***Empowering OSSs for energy communities***

# Structuring local power: governance models for energy communities

*2nd November 2026*

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# Today

| Time | Topic |
|---|---|
| 15:00 - 15:10 | Who’s in the room? |
| 15:10 - 15:30 | Introduction: Governance of energy communities<br>**Plus**: appropriate Governance arrangements for OSSs for energy communities |
| 15:30 - 16:00 | P2P exchange |

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# Cooperative principles

International Cooperative Alliance

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Member Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training, and Information
6. Cooperation among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

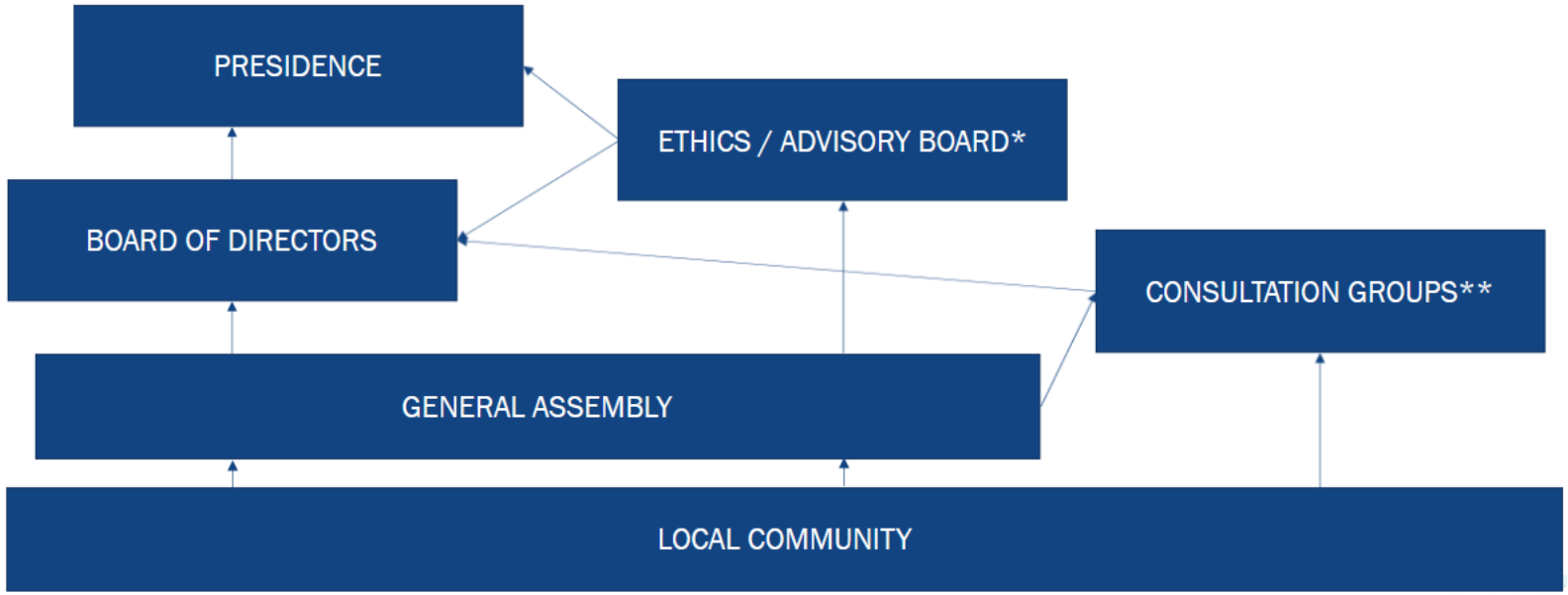
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# Governance …

*This can be also other types of elected or non-elected board.
** This is another way to represent the local stakeholders.




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# ...and documents

- Statutes
- Internal Rules
- Business (Financial) Plan
- Organigram

- Charter
- Fundraising plan
- Community organizing plan

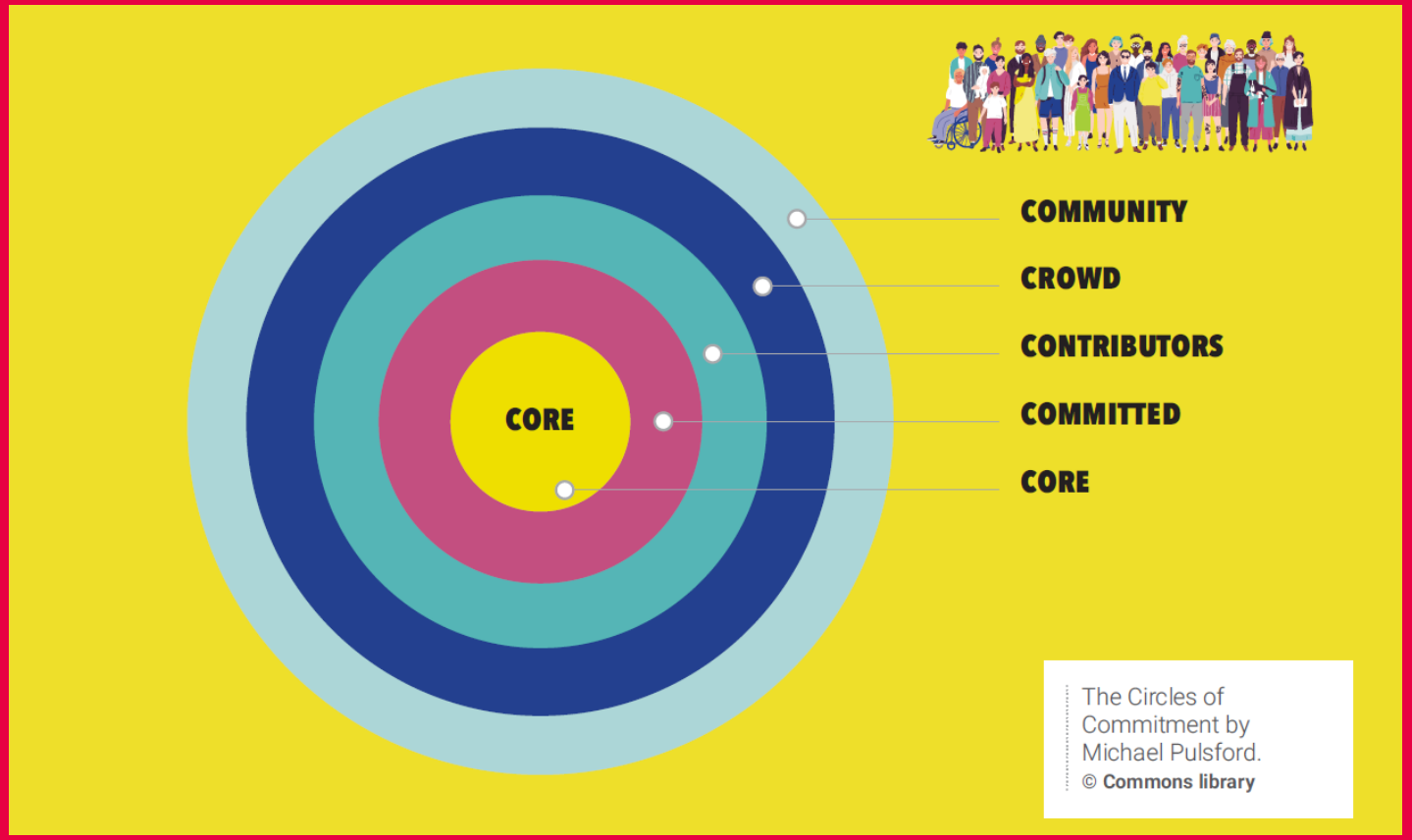
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# The difficult questions

- What is possible vs. what is preferable.
- Ownership and control
- Debt and equity – legal requirements and our good friends the banks !
- Diversity and representation
- Volunteers vs. Employees

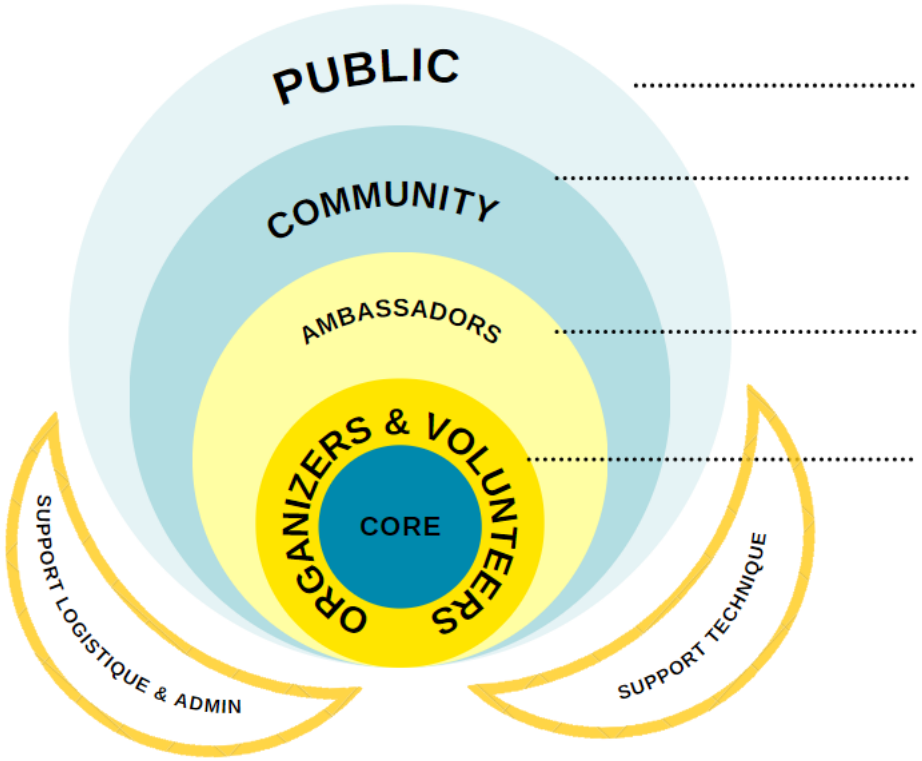
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# Who is making up my Energy Community ?




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# brupower (BE)




You want to be informed by our newsletter / social networks...

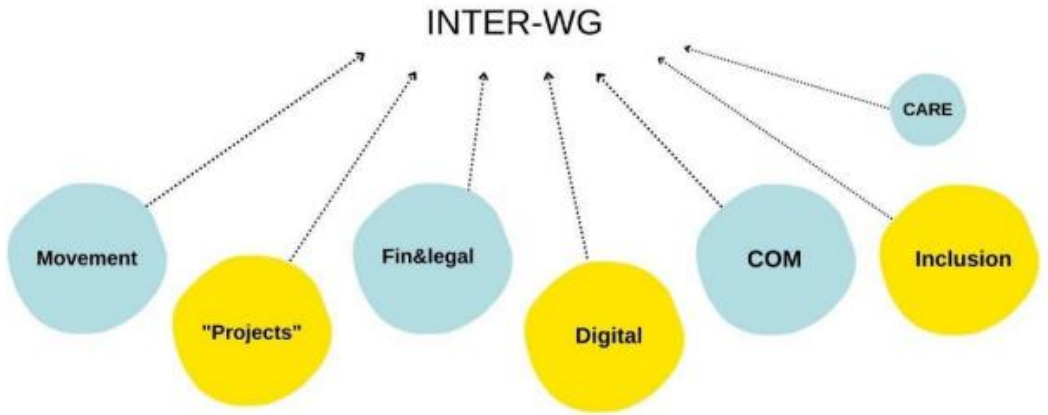
You follow our activities closely, and participate in events

You get active to make the project known around you! You agree to be contacted for specific activities

You are part of a working group that meets regularly and you are committed to the long-term.

More time

More responsabilities




Source: brupower coop

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# Sifnos Energy Community (GR)

- First energy cooperative in Greece
- Focus on raising awareness:
  coop helped in addressing concerns
  about the installation of 2 wind turbines of the PPC on the island
- Municipality became member of the community




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# How can municipalities support energy communities?

- Favourable procurement rules
- Community ownership targets for RES
- Pre-requisite for community involvement in tenders
- Support network organisations to encourage bundling and capacity building at the local level
- Support local stakeholder dialogues
- Matchmaking people
- Joint Investments and partnerships

- Municipal planning and communication
  - Resolutions and procedures (SECAPs)
  - Promotion and provision of platforms and tools
- Municipal grants
  - Expert support
  - Office space
  - “Community organiser”
  - Pre-development costs (e.g. pre-feasibility or potential studies)
- One-stop-shops

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# Alternative models of OSSs for energy communities

| | Zagreb Model (Municipal-Led) | Bistrița Model (Hybrid) | Minoan Model (Cooperative-Led) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Management | Municipality-led with institutional backing | Joint effort between municipality with external support (companies, cooperatives, volunteers,...) | Primarily cooperative-run with municipal collaboration |
| Main services | Technical, legal, and energy poverty support | Legal, financial, and awareness campaigns | Technical, legal and advocacy, and public engagement |
| Funding | Initial municipal funding, seeking sustainability | Project funding with limited financial resources | Volunteer-driven, seeking external funding |
| Regulatory environment | Policy gaps limit energy community support | Some legal support but not fully structured | Regulatory framework unclear, making operations challenging |
| Target audience | Citizens, vulnerable populations, businesses | Citizens, energy cooperatives | Citizens, cooperative members, policymakers, wider community |
| Strengths (+) / weaknesses (-) | + Dedicated municipal space in strategic location<br>+ Neutrality (public)<br>- Initial workshops completed; detailed community engagement plan in progress. | + Municipal space in strategic location<br>+ Support from external partners<br>- Lack of volunteers (capacity) | + Strong network<br>+ Volunteer support / community-led<br>- Office less visible<br>- Lack of capacity |

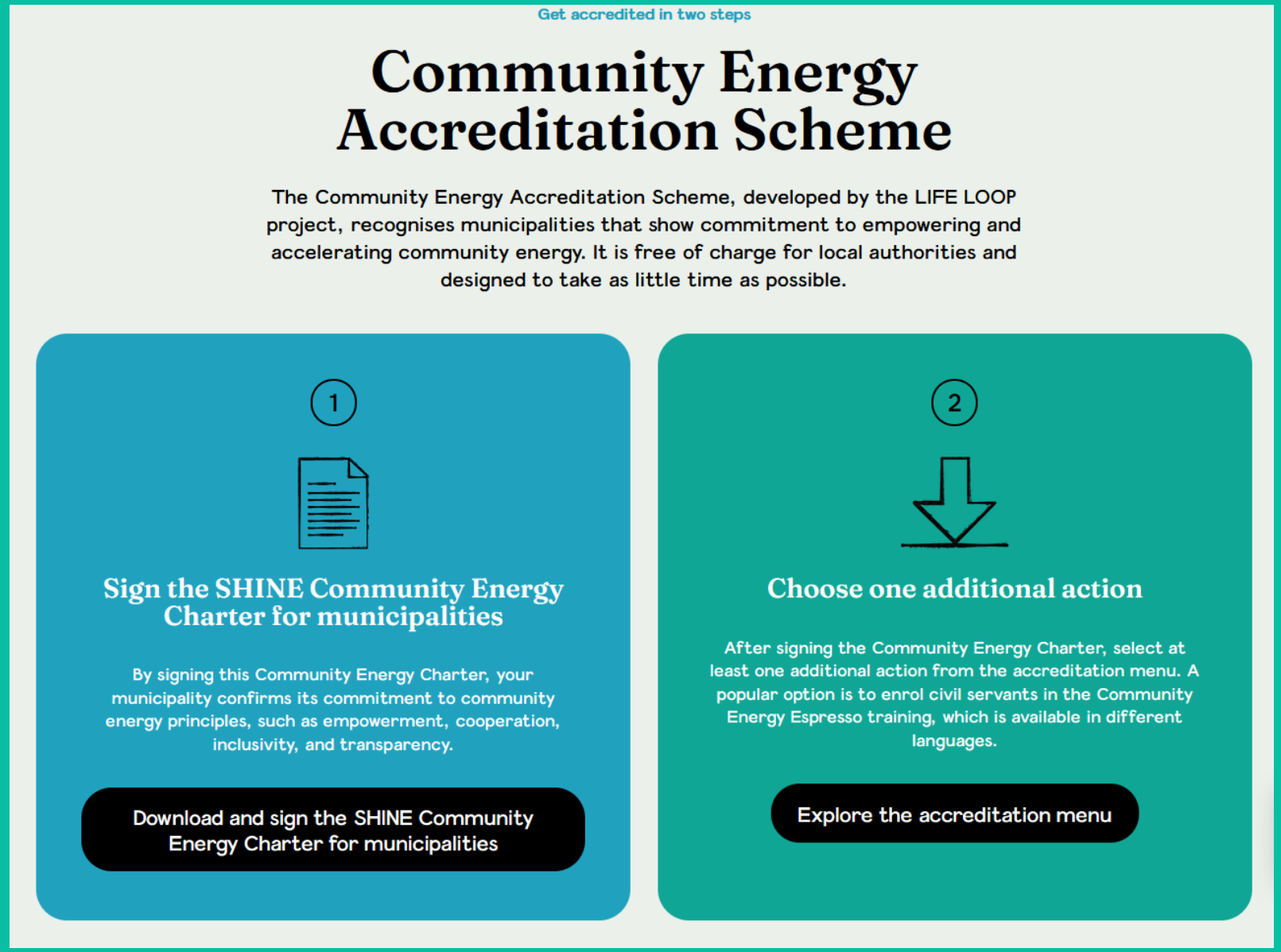
Source: LIFE LOOP pilots (LIFE LOOP D2.6)

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# Get accredited!

Learn more at:

https://energy-cities.eu/project/lifeloop-accreditation-scheme/




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# Other relevant P2P sessions

**One-Stop-Shops for renovation, good practices and challenges –**
**24 November 2026, 10:00-11:00 CET**

**Power in partnership: stakeholder mobilization & community engagement –**
**11 January 2027, 15:00-16:00 CET**




Learn more and register:
https://energy-cities.eu/sparkle-peer-to-peer-sessions-exchange-with-and-learn-from-other-cities/

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