Internationalism, interdisciplinarity and methodological individualism: Understanding and reflecting on the emergence of local and community governance of energy

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Whilst the idea of community energy and local forms of decision making has gained increasing traction in both policy and academic circles as a driver for low carbon transitions, there remains significant ambiguity in relation to both how we might conceptualize ideas such as ‘community’ and ‘localism’ and subsequently how we might understand these concepts in terms of their normative influence on social, political and economic change. Community and local governance of energy has emerged in different ways within different national contexts where this diversity ranges from the spectacular increase in decentralized, locally driven wind energy in Denmark, to the less influential and more low-key approach in the UK. The paper will draw from a current international research project which has brought together researchers, institutes and programs that are currently engaged in research on local and community energy projects. The paper will utilize this research in order to explore both the ideas and the practical applications of locally led energy transitions through an international and interdisciplinary understanding of different theoretical, disciplinary and methodological approaches. The paper will engage with comparative knowledge and expertise on country-specific responses to energy and environmental issues which have emerged specifically from the local or community level. This approach will promote an understanding of country-specific approaches to energy policy; an exploration of how different national approaches ‘accommodate’ community based projects; an understanding of issues around the role of public engagement and acceptability and an exploration of the challenges and opportunities presented by different ownership and operational models.

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Assessing of the carbon storage technologies and capacity in Central-SE Europe

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The main purpose is to define CO\textsubscript{2} storage technologies and to assess storage capacity of the countries in Central-SE Europe: Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Hungary, Croatia, Slovenia, Slovakia, the Czech Republic and Poland. The study was carried out in the frame of GeoCapacity (2006-2009) and CO\textsubscript{2}StoP (2012-2013) EU projects. The overall goal is to develop and validate, in public/private partnerships, all the innovative technologies needed to store CO\textsubscript{2} in a reliable and safe way. A summary is given on the general geology of the countries. There was data collection on possible geological storage locations: gas- and oil fields, aquifers, coal fields/mines. Based on the gathered data an estimate of the country wide storage capacity was calculated.

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