



REScoops: a vehicle to empower  
citizens and local economy  
**European experiences with  
Renewable Energy Cooperatives**

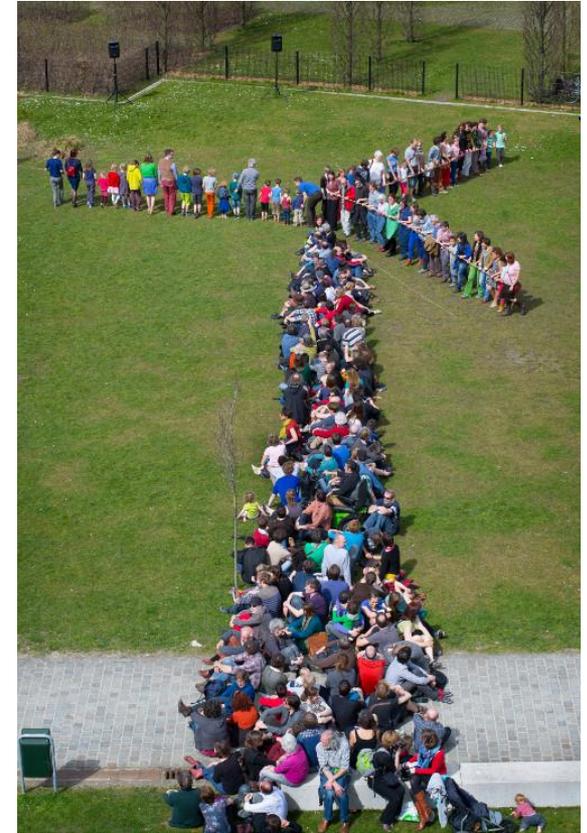
by Dirk Vansintjan

Athens, 30/06/2017



# What is a REScoop?

- Renewable Energy Sources cooperatives or community power, community energy initiatives, or now CE4AE: 'renewable energy communities', 'local energy communities': open groups of citizens who co-operate democratically on RES or EE
- in production, distribution, storage, supply, services, ...
  - different legal entities < ICA principles
  - most very young, some very old
  - most quite small, some bigger



# What is a REScoop? ICA-principles



1. voluntary and open membership
2. economic participation
3. democratic ownership
4. autonomy and independence
5. training and education
6. cooperation amongst cooperatives
7. concern for community

Value driven!



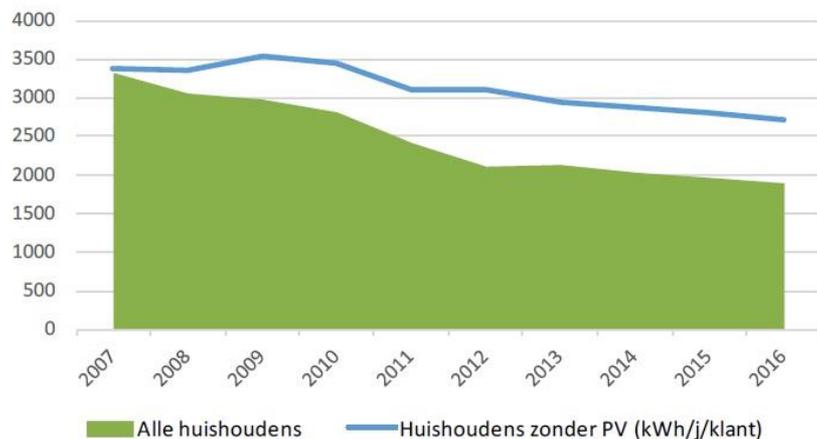
# Where are these REScoops?



# Example: Ecopower (Flanders, BE)



Gemiddeld verbruik



- 1982: not for profit organisation
- 1985: purchase 2 historical watermills
- 1991: foundation renewable energy cooperative Ecopower around kitchen table
- 1995: start production green electricity in Rotselaar
- 1996: foundation of ODE-Vlaanderen
- 1999: support mechanism/tender city of Eeklo
- 2001-2: Eeklo: 2 x 1,8 MW = 1 x 0,6 MW WTG
- 2003: start as supplier/growth
- end 2016: 50.000 members/ 100 GWh/y production/supply/ 1,5% of Flemish households/50 M€ equity
- production/supply of wood pellets (in mine region)
- 41% has PV: 76 GWh/y
- consumption from grid has dropped
  - less than 2000 kWh/y (PV-owners)
  - less than 3000 kWh/y (no PV)
- Ecotraject to help members renovate home
- 4% dividend over year 2016
- Energy Transition Partner several cities Eeklo, Asse, Beersel, Leuven, Lanaken, Amel, Bülingen, ...





# Direct participation Ecopower (2013)



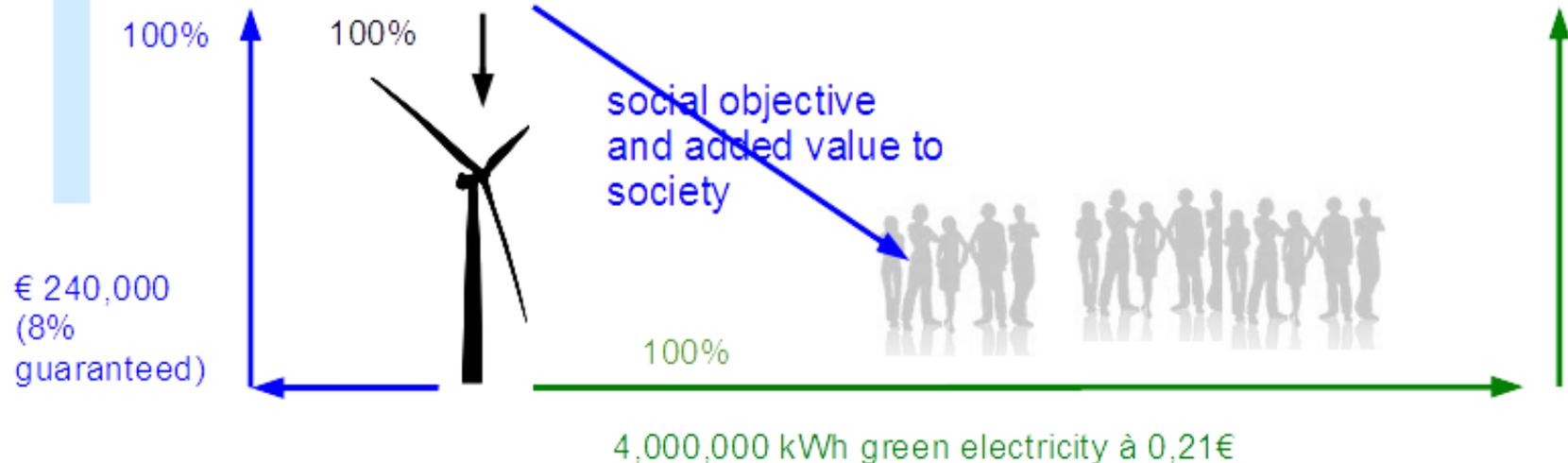
in 1 x 2 MW wind turbine

Profit sharing: 100%  
Energy bill: ▼

€ 3,000,000  
← 100%  
dividend (2%)  
→ € 60,000



← Lower energy bill  
€ 180,000



capital -profit- production

co-owner – creation of added value to society – self determination

# Let's make a European tour

## Belgium

High population density

Space to erect wind turbines is limited

A rush on the wind sites by project developers

Supportive guidelines and decrees

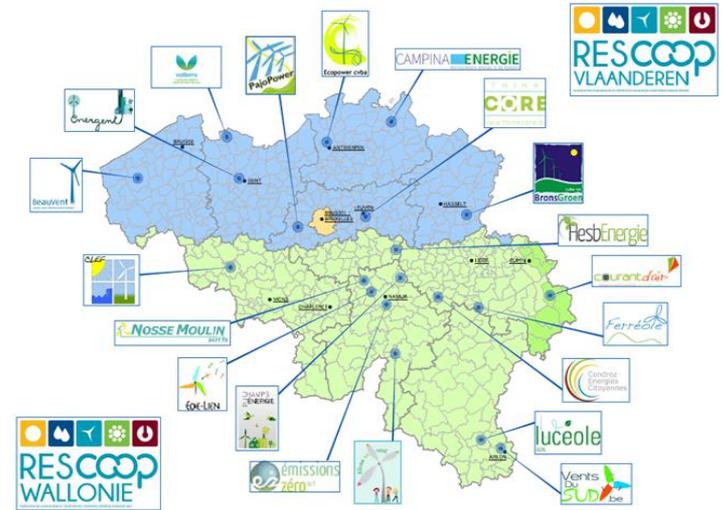
Wallonia: le cadre de référence (24,99%)

Flanders: Provincial level: 10% + 10%

Municipalities: demand 50% direct participation

20 REScoops

2 Regional federations



# Let's make a European tour

## United Kingdom

New government not supportive of onshore wind

Practically no more onshore wind projects

Only support for offshore wind projects, nuclear

About 100 REScoops in the UK

## Scotland

Regional government supportive of community energy

- Sub target for RES owned by citizens (500 MW) achieved early in 2015

- CARES fund



# Let's make a European tour

France Enercoop, its local REScoops and Energie Partagée



Choisir une électricité 100 % renouvelable  
et coopérative pour votre collectivité ?  
Réponse : Facile avec Enercoop !

**enercoop**  
L'énergie  
militante



**ÉNERGIE  
PARTAGÉE**  
L'INVESTISSEMENT  
CITOYEN



# Let's make a European tour

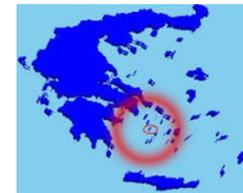
## Greece

State monopoly when it comes to energy (PPC/HEDNO)

Non-interconnected islands still use fossil fuels

Citizens on the main land pay for the surplus

e.g.: Sifnos Island Cooperative



## Central and Eastern Europe

Very few REScoops

Easily associated with communism

Hardly any support for RES, let alone for REScoops



# Let's make a European tour

## Germany

<900 local REScoops

EWS owns its own local distribution grid

Erneuerbare Energiegesetz (supportive FiT)

Now tendering procedure

## Denmark

Walhalla for RES production, but...

Government supports RES and citizens

300 wind coops, e.g. Middelgrunden (Copenhagen)

600 district heating cooperatives



# Let's make a European tour

## Italy

Ancient REScoops in the Alp region

Hydro - smart grids & meters

Südtiroler Energie Verband (SEV)

Cooperative energy supplier (E Nostra)

## Spain

No more support for RES

Abuse by big utilities (tendering)

SOM Energia, GoiEner, ...

New Spanish federation (old and new)



# Let's make a European tour

## Netherlands

Postcoderoos: tax relief on energy bill (0,09 euro/kWh)

Hier Opgewekt & REScoopNL

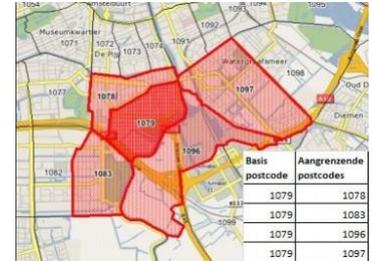
Krammer project

Wind farm on a dike in Zeeland (100MW)

2 local REScoops

Support from supplier of wind turbines

Why not keep it in the hands of local citizens?



## Croatia

Zelena energetska zadruga



# REScoop.eu, the European federation



*REScoop.eu  
empowers  
citizens and  
cooperatives in  
their fight for  
energy  
democracy*



# REScoop.eu, the European federation



- 1.250 REScoops from 12 Member States
- 650.000 citizens
- 1.100 jobs
- total investment 2 billion euro
- production 1GW



# REScoop.eu, the European federation

- represents the voice of citizens and REScoops in Brussels
- supports start up of new REScoops
- provides services to members
  - E-mobility
  - financing
  - ICT
  - academic network
- promotes the REScoop model



# REScoop.eu, the European federation

## Staff members (6)

## Board of directors

Ecopower (BE)  
De Windvogel (NL)  
Enercoop (FR)  
Som Energia (ES)  
(DGRV (DE))

## General Assembly

Full & associate members

## Partnerships

Cooperatives Europe  
Coalition of Energy Savings  
Community Energy Coalition

## National branches

Belgium, Netherlands, Spain,  
England, Scotland, Wales,  
Germany



# Opportunities in Clean Energy Package

1. Acknowledging local energy communities and giving them a name
2. Supporting renewable energy communities
3. A market design to empower citizens and drive decentralisation
4. Opportunities for LEC's at the distribution level
5. A governance system that works for Europe and its citizens

Follow our advocacy: [https://rescoop.eu/policy\\_maker\\_downloads](https://rescoop.eu/policy_maker_downloads)

Greece: first to implement CE4AE?



**BY 2050**

**264**

**MILLION**

**PEOPLE IN THE EU  
COULD BE PRODUCING  
THEIR OWN ELECTRICITY**

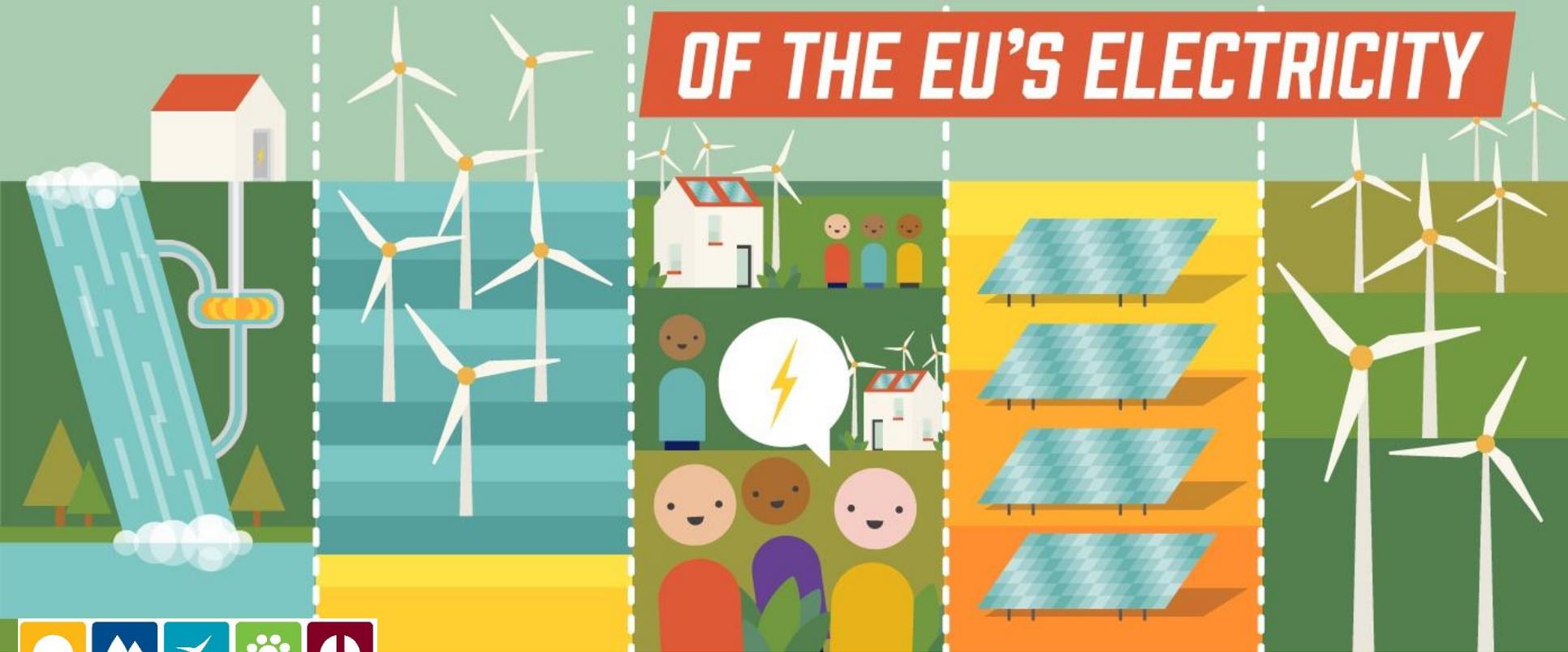


**RESCOOP.EU**

**BY 2050**

**PEOPLE** COULD **PRODUCE** **45%**

**OF THE EU'S ELECTRICITY**



**RESCOOP.EU**

# THE EU'S CITIZEN-OWNED ELECTRICITY IN 2050

