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## The power to face the energy and climate challenge

Sara Capuzzo

Last November the **European Commission** has launched its “**winter package**” with a set of proposals focusing on **three main goals**: putting energy efficiency first, achieving global leadership in renewable energies and providing a fair deal for consumers.

The Commission expect the EU **to lead the clean energy transition** from fossil to renewable sources, **not only adapt to it**, and **consumers** are addressed as active and central players on the energy markets of the future. **They are the real drivers of the transition process.**

Earlier last year Greenpeace, Friends of the earth, EREF and RESCoop.eu commissioned to CE Delft a research on the **contribution of european energy citizens in 2030 and 2050** to renewable energy production and demand side flexibility.

According to the CE Delft projections, published in the study “**The potential of energy citizens in the EU**”, with favourable policies by 2030 households, energy cooperatives, small enterprises and public entities could overall produce the 19% of EU total electricity consumption. By mid century this quote could arise up to 45% of total electricity demand. More than **1/3** of this amount (37%) is expected to come from **RES Coops** throughout Europe (39% SMEs, 21% households, 1% local entities).

Given the **EU commitment to cut CO2 emissions by at least 40% by 2030** and considering that **achieving energy and climate targets** could unlock up to a **1% increase in EU GDP**, create some **900.000 new jobs** and ensure a **better quality of life and environment**, it sounds clear that it's definitely time, for each of the involved stakeholder, to **roll up his own sleeves and speed up the transition** with tools, technologies and skills available.

**And here it comes, the beginning of our story**

On **2014**, the awareness of this urgency and the will to create a **trustworthy**



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**collective entity operating on RES** led to the birth of *ènostra* coop. Founded thanks to the **EU project RESCoop20-20-20**, financed by the IEE Program, *ènostra* is now the **first national not for profit and democratic renewable energy supplier in Italy**. A **citizens energy initiative** - promoted by Avanzi, Retenergie and EnergoClub – aimed at **enhancing the amount of renewables on the global production and consumption** and reducing waste of energy, thus **contributing to transition to a low carbon energy system**.

On **2015** *ènostra* has become member of the **EU REScoop Federation** and on **March 2016** it started delivering renewable electricity with Guarantees of Origin. At date it supplies about **900 members<sup>1</sup>**, both **households** and **SMEs**, with special tariffs reserved to **third sector enterprises**.

From our point of view **not all renewable plants are necessarily sustainable**. Thus to make sure that the energy sold to its members is either sustainable and ethical, *ènostra* developed **its own assessment tool**, with the supervision and validation of a **Scientific Committee**. This “**sustainability matrix**” is applied both to photovoltaic, wind and hydro plants to be selected and to their owners. Among the **exclusion criteria**, the tool assesses, for instance that a photovoltaic system does not subtract land for agricultural use or that the producer is not involved in fossil power production, nor has economic connection or interests on fossil fuels, thus **encouraging a divestment approach**. On one hand this choice aims at **avoiding bare green washing practices**, and on the other it **supports renewable energy production** with particular favour for collective and socially accepted plants.

Given its nature and specific profile, in a **liberalized market** characterized by aggressive and unscrupulous sellers, *ènostra* has the privilege of being perceived as **trustworthy, reliable, transparent** and **close to its members** and customers. The recent service 'stop to frauds' is an example of the **dialogue with our community** and shows how *ènostra* **marks the**

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<sup>1</sup> In order to become members, citizens and organizations have to buy 5 cooperative shares (par value 25 euro plus 5 euro of share premium).



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**difference with traditional providers.** Our members share with us the attempts of fraud they have suffered and, by using their experiences, *ènostra* takes the chance to **disseminate correct information** about how energy market works in order to **prevent potential new hoaxes** to the detriment of consumers, either member or not.

Day after day the Cooperative is **building strong and longlasting networks** among **similar organizations** and a **deep commitment** of a variety of local and national **media partners** with a common vision and will. Thanks to the experience and the synergy with our partners, for 2017 we are planning **big steps forward for the benefit of our community**. We'll help members to reduce their overall consumption with services of **energy auditing** and **efficiency solutions**, we'll help **improving auto-consumption** of households and SMEs **PV systems**, we'll introduce **opportunities** and **tariffs** for **electric mobility**, we'll develop **projects to start local production of energy** for our members.

Despite the anachronistic **U-turn towards fossil** sources of the United States energy policy, or maybe as a positive rebound, few days ago the **Irish Parliament** has voted to **fully divest public money from fossils**, meaning that as soon as it'll be turned into law, 8 billions euros will be redirected to low carbon alternatives. On 2016 the **International Energy Agency** has confirmed the **decoupling of global emissions and economic growth for the second subsequent year**. Tall signs that transition and decarbonisation are not just a dream anymore.

To conclude my speech, I'd like to tell you the inspiring story of **Boyan Slat** and of his **ambitious project**. At the age of 19 his passion for sailing and diving led Boyan to wonder about possible solutions to remove the huge garbage islands polluting the oceans. In one year time he gathered together a huge team of researchers and experts trusting in his project "**The Ocean Cleanup**". In **100 days** of crowdfunding campaign, **2 million \$** have been collected for construction and testing of large-scale operational pilots of the system. Now the team is working hard on its long-term goal to initiate the full-scale **cleanup of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch by 2020**. Let's say that Boyan has taken pretty seriously his own dream.

Our hope, and wish, is that private stakeholders, energy communities,



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critical consumers, local authorities, civil society, government and EU institutions become aware that the **power to face the energy and climate challenge is in our own hands**, no matter of what happens in the USA. We just need to take seriously our ambitious dream and go for it. Thank you

Sara Capuzzo  
Vicepresident *ènostra*