

International Seminar/Workshop on **Energy Democracy**



Amsterdam - 11/12 February 2016

The **International Seminar/Workshop on Energy Democracy** is hosted by the Transnational Institute (TNI), in association with the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, Global Justice Now, Berliner Energietisch, Platform London, and Public Services International (PSI)

The February 2016 meeting in Amsterdam has been organised on the basis of conversations in Paris in December 2015 among several organisations active in the field of *Energy Democracy* (ED). The objectives of the workshop are the following:

1. Share information and experiences

The meeting in Amsterdam will provide an open space to share information on the objectives and activities of each participant in the field of ED, discuss achievements and challenges arising from current and previous work in related fields (e.g. public water), and share tools and experiences for knowledge production and campaigning in this area.

2. Discuss and disseminate innovative approaches

Presentations and exchanges around innovative practices and lessons learnt will constitute an essential part of the workshop. Participants will collectively identify interesting and challenging areas of work in the ED field, based on relevant processes evolving in different regions of the world.

3. Facilitate the creation of a knowledge-sharing network

The workshop is expected to facilitate agreements among participants with a view to establish a network for the joint collection and sharing of knowledge and experiences in the ED field, facilitating possible joint research, publications, seminars, web-based courses, and other related activities.



Day 1 / Seminar

9:00 Arrival and coffee

Introduction

- 9:10 Welcoming remarks *Fiona Dove*
- 9:20 Methodology and objectives of the seminar/workshop *Daniel Chavez*
Satoko Kishimoto

1. The global and regional contexts of the project

- 9:40 Ongoing debates and struggles around energy sovereignty and democracy in Latin America *Edgardo Lander*
- 10:00 Strategies of ED in Europe: where do we stand today and what are our prospects? *Nick Dearden*
- 10:20 Energy policies and people's struggles in Asia today: challenges and opportunities *Benny Kuruvilla*
Dottie Guerrero
- 10:40 Energy democracy in the US: current developments and outlooks *Nick Buxton*
- 11:00 *Coffee break*
- 11:10 The political economy of energy, power relations and the spaces for social action *Kolya Abramsky*
- 11:30 Global trends and institutions: threats and opportunities for energy democracy *David Boys*
Victor Menotti
- 11:50 Questions and answers and open discussion on session 1 topics *Moderator:*
Claus-Dieter König

2. Energy democracy: local and sub-national experiences

- 12:20 The *Berliner Energietisch*: a citizens alliance to reclaim power in the German capital *Stefan Taschner*
- 12:40 The *Switched on London* campaign and struggles for clean and affordable energy in London and Great Britain *Anna Galkina*
James Angel
- 13:00 Progressive proposals and campaigns in Spain and the prospects for democratisation of the energy sector *Alfredo Ramos*
Pablo Cotarelo
- 13:20 Questions and answers and open discussion on session 2 topics *Moderator:*
Marlis Gensler
- 13:40 *Lunch at TNI*

3. Energy democracy: national experiences

- 14:40 The Uruguayan transition to renewable energy: main features, prospects and political debates *Sebastián Torres*
- 15:00 Energy policy in Costa Rica: synergies between the state and the solidarity economy *Alberto Cortés*
José Deras
- 15:20 Labour and social movements' responses to the current electricity crisis in South Africa *Brian Ashley*
Dinga Sikwebu
- 15:40 Current debates on energy policy in Greece: challenges and opportunities *Giannis Margaritis*
- 16:00 Questions and answers and open discussion on session 3 topics *Moderator:*
Sam Lund-Harket

Day 1 / Seminar (cont.)

16:30 *Coffee break*

4. Lessons from other initiatives in related areas

- 16:40 The Municipal Services Project (MSP): how to identify, compare and evaluate alternatives? *David McDonald
Susan Spronk
(via Skype)*
- 17:00 The Trade Unions for Energy Democracy (TUED) initiative: engaging with workers and communities *Sean Sweeney
(via Skype)*
- 17:20 The Reclaiming Public Water Network (RPW): relevant lessons for the energy sector *Satoko Kishimoto*
- 17:50 Questions and answers and open discussion on session 4 topics *Moderator:
Lyda Ferrero*
- 18:00 *Drinks at TNI*

Group dinner

- 19:30 *Het Paviljoen*
Van Beuningenplein 21, Amsterdam
(five minute walk from TNI)

Day 2 / Workshop

5. Information sharing session

- 9:15 What each organisation is doing (or planning to do) in the field of ED: research, campaigning and /or support to local activist groups *All participating organisations (RLS, GJN, BE, PSI, TNI, SOMO, FoE, etc.)*
- 11:30 *Coffee break*
- 11:40 Open floor discussion: spaces and opportunities for cooperation and joint work in the field of ED *All participants*
- 12:30 *Lunch at TNI*

6. Strategising and planning

- 13:45 Open floor discussion. Guiding questions: *All participants*
- *What is our common understanding of ED?*
 - *How could an alliance for ED strengthen each organisation's work?*
 - *How could we work together with other organisations, particularly from the South?*
- 15:50 *Coffee break*
- 16:00 Open floor discussion. Possible joint activities and action plan. *All participants*
- 17:30 *Wrap-up and drinks at TNI*