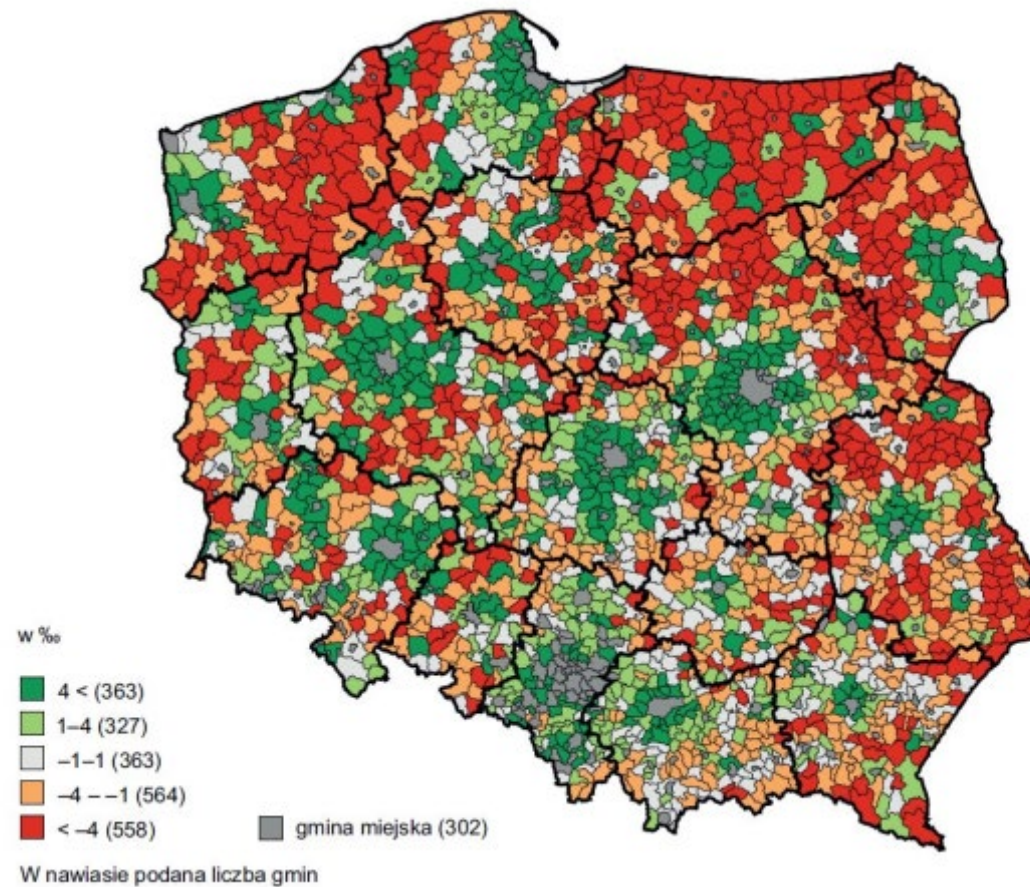


# Local initiatives...

Ryszard Kamiński

Kujawsko – Pomorski Agricultural Advisory Centre in Minikowo,  
Poland

# Rural-urban migration balance in Poland (2018-2020 average)



# “The small school – the rural development centre”

## *from crises to positive approach*

- The introduction of the 1999 reform of the education system :
  - almost 3000 schools (17%) have been closed and another 5000, fewer than 100 students, threatened with liquidation
  - The residents of many villages protested, arguing that a rural school is often the only public centre for the community – the heart of a village
- **Solution – local association**
- In reaction to protests against the closure of schools parents and rural residents starts to establish associations for rural development in order to take over the management of schools



# Growing role of school and association for the village society



- The Small Schools play the role of **education centres for whole communities**:
  - kindergarten care
  - vocational and supplementary training for adults
  - centre of culture and social integration.
- The Rural Development Associations:
  - Is giving the community the necessary **legal identity**.
  - take action to **prevent unemployment**
  - undertake economic initiatives ( eg. **tourism, the production of teaching aids and educational toys**)
  - the villages which such a schools become more active positive example for others.

# Olszewka & Lubaszcz Village development Association



- The village development association was established in 2002 and has been running the school since 2008
- 61 project in 21 years of the activity of the village association
- In addition to projects for children and youth, the „**Rural Academy of Skills in Olszewka**” was also created under the LEADER program (which conducts classes for adult rural residents – in Life-Long Learning format).
- Many trainings for adult residents, handicraft and music workshops and festivals.
- The association also took a loan and bought one of the buildings, which functions as a village hall in the afternoon and serves as a school for children in the morning.



# 2022 photovoltaic panels, weather station and air quality sensors

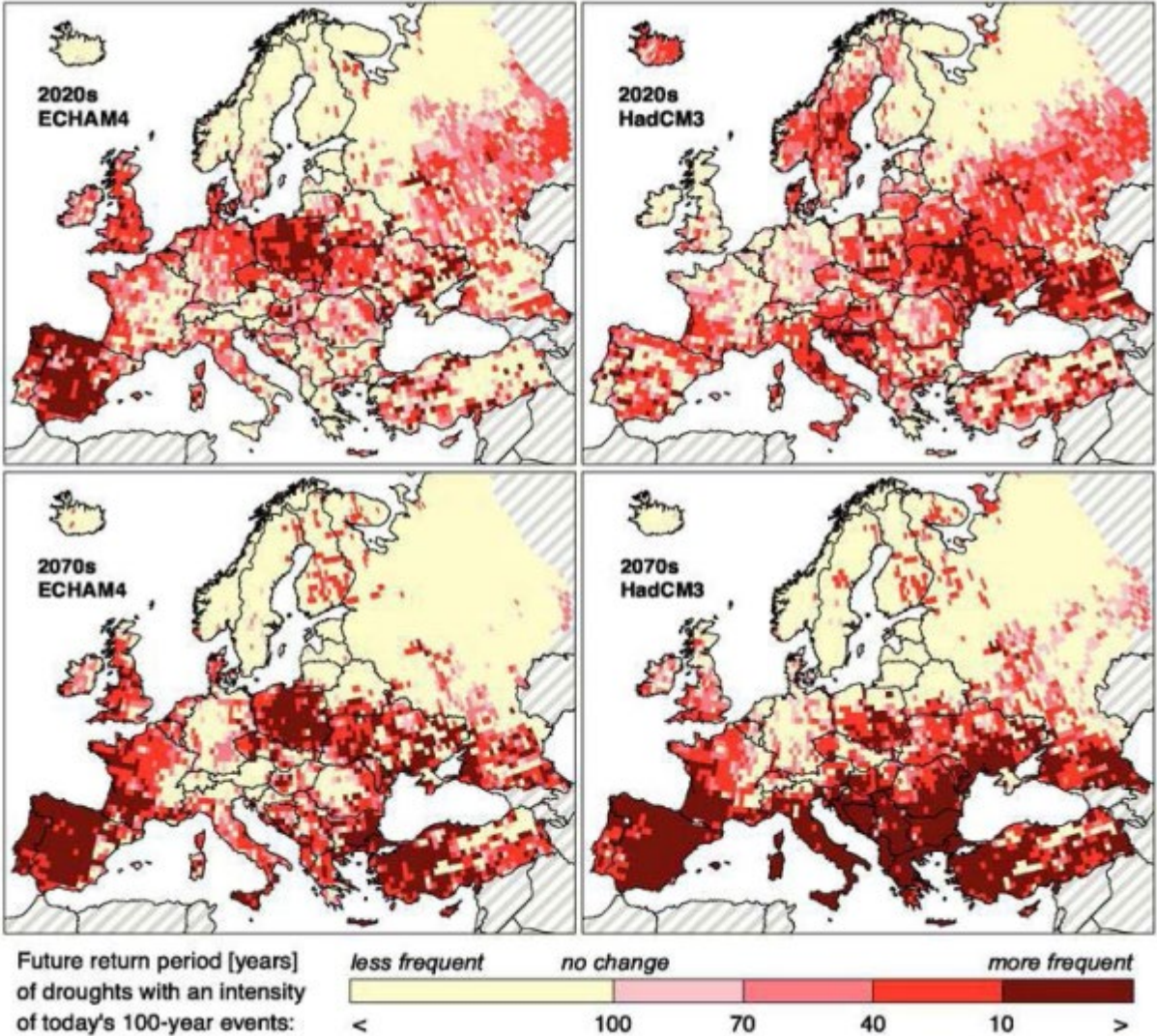


# Local and regional initiatives against climate change



# Forecast of the frequency of extreme droughts in Europe

(so-called „the drought of the century”)





## EU Energy and Climate package

- Progressing towards full implementation of the **Water Framework Directive** This issue is often a result of ineffective water pricing policies which generally do not reflect the level of sensitivity of water resources at local level
- **Land-use planning** is also one of the main drivers of water use.
- **There is huge potential for water saving** across Europe
- Further integration of water-related concerns into water-related sectoral policies is paramount in order to move towards a **water-saving culture**
- In order to be fully effective, policy action on water scarcity and droughts needs to be based on **high-quality knowledge and information** on the extent of the challenge and projected trends

## Activity of the Minikowo Regional Advisory Centre for the creation of Local Water Partnerships in the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship in 2020 – 2021 (3)

- On the basis of the information obtained from the partners' surveys, **preliminary diagnoses** of the condition of the infrastructure and the management system of water facilities as well as a description of the problems identified in this regard in the district were prepared
- Partnership participants, based on the diagnosis, prepared (developed) the **District Water Plan (DWP)**, indicating the directions and priorities of activities for improving the condition of infrastructure and implementing the principles of rational water management

**Local Water Partnerships established in the years: 2020-2022 in the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship**



# **ENERGY COMMUNITIES**

**How can/should rural areas meet upcoming challenges of energy poverty?**

# ENERGY IN CONTEXT

## Poland today

312,696 km<sup>2</sup>

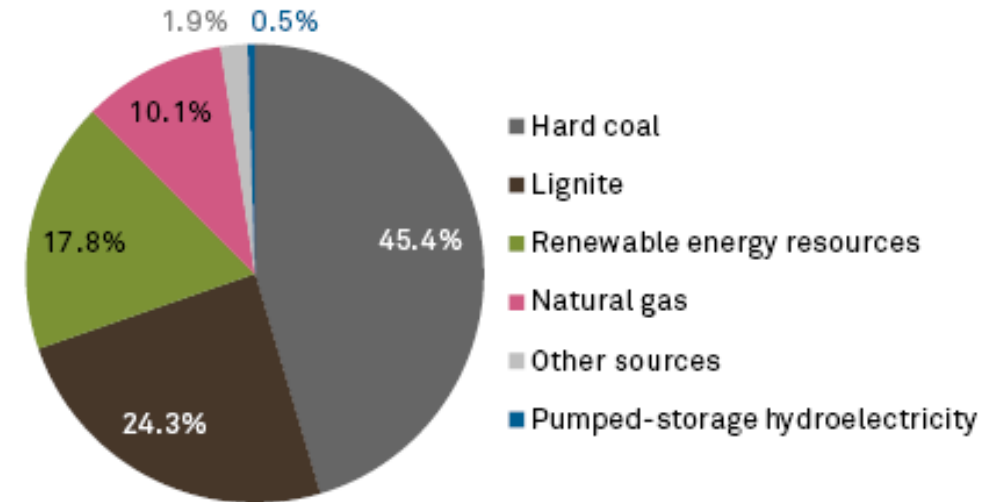
38 million people, 40% rural

1,3 mln+ individual prosumers (99% solar)

Coal is dominant fuel for heating in rural areas, but not readily available and price increased 4x

Domestic electricity prices to double by end of 2023

## Poland's energy mix 2020



Data accessed Oct. 25, 2021.

Source: Forum Energii, based on data from Poland's Energy Market Agency



# Definitions

## EU has two definitions of energy community

‘Citizen energy communities’ – Directive (EU) 2019/944 - (Electricity cover)

‘Renewable energy communities’ – Directive (EU) 2018/2001 – (Renewable energy cover)

*Common elements under both definitions:*

### **GOVERNANCE**

“Participation must be open and voluntary” (renewable energy directive)

“Households should find it easy to both enter & leave the energy community”  
(Electricity directive)

[https://rural-energy-community-hub.ec.europa.eu/energy-communities/what-energy-community\\_en](https://rural-energy-community-hub.ec.europa.eu/energy-communities/what-energy-community_en)

# Features

## OWNERSHIP & CONTROL

Both definitions emphasise participation and effective control by citizens, local authorities & smaller businesses whose **primary economic activity is not the energy sector!**

## PURPOSE

Their PRIMARY purpose is to generate social, economic & environmental benefits for energy community members rather than focus on financial profits for a legal entity.

## ACTIVITIES

- Generation
- Aggregation
- Energy storage
- Distribution
- Consumption
- Provision of energy related services
- Supply
- Sharing/trading

# Growing impact

Experience? Know how?

- How to increase numbers of producers and consumers benefiting from energy communities?
  1. Responses to challenge of energy poverty?
  2. Good ideas, practices, processes -
  3. 3 proposals for governments & EU

# Energy Communities in POLAND

- **Energy cooperatives are a priority in public policy and rural development programming going forwards**
- **2016 regulatory changes introduced to allow renewable energy producers and consumers to establish energy cooperatives. Still in progress**
- **Focused on electricity and heat**
- **No feed-in tariffs. Only energy trading among cooperative members.**
- **Subject to Law on Cooperatives and Law on Renewable Energy**
- **First functioning energy cooperatives, but many more initiatives**
- **RENALDO project pioneering/testing regulatory, policy and implementation solutions for energy cooperatives with focus on 2 regions (Podlasie & Kujawsko-Pomorskie)**

Learn more **Energy Cooperative Campaign** (incl. short films) – <https://lokalnaenergia.pl>



## *RENALDO – Rural development through renewable energy sources*

- Initiative: Polish Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development in the light of new regulations aimed at the development of energy cooperatives in Poland
- The main principle of each energy cooperative: freedom in choosing the type of installations, their possible locations, as well as defining the rules of mutual settlements for the generated and consumed energy.
- The main goal of the RENALDO project is to establish and promote energy cooperatives as a prosumer form that contributes to more efficient use of renewable energies in rural areas
- **members of the cooperative are both producers and consumers of energy, constituting a "civic energy community,,**
- By 2023, at least 2 exemplary cooperatives will be created in cooperation with selected local governments in Kujawsko-Pomorskie and Podlaskie voivodeships



On behalf of:



Federal Ministry  
for the Environment, Nature Conservation  
and Nuclear Safety



European  
Climate Initiative  
EUKI

of the Federal Republic of Germany

# Lessons

1. Support to local action is needed – schools run by associations in Poland stimulate the whole community development, but they are enabled by legislative solutions
2. Local communities can undertake challenges such as education and practical action for climate – policy needs to look at them as an asset
3. (Public) rural advisory services can play an important role to stimulate local actors and integrate them into national policies