

The history of the cooperative starts in the late 90ies of last century.
The Jakob-Grimm-School in Rotenburg a. d. Fulda has a long tradition of ecological education activities.
This is where our cooperative started.

1990ies: At the end of the 90ies the Jakob-Grimm-School engaged more in ecological education and developed a holistic concept, which includes amongst others components of energy saving, recycling, reshaping the school campus into state closer to nature, development of a mobility concept, forms of learning in places outside school (meadows near the river Fulda). 1999 a center for ecological education and solar energy (ZUmBIS) was installed in school, where ecological learning was transmitted as learning by doing.

2000ies: A solar energy plant on the roof of the ZUmBIS was a practical example for energy generation by renewable sources. The school is awarded a price for both campuses as "Environmental School of Europe".

2011: On the 14th of April the founding assembly of the cooperative took place, calling it Geno ScOLAR. There were 38 founding members. In July the first solar energy plant of Geno ScOLAR was raised on the roof of the Jakob-Grimm-School Rotenburg an der Fulda (Bernhard-Faust-Street). In December two more solar energy plants were inaugurated on the roofs of the professional schools in Bebra and Bad Hersfeld.

2012: The Geno ScOLAR eG is growing according to members who enter the cooperative but also by installing and putting into operation three plants on the roofs of the Citizen- and Tourist center in Rotenburg an der Fulda. Later on, two more plants were installed (Auelschule and indoor swimming pool).

2013: A photo-voltaic unit was put into operation of the Citizens House in Baumbach. In the same year the cooperative puts into operation the tenth unit. The riding hall of the local riding association showed for the first time that a private person was convinced of our cooperative idea. Soon afterwards a unit is installed on the nursery school in Lispenhausen.

2018: Meanwhile our facilities mount to a maximum output of above 500 kWp with an investment of more than 900 000 E.

Energy transition for everybody by 100 EUR minimum holding: The low sum of shares in the enterprise makes it possible for everyone independent of his or her financial situation to participate in energy transition.

Open for everybody: Geno ScOLAR eG is open for everyone, so that all citizens interested in the cooperative – independent of age, gender or place or residence – can participate. There are no charges for admission or entrance for new members. Therefore, there are no barriers, which could hinder a participation in the Geno ScOLAR.

Solidary and democratic codetermination on the basis of parity: Each member can vote – independent of quantity of shares. This evades dominance of individuals and secures independence of external interests.

Securing shares in the enterprise by the control of the cooperative union: The cooperative is member of an controlling association, which is regularly looking at the administration of the enterprise, in larger cooperatives annual accounts are also controlled. As there is internal control by members as well as independent control by the controlling association this is by far the most secure legal form of organization as respects to insolvency in Germany.

Independence: Actually all PV-units are property of Geno ScOLAR and are run autonomously by the cooperative. 2/3 of total assets are provided by members, 1/3 by regional banks by outside capital loans. The equity to assets ratio (including subordinated loans) amounts to 67%.

Social Engagement – Cooperation with friends' association: The yearly profits of the cooperative shall be used in part by the school's friends' associations. With this engagement Geno ScOLAR wants to contribute to the promotion of science and education.

From the region for the region: A further approach of the business idea meets the principle "From the region for the region". So in all requests for proposals there was special attention to the fact that the supplier of services would be located in the county Hersfeld-Rotenburg so that in the case of drop out of a unit or other non-predictable necessary work there would be the corresponding contact person at short notice available.

Kontakt:

Manfred Ringers: ma.ringer@web.de

<http://genoscolar.com/> mail@genoscolar.de