People Power
Renewable Energy Cooperatives in Europe

4 March 2016 – IRENA / Energy Community
“Community Energy”?

> Community shared ownership
Developer/manager shares ownership of the project with area landowners and other community members. Investment opportunities are usually offered to local citizens before the wind development is officially created and/or offered to a wider circle of investors.

> Municipal
Publicly owned projects such as Hull Wind One in Boston, or the 100% Renewable Energy Town of Güssing in Austria

> Cooperative
Jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise that follows the

**7 ICA Principles**
1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Members’ Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training and Information
6. Cooperation among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

**Five Types of Cooperatives**
- Consumer
- Producer
- Worker
- Purchasing/Shared Services
- Hybrid (e.g. SCIC)

**Why?**
- Empowerment
- Local development
- Acceptance
- Financial resilience
- Alternative business model - prosumer
REScoop is short for **Renewable Energy Sources Cooperative** = a business model where citizens jointly own & participate in RES and energy efficiency projects.

About 2,400 REScoops have been identified across Europe in 2014.
The REScoop.eu Federation

- The Federation was created in 2013 by a group of European REScoops,
- Puts ICA principles above strict legal coop form
- The European Federation aims to support and develop RES cooperatives & groups by:
  - Education & exchange of experience,
  - Supporting the creation of new cooperatives,
  - Advocacy to create a level playing field
  - Developing common tools (IT, forecasting…)
  - Helping to overcome financial barriers through common financing

1.250 REScoops from 12 Member States
300,000 citizens
1,100 direct jobs
Total investment 2 billion euro
Barriers to financing

Specific to REScoops

- Varying political support / Legal frameworks
- Perceived lack of legitimacy as market players
- Access to equity / public offering regulation

Critical for small RES projects

- Access to the grid costly and lengthy
- Unstable regulation / lengthy administrative procedures
- In some countries, additional regulatory burdens against presuming
Project Development Assistance project (Horizon 2020 – EASME)
Ecopower (BE), Som Energia (ES), Courant d’Air (BE), Enercoop (FR), Energy4All (UK), REScoop.eu (BE)

Renewable Energy

Energy Efficiency

Private houses of the members
Public buildings of local authorities

European Revolving Fund
Option 1
Starters have projects, lack financial means
REScoops have financial means, but sometimes lack projects
> **European revolving fund**: could balance demand & supply

Option 2
Scale up the size of community projects and improve financing
> **Pooling the projects of individual REScoops** & applying for better financing conditions from e.g. EIB.
Integrating local, national & European levels

- European level
- National level
- Local level

- REScoop.eu
- Enercoop
- Local Coops
- Energie Partagée
Enercoop: energy for+by citizens

100% renewable energy supplier since 2005

Wind
Biomass
Hydro
PV Solar

SCIC: Société Coopérative d'Intérêt Collectif

1 person = 1 vote – have a say in decisions

Reinvest profits in new projects

All stakeholders represented (producers, consumers and community) in the structure

Wider goals...

Trigger local cooperative investment in RES

Disseminate demand management tools

Collaborate with public authorities and promote better regulation at national and European levels
Enercoop is the largest supplier of 100% green electricity in France, with 18,000 members and 30,000 consumers.

- **Enercoop’s producers:** 120 Gwh/year (2015)
- **100 producers:**
  - 62 Hydro power
  - 25 Wind power
  - 11 PV
  - 2 Biomass
The Enercoop network

- Development of new local REScoops since 2009:
  - Adapt Enercoop offer to local conditions, closer link to members
  - Work with local authorities
  - Develop new RES investments
  - Energy efficiency & fuel poverty projects

- Enercoop is now a network of 10 regional cooperatives representing:
  - 100 employees
  - A turnover of 25 M€
  - 5 M€ in share capital
Energie Partagée: Citizen Investment Tool

€ 10 million collected by end of 2015

The investment scheme:

Bank loan
- 70-80% of total cost

Other investors
- including developers, manufacturers, etc.
- Max 49% of Equity

Citizen Investors
- including EPI, other cooperatives and local authorities
- Min 51% of Equity
Small local REScoops in France

Combrailles Durables (Auvergne)
- Created 2009, 230 members
- 1 907 m² of PV cells installed on 11 PV plants
- 305 MWh/year produced
- 587 000 € invested

Energ' éthique 04 (Provence)
- Created in 2012, 65 members
- 2 PV plants installed, 22.5 MWh/yr
- 74 000 € invested

Zusamme Solar (Alsace):
a French-German cooperation, 400 kW, 430 MWh/yr
2600 m² PV on 4 Industrial buildings in Colmar inaugurated 2015
Prosuming projects in France

Soleil du Grand Ouest (Bretagne)
- Created 2015
- 249 kWp of PV
- 305 MWh/year produced
- 200 000 € invested by citizens
Policy recommendations

We are at the start of an energy transition

Fossil & nuclear energy ➔ renewable energy
Centralised energy system ➔ decentralised
Inefficient ➔ efficient
Passive consumers ➔ prosumers

Citizens can do much more than just pay for this transition!
Policy recommendations

- EU-wide right to produce green energy individually and collectively
  - Citizens should be encouraged to jointly own and exploit RES installations

- Avoid barriers to self-consumption of RES produced
  - Citizens should be encouraged to produce, store and use their own energy

- Fair access to the grid and value for the surplus of production
  - Energy transmission & distribution should be truly non-discriminatory

- Enhanced recognition of the benefits of REScoops in law and financing

- Clear and stable RES framework that does not impose undue burdens
Thank you!

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Appendix: a quick European tour

Belgium

High population density
High consumer electricity prices
Space to erect wind turbines is limited
A rush on wind by project developers
Supportive guidelines and decrees

Wallonia: le cadre de référence (24,99%)
Provincial level: 10% + 10%

20 REScoops
2 Regional federations
A quick European tour

**United Kingdom**
New government not supportive of onshore wind
Practically no more onshore wind projects
Only support for offshore wind projects
About 100 REScoops in the UK

**Scotland**
Government supportive of community energy
Target for RES owned by citizens (500 MW) achieved in 2015
CARES fund
**Greece**
State monopoly (PPC)
Non-interconnected islands use fossil fuel plants
Citizens on the mainland pays for the extra cost
Sifnos Island Cooperative

**Central and Eastern Europe**
Very few REScoops
Prejudice/misunderstanding Vs “cooperatives”
Varying support for RES, let alone REScoops
A quick European tour

**Italy**
Old REScoops in the Alps
Hydro - smart grids & meters
Südtiroler Energie Verband (SEV)
Cooperative energy supplier (E Nostra)

**Spain**
No more support for RES
SOM Energia
GoiEner – Energetica
A quick European tour

Germany
718 local REScoops
EWS owns its own local distribution grid
Erneuerbare Energiegesetz (supportive FiT) is now being replaced by tendering procedure

Denmark
Majority of RES is coop-owned
Middelgrunden offshore wind coop
600 district heating cooperatives
Netherlands

Postcoderoos: tax relief on energy bill (0.09 euro/kWh)

Hier Opgewekt & REScoopNL

Krammer project

- Wind farm on a dike in Zeeland (100MW)
- 2 local REScoops
- Support from supplier and a Canadian pension fund?
- Why not keep it in the hands of local citizens?