

# Albatross, Colibri or Eagle? How National Differences in Policy Implementation Shape the Potential of Renewable Energy Communities

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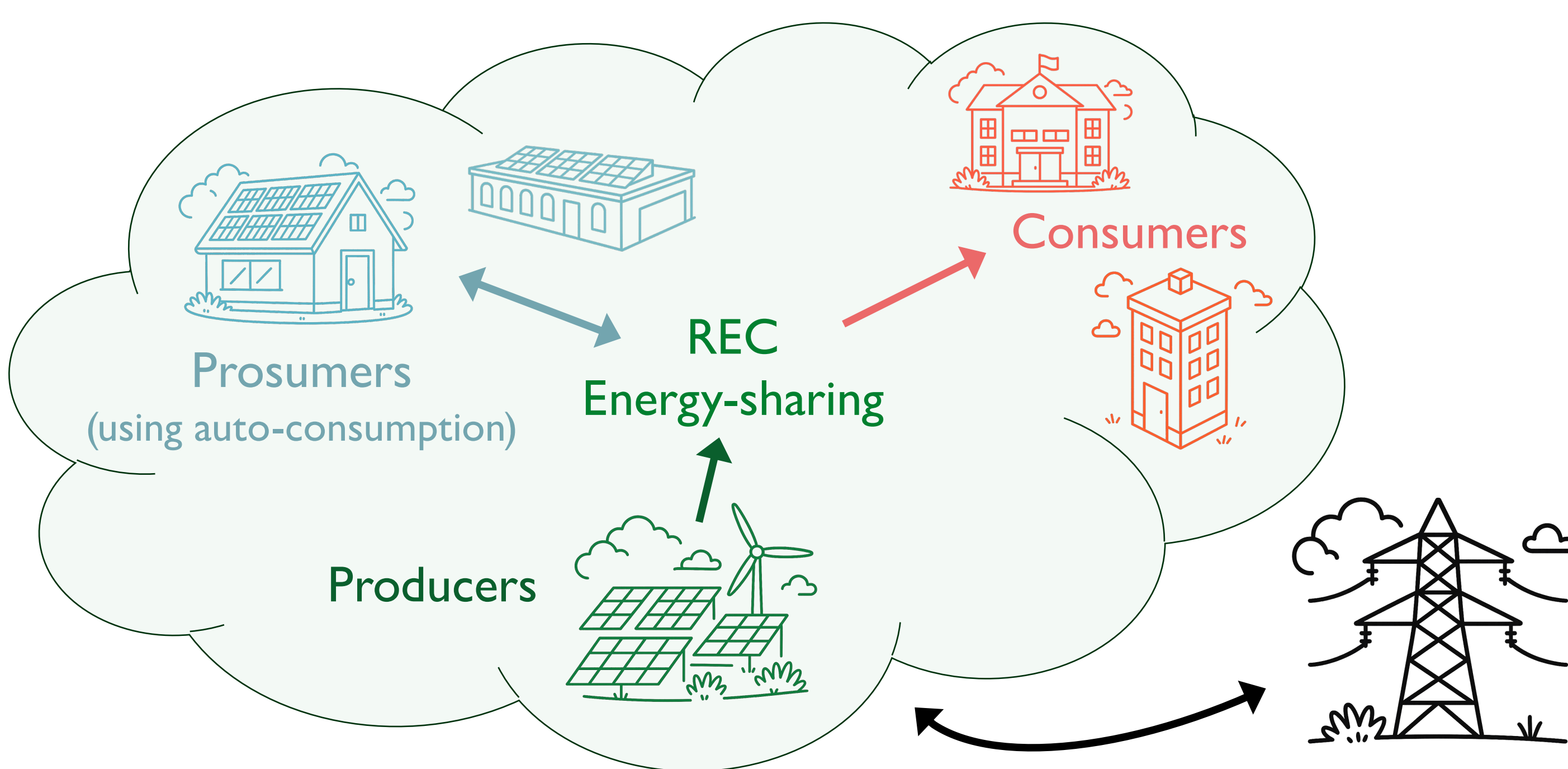


## Project Outline

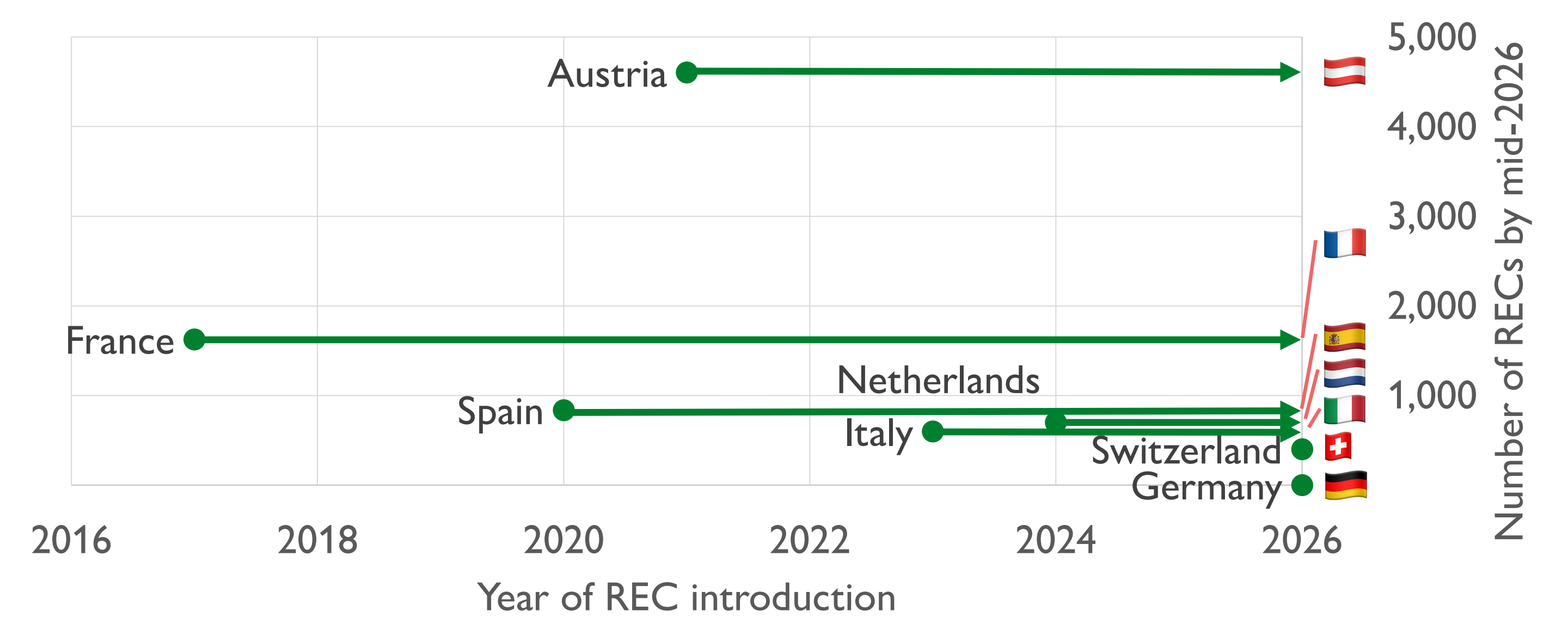
Renewable energy communities (RECs) are emerging as a new form of community energy projects. Despite a common European framework, EU Member States have adopted diverse approaches to implementing RECs. Depending on this adoption, the national policies can facilitate or hinder the RECs' deployment. This impact has yet to be investigated. This poster reviews European RECs, synthesises the research design, and presents preliminary results.

I investigate the impact of different national policies on the potential of RECs and aim at identifying key drivers and obstacles for their successful development.

## Renewable Energy Communities in Europe



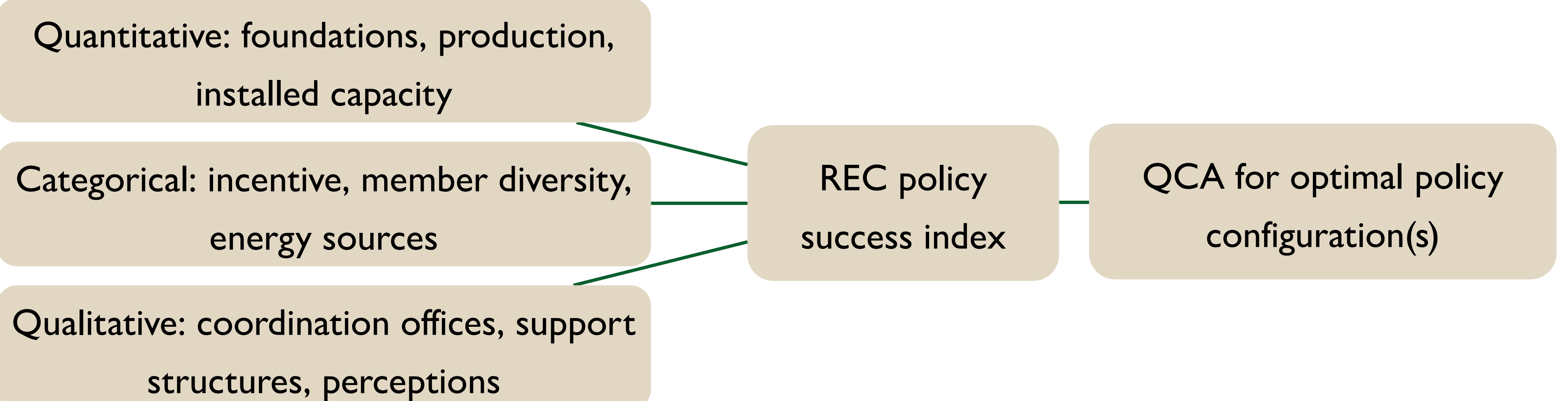
Despite common European framework through REDII and IEMD introducing Renewable Energy Communities & Citizen Energy Communities, the reality is:



## Framework

- Differentiated policy implementation causes diverse policy landscape (Zhelyazkova et al., 2024)
- Bricolage vs breakthrough approaches observed for energy projects (Garud & Karnøe, 2003)
- Assessment of policies regarding facilitation of energy projects →

## Methods



## Preliminary Results (qualitative part)

| Germany                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Switzerland                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Austria                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>"...legislation serves to implement EU legal requirements..."</p> <p>"...it is unlikely that the shared use of electricity will become a mass market..."</p> <p>"...civil disputes between the contracting parties might become more frequent..."</p> <p>Increased complexity, litigation, economic burden, bureaucracy</p> <p><b>Albatross</b></p> | <p>"...RECs are intended to lead to a significant additional expansion of PV."</p> <p>"...RECs cause the network usage costs for other end consumers to increase compensatorily..."</p> <p>"...the potential group of participants in Switzerland is less restricted than in the EU..."</p> <p>Energy transition, unequal costs, company participants</p> <p><b>Colibri</b></p> | <p>"...enabling citizens to participate more actively in the energy transition."</p> <p>"...RECs contribute to increasing local acceptance of renewable energy; they bring ecological, economic or social benefits to the local areas..."</p> <p>Participatory &amp; benefits, energy transition, acceptance</p> <p><b>Eagle</b></p> |

## Conclusions

- RECs are perceived and evaluated differently by legislators. The assessment ranges from burden (albatross) to blessing (eagle)
- Analogously to "bricolage vs breakthrough", we also observe "albatross vs eagle"
- Policy assessment for RECs to be multidimensional: from political measures to operative impacts

## References

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