

WISE Power

Local Workshop in Flanders (Belgium)

Agreement n.:

IEE/13/528/S2.674872

Duration

01 May 2014 – 31 October 2016

Coordinator:

WindEurope

Supported by:



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Programme of the European Union

Date

08 September 2016 – 02:00pm – 06:30pm

Location

Vooruit Gent
Sint-Pietersstraat 23
9000 Gent
Belgium

Participants

Attendees mainly represented local REScoops, research institutions, local municipalities, wind developers and citizens. The participants list can be found through the following [link](#).

Presentations

The presentations can be found through the following [link](#).

Pictures

Pictures of the event can be found here:

- [Facebook – Coopkracht](#)
- [Website – Coopkracht](#)

Twitter

Tweets related to the event can be found through [#coops4commons](#).

Language

This was a local workshop in Dutch.

Programme

14u00 Verwelkoming (Coopkracht)

14u15 **Welke rol speelt coöperatief ondernemen in het beheren van de ‘commons’?** (Tine De Moor)

15u00 **Deelworkshop: Hernieuwbare energie**

- Burgerparticipatie als katalysator voor een betere acceptatie van windturbines. (Dirk Vansintjan)
- Rechtstreekse burgerparticipatie als universeel basisrecht van burgers in het beheren van de ‘commons’. (Jan de Pauw)
- Lokale besturen eisen meer windwinst voor inwoners: Voorbeeld Gemeente Maldegem en Eeklo (Dirk Waelput)

(* Dit is tevens het *dissemination event* van het project WISE POWER

16u00 **Pauze en netwerking**

17u45 **Panelgesprek en publieksdebat** (Tine de Moor, Tom Willems, Dirk Waelput, Tine Heyse, Tom Troonbeeckx, Steven Vancraesbeeck, Annick de Rop, Wim Bijnen; moderator: Dirk Holemans)



De kracht van coöperaties voor het beheer van commons

8 SEPTEMBER 13u30-18u30 VOORUIT GENT

Hoe kunnen we de 'commons' organiseren, zodat ze geen voorbijgaand fenomeen zijn, maar duurzame instituties waarmee burgers aan de toekomst bouwen? Welke rol speelt het coöperatieve model in dit verhaal? En welk belang hebben lokale besturen bij het ondersteunen van burgercollectieven?

Aan de hand van het coöperatieve beheer van vier belangrijke 'commons' – grond, huisvesting, hernieuwbare energie en gezondheidszorg – verkennen we wat we van mekaar kunnen leren en hoe we mekaar kunnen versterken.

GRATIS

Dit event wordt georganiseerd door Coopkracht – de koepel voor coöperaties in Vlaanderen – in samenwerking met Coop-apotheken, Institutions for Collective Action, Denktank Oikos, REScoop.be, WISE POWER en de Europese Commissie.

Coopkracht **oikos** **Institutions for Collective Action** **REScoop.be** **WISEPower**

Coopkracht apotheek WISEPower

Coöperaties in Vlaanderen 2016

On September 8th, 2016 Coopkracht and REScoop.be kick-started a new theme called “the power of cooperatives for managing commons” in “De Vooruit” in Ghent (Belgium). Vooruit - one of the most famous cooperatives in Belgium - celebrates its 135th anniversary this year. With over 200 participants we explored different ways to keep the commons – typically renewable energy sources – in the hands of citizens. Local authorities also play an important role in this debate. In a world of transition we need the hear the voice of citizens. Cooperative entrepreneurship and citizen participation create opportunities for local municipalities, not just because of financial reasons.

Ines Rothmann (Coopkracht) explained that an increasing number of people are setting up their own cooperative in an attempt to make our world more sustainable. Many cooperatives typically work with commons such as renewable energy sources, land or health care. Oikos Denktank identified the existing community-owned projects (such as cooperatives) and recently launched a report with surprising results: [“Burgercollectieven in kaart gebracht”](#).

Tine De Moor (Institution for Collective Actions, Universiteit Gent) explained what commons are, how they work and how they are linked to cooperatives. Community-owned groups have a long history of about 1,000 years. We are currently facing the 3rd wave of cooperative entrepreneurship. History teaches us that cooperatives typically flourish when there’s lack of quality in the services provided by business, not as a reaction to a financial crisis.

[Presentation](#) - Tine De Moor

Dirk Vansintjan (Ecopower & REScoop.eu) explained that our energy system is changing from a centralised to a decentralised model with an increasing share of community-owned RES projects. Citizens will be paying for the transition and should thus be actively involved. In Flanders only 4% of the energy is in the hands of citizens, whilst 50% in Germany. Direct citizen participation (through cooperatives) increases social acceptance for RES. This will be crucial if installations (such as wind turbines) will come closer to the people. Dirk also referred to WISE POWER and the WE-engage that supports wind developers and municipalities to work with their citizens.

[Presentation](#) – Dirk Vansintjan

Jan De Pauw (REScoop.Vlaanderen) explained that about 300 wind turbines have been installed in Flanders so far and that another 1,000 turbines should be invested in the future. In a densely populated region like Flanders these wind turbines will automatically get closer to our private houses. Therefore, citizens should be able to co-own those installations and use their energy. Jan argues that the cooperative model is an interesting way to make that happen. Another 1,000 wind turbines corresponds to 3 billion euro investment, he says. With 275 billion euro on our Belgian saving accounts, it shouldn’t be too much of a problem to raise the funds from the local citizens. Finally Jan explained that an increasing number of regions and provinces (e.g., Province of Eastern Flanders) endorse a citizen participation of at least 20% in future wind projects.

[Presentation](#) – Jan De Pauw

Dirk Waelput (Eeklo) explained how the municipality of Eeklo initiated the first community-owned wind turbines in Belgium, back in 1999. The municipality launched a public tender, listing the criteria that they considered important. Allowing local citizens to participate and co-own the project was one of the listed criteria. Ecopower finally won the bid and joined forces with the municipality to produce a wind plan

and engage the local citizens. Dirk explained the set-up of the communication to increase the social acceptance of the project. Communication (visits, folder, press, council, etc.) and dialogue with the citizens seemed crucial. Today 8 new wind turbines are being constructed of which 50% are owned by local citizens.

[Presentation](#) – Dirk Waelput

Panel Session - During the final panel session **Tom Willems** (REScoop Vlaanderen), **Tom Troonbeeckx** (De Landgenoten), **Dirk Waelput** (Stad Eeklo), **Tine Heyse** (Stad Gent), **Alex Verhoeven** (VVSG), **Tine De Moor** (Universiteit Utrecht - Institutions for Collective Actions) and **Dirk Holemans** (Oikos) discussed the role of local municipalities in the energy transition. The panellist came to the conclusion that a world in transition needs support of citizens. Citizens should be actively involved in and take ownership of RES projects.