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**Beyond the borders:
Renewable energy
crowdfunding in Europe**

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Crowdfunding the Torreilles solar park

A successful collaboration

Financing projects across multiple EU countries is nowadays all but easy. Lumo and Oneplanetcrowd, crowdfunding platforms based respectively in France and in the Netherlands, joined forces to overcome the issues related to cross-border crowdfunding. Together they developed a solution to give French and Dutch investors alike the opportunity to co-invest in a solar park located in Torreilles, in the South West of France.

This unprecedented collaboration is part of the EU-funded project CrowdFundRES, which aims to unleash the potential of crowdfunding for financing renewable energy projects.



Robert Breugelmans (Oneplanetcrowd):

"Lumo and Oneplanetcrowd met each other during the CrowdFundRES project. We were both eager to make a cross-border project work"



Alex Raguet (Lumo):

"Without CrowdFundRES, Oneplanetcrowd and Lumo would have never had the opportunity to test this idea"



Silvia Caneva and Pablo Alonso

(WIP Renewable Energies, CrowdFundRES project coordinators):

"CrowdFundRES has marked a turning point in terms of cross-border crowdfunding. The collaboration between Lumo and Oneplanetcrowd has defined the foundation for further cooperations towards a sustainable growth of crowdfunding and renewable energies"

The Torreilles solar park



Located in the Pyrénées-Orientales department



96 greenhouses equipped with 37,000 solar panels



3 sites covering an area of 43 hectares



9.6MWp total power - enough to supply 5,200 households



14,000,000 kWh produced annually



1,100 tons of CO₂ saved each year

The crowdfunding campaigns in numbers

800,000 €

collected in two campaigns

350

French investors in the two campaigns

130

Dutch investors in the second campaign

14 days

to meet the second campaign goal of 120,000 €

3 years

payback period

5%

annual interest rate

Same opportunities for different crowds



The cross-border solution

While there is no regulatory problem for French investors to crowdfund a project in France through Lumo's platform, the involvement of the Dutch crowd required a special arrangement.

Torreilles project developer Amarenco set up a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), a dedicated intermediate structure that allows crowdfunding from the Netherlands. This entity, called Amarenco Crowd SAS, works under Lumo's licence and grants Lumo control over the investors' interest through a specific governance structure.

The actors involved



Lumo: French crowdfunding platform dedicated to renewable energy projects, founding member of the French and European Crowdfunding Association



Oneplanetcrowd: Netherlands-based crowdfunding platform for impact investing, active member of the Dutch and European Crowdfunding Association



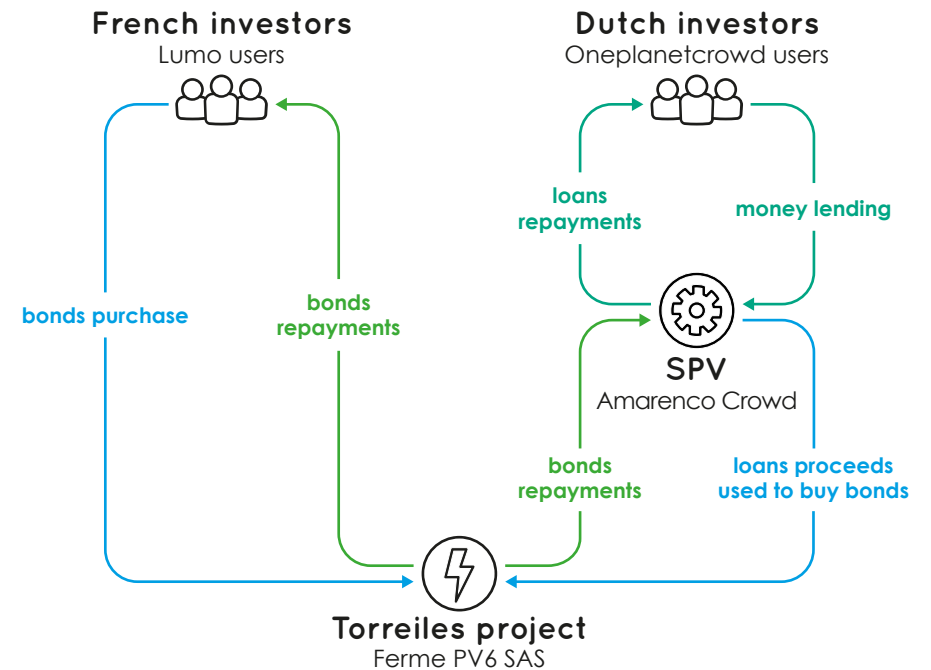
Amarenco: Irish renewable energy independent power producer and sponsor of the plant in Torreilles

Amarenco Crowd SAS: French Special Purpose Vehicle owned by Amarenco and managed by Lumo, created to allow Dutch investors to crowdfund the Torreilles project

Ferme PV6 SAS: Torreilles project entity, issuer of the bonds

How does it work?

Oneplanetcrowd provides a loan to the SPV, which in turn buys bonds from the Torreilles Solar Park, represented by Ferme PV6 SAS. The payments of the bonds are then used to repay the Dutch investors through the Oneplanetcrowd platform. Thanks to this solution, the Dutch crowd is offered the same financial conditions as French investors.



Facing the challenges

What we learned from this experience

Regulatory frameworks for investment are currently not harmonised within the European Union. This inhibits international opportunities as local regulations make it almost impossible for investors to participate in crowdfunding projects if the offering entity is not located in the same regulatory area.

The success of the Torrelles project shows that EU citizens are enthusiastic about the new investment opportunities offered by cross-border crowdfunding.

Regulatory authorities and policy makers around Europe can play a decisive role in establishing a harmonised legal framework amongst EU that enables cross-border investments. Supporting cross-border crowdfunding would help boost renewable energy projects and bring us a step closer to a more united Europe.



Robert Breugelmans (Oneplanetcrowd):

"The international structure we used here can work on a much broader scale"



Alex Raguet (Lumo):

"The EU should make cross-border rules for crowdfunding easier in order to help building the Energy Union"



Silvia Caneva and Pablo Alonso

(WIP Renewable Energies, CrowdFundRES project coordinators):

"Crowdfunding plays an important role in supporting the effective renewable energy growth in Europe. However, a harmonised legal framework amongst Member States that simplifies cross-border transactions is needed. CrowdFundRES policy recommendations will help shape the regulatory and market framework to foster crowdfunding for renewable energies"



Our suggestions for EU regulators

- ✓ Promote regulatory harmonisation across Member States
- ✓ Implement incentive schemes to engage citizens to financially participate in the roll-out of renewables
- ✓ Promote citizens' participation models that allow cross-border investments
- ✓ Encourage project developers and citizen's participation in projects by establishing the legal basis for the financing of renewable energy projects through crowdfunding



Our suggestions for Project developers

- ✓ Study local regulations
- ✓ Think whether you really need international visibility
- ✓ If so, look for a platform which can reach out to an international crowd
- ✓ Choose a platform which communicates in the local language



Unleashing the potential of Crowdfunding
for Financing Renewable Energy Projects

The Consortium



Learn more about the CrowdFundRES Project on
www.crowdfundres.eu



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