



# Newsletter n°5

June 2012

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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 FINAL SPURT

At the beginning of this year, the RENREN network entered into an entirely new project phase. Based on the Good Practice cases and Bottlenecks collected and identified throughout the first two years (since 2010) the partners started work on the project's final deliverables. The partners are now looking into transferring some of the Good practice case studies to their own regions. Parallel to these ambitious efforts a set of "Policy Recommendations" is to be drawn up, based on the network's own Good Practice experiences. They are intended for other regional governments and administrations across Europe.

The objectives of this final step are no less ambitious. The "Policy Recommendations" shall help other regions to intensify (or start) their own efforts on enhanced deployment of renewable energies within their areas. The recommendations will also set out the case for renewable energy deployment and its contribution to substantial added value in regional development. This will be demonstrated by successful transfer of other regions' good practice partially or wholly into the renewable energy policies and strategies of another partner.

At the first stock-taking at the 5th RENREN project Workshop held at Thessaloniki (Greece) late March, there was an intense and promising discussion among the project partners, and the interest in exchanging experiences beyond the ambit of project was clear. This spirit of collaboration across the partners is already laying the ground for continued cooperation beyond the project end of 2012.

The draft deliverables of the RENREN projects will be discussed and adopted at the last RENREN project Workshop to be held at Östersund (Sweden) in mid September. Co-funded by the EU INTERREG IV C programme, the RENREN network will present its final results at a Closing Conference at the Committee of the Regions on 18 October in Brussels.



For more information please see further articles in this newsletter and information's available at [www.renren-project.eu](http://www.renren-project.eu). Information on RENREN Closing Conference (and advice how to register) will be circulated in the next Newsletter and be made available at RENREN website by late August.



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## RENREN 5<sup>TH</sup> WORKSHOP AT THESSALONIKI (GREECE): TOWARDS PROMISING FINAL RESULTS

The 5th project workshop at Thessaloniki, hosted by the Decentralized Administration of Macedonia-Thrace (DAM-T) on 28-30 March 2012, was a great success. With warm Mediterranean sunshine streaming in through the windows onto participants from Northern Europe, the partners gathered for intense in-depth debate on the project's final steps.

The meeting took stock of our efforts to investigate which experiences can be transferred between partners, discussed options and alternatives for draft RENREN policy recommendations, and exchanged latest news and activities in the field of renewables. The individual interests of the partners exceeded the time available and discussion was continued over dinner.

The strong commitment of RENREN partners resulted in a broad number of contributions to the project's final deliverables. These will be further discussed and condensed into comprehensive cross-sectoral and sectoral "Policy Recommendations" to be presented at the project's Closing Conference. Based on the first steps in transferring Good Practices some partners have already indicated their interest in continuing this transfer work next year, since only parts of this transfer can be achieved within the project's time-limits.



The Workshop's sessions were supplemented by an very instructive visit to renewable energy sites, an impressive press conference attended by 15 journalists from regional media and a well prepared thematic meeting, with regional stakeholders on selected interests in renewable energies.

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## ON-SITE VISIT TO CENTRAL MACEDONIA (GREECE): HYDRO POWER & LANDFILL

In the context of the 5th RENREN project Workshop that took place in Thessaloniki, an additional on-site visit was organized by the Decentralized Administration of Macedonia-Thrace (DAM-T) on the 27th of March 2012, which included the following sites:

- The small hydro-electric unit of PPC SA (Public Power Corporation S.A.), 1MW installed capacity, on the river Aliakmon, one of the richest water resources in Western Macedonia. A series of dams were constructed as well as an additional small hydraulic unit for the exploitation of the river overflow. The mouth and the embankment of the river are designated as a RAMSAR and NATURA 2000 sites, because of the high biodiversity value of the natural ecosystems, especially due to the wild bird population. This small hydro-electric unit does not have a negative impact on the natural ecosystem.



- The unit of ELECTOR S.A. in Tagarades (a former landfill site near Thessaloniki), exploits landfill gas for electricity production.



- The hydro-electric unit of PPC – TERNA SA, 6,6MW installed capacity, in the embankment of river Axios, where the Eleoussa's dam is constructed. It is a unit of double significance because it serves both for energy production and irrigation. The mouth of the Axios river is within the same RAMSAR site as with Aliakmon.



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## RENREN MEETING WITH REGIONAL STAKEHOLDERS ON CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT IN THESSALONIKI

In the margins of the 5th RENREN Workshop held at Thessaloniki, a meeting between the network partners and local stakeholders was organized by the Decentralized Administration of Macedonia – Thrace on 30 March 2012. The aim was for RENREN partners to transfer knowledge linked to the project activities and the regions' common practices in the area of cluster development to the Greek participants.

The meeting took place in the presence of the RENREN project coordinator and some representatives of RENREN - partners Schleswig-Holstein, Andalusia, Castilla y León and Central Macedonia. On the local stakeholders' side, the participants were Prof. Ilias Eleftherohorinos and Dr Ioannis Tsialtas from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Laboratory of Agronomy) and Mr Odysseas Gavranides from NEWENERGY SA, a local biodiesel production company. The main subjects discussed were:

- ✓ Co-operation between academic or scientific institutions and companies in Spain. Clustering structures in the field of renewable energy production.
- ✓ Biodiesel and biomass production in Spain and Germany.
- ✓ The potential of rape and sunflower crops as biodiesel feedstock and biomass production from the residues in Northern Spain.
- ✓ Sustainability of biodiesel production as regards CO2 footprint by 2020.
- ✓ The use of recovered waste oils for biodiesel production (percentage, legislation) for enhancing biodiesel sustainability.
- ✓ The "Centre of Excellence (CE) for Biomass" – a project funded by the Schleswig-Holstein Land Government's programs using ERDF funding, highlighted as a good practice in the RENREN project.

Since the practical experiences discussed have shown broad interest, thematic study-trips of Greek stakeholders to the RENREN partners present at this meeting will be considered as a first follow-up to this meeting.





## RENREN IN BRIEF

### NEW ENERGY STATEMENT IN WALES: “A LOW CARBON TRANSITION“

As a nation, Wales is rich in energy resources. Wales wants to harness those resources to create a more prosperous future for the country. Although issues such as climate change are challenges, they also present opportunities. Wales wants to lead the change to low carbon and create a better future whilst maximising the long term benefits to Wales at every step of the way. Wales has a clear ambition in its latest Energy Policy Statement. It has put the importance of energy centre stage and will work with stakeholders to make the transition to Low Carbon. The Welsh Government will make a difference by providing leadership on energy in Wales. .

For more info [click here](#).

### MARINE RENEWABLE ENERGY STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK STATEMENT ON MARINE ENERGY PUBLISHED IN WALES

Following a Ministerial Policy Statement on Marine Energy published by the Welsh Government, Wales is taking steps to maximise the tremendous marine energy resource from its 1.200km of coast with minimum local environmental impact. The Welsh Government has completed a £1.5m survey of the sea and produced the Marine Renewable Energy Strategic Framework. It provides spatial evidence and a GIS mapping system to identify suitable areas for commercial marine energy deployments. It is now undertaking a Marine Energy Infrastructure Study. .

For more info [click here](#).

### RENREN IN THE INTERREG IVC’s “Good Practice Fair 2011”

The Andalusian Energy Agency participated in the INTERREG IVC’s “Good Practice Fair 2011”, representing the RENREN project with one of the good practices taken from the interchange of experiences with 122 other INTERREG IVC projects. Over 1000 good practices have been identified in ten themes thanks to this cooperation.

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 receives more visitors every day. It is updated periodically with the news on the project.

For more information [click here](#)



## NEXT RENREN EVENTS

### REGIONAL SUPPORT TO A LOW CARBON ECONOMY WITHIN THE ROADMAP 2050

Brussels (Belgium), 18th June 2012

More info: <http://www.renren-project.eu/index.php/component/content/article/31/119-eusew-event-in-brussels-june-2012>

### REGIONS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES WORKING TOGETHER FOR INCREASING THE SHARE OF RES - HOW WE CAN SUPPORT THE REALISATION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION GOALS IN RES?

Brussels (Belgium), 19th June 2012

More info: <http://www.renren-project.eu/index.php/component/content/article/31/119-eusew-event-in-brussels-june-2012>

### ON SITE VISIT TO WALES: OCEAN ENERGY

Wales, 23 & 24 May 2012

### RENREN FINAL CONFERENCE

Brussels (Belgium), 18th October 2012

### RENREN WORKSHOP N° 6

Jämtland (Sweden), 10-14 September 2012

## OTHER RES-EVENTS

### European Bioenergy Conference (by AEBIOM)

Brussels, 25-27 June 2012

For more info [click here](#).

### “Husum Wind Energy 2012 – The Leading Wind Energy Trade Fair”

Husum (Schleswig-Holstein, Germany), 18-22 September 2012

For more info [click here](#).

### EXPOBIOENERGIA 2012

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

For more info [click here](#).

### 5th European Economic Forum – Łódzkie 2012

Lodz (Poland), 7 & 8 November 2012

### World Sustainable Energy Days 2012

Wels (Austria); 27 February-1 March 2013

For more info [click here](#).



**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](mailto:eren@jcy.es)) assisted by the Welsh Assembly Government. The newsletter will be published twice per year. This **newsletter issue 5** covers the project's first period from January to April 2012. The next issue will be published by August of 2012.