

HAPPY NEW YEAR

January 2018

The ideas of producers who consume and consumers who produce implies, at least theoretically, greater agency than the ideas of producers or consumers alone.

— George Ritzer,
U.S. sociologist



Thank you for your support and co-operation.
We wish you a peaceful and prosperous new year.

Picture: public domain.

Dear colleagues, partners and friends,

We hope that the new year 2018 is beginning well for you and that you will accomplish much during its course.

For us, 2017 ended on a high note! We were awarded a **Horizon 2020 project as the co-ordinator for SCORE**, short for “Supporting Consumer Co-Ownership in Renewable Energy”, a consortium of 14 partners from five EU Member States led by Viadrina. This is a three-year EU project (budget EUR 1.99 million), starting 1 April. We will implement three pilot projects in Poland, Italy and the Czech Republic to demonstrate the feasibility of Consumer Stock Ownership Plans (CSOPs) in encouraging households to participate in green energy projects and thus contribute to the energy transition.

The starting point for SCORE will be “**Energy Transition: Financing consumer co-ownership in renewables**” to be published with Palgrave Macmillan in summer 2018. This book provides a comparative overview of financial tools that enable consumers to acquire an ownership stake in utilities in 17 countries.

Deepening the analysis in our 2014 study “The Promotion of Employee Ownership and Participation” for DG MARKT, we investigated employee ownership’s potential as an EU active labour market policy in the book “**Spanish Sociedades Laborales: Activating the Unemployed**” published with Palgrave Macmillan. We are also implementing **two EU-funded projects on Employee Financial Participation**, together with key social partners from the three Baltic states, Bulgaria and Slovakia.

Another highlight of our year was the first meeting of the interdisciplinary international research group “**Property rights, globalisation and the social function of property**” at a symposium held on 17-21 May 2017 on the island of Procida in Italy. We discussed inter alia the introduction of an obligation of sustainability into property law. In October, Professor Lowitzsch taught courses on these topics as visiting professor at the faculty of law of Università degli Studi della Campania “Luigi Vanvitelli” in Caserta.

We look forward to continuing our co-operation with you as well as exploring new opportunities. Please stay in touch with us via [Facebook](#), [Youtube](#) and [Twitter](#).

Sincerely,
Prof. Dr iur. Jens Lowitzsch
and
the Kelso Professorship team