

REScoop.eu's priorities for the Lithuanian Presidency (January - June 2027)

Briefing

Background

The Lithuanian Presidency comes at a crucial moment for Europe: a persistent energy -and associated cost-of-living crisis is damaging people's quality of life, the competitiveness of small market actors, and the European economy at large. More households are failing to access basic energy services, with 15.5% of households classified as at risk of poverty or social exclusion.¹ Heating and cooling is a key area within this, with over 30 million people in Europe (8.8%) being unable to adequately heat their homes in 2025.² At the same time, growing geopolitical tensions threaten Europe's energy security, with the Bloc paying an additional 100 billion euros in fossil fuel imports due to the Iran war.

Lithuania is a European frontrunner in scaling up renewables in the European Union. This growth has underpinned one of the fastest increases in prosumers and energy communities, with the country noting over 200,000 active prosumers.³ This has resulted in lower energy prices, energy security, and overall increased public acceptance for renewables and energy efficiency.

Energy Communities can be an important tool in times of crisis

Research by REScoop.eu⁴ showed that following the onset of the Iran war, energy communities across the EU stepped up to shield their members from price increases, and ensure a stable and predictable supply of energy.

- **Security and affordability:** According to the European Commission, energy communities that produce and consume locally are a way to tackle the energy crisis by shielding consumers from volatile wholesale markets. An average household can save up to 930 euros by participating in an energy community.
- **Preparedness through Social Cohesion:** Through their bottom-up and transparent governance model, energy communities foster social cohesion among local populations. Their ability to pool local resources, share information, and check on vulnerable neighbours are key measures during a crisis.⁵

¹ Energy Poverty Advisory Hub (2026) [Energy poverty indicators dashboard](#).

² European Commission, 'Energy Poverty' (Directorate-General for Energy)

³ [Fast & Fair Renewable Power Growth. Lithuania's experience with self-consumption, permitting, grids, and more](#)

⁴ REScoop.eu (2026) [Renewable energy communities: A safe haven in times of crisis](#)

⁵ Koster, Lang, and Van Lange, 'Interdependence explains how and when crises impact social cohesion', 2026.

- **Competitiveness:** energy communities can stimulate demand for cutting edge digital, energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies (e.g., heat pumps) through mass aggregation (e.g., bulk procurement). Stimulating demand amongst households and SMEs is key for the competitiveness of European industry.

Summary of Recommendations

- **Leverage the Action Plan for Energy Communities to convene a “Prosumers and Energy Communities Dialogue” between Member States, the Commission and civil society.** The purpose of the dialogue should be to encourage best practices on boosting self-consumption of renewables, supporting energy communities & improving household energy efficiency.
 - Dedicate at least one Energy Council ministerial meeting to this (or ensure that it's reflected in the agenda of a broader meeting).
- **Ensure that the 2028-2034 EU budget supports energy communities:** as Lithuania will preside over the trilogues for the European Competitiveness Fund and the National and Regional Partnership Plans, it should push for dedicated funding for energy communities and their EU and national federations, such as Community Energy Financing Schemes (CEFS).
- **Ensure that the post-2030 energy and governance framework ensures strong support for prosumers and energy communities.** This may include dedicated targets for energy communities through the Governance Regulation, in line with the Citizen Energy Package's goal of 90GW of community energy by 2030.
 - Maintain a stable regulatory framework for citizens and energy communities in the revision of the Renewable Energy Directive and Energy Efficiency Directive.
- **Consider how the proposal to future-proof electricity bills can support local energy sharing,** and its potential impact on grid access for community projects. Network tariffs can be used to incentivise the matching of local production and consumption to ease pressure on the grid. Avoid measures, such as injection tariffs, that would act as a disincentive for prosumers.
- **Ensure that the revision of the EU public procurement framework enables energy communities to participate effectively in public procurement,** particularly by strengthening social and environmental award criteria, facilitating access for smaller community-led actors and enabling partnerships with local authorities for renewable energy, energy efficiency, heating and cooling projects.

Action Plan for Energy Communities

As detailed in REScoop.eu's analysis of the Action Plan for Energy Communities,⁶ the focus should lie on implementation. **The Lithuanian Presidency should convene an EU level dialogue, including a dedicated Ministerial meeting, on implementing existing legislation for energy communities**, and exchange of best practices, in light of the recently published Energy Communities Action Plan, and its associated 50 recommendations. The exchange may focus on:

- Assessing potential and barriers for energy communities at the national level;
- Registration, monitoring and oversight of energy communities;
- Defining a national political objective/quantitative target for community energy by 2040 and 2050. Certain Member States have set national (Netherlands) or regional (Belgium, Germany, Spain) targets for energy communities, and could certainly share best practices in this regard;
- Assisting energy communities with grid access, easing administrative and permitting burdens, and ensuring system operators account for them in grid development plans.
- Ensuring the effective transposition of the right to free choice of supplier and right to energy sharing under Article 15a of the Electricity Directive.

Multiannual Financial Framework (2028-2034)

As detailed in REScoop.eu's briefing on the next MFF⁷ energy communities should be supported by the EU budget as they align with the objectives of cohesion, affordability, and competitiveness.

The Lithuanian Presidency should leverage the negotiations of the MFF to ensure earmarked and dedicated funding for energy communities.

- **The National and Regional Partnership Plans** should acknowledge energy communities as vehicles for a just transition, regional cohesion, and locally-led development.⁸ REScoop.eu has developed national factsheets for Member States, detailing how energy communities align within the goals of the NRPPs.⁹

⁶ REScoop.eu (2026). [REScoop.eu analysis of the Energy Communities Action Plan](#).

⁷ REScoop.eu (2025) [Community proof? REScoop.eu's analysis of the 2028-2034 EU budget proposal](#).

⁸ [The Draft report of the BUDG/AGRI/REGL committees of the European Parliament](#) makes multiple references to energy communities including on Articles 3, 74, and 76.

⁹ REScoop.eu (2026). [Stronger Communities Thriving Regions](#).

- **The European Competitiveness Fund** should earmark funding for energy communities, particularly to encourage EU-level collaborations among community energy organisations, leading to competitive innovation. Through targeted revisions (e.g., Article 33(1a)), energy communities should be mentioned as distinct beneficiaries, ensuring continued, multi-year structured support through work programmes.
 - At the same time, Lithuania should promote the maintenance of LIFE as a standalone programme in the next EU budget - including the LIFE Clean Energy Transition (and ENERCOM) substrand.

Post-2030 Energy and Climate Framework

An accelerated transition to renewables and energy efficiency over the next decade will be crucial, not just to achieve the EU's binding climate targets, but also to deliver important economic, health, and labour co-benefits. A recent report by CAN-Europe¹⁰ finds that accelerated investments in energy savings can result in **€826 billion+** in annual monetised benefits and **8.5 million+** employment years by 2030.

We call on the Lithuanian Presidency to steer the Council towards:

- Ensuring that the Governance Regulation includes an obligation for Member States to track the development of prosumers and energy communities, through new binding KPIs. This is the best way to unlock the security and affordability potential of the energy transition for everyday citizens.
- Keep an ambitious, EU-binding renewable energy target for 2040.
- Put in place a binding 2040 EU energy efficiency target expressed in final and primary energy consumption, accompanied by a strong governance that ensures delivery at the national level.
- Maintain the Renewable Energy Community definition and enabling framework provisions as they stand, while reinforcing their national transposition and implementation.
- Linking EU funding access to the timely submission and quality of NECPs, rewarding delivery with a cash-for-reforms approach.
- Covering green and social delivery gaps in Country Reports and Recommendations, focusing on fossil-fuel phase-out, and energy poverty
- Creating a public EU data system to display Member States' performance against targets and KPIs.

¹⁰ CAN-EU (2026) Direct co-benefits of climate action.

Commission Recommendation on Energy Poverty

The economic and social costs of unaddressed energy poverty are significant, impacting social cohesion, democratic resilience, and the speed of the energy transition. Energy communities across the EU showcase the strength of a model that centres around collaboration, community care, climate ambition and democratic governance.¹¹

We call on the Lithuanian Presidency to raise awareness among member states of the role of energy communities in tackling energy poverty by:

- Highlighting the contribution of energy communities to both alleviating existing energy poverty and preventing it in the long term.
- Promoting energy communities as both an immediate response and a structural solution to energy poverty, in line with the European Commission's *AccelerateEU Catalogue of Measures*.
- Providing dedicated funding and practical guidance to energy communities and relevant stakeholders - including municipalities, social services, housing providers and tenant associations - to improve accessibility, foster inclusive participation and ensure that the benefits of energy communities reach underrepresented groups and households experiencing energy poverty.

Regulation on future-proofing electricity bills

Network charges must support, not penalise, self-consumption, energy sharing, storage, aggregation, and demand response, because the Commission proposal itself states charges should not disincentivise these activities. Care should be taken that injection charges are not introduced that would hinder the roll out of prosumers and energy communities. Special attention should be paid to the effect of time-of-use tariffs and potential changes in network charges on vulnerable households and those experiencing energy poverty. These people must not be left behind in the drive for (much-needed) flexibility in the electricity system.

Any special regime for certain grid users should be tightly defined, transparent, and tied to measurable public-interest criteria, so it cannot become a blank cheque for the most powerful users. The current wording is broad enough to be interpreted in ways that could favour large users such as data centres or energy-intensive industries if safeguards are not added. The proposal should therefore ask for an explicit, objective

¹¹ [REScoop.eu](https://rescoop.eu) (2026) [Energy communities tackling energy poverty: from formal rights to real benefits and engagement](#).

framework that gives priority to projects that are demonstrably grid-friendly and socially beneficial.

Public Procurement

The reform of the EU public procurement rules has already been identified as one of the priorities for Lithuania's Presidency.¹² The revision is an opportunity to strengthen the role of energy communities in public procurement. We call on the Lithuanian Presidency to advance negotiations on the Public Procurement Act by ensuring that the revised framework:

- Facilitates access to public contracts and concessions for energy communities by removing disproportionate administrative barriers.
- Supports collaboration between local authorities and energy communities in renewable energy generation, energy efficiency, heating and cooling projects.
- Enables public authorities to recognise and reward the social and environmental benefits of energy community projects through appropriate procurement criteria.

The revised framework should be accompanied by practical guidance for public authorities on integrating the social value into procurement procedures and facilitating the participation of energy communities.

¹² Lithuanian Ministry of Economy and Innovation, [*Public procurement reform to be undertaken during Lithuania's Presidency of the Council of the EU*](#), 14 September 2026.

ANNEX: Supporting Information

The Action Plan for Energy Communities, part of the broader Citizens Energy Package, is a non legislative document, detailing a list of support measures that the Commission will take to boost energy communities and self-consumption. This includes the *Commission Recommendation (EU) 2026/1007 of 30 April 2026 on supporting the development of energy communities and maximising the potential of self-consumption*. This includes 50 concrete recommendations to Member States on how to fully operationalise an enabling framework for energy communities.

Many Member States still struggle with sound implementation of EU energy communities legislation.¹³ These directives were required to be written into national law by 30 June 2021 and 31 December 2021, respectively. Significant implementation issues include incorrect transposition of energy community definitions into national law, lack of analysis of barriers and potential of renewable energy communities at the national level, and failure to implement policies and measures that are required to put in place an enabling framework.

¹³ Including Directive (EU) 2018/2001 (Recast Renewable Energy Directive) and Directive (EU) 2019/944 (Recast Electricity Market Design Directive).