

# Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform workshop on building citizen engagement in Energy Communities

## ALEC - Région Nouvelle Aquitaine

**Good practice** : Regional funding for local advisors to support citizens' initiatives ([CIRENA](#))

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Interreg  
Europe

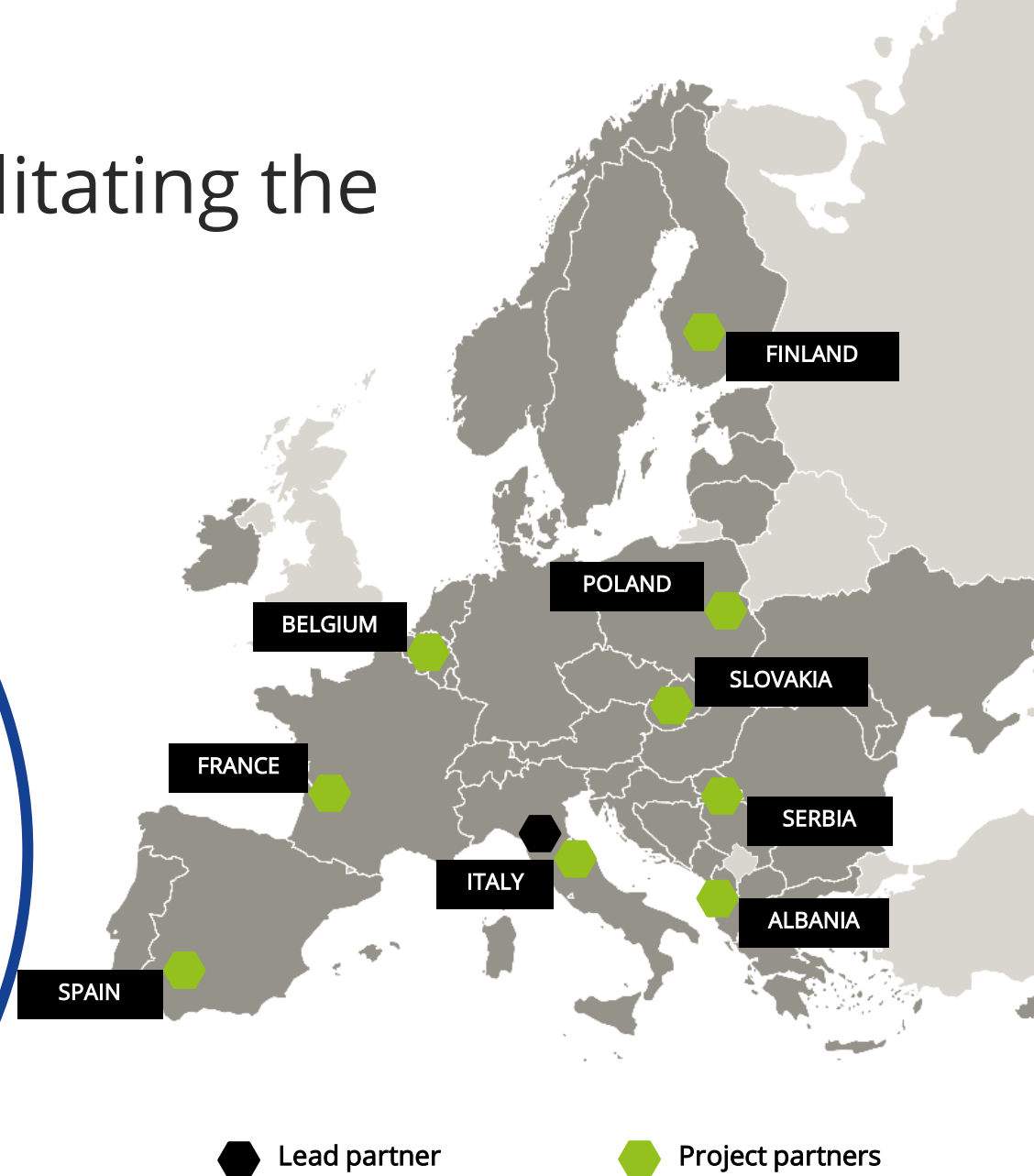


Co-funded by  
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REC4EU

# territorial cooperation project facilitating the uptake of RECs



Lead partner

Project partners

# Territorial analysis >> our strength = OSS

## WHY?



To get involved in new EC, **people need a good level of information and support.**

They particularly **need an expert** of the various **stages of setting up an EC** (process of setting up and animating the group)



**Cirena** facilitates the **emergence of new projects.** / **accelerator**  
= **identified contact**



The practice benefits **several stakeholders:**

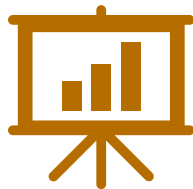
Citizens, project owners, emerging EC, local authorities (elected and services)

# FIELDS OF ACTION

## HOW?



**1: Raising awareness**



**2: Support for project owners**



**3: Development of citizen projects**



**4 : Running the network**

# FIELDS OF ACTION



## 1: raising awareness - Promotion of Citizen energy



**Objectives:** to facilitate the emergence of citizen projects and to foster acceptability

- Answering the demands for information
- Disseminating the citizen renewable energy model (local, regional and national)



Film debates, conferences, presence at local festivals, coffee meetings



# FIELDS OF ACTION



## 2: Support for project owners



**Objectives:** to give key information and to help project owners to organize themselves

- Supporting new communities
- Creating a citizens' project dynamic
- Helping project owners to obtain contracts

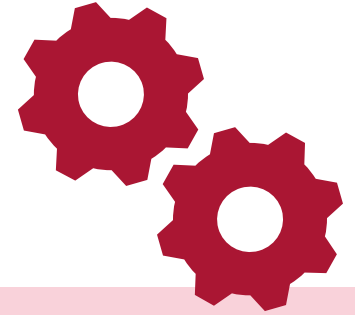


working groups, thematic workshops and info days





# FIELDS OF ACTION



## 3: Development of citizen projects



**Objectives:** to help the citizens to organise themselves and to encourage exchanges

- methodological, legal and technical advices
- networking in citizen energy ecosystem.




Communication plan, the legal structure, identifying local stakeholders, thematic groups and training sessions



# FIELDS OF ACTION

## 4: Running the network



 **Objectives:** to disseminate practices and to build a strong network

- Relaying good practices
- Put in contact the project owners



fact sheets on supported projects for dissemination, publications, meetings with stakeholders





# RESOURCES NEEDED



The Cirena team has grown since its creation  
2019 : 3 employees // **2023 : 5 employees**



## Breakdown of Cirena's operating budget:

- 80% public subsidies : 50% from ADEME =The French Agency for Ecological Transition  
50% from La Région Nouvelle Aquitaine
- 20% services provided



## Example of 2019: 3 full time equivalent jobs

*Public subsidies:*

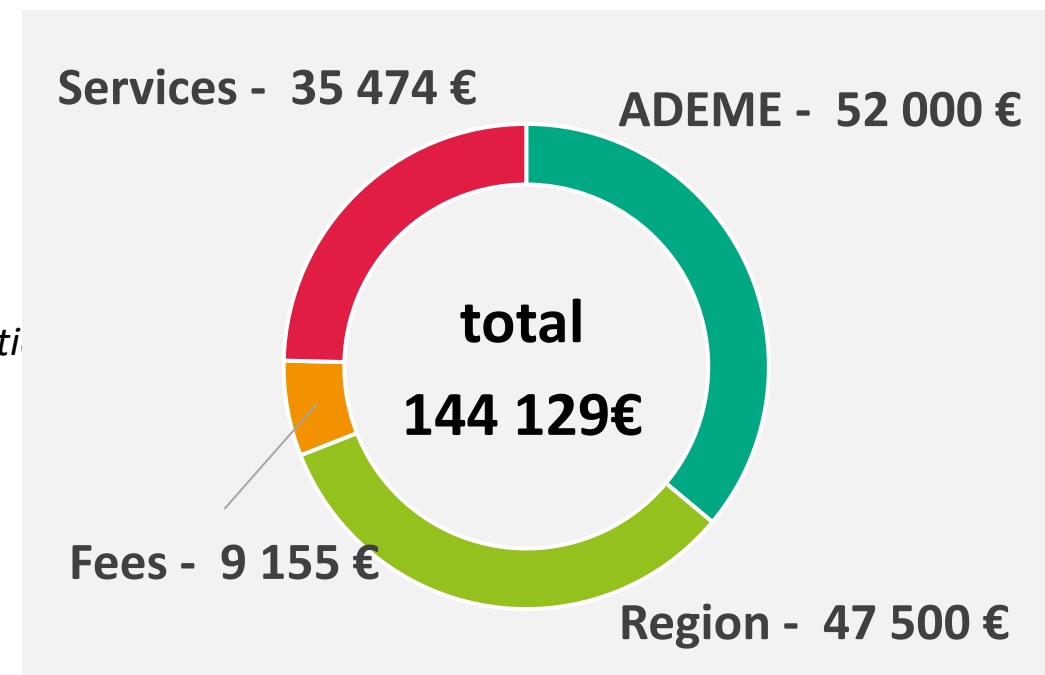
- 52 000€ ( Ademe -The French Agency for Ecological Transiti
- 47 500€ ( Région Nouvelle Aquitaine)

*Membership fees:*

- 9 155€

*Services provision:*

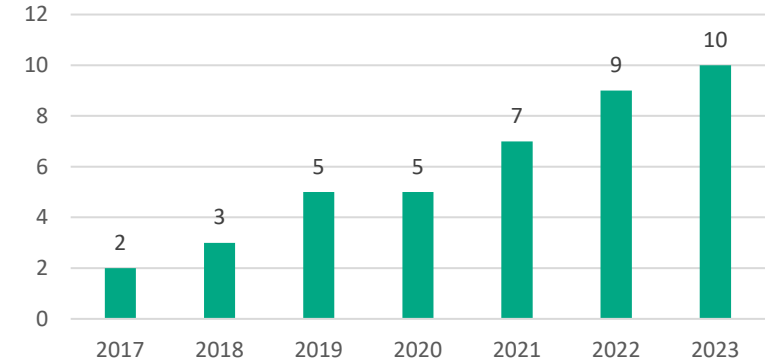
- 32 474€



# Evidence of success

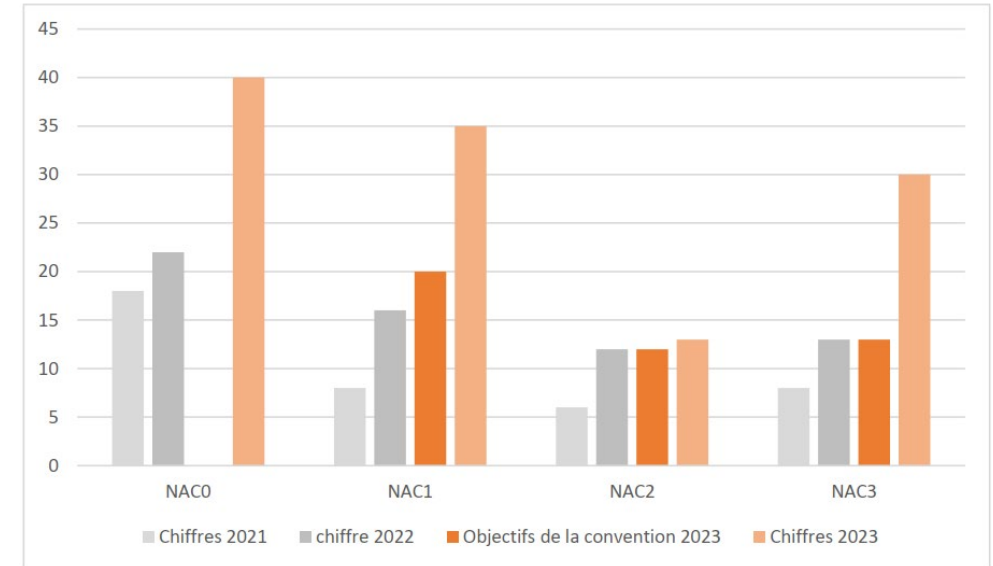
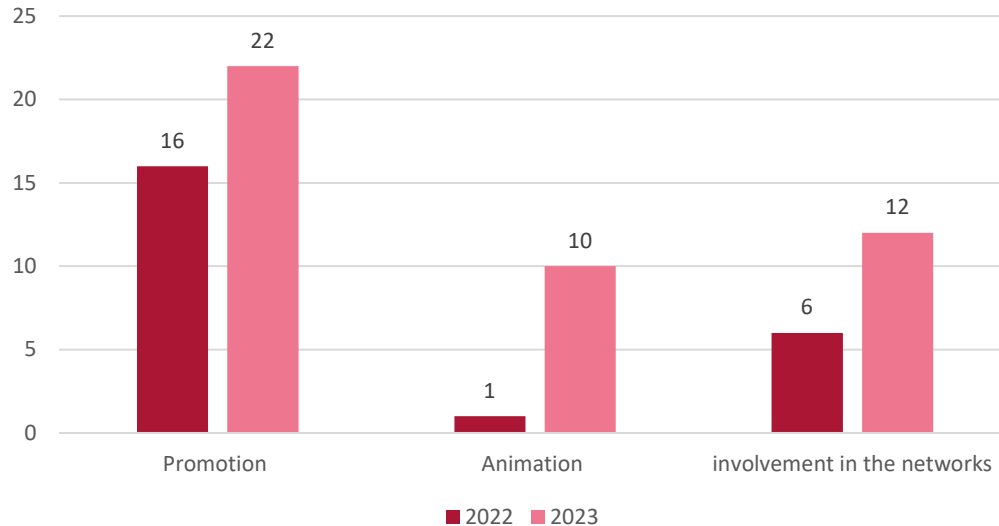


Increase of the number of ECs applying for regional support



Increase of the number of workshops

1710 citizens have been in **contact** with Cirena (2023)



Increase of the **number of requests and support** provided by Cirena over the last three years

NAC0	NAC1	NAC2	NAC3
basic solicitations	animation and promotion support	support agreement signed by project owners	members - autonomous project owners

# POTENTIAL LEARNING/TRANSFER



Basic **support from an EC expert** is a key **factor of success** for an EC project



Cirena's operations can be **replicated elsewhere**, or at least some key aspects:

- How to **settle a network of advisors** that can support project leaders
- How to structure **a support offer to help projects emerge**
- How to consider different phases of the project and **different levels of support**
- How to **balance economically** the structure

# Thank you!

[www.interregeurope.eu/REC4EU](http://www.interregeurope.eu/REC4EU)



**Time for  
questions**



# FIELDS OF ACTION = national network

## Présentation des réseaux régionaux

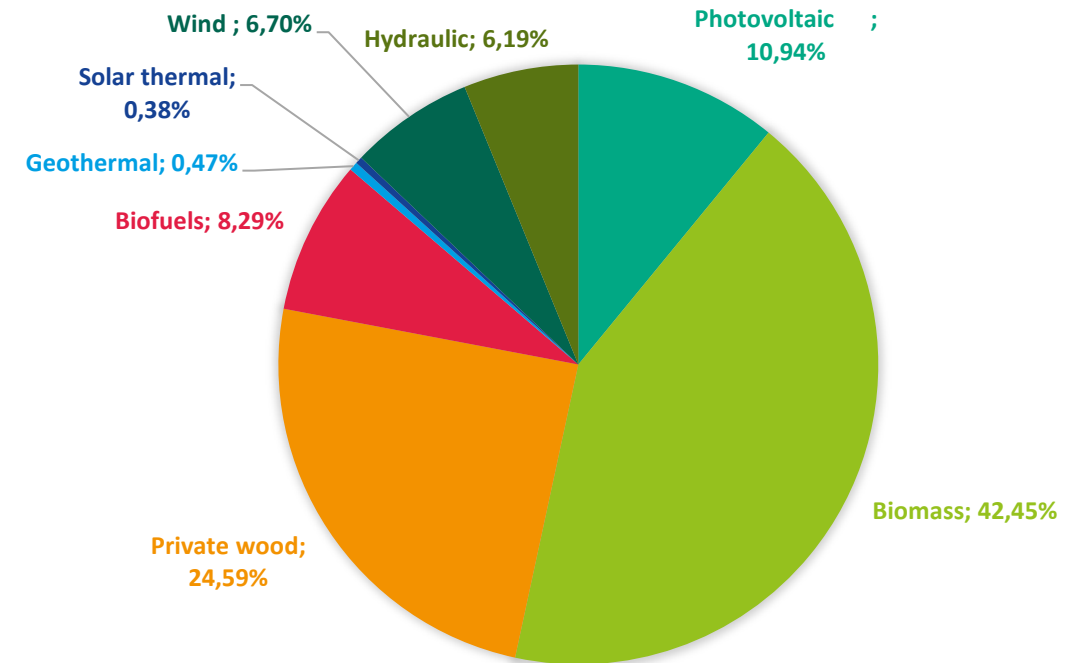
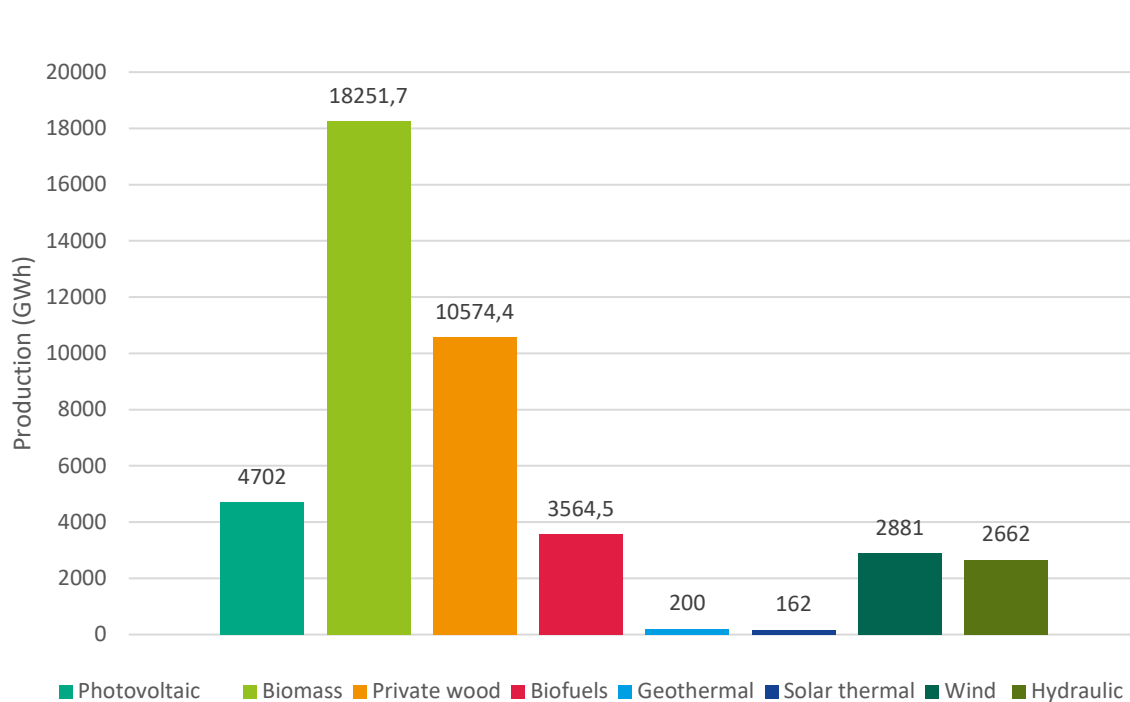
10 réseaux régionaux de l'énergie citoyenne sont constitués pour apporter conseils et méthodes aux porteurs de projet.



# Regional CONTEXT



2023 : **29 %** = **renewable energy production** (final energy consumption)  
= 45 612 GWh\*



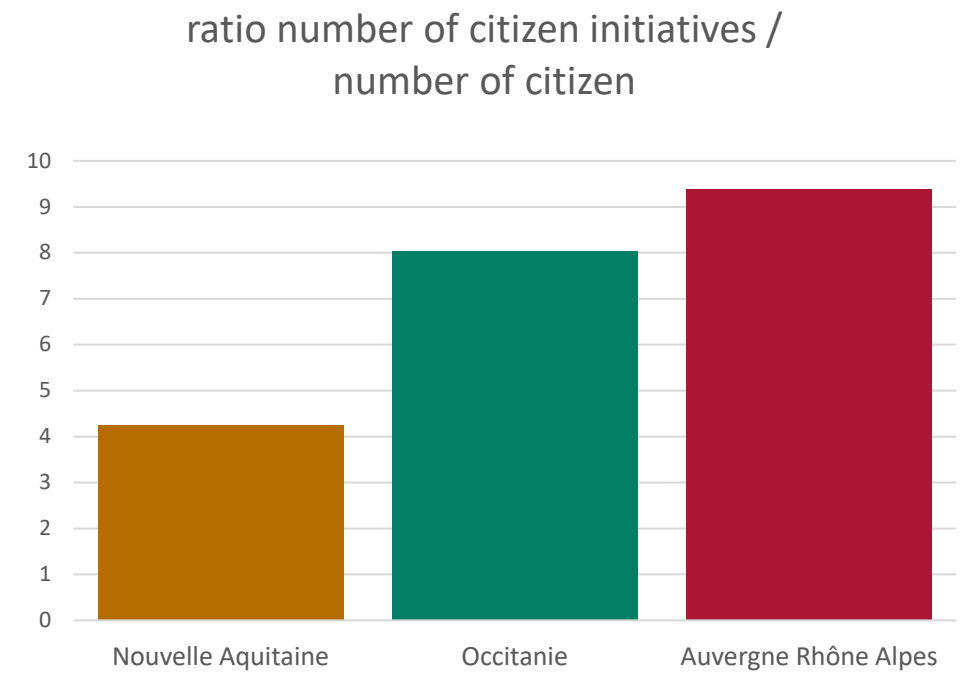
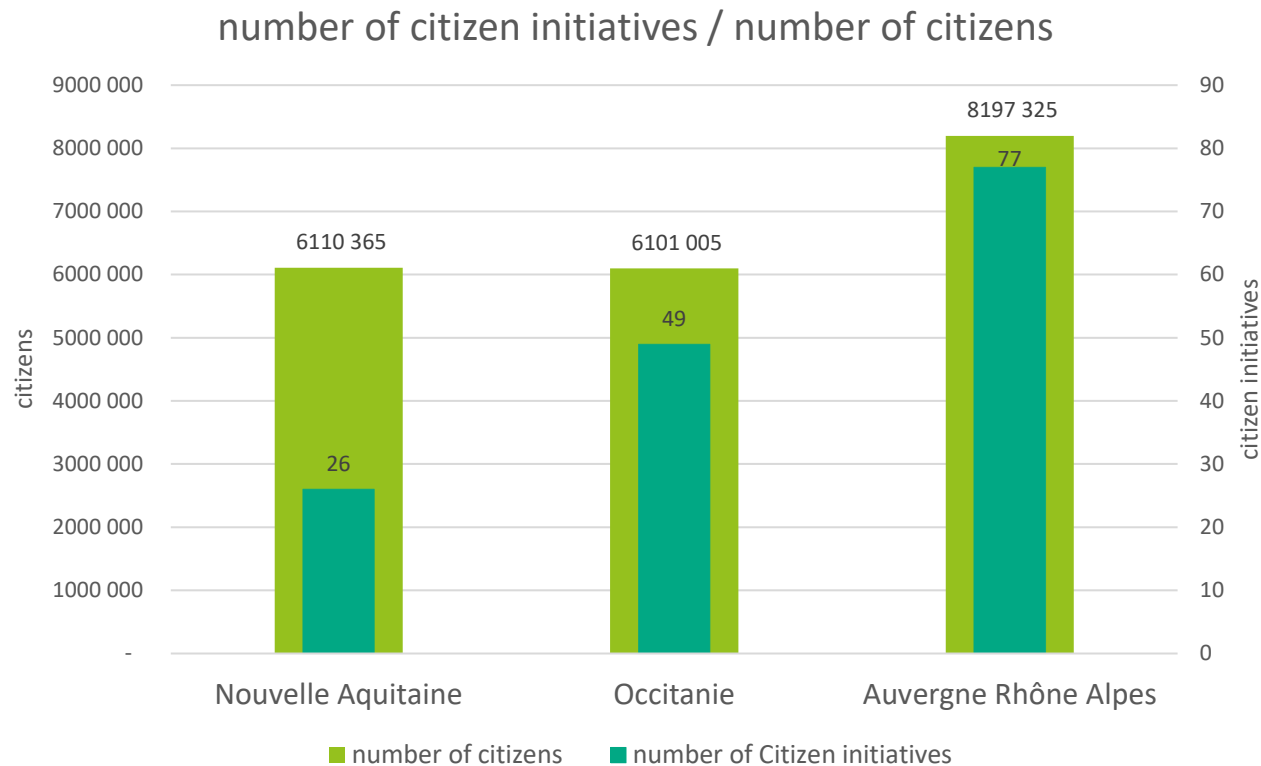
Breakdown of renewable energy production (GWh) of the region Nouvelle Aquitaine by sector in 2022\*

# Regional CONTEXT

## Région Nouvelle Aquitaine Citizen initiative Context



But **Few Citizen initiatives**\*



\* Source : Energie partagée



# Good Practice = Cirena – Evidence of success



Nouvelle Aquitaine region **follows EC Call For Proposals figures**

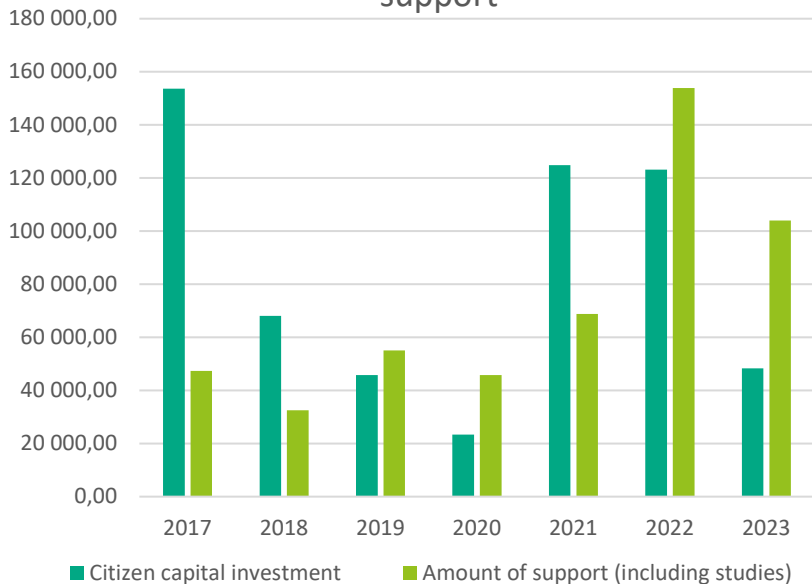


Cirena is supporting most of the **projects** followed by the Région

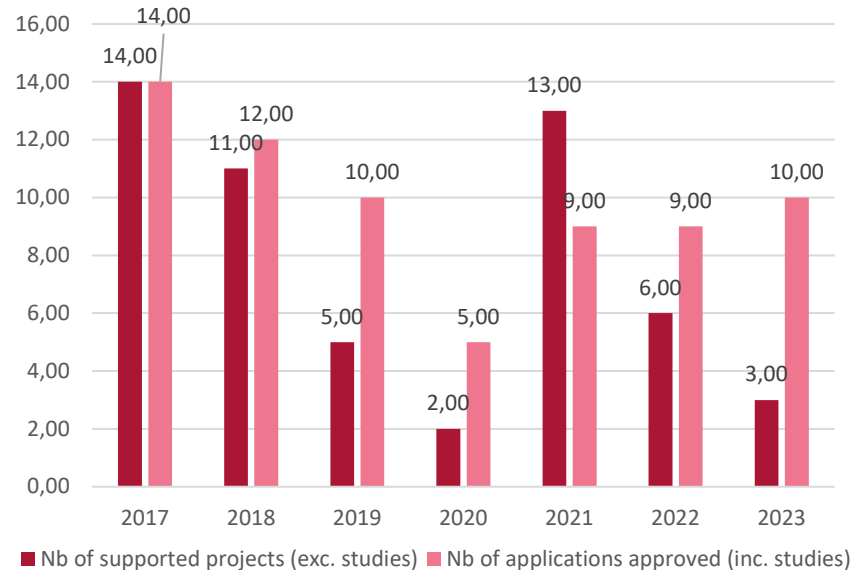


**Increase of installed power**

Citizen investment and Amount of regional support



Number of projects supported



Installed Power (KW)

