



Towards Energy Citizenship for a just and inclusive transition:
lessons learned on collaborative approach of Positive Energy
Districts from the EU Horizon2020
Smart Cities and Communities projects

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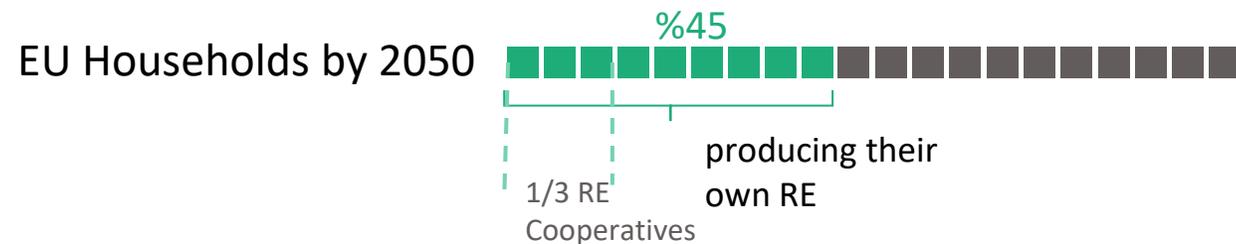
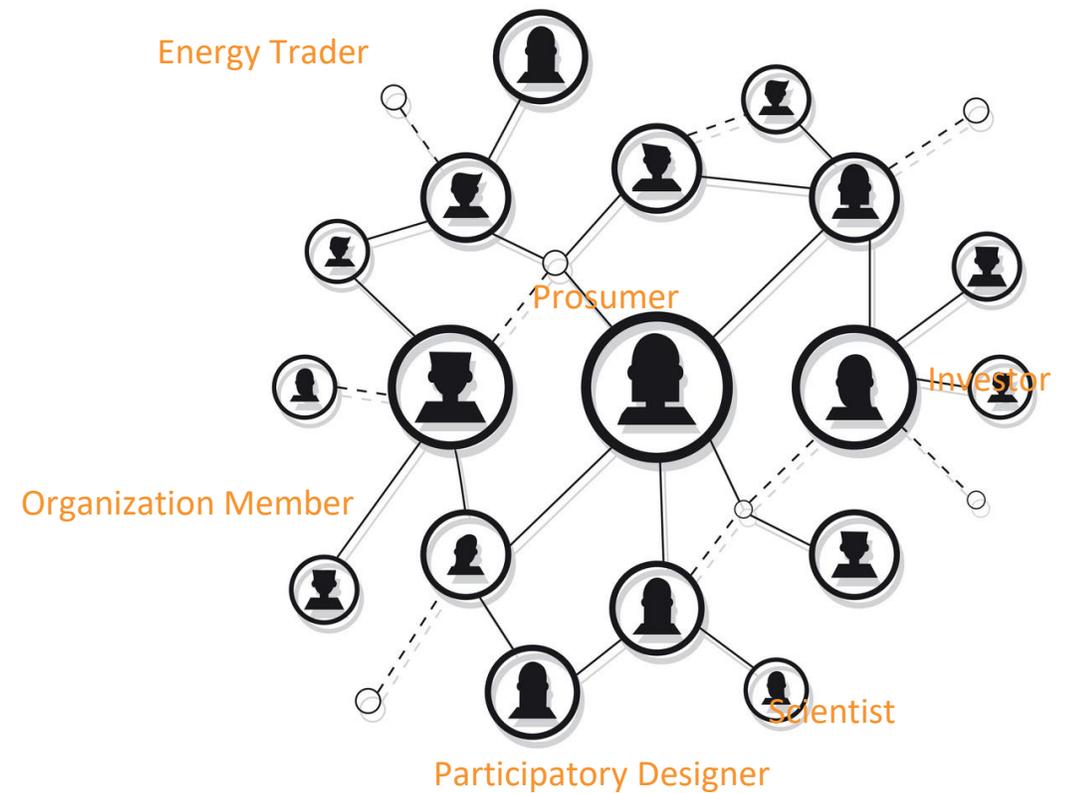
**SUSTAINABLE
PLACES 2020**

October 27-30, 2020
Digital Event

New role of EU citizens

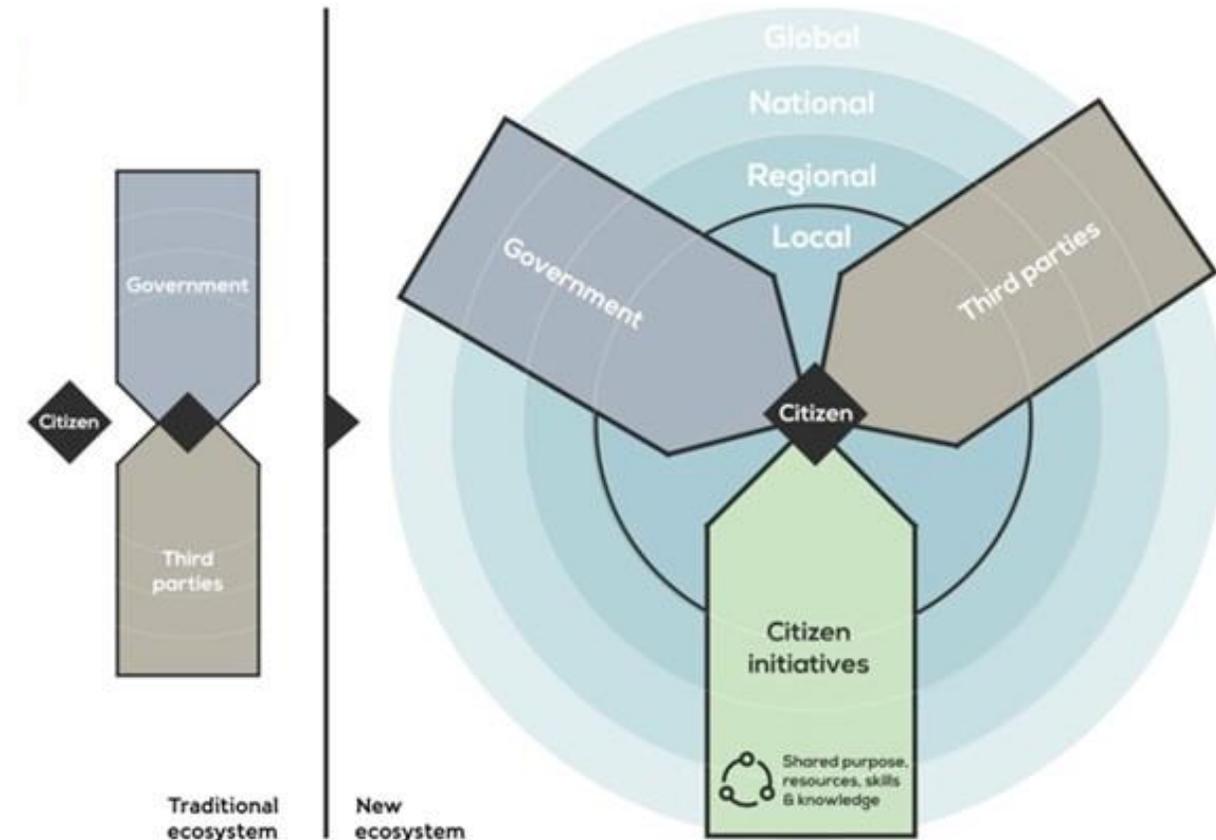
Paris Agreement
UN Sustainable Development Goals (7,8,11,13)
Clean Energy Package for all Europeans
EU Green Deal

- **Citizens at the heart** of the decarbonisation pathway
- **Fair and inclusive transition** towards carbon neutrality
- The transition will not only require substantial investments across Europe but also the **involvement of the relevant stakeholders** from public and private sectors (investors, providers, designers, policy-makers) as well as all the **EU citizens** (prosumers, energy traders, organization members and participatory designers).



Energy Citizenship (1/2)

- Traditional market approach
 - Citizens involved in energy production without investing in – for their own benefit as passive consumers
 - Individuals as homo economicus
- Multilevel integrated approach towards neutrality
 - New ecosystem where citizens become more active, co-managing with relevant stakeholders, the government and third parties
 - Shift from citizens-as-consumers to energy citizens
 - Move beyond individualistic approaches in order to include collective and inclusive spaces for participation and engagement



(Gunnerer Power, D3.23, Report, Making City, 2019)

Energy Citizenship (2/2)

- Low-carbon communities
 - Can decide and act upon their own energy production and consumption, not only within the dwelling but also including other dimensions of their lifestyle
 - place-based
 - linked to certain geographical boundaries
 - interest-based
 - Digital communities

Energy citizenship means seeing *energy as an ecological resource and as a social necessity, subject to collective decision making* NOT as commodity

Role of cities

- How to best harmonise and mainstream climate policy across sectors
- How to choose and integrate low-carbon technologies
- How to ensure citizens and businesses buy in

Positive Energy District (PED)

Energy-efficient and energy-flexible urban areas or groups of connected buildings which produce **net zero greenhouse gas emissions** and **actively manage** an annual local or regional **surplus production** of renewable energy. They require **integration of different systems and infrastructures** and interaction between buildings, the users and the regional energy, mobility, and ICT systems, while **securing the energy supply and a good life for all** in line with social, economic, and environmental sustainability

(JPI Urban Europe, 2020)

Use cases



*Citizen engagement strategy
for implementation of city
vision 2020 & PED designs in
FWCs*



*Local Energy Market as
trading system for local
communities*



*Peer-to-peer energy trading
platform as market-based*

Making City



*Groningen, Oulu,
The Netherlands Finland*

Atelier



Amsterdam, The Netherlands *Bilbao, Spain*

Pocityf



Alkmaar, Evora
The Netherlands Portugal

Conclusions



- Strong city visions that people recognize and value
- Bottom-up approach at district level to create and share knowledge, and to develop district energy plans and PED developments



- Development of PEB started by the local community
- Smart grid is owned by the community
- Ad hoc regulation that allows the distribution, the share and the trade of RES between private residents



- P2P energy trading platforms are developed to allow citizens to become key stakeholders within the decision-making process

Conclusions

- There is an enormous innovation potential of a combined approach towards physical energy transition investments and societal engagement
- Intensified participatory processes, including partners that are relatively new to the table of the urban energy transition, induce traditionally established partners to seek for integrated, collective solutions
- Currently, many European cities are exploring, shaping and formalising policies that will structure their views and actions towards energy citizenship.
- Next steps towards energy citizenship:
 - ✓ Participation and engagement should be considered as multi-scalar and multi-level paths
 - ✓ The public interest of energy citizenship legitimates public actions and public tool choices
 - ✓ A quantified substantiation of the added value of the integrated planning claim.



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Thank you for your attention