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EMPOWERMENT TOOLKIT AND KNOWLEDGE REPOSITORY

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Starting their empowerment journey.

What is empowerment?

The concept of empowerment is increasingly visible in scientific literature and gaining prominence in popular language. Our aim here is not to present an exhaustive explanation of the concept. Instead, we outline a set of ideas to aid understanding. We present it as:

- (a) **Autonomy** to make decisions about one's own actions
- (b) **An ability** to behave appropriately in the energy system by perceiving oneself as effective in the actions undertaken
- (c) **Motivation** to act, create and be part of the energy system.

When energy-related behaviours are mentioned, the autonomy, capacities and motivations fluctuate from the individual to the collective. The concept of **collective empowerment**, that refers to:

- Our efforts to exert control and influence over decisions that affect our lives and that of our immediate environment.
- The enhancement of our capacity to achieve individual and community goals, including on a structural level.

An example of collective empowerment occurs when we join an initiative, through which a microcosm is created:

- We act collectively and participate in decision-making processes internal to the initiative and to shape the energy system.
- Resources are mobilised (e.g., strategies, qualities, structures or events to respond to a specific problem) to take collective control and make decisions on issues that affect your life and that of your community.

CONDITIONS AND OUTCOMES FOR COLLECTIVE EMPOWERMENT

