

The 1st Energy Democracy Dialogue

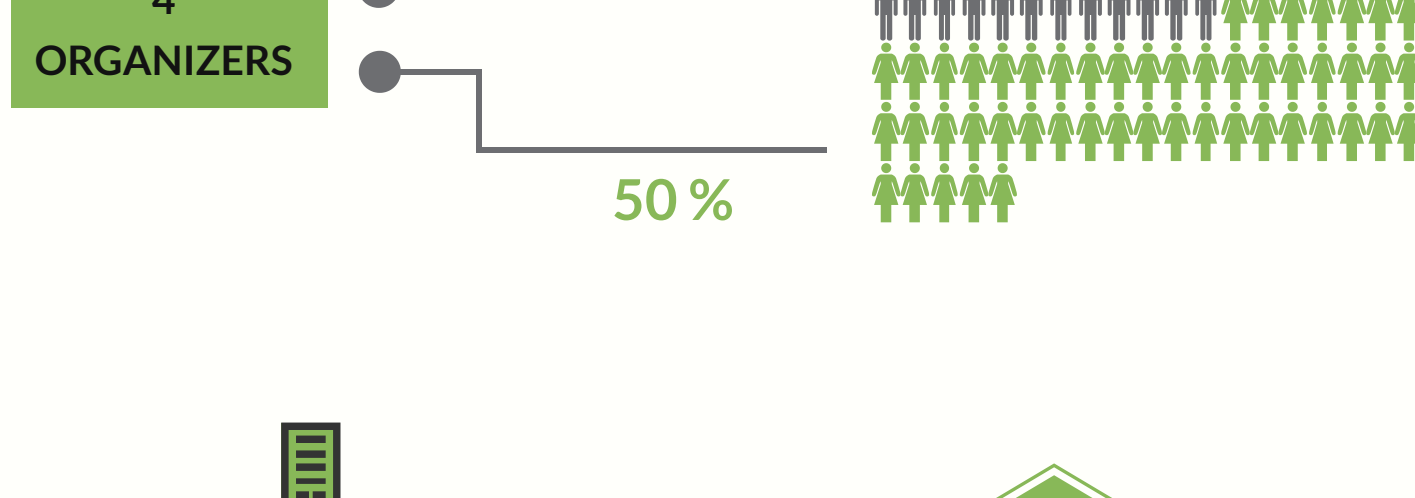
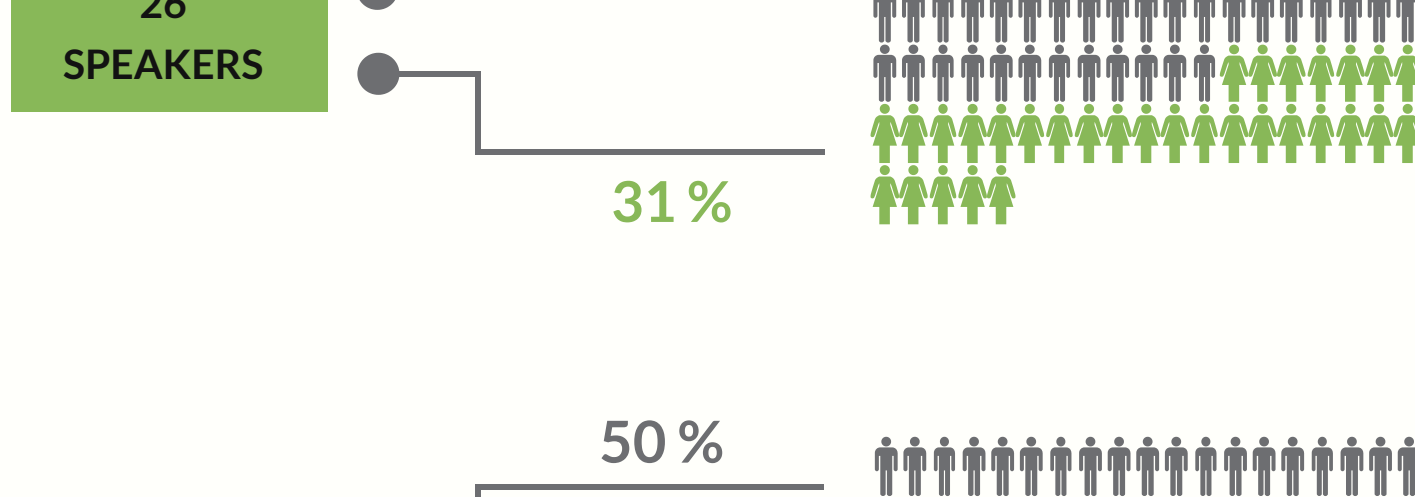
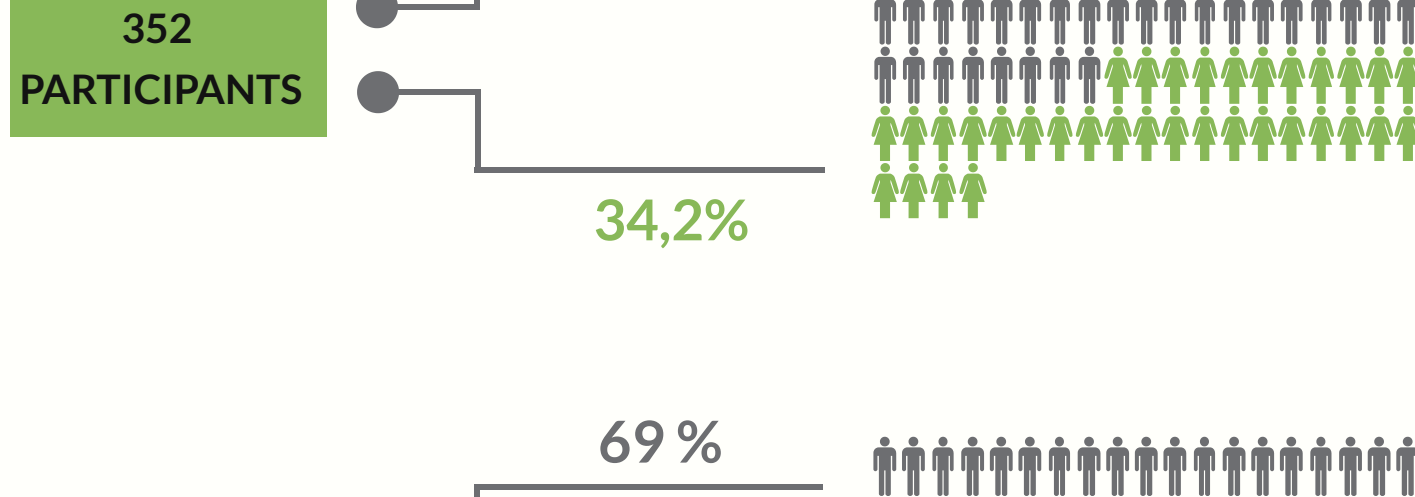


"Energy Communities discuss Energy Communities"

The 1st Energy Democracy Dialogue took place on Dec. 3rd 2020

1 FACTS ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

Participation



50 cities

Participants from



20 universities

Energy Communities (ECs) from



Urban



Rural



Island areas

were presented in this 1st Energy Democracy Dialogue, in order for their plans and concerns to be heard

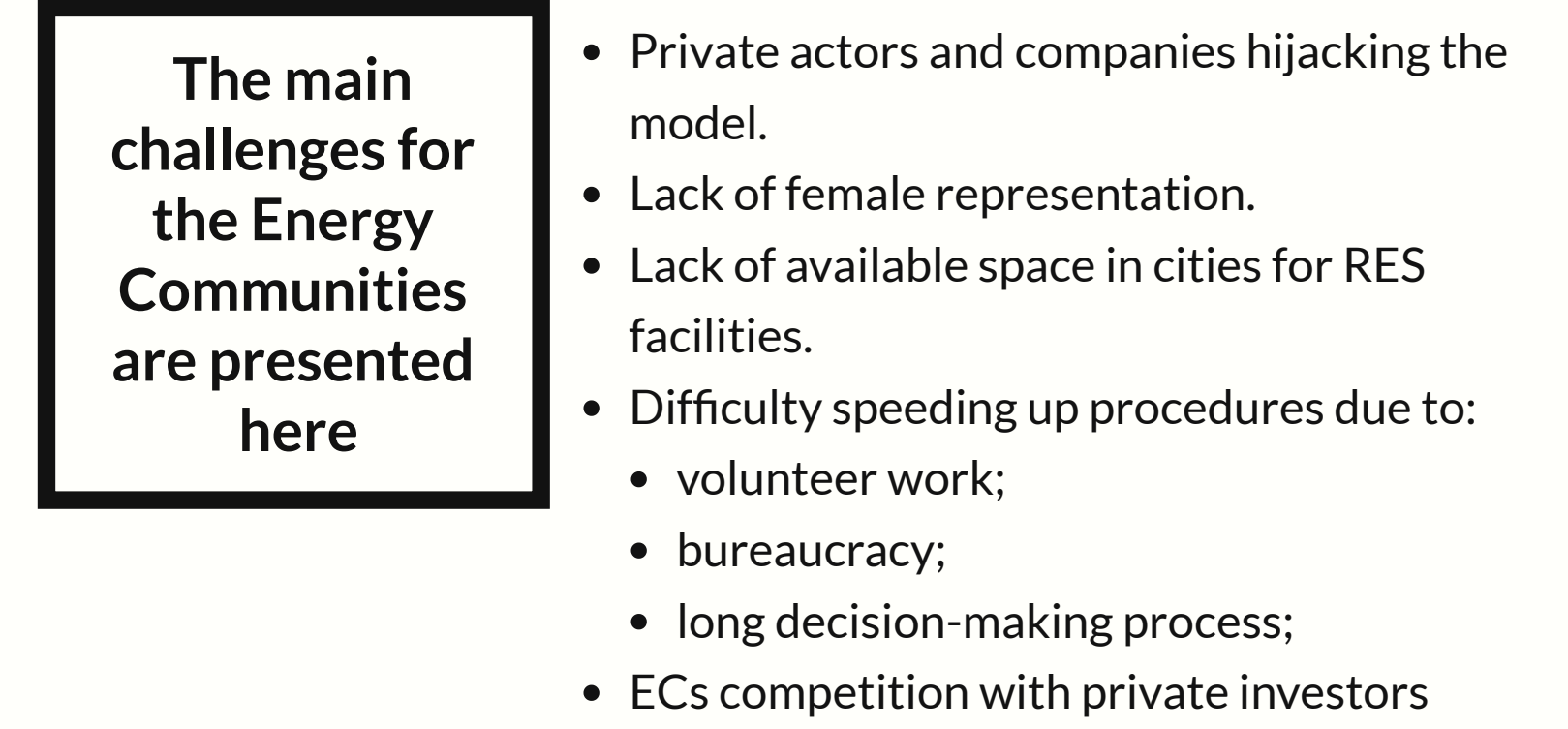
Special Characteristics

of the participating Energy Communities

- EC-Vlasti: Self-financing and promotion of solidarity economy, RES in a lignite area.
- EC-Karditsa: Research (Horizon BEcoop), biomass utilisation.
- Good Energy-Lamia: Photovoltaic & future storage.
- Athens Niroo Community-Attica: A team of citizens of Athens and refugees using Photovoltaics for Virtual net metering.
- Collective Energy-Attica: Collective self-consumption, research.
- Sifnos Energy Cooperative: Wind energy generation and pump storage.
- Chalki (future EC): Utilization of RES potential (solar, wind, wave), need for energy autonomy, collective planning.
- Kassos (future EC): Need for Energy Autonomy.
- MINOA EC-Crete: Virtual net metering, research, collaborations, photovoltaic & storage.
- Zakinthos (future EC): Women Empowerment.



2 Main Incentives for Energy Communities



3 Main Challenges

The main challenges for the Energy Communities are presented here

- Securing financing.
- Frequent/negative changes in the institutional framework of RES.
- Private actors and companies hijacking the model.
- Lack of female representation.
- Lack of available space in cities for RES facilities.
- Difficulty speeding up procedures due to:
 - volunteer work;
 - bureaucracy;
 - long decision-making process;
- ECs competition with private investors through tenders.

4 Main Future Issues

1 ECs can contribute to the achievement of various social and environmental goals, for example:

- Energy Poverty alleviation;
- Climate Crisis alleviation.

2 The two biggest challenges for ECs:

- An ever-changing and unfavorable legal framework;
- The lack of appropriate financial mechanisms.

3 In order to support the development of ECs, we must:

- Create a stable institutional framework that provides or promotes easily accessible financing mechanisms on favorable terms, such as:
 - Private crowd-investment initiatives such as Genervest;
 - Private-public initiatives, i.e. the public to act as a guarantor to cover the loan of an EC, in cooperation with the European Central Bank;
 - Utilization of other European and national resources (e.g. Recovery Fund + Development Bank);
- Establish a national EC federation for political pressure, exchange of know-how and good practices, and mutual support.

5 USEFUL LINKS & INFORMATION

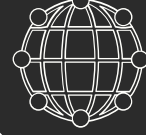
[General background information about Energy Communities](#)

[Building Energy Communities - Guidebook](#)

[Mapping of Energy Communities in Greece by Greenpeace Greece](#)

[Summary of the main results](#)

[KALOMATHE online platform: Educational material for the Social and Solidarity Economy](#)



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