



EU policies supporting the clean energy transition in rural areas

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**Can the EU afford to leave rural areas behind in its
energy transition?**
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EU main Energy policy developments

Energy Union: a secure, sustainable, competitive, affordable energy for every European

5 guiding dimensions:

- Energy security, solidarity and trust
- A fully integrated internal energy market
- "Energy efficiency first" (including the transport sector)
- Transition to a long-lasting low-carbon society
- An Energy Union for Research, Innovation and Competitiveness

The Clean Energy for All Europeans (CE4AE) package:

- On 30 November 2016, the EC presented a new package of measures to facilitate the clean energy transition.
- 4 of the 8 legislative acts in the CE4AE package are now in place (EPBD, EED, RED II, Governance). Political agreement has also been reached on the remaining 4 dossiers relating to electricity market design (Electricity Directive, Electricity Regulation, Risk Preparedness and ACER).

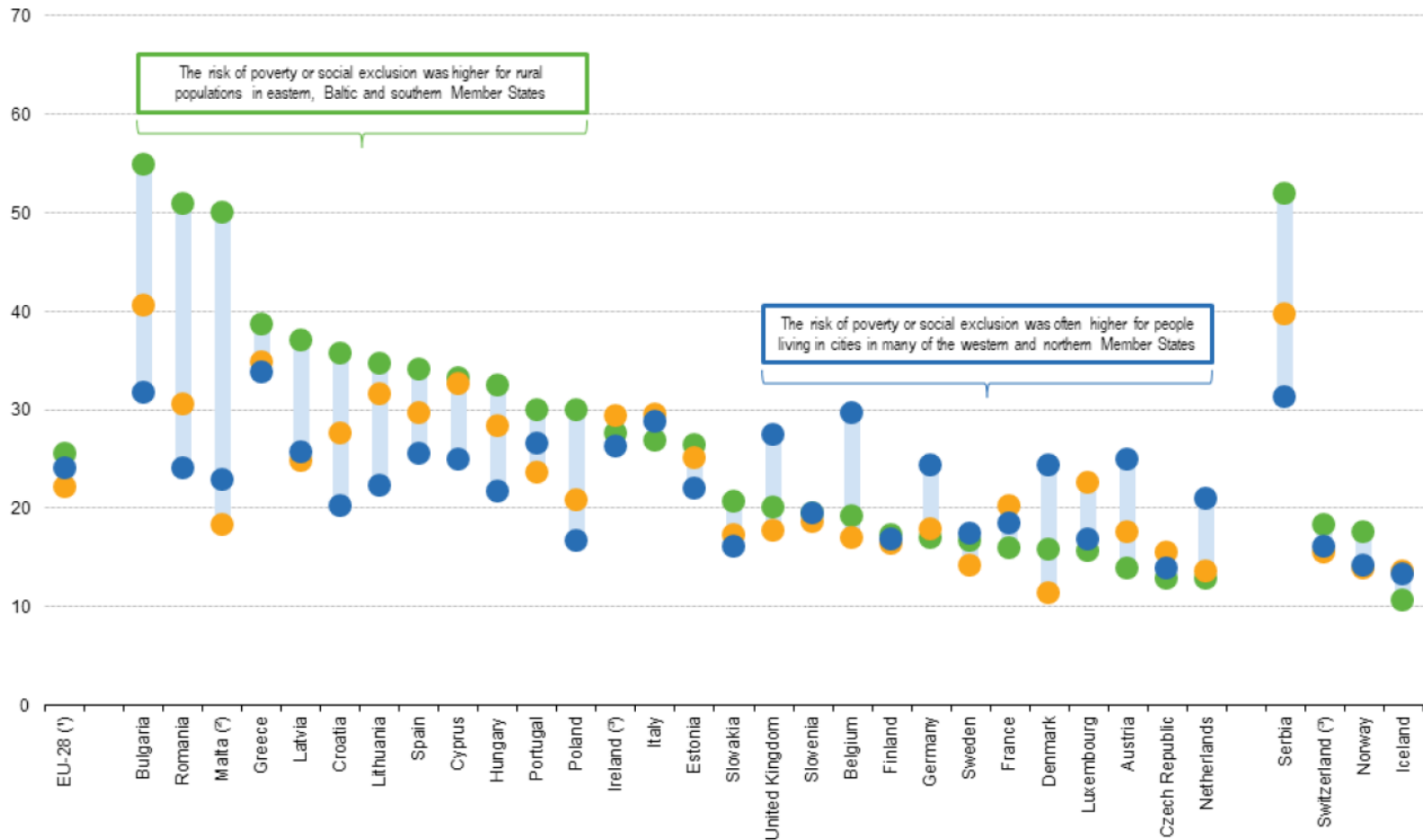
The Strategy for long-term EU GHG emissions reductions:

- The Council and the EP invited the EC to develop a Strategy for long-term EU GHG emissions reductions, in the context of the Paris agreement



European
Commission

Risk of poverty or social exclusion



Source: Eurostat

- Rural areas
- Towns and suburbs
- Cities

Energy poverty – measures in the CE4AE package

- Access to energy services enhances social inclusion
- Energy Union: **citizens** are at the centre of the energy transition.
- An effective package of measures to address energy poverty is proposed as part of the Clean Energy Package:
 - *The Governance Regulation and the Electricity Directive require Member States to **define, measure and periodically report** on energy poverty levels*
 - *EED and EPBD require that MS **take policy measures** in their respective long term renovation strategies aiming at alleviating energy poverty*
- **Energy Poverty Observatory**

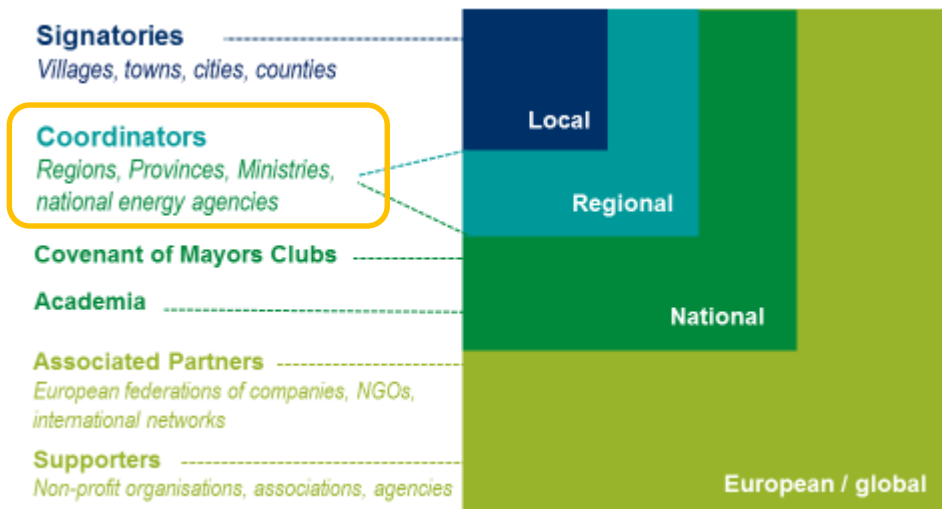
Renewable Energy Communities

- Citizens coming together to invest jointly in renewable energy projects can ensure local anchorage and ownership of such projects → better social acceptance, lower costs
- RED II : strong framework to enable citizens to form energy communities throughout Europe
- Primary purpose of energy communities: increase citizens' support and participation in the energy transition by providing environmental, economic or social community benefits.

Covenant of Mayors

- local authorities voluntarily committing to develop and implement Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAPs):
 - **Reduce CO2 emissions by at least 40% by 2030**
 - **Increase their resilience (adapting to climate change)**
 - **Report on their SECAPs' implementation**

>5900 Action Plans developed



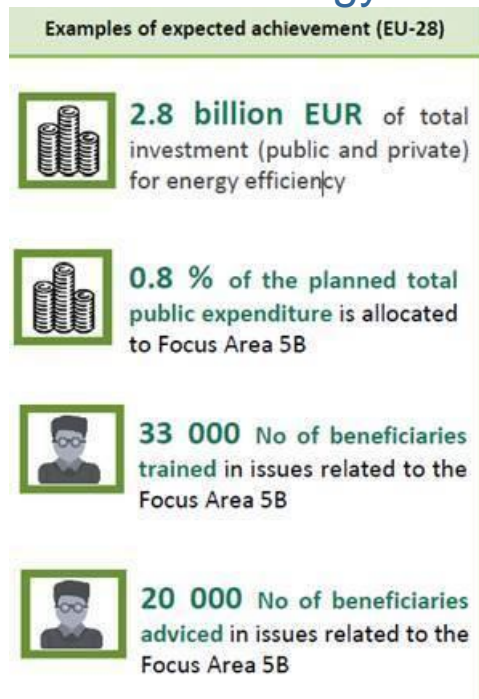
Covenant Coordinators (esp. regions and provinces) can support smaller villages in rural areas to participate in the CoM.

Cohesion Policy

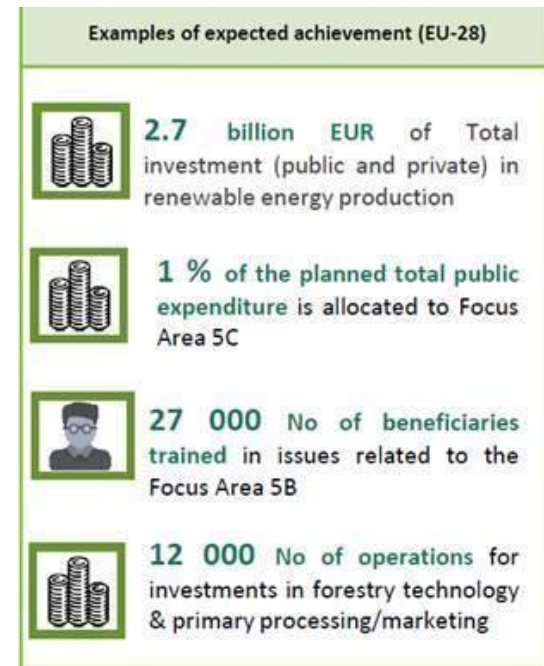
- Key contribution for delivering the Energy Union objectives on the ground
- **EUR 69 billion from ERDF and CF** over 2014-2020 for investments related to all five dimensions of the Energy Union. Key benefits:
 - Achieve the EU climate and energy targets
 - Foster regional development, competitiveness, growth and jobs
 - Tackle energy poverty
 - Enhance energy security of supply
- Framework for integrated territorial development, incl. capacity building and technical assistance.
- Decentralised renewable energy production can contribute to job creation and the local economy by **improving the energy independence, reducing energy costs, using local feedstock supplies and local equipment installers**, etc. especially in remote places like rural areas.

Rural Development Policy - Priority 5: Resource-efficient, Climate-resilient Economy

Focus area 5B - Energy Efficiency



Focus area 5C - Renewable Energy



- Main measures foreseen for the energy sector in rural areas
 - **Investments in physical assets**
 - **Farm and business development**
 - **Basic Services and village renewal in rural areas**

Thank You for Your Attention!

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http://ec.europa.eu/energy/index_en.htm

