

# Social Economy Solutions Towards Zero Pollution

03 June | ONLINE  
15.00 – 17.00h

## EU GREEN WEEK 2021 PARTNER EVENT

Register [here](#).

**15:00** Welcome and Moderation

Nicholas Clark, Policy and Communications Officer at SEE &  
Julija Kekstaite, Policy Officer – Social Affairs at RREUSE

**15:05** Keynote Speech

Agamemnon Otero MBE, Founding Director of Energy Garden, Repowering London and  
Brixton Energy

**15:20** Main panel: Social Economy examples of working for people and planet: Reducing  
pollution while keeping profits local, ensuring equality and a fair society

- Dirk Vansintjan, President of REScoop.eu
- Todor Ivanov, Secretary General at Eurocoop (tbc)
- David Levine, Co-founder and President of ASBC
- Katie Treadwell, Energy Policy Officer at WWF EPO
- Lorita Constantinescu, Development Director at Ateliere Fara Frontiere
- José Manuel Portas, Coordinator of the Technical Secretariat at AERESS
- Francisco Serrano, Vice President of the Comunitat Minera Olesana SCCL "The  
Cooperative of the Water"

**16.20** Europe`s moment: Building alliances for climate neutrality and an economy that  
works for people and planet

A vision from the EU Commission, DG GROW, Social Economy Unit  
Karel Vanderpoorten, Policy Officer – Social Economy, EU Commission DG GROW

A vision from the EU Commission, DG GROW, Social Economy Unit  
Pascal Canfin MEP, President of the ENVI Committee (tbc)

**16.40** Closing Speeches

Antigone Dalamaga, Honorary President & Vice President of RREUSE  
Patrizia Bussi, Vice-President of SEE



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### Introduction

Have you ever wondered if there is another way of doing business? A way that regular people can benefit more from the money they put into their communities? What if you heard that there is a way that we can actually help to save the planet, while ensuring that the local communities, the workers and the most vulnerable in society are actively protected!? This event will introduce you to this alternative model. The social economy!

We aim to raise awareness of the social economy, which helps us to fight for the green transition towards a better environment by reducing pollution while keeping profits local, ensuring equality and a fair society, to a wider audience.

Examples include working towards the green transition through: Reducing plastic pollution, The farm to fork strategy and change in the food environments through consumer co-operatives, cooperatives providing several environmental services including landscaping, waste management and treatment and social farming, associations of solidarity entities dedicated to the reduction, reuse and recycling of waste, with the objective of social transformation and promotion of the socio-labour insertion of people at risk of social exclusion, cooperative energy communities (REScoops) and more.

### So what is the social economy?

The social economy is a major socio-economic player of our Single Market. In the EU alone, there are 2.8 million social economy enterprises and organisations, ranging from SMEs to large groups, that operate in all sectors, employing 13.6 million citizens and accounting for 8% of the Union's GDP. The social economy is made of a diversity of organisations as cooperatives, mutuals, associations, foundations and social enterprises, among other legal forms, united by values and features as the primacy of people and the social objective over capital, democratic governance, solidarity and the reinvestment of most profits to pursue sustainable development objectives.

A good piece of homework to do before this event is to listen to our [Podcast](#) (episode 2 features two of the organisations in this event!) And you can watch the amazing video called "[We the Power](#)" which has recently gone viral. Help spread this message further!



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### Meet the Speakers!

#### Moderators

**Nicholas Clark**, Policy and Communications Officer at SEE.



Nicholas Clark began his career as a Science Teacher in the state school sector in London, where he used his background in Biology to communicate his passion for the environment, but also experience the importance of socially just policies due to the diverse background of his students. His passion for teaching steered him to lead in the creation of a Secondary School from an existing Primary School in Barcelona (ISCAT, as Head of Secondary for five years) where he could continue to transmit a message of care and responsibility for the environment and the community. His desire to more directly influence EU policy led him to Brussels to study a Master's in Human Ecology and then to combine his scientific and social background to work at Social Economy Europe

**Julija Kekstaite**, Policy Officer - Social Affairs at RREUSE.



As a policy officer at RREUSE, Julija works on topics related to the EU's Social policy agenda, including the post-COVID economic recovery, social economy, employability and social rights. Her mission is to ensure a favourable policy environment for social enterprises engaged in the circular economy at the EU level, and promote synergies between social and environmental policy goals. Julija holds Master's degree in Sociology and is a voluntary researcher at the Social Work and Pedagogy Research group at Ghent University. Before joining RREUSE in 2020, she worked as an assistant to a Member of the European Parliament, focusing on human rights issues.



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### Meet the Speakers!

#### Keynote Speaker

**Agamemnon Otero MBE**, Founding Director of Energy Garden, Repowering London and Brixton Energy.



Agamemnon Otero is a co-founding director of Repowering. He is also a director of marine transport infrastructure company Hydra and the Repowering projects Energy Garden and Brixton Energy Solar 1, 2 & 3. He co-founded industry advocacy body Community Energy England and in his role as a London Leader sat on the Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Office's Community Energy Contact Group. He has a Master's degree in Architecture: Advanced Environment and Energy and previously worked as the director for Renewable Energy Project Finance and Social Responsibility at a financial institution. In 2016 he was awarded an MBE for services to community energy and in 2017 was named one of the 50 Most Impactful Green Leaders globally by CSR Congress. His story is featured in the hit documentary "We the Power", which has at this point over 1 Million views on YouTube.

#### Roundtable

**Dirk Vansintjan**, President of REScoop.eu.



Dirk Vansintjan is the Co-founder and President of REScoop.eu, the European renewable energy cooperative federation, since 2013. He is also the Co-founder and a board member of REScoop Vlaanderen, the Flemish federation for renewable energy cooperatives and the Co-founder and Vice-president of REScoop.be, the Belgian federation for renewable energy cooperatives. He has also co-founded Molenforum-Vlaanderen, a federation of mill conservation societies in Flanders, as well as ODE-Vlaanderen and Ecopower, a renewable energy cooperative in Flanders. Dirk has been working in the renewable energy sector since 1985 and continues to push for an energy transition that leads to energy democracy. He is also Star of the documentary "We the Power", which has at this point over 1 Million views on YouTube. More info at: [www.rescoop.eu](http://www.rescoop.eu)



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**David Levine**, Co-founder and President of ASBC.



David is the co-founder and president of the American Sustainable Business Council. He has worked as a social entrepreneur for over 30 years focusing on the development of whole systems solutions for a more sustainable society through building strategic partnerships and broad stakeholders initiatives. Previously, he was the founding director of Continuing Education & Public Programs at The Graduate Center, City University of New York. From 1984–1997, David was founder and executive director of the Learning Alliance, an independent popular education organization. David is also a principal partner at Miracle Springs Farm, a goat dairy and family farm in the Hudson Valley

**Katie Treadwell**, Energy Policy Officer at WWF EPO.



Passionate about nature, addressing social inequality and EU affairs, Katie has united her interests in her current role at WWF specialising in the just transition to climate neutrality. Her previous positions included at the College of Europe and across a wide range of public-sector roles at both. She studied sciences at the University of Oxford which led to her position in the NGO sector for causes she believes in

**Lorita Constantinescu**, Development Director at Ateliere Fara Frontiere



Lorita Constantinescu has 30 years-experience in developing the nonprofit organizations sector from Romania and Central-Eastern Europe. For almost 15 years had played an important role to promote circular economy principles to business sector, authorities and citizens in Romania and Europe. Currently Constantinescu is Development Director of Association Ateliere Fara Frontiere, a pioneer Romanian social enterprise for work integration of vulnerable people in Bucharest and she is a lecturer at Sociology Faculty of Bucharest University. She holds a MA in Public Policy from Bucharest University and MBA Certificate from George Washington University.



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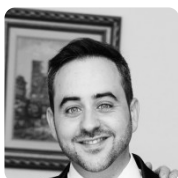
### Meet the Speakers!

**José Manuel Portas**, Coordinator of the Technical Secretariat at AERESS.



José Manuel holds a bachelor's in environmental sciences and has worked as a technical in environmental consulting company and also at university field, especially in waste management and environmental communication. He has experience in project management, data analysis, reporting, coordination of technical committees, European legislation, writing grants and training activities. Currently, as an AERESS technician, their goal is improving the employability of people at risk of social exclusion through waste management.

**Francisco Serrano**, Vice President of the Comunitat Minera Olesana SCCL. At "The Cooperative of the Water",



Francisco Serrano is dedicated to the management of water treatment, to seek solutions for the analysis, control and optimization of resources. He uses automatic analysis as a tool for control and management. With a focus on cooperation of consumers and users he believes that between all of us, we guarantee a good future of water

**Karel Vanderpoorten**, Policy Officer - Social Economy, EU Commission DG GROW.



Mr. Vanderpoorten is currently policy officer Social Economy in DG GROW and focuses mainly on the following themes: the use of digitization and new technologies within the social economy, scaling up social business models and the creation of business partnerships between traditional and social economy enterprises, financing opportunities for social economy companies and social innovation.



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### Meet the Speakers!

**Antigone Dalamaga**, Honorary President & Vice President of RREUSE.



Antigone is the director of the Ecological Recycling Society, a national NGO in Greece, promoting waste prevention, re-use and recycling. She has over 20 years of experience in the field of sustainable waste management at the local, national and international levels, and how this links to job creation. Antigone has been a board member of RREUSE since 2004 and was RREUSE President from 2013 till 2020. Antigone is now Honorary President and acting Vice-President of RREUSE.

**Patrizia Bussi**, Vice-President of SEE.



Patrizia Bussi studied at the business management Faculty of the Turin University (Italy). She is the Director of the European Network of Social Integration Enterprises (ENSIE), representing social enterprises. During her time in ENSIE, she has also worked for two Italian social economy enterprises: the Consorzio Sociale Abele Lavoro and the A-type social cooperative Stranaidea. Since 2012 she is a member of the European Commission Expert Group on social economy and social enterprises (GECES), member of the working group on the role of clusters and similar forms of business cooperation, she was also member of the GECES's Social Impact Measurement sub-group and member of the Italian GECES group, Gruppo Multilaterale sull'imprenditoria sociale. Since 2014 she has represented ENSIE in the Structured Dialogue with European Structural and Investment Funds' partners group of experts (ESIF SD) of the European Commission. Since the beginning of 2019 she is Vice-President of Social Economy Europe

