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Professional online roundtable on the operational and financial environment of energy communities in the Danube Region

Round table 2 – Main findings (Hungary)

18.9. 2024, IMRO-DDKK Nonprofit Ltd

## Factors that influenced the choice of appropriate business models for energy communities

- EU directives and legislation (RED II) and Hungarian adoption
- Availability of financial resources
- Seven national pilot projects

#### **Balancing the interests of different stakeholders**

- Participatory approach
- Continuous stakeholder engagement



#### **Critical success factors**

- Well funcitioning legal framework (first and foremost...)
- Access to financial resources
- Promoting the benefits of RECs

### **Most effective funding sources**

- National project funding (National Research, Development and Innovation Agency
- EU projects (Horizon Europe, LIFE, Interreg)
- Crowdfunding



#### **Communicating the benefits of RECs**

- Challenges: people unfamiliar with concept, afraid of financial risks, competition with big companies (network operators)
- Big media attention about the creation of the first RECs in 2023

#### **Influencing policies**

- Through the seven, nationally funded pilot projects (this was the purpose of their creation)
- Association of Hungarian Energy Communities and Flexibility Providers
   → Invited to stakeholder meetings, working groups



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#### **Organisational structure**

- Determined by allowed legal form: non-profit ltd, and cooperative
- So far only ltd's were established: annual assembly (composed of REC members), executive director, management board (composed of project partners)

#### **Capacity building and change management**

- Capacity building initially covered from projects, but should be part of business plan
- Small REC's: personal consultance, no formal training

# Thanks for your attention!

NRGCOM - Creating appropriate operational conditions for renewable energy communities in the Danube Region

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Interreg Danube Region



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