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WHAT IS CITIZENS FOR ENERGY TRANSITION (C4ET)

The project Citizens for energy transition (C4ET) focuses on raising awareness and train European adults about the challenges and opportunities of energy transition.

The energy transition: why and how?

Modern societies are heavily reliant on fossil fuels (coal, fuel, and gas), which still account for over 80% of the world’s energy consumption. However, in a context of significant growth of demand, depletion of resources and considering the needs to mitigate climate change, a global transformation of our energy systems is necessary. This transition can be done through 3 steps:

1. **Energy conservation**: limit our direct and indirect (the energy required to produce the goods/services we buy) energy demand;
2. **Energy efficiency**: reduce the use of energy to provide the same level of service (an energy service can be for example defined as lighting, heating, cooking, etc.)
3. **Renewable energy**: for the demand that cannot be reduced, increase the use of renewable and clean sources of energy.

European citizens at the heart of challenges

As individuals we can feel that our behaviors have little impact on these global issues. But as European consumers, we are in fact key to the solution (with unsustainable energy and carbon footprints) and need to:

- Change our consumption patterns to save on direct and indirect energy consumption
- Move towards more sustainable lifestyles, with respect to the limits of our environment
- Influence our relatives and friends to adopt responsible behaviors

The project C4ET

The project develops a quality educational approach of the transition, integrating the systemic aspect of energy. As such, six focus subjects have been chosen, as indicated in the figure beside.

The final objective is for adult citizens to make a direct link between the global challenges of the energy transition and their day-to-day lives, enabling them to adapt their lifestyles and consumer choices. To this extent, the project consortium aims to develop an integrated approach based on 30 innovative, sustainable and pedagogical tools focusing on the various key topics identified. This consortium of 6 partners from 6 EU countries, provides a good synergy thanks to the qualified mix of trans-national, trans-sectorial and interdisciplinary backgrounds, cultures and fields of expertise. The project started in October 2015 and has now entered its operational phase.
As a basis to the development of these tools, a state of the art of citizens’ current knowledge and needs has been conducted in each of the participating countries (Belgium, Croatia, France, Germany, Hungary and Italy), and an integrated report was written at European level. Following this first step, the six partners started the design of a pedagogical programme, which was completed in June 2016 and which now serves as a framework for the project’s implementation.

In the meantime, the partners also gathered in April 2016, in Villeneuve-Loubet, France, to pilot test 35 existing tools. The purpose was to build-on best practices and define the main characteristics for C4ET’s tools, such as the interactivity, the simplicity, the design, the usefulness, etc. All these steps were critical to developing the tools.

**Behind the scenes: C4ET team at work during the labtool experience in April 2016**

*Already 12 tools developed in alpha version*

The consortium met the 1st and 2nd of December 2016 in Budapest to discuss about the project’s implementation and test the first tools developed by each partner. These tools cover a wide range of topic related to the energy transition and have been designed for all types of citizens, from the most knowledgeable to “beginners”, but also for companies and organizations of the civil society so they can become ambassadors of the transition. These tools are now entering in a phase of revision and will be ready for testing by the beginning of 2017. They include in particular:

- A carbon footprint calculator covering a wide range of activities
- Visual posters and templates to be used directly by citizens or by companies to inform their employees on sustainable behaviors
- Short and pedagogical factsheets
- Quizzes and survey that will enable users to assess their knowledge, benchmark it and get concrete and specific recommendations
- An interactive map showing best practices enhancing the energy transition
- Brochures to go in-depth on specific topics

The consortium is now working on a beta version for these 12 first tools and the design of another 12. All tools will be ready for pilot test sessions by citizens, in each of the 6 countries, with events organized between June and September 2016. They will then be improved to have the final tools ready by the start of next year, to be freely used by any citizens.
The project C4ET was presented by TREBAG in the “Agropoly and Gamification” conference, which gathered up to 80 participants. The main aim of this conference was to present a serious game that will help younger farmers in raising their entrepreneur skills and create their own companies. This could serve as a basis for some C4ET tools.

Numerous C4ET activities were carried out during the 22nd Conference of Parties (COP22) of the UNFCCC, which took place in Marrakech in November 2016. ENERGIES 2050 was highly involved in COP22 and had the chance to present the project in side-events focusing on the energy transition, to meet citizens and to disseminate the project at its two booths.
STAY IN TOUCH: OUR BROCHURE, WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE

http://citizens4energytransition.org/

THE PATH TOWARDS ENERGY TRANSITION:
THE NECESSITY TO REDEFINE OUR CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

To contribute to the transition towards sustainability, C4ET’s objectives are to:

1. Raise awareness of European citizens on the energy transition
   - 30 Interactive and accessible tools

2. Contribute to a development that is sober in energy and with low impact on the climate
   - 11 events to push citizens towards action

3. Reinforce adult skills and competencies in the field of energy transition.
   - Sustainable education materials

4. Help citizens to identify energy transition as an opportunity
   - Emphasize the benefits of the transition

A GLOBAL CHALLENGE
Climate change is one of the biggest challenges we must face today. There is now little doubt that climate change is linked to the greenhouse gases emissions associated with our energy systems and consumption patterns. The drastic changes needed to mitigate this issue will require the involvement of all.

THE ENERGY TRANSITION
The need for implementing energy conservation and efficiency measures, as well as developing the use of renewable energy systems, is critical. It is in a context of continuous and significant growth of energy demand. It will reduce the pressure on energy resources and the associated pollution and improve global access to modern energy sources.

THE EU OBJECTIVES
The European Commission sets itself ambitious targets in its 2020 energy strategy. By 2020, it aims to reduce by 20% its greenhouse gases emissions compared to 1990 levels to increase the share of renewable energy in final energy consumption by 20%. It will increase by 27% energy efficiency compared to a business as usual scenario.

OUR ROLE AS EUROPEAN CITIZENS
As European citizens, we can feel that our behaviour have an impact on these global issues. We are in fact key to the solution and need to:

• Change our consumption patterns to save on direct and indirect energy consumption
• Move towards more sustainable lifestyles, with respect to the limits of our environment
• Influence our relatives and friends to adopt responsible behaviours