

Collaboration between Local Authorities and REScoops

Partners in a bottom up approach for mitigating climate change

Master Thesis Energy Innovation at KTH

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Introduction

- ▶ 5 case studies in Belgium and the Netherlands

Answering the following questions:

- ▶ Why would local authorities collaborate with REScoops?
- ▶ How to collaborate with REScoops?
- ▶ What are the factors leading to a successful collaboration

Recommendation for future collaborations

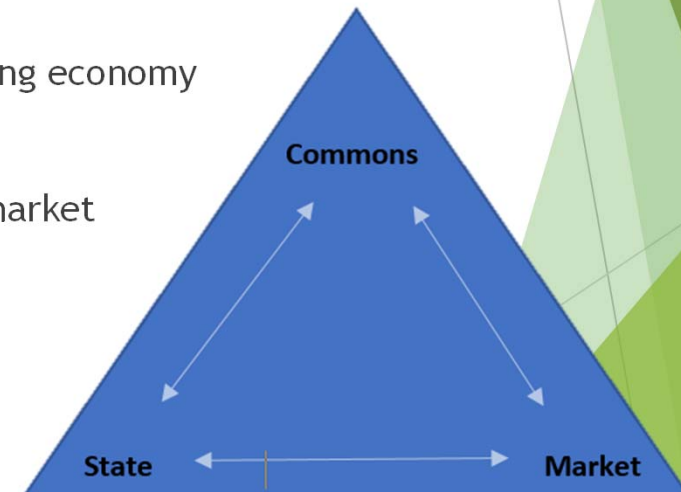
Commons

- ▶ Multiple Crises: Reimagine our World view



State ←————→ **Market**

- ▶ Interaction between Market and State
 - ▶ Market needs favorable legal framework & State needs strong economy
 - ▶ Tendency of privatization: State shifting towards Market
 - ▶ Political institution is not an autonomous, but tied by the market
 - ▶ Market: Negative externalities
 - ▶ Deadlock situation
- ▶ Third player: citizens governing the common good
- ▶ Commons: answer to the deadlock situation?
- ▶ REScoop: way to govern energy as a Commons

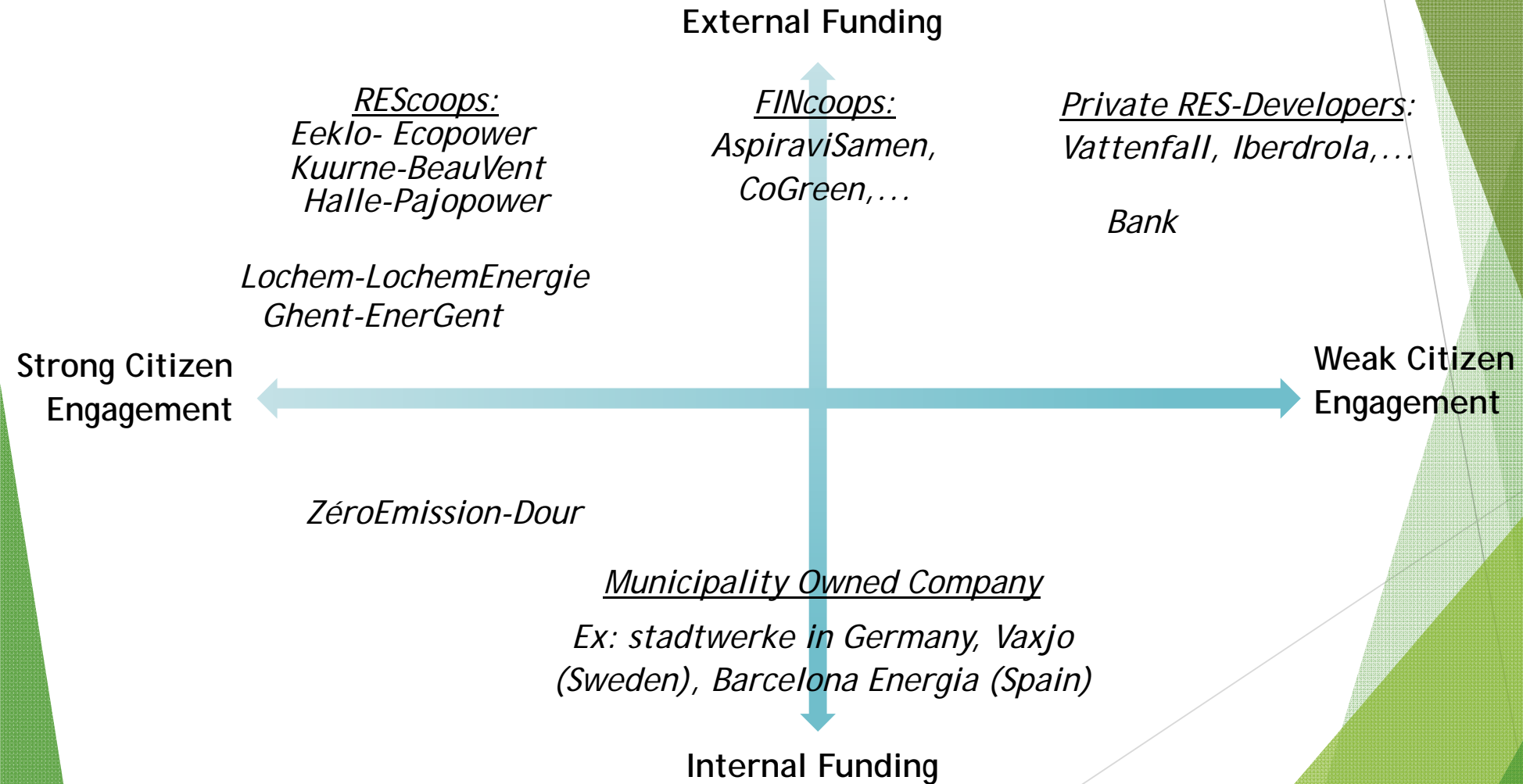


Why Collaborate? -Local Authorities' needs

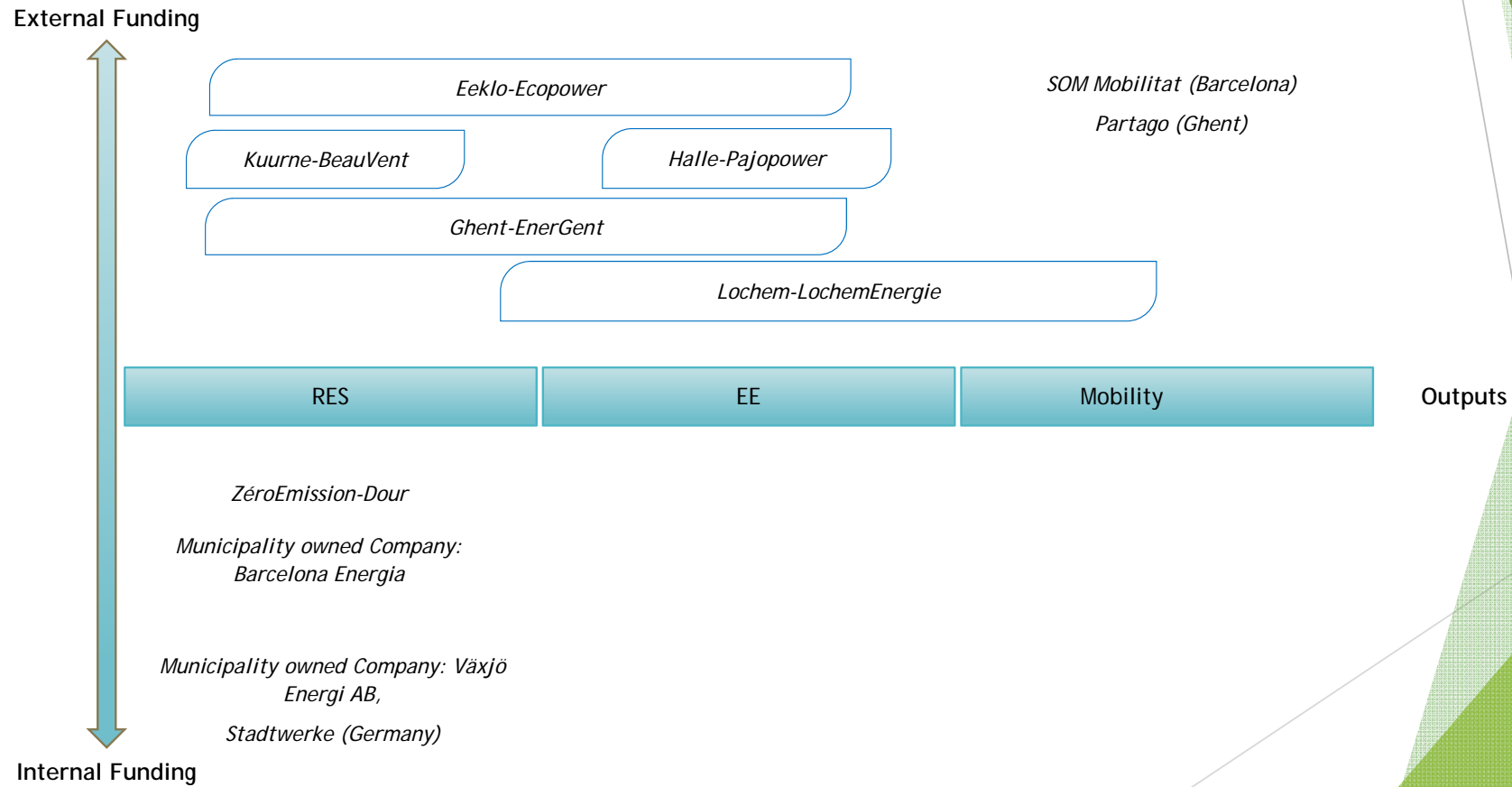
“What are the challenges the municipalities face in realizing their climate action commitment? And what do cooperatives have to offer?”

- ▶ Challenges municipalities face in implementing climate action plan
 1. Lack of financial capacity
 2. Lack of human capacity
 3. Lack of capacity to sensitize and mobilize citizens

Why Collaborate: -Classification of Collaboration



Why Collaborate: -Classification of Collaboration



Why collaborate? -Cooperatives' offer

- ▶ Cooperatives offer:
 - ▶ ICA principles, Vision for transition
 - ▶ RES and EE projects
 - ▶ Financing projects
 - ▶ Strong connection with local community
 - ▶ Citizen engagement, financially and democratically
 - ▶ Help in raising public support
 - ▶ Help in reducing private energy consumption of members
 - ▶ Educate citizens + behavior change
 - ▶ Cooperative takes up social responsibility + benefits local community

Cooperative is able to address the challenges and needs of the local authorities

How to Collaborate? -Cooperatives' needs

“What are the challenges cooperatives are facing?”

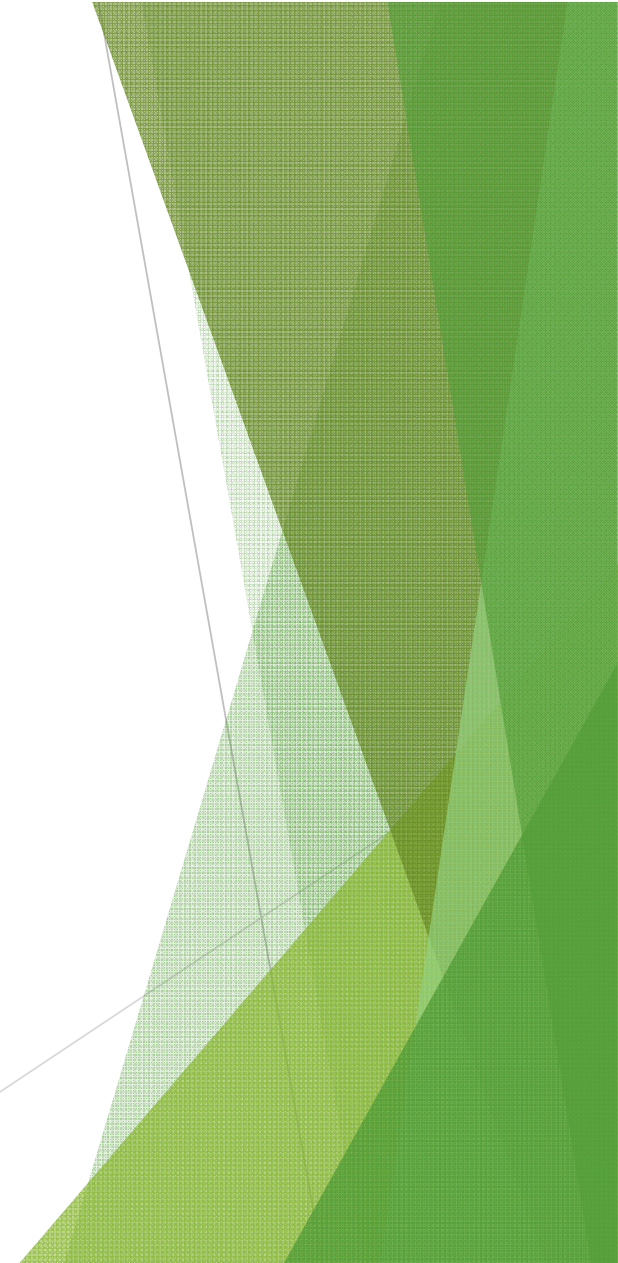
And “What do municipalities do to facilitate cooperatives?”

► Challenges cooperatives face

1. Access to projects and land
2. Unfavorable and unstable legal framework
3. Lack of familiarity with the cooperative business model
4. Starting cooperatives need to professionalize

How to Collaborate: -Supporting Activities

- ▶ Organizing Call for Tender with specific criteria
 - ▶ Price alone does not reflect vision
 - ▶ Combine multiple targets
 - ▶ Highlighting citizen participation
- ▶ Addressing challenges at higher government authorities
 - ▶ Create legal favorable framework
- ▶ Advocating the cooperative model
 - ▶ Explain why collaboration with REScoops
 - ▶ Explain how REScoops work
- ▶ Networking between partners
- ▶ Communication with citizens

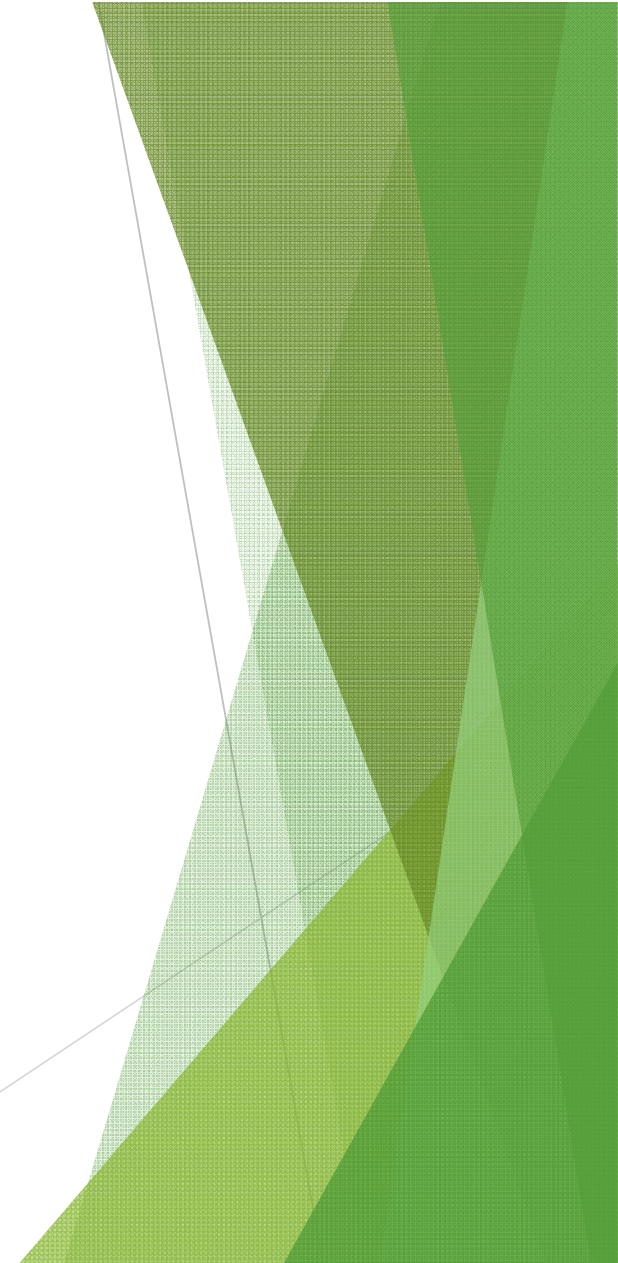


How to Collaborate: -Supporting Activities

- ▶ Facilitating professionalization
 - ▶ Putting knowledge at disposition
 - ▶ Putting venue at disposition
 - ▶ Outsourcing small services/studies to the cooperative
 - ▶ Subsidizing
 - ▶ Facilitate meetings
 - ▶ Reduce start-up costs (provide website, etc.)

Success Factors for Collaboration

- ▶ Vision
 - ▶ Political commitment mitigating climate change
 - ▶ Citizen participation
 - ▶ Long term vision, internally supported
- ▶ People make the change
 - ▶ Enthusiast individuals as drivers
- ▶ Win-Win
 - ▶ Addressing each others needs
- ▶ Respect and Trust
 - ▶ Mission driven
 - ▶ Familiarity with the cooperative model
 - ▶ Previous successful experiences
- ▶ Capacity
 - ▶ When there is doubt, partnering with additional partners



Conclusion

- ▶ REScoops manage renewable energy as a commons and facilitate long term structural change
- ▶ Local Authorities benefit from partnering with REScoops
- ▶ Local Authorities have tools to facilitate REScoops in achieving a shared mission
- ▶ Success factors
 - ▶ Vision
 - ▶ People
 - ▶ Win-win
 - ▶ Respect and trust
 - ▶ Capacity

Recommendations for Local authorities

Context

- ▶ Make a political commitment to take action in mitigating climate change
- ▶ Have a clear vision on citizen participation and communicate that vision clearly
- ▶ Formulate a long term vision, internally supported, preferably formulated in a multiannual plan
- ▶ Partner with an organization which shares that vision
- ▶ Don't be discouraged if you are alone with the vision, one person can bring about big change. Believe in it and have courage

Recommendations for local authorities

Actions

- ▶ Use specific criteria in the Call for Tender procedure to embody the vision of the local authorities and to recognize the value of cooperative market players
- ▶ Use these specific criteria to achieve multiple targets at once
- ▶ Engage other possible partners who have access to land to collaborate and enable new projects
- ▶ Foster structural changes in the legal framework by addressing legal barriers to regional or government authorities.

Recommendations for local authorities

Actions

- ▶ Explain and advocate the cooperative model and its advantages for citizens
- ▶ Take the time to explain citizens why the municipality chooses for citizen financial participation
- ▶ Facilitate the communication between the cooperative and the citizens, and provide networking with potential partners
- ▶ Support starting cooperatives
- ▶ Look for creative solutions when doubting about the capacity of a cooperative.

Recommendations for REScoops

- ▶ Share expertise to increase capacity
- ▶ Help each other in financing projects
- ▶ Facilitate local citizens initiatives in evolving into a cooperative

Recommendations for REScoop Europe

- ▶ Facilitate even more collaboration between REScoop members to increase **capacity**
- ▶ Advocate the cooperative model to local authorities
- ▶ Provide tools for local authorities to advocate the cooperative model

Questions

