ECOLISE

EUROPEAN NETWORK
FOR COMMUNITY-LED
INITIATIVES ON CLIMATE CHANGE
AND SUSTAINABILITY

'Fill the Political Vacuum'

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COMMUNITY-LED ACTION

Local community-led action for

- reducing carbon emissions and sequestering carbon
- testing and adopting new sustainable ways of living
- promoting innovation and creativity
- fostering real ownership and participation
- developing a knowledge and learning culture

Bottom-up, citizen-driven local action experimenting with transformative social innovations for new models of

- Food production
- Energy production
- Mobility
- Housing
- Waste
- Economy
- Decision-making
- Civic engagement

Local community-led action takes different forms

- 1,200 transition town initiatives in 48 countries
- 15,000 ecovillages on 6 continents- not on Antarctica!
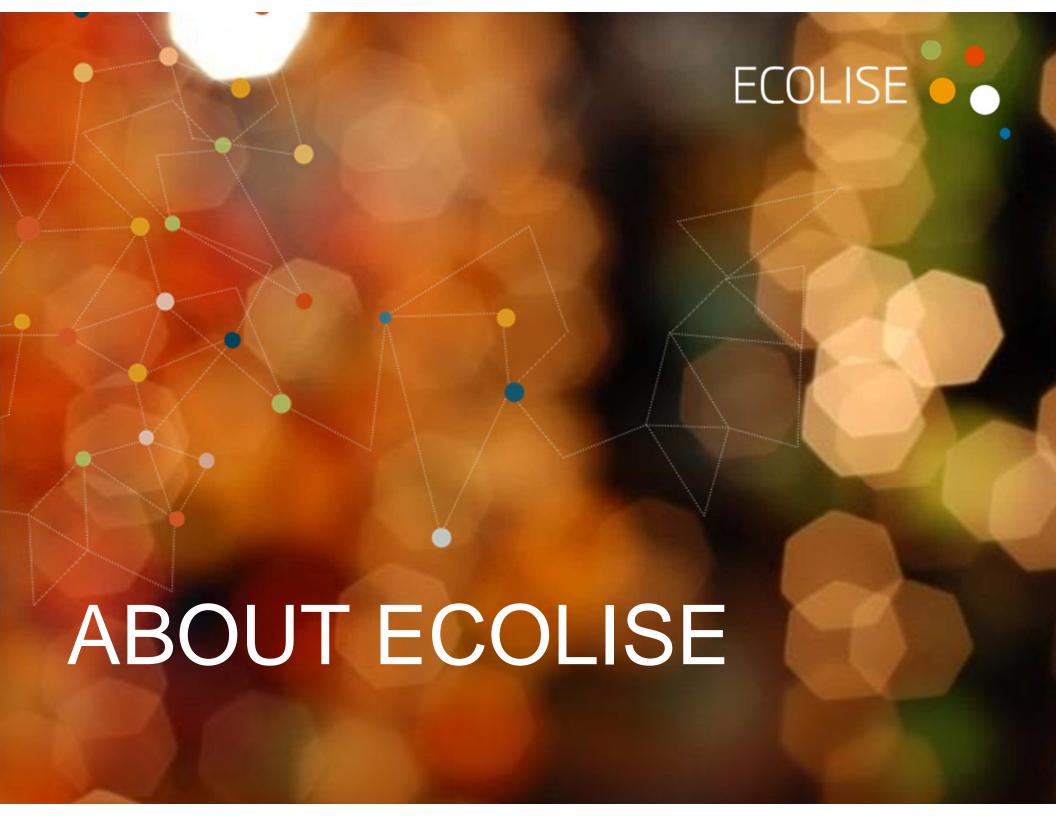- 3 million permaculture practitioners in 140 countries

A COMMUNITY-LED TRANSITION IN EUROPE:
LOCAL ACTION TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT, LOW-CARBON FUTURE

An independent EU-funded study (TESS) of ecovillages concluded that if only 5% of citizens were involved in effective community-led climate mitigation initiatives the EU's 2020 carbon emissions targets would be 85% achieved.

In these communities virtually 100 % of SDG targets were already reached.

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ABOUT ECOLISE

ECOLISE is:
A broad coalition of 38 member organisations
Founded in Brussels in May 2014
Registered as an international non-profit
association under Belgian law (AISBL)

With a three-pillar strategy:
- Policy advocacy
- Knowledge and Learning
- Communication

ECOLISE members include:

Networks of community-based initiatives
- International networks
- National networks
- Local initiatives

And
- European-level research, training, communications bodies
- Support organisations for community-based action
- Links with other netwroks e.g. CAN Europe

ECOLISE current membership

4 European Networks (incl global and macro-regional)

22 National Networks

3 Local Initiatives

9 Specialist Organisations

Members as legal entities in 18 different European countries.

Belgium
Croatia
Denmark
England,UK
Estonia
France
Germany
Ireland
Italy

Luxembourg
Macedonia
Netherlands
Portugal
Romania
Scotland,UK
Slovenia
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland

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European Day for Sustainable Communities

The first-ever European Day was held on 23 September 2017.

The Day was preceded on 22nd September by an event co-hosted by EESC and ECOLISE, including for the first time LIVE inputs online from ECOLISE event organisers around Europe.

Citizens in 15 EU countries showcased their pioneering efforts to create new models for sustainable living.

ECOLISE aims to continue this celebration annually, inviting other partners to become involved and further develop the event. It seeks the political and financial support from the EU Estonian Presidency, EC, EP, EESC and others.

The concept was shared at COP 23 in 3 events: an EESC Side event; a CAN dialogue with the European Parliamentarians ; and a Global Ecovillage Network Press Conference

EDSC celebrated throughout Europe

6 KEY MESSAGES that ECOLISE wishes to pass at this event today:

1. There is a Significant vacuum between Climate Change political rhetoric and delivery of lasting, high quality benefits for local communities. Communities are not listened to !
2. Participation,'ownership' by local communities is critical for success. Politicians by-pass communities at their peril.
3. Without ANY serious support or recognition, local communities have nevertheless shown by example, true leadership on climate change issues.
4. A radical re-think is needed to involve communities at all levels. The Business as Usual Approach is doomed.
5. The designation of a European and International Day to celebrate and honour local communities' involvement would be a worthy step which the EESC, EP, EC should support.
6. Out of the box thinking needed: create a Community index (like the EIA methodology) to measure community buy-in ?