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EMPOWERMENT TOOLKIT AND KNOWLEDGE REPOSITORY

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Resources to overcome disempowerment.

The role of intermediaries

Energy citizenship projects involve collaboration and transactions with other actors (such as government, finance providers and knowledge institutes) for which intermediation may be needed for crossing these boundaries.

We lead from the premise take as a starting point that intermediaries in ENCI are:

'are actors, organisations, individuals/intercessors that mediate, work in-between, make connections, and enable a relationship between different persons or things'

(Hodson et al., 2013, p. 1408).

These individuals and organisations that interact with ENCI initiatives in a meaningful way can act as supportive agents in the transition to the new forms of governance that are being devised and tested as a means of intervening and seeking to transform and decentralise energy systems.

In the face of pressures to accelerate a rapid energy transition in the context of increasingly polycentric, multi-level or multi-scale governance models and dispersed and distributed control, it seems essential to us that one can identify which intermediary actors can support you in the initiative to which you belong.

We begin by asking you some questions that may make you reflect on the role of intermediaries in your ENCI initiative:

- Have you ever considered the extent to which you receive support from third parties and how this support has been or is relevant to the initiative

you belong?

- Have you had the opportunity to support others in your project?

In the last activity shown below, we would like to invite you to reflect on these questions. Thinking about this will be very useful for you and the members of the initiative to verify what resources you have at your disposal, which ones you might require and, furthermore, where you could go to look for them.

[Please stop here for doing Activity 11].



The EnergyPROSPECTS' research found that [intermediaries](#) operating in an ENCI context, can encourage the (further) development of ENCI cases by successfully addressing their needs and fulfilling their goals regarding a fair and sustainable energy production, consumption, and governance.

Activity N.º 11

Let's consider and reflect on the stakeholders who could be/have been significantly involved in the creation and functioning of the ENCI initiative.

Have you required/do you require support:

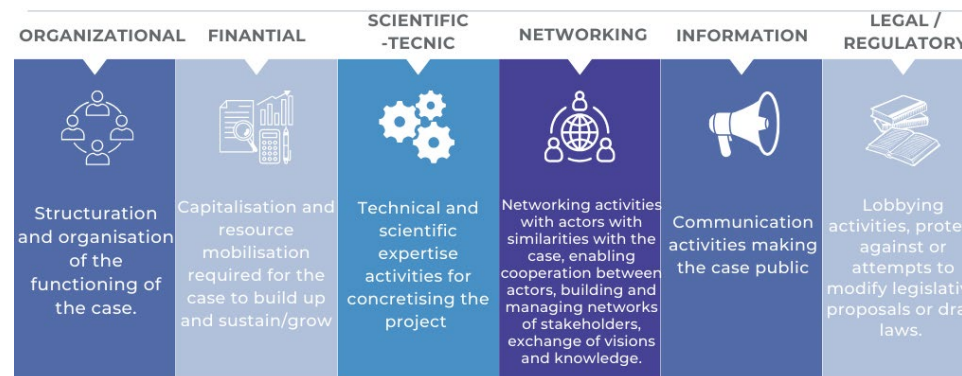
	Who supported you?	How significant was that support?	When does it stop being necessary?
In instigating-continuing with the initiative 's structuring and organisation of the functioning.		<input type="checkbox"/> Vital <input type="checkbox"/> Average <input type="checkbox"/> Lacking	
In funding all/part of the initiative (capitalisation and mobilisation of resources necessary for the case to consolidate and sustain/grow).		<input type="checkbox"/> Vital <input type="checkbox"/> Average <input type="checkbox"/> Lacking	
To networking and coordinating with stakeholders who share similarities with the initiative, enabling cooperation between actors, building and managing multi-stakeholder networks, exchanging knowledge and visions.		<input type="checkbox"/> Vital <input type="checkbox"/> Average <input type="checkbox"/> Lacking	
In making the initiative visible (to the interested public, to general society...)		<input type="checkbox"/> Vital <input type="checkbox"/> Average <input type="checkbox"/> Lacking	
In carrying out technical and scientific expertise activities (e.g. ICT resources, planners, architects, PV or wind energy specialists, project monitoring, facilitating experimentation and pilot projects, facilitating/supporting the adoption and implementation of innovations, etc.).		<input type="checkbox"/> Vital <input type="checkbox"/> Average <input type="checkbox"/> Lacking	
In providing legal advice on how to set up and manage an initiative, how to organise institutionally (lobbying), how to make your voice effective in the public debate (lobbying activities, protest against law projects)		<input type="checkbox"/> Vital <input type="checkbox"/> Average <input type="checkbox"/> Lacking	
Please, complete with additional options if you wish:			



A wide range of energy intermediaries work between different supranational, national, regional, local and community programmes and may operate within the opportunities and constraints afforded by the 'landscape' pressures, policy priorities and institutional frameworks within which they are located. In Energy Prospects we distinguish five main sorts of intermediaries:

TYPES OF INTERMEDIATION

Intermediaries are often identified by their roles (sometimes referred to as functions)



Organisational intermediation is undertaken by bodies composing the initiative, legal status, coordination of the various activities (capacity building, energy production retail), negotiating with administrative authorities. For example, in the [Bike Evolution](#) case from Bulgaria, intermediaries (mainly NGOs) provided consultation on all matters related to organisational set-up, including the statute, registration, and communication with authorities as well as funding organisations.

Financial intermediation refers to the capitalisation and resource mobilisation required for the initiative to build up and sustain/grow. For the [Galway Energy Cooperative](#), for example, a main success that the cooperative managed to attain was enabled by financial support from the national government, namely, to acquire funding for the Energy Master Plan by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI). This financial intermediation goes beyond the funding itself but also includes establishing the architecture for Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs) in Ireland, which fosters networking opportunities and mentoring for the participating SECs.

At the other end of the spectrum is the brokerage exercised by [Energy Communities Tipperary Cooperative](#) (ECTC), which assists homeowners in leveraging grants under government schemes to retrofit their homes and improve energy efficiency. ECTC is placed at the regional level, in contrast with other more

TYPES OF INTERMEDIARIES EXAMPLES

COMMERCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

For knowledge-intensive business services: banks who offer a mortgage or a loan (thus connecting capital providers with those that need capital), business lawyers and consultants hired for assisting in deals between two parties.

National and Regional based Banks, European Investment Bank, British Council, Energy regulators, Renewable energy installation companies, Building and engineering firms, Agricultural entrepreneurs and farmers, SMEs, Advisory firms, Audio-visual firms, Legal-law firms, Auditors

GOVERNMENTAL INTERMEDIARIES

E.g. government agencies that manage programmes with loans and funds and technical assistance on, for instance, energy renovation and energy cooperatives, platforms for knowledge exchange.

National, Regional and local governments, Municipalities, Municipal directorates and councils, City councils, Provinces, Ministries (national gov.), European commission, National energy authorities, National environmental assessment agencies.

NON GOVERNMENTAL INTERMEDIARIES

Civil society umbrella organisations (for transition towns), collective actors such as cooperative networks (e.g., REScoop, the European Federation of citizen energy cooperatives), chambers of commerce.

Non-governmental foundation and associations, National Postcode Lottery, Social enterprises, Non-profit associations, NGOs, Associations of ECs, Community coalitions, Coop. unions, village councils, Local cooperative networks and groups, National Park foundations, Regional energy desks, Architects cooperatives, Water coalitions, Housing associations.

OTHER CIVIL ORGANIZATIONS INTERMEDIARIES

Not created explicitly to be intermediaries, non-sector or umbrella organisations.

Environmental and sustainable energy NGOs and associations, Volunteers centres, Local and regional energy agencies, social energy services organisations, Academy of champions for energy, Climate movements, Knowledge based associations.

INTERCESSORS (INDIVIDUALS)

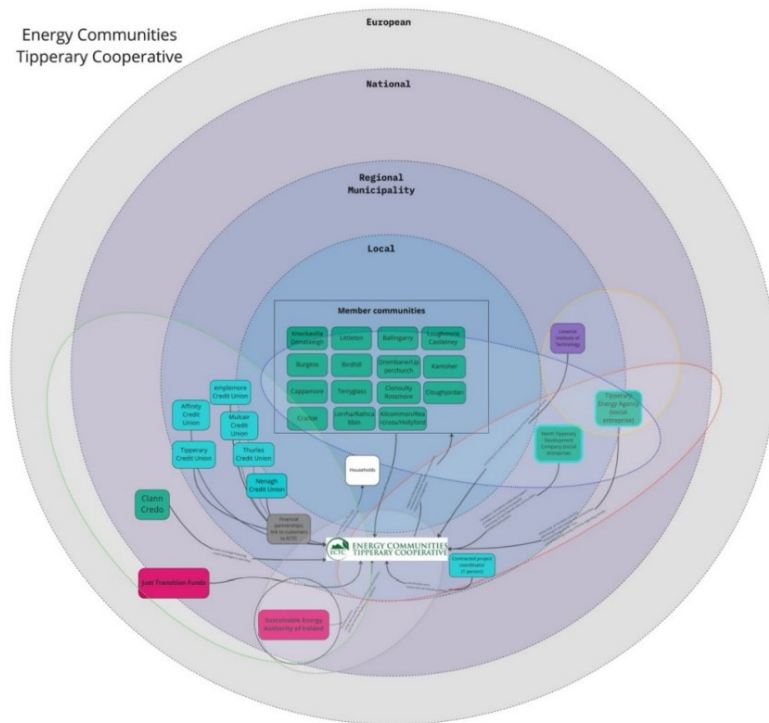
Are individuals who talk to different actors with the aim of learning about possibilities for collective action, cooperation, partnerships, institutional change by learning about the beliefs, material interests, mandates, responsibilities, capabilities and resources of specific actors.

Mayors, teachers, friends that help with the case, case founders-initiators, case-motivators, local volunteers, residents, donors, local farmers, members of the community council

Also, intermediaries are often identified by their roles (sometimes referred to as functions)



traditional local-based energy cooperatives but links with its 14 member communities at the local level. We also observed that due to the character of the ECTC and its dependency on the support schemes from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) and Just Transition Funds, the type of intermediaries linked with the case are more connected with governmental intermediaries as well as commercial intermediaries (i.e. credit unions) which were deemed important as they offer Green Loans to assist homeowners. Look at their intermediation map, which shows the different levels of action and types of intermediary actors, as well as the relationships between them:

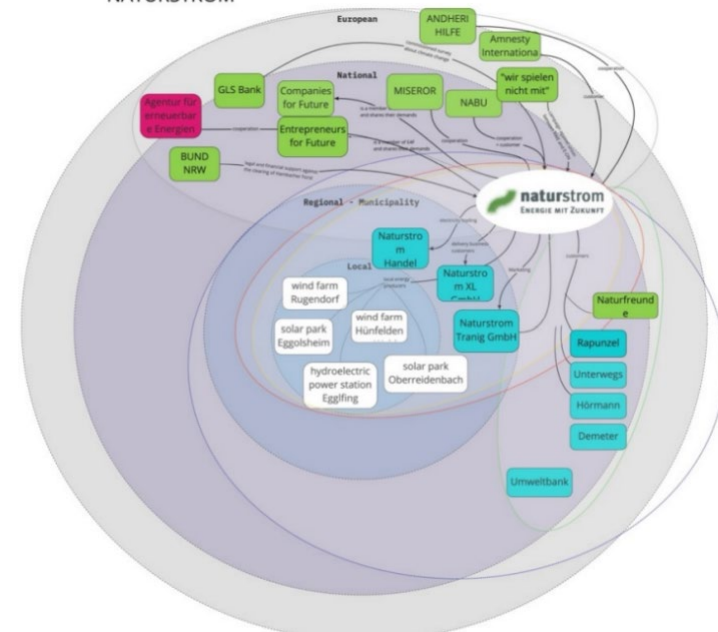


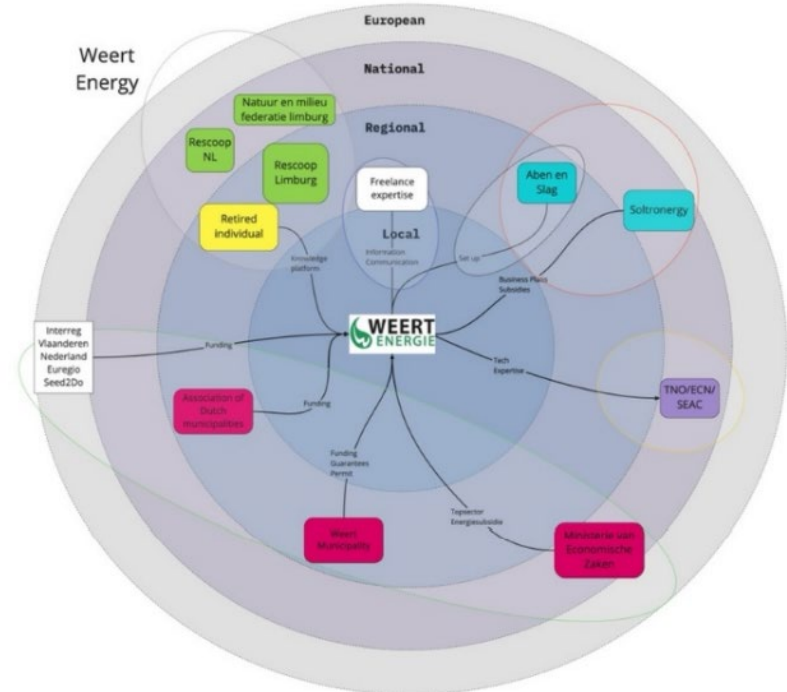
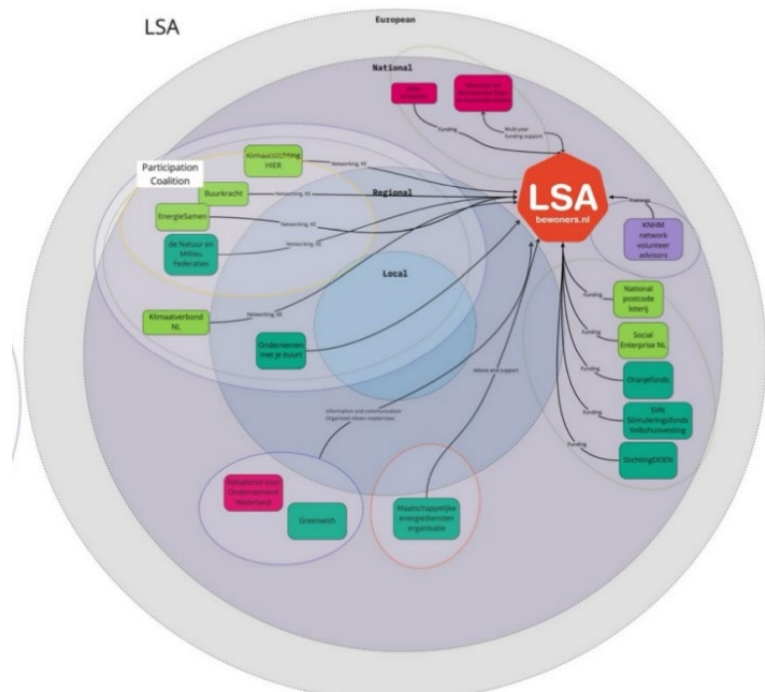
Scientific-technic intermediation is referred to the technical and scientific expertise activities for concretising the project: ICT conception, planners, architects, PV or wind power specialists, monitoring of the project, facilitating experimentation and pilots, facilitate/support adoption and implementation of

innovations. In the case [Loenen Energy](#) the technical intermediations are crucial given the highly technical and ICT skills needed for the case projects.

All networking activities with actors of the initiatives enable cooperation between actors, building, and managing networks of multiple stakeholders, exchange of knowledge and visions. [LSA](#) (the Netherlands) and [Naturstrom](#) (Germany) are two of our ENCI cases which can be described as actual intermediaries. Naturstrom and LSA operate at the national level and they both play a key role in connecting with multiple actors. For example, the Dutch intermediary LSA that represents groups of active citizens is working in partnership with 250 partners across the Netherlands and recently they have developed an intermediary network called the 'Participation Coalition' with five main Dutch intermediaries. Through this wide network, the Coalition partners can create a stronger position and a joint voice of residents in energy transition and help to build constructive cooperation between various stakeholders.

NATURSTROM





There are also interesting communication activities that allow the initiatives to increase their visibility (e.g., consult demand-side for implementation, mediation activities, put suppliers in contact with end users).

With regard to Legal/ regulatory intermediation, lobbying activities, protest or attempts to modify legislative proposals or draft laws. Legal intermediation, especially in small and voluntary based cases (such as the energy cooperatives, [Weert Energy](#) and [Reindonk Energy](#)), the case actors often lack skills related to the legal preparatory works, understanding complex legal frameworks and meeting legal requirements (e.g., statute) for setting a legal company/charity/cooperative. This type of intermediation is instrumental especially in the early stages of the creation of certain initiatives.

As can be seen, ENCI initiatives have a multitude of ways of interacting with other stakeholders, which can be of great support both at the time of the creation of the initiative and afterwards. In terms of different purposes, we have provided you with some examples within a classification approached by the EnergyPROSPECTS consortium. We hope you will find it useful to view additional resources to support you in the process of collective empowerment.

More detailed information is available here

- [D4.1. Strategic collective system building activities and institutional change](#)
- [D4.5. Viable business models and strategies for growth and expansion](#)

And now that we're done... do you dare to incorporate any additional commitment?

Empowerment Toolkit



[Please stop here for doing your list of commitments for action].



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List of commitments for action

Being an Energy Citizen is not a matter of all or nothing. It ranges from baby steps to full-scale actions. The level of commitment depends on yourself, your motivations and interests, your perception of your capacities, autonomy and choices. We encourage you to start by committing yourself to a few actions. Let's see what you think of these:

- I will reduce my energy consumption through new habits, such as turning off appliances on standby or turning the light off when it is not needed.
- I will start becoming involved by making changes in my home, such as controlling my energy consumption with web or mobile applications.
- I will investigate the advantages of installing solar panel and think whether is worth it to be self-sufficient.
- I will participate in a more transformative change, e.g. I will find out about how to install solar panels (or another type of system) in my place and what advantages it would bring to the community to be able to discuss it and carry it out.
- I already control my energy consumption at home, but now I want to involve more people and create social awareness, both in my workplace and within my inner circle. I will propose the idea of participating to some extent in the energy transition and converting the building into an energetically sustainable one.
- I will learn more about energy communities and the energy transition (e.g. going to conferences and workshops where I can learn about others' experiences and gain scientific knowledge).
- I will join a group of people with whom I share the same interest related to the energy transition and who inspire me to move forward in this topic, or even I can even become the motivation for others.
- I am already involved in energy transition, but I think that the current legislation falls short and with my experience I can contribute valuable ideas. I will initiate the procedure so that citizens can propose to congress the adoption of legislative measures to promote energy citizenship.
- I will find out about planes and government and European projects to participate in any of them. These projects can provide me with a lot of knowledge that will enrich me and new companies with which to share ideas and create a community.
- I have knowledge and contacts. I am going to start a transforming energy citizenship project in which different citizens, associations, political parties and organizations can participate, and that has a greater impact on energy sovereignty at the local level.
- I have knowledge and I want to share it with others. I will do informative workshops, both for the general public and for people active in the energy transition. I want to be a driver and help for others.
- I am willing to actively participate in demonstrations or strikes, even to initiate it with different contacts (NGOs, unions...) to demand changes. We are very concerned and not everything is in our hands, so we demand more responsibility from the rulers and we want the whole world to see it.

