

RESCOOP.EU

# Annual report 2019

European Federation of  
citizen energy cooperatives



## Foreword

2019 was an important year for REScoop.eu, we ensured that the European Union transposed the Clean Energy Package into a set of directives for the Member States. This means EU Member States must make citizens the centre of the forthcoming energy transition. 2020 will be the year when we make sure the Member States governments actually deliver what they have undertaken to do.

Our membership and services have grown and although we remain dependent on European projects, we are working to become more financially independent. Our board has overseen our 2019 spending plans and we have developed a sustainable budget that looks forward over the next two years. We have delivered the European Horizon 2020 and Interreg projects to time and budget.

We completed the REScoop MECISE Horizon 2020 project. This shared best practices in community energy and, crucially, established REScoop MECISE SCE as a mutual funding vehicle - which we anticipate - will deliver more citizen owned renewable energy projects. Finally we have strengthened our member communications. We have produced regular updates explaining how EU policies may impact citizens, as well as drawing together best practices around our continent. We've run advice and seminars - some on-line, allowing more people to participate in our work. Finally we have a new visual identity and a new logo reflecting our growth and growing membership.

We deeply regret the UK leaving the European Union. REScoop.eu is an association that is based on the premise of cooperation. We are made up of groups working across European countries to create a democratic, sustainable and fair energy transition. Brexit has the potential to pull countries apart. We believe the best response is for cooperatives and citizens to continue working together across our shared home. We will work to ensure our British friends from Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England will remain part of our European family.

I was very honoured to receive a recognition of what I was able to do as president of REScoop.eu and board member of Ecopower: in June 2019 Elektrizitätswerke Schönau (EWS) chose me as their 'Stromrebell 2019'. The laudatio at the award ceremony was personally a bit embarrassing, but I accepted this award in the name of all you energy rebels across Europe and in our REScoop.eu team.

We will continue to make sure citizens' voices are heard. Our federation is accredited now to participate in the COP climate summits. In 2019, some of our Spanish members represented us in Madrid. In 2020 we plan to co-organise a side event with the UK federations at the COP26 in Glasgow.



*Dirk Vansintjan, President REScoop.eu*

REScoop.eu is the European federation of citizen energy cooperatives. Our network represents 1,500 energy cooperatives and 1,000,000 people across Europe. Energy cooperatives are key in leading the energy transition. Cooperatives make it possible for citizens to participate in renewable energy, energy efficiency and other technologies that will decarbonize our energy system.

The next year will be a crucial one if we are to address the climate crisis. We need to see radical changes in the way energy is generated and used. Citizen support will be critical in achieving that transition, and cooperatives, by putting citizens at the heart of the energy system, are the best way we know of mobilising that support.

If you are already a REScoop member we want to thank you for all your support, without which we could not operate. If you are a cooperative, association, or group of citizens and are not yet a REScoop member we urge you to consider joining. The climate situation is urgent, the need for action never greater, and the more members we have, the stronger our voice will be.

### Our main objectives:

1. Ensuring citizens' voices are heard in energy policy debates
2. Fostering international collaboration between citizen energy cooperatives
3. Helping cooperatives to grow and prosper
4. Promoting the cooperative model

Our board of eight energy cooperatives, elected for four year terms, sets our policy and direction. We are supported by a nine-person team working in Brussels and Berchem (Belgium).

# REScoop.EU



## European projects we worked on in 2019

**WiseGRID** develops and tests smart grid integration technology to maximize renewable, decentralised energy production.

**Ecco** aims to enhance the relationships with farmers and supports them in setting up energy cooperatives.

**FLEXcoop** aims to develop demand response schemes which will enable cooperatives to take up the role of aggregator.

**The Clean Energy for EU Islands Secretariat** is an initiative supported by the European Commission aimed at facilitating the clean energy transition on EU islands.

**COMPILE** will show the opportunities of energy islands for decarbonizing our energy supply.

**REScoop Plus** identifies and replicates best practices of REScoops in energy efficiency. The project came to an end in 2019.

**REScoop MECISE** brings together several European cooperatives to develop renewable energy & energy efficiency projects. The aim is to develop relationships with local authorities, including cities and municipalities. The project came to an end in 2019, however, a financial facilitation service called REScoop MECISE SCE was founded. This European Cooperative Society aims to fund a variety of community energy projects.

## New projects we started in 2020

With support from the **European Climate Foundation** we will develop a working group on collective home renovation, update our toolbox and support EU Member States with the transposition of the Clean Energy Package.

Through **REScoop VPP and cVPP** we will try to set-up a community-driven virtual power plant that can actually provide flexibility services to the grid.

The **ECCO project** has been extended for 1 year and will allow us to further accelerate the start-up of new energy cooperatives in North-West Europe.

**COME RES** will develop and test new business models for renewable energy cooperatives in nine countries.

Reached over **9.000** people through presentations at international conferences

**143** public speaking performances

**4** women & **5** men in the team - **8** women and **8** men in the board

Participation in more than **150** high level events and conferences

Issued **10** policy papers, **6** press releases & **12** publications



## Financial report

The total income for the year was **€755.773**, whilst the total expenses were **€805.783**. As a result REScoop.eu ended the financial year with a deficit of **€50.010**. Total assets have decreased over the year as we have already received the bulk of our EU subsidies and used those to cover project related expenses. At the same time liabilities have gone up from **€118k** to **€205k** because the final payment of the REScoop MECISE project took longer than expected and forced us to get a €80k pre-financing loan from our member Ecopower. The loan got paid back in 2020. The board has monitored budgets closely throughout the year and is working with the management team to ensure that the association has a sustainable financial future.

### Income and spending in the year

	2018	2019
<b>Total income</b>	<b>€680.801</b>	<b>€755.733</b>
<b>Total spending</b>	<b>€611.827</b>	<b>€805.783</b>
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>€68.974</b>	<b>-€50.010</b>

### Summary Balance Sheet

	2018	2019
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>€1.643.684</b>	<b>€974.139</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>€118.709</b>	<b>€205.158</b>
<b>Accumulated Surplus</b>	<b>€193.476</b>	<b>€143.465</b>

## 2019: a new policy environment for energy communities

REScoop.eu started 2019 in a completely new policy environment. In December, 2018, the European Institutions agreed on a new electricity market design, capping a two-year process to complete the Clean Energy for All Europeans legislative package. The final package contains provisions that establish a supportive EU legal framework for community energy. The package defines two new concepts labelled 'renewable energy communities' and 'citizen energy communities', and requires Member States to ensure certain rights of energy communities, as well as establish enabling frameworks to ensure a level playing field and promote their development.

In 2019 our efforts shifted towards supporting our members to help translate this new framework into national legislation. We spent the majority of the year analysing the new legislation, consulting members and other stakeholders, and developing a vision for how energy communities can be implemented. We worked with ClientEarth to develop comprehensive guidance to help national decision makers understand what is required of them under EU law. We also focussed on strong national definitions of renewable energy communities and

citizen energy communities. This resulted in a Question and Answer briefing explaining the definitions, highlighting potential opportunities as well as legal challenges, as well as recommendations for how they should be written into national legislation. We also developed a Manifesto on energy communities with our partners from the Community Energy Coalition.

We monitored the development of Member States' national energy and climate plans (NECPs), which require governments to set out their pledges and commitments with regard to achieving the EU 2030 targets for energy efficiency, and greenhouse gas reduction targets. With European University Viadrina, we assessed all 28 draft NECPs identifying best practices, and put pressure on Member States to increase their ambition in terms of energy communities.

Finally, 2019 was an election year for Europe. Working with Cooperatives Europe we campaigned to get energy communities acknowledged as an issue in the elections. We published a manifesto and invited

candidate MEPs to become a REScoop.eu supporter. In total, 31 MEP candidates signed up. With the new Commission in place, just before the end of 2019 the new President of the Commission, Ursula von der Leyen released her vision for a European Green Deal. We have responded to this, and it will inform our advocacy efforts for 2020 and beyond.

Our efforts will continue to focus on the transposition and implementation of the Clean Energy Package so that it gives citizens significant opportunities to take ownership in the energy transition. We now have a supportive legal framework at EU level, but its impact will only be felt if the new Commission takes these new provisions seriously, and if they are effectively brought to life at the national level for citizens to take advantage of.



*Josh Roberts,  
Senior Policy  
Advisor REScoop.eu*



**10**

MEETINGS WITH DECISION MAKERS

**39**

SPEAKING

**4**

POLICY WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

**3**

COOPS EUROPE WORKING GROUP ON ENERGY

## Advocacy

Members of REScoop.eu can join an advocacy task force. These working groups gather on a regular basis to discuss relevant policy issues. The advocacy task force shares white papers, public consultations and high level reports. Members get updated on what is going on at the EU level. Together we build upon positions and elaborate a strategy.



## E-mobility

In the future, electric cars will play a large role in our local electricity grids (so called "smart grids"). Presently, however, we face the challenge of rolling out this technology efficiently in our local communities. We believe that by setting up European collaboration around this topic we can find an answer to this challenge that also provides opportunities to all REScoops.

The mobility working group of REScoop.eu works to facilitate electric car sharing. A new European co-operative Society called 'The Mobility Factory SCE' has been founded, giving REScoops the opportunity to become co-owner of a shared IT platform for e-car sharing. More information can be found on [www.themobilityfactory.eu](http://www.themobilityfactory.eu).

## Join our working groups!

REScoop.eu coordinates the collaboration between members in different thematic working groups. The aim of the working groups is to provide our members direct access to experts and to build a forum for exchange among participants.

**Contact us in case you want to join one of our working groups.**



## Citizen-led renovation

In this working group, REScoops work on the concept of citizen-led energy renovations and a roadmap on how to further roll it out. Citizen led renovation brings citizens together to conduct energy renovation projects in single and multi-tenant buildings.

The goal of this working group is to collect barriers, financing schemes, experiences and best practices related to deep renovation of homes and public buildings.

## Demand response

With the FLEXCoop project, REScoop.eu has set up a working group to explore and exchange on the demand response topic. This working group is constituted of interested REScoop.eu members and will serve as an interlocutor for the project consortium. It provides direct access to the project experts and will be a forum for exchange among participants.



## Partnerships

### Community Power Coalition

REScoop.eu is one of the main drivers of the Community Power Coalition, a diverse network of like-minded organisations who share a common goal of promoting the development of citizen and community ownership in the urgent transformation towards a 100% renewable energy system.

The Coalition includes associations representing energy cooperatives, networks of cities and local authorities, consumer organisations, the renewable energy industry, legal experts and several environmental NGOs.



### Coalition for Energy Savings

REScoop.eu partners up with the Coalition for Energy Savings and strives to make energy efficiency and savings the first consideration of energy policies and the driving force towards a secure, sustainable and competitive European Union.

[www.energycoalition.eu](http://www.energycoalition.eu)



### Right to Energy Coalition

REScoop.eu is working to reduce energy poverty. In 2017 we joined with trade unions, anti-poverty groups, social housing providers, and environmental and health organisations to form the Right to Energy Coalition.

[www.righttoenergy.org](http://www.righttoenergy.org)



### Coalition of the Willing on Energy Poverty

Coordinated by the Covenant of Mayors, the Coalition of the Willing on Energy Poverty facilitates collaboration and joint actions between local authorities and other stakeholders to tackle energy poverty at the local level.

[www.covenantofmayors.eu](http://www.covenantofmayors.eu)



## Decarb Europe

The goal of DecarbEurope is to engage decision-makers in policy and industry with solutions that can, in a cost-effective manner, decarbonize Europe at the scale and speed that is needed to achieve our climate goals. REScoop.eu joined the consortium in 2018, promoting community energy as an important pillar contributing in a significant way to the decarbonisation of Europe.

[www.decarbeurope.org](http://www.decarbeurope.org)



## Cooperatives Europe

REScoop.eu is the sectoral organisation of Cooperatives Europe (the European umbrella organisation grouping cooperatives from all sectors) and the driving force behind the Energy Working Group. We work with Cooperatives Europe to promote the cooperative business model across Europe and beyond.

[www.coopseurope.coop](http://www.coopseurope.coop)



## European Climate Foundation

In 2019, REScoop.eu started partnering up with European Climate Foundation (ECF). Like REScoop.eu, ECF is dedicated to developing and implementing climate and energy policies that greatly reduce Europe's global greenhouse gas emissions. The ECF grants allow us to further work on our mission to lead Europe's energy transition to energy democracy.

[www.europeanclimate.org](http://www.europeanclimate.org)



## A fresh wind blowing in REScoop.eu

### Why we changed our logo and what it means to us

REScoop.eu is launching a new visual identity, starting with a new logo. We loved our old logo, and know that many felt the same. Our first logo was created in the scope of a European project, called REScoop 20-20-20. It was distinctive, and playful, and the colorful diversity resembled our young and starting network.

And yet, here we are to explain why we decided to update it.

As our core values and commitment are stable over time, the new logo is still recognizable and in line with the brand we have built over the past years.

However, as REScoop.eu has evolved over the years, we outgrew our previous logo. Both the federation and its members have increased their profile. Community energy projects are being seen as serious market players that will play a prominent role in the future energy system. This is acknowledged in the European Commission's Clean Energy for All Europeans Package, adopted at the end of 2019. Moreover, the services we offer to our members have grown and we will continue developing those more and more over time. Finally, our network is evolving as well and therefore the icons in the old REScoop logo don't resemble the variety of activities our members are involved in today.

Last year, the REScoop.eu team worked hard to create a new and more cohesive visual identity. And we're starting, today, with the logo. It uses the same but simpler color palette and, we believe, is more refined, easier to understand, but still contains the spirit of the original one. It's an evolution, and one that can scale easily, and work better, in many more places.

Over the next few months, you'll see all the other visuals around REScoop.eu aligning around this new direction: in presentations, publications and other communication materials. To finalise this process, we will launch a brand new website in Autumn this year.

We're still REScoop.eu. But more consistent, fresh and ready for the future.



*Sara Tachelet, Communications Manager REScoop.eu*



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## REScoop.eu members

### Federations



### Individual members



### Associated members



## REScoop.eu partners



## REScoop.eu funders

Our members *(see previous page)* &



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[www.rescoop.eu](http://www.rescoop.eu)

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