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“ French Policy Localism:  
Surfing on ‘ Positive  
Energie Territories’  
(Tepos)”, Energy Policy,  
March 2015,

# « Initiatives locales et politiques climat energie : le localisme en question »

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Les enjeux de l'interdisciplinarité de la recherche sur le changement climatique

Ecole d'Eté

Plénière « Climat et sociétés : des discours à l'action de terrain »

**Projet « CLIMENCORED »,** Agence française de l'Environnement et de la Maîtrise de l'Energie (ADEME) , (Programme “Mettre l'innovation sur la trajectoire du facteur 4”, Convention 11 10 C 0079).

# « Localism »

expériences locales, communautés énergétiques renouvelables, grassroots initiatives, renewable energy communities, territoires à énergie positive, territoires à énergie positive pour la croissance verte ...

# Les expériences locales [UK]

**2011**

190 initiatives identifiées  
[354 réponses]

## Facteurs de succès

Collectif de projet

[cohésion, compétences projet, vision partagée, implication]

Partenariats, mise en réseau local / régional / national

[partenariats, autorité locales, mise en réseau associative / communautés / projets]

Politiques publiques

[soutien financier, tarifs fixes]

## Facteurs d'échec

Enjeux de projet

[accès aux soutiens financiers, manque de temps / de volontaires / d'engagement sur le projet, enjeux spécifiques au projet, manque d'expertise]

Manque de soutien

[indifférence / manque de confiance au niveau local, instabilité des politiques publiques, complications réglementaires]

Seyfang G., Park J.L., Smith A. 2013. « A thousand flowers blooming? An examination of community energy in the UK, Energy Policy, 61, 977-989.

# Le « localism », un débat qui vient du Royaume Uni

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Fin des années 1990

La troisième voie, entre marché et gouvernement

La communauté comme acteur (social, politique et économique) en charge du développement au cœur de la troisième voie

Le local, le « localism »

« local trap »

Le local serait ... plus vert, plus démocratique, plus pertinent pour l'action climat-énergie ...

Le local est une échelle comme les autres, il est « construit » (bien ou mal)

Il n'a pas de pertinence a priori

•Marvin, S., Guy, S., 1997. Creating myths rather than sustainability: the transition fallacies of the new localism. Local Environ.: Int. J. Justice Sustain. 2 (3), 311–318.

# Le « localism », un débat qui vient du Royaume Uni

Walker, G., 2008. What are the barriers and incentives for community-owned means of energy production and use? Energy Policy, 36, 4401–4405.

Walker, G., Cass, N., 2007. Carbon reduction, “the public” and renewable energy: engaging with socio-technical configurations. Area 39, 458–469.

Walker, G., Devine-Wright, P., 2008. Community renewable energy: What should it mean? Energy Policy 36, 497–500.

Catney P., MacGregor S., Dobson A., Hall S.M., Royston S., Robinson Z., Ormerod M., Ross S., 2013. Big society, little justice? Community renewable energy and the politics of localism. Local Environment: The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability 19(7), 715-730.

Park Jung J., 2012. Fostering community energy and equal opportunities between communities, Local Environment: The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability 17(4), 387-408.

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2010 changement de gouvernement (coalition)

« Big society » (versus « Big State »)

Une interprétation néolibérale de la troisième voie

« Communautés énergétiques »

Emergence dans le discours de politique énergétique

Une réalité hétérogène

Un mot valise, qui soutient des financements

Changement des modes de soutien (avances remboursables, appels d'offre concurrentiels ...)

Diminution (tarifs d'achat ...)

Réduction des montants des soutiens

Enjeu d'équité (qui a accès au financement ? Quid des communautés les plus démunies ?)

Enjeu d'efficacité (comment parier sur des acteurs non constitués ?)

# Une ou des communautés ?

[un ou des territoires ?]

Un débat sur la notion de communauté  
Le contenu qui lui est donné  
Le rôle qui lui est assigné

## *Néolibérale*

acteur individué, capable, compétent [concurrentiel]  
assujetti à l'impératif de développement économique

## *Entreprenariale*

impliquée dans le montage de partenariat Etat-marché-société civile

## *Activiste*

le développement communautaire comme résistance locale, en réseau,  
globale au néolibéralisme

Geoghan M., Powell F., 2009.  
Community development and  
the contested politics of the  
late modern agora: of,  
alongside or against  
neoliberalism? Community  
Development Journal 44(4),  
430–447.

Amin A., 2005. Local  
community on trial. Economy  
and Society 34(4), 612-633.

# Le localisme à la française ?

Réalité des expériences ?

[nombre, collectifs, contenu, historicité, territorialité ...]

Type de local convoqué ?

[néolibéral, entrepreunarial, activiste ...]

Rôle invoqué ?

[creuset d'initiative, d'innovation, échelle de résolution d'enjeu [acceptabilité], facteur de diffusion / instance de portage de projets privés, lieu de démonstration technologique ...]

Décentralisation & libéralisation ?

[au-delà de l'histoire électrique ... ]

Urbain & rural ?

[au-delà de l'histoire électrique ... ]

# Un Localisme

expériences locales, communautés énergétiques renouvelables, grassroots initiatives, renewable energy communities, territoires à énergie positive, territoires à énergie positive pour la croissance verte ...

# à la française

# Emergent French localism

**Amorce** [set up in 1987, heating network/energy/waste, 835 members ]

**Energy Cities** [urban, 1990, 1000 cities]

**Covenant of Mayors** [mostly urban, 2008, 6700 signatories]

**TEPOS** [POPositive Energy Territory] network [rural, 2011, 50 members]

Grenelle de l'environnement [first time represented]

Discours politique

2013 draft Loi TECV >> territoire (130); local (51); transition (329) ; décentralisation (1)

2015 TECV Law >> appel à projets, soutien financier

Environ 300 TEPCV [may 2016]

Suivi administratif récent en France

**Commune** [English parish]

**Groupe de communes** ['communautés de communes']

Parc Naturels régionaux

Pays

Région

Pas une “communauté”

Périmètre variable

Collectifs de différents types



# Un

expériences locales, communautés énergétiques renouvelables, grassroots initiatives, renewable energy communities, territoires à énergie positive, territoires à énergie positive pour la croissance verte ...

# recensement

# A state of rural experiments

Census 2012

In association with TEPOS

Ongoing dynamics

TEPOS

set up in June 2011

**rural local authorities and stakeholders** [energy and farming cooperatives, small and medium size enterprises, specialised NGOs and engineering offices]

working for the energy transition in rural territories

heading towards energy autonomy (or ‘100% renewables’)

average annual coverage of energy consumption by local renewable energy production (electricity, heat and mobility)

150 prospects [TEPOS and RES LEAGUE, 2012]

50 members [16 certified TEPOS] [April 2016]

Prospect listing

Pooling by project

Exchange with TEPOS

Completed list [publicly available data, interviews]

**10 significant experiments (2012)**

# A state of rural experiments

## [Criteria]

**Actual development** [installed capacity, energy production, schedule/milestones, expected development in 2012-2013]

**Innovative dimension** [model of organisation or assemblage that can be developed on a larger scale or by other collectives]

**Collective dimension** [mutualisation, range/diversity of actors]

**Scale** [scales (European, national, local) included in carrying out the experiment]

**Institutionalisation** [connection with existing institutional devices such as energy or climate-energy policy frameworks]

**Climate energy dimension** [targeted at energy or climate issues, or both]

**Energy context** [singularity of regional energy context – e.g. Brittany, PACA ...]

# A state of rural experiments

La commune de **Kayersberg** (Alsace)

La commune de **Tramayes** (Bourgogne)

La Communauté de Communes du **Mené** (Bretagne)

La Communauté de Communes **Val d'Ille** (Bretagne)

La Communauté de Communes des **Crêtes Pré-Ardennaises** (Champagne-Ardennes)

Le Pays de **Figeac** (Midi-Pyrénées)

La commune de **Loos-En-Gohelle** (Nord Pas-de-Calais)

La commune de **Montdidier** (Picardie)

Le Pays **Thouarsais** (Poitou-Charentes)

La **Biovallée** (Diois, Rhône-Alpes)

Kayersberg (Alsace)	<p><b>Key words:</b> citizen participation, wood energy, citizen-owned ReN capacities (PV power plant, wind farm).</p> <p><b>Key aspects:</b></p> <p>Remarkable wood energy achievements: 7 wood and gas boiler units, wood processing platform, heating network (871 kW)</p> <p>Citizen engagement in the development of ReN capacities: individual PV and thermal solar panels; co-operative PV farm (1st in France, 8kWc) and 5-turbine wind farm</p> <p>Energy-savings: public lighting, communal buildings.</p>
Tramayes (Bourgogne)	<p><b>Key words:</b> wood boiler room, heating network, energy planning, public lighting, positive energy territory.</p> <p><b>Key aspects:</b></p> <p>Publicly owned and managed wood boiler unit and heating network: the municipality sells more heat from renewable energy sources than it consumes for its own buildings.</p> <p>Reduction of the 'energy bill' (energy savings, energy efficiency, renewables). Demonstration based on the concrete case of public lighting.</p> <p>Front-runner and leader on a local and regional scale, 'Positive energy Territories' meeting and regional call for projects.</p>
Le Mené (BrittanyBrittany)	<p><b>Key words:</b> agriculture, agro-industry, cooperative, local development, energy self-sufficiency, 100% ReN.</p> <p><b>Key aspects:</b></p> <p>Variety of ReN developments: colza oil-mill, wood boiler unit and municipal heating network, methanization plant, co-operative wind farm, etc.</p> <p>Ambition: 100% ReN and energy self-sufficient by 2030.</p> <p>Innovative financial plans for energy projects including various actors (inhabitants, farmers, co-operatives, industrialists, etc.)</p> <p>Singular context of Brittany: energy insularity; agro-industry, pig manure and nitrate pollution.</p>
Val d'Illle (BrittanyBrittany)	<p><b>Key words:</b> transverse management /sustainable development; organic farming; short circuits/short food supply chain; wood energy/heating network; solar photovoltaic; 'soft' transportation; Covenant of Mayors; climate plan (GHG).</p> <p><b>Key aspects:</b> transversal governance, articulation between climate-energy issues and local development, articulation between local initiatives and institutional frameworks, installed ReN capacities, innovative (business) models.</p>
Crêtes Pré-ardennaises (Champagne-Ardennes)	<p><b>Key words:</b> participative democracy; territorial development; co-operative ReN</p> <p><b>Key aspects:</b></p> <p>Pioneer territory in the development of local wind power planning and charter.</p> <p>ReN innovation model based on citizen participation / funding, supporting the gradual emergence of a co-operative ReN model in France.</p> <p>Core role of participative democracy in the emergence of a local climate-energy agenda.</p>

Pays de Figeac (Midi-Pyrénées)	<p><b>Key words:</b> mutualisation, territorial development, bond agriculture-energy, collective park solar, agricultural cooperative.</p> <p><b>Key aspects:</b></p> <p>Projects of renewable energies like vector of a renewal of activity and a fixing of value on the territory; new trades to be adapted</p> <p>Implication of the inhabitants and in particular of the agricultural sector: entry of the farmers into a new trade, start of a transformation of the role of the farmer, who from now on can see himself as an energy supplier</p> <p>Mutualisation-like tool of mobilization and implication of the actors in the territory; facilitates the initial implication in the projects, limits the risk, increases the force of negotiation, and redistributes the profits.</p>
Loos-en-Gohelle (Nord-Pas-de-Calais)	<p><b>Key words:</b> eco-construction / eco-renovation, innovation cluster, R&amp;D, 'pilot city towards sustainable development', citizen participation.</p> <p><b>Key aspects:</b></p> <p>coal industry legacy: unemployment, low-incomes, mining housing, massive environmental degradation, industrial infrastructures</p> <p>'pilot city', territorial reconversion towards sustainable innovation and R&amp;D: network of actors and R&amp;D clusters (CERDD, Cd2e, Ekuation cluster, life cycle analysis platform, national pole of competitiveness named 'TEAM'², a R&amp;D test platform for solar energy 'Luminawatt', a training centre for eco-construction.</p> <p>citizen participation.</p>
Montdidier (Picardy)	<p><b>Key words:</b> 'pilot city', energy efficiency, ReN projects, municipally owned and managed power grid and utility, 100% municipal wind farm</p> <p><b>Key aspects:</b></p> <p>Municipal control over local power supply and distribution grid, as part of a local energy public utility</p> <p>'Pilot city' for energy efficiency,</p> <p>ReN production revenues recycled into energy savings</p> <p>Municipality aiming at energy autonomy and thereafter at becoming a positive energy territory.</p> <p>Exemplary experiment, yet having little coordination with departmental and regional climate-energy public policy devices</p>
Pays Thouarsais (Poitou-Charentes)	<p><b>Key words:</b> Climate-Energy Plan; agriculture; energy savings; renewable energies (PV, methanisation, wood-energy)</p> <p><b>Key aspects:</b></p> <p>Strategy articulated around a Climate-Energy Plan</p> <p>Agriculture and the reduction of GHG emissions</p> <p>Variety of public fundings (national, regional, EU) and variety of financial models</p>
Biovallée (Rhône-Alpes)	<p><b>Key words:</b> branding, European reference, sustainable development, regional support, Low Energy Building retrofitting (50KWh/m<sup>2</sup>/y).</p> <p><b>Key aspects:</b></p> <p>Regional integration and support (Rhône-Alpes Region), emblematic territory, sustainable development, 'rural Freiburg'.</p> <p>Low Energy Building retrofitting, craftsmen collectives, experiments, standardisation / massification</p> <p>Small wind power experiments, support to co-operative PV solar projects.</p>

# Outcomes 1

## Issues of local development / territorial conversion, historicity

**Loos-en-Gohelle** [declining mining territory, industrial and mining heritage]

**Crêtes Pré-ardennaises** [sparsely populated area, no real economy apart from agriculture, major challenge in the 1980s]

**Montdidier** [local DSO and the upcoming liberalisation of the electricity sector]

**Pays de Figeac** [need to diversify local agric. coop. and local economy]

# Outcomes 2

## Variety of achievements as regards actual realisation

[installed capacity, reduction in energy demand]

### Most advanced

**Le Mené** [methanisation unit, oil mill for biodiesel, wood-fired heating plant and network, participatory wind energy, low-energy buildings, eco-construction, ReN start-up incubator, etc.]

**Kaysersberg Valley** [wood heating plants and wood supply industry, citizen solar installation, small hydro units, public and civic wind project]

**Montdidier** [energy consumption reduction, publicly-owned wind power, wood-fired heating plant and network, solar PV]

**Pays Thouarsais** [wind park, collective methanisation unit, wood heating plants, solar installations, shared energy management]

### Intermediary stage and scale of realisation

**Loos-en-Gohelle** [home energy retrofits, eco-construction, thermal solar energy and wood boiler in public buildings, solar PV, R & D platforms on eco-materials / eco-construction / recycling / solar PV]

**Crêtes Pré-ardennaises** [participative democracy, coop ReN]

### Promising soft-type experiments

[e.g., organisational, institutional]

**Val d'Illle** [wood-fired heating plant and network, solar PV]

**Biovallée** [energy renovation, small wind power]

# Outcomes 3

Uneven enrolment in public policy programmes such as climate-energy plans

Not a condition for concrete achievements or developments  
Le Mené, Biovallée

Structuring role [devising of plans or schemes]  
Pays Thouarsais

Labelling, increased visibility [access to EU funding]  
Val d'Ille, Montdidier, Loos-en-Gohelle

In-between, tension  
Crêtes Pré-ardennaises

# Outcomes 4

Innovations that reach beyond their territory

## Biovallée, DOREMI

'craftsmen collective' for low-energy retrofitting (individual housing) with a view to development on the national level

## Crêtes Pré-ardennaises

regionalisation of the Enercoop national energy cooperative

'Mouvement Energie Partagée', funds for developing participative funding of ReN projects on a national scale.

Wind energy charter

# Outcomes 5

## Discontinuities, events, institutional support

apparent dating of experiments does not really correlate with the extent of realisation

**Loos-en-Gohelle, Crêtes pré-ardennaises** - early start, not the most developed  
**Biovallée, Val d'Ille** - recent, gaining visibility and scale

some processes made up of discontinuities

**Montdidier** - election of a new mayor

**Val d'ille** – elections mayors, CdC

role of institutional support or recognition

**Crêtes pré-ardennaises** - 1999 Decentralisation Law

**Biovallée** - regional recognition as GPRA

**Pays Thouarsais** – CLIC support and funding

# Outcomes 6

In-depth inquiry into some of these experiments

successes are like icebergs

visible part of longer processes of local development

importance of capacity building that enables local collectives to seize the opportunities opened up by market or policy environment

understanding the territorial and historical processes of capacity building requires an archaeology of these processes to uncover the way in which a collective capacity has been built at the local level

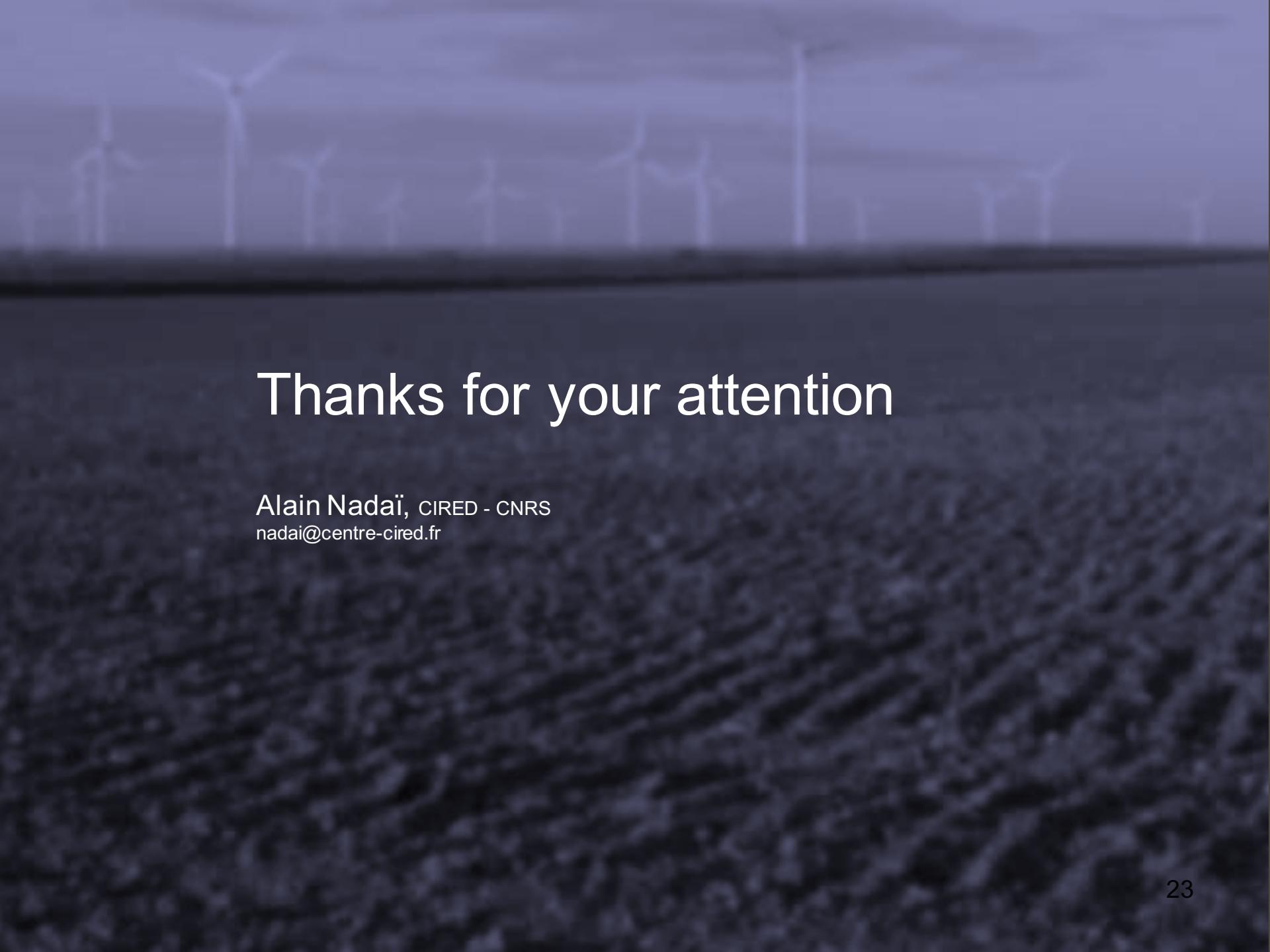
# Conclusion

Driver > synergy between energy & local development / territorial reconversion (historicity / singularity)

Condition > capacity building (shared vision, carrying on projects over time with a collective work, importance of exchanging practices ...)

Autonomy > capacity to capitalise on ongoing energy projects in order to develop new projects and get a grip on local energy futures

Policy > accounting for all the resources engaged in energy change processes ; accounting for uncertainty, trial and error process  
> another way of doing energy policy, not a mere implementation level of national objectives



# Thanks for your attention

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