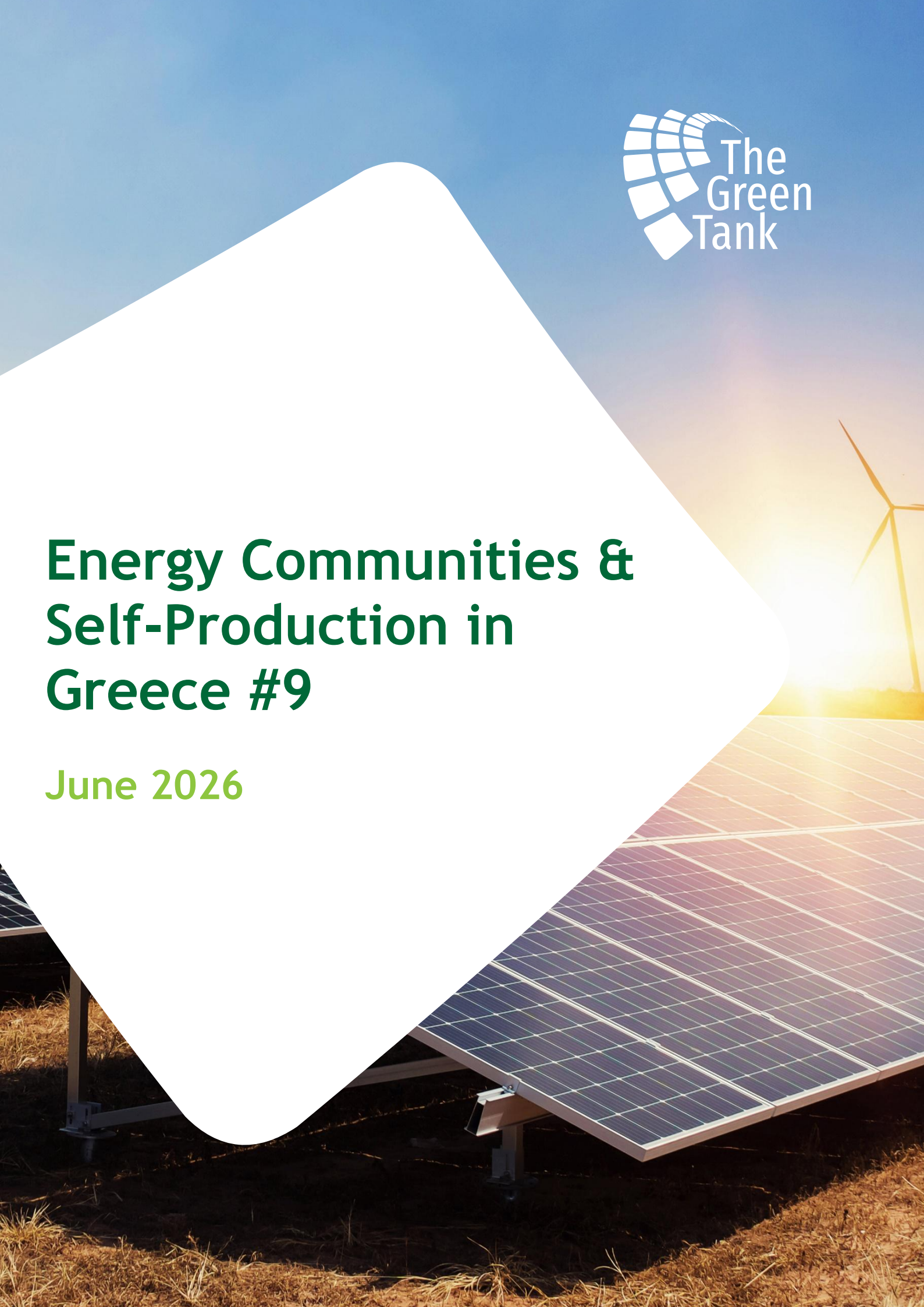


Energy Communities & Self-Production in Greece #9

June 2026


The
Green
Tank

Text

Nikos Mantzaris, Policy Analyst & Co-Founder, The Green Tank

Cite as

The Green Tank (2026) “Energy Communities & Self-Production in Greece #9”

Layout Design

Design Nature

Contact Details

50 Vas. Sofias Avenue, Athens 115 28
✆ 210 7233384
thegreentank.gr
info@thegreentank.gr

Summary

This report on energy communities and self-production is based on the latest available data from the General Commercial Register (GEMI) (May 2026); the Hellenic Electricity Distribution Network Operator (HEDNO) concerning low-medium voltage (April 2026); and the Independent Power Transmission Operator (ADMIE) (April 2025). It follows from The Green Tank's eight previous analyses, which were carried out each time the relevant databases were updated by the HEDNO. Compared to our previous report, based on data up to September 2025, the main findings are summarized as follows:

Energy communities

- Of the ***2,541 energy communities of all legal forms*** currently active in Greece, 2,334 are energy communities established under the founding law 4513/2018.
- ***New project requests have come to a standstill***: Only 61 new energy community project requests were submitted over the period January 2024-April 2026.
- ***The electrification of low-medium voltage projects is marking time***: The capacity of electrified energy community projects has reached 1,483.4 MW (30.6% of requests), an increase of only 18.4 MW compared to September 2025.
- ***Projects are progressing more rapidly in high voltage***: 102 projects (1,078.6 MW) have been electrified; however, they belong to just 103 energy communities and often represent larger commercial projects that have been “sliced” into smaller ones.
- ***Commercial projects dominate***: Of the 3,069 electrified energy community projects with a total capacity of 2,562 MW, only 221 projects with a capacity of 114.1 MW (4.4% of the total) relate to self-production. All remaining projects sell the energy produced and distribute profits to their members.
- ***The capacity of cancelled projects far exceeds that of electrified ones***: The cancelled capacity at low-medium voltage increased by 227 MW over the past 7 months, and currently amounts to 2,709.6 MW, corresponding to 56% of total requested capacity.
- ***Central Macedonia remains in the lead***: This Region ranks first with regard to the number of energy communities (712) and projects’ electrified capacity in the low-medium voltage (367.9 MW); it also records the highest cancelled capacity (733.8 MW).
- ***Western Macedonia holds two negative distinctions***: This Region ranks first regarding both the ratio of canceled to electrified projects (3.7:1) and the lack of grid space, as 89.7% of the Region's canceled capacity relates to projects that had previously received notification of inability to connect from the HEDNO.

Self-production

- ***Slowdown***: The total capacity of self-production projects in operation stands at 1,155.5 MW, increased by only 82.9 MW compared to September 2025. The rate of new request submission has also decreased, with 5,776 new requests in 2025, and 1,033 in the first four months of 2026.

- ***The transition from net-metering to net-billing is slow***: Since the introduction of the new mechanisms (2 October 2024) and up to April 2026, 92.3% of the capacity of new self-production requests corresponds to projects implementing net-billing and virtual net-billing. However, the capacity of electrified projects applying the new mechanisms amounts to just 118.1 MW (10.2% of total capacity), of which only 21.8 MW corresponds to requests submitted after the Joint Ministerial Decision came into force (2/10/2024).
- ***Regarding projects eligible for funding in transition regions***: In the areas eligible to receive funding from the Just Development Transition Program (PDAM) 2021-2027, pending capacity amounts to 58.5 MW; of these, 15.6 MW correspond to virtual net-metering and virtual net-billing projects with a connection contract, while 42.9 MW concern less "mature" projects implementing these mechanisms.
- ***Self-production requires additional electrical space***: The combined capacity of electrified and pending self-production projects amounts to 1,887 MW, thus approaching the 2 GW grid space reserved for such projects under Law no. 5037/2023.

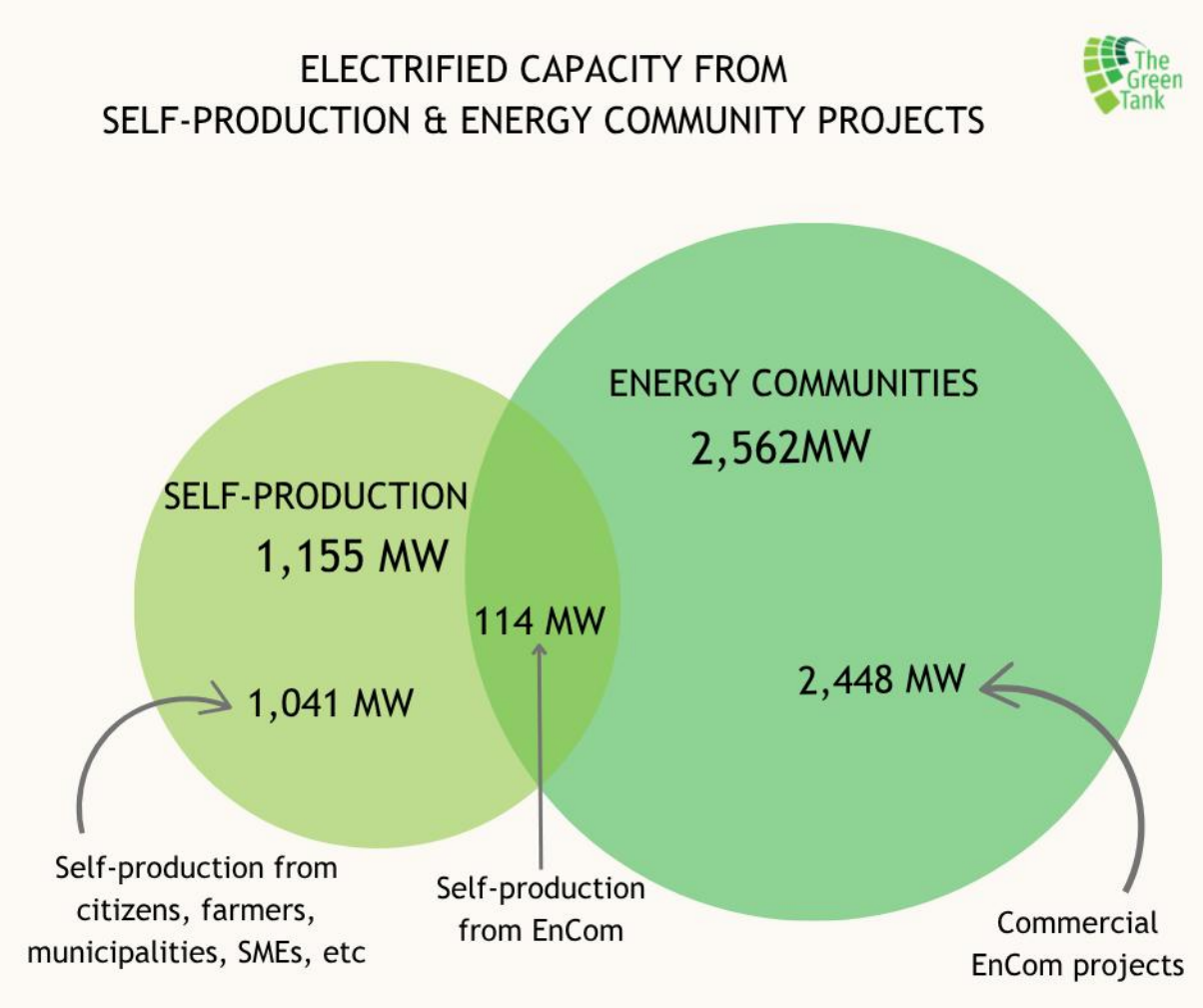


***Figure 1**: Electrified capacity from energy communities and self-production. Self-production accounts for just 4.4% (114.1 MW) of energy community projects. In April 2026, the total electrified capacity of self-production projects amounts to 1,155.5 MW, while that of energy communities (commercial and self-production projects) in all voltage categories amounts to 2,562 MW.*

Contents

Introduction

Self-production and energy communities constitute the principal institutional tools to ensure citizens' active and meaningful participation in the energy transition.

Self-production systems may be installed by individuals, farmers, businesses, and municipalities. In the case of energy communities, projects are set up collectively by citizens, businesses, municipalities and other entities.

As of 31 October 2024, self-production projects may be implemented by applying either net-billing or virtual net-billing. However, exceptions still apply to projects that have received funding from European and national sources, which can submit requests based on the former mechanisms of net-metering and virtual net-metering. The main difference between the older and newer schemes lies in the netting and compensation of the surplus energy produced by the renewable energy source (RES) system that is not concurrently consumed by its owner or beneficiary. In net-metering, the energy produced is offset against the energy consumed throughout the day over a three-year period. In net-billing, netting occurs in real time as the produced energy is consumed; surplus energy is either discarded or injected back into the grid and compensated at the wholesale electricity market price at the time of injection.

This report includes self-production projects applying all four mechanisms. With regard to energy communities, all legal forms of energy communities registered in the General Commercial Registry (GEMI)[1] have been considered, together with all types of projects that they were allowed to develop from 2018 to date, namely, both self-production projects (virtual net-metering & virtual net-billing) and commercial projects selling the energy produced to the grid and distributing profits to their members.

The analysis is based on the latest available data from the General Commercial Register GEMI (May 2026)[2], the Hellenic Electricity Distribution Network Operator (HEDNO) (April 2026)[3], as well as the Independent Power Transmission Operator (ADMIE) (April 2026)[4]. In addition, the latest developments regarding the relevant institutional framework, parliamentary scrutiny, and resources are presented.

[1] Energy Communities; Renewable Energy Communities; Citizen Energy Communities; Limited Liability Cooperatives; Cooperatives; Renewable Energy Civil Law Partnerships; Consortia; and Private Companies.
[2] GEMI, 2026, https://publicity.businessportal.gr/

[3] HEDNO, Archive of Applications for the connection of RES and CHP plants under HEDNO competence (May 2026), https://shorturl.at/bMNDJ & Archive of Applications for the connection of net-metering and virtual net-metering projects (May 2026), https://shorturl.at/0xAwT

[4] ADMIE, RES Producers (April 2026), https://bit.ly/4vnKDUu

Energy communities

Nationwide

According to the GEMI's latest available data, **there are currently (May 2026) 2,541 active[5] energy communities.** Of these, **the vast majority (2,334) are registered as Energy Communities under Law no. 4513/2018**; 130 as Limited Liability Cooperatives; 1 as a Consortium; 1 as a Civil Law Partnership under CC article 784; 1 as a private company; and 1 as a Limited Partnership. **In addition, 41 Renewable Energy Communities (RECs) and 32 Citizens' Energy Communities (CECs) are operating;** the latter are both legal forms established by Law no. 5037/2023. Of all energy communities, 13 have not been registered in any of the country's 13 regions, while 272 are suspended.

Low-Medium Voltage

According to the HEDNO's data, since the launch of the energy community institution **in Greece in 2018 and up to April 2026, 6,326 project requests have been submitted for both categories of energy community projects (commercial and self-production), with a cumulative capacity of 4,841.8 MW.** Nonetheless, requests have effectively come to a standstill following the recent changes in the institutional framework, relating mainly to the shift from (virtual) net-metering to (virtual) net-billing; indeed, merely 61 new requests for energy community projects were submitted over the period January 2024 – April 2026.

With regard to electrified capacity, 2,057 projects have been connected and are operating; their capacity amounts to 1,483.4 MW, which represents 30.6% of the total requested capacity. The majority of these projects (1,836 projects with a capacity of 1,369.3 MW) sell the produced energy to the grid (commercial projects)[6]. Only 221 self-production projects with a cumulative capacity of 114.1 MW have been electrified (just 7.7% of total electrified capacity), and none of them are implementing virtual net-billing. However, **the progress in the electrification of self-production projects implemented by energy communities in particular has been noteworthy**; capacity rose from 4.2 MW in 2022 to 14.4 MW in 2023; subsequently, it more than tripled in one year, reaching 50.1 MW by the end of 2024. Progress continued throughout 2025, with electrified capacity more than doubling compared to 2024 and amounting to 112.4 MW. Nevertheless, the first four months of 2026 have seen the electrification of just five additional self-production projects by energy communities with a total capacity of 1.7 MW.

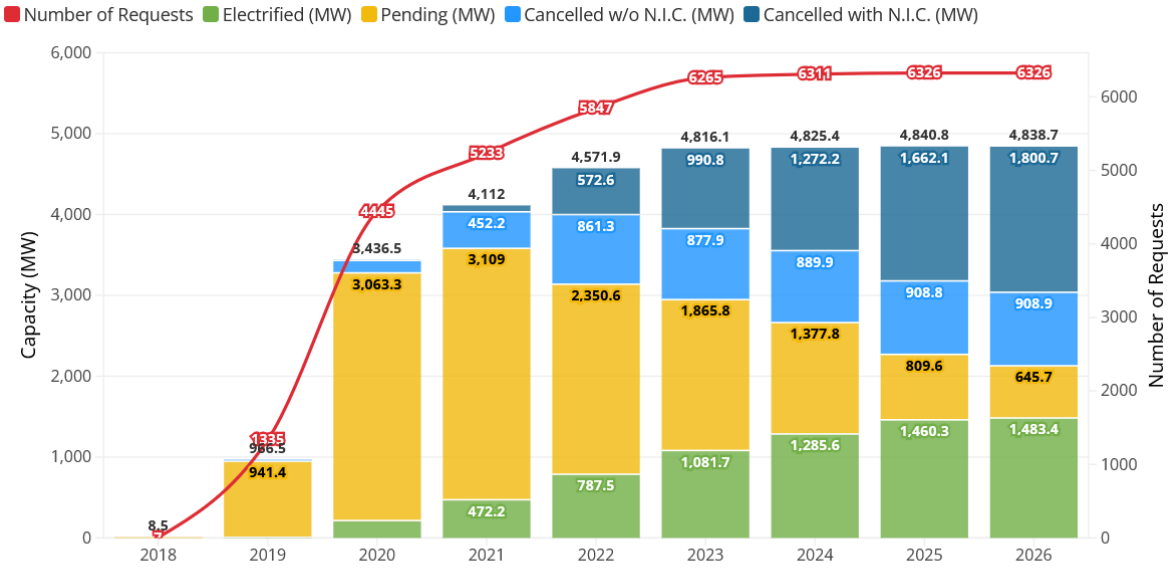
As illustrated in Figure 2, **following a period of rapid growth, the pace of energy community project electrification (all categories) has declined.** Indeed, following the connection of 390 new projects with a capacity of 294.2 MW in 2023 (+37.4% compared to the previous year) and the connection of 286 projects with a capacity of 203.9 MW in 2024

[5] The term "active" refers to the GEMI's classification, without necessarily meaning that every "active" energy community has submitted a project request or has proceeded with implementation.

[6] It is emphasized that projects belonging to "former" energy communities are not included in the 'commercial projects' category.

(+18.9% compared to the previous year), 2025 saw the electrification of 229 new energy community projects (174.7 MW).

In addition, **energy community project cancellations have outnumbered electrifications**. Specifically, 607 projects with a capacity of 434.8 MW were cancelled in 2023, while 365 projects with a capacity of 293.5 MW were cancelled in 2024; subsequently, 2025 saw the cancellation of 550 projects with a capacity of 408.08 MW, while an additional 181 projects with a capacity of 138.7 MW were canceled in the first four months of 2026. Since the establishment of Energy Communities in 2018 to date, **a total of 3,498 projects with a capacity of 2,709.6 MW have been cancelled**; of these, 2,264 projects (1,800.7 MW or 66.5% of total cancelled capacity) had received a notification of inability to connect. These figures quantitatively demonstrate that insufficient grid space constitutes a major constraint on the expansion of energy communities.



Sources: HEDNO, own calculations • *Data up to April 2026
N.I.C.: Notification of Inability to Connect

***Figure 2**: Evolution of the number and capacity of renewable energy (RES) project requests by energy communities over the period January 2018 - April 2026 in low-medium voltage.*

As energy community projects that are either cancelled or electrified increase over time and, at the same time, total requests remain nearly stagnant (see Figure 2)**, the number of pending projects (non-electrified, non-cancelled) is shrinking.** As a result, up to April 2026, 771 energy community projects with a capacity of 645.7 MW have remained pending; of these, 557 projects (448.8 MW) have received a notification of inability to connect, thus limiting their prospects of electrification. In contrast, 269 pending energy community projects (213.2 MW) have signed a connection contract and are at the last licensing stage before activation, thus having a much higher probability of being electrified. However, no new connection contracts were signed since September 2025.

The stagnation in the number and capacity of requests can be attributed to the lack of electrical space, as well as to the modified institutional framework. In particular,

restrictions have been applied regarding profit sharing among members[7], while the high prices guaranteed for electricity producers running commercial energy community projects have been abolished (with exceptions[8]). Consequently, of the 5,606 commercial project requests at low-medium voltage (88.6% of total project requests by energy communities) on record until April 2026, only 14 were submitted from 2023 onwards.

In contrast to commercial projects, requests for self-production projects implementing virtual net-metering surged from 30 in 2021 to 228 in 2022, and further increased 2.5 times, reaching 568 in 2023. However, this progress was abruptly halted by an institutional framework amendment abolishing virtual net-metering and replacing it -at a significant delay- by virtual net-billing. Compared to virtual net-metering, this new mechanism has significantly fewer economic benefits for energy community members, as the compensation price of the surplus energy produced during the day is far inferior to that of night-time peak hours, which is no longer offset. As a result, of the 612 virtual net-metering requests currently on record, only 44 were submitted in 2024 (all by April); no new requests were submitted thereafter, due to the complete abolition of this mechanism for energy communities as of November 2024.

Finally, these institutional changes have effectively halted the submission of new self-production project requests by energy communities. In particular, since the HEDNO announced that it would start accepting (virtual) net-billing requests in October 2024[9] and up to April 2026, energy communities have submitted just 3 requests (1.2 MW) for new self-production projects.

High Voltage

In addition to low- and medium-voltage projects, energy communities also operate projects connected to the network operated by the Greek IPTO (ADMIE). However, the relevant ADMIE data contain considerably less information than the corresponding HEDNO records for low- and medium-voltage projects. In particular, no information is provided on the dates of request submission, licensing stage completion, project connection to the grid, or cancellation. The IPTO records only list projects that are either in operation or have received a final connection offer, without specifying the type of project, namely, whether it is intended for commercial operation or self-production. Nevertheless, projects connected to the IPTO network are predominantly large-scale and commercial in nature.

Specifically with regard to energy community projects connected to the high-voltage network, ADMIE's data indicate that **1,012 projects with a total installed capacity of 1,078.6 MW had been put into operation by October 2025; moreover, an additional 712 projects with a total capacity of 833.2 MW had received a final connection offer.**

However, these **1,012 electrified projects belong to just 103 energy communities**. Consequently, the 'average' energy community connected to the ADMIE network owns

[7] Law no. 5037/2023 GG A 78/29.3.2023

[8] e.g. Law no. 5167/2024 GG A 207/20.12.2024

[9] HEDNO's announcement with regard to accepting net-billing requests, 2.10.2024, https://bit.ly/4xGbywh.

approximately 10 projects, with a combined capacity of about 10.4 MW (1 MW per project). In contrast, there are only 11 energy communities with a single "small" project of up to 1.1 MW.

Among electrified projects, certain cases stand out, such as **a 37.5 MW energy community project**. Also noteworthy are **26 projects with a combined capacity of 16 MW**, all owned by a single energy community. Similarly, **18 projects developed by the Energy Community of Kozani** (in which the Municipality of Kozani does *not* participate) have attracted significant attention within the local community and have become the subject of judicial proceedings[10]. According to the relevant documents of the Region of Western Macedonia[11], these are all commercial projects installed within the Servia Municipality, with a total capacity of 16.5 MW. Fifteen of them (or 15 MW) are located in the "Mana Nerou" area, while the remaining three projects (1.5 MW) have been installed in the "Aetorachi" area.

These examples suggest that several energy communities connected to the IPTO network have adopted the practice of **dividing larger projects into multiple smaller installations located in close proximity**, thereby benefiting from the regulatory and economic advantages applicable to smaller-scale projects. Indeed, the latter are subject to less demanding environmental licensing requirements, while the legislation previously provided more favorable guaranteed remuneration rates.

Across all voltage categories, **3,069 energy community projects are in operation, with a combined capacity of 2,562 MW**. However, only 221 projects (114.1 MW) are dedicated to self-production (4.4%). The overwhelming predominance of commercial over self-production projects (95.6% versus 4.4% of electrified projects) indicates **an abuse of the energy community institution in Greece for profit-making purposes**.

This finding directly contradicts the objectives underlying Law 5037/2023. In particular, Article 46, par.1, concerning Renewable Energy Communities (RECs), provides that "*the primary purpose of a REC is not financial profit, but the provision of environmental, economic, and social benefits to its members and the local area in which it operates*". Similarly, Article 86, subparagraph b, with regard to Citizen Energy Communities (CECs), provides that they "*primarily aim to deliver environmental, economic, and social benefits to their members, local communities, and the areas in which they operate, rather than pursue financial gain*".

Geographical Distribution

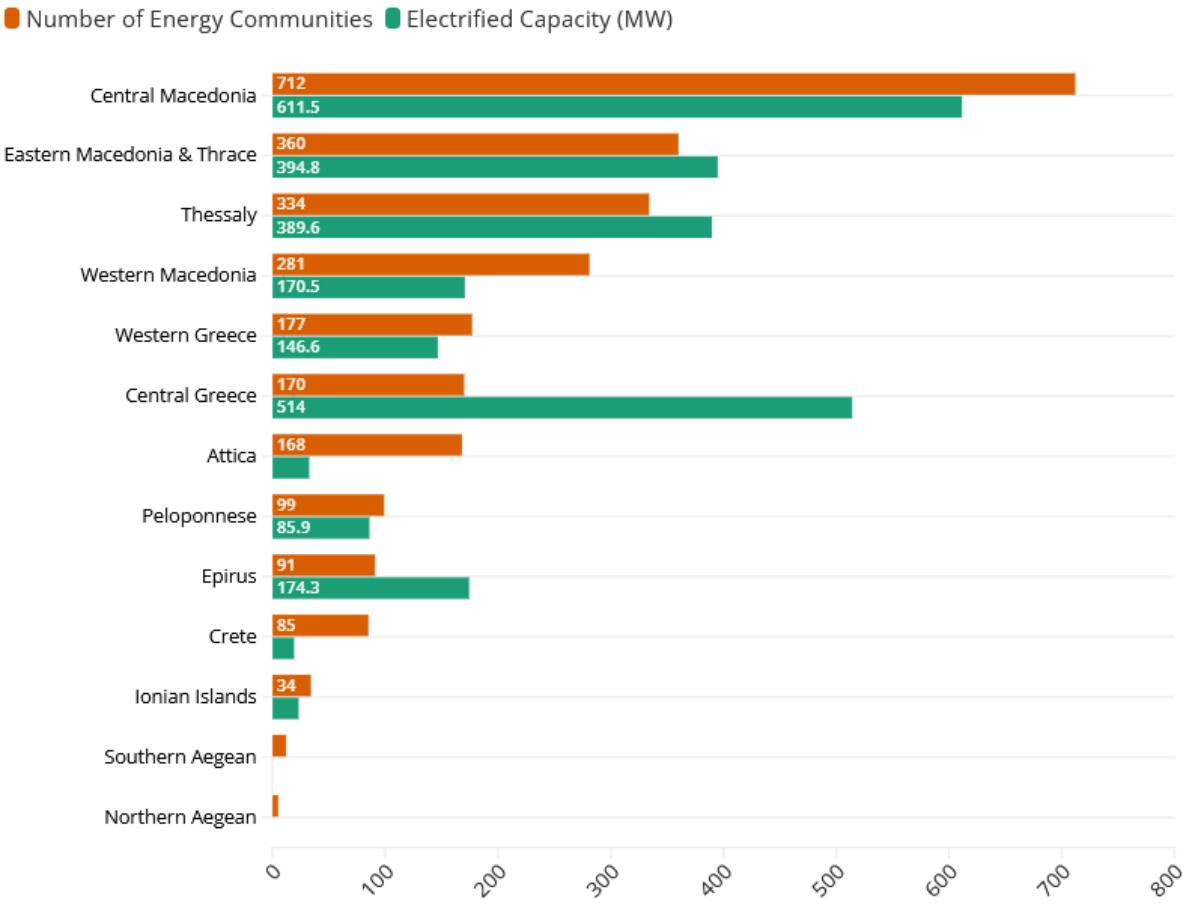
As illustrated in Figure 3, which includes projects across all voltage categories, from the institutionalization of energy communities in 2018 up to May 2026, **most energy**

[10] 'Chronos Kozanis' newspaper 31.12.2024, "The Council of State upholds the Municipality of Servia's appeal concerning photovoltaic project licenses at the 'Mana Nerou' site within the Messiani Community", https://bit.ly/43PgeCk

[11] Region of Western Macedonia, 20.1.2020, "Inclusion under Standard Environmental Commitments of the project 'Photovoltaic Station 7, with a capacity of 996.19 kW' by the 'ENERGY COMMUNITY OF KOZANI Ltd', which will be installed on a 10,884.18 m² area at the 'Mana Nerou' site within the Vathylakos Community of the Regional Unit of Kozani", https://bit.ly/4vyC35b

communities have been established in the Region of Central Macedonia (712). This Region also records the highest electrified capacity (611.5 MW), followed by Central Greece (514 MW). Eastern Macedonia & Thrace ranks third with 394.8 MW, despite having the second-highest number of energy communities (360). It should be noted that Central Greece's rank in terms of electrified capacity is primarily due to the high-voltage projects located mainly in Fthiotida (150 projects; 167.6 MW) and Aetoloakarnania (127 projects; 123.5 MW).

With regard to the islands, most energy communities have been established in Crete (85). However, the highest electrified capacity is found on the Ionian Islands: 23.1 MW compared to 19.1 MW in Crete. An important distinction is that all electrified projects in Crete relate to self-production, while the electrified capacity in the Ionian Islands corresponds exclusively to commercial projects.



Sources: HEDNO, ADMIE, GEMI, own calculations • All voltage categories are included
Data on capacities up to April 2026; data on number of EnCom up to May 2026

***Figure 3**: Number of energy communities and electrified capacity across all voltage categories, by Region.*

Figure 4 reveals that, in addition to the number of energy communities and electrified capacity, **Central Macedonia also registers the highest number of cancelled low- and medium-voltage projects (733.8 MW).** More than half (59%) of cancelled projects (434.3 MW) had previously received a notification of inability to connect to the grid.

The Region of Eastern Macedonia & Thrace has moved into second place with regard to cancelled project capacity (435.6 MW), surpassing Western Macedonia (410.2 MW). Nonetheless, the latter continues to hold two unenviable national distinctions. Firstly, Western Macedonia records the highest ratio of cancelled to electrified capacity at low- and medium-voltage, with the former (410.2 MW) being nearly four times higher than the latter (110.6 MW). Secondly, as illustrated in Figure 4, it holds the highest share of cancelled projects that had received a notification of inability to connect prior to cancellation (89.7%).

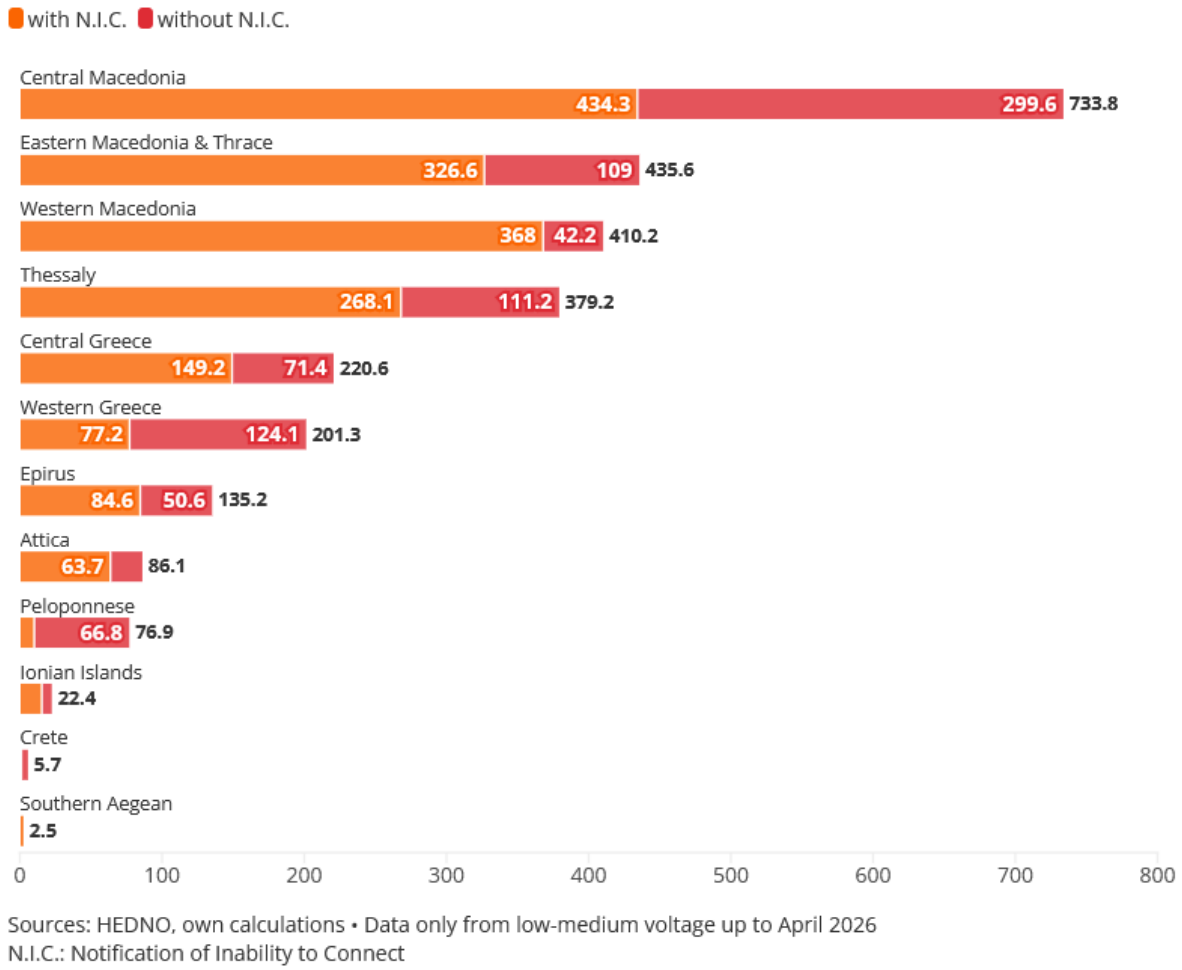


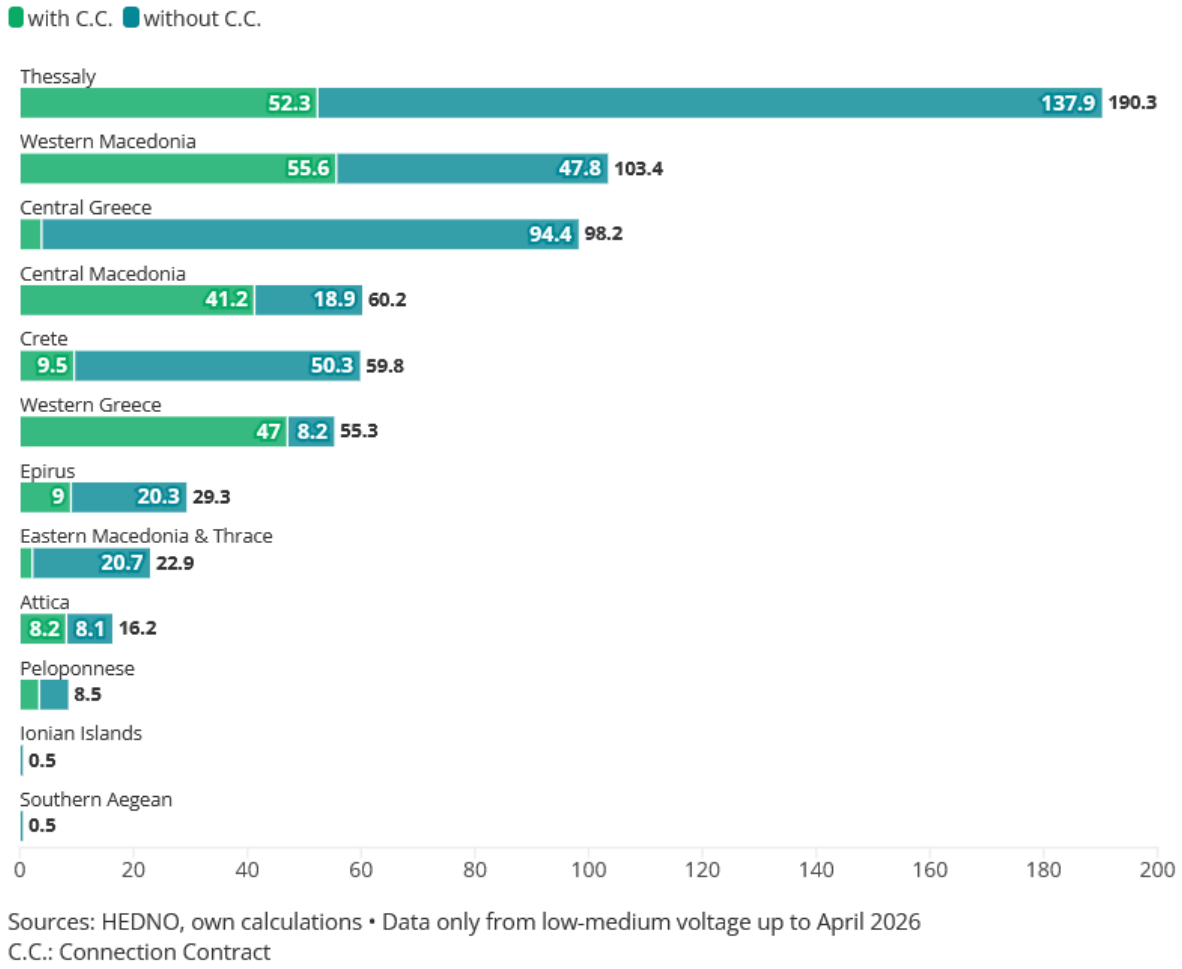
***Figure 4**: Capacity of canceled low-medium voltage projects, with and without Notification of Inability to Connect (N.I.C.), by Region.*

Focusing on low- and medium-voltage, of particular interest is the geographic distribution of pending energy community projects (namely, those that have neither been electrified nor cancelled), both overall and specifically with regard to the subset of pending projects that have secured a connection contract. As the latter represents the final licensing stage before activation, these projects are closest to implementation and can be considered as the most 'mature'.

As illustrated in Figure 5, **Thessaly records the largest capacity of pending low- and medium- voltage energy community projects (190.3 MW).** In contrast to our previous analysis which was based on the HEDNO's data up to September 2025 and indicated that

none of the pending projects in Thessaly had secured a connection contract, 27.5% of them (52.3 MW) have now reached the final licensing stage.

The Region of Western Macedonia continues to rank second with 103.4 MW of pending capacity, which corresponds to 142 projects, 79 of which (55.6 MW) have secured a connection contract. The Regions of Central Greece and Central Macedonia follow, ranking third (98.2 MW) and fourth (60.2 MW), respectively. Finally, The Region of Western Greece records the highest percentage of pending projects with a connection contract (47 MW out of a total of 55.3 MW, or 85.1%); this region is followed by Central Macedonia with 41.2 MW of pending projects with a connection contract out of a total of 60.2 MW of pending capacity (68.5%).



Sources: HEDNO, own calculations • Data only from low-medium voltage up to April 2026
C.C.: Connection Contract

***Figure 5**: Capacity of pending projects, with and without a Connection Contract, by Region.*

Regions in Transition

Regions in transition are lignite regions and, more broadly, carbon-intensive regions covered by the Just Transition Fund and for which a Territorial Just Transition Plan (TJTP) has been developed and approved. In Greece, these are the lignite regions of Western Macedonia (Kozani, Ptolemaida, Amyntaio, Florina); the Municipalities of Megalopolis, Tripoli, and Gortynia in the Regional Unit of Arcadia; the Municipality of Oichalia in the Regional Unit of Messinia; as well as the islands of the Northern and Southern Aegean Sea, and Crete. Specifically for these regions, the first funding program for energy community self-production projects in Greece was announced in September 2023, amounting to €41.8 million[12]. Only municipalities and related entities are eligible for funding, while, as a precondition, the relevant projects must have a connection contract already signed with the HEDNO. As a result of these restrictions, the only energy community funded to date - nearly three years following the call- is that of the municipality of Kozani; the latter has been allocated €5.4 million for the installation of 7 MW of photovoltaic systems to meet the municipality's electricity needs. In addition, the Just Development Transition Program (PDAM) has earmarked €6.4 million to finance the installation of 8.9 MW of photovoltaics by the Municipality of Voio's energy community.

Therefore, it is of particular interest to examine -in all regions in transition- the permitting status ***of all self-production projects, namely, those proposed by energy communities, as well as those by self-producers implementing virtual net-metering or, more recently, virtual net-billing, as these projects are potentially eligible for funding under the PDAM 2021-2027***.

Western Macedonia

In Western Macedonia, the country's largest lignite region, little has changed since The Green Tank's previous review (December 2025)[23]. Specifically, 281 energy communities are in operation and have submitted 793 requests for RES projects with a total capacity of 625.1 MW. The majority of requests (759) correspond to commercial projects, while merely 34 requests of 19.8 MW relate to self-production. A total of 164 projects with a capacity of 110.6 MW have been electrified. In addition, Western Macedonia holds two unfavorable national distinctions. Firstly, it has the **highest ratio of cancelled to electrified capacity** as the former (411.2 MW) nearly quadruples the latter (110.6 MW). Secondly, it holds **the highest share of cancelled projects that had received a notification of inability to connect prior to cancellation** (89.7%). Both figures highlight the severity of grid space unavailability in this Region.

Besides the 7 projects (1 MW each) implemented by the energy community of the Municipality of Kozani that will be financed with €5.4 million by the PDAM 2021 - 2027, **this Region also hosts 7 virtual net-metering projects** (3 by energy communities; 4 by the Kozani Water Supply and Sewerage Company (DEYAK)) **that have already signed a connection contract, with a total capacity of 4 MW.** Therefore, these projects are at the

[12] Just Transition Special Authority (EYDAM), 27.9.2023, Call entitled "Supporting energy communities in developing self-production actions": https://bit.ly/3HlLiP8.

necessary maturity level to receive funding from the PDAM, provided that the relevant call is amended to extend its scope of beneficiaries; beyond municipalities or related organizations, beneficiaries should include other entities, such as citizen energy communities, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) or farmers that apply virtual net-metering or virtual net-billing.

Finally, 33 requests for virtual net-billing projects (19.7 MW) are pending; of these, 4 (1.5 MW) have secured a connection contract, while 28 (18.5 MW) have received a notification of inability to connect to the grid.

Arcadia

In the other lignite region of Greece, Arcadia, 42 energy communities have been established and have submitted requests for 103 projects of 54.6 MW. Of these, 43 are self-production projects applying virtual net-metering, with a capacity of 8.8 MW. Forty-two (42) energy community projects with a capacity of 17.1 MW have been electrified, 25 of which are self-production projects (5.3 MW). With regard to virtual net-metering as a whole, 30 projects -including those by energy communities- with a capacity of 6.5 MW have been electrified; no project is pending. Furthermore, of the 10 virtual net-billing requests (1.96 MW) submitted after 2 October 2024, none are yet connected to the grid, while 9 projects (1.93 MW) remain pending.

Messinia

Messinia is home to 10 active energy communities that have submitted requests for 46 projects with a total capacity of 33.3 MW; seven (7) are self-production projects with a capacity of 5.9 MW. Electrification is complete for 33 energy community projects (23.5 MW); of the latter, however, merely 5 (4.5 MW) concern self-production. With regard to virtual net-metering as a whole, 9 projects with a capacity of 7.5 MW have been electrified -including 5 developed by energy communities. Another 2 self-production projects implementing virtual net-metering (1.4 MW) remain pending, both without a connection contract. Finally, the 4 virtual net-billing requests (0.45 MW) submitted after 2 October 2024 have neither been electrified nor canceled and, therefore, remain pending; among the latter, one project of merely 9.5 KW has secured a connection contract.

Crete

Crete hosts 85 active energy communities that have submitted requests for 110 projects with a total capacity of 85.1 MW. It is the only region in Greece where the number of requests for self-production projects by energy communities (53) approximates that for commercial projects (57). Twenty-six (26) energy community self-production projects (19.1 MW) are in operation, all implementing virtual net-metering. With regard to virtual net-metering as a whole, 38 projects –including those by energy communities- with a capacity of 21 MW have been electrified, while none remain pending. No net-billing request submitted after 2 October 2024 has been electrified, while 53 (23.4 MW) remain pending; of the latter, 3 (2 MW) have secured a connection contract.

Southern Aegean

The Southern Aegean is home to 12 active energy communities. However, the latter have submitted only 4 RES project requests with a total capacity of 3 MW. All are commercial projects and none has been connected to the grid. Of these, 3 (2.5 MW) have been canceled, while one 0.5 MW project has secured a connection contract. With regard to virtual net-metering, one project (0.5 MW) has been electrified and one (0.5 MW) remains pending. To date, only one virtual net-billing request (99.76 KW) has been submitted, although not by an energy community.

Northern Aegean

The Northern Aegean is home to 5 active energy communities which, according to the HEDNO's records, have submitted no project requests up to April 2026. Nonetheless, the Chios energy community has announced that 2 virtual net-metering projects with a total capacity of 110 KW were connected in March and April 2024[13], while an energy community in Lesvos has announced that a 100 KW virtual net-metering project was electrified in February 2025[14].

Table 1, below, presents the capacity of virtual net-metering and virtual net-billing projects at different permitting stages in the transition regions. These projects, particularly those that have signed a connection contract, could be funded by the PDAM 2021-2027, provided that the relevant calls are amended to include beneficiaries beyond energy communities set up by municipalities and related entities.

Table 1: Capacity of virtual net-metering and virtual net-billing projects in transition regions

Transition area	Requests (MW)	Electrified (MW)	Pending with Connection Contract (MW)	Pending without Connection Contract (MW)
Western Macedonia	38.2	2.6	12.5[15]	18.2
Arcadia	15.2	6.6	0.51	1.42
Messinia	9.5	7.5	0.09	1.75
Crete	60	21	2	21.4
Southern Aegean	3	0.5	0.5	0.1
Northern Aegean	0	0	0	0
Total	**125.9**	**38.1**	**15.6**	**42.9**

Self-Production

Self-production projects are implemented by energy communities, as well as by individual households, farmers, businesses, municipalities, and other entities. Following the changes

[13] Chios Energy Community. 18.4.2024. "The PV station developed in the context of the VEC3 Program has been connected", https://bit.ly/4cXGGgY.

[14] 'Iliotropio' Energy Community, Lesvos. 27.2.2025. https://bit.ly/44a9ErD.

[15] Including the projects (7MW) implemented by the energy community of the Municipality of Kozani that are being funded by the PDAM 2021-2027.

to the institutional framework introduced by Law 5037/2023, the implementing JMD of 2024[16], as well as HEDNO's announcement[17] on 2 October 2024 that it would accept applications under the two new mechanisms, namely net-billing and virtual net-billing, self-producers now employ these mechanisms instead of the previous net-metering and virtual net-metering schemes.

The analysis of the HEDNO's data -up to April 2026- reveals that **citizens' interest, as reflected in the evolution of requests for self-production projects** (see Figure 6)**, has been strongly influenced by the changes in the institutional framework**. Indeed, following a surge of 21,349 new requests for self-production projects in 2023, the number of requests dropped to 14,018 in 2024 and further to 5,776 in 2025. This downward trend appears to persist, with only 1,033 new requests submitted during the first four months of 2026. Over the period from HEDNO's announcement (2 October 2024) to April 2026, a total of 7,925 new self-production project requests (398.5 MW) were submitted; their distribution across the four mechanisms, both by number and by capacity, is presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Distribution of new requests for self-production projects over the period 2/10/2024-2/5/2026 across the 4 available mechanisms

Mechanism	Number of new requests	% of total requests	Capacity of new requests (MW)	% of total capacity
Net-metering	1317	16.62 %	28.29	7.1 %
Virtual net-metering	22	0.28 %	2.57	0.64 %
Net-billing	6043	76.25 %	265.93	66.73 %
Virtual net-billing	543[18]	6.85 %	101.7	25.52 %

The data show that **the majority of new requests relate to projects employing the two newer mechanisms** (77.5% of requests and 89.8% of requested capacity).

Nonetheless, it should be noted that 1303 new net-metering and virtual net-metering project requests were submitted after 31 October 2024, despite these schemes being discontinued by Law no. 5151/2024 (Article 28, paragraph 10) as of that date[19]. These requests were covered by the law's exemptions, permitting the use of the previous mechanisms, subject to the submission of an application for EU or national funding by 31 October 2024.

With regard to electrified capacity, **38,086 self-production projects with a capacity of 1,155.5 MW have been connected nationwide** up to April 2026[20], with the vast majority

[16] JMD YPEN/DAPEEK/93976/2772, GG B 5074/ 05.09.2024

[17] HEDNO, 02.10.2024, HEDNO's announcement with regard to accepting net-billing requests, https://bit.ly/4jl9DjL

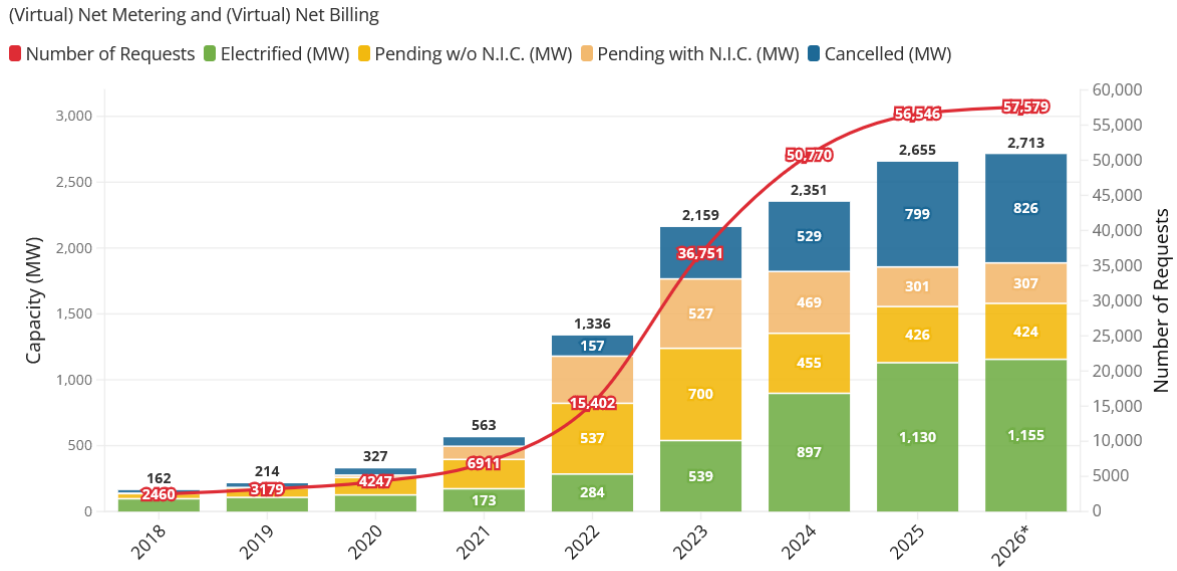
[18] Only 3 new requests for projects employing this mechanism were submitted by energy communities from October 2024 onwards.

[19] 1,296 requests were submitted after 31/10/2024 (out of 1,317 submitted after 2/10/2024) using the net-metering mechanism, while 7 requests were submitted after 31/10/2024 (out of 22 submitted after 2/10/2024) using the virtual net-metering mechanism.

[20] According to the HEDNO's monthly reports on the non-interconnected islands, 20.6 MW of net-metering systems were operating in the Southern and Northern Aegean Regions up to March 2026. However, the HEDNO's

(**38,060 projects totaling 1,083.6 MW**) employing photovoltaic systems[21]. According to HEDNO and IPTO records, in April 2026, the total installed capacity of photovoltaics nationwide amounted to 12,642.7 MW; therefore, **8.6% of this capacity corresponds to self-production projects**.

Of the total electrified self-production capacity, 75.6% (872.8 MW) corresponds to 36,150 individual net-metering projects, while 589 virtual net-metering projects account for 14.3% (164.7 MW)[22]. In addition, **1,347 net-billing and virtual net-billing projects account for the remaining 10.2% of electrified capacity (118.1 MW). Nonetheless, only 21.8 MW of the latter correspond to requests submitted after the Joint Ministerial Decision came into force (2/10/2024).** These figures highlight the significant slowdown in self-production, triggered by the transition to the new mechanisms and compounded by the persistent delays in addressing institutional shortcomings.



Sources: HEDNO, own calculations • *Data up to April 2026
N.I.C.: Notification of Inability to Connect

***Figure 6**: Capacity and number of self-production projects by citizens, entities, and energy communities (net-metering; virtual net-metering; net-billing; virtual net-billing) at different permitting stages: electrified; cancelled; and pending (with or without Notification of Inability to Connect), over the period 2018 – April 2026.*

Figure 6 illustrates the **significant slowdown in the electrification of self-production projects from 2024 onwards**. In particular, while 16,299 new projects were connected in 2024 with a combined capacity of 358.5 MW, 2025 saw the number of new connections drop to 6,039 (232.2 MW), representing nearly one-third of the previous year's electrification

most recent data (May 2026) on net-metering indicate that only 3.9 MW have been installed in these Regions (all in the Southern Aegean). This report is based exclusively on the data presented in the HEDNO's Net Metering Archive.

[21] This analysis includes only self-production projects recorded in HEDNO's databases and excludes private projects (such as the self-production system of Athens International Airport "Eleftherios Venizelos", which currently has a capacity of 51.5 MW).

[22] The largest part of this capacity (69.2% or 114.1 MW) corresponds to 221 energy community projects

rate. This downward trend appears to persist, with records indicating just 753 new self-production installations (25.9 MW) in the first four months of 2026.

Nonetheless, contrary to the pattern observed for energy community projects (see Figure 2), electrifications of self-production projects exceeded cancellations; in April 2026, the relevant cancelled capacity amounted to 826.2 MW.

The capacity for self-production projects that remain pending (namely, neither electrified nor cancelled) has dropped to 731.6 MW. Notably, 7,249 projects -representing 424.2 MW of pending capacity- have not yet been notified of inability to connect and thus have better prospects of being electrified.

Consequently, **the cumulative capacity of both pending and electrified self-production projects currently amounts to 1,887 MW, thus approaching the 2 GW of electrical space reserved for self-production projects, as provided by Law no. 5037/2023.**

Funding

No new funding program for self-production and/or energy community projects has been introduced in Greece since The Green Tank's last review (December 2025)[23] . However, the three programs financed through the Recovery and Resilience Fund received extensions for the completion of already approved projects. In particular, the programs 'Photovoltaics in the Field', 'Photovoltaics on the Roof', and 'Storage Systems in Businesses', with budgets of **€30 million, €208 million, and €153.7 million,** respectively, must be completed by 30 June 2026.

To date, limited public resources have been channeled towards the development of energy community projects. The Just Development Transition Program (PDAM) 2021-2027 has granted **€5.4 million** to the energy community of the Municipality of Kozani to finance the installation of photovoltaic systems, totaling 7 MW, intended to meet the municipality's electricity needs[24]. The same program has also allocated an additional **€6.37** million to the energy community of the Municipality of Voio for the implementation of self-production projects (8.9 MW)[25].

At the level, a second call for proposals under the European Energy Communities Facility (EECF) program was issued; the latter offers grants of up to **€45,000** to energy communities for the development of business plans for RES-based electricity production projects, as well as for participating in a specially designed training program dedicated to skill development and capacity building. As was the case with the first call, which awarded more than **€3**

[23] The Green Tank, 18.12.2025, "Energy Communities & Self-Production in Greece #8", https://shorturl.at/9Mcd4

[24] Inclusion of the Action "Supply, installation and commissioning of 7 virtual net-metering PV stations, with a total capacity of 7MW", MIS Code 6007002, under the "Just Development Transition 2021-2027" Program, https://bit.ly/4gaUZCi

[25] Inclusion of the Action "ELECTRICITY SELF-PRODUCTION THROUGH PV SYSTEMS BY THE VOIO 1 AND VOIO 2 ENERGY COMMUNITIES", MIS Code 6038321, under the "Just Development Transition 2021-2027" Program, 21/08/2025. https://bit.ly/3MFOOJR

million to 73 energy communities, the second call is also open to energy communities from the 27 EU Member States, as well as Iceland, Moldova, North Macedonia, and Ukraine. The application platform opened on 5 May 2026 and closes on 5 July 2026[26]. In Greece, Electra Energy serves as the national support body for energy communities interested in submitting proposals.

Moreover, in December 2025, the European Commission announced a **€1 million** prize to reward innovative models of energy community governance; the deadline for applications is 25 June 2026[27]. This initiative aims to strengthen citizens' active participation in the energy transition and to highlight good practices. Beneficiaries are EU-based RECs and CECs with up to 10,000 members, applying democratic, participatory, and just practices in decision-making and profit distribution.

Institutional Developments

On 30 April 2026, the European Commission published a package of recommendations aimed at protecting and supporting citizens in the transition towards clean energy[28], including through the promotion of energy communities and self-production. Building on the Commission's Communications on the Citizens Energy Package and AccelerateEU, these recommendations provide detailed and practical guidance to support citizens and households in contributing to a more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable energy system. The four recommendations pursue the following objectives: (a) protecting vulnerable citizens and those experiencing energy poverty; (b) ensuring competitive retail energy markets; (c) empowering consumers to make informed choices and protecting them against risks arising from supplier bankruptcy; and (d) strengthening energy communities and self-production by removing barriers and facilitating access to European guarantees for low-interest loans. The latter recommendation is accompanied by an action plan[29] that includes measures aimed at enabling energy communities to operate in different energy markets and sectors and provide benefits to citizens, small businesses, and local authorities, as well as facilitating renewable energy production, sharing, and self-consumption.

At the national level, Law no. 5299/2026[30], which transposed the Renewable Energy Directive (RED III), seeks to promote self-production and self-consumption projects developed by energy communities established by local authorities (OTA), as well as Local and General Land Improvement Organizations (GOEB - TOEB). In particular, Article 51 of the Law provides that self-production projects belonging to these entities may operate during their first ten years under the more favorable financial terms of the former virtual net-metering scheme. Thereafter, and until the completion of 25 years from the commissioning date, they shall operate under the virtual net-billing framework. This arrangement enhances

[26] EECF, 5.5.2026, "Apply for a €45,000 grant to develop a business plan for your community energy project", https://bit.ly/3S8zBUl

[27] European Commission, "Prize Governance Innovations in Energy Communities" https://bit.ly/4p3dg5s.

[28] European Commission, 30.4.2026, "Citizens Energy Package: helping households in the energy transition", https://bit.ly/3Q0vpFK

[29] European Commission, 30.4.2026, "Recommendation on empowering energy communities and self-consumption", https://bit.ly/4fvRN4c

[30] Law no. 5299/2026, GG A 67/05.05.2026

the economic viability of such projects compared to energy community self-production projects that are subject to virtual net-billing from the outset. The electrical space reserved for this scheme remains set at 150 MW. Introduced by Law no. 5151/2024, this margin was initially allocated to self-consumption projects (applying virtual net-metering) developed by energy communities whose members consisted exclusively of local and regional authorities or related legal persons/entities. This provision applied to requests submitted up to 30 September 2024, namely before the adoption of the implementation of the Joint Ministerial Decision on virtual net-billing. Nonetheless, this scheme was not successful, as the reserved capacity has not been fully utilized.

In addition, Law 5299/2026 provides that energy communities, which have secured a Final Connection Offer under Article 51, may merge with one another and admit additional members from eligible categories (local authorities and related entities; Land Improvement Organizations). It is further stipulated that the network operator shall accord absolute priority to the assessment of requests for self-consumption projects developed by energy communities operating under a zero-feed-in configuration. Moreover, the Law introduces greater flexibility regarding the geographical siting of self-production projects. In particular, Citizen Energy Communities, Renewable Energy Communities, and energy communities established under Law no. 4513/2018 may install self-production facilities in a region other than that of their members' electricity consumption, subject to specific proximity requirements. Exceptionally, where 50% plus one of the members are located in the Region of Attica, the self-production facility may also be installed in a neighboring region. Finally, the Law permits the installation of zero-feed-in self-consumption systems on Non-Interconnected Islands.

Furthermore, an Electronic Register of Energy Self-Consumers (HMAE) has been established by ministerial decision[31]. The Register aims to improve data organization in order to facilitate the activities of natural and legal persons acting as self-consumers, as well as suppliers and production and storage facilities participating in, or operating under, self-consumption schemes. In addition, it seeks to ensure the effective implementation of, and compliance with, the regulatory framework governing self-consumption.

Finally, despite stakeholders' repeated appeals[32], the new regulatory framework governing net-billing and virtual net-billing remains pending. Once adopted, it is expected to remedy the shortcomings and operational deficits identified in the existing framework. This prolonged delay is largely responsible for the observed standstill in the deployment of self-production projects in Greece.

Parliamentary Scrutiny

Four questions related to energy community issues were submitted in Parliament between The Green Tank's previous review (December 2025)[23] and May 2026.

[31] MD YPEN/DAPEEK/48258/860, GG B 2447/30.04.2026

[32] SEF and Solar Power Europe. 18.3.2026, "Joint letter of SolarPower Europe and the Hellenic Association of Photovoltaic Companies to the Ministry of Environment and Energy on self-consumption", https://bit.ly/3RWjdq0

Nine Nea Aristera (New Left) MPs criticized the government for failing to allocate Recovery and Resilience Fund resources to energy community projects; they further called for the use of both the Social Climate Fund and the NSRF 2021–2027 to finance such projects, with a view to addressing acute energy poverty[33]. This question remains unanswered.

In addition, seven New Left MPs argued that energy communities in Greece are facing a complete impasse, resulting from the government's neglect of the institution and the loss of funding resources, particularly the €100 million initially earmarked under the "Apollon" Program. According to the MPs, these developments have led to the exclusion of citizens from the energy transition. They requested that the government provide an assessment of the current state of the institution; introduce measures to release grid capacity for the benefit of genuine citizen- and municipality-based energy communities; provide financial support to energy communities comprising citizens and/or small and medium-sized enterprises; and include funding for energy community projects in the Social Climate Plan as a means of mitigating energy poverty[34]. This question has not yet been answered.

Furthermore, A. Charitsis, former President of the New Left, revisited the obstacles hindering the development of self-consumption projects by energy communities, including the lack of available electrical space; shortcomings of the new virtual net-billing framework; licensing delays; and the absence of stable financing instruments. He contrasted policies in Greece with the objectives of the EU's Citizens Energy Package, which seeks to further strengthen the participation of citizens and local communities in energy production and management[35]. In response, the Deputy Minister of Environment and Energy rejected the claim that the government does not support energy communities and self-consumption; in particular, he noted that the installed capacity of energy community projects and self-consumption projects stand at approximately 2.5 GW and 1 GW, respectively, cumulatively representing 19% of total installed RES capacity nationwide. He nevertheless acknowledged the delays in addressing institutional shortcomings associated with net-billing, and stated that an improved regulatory framework would soon be submitted to public consultation[36].

In reaction to the Deputy Minister's remarks, the Greek Energy Communities Coalition issued a detailed statement based on HEDNO and IPTO data. While not disputing the figures cited by the Deputy Minister, the Coalition argued that the picture presented was seriously misleading, as the vast majority of the 3,013 energy community projects (totaling 2,468 MW) are not associated with citizens, households, or small businesses; moreover, energy community self-consumption projects number only 221 and account for 114.1 MW, namely, just 4.6% of overall capacity. The statement further highlighted that "*the vast majority are commercial electricity production projects disguised as energy communities, in order to benefit from the favorable licensing procedures and remuneration schemes associated with this institution. Consequently, they do not constitute 'genuine' citizen-led energy*

[33] Hellenic Parliament (2026), Question, New Left, https://bit.ly/3QpTvK7

[34] Hellenic Parliament (2026), Question, New Left, https://bit.ly/3PZVBAk

[35] Hellenic Parliament (2026), Question, A. Charitsis, New Left, https://bit.ly/4dXl2u0

[36] Minutes of Parliament (18.05.2026), https://bit.ly/3Q7dhKi

communities and strongly contradict the objectives underlying the relevant legislation and European directives"[37].

Finally, twelve MPs from the Coalition for the Radical Left (SYRIZA) submitted a parliamentary question concerning the financial challenges faced by small RES producers as a result of curtailments. In this context, they called for energy community projects to be granted priority with regard to both grid access and the absorption of RES electricity by large-scale battery systems; they argued that these measures would mitigate the impact of high electricity costs on citizens, as, when adjusted for purchasing power, Greece records the highest energy and supply prices within the EU-27[38]. This question remains unanswered.

[37] Energy Communities Coalition, 27.5.2026, "Announcement: Energy democracy is not measured by communities in name only", https://bit.ly/4x9WAOS

[38] Hellenic Parliament (2026), Question, SYRIZA, https://bit.ly/4eq6B34

Policy Recommendations

The data show that, coupled with existing obstacles of insufficient funding and limited grid space, delays in reforming the institutional framework governing (virtual) net-billing have significantly slowed the deployment of self-production projects in Greece. Together with the country's markedly high electricity prices and energy supply costs[39], these circumstances are placing both households and small and medium-sized enterprises at an impasse. In order to reverse this negative trend, The Green Tank submits the following recommendations:

Project funding and financial support

- Energy community projects should be included among the beneficiaries of both the **Social Climate Fund** and the revenues from ETS2 (buildings and road transport) emissions auctions.
- A new program should be designed to support self-production projects by citizens' and businesses' energy communities, as well as by farmers, particularly for the lignite regions, drawing on **PDAM 2021-2027** resources, in line with the corresponding call for municipalities and related entities.
- **A guarantee mechanism or development fund** should be established to facilitate access to loans, project maturation, and storage infrastructure installation.

Electrical space

- The grid space reserved for self-production projects should be **expanded to 3 GW by 2030.**
- A distinct capacity category should be set per substation (2 MW) for energy community self-production projects.
- The maximum absorption capacity per energy community self-production project should be readjusted to 1 MW.

Alignment with existing or upcoming EU directives/frameworks

- **Energy sharing** should be immediately implemented, to enable shared consumption exclusively at apartment building level.
- **Building on EU signals conveyed through the *Citizens Energy Package* and the *Grids Package***, the State should take the lead in implementing key policy measures to support energy communities and RES projects, such as the establishment of mandatory **benefit-sharing** mechanisms for projects over 10 MW and the acceleration of licensing procedures for small photovoltaic systems with batteries.

Education, information, and transparency

- **One-stop shops** should be established at municipal level, so as to inform citizens of energy production options and participation in energy communities.
- **Cost/benefit calculation** tools should be developed for energy communities and self-production, providing citizens with adequate information to make informed participation decisions.

[39] The Green Tank, 21.5.2026, "Trends in Greece's retail electricity market", https://shorturl.at/uvOhY