

# Rural Pact Conference

15-16 June 2022





# Community driven sustainable energy action in rural villages

Welcome and introduction

Ms. Eugenia BONIFAZI, Consultant Climate Change Policies, Ricardo Energy & Environment, Italy



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15-16 June 2022



# Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub



## Why energy communities are key to advancing the European Green Deal

- The European Green Deal sets out to make Europe the first climate neutral continent by 2050.
- A key component of this goal is the decarbonisation of the EU energy system via the Clean Energy Package.
- **Energy communities** have an important role in this transition: renewable energy production and supply, building renovation, and the promotion of energy efficiency and flexibility.
- Provide active **citizen engagement and boost positive social norms**, thus combatting energy poverty and fostering solidarity to assure a just and inclusive energy transition.
- Recent crises like the COVID-19 pandemic and Russian invasion of Ukraine further underline the necessity to assure energy accessibility, **resilience and security**, especially at the local level.



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# Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub



## Rural energy communities: an understanding and their particularities

Renewable energy communities (Article 2(16) Recast Renewable Energy Directive) and citizen energy communities (Article 2(11) Recast Internal Electricity Market Directive), have been defined in several pieces of EU legislation, which commonly describe them as:

- A legal entity, based on open and voluntary participation
- Controlled by members or shareholders, those being natural persons, municipalities or small enterprises
- Have the primary purpose of providing environmental, economic or social community benefits
- Engages in generation, distribution, and consumption of renewable energy



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# Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub



## Rural energy communities: an understanding and their particularities

**Rural energy communities** are especially important in relation to the EU's climate objectives

active participation  
of local authorities  
and citizens

ensure rural areas  
are not left behind

operationalisation  
of local  
development plans

Input to common agricultural  
policy, rural development, and  
farm modernisation

However they face a **variety of challenges and barriers:**

- Physical constraints and interconnectivity limits
- Socio-economic
- Technical
- Knowledge sharing
- Engagement with right actors or institutions



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# Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub



## What the Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub is for

The Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub is an initiative of the European Commission, which aims to accelerate the development of sustainable energy community projects in European rural areas.

The main activities of the initiative will be

- Identification of best practices
- Provision of technical assistance
- Networking opportunities to the energy communities and local stakeholders selected to participate.

Building on the work of the Energy Communities Repository and the Covenant of Mayors



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# Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub



## What the Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub is for

### Identification of best practices - Objectives

Collection of information through survey and interviews in relation to energy communities and policy landscape supporting rural development in the Member States.

Identification of barriers, key action drivers and recommendations

Development of case studies to be distributed through the website and which will support energy communities and local authorities to tackle some of the identified barriers

### Main outputs

- **Database on energy communities** across MS in collaboration with the Energy Communities Repository
- **Development of 20 case studies**
- Report on rural energy communities' and rural actions and activities' landscape in the EU



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# Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub



## What the Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub is for

### Provision of technical assistance - Objectives

To prepare and implement calls for proposal to select the most relevant and meriting beneficiaries developing rural energy communities at local, municipal and regional level;

To provide technical assistance to beneficiaries for the development and implementation rural energy communities.

Launching of two calls for proposal – Between September and December 2022.

### Main outputs

- **Provision of up to 40 activities of technical assistance**
- **Three types of technical assistance provision:**
  - extensive support (> 20 days)
  - concise support (up to 5 days)
  - extension support (up to 5 days)



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# Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub



## Launch of the Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub

The launch event will take place just after the Rural Pact conference.

The event is open to any interested stakeholder, including energy communities representatives, national and regional politicians, local authorities and social and economic stakeholders involved in rural development.

**When** - Friday 17 June 2022, 9.00 - 12.00 (CEST)

**Where** - Tours & Taxis

The **Rural** Energy  
**Community**  
Advisory Hub



Registration page →

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/launch-rural-energy-community-advisory-hub-2022-jun-17\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/events/launch-rural-energy-community-advisory-hub-2022-jun-17_en)



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# Thank you



# Energy Communities in the Covenant of Mayors Community

Session:

Community driven sustainable energy action in rural villages

Arthur Hinsch, CoM Office



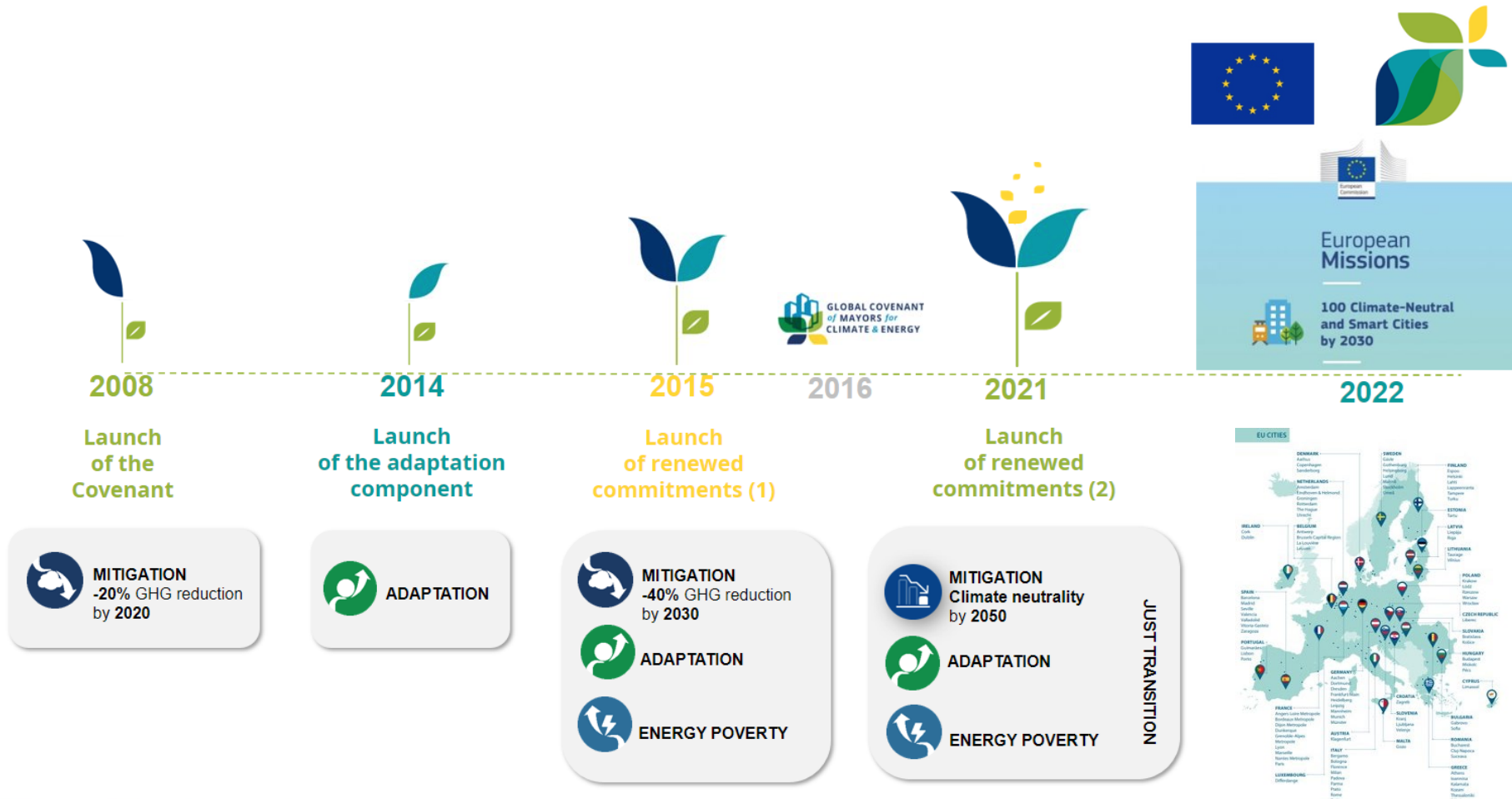
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# Flashback



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# The Process



Available at: <https://eumayors.eu/about/covenant-initiative/objectives-and-scope.html>

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# The Interactive Funding Guide



Shared management funds	European Funding Programmes	Technical assistance and advisory support	Financial Institutions Instruments	Alternative Financing Schemes
Cohesion Fund	Connecting Europe Facility	eeef TA	Municipal loans	Citizen Cooperatives
EAFRD	EREFM	InvestEU Advisory Hub ▾	InvestEU Fund	Crowdfunding
EMFAF	Horizon Europe ▾	Just Transition Platform	Public Sector Loan Facility	EPC
ERDF	Innovation Fund	LIFE Technical Assistance Projects		Green municipal bonds
ESF+	LIFE ▾			On-bill-financing
Just Transition Fund	Territorial Cooperation ▾			Revolving loan funds
	URBACT			Soft loans, guarantees
Support services				
InvestEU Portal	EIAH	URBIS	fi-compass	European PPP Expertise Centre

Available at: <https://eumayors.eu/support/funding.html>



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# What is the Cities Energy Saving Sprint?



- ▶ A joint awareness campaign of the Covenant of Mayors – Europe, the Committee of the Regions and the European Commission
- ▶ Launched the 19th of May and to last until the European Sustainable Energy Week in September (26th- 30th)
- ▶ Encourage cities to reduce their energy consumption, as part of the EU- Save Energy plan. Immediately and inexpensively!
- ▶ Foment local debates on how to decrease energy demands in cities and individual lifestyles

## The Cities Energy Saving Sprint



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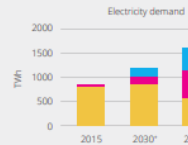
# Great Potential for Collective Energy!



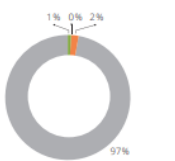
## THE POTENTIAL OF ELECTRICITY GENERATION BY PROSUMERS IN THE EU IN 2050



The electricity demand by households doubles by 2050 due to more use of heat pumps and electric vehicles.

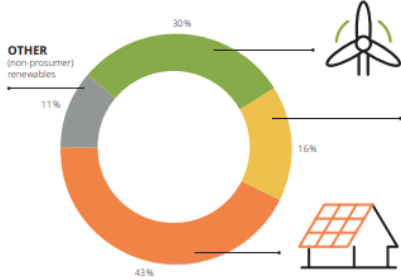


### CURRENT TECHNOLOGIES for generating electricity of households



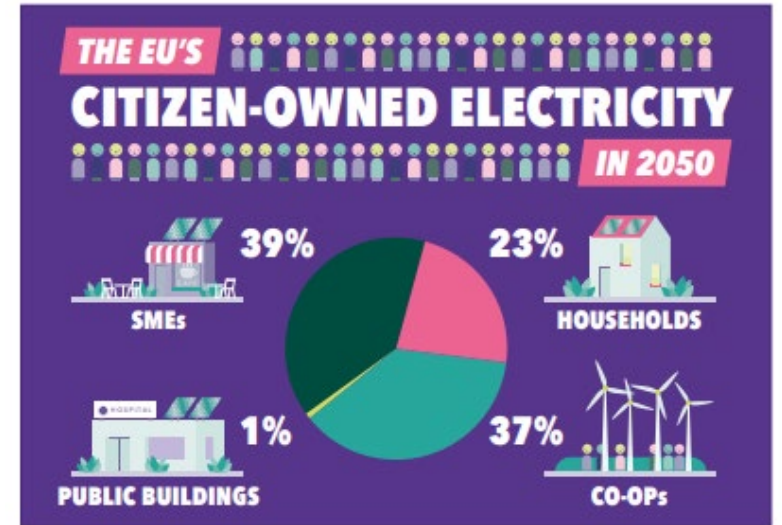
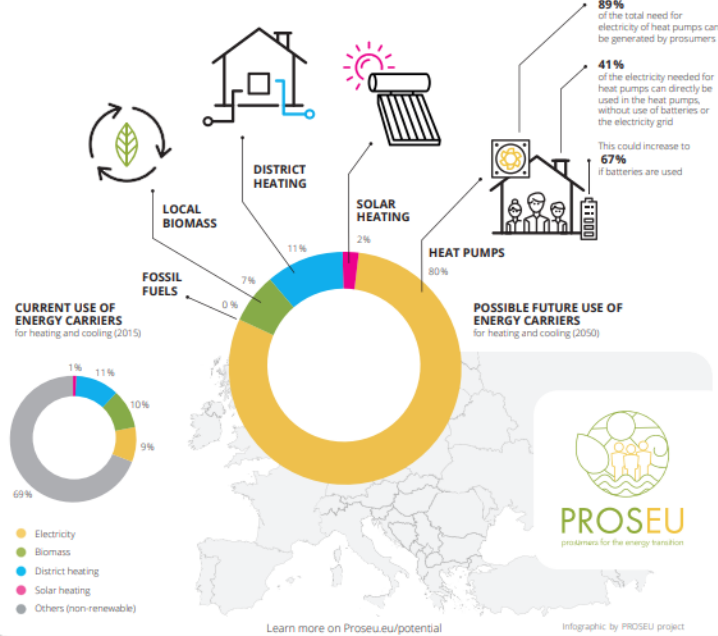
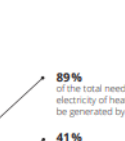
- Solar PV rooftops
- Solar PV ground-based (collective)
- Wind (collective)
- Other

### POSSIBLE FUTURE TECHNOLOGIES for generating electricity of households



Infographic by PROSEU project

## THE POTENTIAL HEATING AND COOLING TECHNOLOGIES IN HOUSEHOLDS IN THE EU



<sup>1</sup> The study, performed in 2016 by Dutch consultancy firm CE Delft, evaluates for the first time the potential of decentralised power generation across the continent. <https://bit.ly/2GLYnov>

Image source: [Friends of the Earth Europe](https://www.freesoftheearth.org/) 2019

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# What can municipalities do?



- Many things! E.g:
- They can make **public space** available and offer energy communities opportunities to participate in **public tenders**
- They can **raise awareness** and **share municipal staff and resources** e.g. join the board of the community
- They can **set concrete targets** for the promotion of energy communities and make them a firm part of their climate & energy plans
- They can save costs and can **protect vulnerable households**
- They can **bring together different stakeholders** and promote innovation through **co-creation** and **citizen engagement**
- They can improve the **flexibility and resilience** of local grids
- They can **become part** of energy communities themselves
- They can profit financially from engaging with RECs e.g. through the generation of stable **business tax revenues** and **access to renewable energy sources**



Image source: [PROSEU 2021](#) / Design Doppel



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# Examples from Sigantory Cities



**In Valencia**, Spain, the Council has set up an Energy Office and aims at having 100 energy communities by 2030.

- Public roofs are being made available to energy communities for PV installations. Outreach activities and personalized advice provided.

**In Bristol**, United Kingdom, the Council has set up the Bristol Community Energy Fund.

- The aim is to increase Bristol's renewable energy supply and help changing people's energy behavior. Grantees include the Bristol Energy Cooperative.

**In Porto**, Portugal, eight apartment blocks and a public school are forming a renewable energy community.

- Electricity will be generated from PV panels installed on the roofs and consumed within the community with any excess sold to the grid. Ambition is to involve 118 families as well as young consumers who will receive rebates on their energy bills. The local authority is closely involved and manages a large number of buildings.

**In Tartu**, Estonia, the SECAP includes an objective of 150 GWh of electricity consumption annually, 15 GWh need to come from the rooftops of apartment associations.

- The city, and the local energy agency (TREA) are additionally involved in capacity building and work with homeowners associations to facilitate community-ownership of PV installations and to co-finance building retrofitting.



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# Examples form Signatories in Rural Areas



In **Crevillent**, Spain, 65 households are participating in an energy community set up in collaboration with Enercoop.

- Activities include collective self-consumption, storage, the optimization of the energy and economic flows, electricity-sharing and a mobile app for citizens with information about their energy use. The municipality provides administrative support and allows for the installation of PV solar panels on local government roofs and has already permitted public unused land to be used for more PV installations.

**Amel & Büllingen**, Belgium, have initiated and participate in a large wind farm on municipal property. 50% of the project are publicly owned by the municipalities and 25% by Courant d'Air and 25% by Ecopower.

Villages around **Göttingen**, Germany, connect local farmers to village cooperatives that manage energy production and distribution e.g. Bioenergiedorf Jühnde eG.

- With high citizen interest, investment came from LEADER as well from cooperative shares, cooperative loans and federal government subsidies.

**Ragusa**, Italy, is making renewable energy communities a core priority in its Sustainable Energy & Climate Action Plans (SECAP) and is now launching an 200 kW agricultural energy community allowing SMEs to produce and share energy from renewable sources.



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# Join the CoMmunity!



Signatories: <https://eumayors.eu/join/join-as-a-signatory.html>

Coordinators: <https://eumayors.eu/join/join-as-a-coordinator.html>

Supporters: <https://eumayors.eu/join/join-as-a-supporter.html>

Thank you!

Contact: [arthur.hinsch@eumayors.eu](mailto:arthur.hinsch@eumayors.eu) / [info@eumayors.eu](mailto:info@eumayors.eu)



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# Thank you



# Renewable Energy Community (REC) “Energy City Hall” of Magliano Alpi

The first REC of Italy (2020)

by Sergio Olivero



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# Renewable Energy Communities (REC)



According to the Italian regulation, that early adopted the European **RED-II Directive** in 2020, a «**Renewable Energy Community**» (REC) is a private law legal entity that

- is based on open and voluntary participation, is autonomous and is controlled by shareholders or members who are located in the vicinity of production facilities;
- whose shareholders or members are **natural persons, small and medium-sized enterprises** (SME), **local authorities**, including **municipalities** □ new PPP models
- whose primary objective is to provide community-wide **environmental, economic or social benefits** to its shareholders or members or to the local areas in which it operates, rather than financial profits.

**RECs** can represent the **technical-organizational catalyst** of sustainable local development models based on the Energy Transition



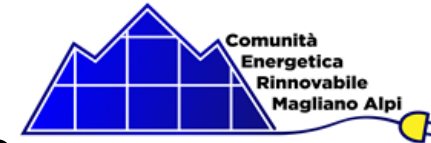
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# ECH's objectives



- **City of Magliano Alpi**: 2,184 inhabitants, Province of Cuneo <https://cermaglianoalpi.it/>
- Since **December 2020**, first Italian Renewable Energy Community (REC), compliant with the RED-II Directive as adopted by the Italian Government (art. 42 bis, Law “Milleproroghe” 28 February 2020).
- Member of RESCOOP
- Objectives:
  - Help Citizens and SMEs to cope with Energy Transition..
  - Support local economic development in the post-Covid phase
  - Support other Cities to design and activate RECs
  - By 2021, two additional RECs are ready to be activated
  - Because of the new Italian law on RECs (law DLgs 199/2021, final transposition of RED-II Directive, expected mid 2022) the three RECs will be merged into a unique “bigger” RECs



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# Magliano Alpi's GoCER



- Independent guarantor
- Can be a member of the REC



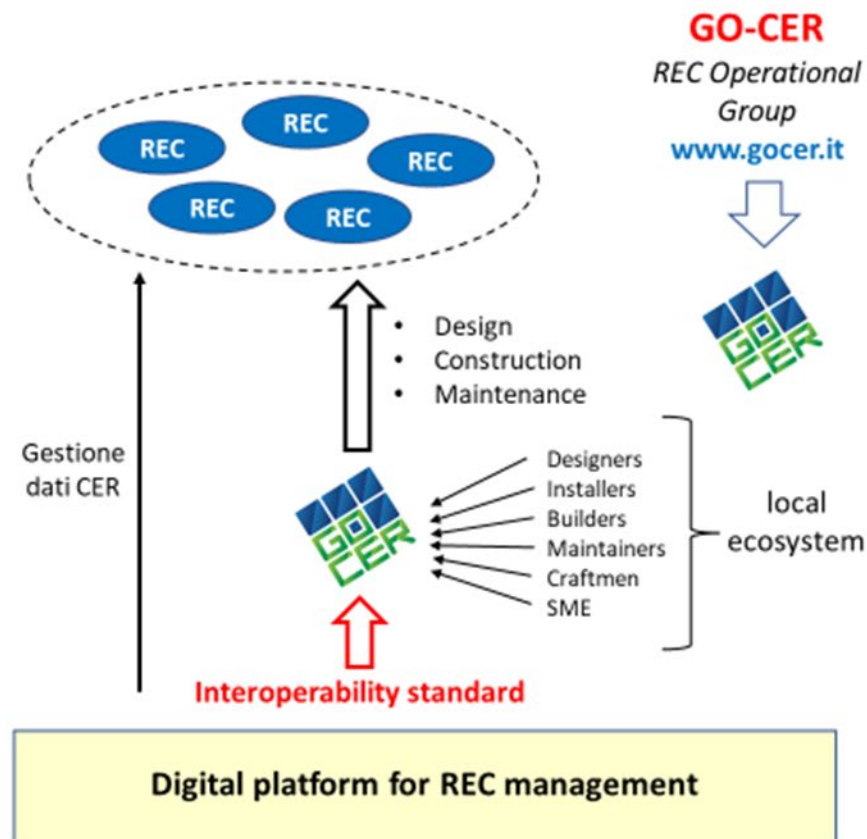
- Enables design&implementation supply chains of local stakeholders
- Some incentives (e.g. 50% fiscal bonus on PV + 110 €/MWh REC incentives) can effectively be provided by GO-CER only  
→ **competitive advantage**)

**Citizens and Companies**

- Know «*whom to contact*» (a face, not a call center)



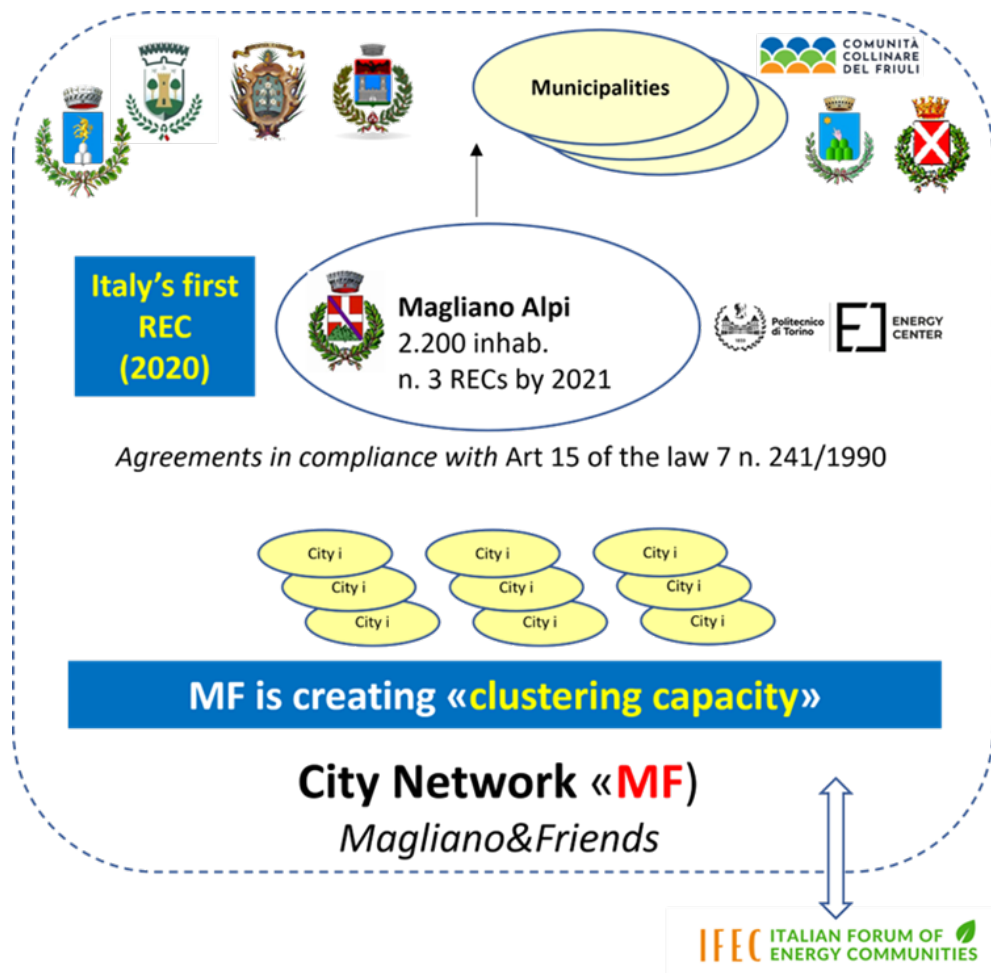
## The «GO-CER» of Magliano Alpi



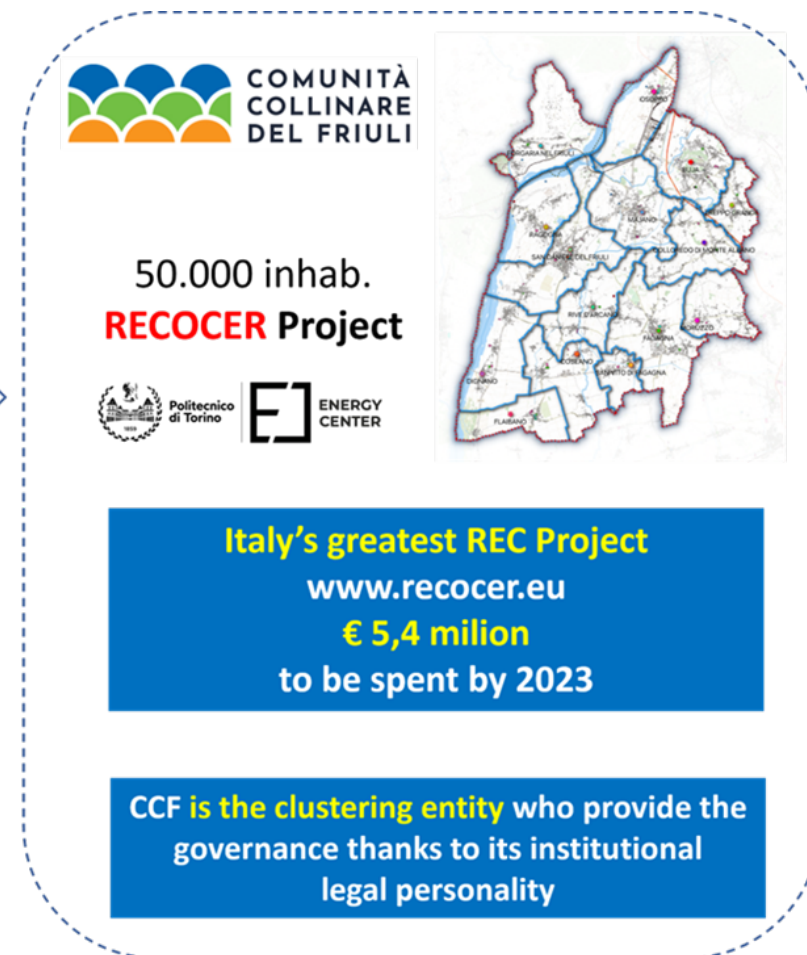
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# Magliano Alpi's network and RECOCER



synergies



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# News



**IFEC** ITALIAN FORUM OF  
ENERGY COMMUNITIES

WORLD  
ENERGY  
COUNCIL

ITALIA



Politecnico  
di Torino



ENERGY  
CENTER



Community Partner

<https://www.wec-italia.org/ifec-italian-forum-of-energy-communities/>

**ATENES**

AUC ENERGIA EQUA E SOSTENIBILE

[www.atenesauc.eu](http://www.atenesauc.eu)



Founding Partner

**erigrid**

Connecting European  
Smart Grid Infrastructures



Scientific cooperation [www.erigrid.eu](http://www.erigrid.eu)



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# Contact



Politecnico  
di Torino



ENERGY  
CENTER

**Sergio Olivero**

Head of Business&Finance  
Innovation

[sergio.olivero@polito.it](mailto:sergio.olivero@polito.it)



*President of the Scientific  
Committee*



*President of the Scientific  
Committee*



*Member of the Scientific Committee*



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# Thank you

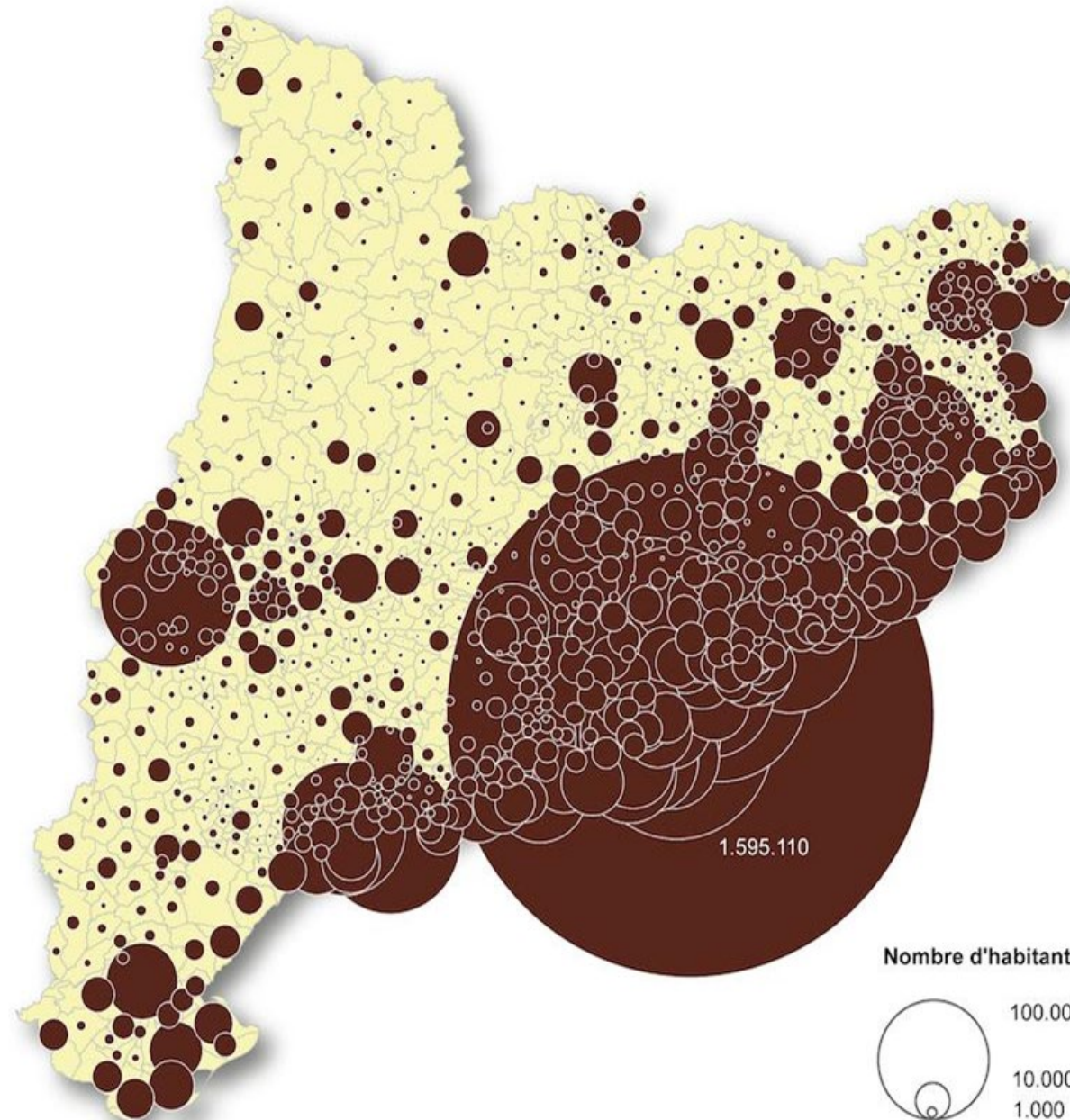
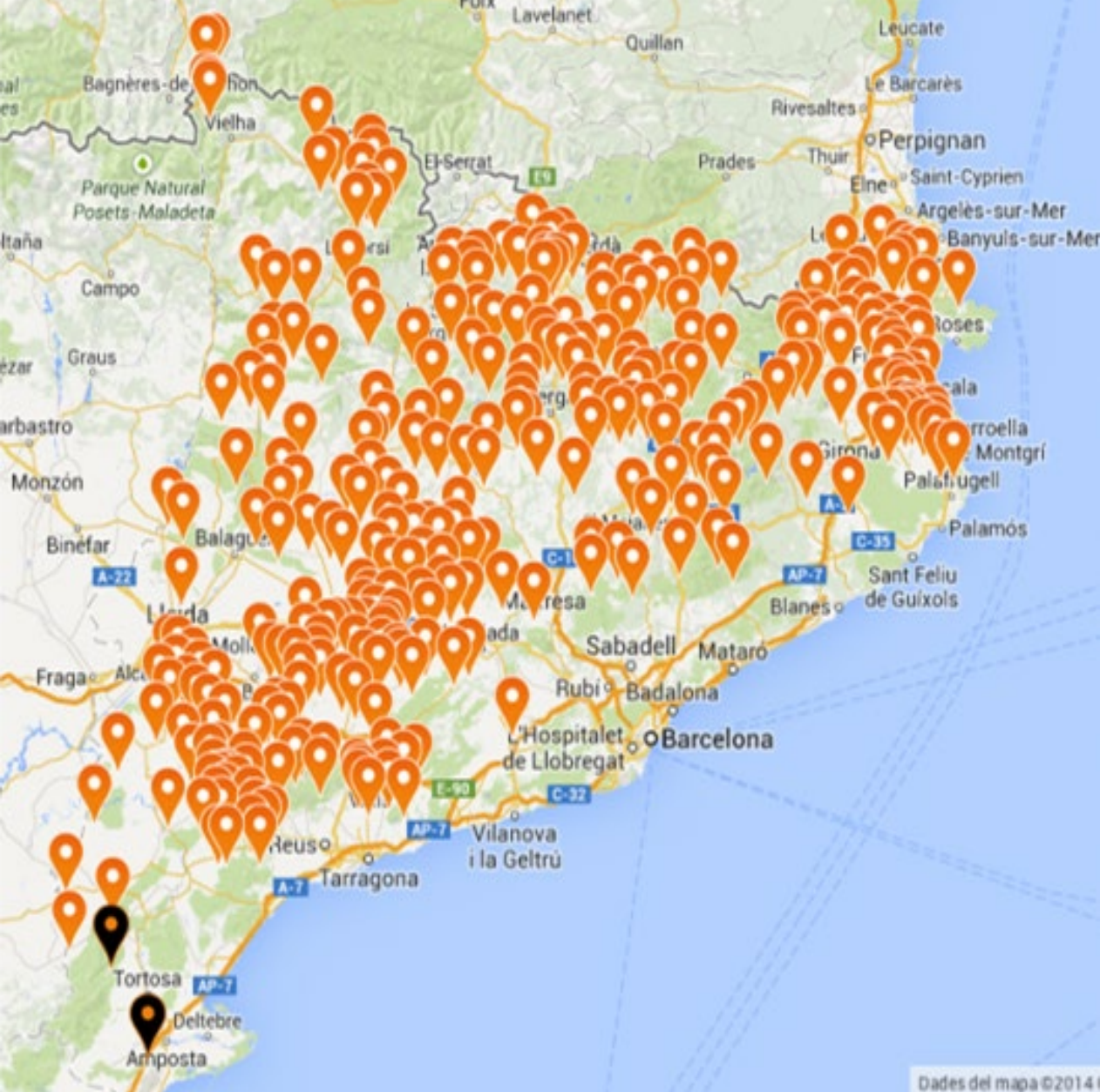


# Micro-villages of Catalonia

*We study the opportunities offered by  
the environment and try to take  
advantage of them*

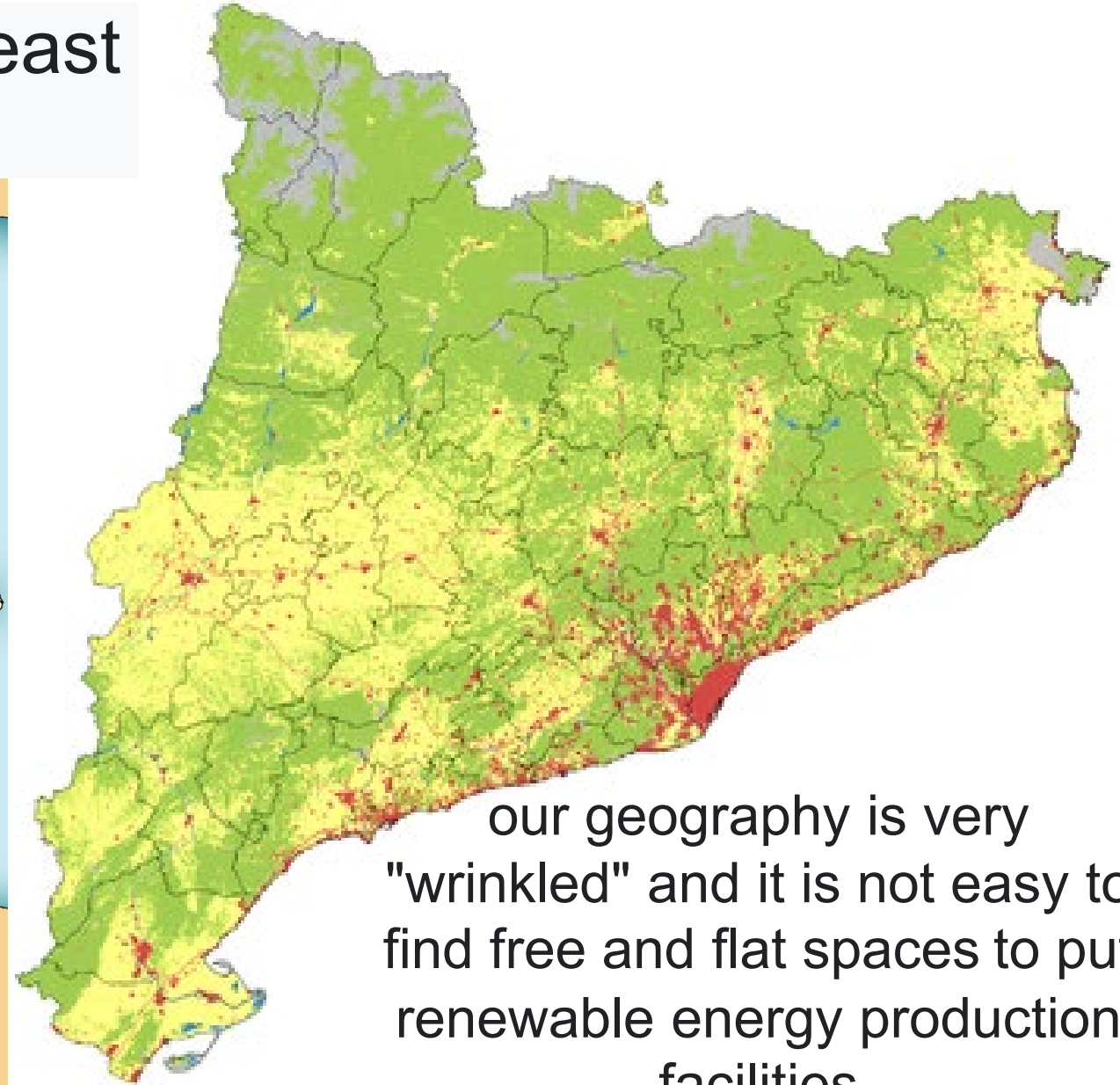
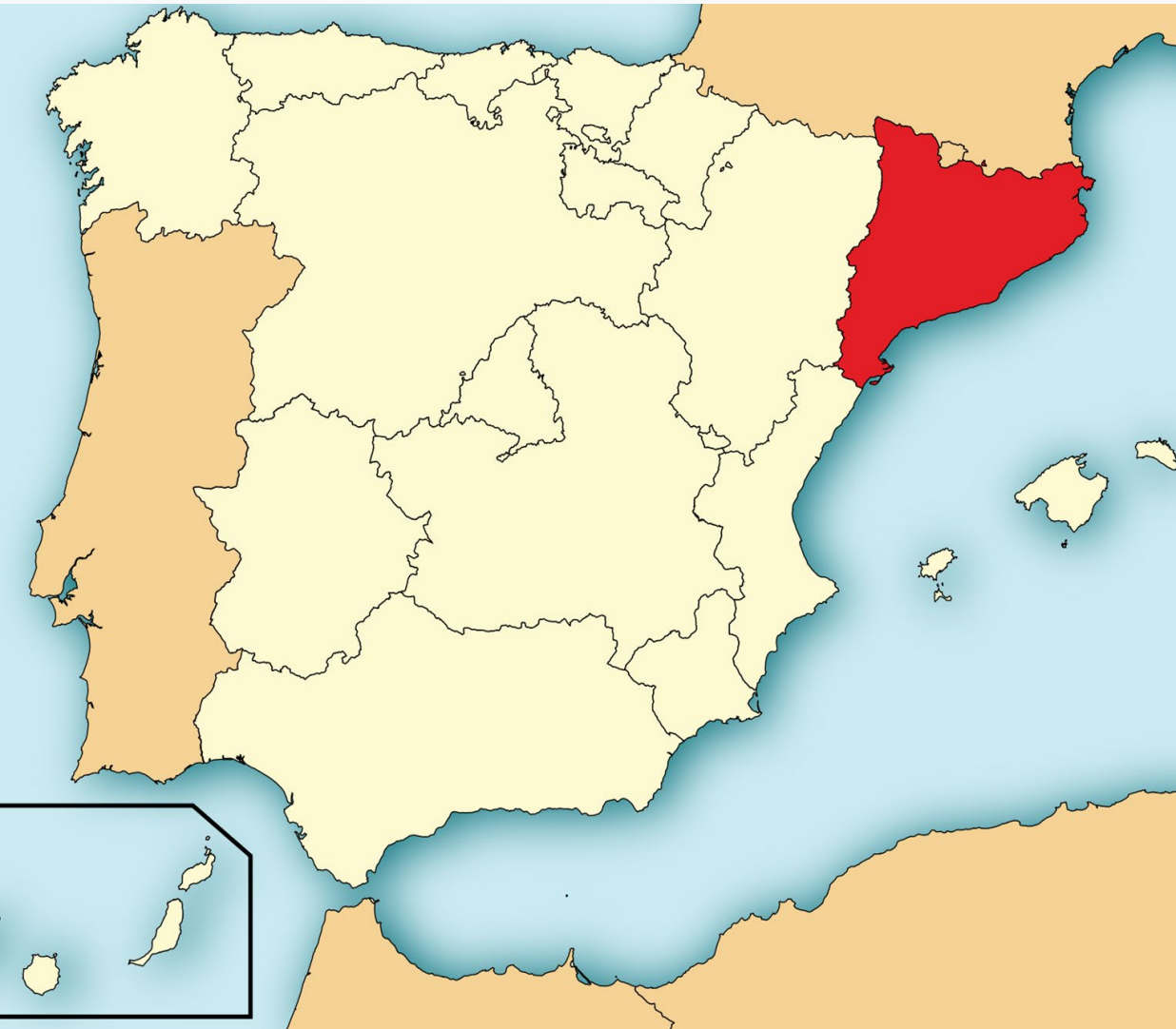








# Catalonia is located in the northeast of the Iberian Peninsula



our geography is very "wrinkled" and it is not easy to find free and flat spaces to put renewable energy production facilities

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## Energies Renovables Innovadores, Sostenibles i Responsables

- Cicle de taules rodones on-line -



**TAULA RODONA XI:**  
UN NOU MODEL DE TRANSICIÓ ENERGÈTICA, AL SERVEI DE LA  
CIUTADANIA, ÉS VIABLE. ENS HI POSEM? I. ESTRATÈGIA GLOBAL

Dimecres, 16 de juny de 2021, de 19:00 a 21:00 h.

FORMULARI D'INSCRIPCIÓ: <https://forms.gle/dCy1HmtUgT3qWtvB7>



### Obertura:

- o Mario Urrea, president de l'Associació de Micropobles de Catalunya

### Intervencions:

- o Assumpta Farran, Directora General d'Energia, Generalitat de Catalunya
- o Antonio Turiel, doctor en Física Teòrica i Científic Titular del CSIC
- o Sergi Saladié, Departament de Geografia de la Universitat Rovira i Virgili
- o Albert Mases, ANPIER (Associació Nacional de Productors d'Energia Fotovoltaica) Delegació de Catalunya
- o Lourdes Berdié, membre de la Xarxa per la Sobirania Energètica

### Moderada:

- o Jordi Tarragó, Vicepresident Territorial de l'Associació de Micropobles de Catalunya

From September 2020 to June 2021, the association organized 12 webinars to discuss the different ways of capturing renewable energy and its opportunity for the territory

## Energies Renovables Innovadores, Sostenibles i Responsables

- Cicle de taules rodones on-line -



**TAULA RODONA III:**

**ENERGIA AGRIVOLTAICA: UNA OPORTUNITAT  
PER AL CAMP CATALÀ?**

Dimecres, 4 de novembre, de 19:00 a 21:00 h.

### Obertura:

- II-lm. Sr. Mario Urrea, president de l'Associació de Micropobles de Catalunya

### Intervencions:

- Sr. Oriol Anson, Director General de Desenvolupament Rural del DARP
- Prof. David Joung, Centro de Tecnologías para la Energía Solar (CSET), Fraunhofer Chile Research
- Sr. Luis Asin, cap del programa de Fruticultura, IRTA
- Sr. Jaume Pedrós, responsable d'Energies Alternatives, Unió de Pagesos
- Sra. Anna Lluís, enginyera agrònoma

### Moderada per:

- Sr. Cesc Salamé, secretari de l'Associació de Micropobles de Catalunya

FORMULARI  
D'INSCRIPCIÓ:  
[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/D  
CY1HMTUGT3QWTVB7](https://forms.gle/dCy1HmtUgT3qWtvB7)

MÉS  
INFORMACIÓ:  
[WWW.MICROPOBLES.CAT](http://WWW.MICROPOBLES.CAT)



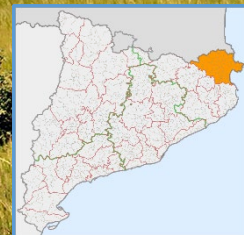


sun

**RUPIÀ:**  
municipal photovoltaics for energy community



**SENAN:**  
photovoltaic bucket in the village square



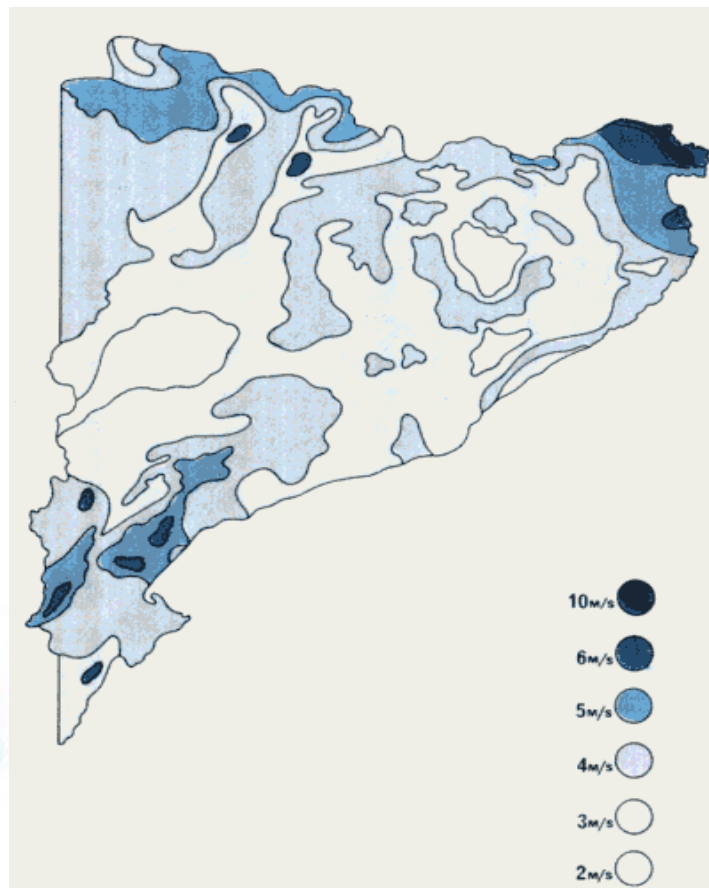
Ordis  
Sostenible





# Wind

Pujalt (Anoia)  
"live from the air" installation  
made with citizen  
participation



Vilanova de Prades  
(Conca de Barberà)

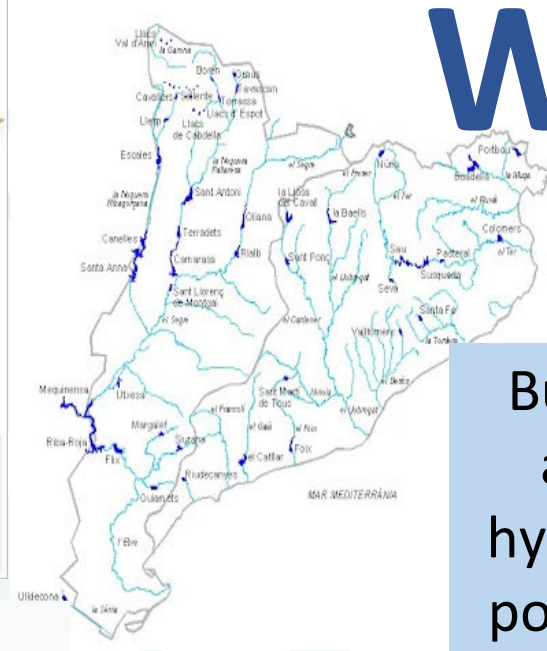
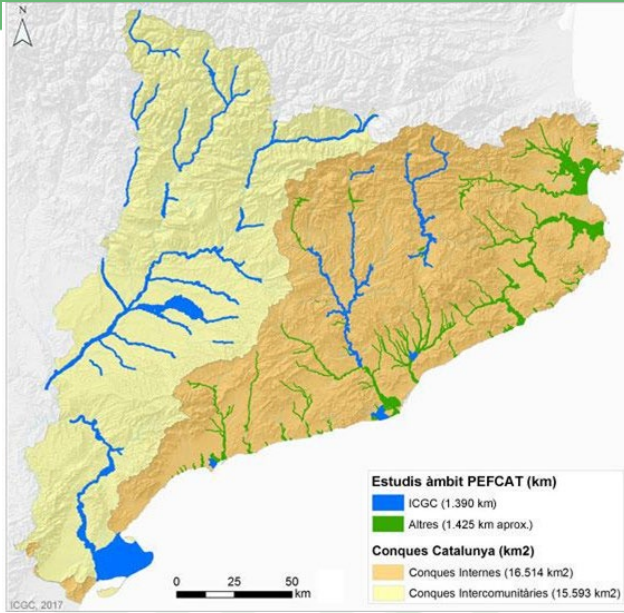


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# Water

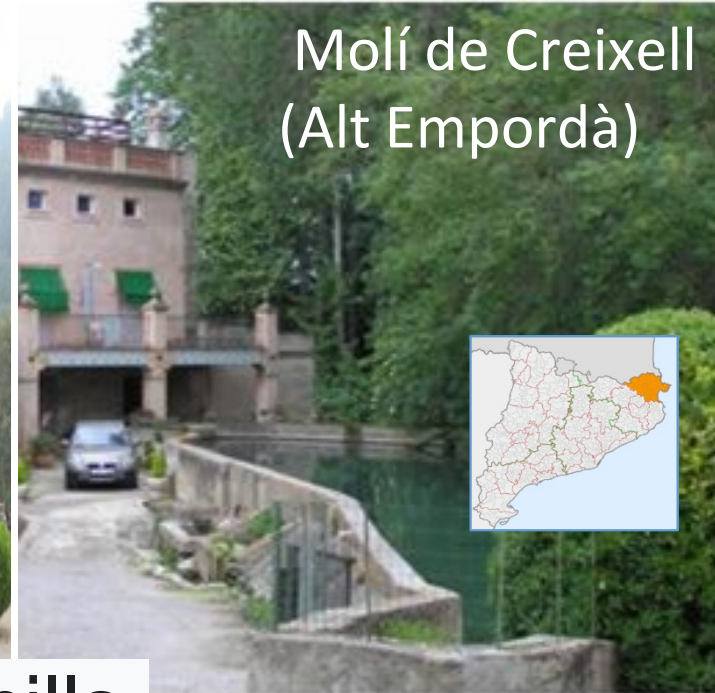


But there is  
also mini  
hydroelectric  
power plants

there are large hydraulic  
power stations in marshes,  
especially in the Pyrenees



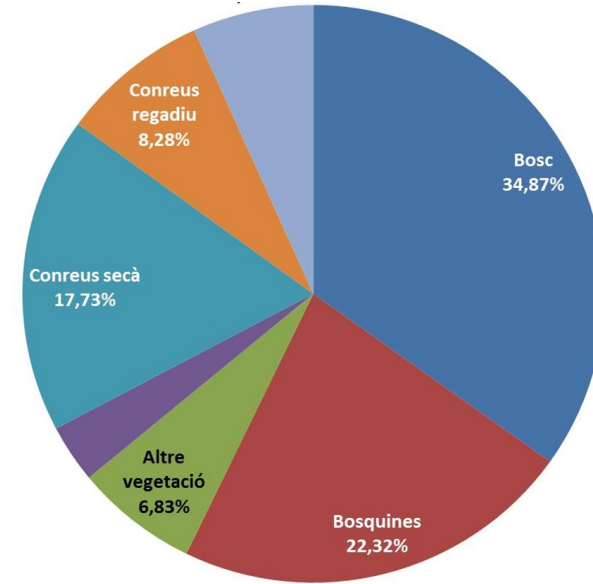
mills







# biomass



57,19% of  
territory is  
wooded area

many forests have sprung from  
abandoned fields and others have grown  
disorderly due to lack of management,  
which poses a serious risk of fires.



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# biomass

commonwealth of  
municipalities of the  
Bergadà for biomass



eco  
vivre  
MASSA DEL BERGUEDA



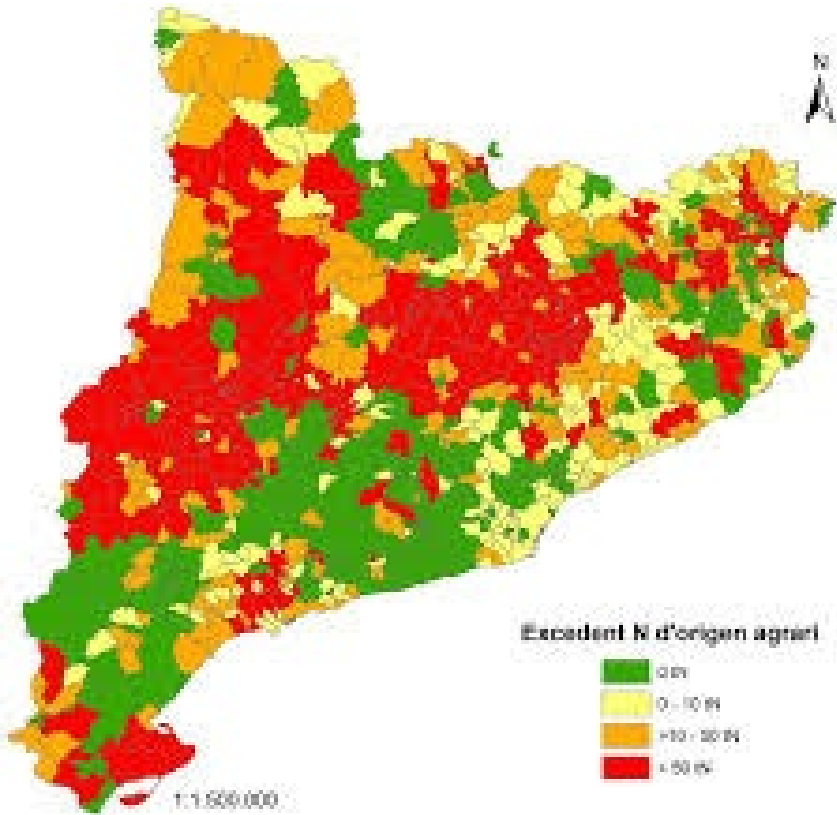
Sant Pere de  
Torelló (Osona)  
**district eating  
with biomass**



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there is a problem of soil pollution  
by nitrates in rural areas... no waste  
management policy and very few  
biogas plants

Vilademuls (Pla de l'Estany)

**waste**



3.209.204 km<sup>2</sup>

7.660.530 inhabitants

52.202.535 heads of livestock



# Thank you





# Time for your voices



# How can we contribute to the Rural Pact?



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# Conversations in small groups

1. Introduce each other and share any activities you already have related to the session topic
2. Exchange ideas and take notes on the Template

# Template

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## How can we contribute to the Rural Pact?

Session topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Participants:

### Key Ideas:

What new ideas emerged from the presentations? What key ideas can you share from your own context?

### Opportunities for collaboration:

What opportunities for collaboration do you see?

### Concrete actions (name, organisation, action)\*:

What concrete actions are you willing to take to contribute to the Rural Pact?

# Don't forget to submit a commitment!

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## COMMITMENT CANVAS

What concrete actions am I / is my organisation willing to take to contribute to the Rural Pact?

*Please fill out one canvas for each commitment you are willing to submit*

<b>This is:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> An idea for a commitment / <input type="checkbox"/> A formal commitment	
<b>Name:</b> <b>Name of organisation:</b> <b>Sector/type of organisation:</b>	
<b>Contact email:</b>	<b>Country:</b>
Are you a member of the Rural Pact Community? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes / <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<b>Description of the commitment:</b>	
<b>Key milestones you are planning:</b>	
<b>Which objective does the commitment contribute to?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Amplify rural voices <input type="checkbox"/> Networking & collaboration <input type="checkbox"/> Acting for rural areas	







1) What new ideas emerged from our conversations?

2) What opportunities for collaboration came to life that would contribute to the Rural Pact?

# “Harvesting” from our conversations

Go to:  
**SLI.DO #ORCHARD**





# Thank you

