



COMETS 1<sup>o</sup> National Workshops  
**COLLECTIVE ACTION INITIATIVES IN THE ENERGY TRANSITION**  
**SPAIN**

*Tuesday 16 June, 2020*

The first COMETS National Workshop in Spain was held last 16<sup>th</sup> of June and it gathered around 25 people to learn and discuss about the role of the Collective Action Initiatives in the energy transition and to present the COMETS project.

The objective of the workshop was to discuss of some specific issues regarding the mechanisms that can facilitate the launch and growth of the CAI in the energy field. The first presentation by Tania Castro, who represented Unión Renovables, gave us general hindsight on the role of CAIs for the energy transition and their link to social innovation. She also pointed out some of the barriers that these CAIs face, such as increasing participation due to the complexity of the concepts involved, lack of cooperative and participatory tradition, lack of awareness of the existing alternatives, and the need of increasing the generation of renewable energy.

After the presentation of the activities and first results of COMETS, TECNALIA's team also presented two of the activities that are underway, that is, the European-wide survey and the case studies. Both caught the attention of the audience as a means of deepening the knowledge on the characteristics and situation of the CAIs in Spain.

Three examples of CAIs in Spain were presented next: the case of GOIENER, an energy cooperative born in 2012 that currently has 12,012 members. GOIENER stressed the importance of collaborating with other stakeholders, integrating experts from diverse fields and positioning themselves not as an "electric project" only but also as a social, economic and energy project.

The case of URBEROA, which is a cooperative formed by residents of a neighbourhood of San Sebastian, showcased the evolution from being one of the first communities in Spain with district heating to implementing a cogeneration system and to widening their services to other neighbourhoods. The case emphasised on the role of the neighbourhood association as the driver of all activities of the cooperative and on the active involvement and engagement of this association in the energy transition.

Finally, ECOTXE presented their electric carsharing cooperative in Mallorca, which is one of the few electric carsharing cooperatives in Spain. ECOTXE pointed out on the fact that the promoters of the initiative were environmentally aware persons with previous experience in cooperatives and that were concerned on the enormous share of primary energy that was used for transport in the Balearic Islands. Some of the obstacles that they faced were the small scale of the project, the difficulties to access to finance and the lack of awareness of society.

The last part of the workshop was devoted to present the newly released 'Communities for Future' platform and to discuss around the issues presented by the different cases and speeches.