



Coopérnico

Energia verde, sustentabilidade e cidadania



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What is a Cooperative?



Democratic company => 1 member = 1 vote

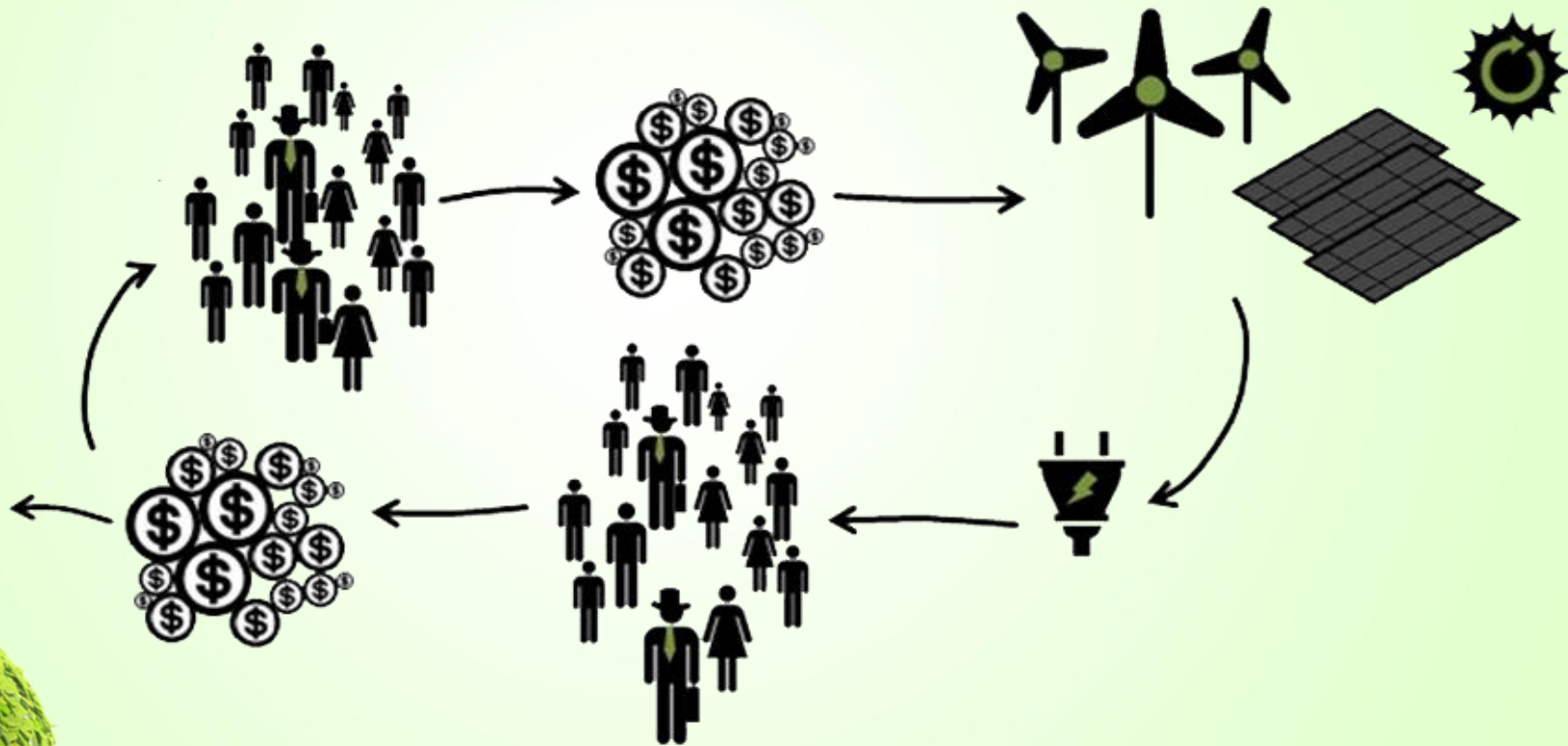
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Cooperative Principles

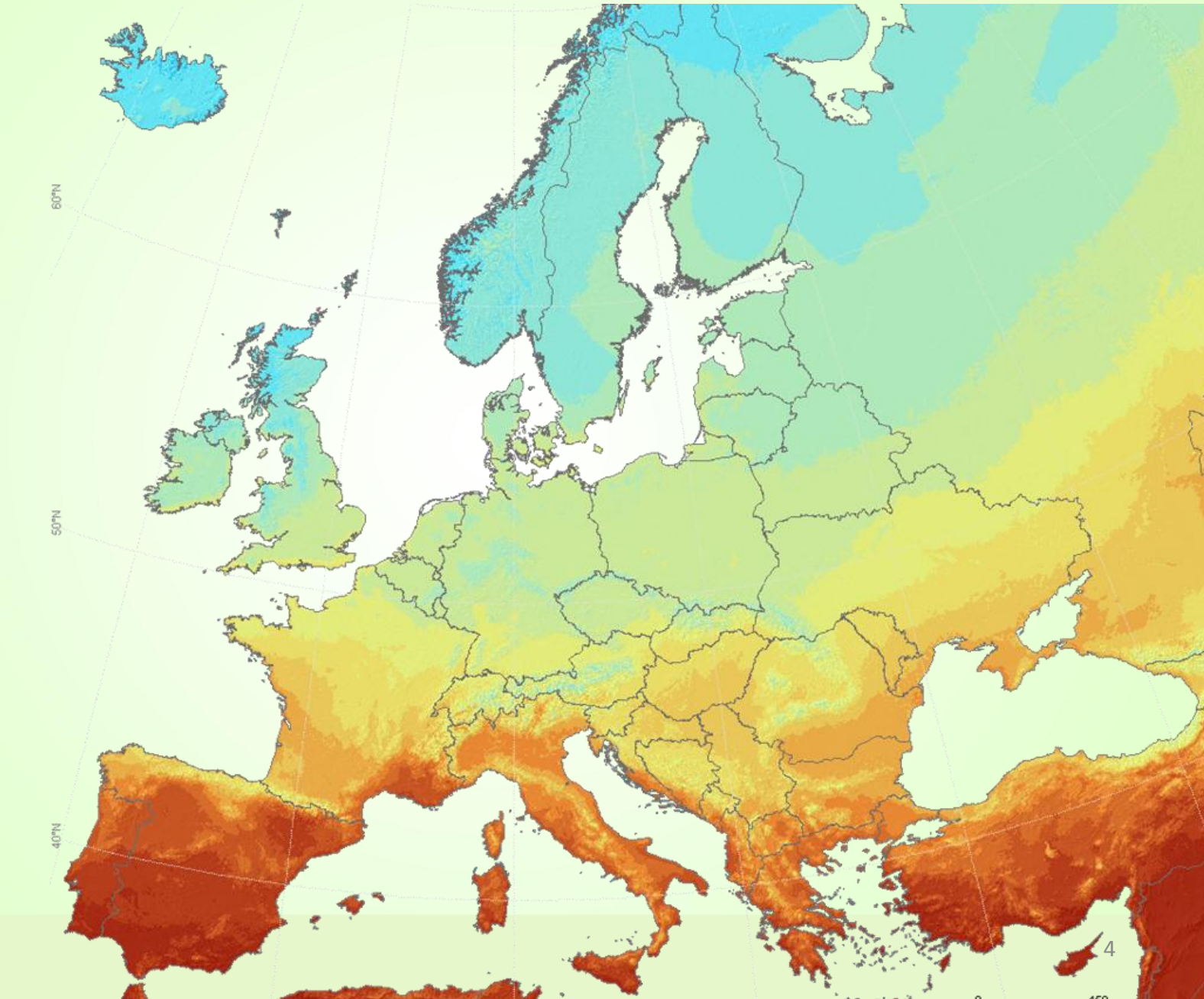
1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Member Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and independence
5. Education, training and information
6. Co-operation among Co-operatives
7. Concern for Community



Renewable Energy Cooperatives



Solar Potential



Coopérnico

Centralized energy system
dominated by large
corporations



Alternative energy system –
**renewable, eficiente and
decentralized** – that benefits the
society and the environment

WHAT IS COOPÉRNICO?



Coopérnico is a cooperative of citizens for renewable energy that engages people in building a new economic, social, and environmental paradigm

Together we develop renewable energy projects and share the benefits with investors, society and the planet



The story

- 2012: Group of citizens wanted to crowdfund for solar PV project
- Legislative barriers in Portugal
- Search for alternatives – creation of RE Co-op (2013)
- Good project pipeline (economical, social and environmental)

Challenges and Setbacks

- Financial crisis – Troika in Portugal
- Severe cuts in FiT were predicted to the end of 2014
- Difficulty in financing in the short term...



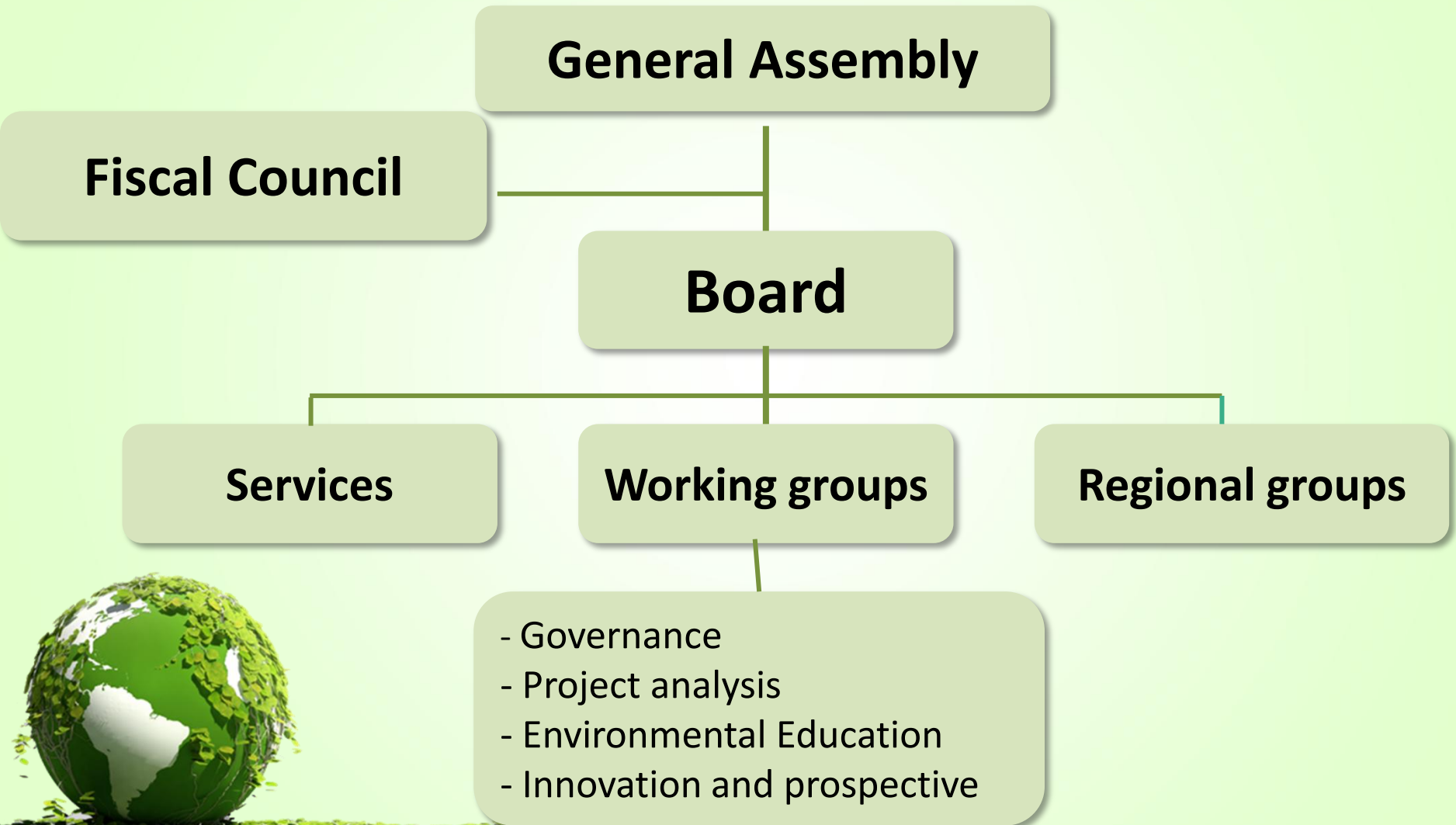
Cooperation with European RE Co-ops



- Strategy and advisory
- Seed capital
- Increasing members/investors trust
- Real will to help

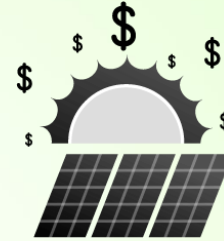


How we are organized



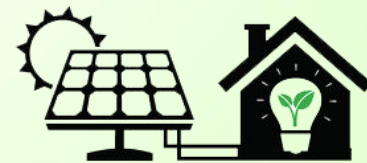
What we do

Production of clean energy –
solar PV



Creation of social value – collaborate
with social and environmental
institutions, prioritizing local partners

Commercialize green electricity
providing members with
cheapest prices in the market

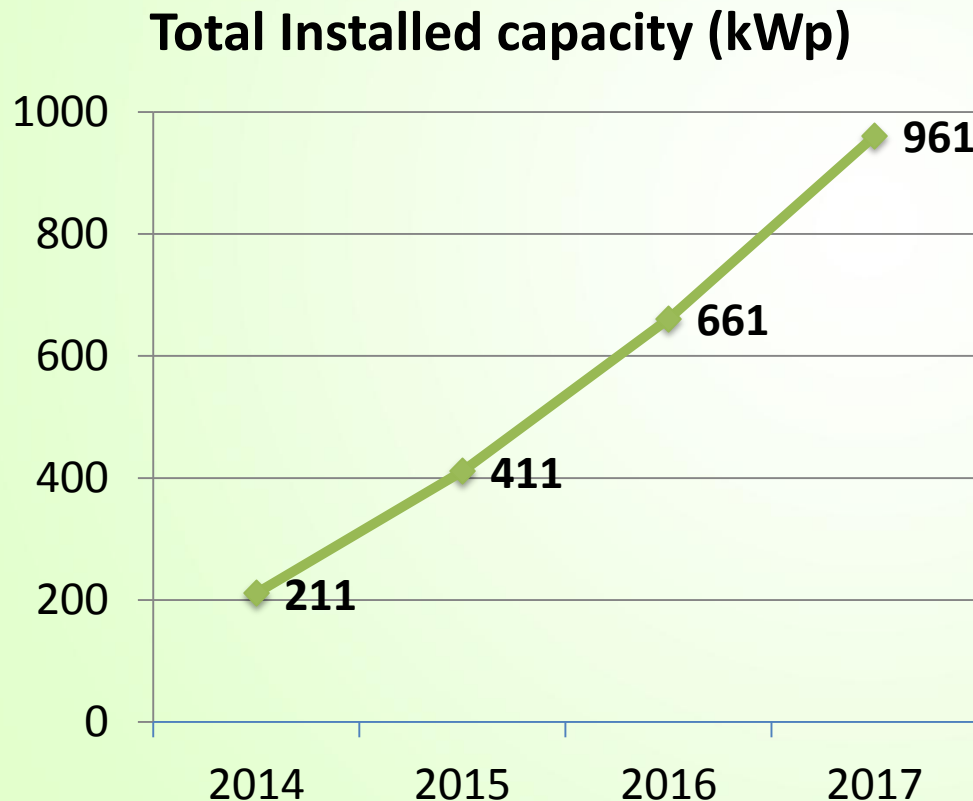


PRODUCTION PROJECTS

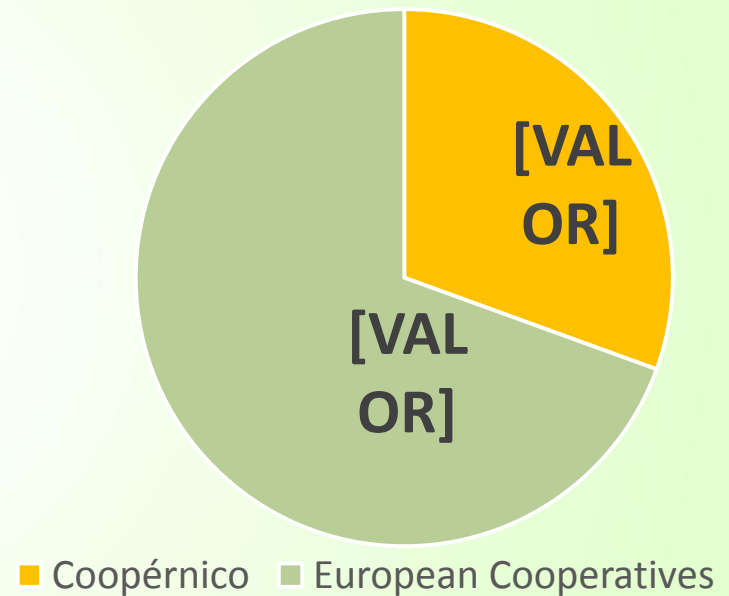


Production projects

6 Solar PV Projects

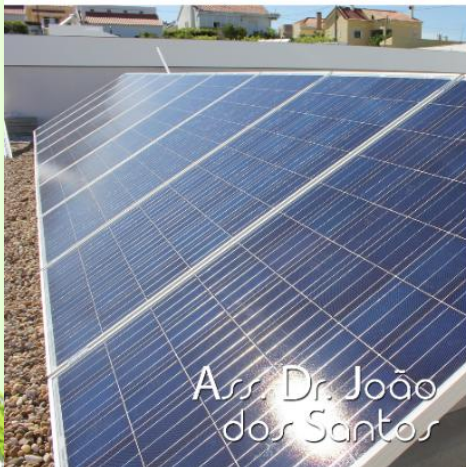


Consortium



Investment in production projects

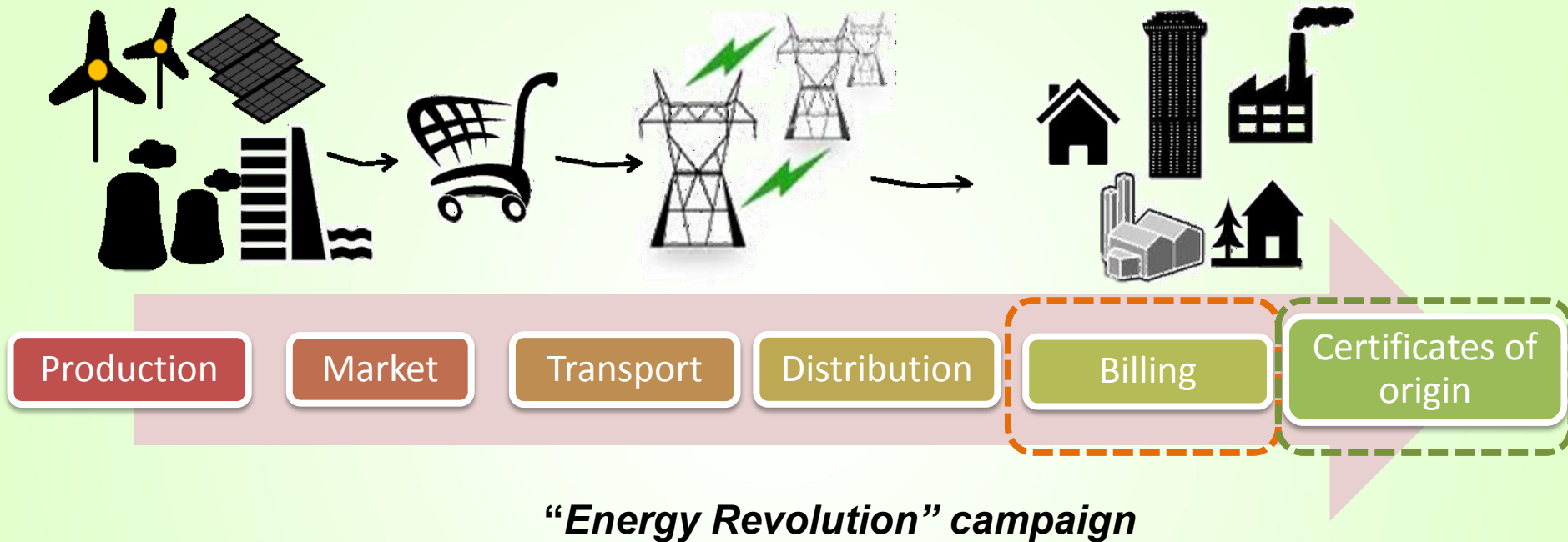
Ongoing



Members invest in project mix
Objective: “full ownership” (€200k)



Commercialization of green electricity



“Energy Revolution” campaign



Fair price for electricity

Production > Members' consumption

How citizens can get involved

Become a member

Partipate in a working group

Join or create a regional group

**Contract eletricity with
Coopernico**

Invest in RE projects



Coopérnico

December 2013



36



61 980 €



35 kW



September 2015



258



328 000€



211 kW



90

Challenges and lessons

- Buy back solar PV projects - **Grow and create trust**
- Changing RE legislation - New business models
- National co-op need to engage widespread citizens – **Keep active and communicate**
- Scarce resources – get things done through members' groups: **Generate collaborative effort**
- **Build alliances** with NGOs, Co-ops and federations
 - Co-op is a business model that works, but needs to be **organized and managed professionally**
 - **Know your members'** needs and motivations



Take away points

- Example of key cooperative principle: “VI Cooperation between cooperatives”
- Illustrates how cooperatives can be a good model during crisis periods
- Alternative for “southern” countries
- Way to engage citizens that need new governance models based on **transparency and real democracy**





**Together we make the energy
revolution!**

