

## COMmunity Models for the Energy Transition through Social Innovation

COMETS aims to fill the knowledge and participatory gaps surrounding the low carbon energy system transition to ensure citizens are at the center of the transformation and empower their creative potential. COMETS will advance the scientific knowledge on the motives, potential, objectives and barriers of socially innovative Collective Action Initiatives (CAIs) and their historical and future role in the energy transition. This will be achieved by quantifying the European-wide aggregate contribution of CAIs (e.g. energy communities, cooperatives, purchasing groups) to the energy transition at national and European levels. The information gathered and tested throughout the project will help to co-develop and test supportive tools together with CAI members, policy makers and the scientific community. These stakeholders will then be able to exploit the main outputs of COMETS in order to mobilize people and to guarantee acceptance for and participation in the energy transition process.

**The COMETS consortium consists of 12 members and six case study countries (dark green):**



### OBJECTIVES

- Reinforce citizens as the center of the future energy systems, both as producers and consumers;
- Support the diffusion of CAIs in the energy sector throughout Europe by exploring the current regulatory, financial, political, cultural and technical barriers to their wide diffusion;
- Satisfy the need of policy makers for updated and useful knowledge of CAIs in the energy sector;
- Explore future potential of CAIs for a wide market uptake of RE technologies and energy efficiency.

### EXPECTED RESULTS

- A thorough description of the regulatory, policy, financial, cultural, environmental and social factors that may affect the development of CAIs in Europe;
- Practical tools and a supportive platform to fill knowledge gaps and to satisfy the need for effective strategies for diffusion of CAIs;

### TARGETED STAKEHOLDERS

- *CAIs (existing and future)* will be able to find solutions for further developments;
- *Citizens* will gain awareness about the benefits of participating in local level energy production, distribution and consumption;

- *Policy makers* will be provided with many evidence-based tools to support the energy transition;
- *The European Union* will be supported in developing a broader decentralized, affordable, secure, inclusive and sustainable energy system.

### MAIN ACTIVITIES & OUTPUTS

- Developing an enhanced, up-to-date definition of CAIs in the energy sector;
- Produce a European-wide inventory of CAIs to be continuously updated;
- Reports on CAIs determinants, contributions and performance;
- Survey to provide more in-depth knowledge of the CAIs listed in the inventory;
- Manuals on providing a strategic roadmap for supporting social innovation in the energy sector.
- Case studies on existing CAIs that will be involved in co-producing knowledge and co-design scaling up strategies;
- Frontier case studies of CAIs in the energy field;
- Supporting an open-sourced virtual platform for CAIs roadmaps, knowledge and development.

