

## **Panel Session REScoop PLUS – Energy Efficiency as a base for the deployment of Energy Communities**

Cooperative members are reducing their energy consumption upon joining a REScoop. This was conclusion was reached by several REScoops (Renewable Energy Cooperatives), also known as 'energy communities', around Europe. The REScoop PLUS Project has aimed to verify this assumption, and to get a better understanding why participating in a REScoop fosters this behavioral change. Specifically, the project identifies and measures best practices, allows REScoops to share their knowledge, improve activities to engage citizens in energy efficiency actions, and to disseminate them to other supplying REScoops across Europe. The objective of REScoop PLUS is to help REScoops in Europe go beyond their activities of producing and supplying renewable energy and take up energy savings as a new pillar within their organisation. Currently, the REScoop Plus Project is creating a toolkit with a range of best practice products like communication tools, ICT tools for better measurements, and new business models that support energy savings behaviour of their member-consumers.

During the project, our team has worked to uncover the legal and cultural barriers that could prevent the REScoops to implement this toolkit. We have worked to structure our expert group and ensure that our implementation strategies are tested and future-proof. We have worked with local citizens group and policy makers to ensure that our tools are fitting the needs and the expectations of the local citizens. REScoop PLUS has become the Energy Efficiency related arm of REScoop.eu, and offered a new way to think and deliver a sustainable system for our members and their communities. This year, the project is proposing a toolkit of energy efficiency measure to implement in renewable energy cooperatives. This toolkit is composed of tools targeted toward energy savings, behavior change and more efficient infrastructure. This toolkit and its expert network will continue to grow and support energy efficiency in the cooperative. This is one more step in the direction of a sustainable and democratic energy system for REScoops.

### **Concept**

The aim of these panels is to discuss the role of the energy communities in the construction of an efficient energy system. The REScoop PLUS have selected, tested and deploy best practices to support citizens group to leverage energy efficiency in their business models. This has the double benefit of encouraging the citizens participation while achieving the 2030 European targets set by the European Commission. We divided the session in two panels that are each pointed toward a specific issue related to Energy Efficiency: Energy Savings (linked to behavior change) and District Heating (linked with infrastructure development).

During this session we will bring together Energy Efficiency experts from the energy communities around Europe to discuss the following topics:

- The specific added value of citizen's projects to encourage energy efficiency
- The key success factors that they implemented in their community to favor more efficient behavior



- The path forward for the energy communities to work toward a more integrated and renewable energy system – with energy efficiency as a strong base.

The panels will be moderated by a member of the team of REScoop.eu, the federation of renewable energy groups and cooperatives. The session will be introduced by the researchers of the University of Twente and the Technical University of Crete. Those research institutions have carried a statistical and behavioral analysis of the cooperative engagement and of the best practices to achieve more energy efficient behaviors from the cooperative members.

### **Tentative Agenda**

09:00 - 09:15 : Energy Efficiency in the Community Energy movement - presentation of the REScoop PLUS project - Stanislas d'Herbemont (REScoop.eu)

09:15 - 09:30 : Statistical Evidence of the behavior changes in REScoops - Pr. Theocharis Tsousos (Technical University of Crete)

09:30 - 09:45 : Exploring energy saving policy measures by renewable energy supplying cooperatives. Pr. Frans Cohen (University of Twente)

09:45 - 10:30 : Panel Session on the best practices in the District Heating - Rie Krabsen (EBO Consult) / Christoph Larch (SEV) / Karel Deveau (Ecopower)

10:30 - 10:45 : COFFEE BREAK

10:45 - 11:35 : Panel Session on the best practices in Energy Savings - Mohamed Sifoui (Enercoop) / Marc Rosello (Som Energia) / Vincent Diedrick (Energie ID) / Jim William (Ecopower)

02:35 - 03:00 : Discussions with the experts (tables discussions)

Total Duration : 180 minutes

