



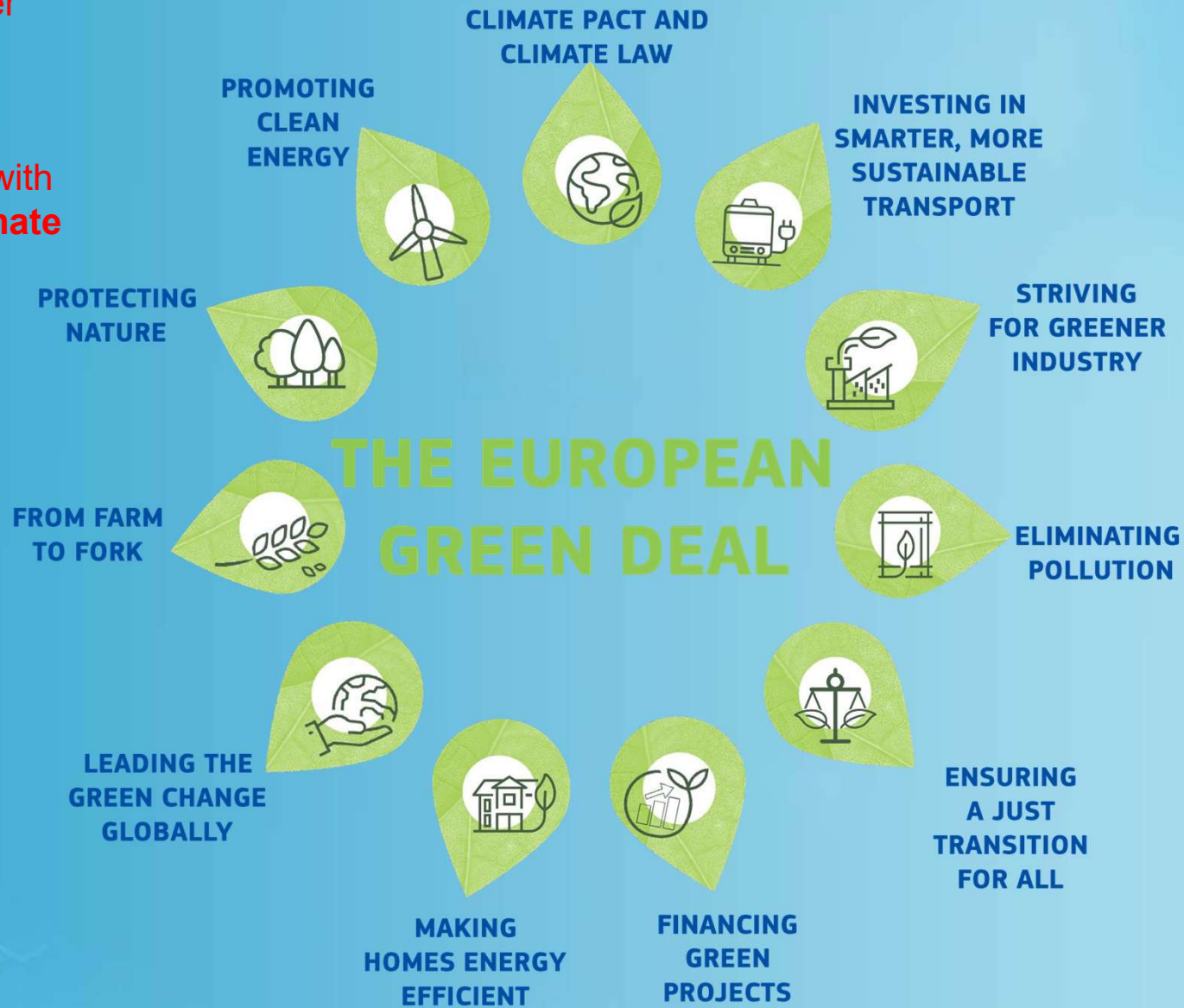
The role of energy communities in the process of the just energy transition

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Adopted in December 2019, the European Green Deal is the **economic growth strategy** of the EU, with the aim to reach **climate neutrality**



Energy System of the future

Liberalised and competitive

Digitalised

Decentralised and consumer centred

Integrated

Decarbonised



Just Transition Mechanism

A key tool to ensure that the transition towards a climate-neutral economy happens in a fair way, leaving no one behind, mobilising **up to around €60 billion** over the period 2021-2027



Just Transition Fund



InvestEU Just Transition Scheme



EIB public sector loan facility



Not only funding!

The Commission will be **providing technical assistance to Member States** and investors

→ **Just Transition Platform** with a dedicated work stream for coal, peat and oil shale regions, the **Coal Regions in Transition Initiative**

Just Transition Fund (JTF)

Objective: **alleviate the socio-economic costs** triggered by climate transition, **supporting the economic diversification and reconversion** of the territories concerned. This can mean:

- backing productive investments in small and medium-sized enterprises,
- the creation of new firms, research and innovation,
- Investment into clean energy,
- up- and reskilling of workers, job-search assistance and active inclusion of jobseekers programmes,
- environmental rehabilitation of former mining sites,
- transformation of existing carbon-intensive installations when these investments lead to substantial emission cuts and job protection.

Shared management of these funds between national/local beneficiaries and European Commission



REPowerEU Regulation

- Adopted by the Commission in May 2022
- Political agreement reached by co-legislators on 13 December 2022
- Formally adopted by the European Parliament and the Council in February 2023
- Published in the OJ on 28 February 2023
- Entry into force: 1 March 2023

...but negotiations with MS on REPowerEU chapters already started,

...and guidance for MS has been published.

REPowerEU objectives (I)



- a) improving **energy infrastructure and facilities** to meet **immediate security of supply needs for gas**, including LNG, notably to enable diversification of supply in the interest of the Union as a whole.

By derogation, oil infrastructure and facilities may be included in the REPowerEU chapter of a Member State that has been subject to the exceptional temporary derogation in Art. 3m(4) of Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 due to its specific dependence on crude oil and geographical situation



- b) boosting **energy efficiency in buildings and critical energy infrastructure, decarbonising industry**, increasing production and uptake of **sustainable biomethane, renewable or fossil-free hydrogen** and increasing the share and accelerating the deployment of **renewable energy**;



- ba) addressing **energy poverty**;

REPowerEU objectives (II)



bb) incentivising **reduction of energy demand**;



c) addressing **internal** and **cross-border energy transmission** and **distribution bottlenecks**, supporting **electricity storage** and **accelerating the integration of renewable energy sources**, and **supporting zero emission transport** and its **infrastructure**, including railways;



d) supporting the above objectives through an **accelerated requalification of the workforce towards green skills** and **the related digital skills**, as well as **support of the value chains in critical raw materials** and **technologies linked to the green transition**.

REPowerEU Communication

“The Commission also calls on the Member States to speed up the transposition of the Electricity Directive to effectively allow consumers to participate in energy markets (individually or via energy communities or collective self-consumption schemes) to produce, self-consume, sell or share renewable energy.”

European Solar Rooftop Initiative as part of EU Solar Strategy

→ Set up at least one renewables-based energy community in every municipality with a population higher than 10 000 by 2025

Biomethane Action Plan

→ Mobilise energy communities to integrate biogas into the market

Recommendations on speeding up permit-granting procedures

→ Simplify and ease permit granting, grid connection and production licensing procedures for renewable energy communities

Key REPowerEU policy instruments



EU Save Energy Communication with recommendations for how citizens and businesses can help save around 13bcm of gas imports in the short term



Legal proposals

Proposed Energy Performance of Building Directive (EPBD)



EU Solar Strategy with measures to accelerate the roll out of solar energy to increase capacity to 600 GW by 2030



Electricity market design Communication to accelerate energy transition and ensure access to low-cost renewables



Electricity Market Design



Biomethane Action Plan to save up to 35 bcm of natural gas by 2030



Proposed Gas Market Directive



Permitting Recommendation to simplify and ease permit granting, grid connection and production licensing procedures



Proposed renewable Energy Directive

Consumer empowerment

Individual active customer



© Raboe

Jointly acting active customers



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Energy communities



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Renewable Energy Directive: all types of *renewable energy*

Electricity Directive: all types of *electricity*

Energy Communities in Estonia

- The current legal system in Estonia enables the creation of renewable energy communities and the production of renewable energy for own consumption.
- Specific regulations related to energy sharing, energy communities or prosumers have not been adopted yet.

Energy Communities in Estonia

- Recommended measures:
- *Develop facilitating services for energy community projects and a framework for citizen engagement*
 - creating a local contact point charged with (renewable) energy topics at municipal level
 - support via financial and non-financial measures
- *Increase stakeholder awareness on advantages of clean energy projects*
 - Developing a general central platform for information on energy

EU initiatives on energy communities

Rural Energy Community Advisory Hub

https://rural-energy-community-hub.ec.europa.eu/index_en

Energy Communities Repository

https://energy-communities-repository.ec.europa.eu/index_en

Thank you



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