

Introductory video to Renewable Energy for Local Development**Energy online course (Module 1, part 1)****Videoscript**

Hello everyone,

My name is Vicent Querol. I do my work at the Philosophy and Sociology Department of Jaume I University. I do research on rural development and I'd like to guide you through chapters 4 and 5.

This course is a challenge for me, so we meet in a field where technology and rural spaces can achieve common goals. As you will be covering in Héctor Beltran's part, there are many things that can be modified by changing the energy paradigm.

We'll focus on lives in the rural places. How people could have there a better life. As you know, in general, cities have more chances for developing or greater jobs opportunities. However, renewable energies open the rural spaces to a potential new future.

When talking about rural spaces, Rural areas and rural communities are social constructions. We have some ideas about the people who live there: where they live, what they work at, what are their structure (gender, age...). Nonetheless, social sciences have been working on rural studies for decades and, beyond our own representations of rurality, there is a reality moving everyday in those spaces. We'll try to make an approximation to rural areas from a social science point of view. So, maybe rural communities have some differences from the idea you had in mind.

As you probably think, and you are right, rural spaces don't have the same development level as most cities. Besides, the opportunities for working in the rural are not as great as those in most cities. Therefore, if we need to achieve some kind of development, what is development about? Are there different kinds of development? We'll describe it and, later on, we'll connect it to the population and dynamics that you'll probably find in rural areas.

We will not be the first to act in rural spaces, and European Union has been developing an interesting and large bunch of experiences for the last two decades. We'll show you the method they used and how the developments can be more sustainable, democratic and participatory in the rural spaces. Developing projects together with inhabitants is a challenge and renewable energies appear as a great opportunity to develop not only environmental sustainable projects, but also to build great projects for a social sustainable rural space, putting together environmental and social goals. We'll put the effort in a better rural places to work and live, and building a better planet to preserve for the next generations.

I hope you enjoy these contents and you have the chance to apply them in your future projects.

Best wishes and see you soon!