

How citizen cooperatives can finance Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans (SECAP)

Date: 16 October 2017, 10:30 – 12:00 | Webinar | [Registration](#)

*Are you a local authority looking for innovative ways to finance your energy and climate action plan? Are you struggling in finding your way among loans, market mechanisms and corporate banks? **Do you want to learn more about how citizens can help you financing energy and climate projects?** This webinar is for you!*

This webinar will provide an overview of the possible ways local authorities can collaborate with energy cooperatives. Through the example of the City of Ghent participants will learn from a Covenant of Mayors signatory how successful cooperation can be established.

Background

Energy cooperatives refer to a business model where citizens jointly own and participate in renewable energy (RES) or energy efficiency (EE) projects. In energy cooperatives citizens are involved in both the decision making and financial & economical participation. All citizens are eligible to participate. After purchasing a cooperative share and becoming a member or co-owner of local RES and EE projects, members share in the profits and often are given the opportunity to buy the electricity at a fair price. In addition, members can actively participate in the cooperative: they can decide in what and where the cooperative should invest, and are consulted when setting the energy price.

Born mostly as cooperatives investing in renewables, energy cooperatives all around Europe are starting teaming up with local authorities to invest more and more also in energy efficiency, heating installations and smart energy management systems.

Agenda

- 10:30 *Introduction* by Giustino Piccolo (Covenant of Mayors Office)
- 10:40 *What do cooperatives have to offer to local authorities?* by Dirk Vansijntjan (REScoop.eu)
- 11:10 *Local authorities working together with energy cooperatives: the case of the City of Ghent (Belgium)* by Sofie Verhoeven (City of Ghent)
- 11:40 Q&A
- 12:00 End