

# Digital Cooperation Lab

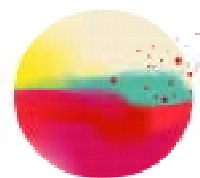
Matchmaking of  
cities and civil society

**28-29 April 2021**

Workbook



European  
Climate  
Foundation



ENERGYCITIES

# Organisation & funding

**This event was made possible thanks to financial assistance from the European Climate Foundation.**

The European Climate Foundation (ECF) is an international non-profit organization whose aims are to promote climate and energy policies that reduce Europe's greenhouse gas emissions and help Europe play a stronger international leadership role in mitigating climate change. In 2019, the ECF launched its Energy Democracy program that primarily focuses on the support of community energy projects both at the EU and national levels. ECF works together with partners from 7 member states together with the 3 most important international NGOs in the field to make the most of the fertile ground and to coordinate an EU wide movement of citizens that demand to be actively involved in and benefit from clean energy solutions.

<https://europeanclimate.org>

**The cooperation lab is prepared and hosted by Energy Cities.**

Energy Cities is a network of 1,000 local governments in 30 countries. We believe that the energy transition is about more than renewable energy or great technologies: It is about a wise use of resources while strengthening local participation and well-being in a democratic Europe.

[www.energy-cities.eu](http://www.energy-cities.eu)

**The virtual host city in 2021: Valencia.**

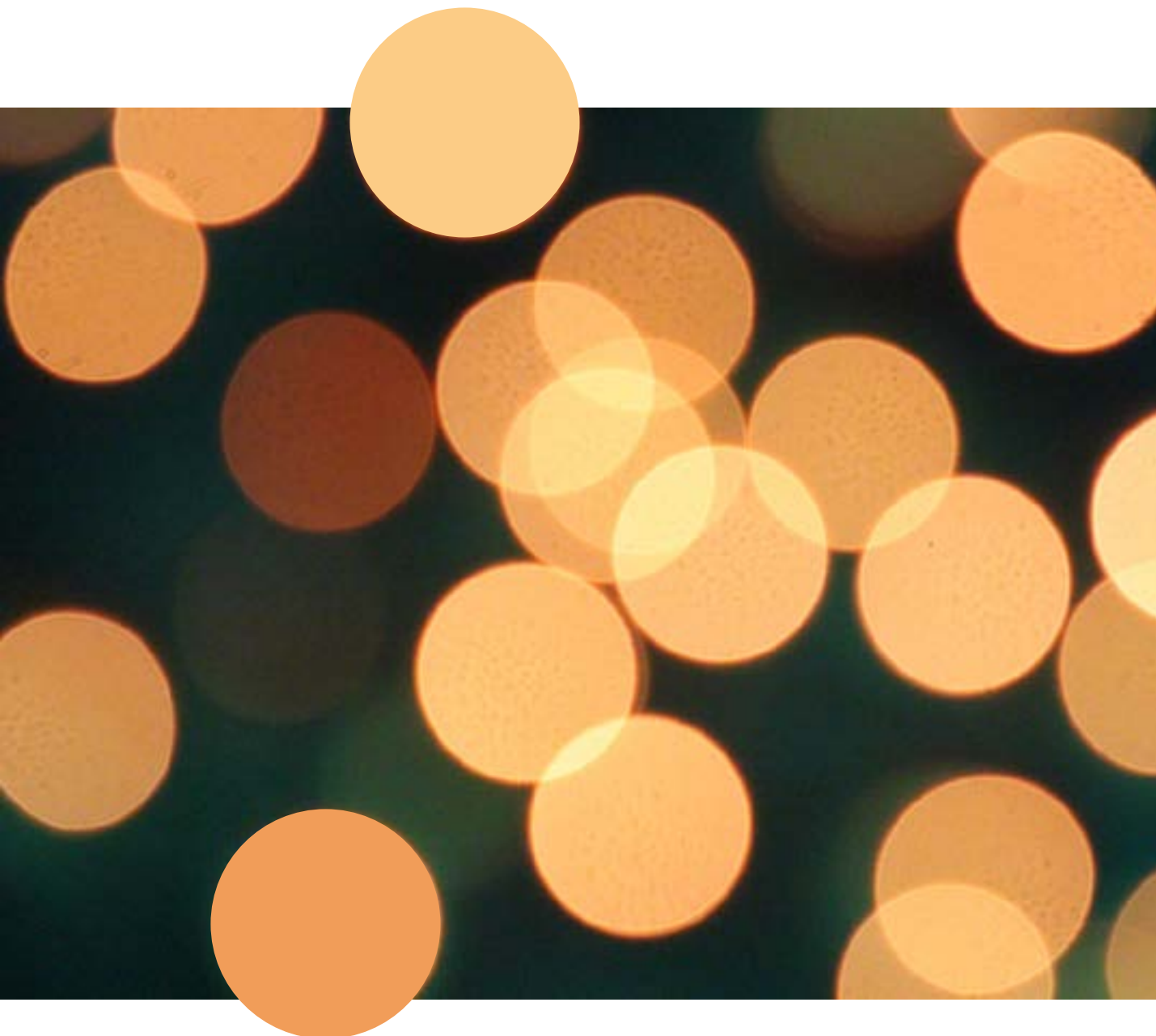
This year, the lab will be virtually hosted by the City of Valencia. For Valencia's political leaders, it has always been vital to reinforce solidarity networks and the social fabric that exist in the city, and to promote participatory processes and citizen participation based on these networks. The city is promoting participatory processes to collaboratively design the city's energy transition strategy for 2030 and 2050, for example within the TOMORROW project, with the support of Energy Cities and other European cities.

<https://energy-cities.eu/weaving-the-energy-question-into-the-social-fabric/>



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# Background

**Never before has the need for local resilience and solidarity mechanisms been stronger. The present health crisis affects our sanitary system but when it comes to energy provision and climate change, immunity to external shocks is an equally urgent and important imperative. Renewable energy communities are an extraordinary opportunity to provide this, especially now that they are legally defined in and protected by EU legislation.**

## European definition and legal framework

### Renewable/citizen energy communities

In accordance with the renewable energy directive, which is currently being transposed across EU countries, these communities should benefit from a national enabling framework and Member States should assess and lift any obstacles they may face.

To be recognized as “energy communities”, the new entities should comply with several specific criteria. The renewable and electricity directives (currently being revised to make sure measures are in line with the new 2030 climate target) both define the new legal entity as:

- Oriented towards the pursuit of local socio-economic benefits rather than profit
- Being effectively controlled by shareholders that are natural persons, local authorities or SMEs
- Being based on open, voluntary participation

The definition in the electricity directive opens opportunities to citizen energy communities to access all energy markets including energy efficiency services, balancing, storage, etc. Importantly, the renewable directive also calls on national governments to build the capacity of regional and local authorities concerning mainstreaming energy communities.

### National Energy and Climate Plans

As part of the reporting exercise on their 2030/2050 National Energy and Climate Plans, EU Member States are supposed to set up a permanent dialogue with their local authorities and civil society to jointly discuss possible scenarios. This dialogue platform shall also serve as an opportunity to report any obstacle linked to the implementation of community energy projects and strategies.

### Covenant of Mayors: new focus on citizen participation

The EU Covenant of Mayors initiative has been revised as well in line with the climate neutrality commitment (and new 55% target) and has been given a renewed focus on citizen participation through the development of “local climate pacts”.

Cities that are at the forefront of developing citizen energy projects and policies will thus be better placed to meet future Covenant of Mayors targets for citizen participation. They will be able to showcase their best practices through the various channels of the initiative, including the yearly European ceremony in the EU Parliament, and be recognized as frontrunners.

## Cities-citizens partnerships: Overview of existing models

To support energy democracy and citizen energy projects, local authorities can act at different levels. We would like to highlight 4 key strands of actions, which will be explored through this Cooperation Lab:



### **Policy & regulatory push**

Taking the political commitment to support citizen energy and adopting related programs, regulations and policies in local and regional strategies and action plans.

### **Financing & in-kind support**

Developing specific financing (loans, subsidies, grants, guarantees) to support the start-up, project development and operating costs of projects. Or provide non-monetary support (land or physical resources).

### **Capacity building**

Creating technical, awareness and methodological tools and guidance material to support citizen energy projects.

### **Joining an energy community**

Becoming an active member of a renewable / citizen community energy by taking a share

# Cooperation lab concept

## The objectives

**At the end of the Cooperation Lab, the participants should:**

- Have a better understanding of all the socio-economic benefits (in terms of job and local value creation, tackling energy poverty, etc.) that come with a more citizen-oriented energy strategy.
- Feel better skilled to implement participatory and democratic energy practices in their area
- Have a better understanding of the recent EU opportunities with regards to renewable/citizen energy communities and influence a good transposition into national and local law
- Have committed to develop concrete projects/initiatives with local energy stakeholders.
- Have a better knowledge of and access to replicable case studies and other useful resources to better implement their energy democracy policies and strategy.
- Inform Energy Cities about any obstacles to the implementation of citizen energy projects, in order to jointly find possible solutions.

## Implementation approach

Six local authorities and their civil society representatives from three different European countries have been chosen to take part in this Cooperation Lab. The Italian cities will be represented by their joint office for sustainability UCSA.





## Cooperation lab: 2nd edition

In the autumn of 2020, Energy Cities organised a cooperation lab to support 3 European cities (Modena, Pamplona and Strasbourg) to collaborate with their stakeholders and develop a joint community energy project. The lab, originally planned as an in-person event, was eventually transformed into an online one. Nevertheless, it was very appreciated by the participants, and Energy Cities decided to repeat this experience in 2021.

## Valencia, Prague and UCSA

- On 28 and 29 April 2021, the cooperation lab will host 3 city cohorts: each civil servant will be with the cooperative/civil society organization of their choice.
- This second edition is designed in an empowering format focusing on outcome-oriented dialogue between diverse stakeholders from the following European cities: Valencia (ES), Prague (CZ), San Giuseppe Vesuviano, San Gennaro Vesuviano, Palma Campania and Striano (IT). The Italian cities will be represented by their joint office for sustainability (UCSA).
- The day and a half lab will involve a series of interactive, trust-building, and specific dialogue-based workshops to ensure that discussions showcase successful and groundbreaking approaches, and surface concrete challenges and opportunities to overcome them.
- The main outcome from this lab will be the development of a cooperation plan: each city cohort will discuss the substance of their possible cooperation and compare it with European peers. Participants will explore the basic elements needed to develop a joint and coordinated action plan for steps in the next 12 months.
- Community energy projects improve social cohesion and solidarity within the city.

# Lab agenda

**Wednesday, 28 April 2021**

**16:00 – 17:30 - Getting to know each other -**  
Login to <https://zoom.us/j/98411626432>

**Digital tours and introduction to each city** and current way cities and their partners work together: each city cohort has 20 minutes split into a presentation by the city and a presentation by the cooperative/civil society organisation.

**Short witness session** with participants from the 2020 lab:

- Gerard Pol Gili, Strasbourg Urban Area
- Claudia Carani, AESS Modena

**Thursday, 29 April 2021**

Login to <https://zoom.us/j/97350446783>

The goal is for the city cohorts to learn and share knowledge about EU and national legislation linked to energy communities. Cities and cooperatives/civil society groups will then work as peers to discuss cooperation models. The afternoon will be focused on city cohorts developing their very own draft cooperation plan (for a 1-year period at least) that will be shared with everyone allowing each group to be inspired and adapt their plan.

*Other online tools used in this session: Miro; Mentimeter.*

<b>Start at 8:45</b>	<b>Please connect slightly earlier!</b>
8:45 – 8:50	<b>Welcome and introduction</b> Alejandro Ramon, Councillor for Climate Emergency and Energy Transition, Valencia City Council
8:50 – 9:20	<b>EU and National legislation – obstacles and opportunities</b> Introduction to EU legislation and Community Power Coalition – Molly Walsh, Friends of the Earth EU Overview of Community energy legislation in - Spain: Assumpta Farran, ICAEN on behalf of Fundacion Renovables - CZ Republic: Tereza McLaughlin Váňová, SEMMO - Italy: Edoardo Zanchini, Legambiente 5 minutes Q&A
9:20 – 10:00	<b>Show and tell – all participants – facilitation by Energy Cities</b> Participants share their questions or things they struggle with. They will get feedback from peers + Energy Cities, REScoop.eu, Friends of the Earth Europe and European Climate Foundation
10:00 – 10:15	<b>Screen break</b>



	<b>Welcome back!</b>
10:15 – 10:45	<b>Energy communities cooperation models - overview</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to Community Power guidebook and European best practices from cities – Alix Bolle, Energy Cities</li> <li>• Current cooperation models – Sara Tachelet, RESCoop.eu</li> </ul> + 5 minutes Q&A
10:45 – 11:15	<b>What works well and what are current obstacles</b> 2 zoom groups: 1 break out group with civil servants, one group with cooperatives Each group spends time to discuss what is working well and what are the current obstacles for their sector. National partners + people from Energy Cities, FoEE, RESCoop may attend the breakout discussions to provide additional input or share examples.
11:15 – 11:30	Group feedback and key conclusions
11:30 – 14:00	<b>Lunch break</b>
<b>Final session – Cooperation plans</b>	
14:00 – 14:10	<b>Drafting a cooperation plan</b> Introduction and expectations – Energy Cities
14:10 – 15:15	<b>Just do it</b> The three city cohorts coproducing their cooperation plans on a Miro template, each in one break out room (but each group being ideally physically united in their respective cities – let’s try to keep this bit of human contact!)
15:15 – 15:30	<b>City cohort presentations</b> with comments on Miro – 5 minutes per cohort
15:30 – 16:00	<b>City cohort review and finalisation</b> Time for city cohorts to reflect and adapt plan in the final group work. Final moment to present changes if any... Define and communicate a next date where each city cohort meets for next steps
16:00 – 16:30	<b>Conclusions of the cooperation lab</b> + feedback on the event via mentimeter
<b>16:30</b>	<b>End of the lab</b>

### Your lab contact

**Miriam Eisermann**, [Miriam.eisermann@energy-cities.eu](mailto:Miriam.eisermann@energy-cities.eu)

**Sara Giovannini**, [sara.giovannini@energy-cities.eu](mailto:sara.giovannini@energy-cities.eu)

## Useful resources

**Community Energy:** A practical guide to reclaiming power

<https://energy-cities.eu/publication/community-energy/>

**The City Stories podcast**, including interviews with last year’s participants:

<https://soundcloud.com/energy-cities>

# The lab people

## Energy Management Department, Prague City Hall

[www.praha.eu](http://www.praha.eu)



### MILOSLAV FRANEK

Miloslav graduated in organic chemistry at the Charles University, Prague in 1988. First a research assistant in Water Research institute, he gained additional experience in an industrial gas company for about 14 years. As a sales director in the wastewater area, Miloslav joined the industrial pumps segment, later leading EPC supplier in Oil and Gas. Active in business mentoring for SME. Miloslav took part in manufacturing and engineering companies

developing international energy projects. He recently joined the energy management department of Prague City Hall.



### JAROSLAV KLUSÁK

Jaroslav holds a PhD from the University of Economics, Prague, Department of Environmental Economics (2006). Since 2020 he works as the energy manager of the City of Prague. Jaroslav has practical experience in municipal energy since 2004. He published many articles sharing knowledge from the energy and energy management field. He worked in national and international projects such as MODEL, Sustainable local energy indicators, MARUEL, MAESTRO,

READY 21, ProgRESsHEAT, POCACITO and others. He is a member of the Sustainable Energy Board of the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic. Since 2018, Jaroslav is a chairman of the Association of Local Energy Managers of the Czech Republic.

# Pra



## MICHAL ŠTOREK

After graduating from the Prague Industrial School, Automation Technology, Michal worked in ICT for 20 years, as a programmer, system engineer and system integrator. He led ICT projects. He also designed power and cooling systems for server rooms. In 2019, he started working as an energy manager at the City Hall of Prague 10. Since the beginning of this year, he has been a member of the team of the Department of Energy Manager at

Prague City Hall.

Michal expects that new ICT technologies for managing energy consumption, especially for heating, will enable even more efficient energy management in the near future: by intelligently identifying useless consumption, while maintaining the same comfort in offices and apartments.

## Czech Association of Local Energy Managers (SEMMO)

[www.semmo.cz](http://www.semmo.cz)



## TEREZA MCLAUGHLIN VÁŇOVÁ

Graduated from the Faculty of Social Sciences, West European Studies at Charles University (Prague). Currently she is responsible for project management and PR in the Association of Local Energy Managers. Tereza had worked at the Centre for Clean Technology and the Environment (CSTM) at the University of Twente, the Netherlands and at the Scottish University of Strathclyde at the Centre for Endangered Children (CELCIS). Between 2015-2020 she worked at the Czech Technical University in Prague, University Centre for Energy Efficient Buildings. She coordinated

the Energy Efficient Buildings platform (EEB-CZ), managing academia-industry relationships. She was also a principal investigator of three Interreg Europe projects, focused on financial instruments, renewables in industry and transitions to low-carbon districts.



**CARMEN CASTELLS**  
**Oficina de l'Energia**

Since 2019, Carmen works as a renewable energies technician at the municipal energy office of the city of València. She provides energy advice to citizens, especially on renewable energies, and she is a workshops facilitator. She also collaborates on the city's energy communities development. Carmen has a Mechanical Engineer Degree specialized in energy from the Polytechnic University of Valencia. She also holds a Diploma of Specialization in Sustainability, Ecological Ethics and Environmental Education by the Polytechnic University of Valencia. Carmen has previous work experience in a local energy agency as European project manager.



**CORENTIN GIRARD**  
**València Clima i Energia**

Corentin is technical officer at Valencia Climate and Energy Foundation since 2016, in charge of coordinating the local energy office of the city of Valencia and other European and local projects related to the ecological transition of the city. He holds a double PhD degree in Environmental Engineering at the Technical University of Valencia (Spain) and at the Montpellier Doctorate School of Economics and Management (France).



**ALEJANDRO GÓMEZ**  
**València Clima i Energia**

Alejandro is technical officer at the Valencia Climate and Energy Foundation since 2019, in charge of the projects Save the Homes (related to home energy retrofittings), and TOMORROW (related to the participatory development of València's Energy Transition Roadmap towards 2050). Alejandro holds a double Master's Degree in Renewable Energy Engineering from the Polytechnic University of Barcelona and the Technical Institute of Lisbon. He also has an energy engineer degree from the Polytechnic

University of Valencia.

**Sapiens Energia**

[www.sapiensenergia.es](http://www.sapiensenergia.es)



## JUAN SACRI

Juan Sacri is an industrial engineer, expert in the energy sector. From 2007 to 2015, he worked on different projects in the wind energy sector in Spain, the Netherlands and Germany. In 2015, he made a professional change, focusing on projects related to energy transition at local and regional level as he is convinced that initiatives to change the energy system must be carried out at these levels. Juan is currently the president of Sapiens Energía, a

Renewable Energy Community, constituted as a non-profit cooperative. Sapiens Energía is one of the pioneering organizations in the development and management of local energy communities in Spain. Juan Sacri also collaborates in the promotion of several collective renewable energy generation plants and with the Valencian Association of Energy Companies (AVAESEN), where he coordinates the Local Energy Communities Hub. Juan is part of the largest global network of social entrepreneurs, Ashoka.

**ICAEN/ Fundacion Renovables**

[www.icaen.gencat.cat](http://www.icaen.gencat.cat)



## ASSUMPTA FARRAN

Assumpta Farran is a trained physical scientist specialised in Atmospheric Physics. Since over 25 years she has been working in the energy and environmental field. Between 2011-2016 she was General Director for Air Quality at the Generalitat de Catalunya. Between 2016-2018 she headed the Institut Català d'Energia from where she steered the concertation process for the validation of the National Pact for the Energy Transition in Catalunya. This has given birth

to a number of game-changing strategies such as SOLARCAT (2017-2021) for the capture and storage of PV energy for stimulating technologies allowing for distributed citizen-owned energy production. At the same time, Assumpta was director of the Spanish association of energy agencies ENERAGEN. She is currently Head of the Transport and Flexible Energy Unit at the energy management department of the Institut Català d'Energia and is member of the Steering Board of Som Energia.

## Ufficio Comune per la Sostenibilità Ambientale

[www.ucsa.eu](http://www.ucsa.eu)



### LUIGI ACQUAVIVA

Luigi holds a Master's Degree in Hospital Management and another in Environment and Sustainability. He has wide experience in co-ordinating projects and has been working for international organisations (WHO in Bosnia, EUCF Strategic Board). He has been leading the preparation of the SECAP and the sustainable mobility "state of art" analysis for the UCSA territory. Luigi currently co-ordinates the activities of UCSA and manages UCSA relations with EU institutions and partners. He is in charge of the PATH2LC project on energy efficiency.



### DANIELA PATRUCCO

Daniela graduated in Sociology of the environment and the territory. She also holds a Master in Local Development and Social Quality with a thesis on organizational well-being in public administration as well as a Master in Journalism and Communication of Science. Daniela is about to pursue a degree in International Cooperation and Conflict Mediation. She has experience in environmental conflicts in the energy sector (against coal power plants). Daniela was previously Vice-President of an Italian cooperative (Retenergie) for the production of renewable energy. Daniela is founder and member of the Board of Directors of a cooperative innovative start-up that will be soon active in the development of renewable energy communities. Since 2017, Daniela collaborates with the editorial staff of Qualenergia.it, the main Italian online newspaper in the energy field, for which she writes regularly.

**Legambiente**  
[www.legambiente.it](http://www.legambiente.it)

### EDOARDO ZANCHINI



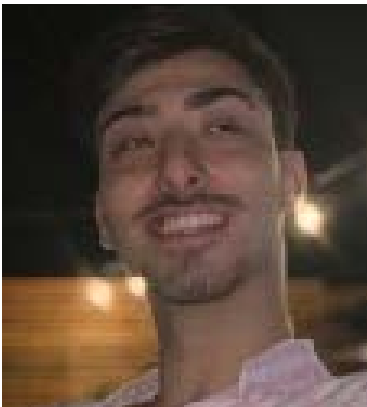
Edoardo is national Vice-President of Legambiente, the Italian leading environmental organisation. He is responsible for climate and urban policies. Luigi is architect by training: he graduated with honours and received his PhD from the University of Rome La Sapienza. He has taught at the Universities of Rome, Ferrara and Pescara (where he was a researcher from 2008 to 2012) and obtained the national scientific qualification as Associate Professor in Urban Planning and Design (2015). Edoardo sits on the board of the Renewables Grid Initiative and he is member of the Executive Council of the Italian network of Associations of Renewable Energy Sources and Energy Efficiency. Edoardo is part of several scientific committees. He is also an author of essays on energy, cities and sustainability.

**Cittadini per l'Ambiente**



### **GINA MEO**

Gina Meo is President of Cittadini per l'Ambiente (Citizens for the Environment), a non-profit organization that was born in March 2014 in San Giuseppe Vesuviano (Italy). It aims to promote environmental protection, citizens' health and quality of life through public-awareness campaigns and institutional bodies.



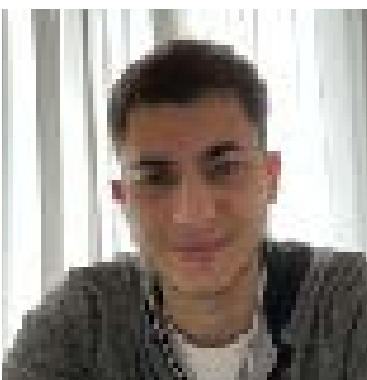
### **Palma Social ETS** **MATTEO DI GENUA**

Matteo Di Genua is Vice-President of Palma Social ETS, a non-profit association that operates in the area of social aggregation, with specific interest on sustainability.



### **Laboratorio Pubblico** **ROBERTA RANIERI**

Roberta Ranieri is responsible for the Laboratorio Pubblico (Public Laboratory), a non-profit association founded in 2013. The association is active within the local community through awareness-raising campaigns raised to support legality, environmental sustainability and quality of life.



### **Forum dei Giovani** **GIUSEPPE SCOGNAMIGLIO**

Giuseppe Scognamiglio is responsible for energy and environment at Forum dei Giovani (Youth Forum), a participatory body acting as the main interlocutor between municipalities and youth.

**Friends of the Earth**  
[www.foeeurope.org](http://www.foeeurope.org)



**MOLLY WALSH**

Molly studied Environmental Science at UCD in Ireland. She started her campaigning career working on Irish national Climate policy.

She currently works at Friends of the Earth Europe in Brussels and campaigns on renewable energy policy, and community energy ownership. Her work includes coordinating the Community Power Coalition, advocacy work towards the EU and supporting the movement for energy democracy.

In her free time she enjoys cooking and taking direct action against dirty energy. Molly loves cats, her bicycle and sleeping in.

**RESCoop**  
[www.rescoop.eu](http://www.rescoop.eu)



**SARA TACHELET**

Sara is the Communication Manager of REScoop.eu, the European federation of citizen energy cooperatives. Sara holds a Master's degree in Communication Sciences and has been working in the field of marketing and communication since 2012. She is coordinating the development and the implementation of an effective communication and dissemination strategy, ensuring REScoop.eu messages are consistent and engaging.

**Energy Cities**  
[www.energy-cities.eu](http://www.energy-cities.eu)



**ALIX BOLLE**

Alix coordinates the EU climate and energy advocacy strategy at Energy Cities' Brussels office. As part of this role, Alix was among the key Brussels advocates that successfully campaigned for the inclusion on community energy provisions in the renewable and electricity directives. Alix is the author of various publications on local energy ownership and active in multi-stakeholder advisory committees and coalitions working on this topic.

Prior to this, Alix was in charge of the outreach activities of the EU Covenant of Mayors office and worked for the Council of European Municipalities and Regions.



## ENERGY CITIES

[www.energy-cities.eu](http://www.energy-cities.eu)



### MIRIAM EISERMANN

Miriam is in charge of EU Communication & Policies at the European city network Energy Cities. She has more than 14 years of experience in sustainable communications and outreach strategies to engage cities and citizens in the energy transition. Miriam regularly connects with the ground through projects relating to renewables, energy democracy or efficient buildings.

As a pragmatic and creative thinker, Miriam's aim is to constantly question and rethink habits. Nothing is more deadly than staying in one's comfort zone. That is also why, in her leisure time, she climbs on mountain tops, drives her packed bike through Europe and plays improv theatre.

Miriam is a proud Berliner, but her professional journey in energy and environmental issues has already taken her from Ireland to Belgium, then Chile and now to France. She holds a B.A. in Media Management and an MSC in Human Ecology.



### SARA GIOVANNINI

Sara joined Energy Cities in February 2018. Before, she worked 4 years for the European Commission, first in the Directorate General for the Environment, then in the Joint Research Centre, as a communication and events officer.

Passionate about sustainability issues, working for Energy Cities allows her to directly contribute to the transition to a greener world, powered by renewable energy! Inside the office she is a social media geek, communicating and raising awareness on the potential of #renewables and #local action.

Outside the office, she is still a social media geek (catch her on @Giovannini\_S) but also a foodie, a traveller and a runner.



### ANDREA WAINER

Andrea is a Student of the Master's Program Environment and Resource Management at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, with a professional background in design. In March, she started an internship at Energy Cities, where she is assisting in communication activities. Meanwhile, she is working on a thesis addressing grid access conditions for energy communities.

In her free time, she builds whatever is possible to make with wood and dreams of hand-crafted windmills.



**Let's meet on 28-29 April!**