

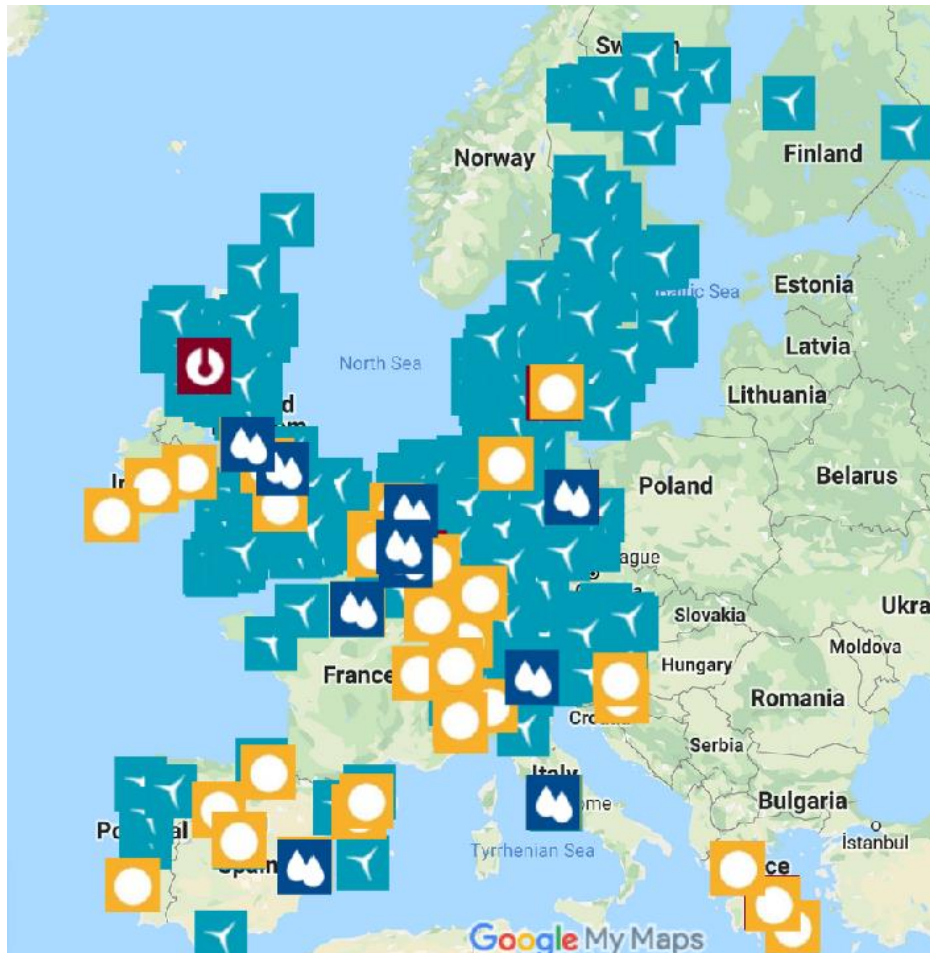
# Smart Villages and Renewable Energy Communities



Dirk Vansintjan  
president of  
REScoop.eu

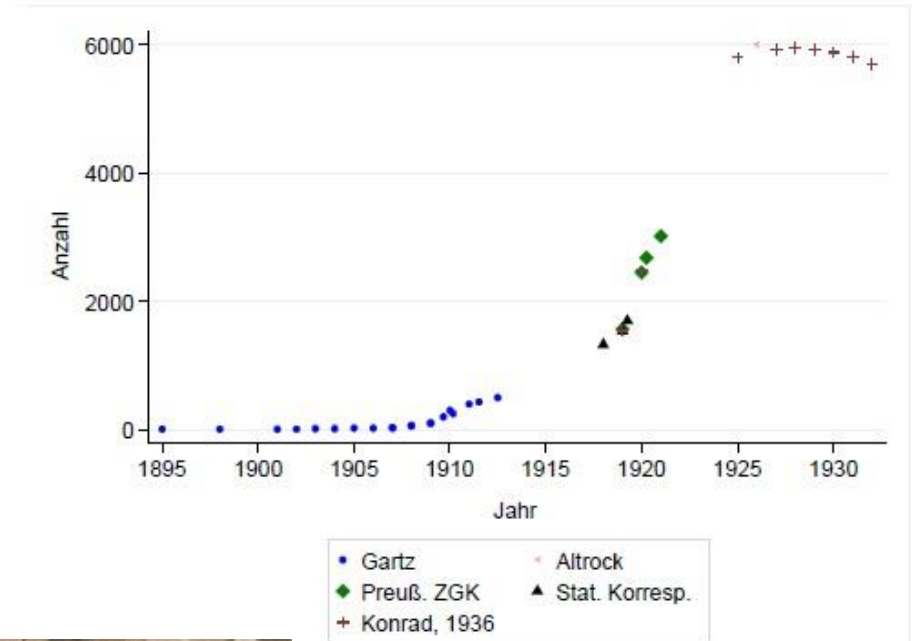
Brussels  
22/01/2020

# REScoops are renewable/citizen energy communities





- Renewable Energy Sources cooperatives
- Community Energy
- Community Power
- Energy citizens
- ECCO's
- More than 3500 REScoops
- Mainly NW-Europe
- Almost none in Eastern Europe
- 1500 represented by REScoop.eu
- Growing network
- Community Power Coalition in Brussels
- NOT A NEW CONCEPT

# REScoops: some old... survived



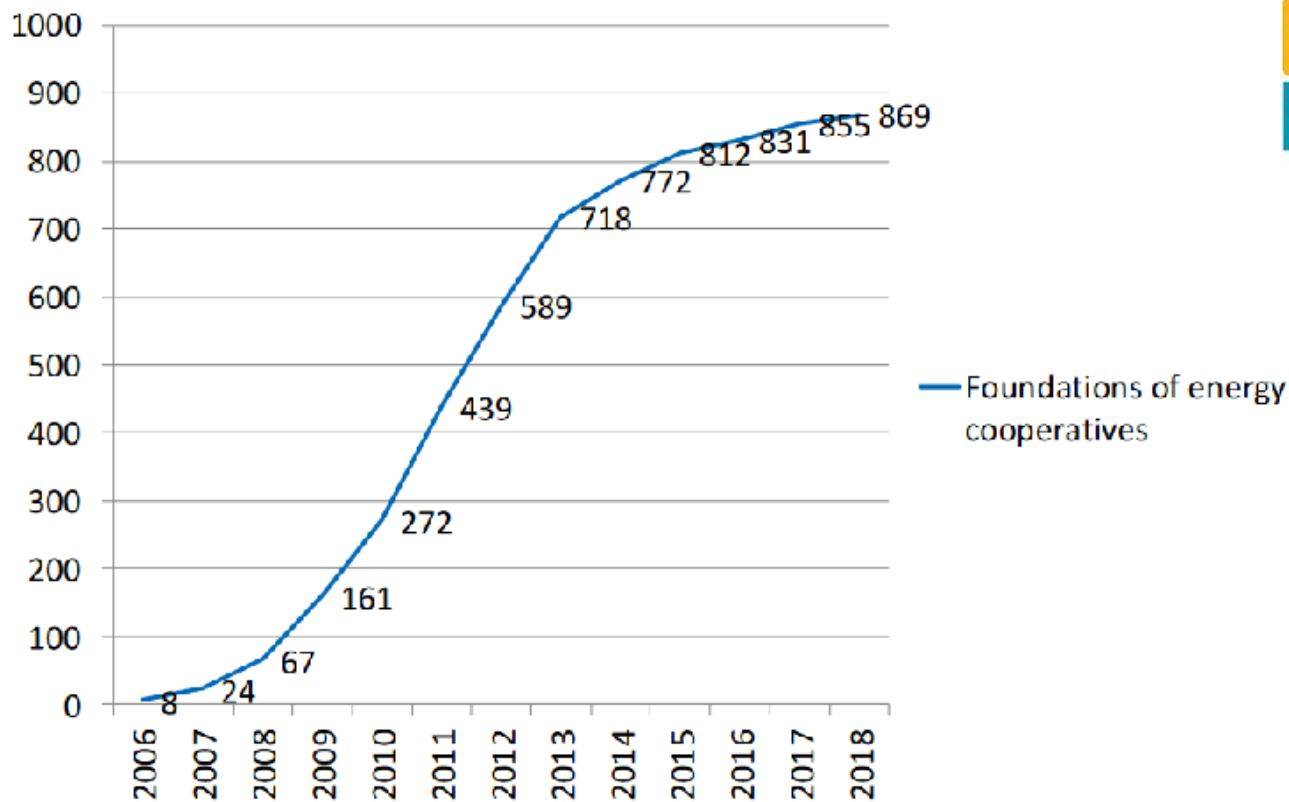
<https://eg-roethenbach.de>

# Diverse activities of REScoops

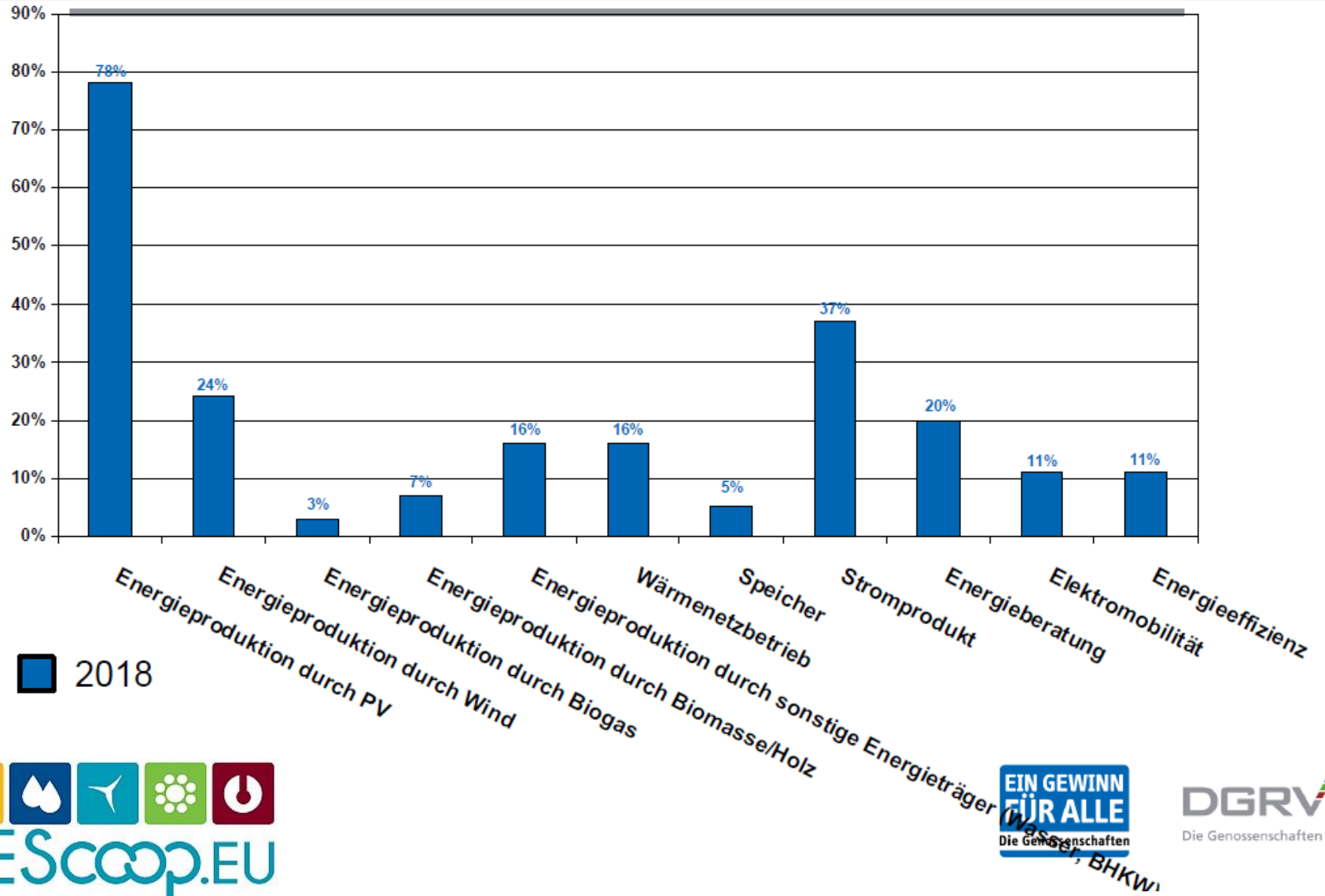
<p><b>Production</b></p>	<p>Members of:</p>  
<p><b>Supply</b></p>	 
<p><b>Distribution</b></p>	
<p><b>Services (EE, ICT)</b></p>	 
<p><b>Electrical vehicle sharing</b></p>	 
<p><b>Financing</b></p>	 

# REScoops: most new and small, e.g. in Germany

## Foundations of energy cooperatives since 2006 (cumulated)



# What do these German REScoops do?



# What about Denmark?

## The land of energy cooperatives!

- According to a survey in 1996 there were around **2100 wind cooperatives** in the country. [\[105\]](#)
- The Danish District Heating Association has more than 400 companies who account for 99% of the supply of district heating – heat comfort for
  - 1,7 million Danish homes (64%)
- 50 municipality owned utilities and companies who has a supply of 70% of all district heating
- Around **340 cooperatives owned by the consumers**. Many are in the process of merging to fewer and larger cooperatives
- Almost all 49 Danish DSO's are consumer owned (de facto coops).

# Roll out of rural ECCO's: Energy Community COoperatives



Ecco creates new local energy community co-operatives



# Roll out of rural ECCO's: Energy Community COoperatives

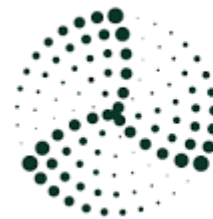
Bioenergiedorf Oberrospe (DE)



Licht groups in province of Flemish Brabant (BE): aggregation to tackle ELENA hurdle of 30 M€

# REScoops want to leave no one behind

Eeklo (BE): tackle problem of energy poverty/budget meters



# The Clean Energy Package

a policy foundation for energy communities

**Acknowledgment:**  
definitions of renewable  
and citizens energy communities

**A set of basic rights**  
to participate  
in the market based  
on  
non-discrimination

**Enabling Framework**  
to promote  
& facilitate  
development of  
energy communities

**Equal footing**  
in accessing  
renewables  
support schemes

**Proportional  
regulatory treatment**  
simplification of  
administration and  
procedures

+

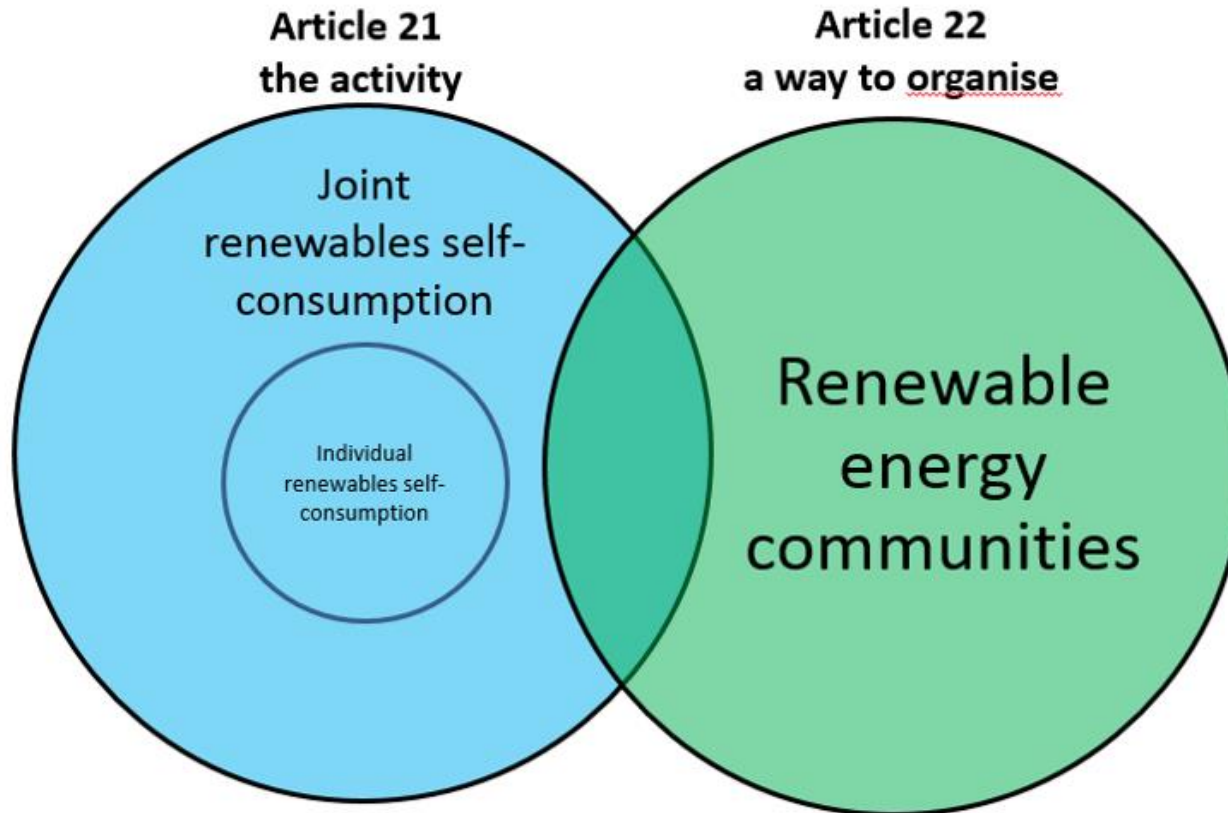
**Energy Union Governance:**  
monitoring & transparency of Member State action

# Energy community definitions: an organisational concept

- Legal entity
- Non-commercial purpose
- Open and voluntary membership
- Emphasis on participation by citizens, SMEs and public authorities
- Emphasis on 'effective control' by members not engaged in the energy sector
- For RECs: requirement for autonomy



# Link between renewable energy communities and self-consumption:



*\* National frameworks need to distinguish activities from business model/organisation*

# Allowing energy communities to operate across the market

## In practice: GREEK law on energy communities

- Generation, storage, self-consumption or sale of electric, thermal or cooling energy from RES and CHP plants.
- Supply of energy products to reduce energy consumption and use of conventional fuels and improve energy efficiency.
- Supply of members with electric vehicles & vehicles burning natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas or biogas.
- Distribution of electricity, or thermal / cooling energy.
- Supply of electricity or natural gas
- Demand management to reduce end-use of electricity.
- Development, management and operation of EV charging stations

## In practice: Lithuania's draft legislation

- Sale or transfer (sharing) of energy produced by community facilities
- Supply of heat and power
- Production and sale of electricity directly or on organized markets

# Ensure communities are not excluded from support schemes

***Member States must take into account ‘specificities of REC’s’ when designing support schemes – must be allowed to compete on equal footing***

## ***Just some examples:***

- ***Provision of information, technical and financial support***
- ***Reduce administrative requirements***
- ***Community-based bidding criteria***
- ***Tailored bidding windows for RECs***

***For small installations, exemptions from auctions/tenders & direct price support schemes (sliding or fixed market premium )***

***May adapt support schemes for islands and outermost regions***

# An equal footing in renewables support schemes

## Ireland

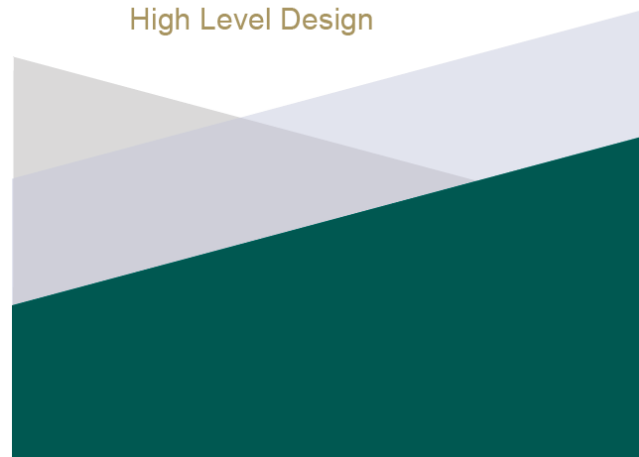
- Financial support for early phases of development for community-led projects
- Separate 'community' category in Ireland's auction scheme (up to 10%)
- Mandatory investment by communities into all projects seeking State support
- Project support (e.g. financial, legal, technical advice – public & private)

## Scotland and its Community Energy sub-target and CARES Scheme



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

Renewable Electricity Support  
Scheme (RESS)  
High Level Design





# An enabling framework for renewable energy communities

***Member States must assess potential, and existing barriers***

***Member States must develop enabling framework to ‘ensure’, inter alia:***

- Reduction of unjustified regulatory and administrative barriers
- Non-discriminatory treatment
- Fair, proportionate, and transparent licensing and registration procedures & charges
- Tools to facilitate access to finance and information are available
- Ensure a ‘just’ transition – ensure access for citizens that are vulnerable, low-income, tenants
- Capacity building for municipalities/local authorities so they can support, and participate in, renewable energy communities
- DSOs must cooperate to facilitate exchange of RES within the community
- Communities that supply or provide aggregation services subject to relevant provisions

# Recommendations

- 1) The definitions:
  - Keep flexible/open for different activities
  - Tailor to national context (go beyond simple copy-paste approach)
- 2) Bike lanes for RECs in renewables support schemes
- 3) Clear, simple and proportionate regulatory frameworks for specific activities such as collective self-consumption and energy sharing
- 4) Open and participatory national assessment of potential and barriers for RECs as the basis of developing enabling frameworks

*If you want to know more,  
please contact us!*

*Dirk Vansintjan*

president

[dirk.vansintjan@rescoop.eu](mailto:dirk.vansintjan@rescoop.eu)

@REScoopEU

