

EnGeno –

Transformative potential of energy cooperatives

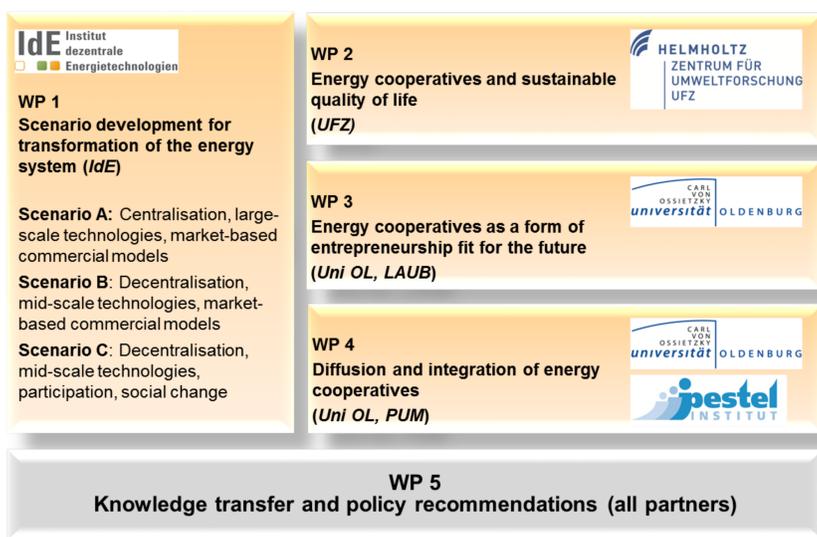


The overarching aim of EnGeno – a joint research project funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research – is to assess and describe the transformative potential of ECs within the energy system as a whole at the level of staff (members), organisational structure and the energy system itself as well as to devise and, in specific cases, to use and disseminate information and advisory material.

Project aims

The project analyses how cooperative-based energy initiatives *emerge* (motivations, opportunity structures and obstacles), how they are *stabilised* (management processes and processes of co-evolution among different organisations) and how they *spread* (their diffusion within society) – in other words, the conditions influencing their economic viability, institutional structure and broader integration. To this end, attention will be given equally to the interests represented by potential participants (individual and collective) in ECs, management processes within the cooperatives and their institutional setting within the energy system as a whole.

Work packages overview



EnGeno is scheduled to run over a period of three years (05/2013–04/2016) with the Carl von Ossietzky University in Oldenburg acting as project leader. The other project partners are the Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research (UFZ) in Leipzig, the Institute for Decentralised Energy Technologies (IdE) in Kassel, the Eduard Pestel Institute for Systems Research in Hanover (responsible, among other things, for knowledge transfer to practical settings) as well as a large number of ECs.

Work schedule and analysis of results

In order to assess the potential of ECs to shape and transform the current energy system in specific ways, EnGeno has identified five component objectives that are to be tackled using inter- and transdisciplinary methods:

1. To conduct a qualitative assessment of the impact of ECs on local innovation in terms of energy security, energy utilisation and the promotion of non-fossil fuels (scenario development)
2. To conduct a quantitative and qualitative assessment of people's willingness to participate in ECs and of the practical opportunities for environmentally sound life styles (sustainable quality of life) that ECs help to generate
3. To highlight factors for success, strategic orientations and exemplary entrepreneurial and business models (ECs as a form of entrepreneurship fit for the future)
4. To conduct an inventory and to "map" ECs in Germany; to explore the conditions and processes through which ECs emerge, are diffused and become stabilized
5. To devise a set of recommendations for action with regard to communication, societal integration and the institutional setting of ECs (e.g. feeding the results of the project back to practitioners by means of information and advisory events and publications geared towards specific target groups).



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Research topics

- Strategic management
- Sustainable economic management, business ethics
- Cultural approach in business theory



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Research topics

- Supply chain management
- Instruments of sustainability management
- Post-growth economy