



Gunnar Boye Olesen is the coordinator at INFORSE Europe. The Energy Academy collaborates with INFORSE on public participation, conferences and workshops.

Watch the interview with Gunnar

Gunnar Boye Olesen: EU partnerships on climate improvements – do they work?

Soeren Hermansen jokingly introduces Gunnar Boye Olesen as an old hippie and says that Gunnar has been the spokesman of many of the Danish environmental grassroots organisations and that he is capable of embracing and including people in the policy development. Today, Gunnar talks about EU partnerships, which he believes are good if you use them right but they are not the only road to change. EU is not a dragon with one head but with many heads.

The EU's peacebuilding project is about bringing people together so we can learn from each other. This is ideally what the EU is supporting, and there are a lot of programs behind that. Soft power is important in the EU system, and it means that for instance small islands can inspire the system.

How does the EU support local development, rising community power, energy reductions etc.? There are lots of good intentions, but a lot of time is spent on bureaucracy when working with EU projects. Being heard is often difficult for small organisations which are not part of the EU system. Still, we have to be in the forefront and always know what the EU is looking for.



Regarding the future, the EU is at a crossroads: Should the EU go for community power or a more centralized type of business power? People like us should push for community power and local solutions, both for our own sake and to change the minds of the bureaucrats.