



Co-funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe  
Programme of the European Union



## Lessons learned about citizens' engagement in the energy transition

*After three years of intensive work with local communities, local and EU policy-makers, and researchers, the REScoop 20-20-20 project will end at the end of this month. Lots of lessons have been learned and during the project positive concrete tools have been produced to support the creation of Renewable Energy Sources Cooperatives (REScoops) across Europe. A closing seminar focusing on policy recommendations will take place in Brussels on Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>. The project, supported by the Intelligent Energy Europe Programme of the European Union has constituted a unique springboard to give the citizen-led energy transition movement a truly European scale.*

**Berchem, Belgium, 10<sup>th</sup> March 2015** – The basic principle behind REScoop 20-20-20 was a simple one: **to enable direct and sustained interaction between citizens leading successful initiatives and citizens interested in creating new REScoops in dialogue with policy-makers and researchers.** The goal was to help avoid many of the problems that delay or even derail REScoop projects while increasing awareness about what has been achieved in other neighbouring countries and what is at risk if citizens decide not to act now. A **final policy seminar will take place in Brussels on March 26<sup>th</sup>** with Members of the Parliament, project members and other actors.

In addition to creating events bringing together all these players, **REScoop 20-20-20 also produced concrete outputs** (e.g. Best practice report; Business models report; Financial barriers and existing solutions report; an Action Guide for citizens; a Handbook on investment schemes for REScoop projects...), nested **15 pilot initiatives**, launched a **Mentors' Network**, and supported the establishment of the **Sustainable Energy Youth Network** working with young people across Europe in summer camps and pilot initiatives. A **final booklet and a short animation film** are currently under production and will be launched at the project final seminar.

Therefore, after 36 months of hectic activity, the question of whether REScoops may help EU member states to reach its renewable energy goals has been answered positively. Europe has member states with favorable environments for REScoops like Denmark or Germany, where more than 50% of the RES-energy is community owned, and 20% of its electricity output originated in renewable sources already in 2010. In some other regions with a REScoop tradition in the past, they have recently encountered some barriers and still promising initiatives continue to emerge: in the Italian Alps, over 77 existing REScoops produce over 500 millions of green KWh for 80,000 citizens in 110 small municipalities. In other countries like Spain where only one REScoop existed in 2012 there are now four operating ones and several in the pipeline. The enormous awareness-raising and networking effort carried out by members of the REScoop 20-20-20 consortium has yielded very positive results and the change of mentality needed to implement an energy transition is now under way although a lot remains to be done and will be continued by the European federation of REScoops, REScoop.eu.

### Final seminar information

**Date:** Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015 - **Time:** 9:30-13:00 - **Venue:** Common Representation of the European Region Tyrol–South Tyrol–Trentino (Rue de Pascale 45-47, Brussels, Belgium)

**Registration** (capacity limited to 70 participants): Daan Creupelandt ([daan.creupelandt@ecopower.be](mailto:daan.creupelandt@ecopower.be))

**Press contact:** Rocío Nogales and Dirk Vansintjan ([info@rescoop.eu](mailto:info@rescoop.eu)) - All resources available at [www.rescoop.eu](http://www.rescoop.eu).

The project REScoop 20-20-20 is supported by the Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) program of the European