

# People Power Renewable Energy Cooperatives in Europe



4 March 2016 – IRENA / Energy Community





# “Community Energy” ?

## > Community shared ownership

Developer/manager shares ownership of the project with area landowners and other community members. Investment opportunities are usually offered to local citizens before the wind development is officially created and/or offered to a wider circle of investors.

## > Municipal

Publicly owned projects such as Hull Wind One in Boston, or the 100% Renewable Energy Town of Güssing in Austria

## > Cooperative

Jointly owned and democratically controlled enterprise that follows the

## Why?

- > Empowerment
- > Local development
- > Acceptance
- > Financial resilience
- > Alternative business model - prosumer

## 7 ICA Principles

1. Voluntary and Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Members' Economic Participation
4. Autonomy and Independence
5. Education, Training and Information
6. Cooperation among Cooperatives
7. Concern for Community

## Five Types of Cooperatives

Consumer

Producer

Worker

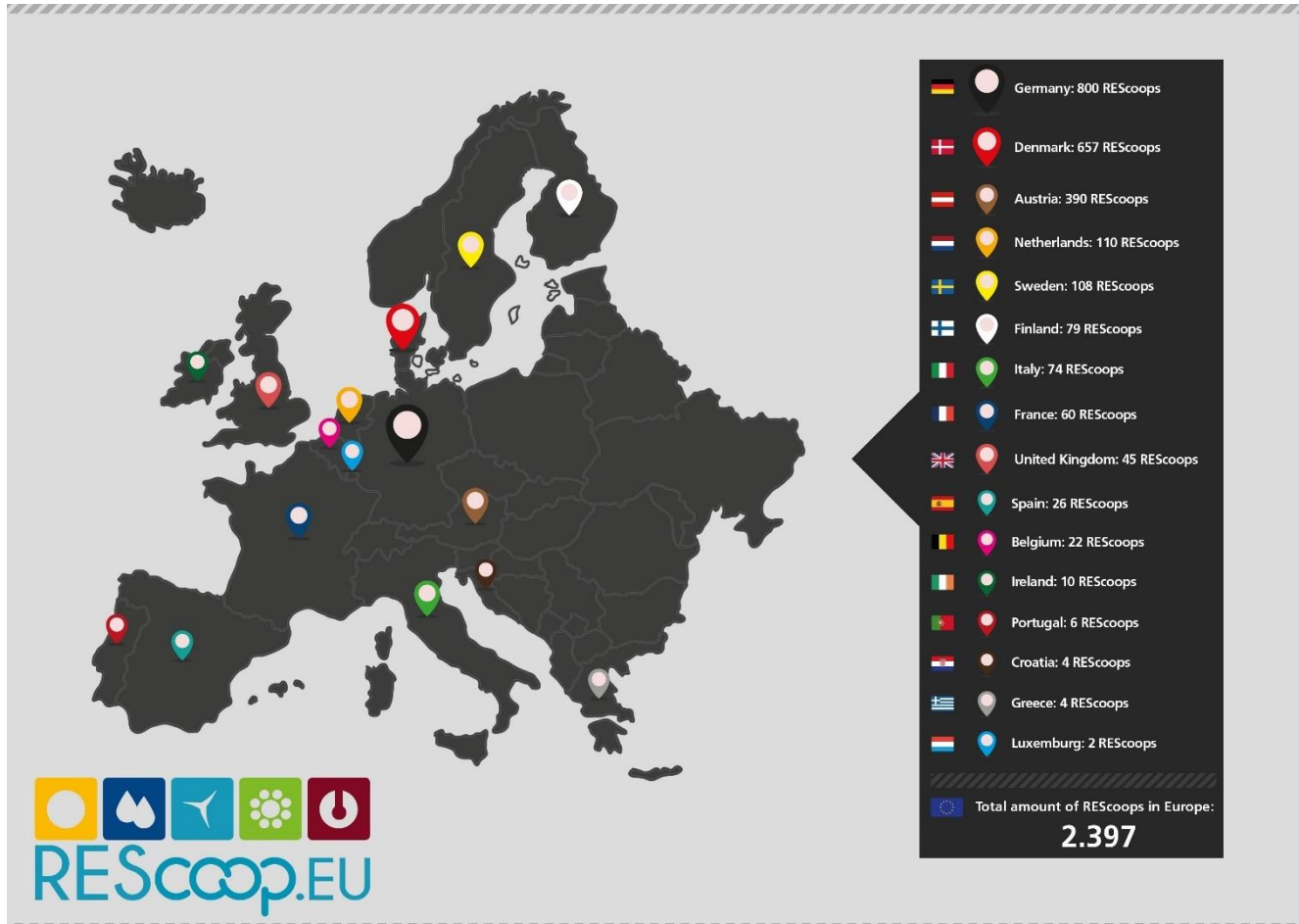
Purchasing/Shared Services

Hybrid (e.g. SCIC)





# REScoops in Europe



REScoop is short for **Renewable Energy Sources Cooperative** = a business model where citizens jointly own & participate in RES and energy efficiency projects.

About 2 400 REScoops have been identified across Europe in 2014



# The REScoop.eu Federation

- The Federation was created in 2013 by a group of European REScoops,
- Puts ICA principles above strict legal coop form
- The European Federation aims to support and develop RES cooperatives & groups by:
  - Education & exchange of experience,
  - Supporting the creation of new cooperatives,
  - Advocacy to create a level playing field
  - Developing common tools (IT, forecasting...)
  - Helping to overcome financial barriers through common financing

1.250 REScoops from  
12 Member States  
300.000 citizens  
1.100 direct jobs  
Total investment 2  
billion euro



# Barriers to financing

## Specific to REScoops

- Varying political support / Legal frameworks
- Perceived lack of legitimacy as market players
- Access to equity / public offering regulation

## Critical for small RES projects

- Access to the grid costly and lengthy
- Unstable regulation / lengthy administrative procedures
- In some countries, additional regulatory burdens against presuming



# REScoop MECISE



Project Development Assistance project (Horizon 2020 – EASME)  
Ecopower (BE), Som Energia (ES), Courant d'Air (BE), Enercoop (FR), Energy4All (UK), REScoop.eu (BE)

Renewable Energy

Energy Efficiency

Private houses of the members

Public buildings of local authorities

European Revolving Fund





# REScoop MECISE



## Option 1

Starters have projects, lack financial means

REScoops have financial means, but sometimes lack projects

> **European revolving fund**: could balance demand & supply

## Option 2

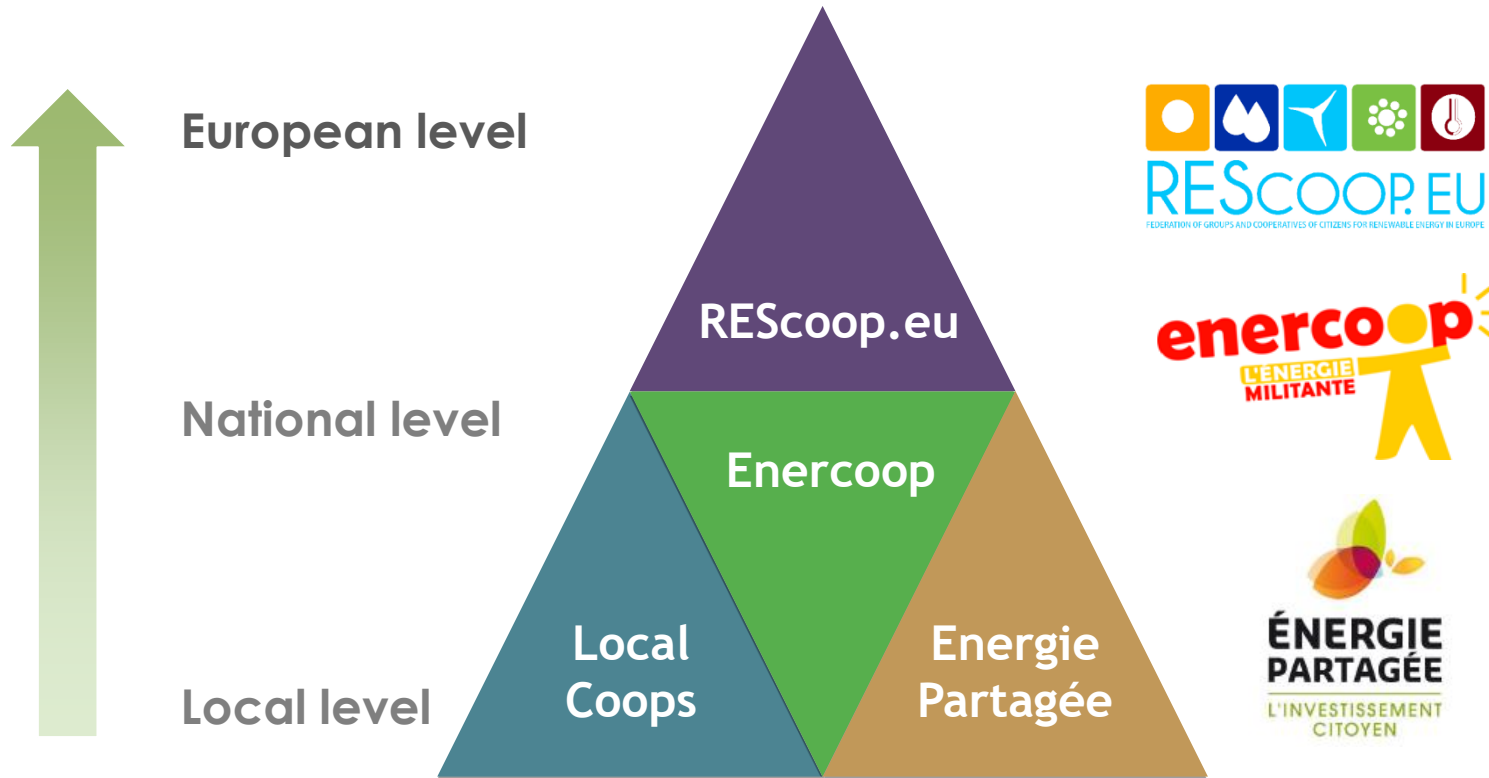
Scale up the size of community projects and improve financing

> **Pooling the projects of individual REScoops** & applying for better financing conditions from e.g. EIB.





# Integrating local, national & European levels







# Enercoop: energy for+by citizens

**100% renewable energy supplier since 2005**



Wind



Biomass



Hydro



PV Solar

## **SCIC: Société Coopérative d'Intérêt Collectif**

**1 person = 1 vote** – have a say in decisions

**Reinvest profits** in new projects

All stakeholders represented (producers, consumers and community) in the structure

## **Wider goals...**

Trigger local cooperative **investment** in RES

Disseminate **demand management** tools

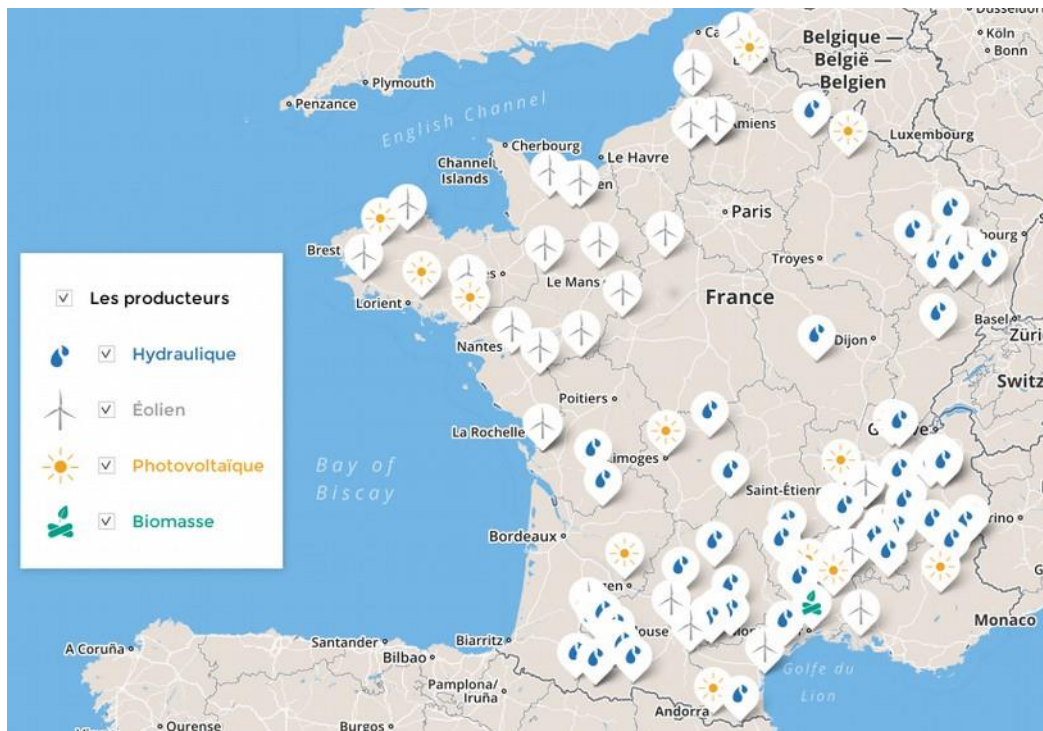
Collaborate with public authorities and promote better regulation at national and European levels





# Enercoop: Producers & Consumers

Enercoop is the largest supplier of 100% green electricity in France, with **18000 members and 30000 consumers.**



- Enercoop's producers: **120 Gwh/year (2015)**
- **100 producers:**
  - 62 Hydro power
  - 25 Wind power
  - 11 PV
  - 2 Biomass



# The Enercoop network



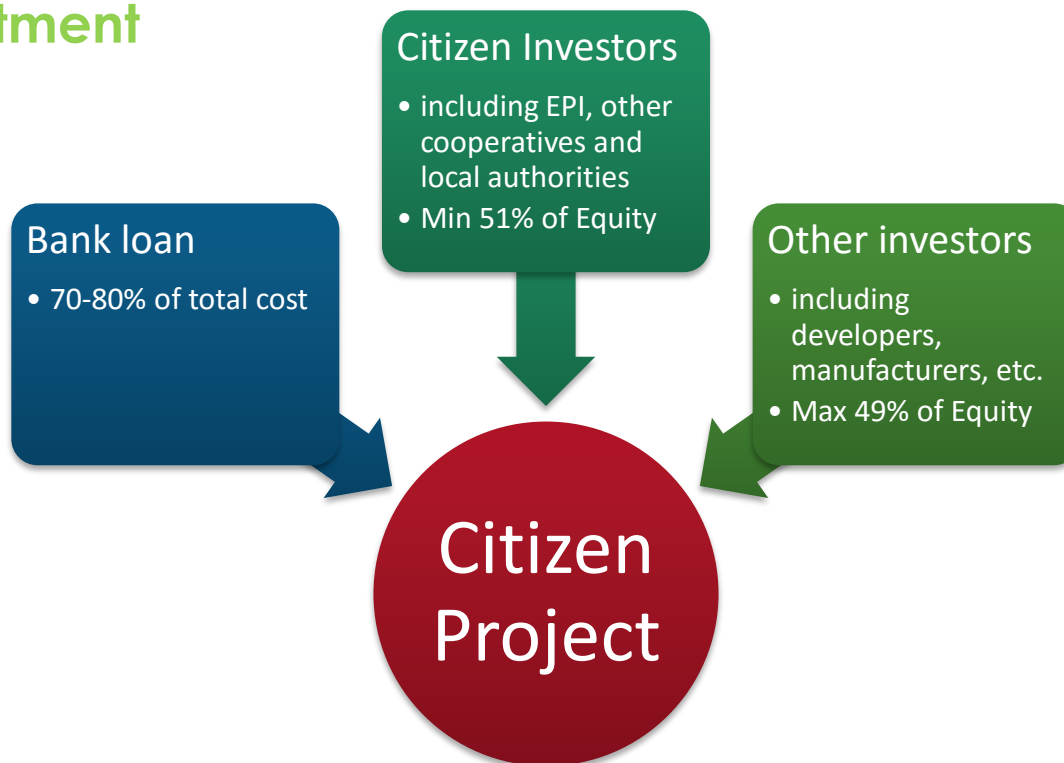
- Development of new local REScoops since 2009:
  - Adapt Enercoop offer to local conditions, closer link to members
  - Work with local authorities
  - Develop new RES investments
  - Energy efficiency & fuel poverty projects
- Enercoop is now a network of 10 regional cooperatives representing:
  - 100 employees
  - A turnover of 25 M€
  - 5 M€ in share capital

# Energie Partagée: Citizen Investment Tool

€ 10 million collected by end of 2015



## The investment scheme:





# Small local REScoops in France



## Combrailles Durables (Auvergne)

- Created 2009, 230 members
- 1 907 m<sup>2</sup> of PV cells installed on 11 PV plants
- 305 MWh/year produced
- 587 000 € invested

## Energ' éthique 04 (Provence)

- Created in 2012, 65 members
- 2 PV plants installed, 22.5 MWh/yr
- 74 000 € invested



## Zusamme Solar (Alsace):

a French-German cooperation, 400 kW, 430 MWh/yr  
2600 m<sup>2</sup> PV on 4 Industrial buildings in Colmar inaugurated 2015



# Prosuming projects in France

## Soleil du Grand Ouest (Bretagne)

- Created 2015
- 249 kWp of PV
- 305 MWh/year produced
- 200 000 € invested by citizens





# Policy recommendations

We are at the start of an energy transition

Fossil & nuclear energy → renewable energy

Centralised energy system → decentralised

Inefficient → efficient

Passive consumers → prosumers

Citizens can do much more than just pay for this transition!





# Policy recommendations

- EU-wide right to produce green energy individually and collectively
  - Citizens should be encouraged to jointly own and exploit RES installations
- Avoid barriers to self-consumption of RES produced
  - Citizens should be encouraged to produce, store and use their own energy
- Fair access to the grid and value for the surplus of production
  - Energy transmission & distribution should be truly non-discriminatory
- Enhanced recognition of the benefits of REScoops in law and financing
- Clear and stable RES framework that does not impose undue burdens





# Thank you !



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# Appendix: a quick European tour

## Belgium

High population density

High consumer electricity prices

Space to erect wind turbines is limited

A rush on wind by project developers

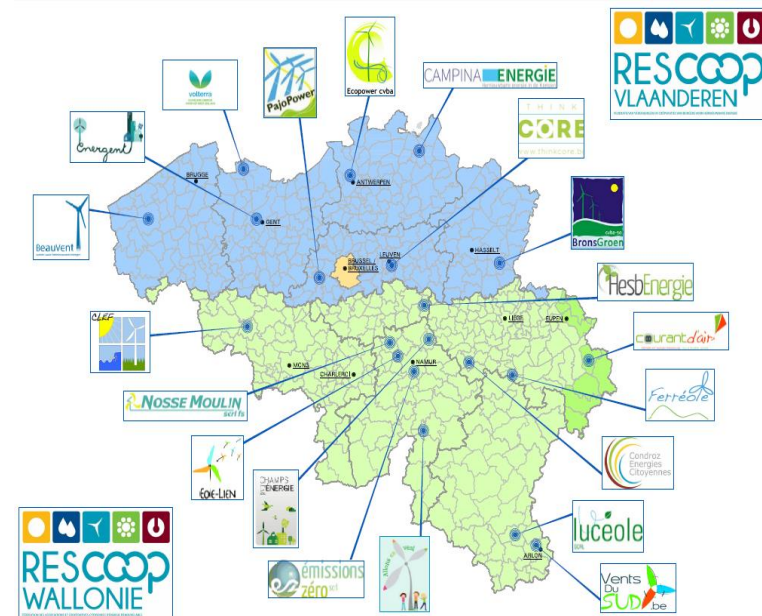
Supportive guidelines and decrees

Wallonia: le cadre de référence (24,99%)

Provincial level: 10% + 10%

20 REScoops

2 Regional federations





# A quick European tour

## United Kingdom

New government not supportive of onshore wind

Practically no more onshore wind projects

Only support for offshore wind projects

About 100 REScoops in the UK

## Scotland

Government supportive of community energy

Target for RES owned by citizens (500 MW) achieved in 2015

CARES fund





# A quick European tour

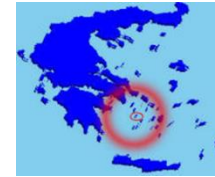
## Greece

State monopoly (PPC)

Non-interconnected islands use fossil fuel plants

Citizens on the mainland pays for the extra cost

Sifnos Island Cooperative



## Central and Eastern Europe

Very few REScoops

Prejudice/misunderstanding Vs “cooperatives”

Varying support for RES, let alone REScoops





# A quick European tour

## Italy

Old REScoops in the Alps

Hydro - smart grids & meters

Südtiroler Energie Verband (SEV)

Cooperative energy supplier (E Nostra)



## Spain

No more support for RES

SOM Energia

GoiEner – Energetica





# A quick European tour

## Germany

718 local REScoops

EWS owns its own local distribution grid

Erneuerbare Energiegesetz (supportive FiT) is now being replaced by tendering procedure



## Denmark

Majority of RES is coop-owned

Middelgrunden offshore wind coop

600 district heating cooperatives





# A quick European tour

## Netherlands

Postcoderoos: tax relief on energy bill (0,09 euro/kWh)

Hier Opgewekt & REScoopNL

Krammer project

Wind farm on a dike in Zeeland (100MW)

2 local REScoops

Support from supplier and a Canadian pension fund?

Why not keep it in the hands of local citizens ?

