Five Spanish projects aimed at reducing fuel poverty were included in the final stage of the “Social innovation to tackle fuel poverty” European programme

- The projects presented by the Ecology and Development Foundation (ECODES), Environmental Science Association (ACA), and Tomillo Foundation, Aeioluz and Trama TecnoAmbiental are alongside top Greek, German, Italian, and Portuguese initiatives in the European finals; winners will be announced at the COP23.
- The “Social Innovation to Tackle Fuel Poverty” project initiated last year by Ashoka and the Schneider Electric Foundation, and this year in collaboration with Enel, as well as Endesa in Spain and Portugal, assesses the potential social impact of programmes and their medium- and long-term projects.

In the end, five Spanish projects were chosen to compete in the European final of the “Social innovation to tackle fuel poverty” programme, which was co-founded by Ashoka and the Schneider Electric Foundation, and this year involving Enel across Europe, and Endesa in Spain and Portugal. The programme jury, which for the second year in a row sought the most innovative European social projects designed to combat fuel poverty, in which it is estimated between 50 and 125 million individuals survive, contemplated aspects ranging from the project’s innovation, scalability to other areas, and medium- to long-term sustainability.

The following entries will represent Spain at the European final of the COP23 (the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) to be held in Bonn, Germany in November 2017:

- ECOIDES’ platform for identifying fuel poverty, the network of information and advisory service points presented by ACA.
- Trama TecnoAmbiental’s cutting-edge micro-grid, the transversal proximity technical offices submitted by the Tomillo Foundation.
- The bold approach to solving the problem of social education at the Aeioluz centre.

“Fuel poverty is a real problem in Spain. Over these past weeks, we have been able to confirm that there are a great many collectives already hard at work on the topic, yet there are many solid ideas still requiring financing and support. Social entrepreneurship contributes to well-being and social sustainability, and our mission is to contribute to fostering it and helping it grow” - concluded the jury after the Spanish candidates were named.

Apart from the Spanish projects, others from Italy, Germany, Greece, and Portugal are also being selected. The purpose of this initiative is to be able to contribute to building a community of social entrepreneurs to not only offer personalised support, but will also add visibility and to the collaborative effort towards achieving the scalability of their projects, which should contribute to help entire communities resolve their fuel poverty on the road to sustainability.

The projects

- Aeioluz is a cooperative focused on consultancy and energy education based on a social dimension, and is especially active in Valencia, Alicante, and Castellón. Its mission is to
democratise the management of energy by integrating and educating society through social innovation. Among its key aims is to reduce fuel poverty, focusing on people by helping them to improve their social and economic situations thanks to municipal support.

- **ACA proposed the PICE network**, which was created to empower the public in the use of energy at home, and therefore reduce energetic vulnerability. It is comprised of a network of information points integrated by entities providing information to the public. ACA coordinates the network by offering comprehensive support through training, communication materials, and a web-based central point.

- Based on its slogan “No home without energy”, **ECODES** offers a technological solution to winning the war on fuel poverty in Spain. The project’s website provides an online tool which centralises information on those who suffer from fuel poverty, to therefore offer personalised reports including proposals designed to help lower their energy bills. It also features an interactive map making it possible to seek out initiatives and grants to help fight fuel poverty in each city/region.

- **Trama TecnoAmbiental** submitted a project for installation of a photovoltaic system supplying electricity to 40 homes, as well as public electricity to the village La Rambla del Agua, in Granada. It was conceived to ensure that electricity reaches remote rural areas, through the design, engineering, construction, operation, and management of photovoltaic solar microsites in conjunction with local associations.

- The **Tomillo Foundation** is a non-profit entity focused on improving the training and employment of individuals at the risk of exclusion. The project has already helped 117 families, and consists in developing technical proximity offices which boost and coordinate all the agents and resources available to combat fuel poverty through actions designed to create awareness and foster change in the current model of energy consumption by vulnerable families.

Ashoka

Ashoka envisions a society in which everyone is able to discover his or her potential to improve the world, and to feel able to do so successfully. Therefore:

- Since 1980 it has exemplified this changemaking attitude by selecting innovators who are helping improve the lives of millions. They are Ashoka’s social entrepreneurs, comprised of a global network of 3,300 across 90 counties, of which 32 are in Spain.
- Work is underway to generate demand for an educational model in which a priority is to learn how to be an active solution-provider. To this end, it has a worldwide network of 260 Changemaker schools, with 7 located in Spain.
- It collaborates with companies so as to uncover their potential to become agents of change through their employees, as well as a business model which is linked to social impact.

According to the NGO Advisor, Ashoka is ranked among the top 5 NGOs worldwide. Its founder, Bill Drayton, received the 2011 Príncipe de Asturias Prize on International Cooperation.

For further information on Ashoka and its work, please visit: [http://www.ashoka.es](http://www.ashoka.es)
The Schneider Electric Foundation

Created in 1998 under the auspices of the France Foundation, the Schneider Electric Foundation has collaborated with its associates in implementing solutions to deal with energy problems faced by the world’s less fortunate. In emerging economies, the Foundation supports professional training programs in areas related to energy, and to thereby contribute to the Schneider Electric Access to Energy Programme. In more mature economies, the Foundation fights against fuel poverty by offering sensitisation and awareness programmes in affected homes. The Schneider Electric Foundation is especially focused on employee participation in all the programmes. For further information on the Schneider Electric Foundation and its work, please visit:


The Enel Group

Enel is a multinational energy group, and one of the key integrated global players in the energy and gas sectors. It is present in 31 countries across 4 continents, and produces energy through a net installed capacity of 83 GW, and distributes gas across a network of approximately 2.1 million km. With over 65 million end consumers worldwide, it has the largest client base in Europe, among the leading electricity companies there in terms of installed capacity and declared EBITDA. The Enel Group is comprised of nearly 62,000 employees, men and women worldwide whose invaluable work is based on our value of Responsibility, Innovation, Trust, and Proactiveness.

Based on Endesa’s leading position in Spain and Portugal, since it was formed, the Enel Group has boosted innovation and worldwide progress, exerting a life-changing effect on hundreds of thousands of people and their relationship to energy, and leading the Spanish electricity sector thanks to its social and technological initiative. The Enel-Endesa Group offers its activities to all members of the population through the following:

Making energy available to more people: Taking advantage of its global presence to connect more people to safe and sustainable energy.

Opening energy up to new technologies: To lead and develop the application of cutting-edge technologies able to generate and distribute a more sustainable energy, with special emphasis on renewable energy sources and intelligent distribution networks.

Offering new ways for consumers to manage energy: Develop increased tailor-made services so that individuals may use energy more efficiently, highlighting intelligent metres and digitalisation.

Inviting more collaborators in: Forming a network of collaborators working on the investigation, technology, product development, and marketing so as to build new solutions together.