



Newsletter n°4

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2012 TO BECOME A DECISIVE YEAR FOR RENREN NETWORK

The objective of more renewable energies in Europe requires enhanced efforts at all level, in particular at regional level.

At the turn of the year, the RENREN network's work has gained pace. The stock-taking work on "good practices & bottlenecks" was finalised at Workshop n°4 (Timișoara, 7-9 November 2011). Now the real work on the targeted outcomes of the RENREN project has begun: drawing valuable conclusions from recent work, meant to encourage other regional authorities to upgrade their own renewable energy policies; testing the transferability of selected good practice experiences to the policy work of another partner region; delivering an indicator-based internet tool which shall help regional administrations analyse their own RES policies. These are some of the challenging tasks to be achieved in the months to come.

During the first two years the RENREN project was mainly focusing on thematic work: identifying good practice examples and bottlenecks either benefitting or hindering the deployment of renewable energies at regional level, based on individual experiences of the partner regions. This collection process has been subject to intense debates on transferability in general. These debates took place at 4 biannual project workshops held run by the three RENREN Working Groups.

From now on the fruits of this intense work will be reaped – for the benefits of other regional authorities across Europe. A twofold set of "Policy Recommendations" for two stages of the policy learning curve ("learning regions"/ "experienced regions") will be developed; a minimum of 15 good practice cases proven to be transferable delivered; and a regional "RES Development Monitoring Tool" tested and made fully operational. This work is supported by an external experts' "Comparative Analysis" on the status, potential and prospects for RES policies within each RENREN partner region.

This work will be carried out at the two project workshops to be held in Central Macedonia (Greece) in March 2012 and in Jämtland (Sweden) in September 2012. Then in October 2012 all results of the current RENREN project will be presented to a wider audience at a closing conference to be held in Brussels. Furthermore, the RENREN partners will agree on a joint work programme for continued cooperation even after expiry of the project (end of 2012).

For more information please see further articles in this newsletter.



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STUDY VISIT IN WESTFJORDS (ICELAND): GEOTHERMAL

A regional policy to make the best use of the resources make geothermal the best option in villages.

From 20 to 22 September 2011, the on-site visit to Iceland took place. The on-site visit was hosted and arranged by the Fjórðungssamband Vestfirðinga, the Regional Association of Local Authorities in the Westfjords.

The mission of the trip was to introduce RENREN partners to the situation in the region of the Westfjords and at the same time introduce the versatile usages of geothermal heat in Iceland and learn more about projects concerning the use of biomass.

It was visited one of villages in the region that has geothermal heat, where the structure of the village associates by using of a geothermal heat and closeness to rich areas for the use of seaweed and kelp. The group visited companies that use geothermal heat to dry seaweed and algae. It was presented different uses of geothermal by companies. Some companies uses for hot water and seaweed, for the treatment and general health for people of all ages; others that explore the possibility of producing electricity by using a tidal energy. Also it was visited a seaweed processing plant. After that, the group had an introduction regarding energy harnessing and distribution in the rural Westfjords by the regional Power Company.

Also partners were showed how water emerging at 97 °C is pumped by pipeline to heat the nearby towns and surrounding greenhouses and farms; how hot water is harnessed from low-temperature fields in the city of Reykjavik and is distributed for space-heating and reaches 99% of housing in the Reykjavik metro area; hot water for space heating generated in a plant by heating cold groundwater; examples of electricity generated at the geothermal plants, as in the case of Hengill, the most extensive geothermal areas in Iceland (112 m²), where a 300 MWe electricity and 400 MWt thermal energy plant try to cover the demand for electricity and hot water in the industrial and domestic sectors.

They have the opportunity to meet a company provide electricity, hot water for heating, cold water for consumption, as well as maintaining sewage systems, for the 67% of the Icelandic population. Partners visited a waste management and waste disposal which operates for Reykjavik and six other municipalities, where a requirement in the operational permit for the landfill is to collect the landfill gas and utilize if possible. The last day lectures and seminars regarding various aspects of renewable energy in Iceland were attended by partners.





SOLAR AND BIO ENERGY DURING THE TECHNICAL VISIT TO CASTILLA Y LEÓN (SPAIN)

RENREN partners had the possibility to gain insight into some aspects of biomass and solar energy potential in Castilla y León Region.

The last October , 17-20th, took place the on site visit from the RENREN delegation into Castilla y León, which was mainly focus into solar and biomass, and where RENREN partners were the opportunity to be close to resources, companies and facilities.

The visit started with an innovative biomass heating system for a Romanesque Church, where two coal boilers were substituted by two pellet biomass boiler which supply heating for the big church, a small chapel and partially the hot water demand for the house building annex to the big church.

The second day, partners were welcome by the General Director of Energy and Mines, from the Castilla y León Regional Government, Mr. Ricardo Gonzalez Mantero. After that, the bioclimatic building which houses the Regional Energy Agency of Castilla y León (EREN) offices were visit.

Also partners visited the company DC Wafers, where are produced the polycrystalline silicon wafers for the PV panels; and the company Yokhon, a manufacture for PV panels assembly.

As example of the HOSPISOL (Solar Thermal for Public Hospital) programme, partners were in the Solar Thermal installation of Ponferrada´s Hospital with 588 m2 of capturing area and 274 solar collectors.

They were visited the Santa Barbara Foundation, an example of professional training centre, initially devoted to coal issues and currently going into the renewable energies, as well as the companies of that area, which has found a new field of business and employment. Partners had a meeting with two regional companies from mines sectors reconverted into renewable sector, Viloría Group and Cupire group.

It was also visited a small hydro power plant in the León city. An agreement project between EREN and the Council of León, not only for producing renewable electricity, but also to show people this kind of energies. In addition, it was visited the area of demonstration of renewable energies, to be visited by interested citizens.

It was visited BIOCYL, a biodiesel plant producer which used fried use oil as raw material; the Water treatment plant with biogas uses in Valladolid city; a tree nursery with biomass boilers, a pellet manufacture plant, a centre for genetics improvement of seeds and also they have the opportunity of visiting the fair Expobionergia´11, with more than 453 companies of 24 different countries. The wine cellar EMINA, was the last visit, where vine shoots, grape and vine waste products are used as biofuel for a 200 kWt boiler. Besides, it was saw solar thermal energy systems to support of covering their hot water demand and different PV installations on roof and over fields as secondary business of the wine cellar.



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FOURTH RENREN WORKSHOP AT TIMIȘOARA (ROM): A TURNING-POINT IN THE PROJECT WORK

At the fourth project workshop, hosted by Timiș County (ROM), the project partners gathered to finalise thematic work on the last out of four main project themes “Fostering job market, RTD and innovation” as well as “Finance & incentives”. Based on those Good Practice examples identified throughout all four workshops since April 2010, it was agreed that a good number could be transferred from one partner region to another. The groundwork was also done to draft “Policy Recommendations”.



The broad range of good practices agreed at this Workshop includes a RES related cluster formation, PV and solar thermal installations in public buildings, a financial incentive scheme by regional authorities (or their energy agencies), and educational measures such as curricula for university education and vocational training. A second intermediate report was presented on the “Comparative Analysis” of the status, potential and prospects for the regions’ RES policies, which a group of external experts is contracted to finalise by workshop 5.

For more information on Workshop 4 results please [click here](#). An overview of Good Practices & Bottlenecks identified under the four main Topics of the RENREN project will be made available early next year.





LEGISLATION TRANSFERABILITY CHECK OF GOOD PRACTICE CASE STUDIES – A SPECIFIC CHALLENGE TO RENREN PARTNERS

Providing at least 15 good practices that have been proven transferable is one of the main outcomes the RENREN project will deliver. This transferability check, to be done on a bi- or multilateral basis, is a specific challenge to RENREN partners going beyond limits of traditional project work.

A good practice case study necessarily needs to be convincing and function well within the conditions pertaining in the region where it originates. Any transferability exercise involves adapting the idea to the different conditions of the region in which it is to be replicated. The target of this exercise is quite clear: to integrate at least parts of a good practice into the RES policy framework of another regional authority. Identifying which parts these should be is the first challenge.

This transferability exercise has already started (as reported in RENREN newsletter #3) and will be finalized by September 2012. The results will be reported at the project's closing conference to be held in October 2012.



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Renewable ENergy REgions Network Seminar

The objective of this seminar was to create synergies with other projects in the field of the Renewable Energies, focus on bioenergy, in order to establish a convenient collaboration during the project development or in potential future projects with the objective of improving the renewable energies policies learning and mentoring.

On the 19th october, took place a RENREN seminar with more than sixty attendances, in the frame of the Expobioenergía '11.

The seminar was moderated by Mr. Rafael Ayuste, Responsable of Renewable Energy Department of the Ente Regional de la Energía de Castilla y León (EREN). RENREN project was introduced by Mr. Wolfgang Schulz, senior assistant of the Ministry of Science, Economic Affairs and Transport, Land Schleswig-Holstein. Lead partner of RENREN project. Other related projects presented were:

-**BIOCLUS (Developing Research and Innovation Environment in five European Regions in the field of Sustainable Use of Biomass Resources)**, focused on the sustainable use of biomass resources and aims at boosting the regional competitiveness and growth in five European cluster regions, being one of them Navarra, who was the speaker in the event by Inés Echeverría, from the National Centre of Renewable Energies (CENER).

-**POLI-BIOMASS (Development of local policies among local governments to encourage the use of biomass)**, which is a BIO-EN-AREA sub- project, is focus on developing microbioenergy plans in three pilot municipalities, one from each participant region to obtain actual and direct indicators of the objectives achieved. Introduced by Mrs.Eva Gustafsson, from Energikontor Sydost AB-Energy Agency for Southeast Sweden (ESS).

-And **BIOPATH (Biomass and solid biofuels certification and traceability control system)**, which is also a BIO-EN-AREA sub- project, will perform an assessment in the field of biomass resources and the value chain related to its use for energy generation / conversion. Introduced by Jose Carlos Santana, from Castilla and Leon Wood & Forest Service Center (CESEFOR).

After the seminar partners and professionals of the biomass sector continue with an event of bilateral meetings in which those interested may contact other industry players.

Presentations are available from RENREN website, www.renren-roject.eu



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RENREN IN BRIEF

PUBLISHED THE NEW “ENERGY ROAD MAP 2050”

On 15 December 2011, the European Commission adopted the [Communication "Energy Roadmap 2050"](#). The EU is committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 80-95% below 1990 levels by 2050 in the context of necessary reductions by developed countries as a group. In the Energy Roadmap 2050 the Commission explores the challenges posed by delivering the EU's decarbonisation objective while at the same time ensuring security of energy supply and competitiveness. The Energy Roadmap 2050 is the basis for developing a long-term European framework together with all stakeholders.

For more info [click here](#).

RENREN MID TERM BROHURE , NEW!

This mid term brochure shows not only the basic heart concept of the project , but also some of the advancements of it such as a list of good practice case studies in renewable policy implementation in every renewable technology, in all the partner regions. Also it is showed the Renewables (RES) Monitoring Development Tool” –an indicator-based solution to help regions enhance their own RES policies.

For downloading [click here](#).

OPEN CALL 2012 OF THE IEE PROGRAMME

The Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) programme funds projects that promote energy efficiency and renewable energy. Applicants have to respond to a call for proposals published annually by the [EACI](#). The call documents lay down all the criteria successful proposals have to meet to qualify for funding.

The call 2012 was published on 20 December 2011 with a **deadline for the submission of proposals of 8 May 2012, 17:00 CET**. For more info [click here](#).



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 page receive more visitors every day. It is updated periodically with the advancements of the project.

For more information [click here](#)





NEXT RENREN EVENTS

RENREN WORKSHOP N° 5

Central Maedonia (Greek), 28-30 March 2012

ON SITE VISIT OCEAN ENERGY

Wales (United Kingdom), May 2012

RENREN DISSEMINATION EVENTS IN EUSEW 2012

Brussels (Belgium), 18-22 June 2012

RENREN WORKSHOP N° 6

Jämtland (Sweden), 10-14 September 2012

For more info [click here](#).

OTHER RES-EVENTS

4th International Energy Farming Congress

Papenburg (Lower Saxony, Germany); 3-15 March 2012

For more info [click here](#).

World Sustainable Energy Days 2012

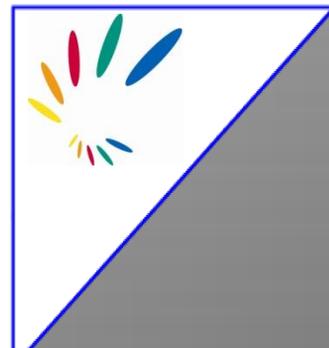
Wels (Austria); 29 February - 2 March 2012

For more info [click here](#).

EXPOBIOENERGIA 2012

Valladolid (Spain), 23, 24 & 25 October 2012

For more info [click here](#).



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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 4** covers the project's second period from September to December 2011. The next issue will be published by May of 2012.



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