



REScoop.EU ANNUAL REPORT 2018

European Federation
of citizen energy
cooperatives





REScoop.eu is the federation of groups and cooperatives of citizens for renewable energy in Europe. Our network represents 1.500 citizen energy cooperatives from across Europe and over 1.000.000 people. Citizen energy cooperatives are leading the energy transition to energy democracy, and make it possible for citizens to actively participate in renewable energy, energy efficiency and other technologies that decarbonise the energy system. Through REScoop.eu, we wish to make those voices heard in the European energy debate.

REScoop.eu is the sector federation and board member of Cooperatives Europe, the European branch of the International Cooperative Alliance.

Main objectives:

1. Ensuring citizens' voices are heard in European energy policy debates.
2. Fostering international collaborations and partnerships between renewable energy cooperatives (REScoops)
3. Helping starters and existing cooperatives to grow and prosper
4. Promoting the cooperative model

We would like to take the opportunity to sincerely thank our members. It is thanks to their ongoing support and dedication that we achieved great things last year. We are looking forward to continue working together in the years to come and take the next steps towards energy democracy.

Our elected 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).

FOREWORD

At the end of 2018 three new EU-directives on Energy, called the 'Clean Energy for All Europeans-package' were finalised in the Trilogues between the European Commission, Parliament and Council.

REScoop.eu engaged into intensive advocacy efforts together with the other members of the 'Community Power Coalition' (Friends of the Earth Europe, Greenpeace Europe, CAN- Europe, Bank Watch, WWF, ICLEI, Climate Alliance, Energy Cities, EREF, Housing Europe, ...). Overall, we are quite happy with the results.

Although not perfect we now have secured rights for citizens and groups of citizens as active actors in the energy market and we obtained definitions for 'renewable energy communities' and 'citizen energy communities' that now have to be implemented in all legislations and regulations in all EU Member States. If implemented well, this will give European citizens opportunities to act privately or collectively without being discriminated against. The coming 18 months the federation will support its members in the implementation in their country... if time and finances allow this.

Indeed as we already discussed in the General Assembly of Milan in 2018 we continue the effort to get less dependent from EU projects and try to diversify our income through servicing our members. In order to make this effective, the federation and its members should reach out to more REScoops in more countries to strengthen its membership and financial base. New services that were set up in 2018 and are now operational: The Mobility Factory (cooperative e-carsharing app) and REScoop MECISE (financing mutual).

Meanwhile young people are actively reminding us of the urgency of climate action and we, as citizen energy cooperatives, should not disappoint them. I fully agree with Greta Thunberg:

'Act as if our house is on fire!'
Do you?



Dirk Vansintjan, president REScoop.eu



1,000,000 citizens



1,500 REScoops



9 employees



board of **8** cooperatives



31

individual members



10

federations



5

associated members



Reached over 8,500 people through presentations
at international conferences



4 women and 5 men in the team + 8 women and 8 men in the board



Issued 7 policy papers, 7 press releases & 4 publications



PROJECTS

EUROPEAN PROJECTS WE WORKED ON IN 2018

REScoop MECISE is a project in which several European cooperatives are developing renewable energy & energy efficiency projects and aim to enforce relationship with local authorities. REScoop.eu is working on the set-up of a financial facilitation service.

REScoop Plus aims to identify and replicate best practises of the European REScoops in the field of energy efficiency.

In **WiseGRID** we develop and test smart grid integration technology in an attempt to maximise decentralised energy production from renewable sources.

In **Ecco** we aim to enhance the relationships with farmers and support them in setting up and working with energy cooperatives and citizens.

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 from the bottom up.

NEW PROJECT WE STARTED IN 2019

The main objective of **COMPILE** is to show the opportunities of energy islands for decarbonisation of energy supply, community building and creating environmental and socio-economic benefits.

FINANCIAL REPORT

REScoop.eu's financial year ended with a surplus of **€68.974**. The total income for the year was **€680.801**, whereas the total expenses amounted to **€611.827**.

	2017	2018
Total income	467.429	680.801
Total spending	443.501	611.827
Surplus	23.928	68.974

Clean Energy for All Europeans package: ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CITIZENS AND COMMUNITIES IN EU'S ENERGY SYSTEM



During 2018, the EU Institutions conducted ‘Triologue’ negotiations, and finalised the major pieces of legislation making up the Clean Energy for All Europeans package. The main pieces of legislation relevant to our members was the Renewable Energy Directive, and the Electricity Directive and Electricity Regulation (the new market design), while the Governance Regulation and Energy Efficiency Directive were also relevant. REScoop.eu was actively involved in each of these files. Our engagement resulted in significant wins for REScoops, with the final texts Renewable Energy Directive and the new market design containing groundbreaking text acknowledging, supporting, and giving rights to citizen-owned initiatives in the energy transition.

Summary Balance Sheet

Total Assets

Total Liabilities

Accumulated Surplus

Dec 2017

Dec 2018

1.243.047

1.643.684

1.118.545

118.709

124.502

193.476

In particular, there are two new definitions: Citizen energy Communities (new market design) and Renewable Energy Communities (Renewable Energy Directive). These definitions acknowledge a unique type of market actor that can be distinguished from other traditional energy market actors based on participation, ownership, and aims, which largely correspond to cooperative and social enterprise business models. Energy communities will also now have rights to access and participate across the energy market on a level playing field with other market actors. Finally, Member States will be required to put in place national enabling frameworks to support the development of energy communities, including getting rid of unjustified market and regulatory barriers. Renewable Energy

Communities will also need to be taken into account in the design of national support schemes for renewables, so that they are not excluded.

Now that the legislation is finalised, the Member States will now be required to write, or transpose, the new EU rules into national law. This process must be completed by the end of 2020 for the new market design and by June 2021 for the Renewable Energy Directive. Therefore, 2019 and 2020 will be the key moment for REScoops to use these new EU legal provisions to advocate at national level for supportive legislation and regulations to support energy communities.

TWO NEW COOPERATIVES SOCIETIES FOUNDED

As a result of intensive collaboration with our members around the topic of mobility at one hand and the topic of financing at the other, we officially founded two new European Cooperative Societies in 2018.

REScoop MECISE



In December 2018, REScoop.eu and five of its members founded the European Cooperative Society called REScoop MECISE. The name stands for Mutual for Energy Communities Investing in a Sustainable Europe. REScoop MECISE aims to support the aggregation of small community energy projects and assist them in accessing financing tools typically reserved for larger projects. www.rescoop-mecise.eu

Mobility Factory

The Mobility Factory is a European Cooperative Society, founded in 2018 by 8 cooperative enterprises. This cooperative network for sustainable mobility gives REScoops the opportunity to become member and therefore co-owner of a shared IT platform for e-carsharing. www.themobilityfactory.eu



PARTNERSHIPS

Community Energy 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 energy transition. 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 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

Right to Energy Coalition



Together with trade unions, anti-poverty organisations, social housing providers, environmental organisations and health organisations, REScoop.eu works on the issue of energy poverty in the in 2017 formed Right to Energy Coalition.

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

Small is Beautiful Coalition



REScoop.eu is a partner of the Small is Beautiful campaign, a coalition, coordinated by Solar Power Europe that supports a decentralised energy transition, enabled by small-scale renewable energy and high efficiency co-generation installations in Europe.

www.solarpowereurope.org/campaigns/small-is-beautiful

Decarb Europe

The goal of DecarbEurope is to engage decision-makers in policy and industry with solutions that can, in a cost-effective manner, decarbonise 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

Cooperatives Europe



REScoop.eu is the sectoral organisation of Cooperatives Europe (the European organisation grouping cooperatives from all sectors) and the driving force behind the Energy Working Group that was set up in 2018. We work closely with Cooperatives Europe to promote the cooperative business model across Europe and beyond.

www.coopseurope.coop

Resources and links

REScoop.eu – “The Transition to Energy Democracy”: <https://bit.ly/2Q5vblT>

REScoop.eu – policy papers: <https://www.rescoop.eu/policy>

Friends of the Earth, Energy Cities, Greenpeace, REScoop.eu

Unleashing the power of community renewable energy : <https://bit.ly/2Js7tXP>

REScoop.eu – Energy Efficiency toolbox : <http://www.rescoop-ee.eu/the-toolbox>

REScoop.eu – Mobilising European Citizens to Invest in Sustainable Energy:

<https://bit.ly/2YAve3n>

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REScoopVideos



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