LOCAL,
COMMUNITY-LED:
A NEW FUTURE
UNFOLDING
ECOLISE
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TRANSFORMATIVE COMMUNITIES GATHER MOMENTUM

GLOBAL PROBLEMS such as climate change, biodiversity loss, ecological degradation, economic inequality, social divisions and natural resource depletion urgently require innovative and systemic responses across multiple levels.

The Paris Agreement on climate change and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) demonstrate substantial political will at national and international levels to tackle these issues. However, implementation is difficult at these scales, and hindered by lock-in to inherently unsustainable and inequitable macro-economic models. At the local level, where the process of transformation is more manageable, many communities are already taking the initiative themselves, showing that they play an effective part in the solutions needed.

SOCIAL INNOVATION

Community-led initiatives (CLIs) are transformative social innovations that involve new ways of being, understanding, organising, negotiating and acting. There are thousands of such initiatives across Europe from community gardens to community energy cooperatives, social enterprises to zero-waste initiatives.

The recent EU-funded TESS research project into CLIs observed that:

- If five percent of EU citizens were to engage in effective community-led climate mitigation initiatives, nearly 85% of EU-28 countries would achieve their 2020 emissions reduction targets.
- At least as significant as the initiatives' direct carbon savings are the wider environmental impacts, awareness-raising, social cohesion, creation of local livelihoods, retention of wealth in local economies, and the feelings of empowerment from working together to bring about change.

Community-led initiatives are creating solutions for human development and wellbeing that do not depend on economic growth

ECOLISE is a coalition of national and international networks of such initiatives, broadly encompassing the ecovillage, Transition and permaculture movements, as well as other organisations that support a community-led transition to a resilient Europe. ECOLISE aims to create a common platform for initiatives, researchers, policy makers and other stakeholders to work together to share knowledge, tools and good practices.

COMMUNITIES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

CLIs have a long history of innovation and effective action in most areas covered by the SDGs, which represent 17 conditions for global sustainable prosperity by 2030, agreed by the United Nations.

- The three permaculture ethics of Earth care, People care and Fair shares effectively mirror six essential elements of the SDGs - dignity, prosperity, justice, partnership, planet and people.
- A 2017 assessment of ecovillages shows that the vast majority are already contributing in concrete ways to achieving the SDGs.

The perspectives and activities of CLIs also highlight weaknesses and contradictions in the SDGs. In particular, the SDGs' assumption of ongoing economic growth contradicts numerous recent authoritative analyses showing that, in mature economies, further growth undermines both sustainability and equity. CLIs are creating solutions for human development and wellbeing that do not depend on growth.

COMMUNITIES IN ACTION

Across Europe, and globally, the nature and scale of local community action for climate change and sustainability varies greatly, yet it is effective, replicable and transformative

FOOD COMMUNITIES

1 million people in Europe eat food produced by community-supported agriculture

COMMUNITY-LED MOVEMENTS such as permaculture, slow food and community-supported agriculture, model the kind of actions we need in order to shift to a sustainable food system. They emphasise organic, local and seasonal production and consumption, often using agroecological methods that combine productivity with nurture of biological, cultural and ecological diversity.

Worldwide, small-scale farmers using such low input methods produce the majority of the world's food, despite controlling only 12% of farmland, with demonstrated potential for raising yields and ensuring food security through sustainable intensification.

In contrast, the dominant industrial agri-food system consumes far more energy than the total calorific value of the food it produces, devastates biodiversity, causes soil loss and pollutes waterways.

As well as enabling transition to a sustainable food system, community food initiatives also provide a wide range of further environmental, economic and social benefits.

TODMORDEN, UK The Incredible Edible food growing project, which began in 2007, increased community cohesion and connectivity, created spin-off businesses and heightened understanding of sustainability. An independent 'social return on investment' evaluation conservatively estimated that it realised direct and indirect benefits to the community of a total value equivalent to over five times that invested in the project. It inspired over 100 initiatives in other UK communities, some 300 in France, and many more worldwide.

MADRID, SPAIN Red de Huertos Urbanos Comunitarios de Madrid (RED), the city's community gardens' network, shows how food production can be the basis of transformative community initiatives. In 2018 it included 60 neighbourhood projects. RED has been collaborating with municipalities since 2014 and its members have become an important driving force for new initiatives on food production, agroecology and urban reinvigoration through shared learning and collective action.

ENERGY COMMUNITIES

Citizen-owned renewable energy projects in Europe could generate 45% of the EU's electricity needs by 2050

CITIZENS ACROSS EUROPE have been leading the community renewable energy revolution by effectively using community resources, mobilising local social ties to generate demand for technological change, and as more people join in, creating a virtuous social-technical loop.

Community energy projects range from energy efficiency initiatives such as Energy Communities Tipperary Cooperative (Ireland), which between 2014-2016 made 3.1GWh in energy savings in eight rural communities, to larger projects such as the transformation of the Danish island of Samsø (population 4 000) into a carbon-neutral net exporter of renewable energy.

Community-owned wind farms provide eight times as much local added value as projects owned by international developers. This is because community-owned projects are more likely to be locally appropriate, to use locally owned contractors and local banks, and to give investment opportunities to local people.

In June 2018, EU decision makers proposed new citizen and community rights to generate renewable energy. 100% renewable energy is already viable with today's technology, and by 2050 community power could be producing almost half our electricity needs, according to Friends of the Earth Europe.

Already since the year 2000 millions of Germans have become renewable energy producers. Citizens owned almost half the country's installed biogas and solar capacity and half the installed onshore wind power capacity, according to a study published in 2014.

FRANCE Enercoop is France's only cooperative supplier of 100% renewable electricity. Founded in 2005, it now has ten regional cooperatives and 171 producers with a total capacity of 129 MW, who are producing 245 GWh annually for 58 000 consumers. The cooperatives allow members to engage in energy solutions specific to their region. They support local renewable energy producers, encourage local energy efficiency measures and engage in public environmental debate.

PORTUGAL Coopérnico is a renewable energy co-operative (RESCoop), founded in 2013, that harnesses solar power for the benefit of the local community. It now has 1038 members, investments of over €800,000 and 561 contracts. The cooperative rents roof-space for its PV panels from socially-minded institutions, providing them with extra income.

ENTERPRISING COMMUNITIES

In 2015, 15 million people in the EU were employed in the solidarity economy, which is based on principles of cooperation and social responsibility. In 2004 this figure was 11 million

COMMUNITY-LED INITIATIVES (CLIs) commonly structure their projects as enterprises, assisting the financial sustainability of projects, generating employment and directly reshaping local economies. The TESS project found that almost two-thirds of local initiatives include market-based forms of innovation, which links them with the wider solidarity economy movement to revive local and regional economies.

SOLIDARITY ECONOMY

The solidarity economy is a growing international movement dedicated to the creation of new economic structures and organisations based on principles of cooperation, solidarity, social responsibility and mutual aid. Organisations such as RIPESS, the intercontinental network for the promotion of social solidarity economy, promote and coordinate action, advocacy and scholarship in support of the social and solidarity economy.

The solidarity economy includes activities of CLIs such as the Transition movement's Reconomy project, the concept of regenerative enterprise developed within the permaculture movement, and solidarity enterprises featured in many ecovillages. The Evoneer's journey is a distillation of learning from ecovillage enterprises, which teaches adults the skills needed to set up financially-viable social enterprises that contribute to the resilience of their region.

An EU-funded report by SUSY, a network of national solidarity economy organisations, suggests that across the EU in 2015 the solidarity economy employed 6.5% of the total labour force. In addition, increasing numbers of people are involved in rapidly growing movements in solidarity purchasing and solidarity consumption, and community-supported agriculture (CSA).

SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

Rezo Pouce is an example of a solidarity enterprise in the field of transportation. It is a hitchhiking service, first developed in the Tarn et Garonne and Haute Garonne regions of France in 2010. It is similar to car-sharing, but focuses mainly on short journeys organised at short notice. The service is a social enterprise cooperative, which brings together different groups with an interest in mobility: local authorities, transport operators, associations, foundations, users and employees. Based on the success of the scheme, the concept is now being replicated in many other parts of France. www.rezopouce.fr

FOOD SOLIDARITY

Arvaia is Italy's first CSA cooperative formed by citizens and organic farmers. Unlike similar cooperatives it has been experimenting on public, municipal land. The organisation's main goals are: employment, social participation, monitoring and protection of the land, the spread of organic/biodynamic farming, recovery of traditional crops, reduction of markets and monetary exchanges, and networking with similarly-motivated authorities, associations and individuals in Italy and abroad. www.arvaia.it

REGENERATIVE COMMUNITIES

A survey of 30 diverse ecovillages undertaken by the Global Ecovillage Network (GEN) in 2017 showed that each of them was actively helping to safeguard regenerative local cultural traditions by using local sustainable ways of building, farming and preparing food

COMMUNITY-LED INITIATIVES (CLIs) seeking to create fairer, more sustainable alternatives often find natural allies among those excluded from the benefits of the growth economy, or most strongly affected by its negative impacts. Examples include reinvigorating rural communities in areas facing demographic, economic and social decline and supporting refugees to develop their skills and make active economic contributions to their host communities.

LIVING IN SUSTAINABLE VILLAGES, GERMANY

Many ecovillages provide working examples of how to reinvigorate rural communities in areas facing depopulation due to demographic, economic and social decline. In the **Living in Sustainable Villages** project, five established ecovillages in Germany are cooperating with local authorities in Saxony-Anhalt, Thuringia and Baden-Württemberg. Together they work in partnership with conventional communities affected by issues such as: declining soil fertility, drinking water quality and biodiversity due to agricultural intensification; disappearance of traditional forms of employment forcing people to commute long distances; pressures on general services; increasing numbers of vacant houses; and overall aging of the population.

ANDELSTANKEN LANGELAN, DENMARK

This project aims to promote sustainable regional development on the **island of Langeland** via reinvigoration of the Danish tradition of cooperative enterprise in areas such as agroforestry, sustainable agriculture and education. An educational programme initiated in 2016 targeted local unemployed people, including a number of Eritrean refugees, who have since found employment in a local agroforestry business.

SICILIA INTEGRA, ITALY

Sicilia Integra was an educational and social initiative developed by **Gaia Education** and the **University of Catania** in partnership with various local migrant welcome centres, organic farmers' cooperatives and European ethical organic food companies.

An academic evaluation of **Sicilia Integra** identified it as an example of best practice in strengthening sustainable agriculture and improving migrant integration in Sicily, with potential for adoption in countries experiencing high levels of labour immigration and/or dependent on migrant labour for agricultural production.

Research on AndelsTanken Langelan and Sicilia Integra identified them as key examples of initiatives that can help support inclusive transitions to sustainability.

REINVENTING EUROPE: a snapshot of community-led initiatives

1 TEMPELHOF COMMUNITY, GERMANY

An ecovillage of 100 residents that is collaborating with other Global Ecovillage Network members in Germany to regenerate surrounding communities. There are 15 000 ecovillages around the world.

Photo: Vivian Messimeris/ Green Left Weekly

2 SOLIDARITY ECONOMY, GREECE

In response to the severe hardship resulting from austerity measures in 2011, many communities responded with solidarity initiatives to ensure provision of basic needs. By December 2014 they included 40 solidarity clinics staffed by unemployed or precariously employed medics, seeing an average of 2 000 patients per month.

3 COOPÉRNICO, PORTUGAL

One of thousands of community energy cooperatives across Europe. In June 2018 citizens won new rights to generate renewable energy. Research shows communities could produce almost half of Europe's electricity needs by 2050.

6 REZO POUCE, FRANCE

An innovative social enterprise cooperative based on car-sharing, it is now being replicated around France. La Fête des Possibles, which celebrates community-led action for sustainability, and agroecology network Colibris, are other examples of France's thriving community-led movement.

7 RED DE HUERTOS URBANOS, SPAIN

A network of cooperative urban gardens in Madrid which has collaborated closely with municipal authorities.
It is a case study for the international Municipalities in Transition project which is developing a structured framework for collaborative change.

4 INCREDIBLE EDIBLE TODMORDEN, UK

A community food growing idea that brought local social benefits five times greater in value than what was initially invested. There are now hundreds of Incredible Edible projects in 28 countries.

5 WORLD CLEAN UP, ESTONIA

A citizen-led movement that began in 2008 when 50,000 people cleaned up the whole of Estonia in just five hours. Since then the 'one day to clean up one country' idea has spread to 150 countries, with millions of volunteers worldwide.

8 PERMACULTURE INSTITUTE OF ROMANIA

A network of people and demonstration, practice and research sites in Romania, which is part of the worldwide movement of around 3 million permaculture practitioners. It aims to bring the practice of permaculture design to formal educational institutes in Romania.

INFOGRAPHIC: ALEX PEREIRA

TRANSFORMATIONAL RESEARCH

Research that shows the depth, breadth and effectiveness of community-led action is substantial and growing. Researchers increasingly recognise that rather than simply gathering knowledge, they need to be active contributors to transformative solutions

DOCUMENTATION AND ANALYSIS

of community-led initiatives (CLIs) on climate change and sustainability are an important part of the learning necessary to support the transition to societal sustainability. There is a growing body of such work to inspire and inform communities and guide policy makers.

COLLABORATIVE KNOWLEDGE GENERATION

ECOLISE is developing a knowledge commons for community-led action on sustainability and climate change, integrating formal and informal modes of research. It will be a tool to support and strengthen ongoing action, and to inform policy, advocacy and future research.

A wiki (wiki.ecolise.eu) and a Status Report on community-led sustainability action in Europe are key elements of this knowledge commons.

The Status Report aims to:

- provide a comprehensive and scientifically rigorous account of the situation, achievements and prospects of CLIs in Europe
- establish an active, inclusive, self-organising knowledge co-creation community.

This booklet distils and summarises information compiled for the first Status Report, which draws together information from academic and non-academic sources and is available online for consultation prior to publication in early 2019.

ECOLISE has also launched a monthly open online knowledge and learning meeting series to seed further collaboration towards regenerative pathways.

ACTION-ORIENTED RESEARCH

In increasing numbers, researchers are abandoning outdated myths of academic detachment and objectivity and realising the need to make active contributions to societal transformation. In order to do so, many are collaborating with community initiatives, using transdisciplinary and participatory methods to combine different types of knowledge and expertise.
Pioneering research organisations like FCiencias.Id in Portugal, the Dutch Institute for Research Transitions, the Schumacher Institute for Sustainable Systems (UK) and the Amsterdam-based Transnational Institute are dedicated to working at the interface of research and practice. The Degrowth movement, led by activist scholars in various university departments, provides a comprehensive intellectual platform to support transformative action at community scale. Community-led movements have also initiated their own research initiatives, such as the Transition Research Network, Permaculture International Research Network, and the Global Ecovillage Network Research Working Group.

COLLABORATION

Instead of acting as regulators, public authorities can become innovators and facilitators. Together with citizens they can co-create the institutions needed to accelerate change

INCREASINGLY, COMMUNITY INITIATIVES are collaborating among themselves and with other stakeholders, including policy makers, at different levels. At local level many community-led initiatives (CLIs) are engaging in dialogue with municipal partners, helping to inspire and even reorient municipal activities in line with longer term climate and sustainability goals.

The EU-funded TESS project found that CLIs' relationships with public bodies – especially local authorities – are overall frequent, intense and important.
The ARTS project, which studied six EU city-regions, showed that the prospects for rapid transitions to sustainability are highest where municipal authorities and businesses collaborate constructively with diverse community-led initiatives working on different topics.
The PATHWAYS research project, which considered possibilities for transitions to a low-carbon, sustainable Europe, issued a joint report with TESS and ARTS. It noted that if governments are well informed about transition initiatives' work in their city, public authorities and citizens can co-produce knowledge and craft the institutions needed to accelerate change. Thus, instead of acting as regulators, local governments can act as innovators and facilitators.

COLLABORATION AT LOCAL LEVEL

MUNICIPALITIES IN TRANSITION (MiT)

This is a project developed by Transition Network and the international network of Transition hubs, which together support a growing number of Transition initiatives.
MiT brings together people involved in collaborations between Transition initiatives and municipal authorities, to learn from one another and to share experience with other communities and municipalities, so they too can launch their own collaborative processes.
MiT has documented instructive case studies from several European countries:

The Spanish Transition Hub has given Transition training to several municipalities and is now working with them on connecting with civil society and applying Transition approaches.

Transition Italy has built a partnership with the Emilia Romagna branch of the Italian Association of Municipalities. 300 municipalities (previously 40) are now members of the Covenant of Mayors carbon-saving network.

Viver Telheiras, Portugal, is a convergence centre that grew out of a local Transition initiative and residents' association. It has now become a platform where a coalition involving the local authority, NGOs, businesses, schools and other stakeholders are co-creating a vision for the neighborhood, designing, implementing and evaluating their collective actions.

In Ungersheim, France, the Transition approach has been adopted by the municipality. Outcomes to date include a local currency, low energy co-housing, local food businesses and the largest solar project in Alsace.

Vauban, Germany: A unique top-down and bottom-up planning process took place in this new city district, involving the city council, the city administration and representatives of the 6000 residents, including a cluster of co-housing initiatives. Achieving the goal of building a participatory, ecological neighbourhood was made easier by the city council's recognition of the 'Forum Vauban' citizen initiative.

Frome, UK: Since 2015, the local town council has been under the control of Independents for Frome, a group that emerged from the local Transition initiative and rejects party politics in favour of an inclusive form of local democracy based on values of participation and sustainability. Their experience forms the basis of the 'Flatpack Democracy' model, which has been adopted in a number of towns elsewhere in the UK and several other countries.

Brussels, Belgium: Vilco is an action-research project exploring how community-led initiatives and municipalities can better cooperate in order to strengthen ecologically sustainable, local resilience.

COLLABORATION AT REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS

Local partnerships also need to be complemented by collaboration at other levels. Cities, regions and countries have important roles to play in developing the policies and conditions to support and enable community-led action.

In the Brussels region, for example, the Sustainable Neighbourhoods initiative has helped nurture the establishment of a network of hundreds of community projects in 30 neighbourhoods involving thousands of local people, focused on issues such as energy, mobility, food and zero waste.

In Scotland, the government's Climate Challenge Fund provides grants and support for community-led projects that reduce local carbon emissions. Since its inception in 2008, it has provided grants of £101 million to over 1000 projects in hundreds of communities across Scotland.

Analysis of data from 132 funded projects between 2012-2015 show a total estimated lifetime emissions reduction of 179,796 tonnes of CO_2.

Countries such as Denmark, Germany and, more recently, Greece have also put in place policies to support energy communities. According to the World Economic Forum, 42% of the renewable energy installed in Germany in 2017 was owned by citizens and energy cooperatives.

Further efforts are required by all stakeholders to replicate these positive developments in other regions and countries.

EUROPEAN-LEVEL COLLABORATION AND THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES PROGRAMME

Addressing the challenges of climate change and sustainability is not limited to the local, regional or even national levels. These are global issues that require international coordination and collaboration. At EU level, for example, there is a need for mechanisms to support the emergence of bottom-up citizen-led responses, including by facilitating cooperation and exchange across regions in order to promote good practices for learning and collaboration.

ECOLISE actively supports this kind of cooperation and recently initiated the Sustainable Communities Programme (SCP) in order to develop an enabling framework involving stakeholders at all levels.
The SCP will create a Europe-wide platform to support collaborative design of multi-stakeholder programmes at regional (sub-national) level, mutual learning and exchange across regions, and mainstreaming through policy integration at all levels.

In this context, ECOLISE is also reaching out to other partners, including EU institutions. In 2017, it partnered with the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) to launch the European Day of Sustainable Communities, a day that highlights the diversity, strength and potential of community-led action in Europe. In September 2018, to mark the second European Day of Sustainable Communities, ECOLISE, the EESC and the Committee of the Regions (CoR) are co-hosting an event in Brussels, in collaboration with Transition Network, that will explore the potential to strengthen collaboration between civil society and municipalities.

OUR SHARED FUTURE

The potential of bottom-up action is being rediscovered across the globe as people and communities take ownership of both local and global challenges. Where governments embrace and work with this, something very powerful and transformative is unfolding.

AS THE PARIS AGREEMENT moves into the implementation phase, amid growing acceptance of the need to raise levels of ambition, the potential role of communities is attracting increasing attention. A recent policy paper from the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) on *Boosting climate actions by non-State actors* reflects this growing recognition at EU and global level. In February 2018, in a policy statement on climate diplomacy, the Council of the EU for the first time acknowledged the critical role of local communities in addressing climate challenge.

CREATING AN ENABLING FRAMEWORK

Translating statements and aspirations into appropriate policies and programmes requires additional steps, however. Constructing an appropriate enabling framework is essential to optimising the contributions of social innovation. To achieve the major transformations required in the coming decades, a joined-up collaborative approach is essential. Community initiatives are ready to be part of this, working alongside public sector bodies, researchers, educational institutions and others, but for this to happen a more inclusive process is needed.

A heavy reliance on volunteers, a lack of resources or capacity, or the absence of appropriate organisational structures often mean that citizen and community-led initiatives (CLIs) are excluded from mainstream policy development and implementation processes. There is an onus, therefore, on those leading such processes to facilitate and support the active inclusion of such initiatives; creating space for participation and providing the support needed to enable this participation.

CONSISTENCY AT DIFFERENT LEVELS

At EU level there are signs of positive change, but much more needs to be done to really harness the potential of CLIs. Recent proposals in the EU Energy Package, for example, will require Member States to facilitate market access for 'energy communities'. However, there is still much uncertainty around the support and enablers that Member States will put in place to ensure communities can benefit from this opportunity. Implementation frameworks must also be assessed and aligned to ensure that barriers are removed and communities have access to the information and resources they need.

POLICY OBSTACLES

The TESS research project found that 62% of CLIs studied reported experiencing some kind of constraint arising from public policies, in the form of:

- Regulations and laws that impose requirements in terms of organisational structure, legal status or use of volunteer labour
- Difficulties in accessing public funding
- Obstacles in accessing property or assets, or from imposed planning regulations
- A policy environment which is judged to be unsupportive in general or ambiguous towards CLIs.

WHAT IS NEEDED?

Enabling legislation: appropriate legislation is a fundamental element of any enabling framework. Removing legislative barriers and, where appropriate, introducing laws and regulations that recognise and address emerging needs is an essential first step.

Support to assist uptake: legislation alone will not achieve the desired goals if communities do not get the information and support needed to benefit from such opportunities. Awareness raising, technical assistance, accessible funding, and support for networking and exchange are also key elements of an enabling framework.

Inclusion in policy development processes: to achieve appropriate enabling legislation and support provision, the role of citizens and of community initiatives must be properly recognised. In turn, participation in policy development processes must be facilitated and, crucially, actively supported.

RETHINKING THE FUTURE, A MESSAGE FOR POLICYMAKERS:

- **Policymakers** at all levels are confronted with many serious challenges: social, economic, cultural, environmental.
- **Analyses** show that, in many countries, continuing economic growth has largely ceased to generate improvements in human welfare, and has increasingly corrosive social and environmental impacts.
- **There is** an urgent need to abandon the 'growth at all costs' policy imperative in favour of new approaches conducive to equity, well-being and societal and ecological regeneration.
- **People** are increasingly disillusioned with mainstream political processes and are losing trust in the ability of politicians to find credible solutions to social inequity and climate change. Many are turning to extremism in their desperate search for alternatives.
- **At the same time**, positive change is also afoot. Community-led solutions are emerging, across the globe, as citizens and communities take ownership of both local and global challenges, seeking to address perceived shortcomings of governments.
- **A renewed** form of citizenship is taking shape, and where governments embrace and work with citizens and communities, something very powerful and transformative is unfolding, pointing the way towards a brighter and more sustainable future.

ECOLISE, the European network for community-led initiatives on climate change and sustainability, is a coalition of 43 member organisations engaged in promoting and supporting local communities across Europe in their efforts to build pathways to a sustainable future.

Members of ECOLISE include international networks of community-led initiatives such as the Transition Network (representing over 1200 Transition initiatives), the Global Ecovillage Network (15,000 ecovillages) and the Permaculture movement (3 million practitioners globally); ICLEI, the association of local governments for sustainability; national and regional networks; and other specialist bodies engaged in European-level research, training and communications.

By bringing these organisations together, ECOLISE seeks to establish a common, Europe-wide agenda and a platform for collective action. ECOLISE is registered as an international non-profit association under Belgian law (AISBL). The activities of members extend to all EU member states, as well as internationally.

The European Day of Sustainable Communities is an ECOLISE initiative, organised in partnership with the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), Let's Do It! World Clean Up Day and La Fête des Possibles.

The 22nd of September 2018 marks the second edition of the day, when individuals, communities and organisations across Europe are invited to celebrate together and organise events that showcase their pioneering efforts to create new models for sustainable living.

Ecovillages, Transition initiatives, permaculture projects, agroecology initiatives, and many others are opening their doors and inviting the public to observe, discuss and be inspired by a diverse range of projects, covering everything from community energy to local food, sustainable mobility, resource management and much more.

ECOLISE

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

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