

Workshop  
**PRIZE**

# Governance Innovations in **ENERGY COMMUNITIES**

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The logo consists of several overlapping rectangular shapes in two shades of green (a darker forest green and a lighter lime green) separated by white lines. The word "PRIZE" is written in white, bold, uppercase letters at the bottom right of the graphic.

**PRIZE**

## Award:

- **10 awards** from 50 000€ (4-10<sup>th</sup> place) up to 350 000€ (1<sup>st</sup> place)
- Technology neutral: all renewable technologies covered under Article 2 of RED III
- Learn from on-ground initiatives of financing renewable energy assets which are collectively owned
- Offer a replicable governance framework to inspire other energy communities across the European Union to adopt those social innovations
- Draw policy conclusions for future support to energy communities
- **Winners Announced late 2026**



**PRIZE**

## Agenda:

- Eligibility conditions
- Explanation of the 4 Award Criteria
- Timeline
- Q&A with online audience
- Upcoming events



## Eligibility and how to apply:



- **Energy communities** that fall under the definitions of “renewable energy communities” (Directive (EU) 2018/2001) or “citizens energy communities” (Directive (EU) 2019/944)
- Up to **10 000 members** before the 1st of January 2026.
- You can already check the **rules of contest** on the [prize Europa website](#) “Prize for Governance Innovation in energy” or on the Funding and tenders Portal\* .
- To be eligible you must use the correct templates provided on the Funding and Tenders portal.

\*Although the name on the funding portal is “Renewable Energy Technology (RET) Solutions in Energy Communities), but this is indeed the correct link



## Award Criteria:

1. Inclusivity of the governance structure
2. Internal governance process
3. Regional/ local transition
4. Other innovative approaches

See detailed description of each criterion on the prize website.



# 1. Inclusivity of the governance structure (30 points)

## 1.1 Gender-balance ratios

How does your energy community's governance structure ensure gender balance in decision-making bodies (e.g., board of directors, committees, general assemblies)?

Can you provide specific figures or percentages on the gender distribution in your leadership?

## 1.2 Diversity of members

What groups (e.g., socio-economic, cultural, generational, people with disabilities) are represented in your community? How did you identify these groups? What mechanisms do you use to ensure these diverse groups involved in decision-making ?

## 1.3 Solutions to inequalities

What social or economic inequalities have you identified in your local area, and what innovative actions have you implemented to address them?

## 2. Internal governance process (30 points)

### 2.1 Innovative financing

How does your energy community raise capital? What innovative financing mechanisms do you use (e.g., crowdfunding, citizen-led investment models, microloans, green bonds)?

What challenges have you faced in securing financing, and how did you address them?

### 2.2 Mechanisms for representative governance

How are members' interests represented in the decision-making bodies of your energy community?

How are board members or representatives appointed? Are there mechanisms to ensure diversity and inclusivity in these appointments?

## 2. Internal governance process (30 points)

### 2.3 Members' participation

What tools, platforms, or processes do you use to engage members in the governance of the community?

How do you encourage maximum participation from diverse stakeholders ?

Can you provide examples of successful member engagement initiatives?

### 2.4 Engagement of local authorities

How do local or regional authorities participate in the governance of your energy community, either directly or indirectly?

Can you describe specific collaborations or partnerships with local authorities? What role do they play in supporting your community's goals?

## 3. Regional/ local transition (30 points)

### 3.1 Links into territorial plans

How is your energy community's governance structure embedded in local or regional territorial plans (e.g., Just Transition Plans, Climate City Contracts, local energy strategies)?

How do you ensure that your governance model supports the broader goals of these territorial plans?

### 3.2 Activities related to local and regional policies

Can you provide examples of how your community's activities align with or contribute to these plans?

Can you share success stories or data demonstrating the impact of these activities on the local community?

# Other innovative approaches (10 points)

## **4.1 Efforts to integrate to the broader energy system**

How do you collaborate with other energy actors (e.g., grid operators, other energy communities, utilities) to enhance integration?

What challenges have you faced in integrating into the broader energy system, and how did you address them? What lessons were learned?

## **4.2 Cost-saving and efficiency initiatives**

Can you provide examples of measurable cost savings or efficiency improvements resulting from these initiatives?

How do you ensure that cost savings benefit all members, particularly vulnerable or low-income groups?

# Timeline

**PRIZE**

**Call Opening**  
20<sup>th</sup> Jan  
2026

**1-1 Q&A**  
23<sup>rd</sup> of April  
2026

**Workshop**  
June-2026

**Call Closure**  
25<sup>th</sup> of June  
2026

**Evaluation**  
June-  
October(tbc)  
2026



**Award**  
Nov/Dec  
2026



The logo for 'PRIZE' is located on the left side of the slide. It consists of a vertical rectangle divided into several geometric sections by white lines. The top-left section is a dark green triangle, the top-right is a light green trapezoid, the bottom-left is a light green triangle, and the bottom-right is a dark green trapezoid. The word 'PRIZE' is written in white, bold, uppercase letters at the bottom of the rectangle.

## Dissemination activities for 10 awardees

- Open source Factsheets published across EU Commission Website
- Lessons-Learnt workshops developed for Energy Communities
- Policy feedback to Directorates General for Energy and Directorate-General for Regional policy.
- Other activities in co-creation with the winners



## Upcoming events:

23<sup>rd</sup> April

One-to-One Q&A Session\*

June (tbc)

Last advice: to submit a great proposal

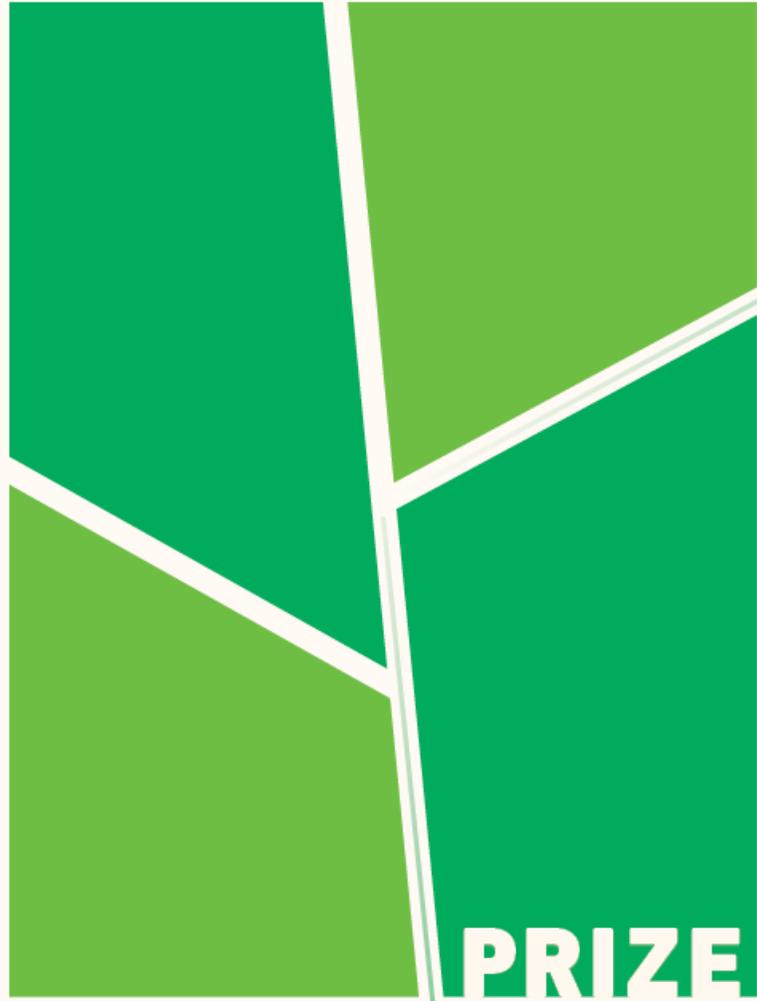


Nov/Dec

In person Award Ceremony

(November/December tbc)

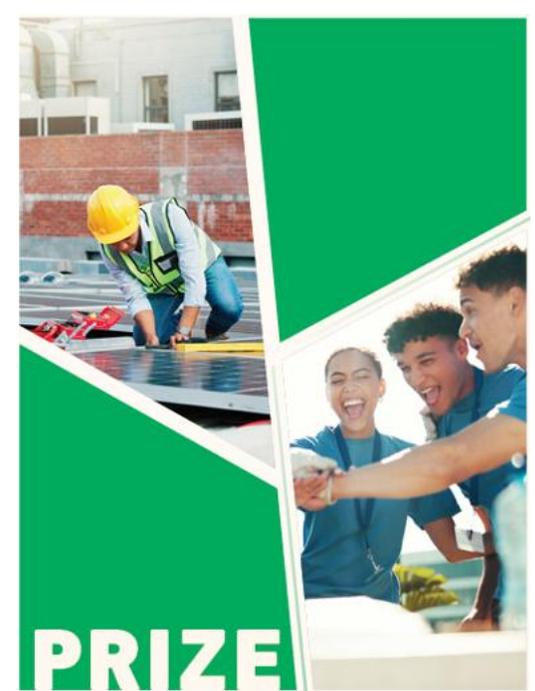
\*Registration link will be shared after the event, check the events section of the prize website.



# Questions and Answers

Drop a question in the chat or raise your virtual hand!

# Thank you



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