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This week the annual European fair of the Wind energy sector (EWEA) is held in Brussels' exposition centre. More than 10,000 participants prove that Wind energy is currently considered THE most relevant alternative for fossil or nuclear power. However, realizing new wind energy projects remains a difficult and slow process, especially in the planning permission phase. Europe's citizens use lots of energy, they want it to come from sustainable sources but at the same time they resist sustainable energy projects. In various projects all over Europe, it has been proven that this dilemma, wanting sustainable energy but resisting actual projects, is best addressed by involving citizens that live near, giving them a say and a stake..

There are now hundreds of these renewable energy projects in Europe, where groups of citizens participate. Sometimes it is a small group of people that for instance together fit a PV roof on their sportsclub, but there are also cooperatives with tens of thousands of members, such as Ecopower in Belgium or Greenpeace Energy in Germany. There is even a cooperative that exploits an offshore wind farm in Denmark. For over a century already, energy cooperatives have been functioning in Southern Tirol but in the last years many new cooperatives have been formed.

Three years ago, a group of these cooperatives started collaborating informally on a European level – these meetings were a success as they have proven useful for the participants. Practical experience was shared and there was even international help for project financing.

This collaboration will now be formalized. On March 17, 2011 Rescoop.eu will be founded, the European Federation for associations and cooperatives involved in sustainable energy.

Rescoop.eu wants to do more than exchanging information between members that are already active in sustainable energy cooperatives. It aims to motivate new groups of citizens to develop sustainable energy initiatives, for that it will develop the RESCOOP.eu toolbox. That toolbox will be an up to date manual for setting up sustainable energy projects, with practical cases, checklists, warnings for the typical pitfalls and even contact addresses. With this toolbox the success rate of such projects will not only be improved, it will also speed up such projects.

The charter of this new federation is based on the 7 principles of the International Cooperative Movement (ICA), proven effective in this , and in many other fields. CoopsEurope , the federation of European cooperations, is a partner of the new federation.

The day-to-day coordination of RESCOOP.eu is handled by the Belgian renewable energy cooperative Ecopower.

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<http://www.japsentertainment.com/RC/> (website RESCOOP.eu in construction)

Cooperative Movement: www.ica.coop, www.coopseurope.coop.

Founders:

Belgium: the members of the Belgian federation of groups and cooperatives of citizens for renewable energy: Rescoop.be, www.rescoop.be

- Ecopower cvba, °1991, 31.000 members, www.ecopower.be
- BeauVent cvba, °2000, 1600 members, www.beauvent.be
- Emissions-Zéro scrl, °2007, 1200 members, www.emissions-zero.be
- Clef scrl, www.clef-europe.be
- Courant d'air scrl, °2010, www.courantdair.be
- Citipar scrl, www.citipar.be
- Lucéole scrl, www.luceole.be

France: - Enercoop scic, °2005, 5000 members

- Moulins du Pays de Vilaine,
- Enercoop Nord Pas de Calais
- Enercoop Champagne Ardennes

Luxemburg: - Eida sa, www.eida.lu

Netherlands :

- ODE-Nederland, the Dutch federation of groups and cooperatives of citizens for renewable energy: www.duurzameenergie.org

- [Coöperatieve Vereniging Onze Energie](#), Amsterdam-Noord
- [Zeeuwind](#), Zeeuws-Vlaanderen
- [Westfriese Wind Coöperatie](#), West Friesland, Andijk, Hoorn en omgeving
- [Waterland](#)
- [U-Wind](#), Houten, Utrecht en omgeving.
- [Noordenwind](#), groot deel van NO-Nederland
- [Meerwind](#), Haarlemmermeer
- [Kennemerwind](#), Alkmaar, Camperduin.
- [De Windvogel](#), Gouda en (verre) omstreken
- [Deltawind](#), Goeree Overflakke
- [De Eendragt](#), Den Helder en omgeving
- [Zaanse Energie Koöperatie](#), Zaanstreek
- [Texel Energie](#), Texel

- Italy:

- Avanzi, sustainable research center, www.avanzi.org

- Spain:

- SOM Energia, °2010, 540 members, www.somenergia.cat
- Enercoop, 14.000 members, <http://www.enercoop.es>

Ireland: Waterford Renewable Energy Co-Operative Society Limited, °2007, www.wrecoop.ie (to be confirmed by the Board of Directors)

Rescoop.eu has also contacts in Germany, Ireland, Denmark, the UK, Portugal and Bulgaria