



# LISTEN TO RURAL

U S Ł Y S Z G Ł O S W S I





# ENERGY COMMUNITIES workshop no 16

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POLISH RURAL FORUM





# Our agenda

- **Our responses to challenges**
- **Good ideas, practices, processes**
- **Our 3 proposals for governments & EU**



# ENERGY COMMUNITIES

- **Definitions (intro)**
- **Growing impact of energy communities**
- **Experience with Energy communities**
- **Energy communities in Poland**



# CHALLENGES

**What do rural areas need to meet upcoming challenges of energy poverty?**



# DEFINITIONS

## EU has two definitions of energy community

‘Citizen energy communities’ – Directive (EU) 2019/944 - (Electricity cover)

‘Renewable energy communities’ – Directive (EU) 2018/2001 – (Renewable energy cover)

*Common elements under both definitions:*

### **GOVERNANCE**

“Participation must be open and voluntary” (renewable energy directive)

“Households should find it easy to both enter & leave the energy community” (Electricity directive)

[https://rural-energy-community-hub.ec.europa.eu/energy-communities/what-energy-community\\_en](https://rural-energy-community-hub.ec.europa.eu/energy-communities/what-energy-community_en)



# FEATURES

## OWNERSHIP & CONTROL

Both definitions emphasise participation and effective control by citizens, local authorities & smaller businesses whose **primary economic activity is not the energy sector!**

## PURPOSE

Their **PRIMARY** purpose is to generate social, economic & environmental benefits for energy community members rather than focus on financial profits for a legal entity.

## ACTIVITIES

- Generation
- Aggregation
- Energy storage
- Distribution
- Consumption
- Provision of energy related services
- Supply
- Sharing/trading

# Growing impact

Experience? Know how?

How to increase numbers of (local/renewable) energy producers and consumers benefiting from energy communities?

1. Responses to challenge of energy poverty?
2. Good ideas, practices, processes -
3. 3 proposals for govts & EU





# Energy Communities in POLAND

- **Energy cooperatives are a priority in public policy and rural development programming going forwards**
- **2016 regulatory changes introduced to allow renewable energy producers and consumers to establish energy cooperatives. Still in progress**
- **Focused on electricity and heat**
- **No feed-in tariffs. Only energy trading among cooperative members.**
- **Subject to Law on Cooperatives and Law on Renewable Energy**
- **No functioning energy cooperatives, but many initiatives**
- **RENALDO project pioneering/testing regulatory, policy and implementation solutions for energy cooperatives with focus on 2 regions (Podlasie & Kujawsko-Pomorskie)**

Learn more **Energy Cooperative Campaign** (incl. short films ) – <https://lokalnaenergia.pl>

# Legal basis

**Law of 22 June 2016 concerning changes in the law on renewable energies and some other laws (Law Gazette no 925).** Art. 2 point 33a an energy cooperative is defined in terms of the Law on Cooperatives of 16th September 1982 (Law Gazette 2016 no 21), *as entities whose activities are concerned with*”

- a. Produce electrical energy from renewable energy sources of a total installed capacity of no greater than 10MW or
- b. Biogas from renewable energy installations of an annual production of no greater than 40 mln m<sup>3</sup> or
- c. Heat from installations of renewable energy sources of total installed capacity of no greater than 30 MW

and balancing the demand, distribution or marketing of electricity, biogas or heat for **the energy cooperative's own needs and those of its members**, connected to an area-defined electricity distribution network with a voltage of less than 110 kV or a gas distribution network or a district heating network, in the area of rural or urban-rural municipalities within the meaning of the provisions on public statistics.



# ENERGY IN CONTEXT

## Poland today

312,696 km<sup>2</sup>

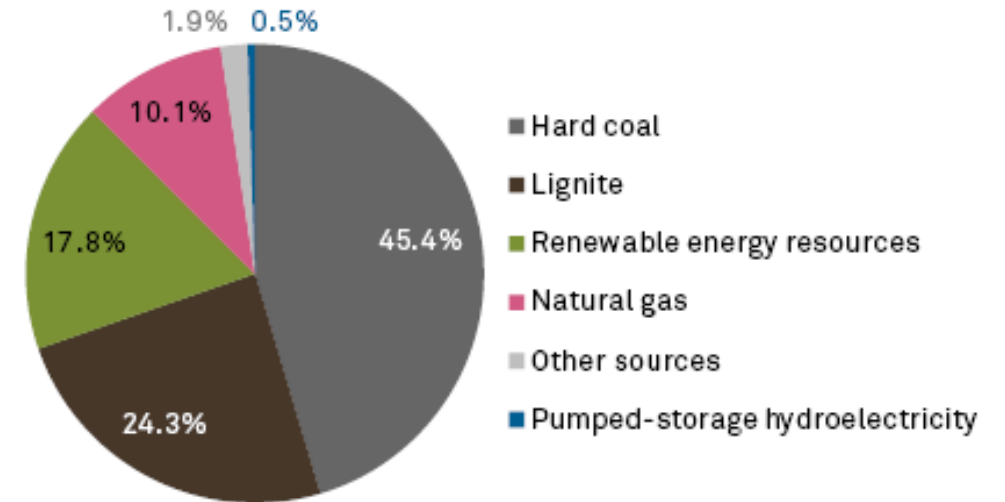
38 million people, 40% rural

1 mln+ individual prosumers (99% solar)

Coal is dominant fuel for heating in rural areas, but not readily available and price increased 4x

Domestic electricity prices to double by end of 2022

## Poland's energy mix 2020



Data accessed Oct. 25, 2021.

Source: Forum Energii, based on data from Poland's Energy Market Agency



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