

In REScoop MECISE (Mobilizing European Citizens to Invest in Sustainable Energy), – six well established renewable energy cooperatives (REScoops) from four different EU Member States develop renewable energy and energy efficiency projects and set up innovative approaches in order to launch concrete investments by European citizens and local authorities. The project aims to:

- develop an investment portfolio leading to over 110 million euros investments in renewable energy projects (wind, photovoltaics, biomass, hydro) and energy efficiency.
- reach out to local municipalities and help them implement their sustainable energy action plans by taking energy efficiency measures in public buildings.
- facilitate energy efficiency investments in the homes of citizens who are members of local energy cooperatives.
- establish a dedicated financing instrument to help local energy cooperatives finance their renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.



Across Europe, a growing number of citizens are now directly investing in renewable energy projects such as solar and wind farms. Today there are over 1 million EU citizens who have made investments through one of the 3,000 energy co-ops across Europe. Thanks to REScoop MECISE, six REScoops are currently speeding up the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.

- Energy4All supported the start-up of Edinburgh Community Solar Co-operative, a local cooperative that successfully raised 2 million euros to install 25 solar PV arrays on public buildings. Edinburgh residents who join the co-operative get a fixed return on their capital.
- Enercoop successfully enabled the creation of “Lum del Larzac”, a solar PV project in the Midi-Pyrénées region in France. The project consists of 18 roof-top solar PV installations with a total capacity of 162 kWp. Enercoop is a network of local cooperatives supplying green electricity to its members and fostering the development of new local renewable energy installations.
- Although there is no more support for renewable energy generation in Spain, Som Energia, recently raised 2.3 million euros to invest in solar, wind and hydro projects. Through “Generation kWh,” members are invited to provide a long-term zero-interest loan. In return, they get a discount on their energy bill.

Citizens and municipalities often lack time, resources and technical expertise to initiate energy renovations, leaving the potential for energy savings largely untapped. The REScoop MECISE partners are therefore addressing these issues to help both local citizens and municipalities invest in energy savings.

- Courant d’Air and Ecopower successfully won a public tender to erect 6 large wind turbines in the Belgian communities of Amel & Büllingen. The wind farm will be owned by the municipality and the citizens. The investment will generate additional income to finance energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.
- Ecopower successfully developed the cost-covering service, “Ecotraject”, to assist citizens (members) with deep energy renovations in their homes. This model will be replicated by Courant d’Air and other European energy co-ops.



The European federation of renewable energy cooperatives (REScoop.eu) is working on a financial instrument to facilitate the pooling of resources by individual REScoops, both for small and large-scale investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. The set-up of a European cooperative fund will allow efficient and flexible financing of a wide range of sustainable energy investments.



Partners



REScoop.eu (Europe)
www.rescoop.eu



Ecopower (Belgium)
www.ecopower.be



Courant d'Air (Belgium)
www.courantdair.be



Enercoop (France)
www.enercoop.fr



Som Energia (Spain)
www.somenergia.coop



Energy4All (United Kingdom)
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