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KEY DATA

- Project reference:
RENREN 0624R2
- Total budget:
2.16 M€
- ERDF contribution:
1.65 M€
- Duration of the project:
January 2010 –
December 2012
(36 months)
- Project partners:
14 partners
- Lead partner:
Schleswig-
Holstein/Germany

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RENREN PROJECT HALF A YEAR ON: PAMPLONA

After half a year's work, the RENREN partners gathered again in Pamplona, Navarre (Spain) on 4-5 November 2010 for the project's second workshop.

Participants were heartily welcomed by Ms Begoña Urien Angulo, General Director of Enterprise at the Government of Navarre. The partners finished their work on the project's first major subject "Strategic Planning for RES at regional level" and agreed a list of items on the project's second major subject "Permits & Compliance" to be further explored.

The workshop's findings on bottlenecks and best practice under "Strategic Planning" range from grid development needs (such as overcoming capacity limitations or facing access restrictions by national level), public acceptance (which can be addressed by concepts like "community owned wind farms" in the Lead Partner region) through to a lack of institutions dedicated to RES implementation, particularly in new EU Member States (which may be helped by regional multi-annual RES strategies). A paper on this theme will soon be [available here](#).

On "Permits & Compliance" about 16 bottlenecks and/or best practice examples were identified for further exploration by the three RENREN working groups in the months to come. Discussion on these items – to be condensed in further papers – was completed at the third RENREN workshop in Ústí (Czech Republic) on 27-29 April 2011. The agreed Action List on "Permits & Compliance" is [available here](#).

Presentations were given on the outline "Regional RES development tool" (to be further developed by Bay Zoltán Foundation, representing North Hungary). An in-depth "comparative analysis on regional RES policies in the RENREN partner regions" will be delivered by a consultancy consortium contracted by RENREN).



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WORKING GROUP 1 PROGRESS: WIND, OCEAN, HYDROPOWER

In workshop 1, we discussed "Strategic Planning for RES at regional level". We identified approaches to overcome lack of grid capacity, public acceptance and difficulties in siting onshore wind farms.

The main bottleneck to wind energy generation is the limitation of grid capacity, especially high voltage grid connection in some countries. Solutions include building up capacity, or regulation of wind production capacity. These approaches will form part of our future discussions, with a view to outlining some best practice and policy recommendations.

Other obstacles where we are exploring good practice are public acceptance as well as power storage. A useful example in fostering public acceptance is the exhibition "Faszination Offshore", housed in a ship travelling round the harbour in the North and Baltic Sea Region, visited already by the RENREN consortium during the on-site in Schleswig-Holstein.

With the experience of the first workshop 1 in Kiel, in the context of topic 2, "Permits & compliance", we started outlining best practice in zoning (or designating areas) for onshore wind (developing a plan by earmarking places for wind energy and in the future for offshore wind). We also considered how hydro power can be supported through interesting measures such as encouraging the re-use of abandoned sites or creating streamlined information and guidance online to assist developers in applying for permits. These examples of best practice will be finally discussed at the next workshop in Usti and we will put together policy recommendations which draw lessons from them.



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WORKING GROUP 2: ADVANCES IN BIO and GEO ENERGIES

Biomass and geothermal potential differ from one country to another.

The potential to develop biomass production and consumption in the RENREN regions varies, not only due to landscape characteristics and vegetation types, but also with regards to long term energy strategies on a political level. This is obvious in comparing RES implementation-bottlenecks, where some regions are concentrating on fine-tuning the details, whereas others are still at the starting line searching for a direction. In some regions, the coal mining industry is so deeply rooted that promotion of biomass as a substituting fuel is sidelined. It appears that good practices are often found where a governmental institution is dedicated to biomass promotion against the backdrop of a clear political goal.

This is similar for geothermal energy. Dependent on the resource, different technologies are developed strategically or not. This will affect whether bottlenecks such as lack of synergies with administrative procedures for mineral extraction are tackled or not.



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WORKING GROUP 3: SOLAR ENERGIES

The working group looked at the current state of best practice in regional policies for renewables, analyzing the extent of their implementation in each region. Different bottlenecks associated with the range of solar technologies were then explored.

For large-scale solar thermal energy generation, plentiful availability of water is needed for the process. However, areas of higher solar radiation often have low water availability. Beyond this, other aspects are noteworthy, such as the difficulty of finding financing for projects. The cost of land and use of vast tracts of land until now commonly used for agriculture are also problematic. In addition, in one region photovoltaic solar energy is firmly rejected due to the effect it has on the electricity prices for the end user.

Several policy recommendations for the implementation of these technologies were proposed. In particular, all equipment used to run a solar installation should comply with current certification rules, and training and certification efforts are needed to provide the qualified professionals to operate and maintain plants.

The Spanish model was noted as a successful example of mandatory implementation of solar technology in new buildings and certain types of existing ones.

Finally, the working group covered existing procedures to obtain permits for the implementation of PV projects and what has to be done to assess their environmental impact. There are clearly different levels of difficulty in processing permits and a need to study simplified models which can be adapted and transferred to regions where the process is currently too long and complex.



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2ND ON-SITE VISIT: WIND ENERGY IN SCHLESWIG-HOSTEIN

Through a series of thematic on-site visits – eight during the whole of RENREN project – experts from partner regions will have the chance to assess the transferability of projects as best practice, as well as the transferability of regional policy strategies. Each of the on-site visits will focus on one particular RES type and be hosted by a RENREN partner region. The second visit was arranged by the Schleswig-Holstein Region on 20-22 September 2010 and focused on wind energy.

RENREN's second on-site visit on "wind energy" was arranged by Schleswig-Holstein at the cities of Kiel and Husum on 20-22 September 2010. It was attended by experts from 8 partner regions.

An introduction to Schleswig-Holstein's energy policy was given by Wolfgang Schulz, representing the project's Lead Partner. Presentations followed on the "wind energy cluster", the concept of "community owned wind farms", the research network "Centre of Excellence for Windenergy (CEWind)" and the offshore-wind research platform FINO 3 operating in the North Sea.

At Husum, practical information was given on the state of the wind energy sector, new technological developments and the current state of offshore wind energy in Europe – with visits supported by the wind turbine producer Repower Systems AG, the leading trade fair "Husum WindEnergy" and the exhibition "Fascination Offshore" of the German Foundation "Offshore WindEnergy". For a full report and the presentations given, please [click here](#).

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The presentations and case studies discussed during this second RENREN on-site visit were very well-received by partners' representatives. The findings will be taken on board at our next workshops.
For a full report, please [click here](#).

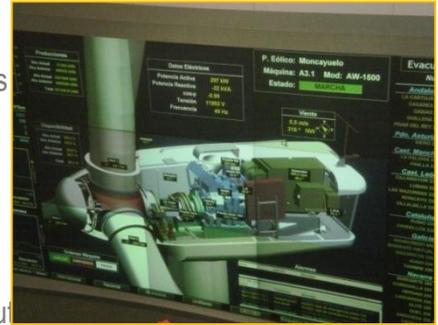




3RD ON-SITE VISIT: WIND ENERGY IN NAVARRA

On 3rd November, Navarra organised the 3rd on-site visit of the RENREN project in Pamplona, which all RENREN partners attended.

The visit focused on solar and wind energy, fields in which Navarra's Representatives spent the limited time available to them visiting the facilities of four leading renewable energy companies: Acciona, CENER, Fotona and Gamesa.



ACCIONA

Acciona Energy's Renewables Control Centre (CECOER) carries out operational renewable energy plants managed by the ACCIONA Group. Partners could see in real-time the power produced being fed into the grid, and how alarms trigger when there is a malfunction.



FOTONA

The multi-megawatt photovoltaic farm, La Pedrera, is promoted by Fotona, a corporate member of the Navarra Solar Cluster. RENREN partners learnt about the technical aspects of the farm, each tracker's features, how the farm is remotely managed as well as some background on investors.

CENER

RENREN partners visited The National Renewable Energy Centre (CENER), a technology centre specialising in applied research & development and the promotion of renewable energies in 6 areas: [Wind](#), [Solar Thermal](#), [Photovoltaic](#), [Biomass](#), [Bioclimatic Architecture](#) and [Renewable Energy Grid Integration](#).

GAMESA

Partners were able to observe the process of manufacturing 62 metre-length blades. This is done as two interlocking sections of 31 meters. The blades are then used in 4.5 MW wind turbines.

To find out more about these companies, you can visit :

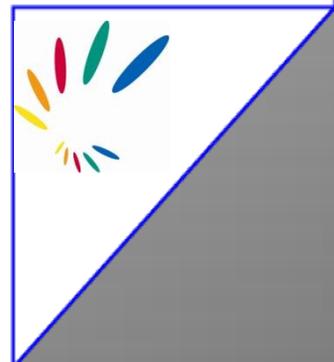
Acciona: <http://www.acciona-energia.com>

CENER: http://www.cener.com/en/que_es/index.asp

Fotona: <http://www.fotona.es/index.html> (in Spanish)

Gamesa: <http://www.gamesa.es/en/>

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RENREN IN BRIEF



CASTILLA Y LEON BIOENERGY PLAN

On January 20th 2011, the Regional Government of Castilla y León approved the Regional Plan of Bioenergy Sector in Castilla y León.

Castilla y Leon has a huge potential for biomass resources, and only 2% of this is currently used for energy or transformed into other forms of bioenergy. The development of this renewable source aims to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and the risk of wildfires and improve the state of the forest. Bioenergy also brings important economic and social benefits for Castilla y León. These are associated with the generation and maintenance of employment or creation of new companies, with a special emphasis on rural areas. In preparing the plan, European Commission recommendations to member states and regions have been taken into account, some of these specified in the EU Action Plan on Biomass.

For more information [click here](#).



WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT SEEDS £20M CROP PROJECT

The Welsh Assembly Government has set up a £20m programme to help companies in West Wales and the Valleys develop technologies to turn locally grown plant crops into commercial products.

Led by Aberystwyth University's Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Science, in collaboration with its partners at Bangor and Swansea Universities, the Beacon initiative will use bio-refining techniques to assist Welsh companies in developing low carbon technologies and ways of making products that are traditionally made from oil. Backed by £10.6m from the European Regional Development Fund, Beacon aims to establish Wales as a bio-refining "centre of excellence". It will work with companies to convert crops, such as rye grass, oats and artichokes, into products including pharmaceuticals, chemicals, fuels, cosmetics and textiles.

Source: Wales Business Insider, <http://www.insidermedia.com/insider/wales/47366->



RENREN-HOMEPAGE

The project homepage gives you a good overview of which regions are involved in RENREN and what the project is all about.

The RENREN web pages have received more than 1.000 visits. It is updated periodically with all papers from the workshops.

For more information [click here](#)



NEXT EVENTS

On site visit on biomass and geothermal energy

Event location:

Lodz (Poland), 6-8 June 2011

On site visit on geothermal energy

Event location:

Lodz (Iceland), 20-23 September 2011

On site visit on bioenergy and solar energy

Event location:

Castilla y León (Spain), 18-20 October 2011

More info: <http://www.renren-project.eu>



OTHER EVENTS

MORE4NRG PROJECT

Final Conference.

Province of Flevoland (Netherlands), 10 June 2011.

More info: <http://www.more4nrg.eu/posts/index/pg:events>

LOCARE PROJECT

Site visit on renewable energy systems.

Gorenjska (Slovenia), 15 June 2011.

More info: <http://www.locareproject.eu/wm315862>

BIO-EN AREA PROJECT

Seminar of forest and woody biomass.

Tartu (Stonia), 16-17 June 2011.

More info: <http://www.bioenarea.eu/index.php?q=node/219>

NORDIC BIOENERGY 2001

International Nordic Bioenergy conference.

Jyvaskyla (Finland), 5-9 September 2011.

More info: <http://www.nordicbioenergy.finbioenergy.fi/>

“EXPOBIOENERGIA 11”.

The 6th edition of the international fair specialising in bioenergy. The success of latest editions has made Expobioenergía a unique meeting place in the bioenergy industry and a point of reference at international level.

Valladolid (Spain), 18 -20 October 2011.

More info: <http://www.expobioenergia.com/rdr.php?cat=147&idiomaCh=uk>



European Union

European Regional Development Fund



RENREN PARTNERS REGIONS

For more information, click on the map. Here you can find additional information on each partner – including individual fact sheets on RES by region.



Editorial note: The RENREN newsletter is edited on behalf of the RENREN project consortium by EREN, the Regional Energy Agency of Castilla y León (Spain) - Ente Regional de la Energía de Castilla y León (eren@jcy.es) assisted by the Welsh Assembly Government. The newsletter will be published twice per year. This **newsletter issue 2** covers the project's first period from July to December 2010. The next issue will be published by half of 2011.



European Union

European Regional Development Fund