

## Deliverable 6.5 Executive Summary English



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<b>More information</b>	<a href="http://www.REScoop.eu">www.REScoop.eu</a>

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## Executive summary REScoop MECISE project

At the start of 2019 Europe had more than 3,400 REScoops. More than a million Europeans are working together to invest in an energy transition from centralised generation from fossil and nuclear fuels to a new model based around renewable energy and energy efficiency.

There are many more Europeans who are working towards this goal in their daily lives. They are investing in home insulation, solar water heaters, photovoltaic panels (PV panels), electrical mobility and much more.

Five REScoops from four countries teamed up with their European federation REScoop.eu in a project called REScoop MECISE funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 programme, run by EASME. Between December 2015 and February 2019, they created tools for themselves and other groups of citizens to accelerate the energy transition.

This project ran in parallel with the process of designing new EU-directives on energy: the Clean Energy for All Europeans package. This recognised EU citizens and their collective projects as essential stakeholders in tackling Climate Change.

At the end of the project the partners published a report with the results and how they participated in the legislative process, see: <https://www.rescoop.eu/blog/mobilising-european-citizens-to-invest-in-sustainable-energy?categoryId=381>.



REScoop MECISE stands for 'Renewable Energy Cooperatives Mobilising European Citizens to Invest in Sustainable Energy'. In this project the five participating REScoops, Ecopower (BE), Courant d'Air (BE), Enercoop (FR), Energy4All (UK) and Som Energia (ES), linked renewable energy projects to energy efficiency, fostered collaborations with cities and municipalities and set up a financial tool to help other REScoops overcome initial financing obstacles. The European federation REScoop.eu was an active partner for the communication about the project, the dissemination of its results among its members, municipalities and European citizens in general and the advocacy about renewable/citizens energy communities towards the European Commission, the European Parliament and EU member states.

The main ambitions of REScoop MECISE as a Project Development Assistance project were met:

- energy projects (wind, photovoltaics, biomass, hydro) and energy efficiency, and over 50.000 extra EU citizens joining the REScoops involved;
- 48 local municipalities were supported in implementing their sustainable energy action plans (SEAP's) by taking energy efficiency measures in public buildings, by helping them to accelerate the energy transition;
- a service to help citizens implement energy efficiency investments in their homes was set up, tested and is operational now;
- a dedicated financing tool to help citizens energy cooperatives finance their renewable energy and energy efficiency projects was created and is operational now: REScoop MECISE sce.

In addition to these formal objectives, the partners were also active advocates for the new Renewable Energy Directive and Energy Market Directive. This gave citizens and their energy cooperatives the right to play an active role in the energy transition as demonstrated in the REScoop MECISE project.

The project also allowed the partner-REScoops to accelerate their efforts in renewable energy and to link these projects to energy efficiency. This "bottom up" approach provides citizens, community energy initiatives and local authorities with best practices, permanent tools and a legal EU framework to allow them to accelerate the Energy Transition and fight Climate Change.

The partners of the REScoop MECISE project are convinced that increased investments in sustainable energy and a stronger involvement of European citizens are needed to achieve the transition to renewable energy and energy democracy across our shared continent.

They showcase a decentralised ownership of projects encourages greater acceptance of renewable energy and benefits local communities.

This model has proven its environmental, economic and social added value, but still too few renewable energy installations are owned by citizens energy cooperatives in Europe. Whilst the actions and contributions of the REScoops are increasingly recognised in national and European policies and regulations, this model is struggling to develop in some European countries.

The challenge to address climate change is substantial and the window of opportunity available to us to act is very short.

The time for action is now and community ownership is a key in achieving the energy transition in Europe.

Dirk Vansintjan, president of REScoop.eu, January 22, 2019.