



Newsletter n°6

September 2012

INDEX:

REGIONS VISIT WALES TO LEARN ABOUT MARINE ENERGY

RENREN PRESENT DURING EUSEW 2012 IN BRUSSELS

BUSINESS TO BUSINESS BIOENERGY ENTITIES IN A INTERCHANGE IN JÄMTLAND

RENREN REACHED ITS FINAL GOAL

RENREN IN BRIEF

EVENTS

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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THE REGIONS VISIT WALES TO LEARN ABOUT MARINE ENERGY

On the 23rd and 24th May the Welsh Government hosted an on-site visit to Wales to share information on marine energy in Wales and the potential for hydrogen to support the renewables agenda in Wales. The visit also included a tour of a new wind turbine manufacturing plant. 20 RenRen experts attended from 9 regions.



On the morning of Day 1 the group heard two presentations from Dr Ron Loveland, Energy Advisor to the Welsh Government and John Griffiths AM, Welsh Minister for Environment & Sustainable Development. Following the presentations the group travelled to the [Renewable Hydrogen Research and Demonstration Centre](#). With experience in operating lab scale, pilot scale and full-scale hydrogen process plants, the Hydrogen Research Unit has participated in a number of large national and international collaborative hydrogen research and development projects.

In the afternoon the group heard two presentations on marine energy. The first from Chris Green who gave a presentation introducing the group to the [Marine Energy Infrastructure Study](#) and the second from Chris Williams from [Tidal Energy Ltd](#) who gave a presentation on their plans to deploy a 1.2MW tidal demonstrator off Pembrokeshire in 2013. Afterwards the group was taken on a tour of Ramsey Sound - the site for the tidal demonstrator.

On Day 2 the group travelled to [Mabey Bridge](#); the UK's only indigenous manufacturer of wind turbine towers and monopiles. Later in the morning the group heard from Dr Ian Masters from the [Low Carbon Research Institute](#) on Marine Energy Research in Wales.



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RENREN PRESENT DURING EUSEW 2012 IN BRUSSELS

With the objective of promoting regional capacities & needs related to renewable energies & the low carbon economy, RENREN was presented during this year's "European Sustainable Energy Week" (EUSEW) held in Brussels on 18-22 June 2012. Two so-called "Side Events" were arranged in close cooperation with other related INTERREG IVC projects.

On 18 June, both the RENREN and LoCaRe projects ("Low Carbon Economy Regions") gave a joint presentation on "Regional support to a low carbon economy within the Roadmap 2050". This seminar was held at the premises of "Espace Interrégional Européen", the joint representation of the French regions of Brittany, Pays de la Loire and Poitou-Charentes. On 19 June, RENREN and the RETS project ("Renewable Energies Transfer System") presented "Regions and local authorities working together to support the European goals of Renewable Energies". This second dissemination event was held at the premises of the "Hanse-Office", the Joint Representation of Hamburg and Schleswig-Holstein in Brussels.



Both seminars closed with lively panel debates on the subjects concerned. In total, both seminars attracted more than 60 participants from Brussels-based organisations.

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BUSINESS TO BUSINESS BIOENERGY ENTITIES IN A INTERCHANGE IN JÄMTLAND

By the 11th and 12th of September the RENREN partner Region of Jämtland hosted a bioenergy b2b-session, in which stakeholders from abroad with interests in the bioenergy sector were invited. The visitors are all found through the work of RENREN and our partner institutions in the represented regions. Jämtland is represented as an expert region in the network RENREN and therefore these two days were organised to give both deep going dialogs and real sights from the fieldwork of bioenergy production.



Participants from companies and municipalities from Castilla y León, Navarra from Spain, Usti from Czeck Republic and the Swedish companies Jämtkraft, Ariterm Systems, Norrskog and LRF were given room to present their region, situation, systems and needs. With this as a background sectorial presentations were given covering foremost the situation in Jämtland. Forestry in Jämtland has in the latest 20 years become more than just extraction of timber and pulpwood. Nowadays the bioenergy assortment is well established at all sites where the conditions are right.

Norrskog gave some insights in the typical fuel chain systems, with logistics, processing techniques, feedstock properties and storage. Jämtkraft and Ariterm Systems presented the infrastructure and energy production facilities such as large-scale district heating (CHP) and small-scale central heating solutions. LRF covered the biogas production in the region with the on-going development of the farmers' installations.

The seminar participants seemed to find mutual interests and new opportunities as every one of the participants were very active. Chances are that there actually was some Business-to-Business establishments linked those days!

Well met in Jämtland – hope to see you here again!



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RENREN REACHED ITS FINAL GOALS

Although not yet at the project's finish line, the RENREN partners have achieved their final goals. After a period of more than 2 1/2 years of hard work, there were intense and fruitful debates at the final Workshop held at Östersund (Jämtland Region, Sweden) on 11-14 September, from which emerged good results.

A set of "Policy Recommendations" was adopted, intended to help other regions intensify (or start) their own efforts to enhance deployment of renewable energy. More than 50 Good Practices from partner regions were identified and documented. A "Comparative Analysis" of conditions at individual partner regions, carried out by an external experts' group, was approved. A good number of regional energy & climate strategies from RENREN partners was collected and made available online. The transfer of some selected Good Practice case studies, conducted bilaterally between some partners during the project phase, will be finalised in due time.

The project results will be presented at the RENREN Final Project Conference to be held on 18 October at the Committee of the Regions in Brussels (see respective article in this newsletter). But the network's cooperation is not finished yet. Since the transfer of experience in some cases appears to address some fundamental needs, work will continue and progress even after the end of the project's lifespan. Since cooperation during the project phase has proved valuable to all partners, they have agreed to continue. The extent and nature of this cooperation may differ slightly to that under the EU funded project, but the network is currently considering the means and topics to take things forward.

The RENREN network is committed to keep working on renewable energies from 2013 onwards!



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RENEWABLE ENERGY: A MAJOR PLAYER IN THE EUROPEAN ENERGY MARKET

On 6 June 2012, the European Commission launched a communication to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions. Where in a competitive market, the renewable energy industry can indeed be a major player in the European energy market.

Action in a number of areas is under way to further enhance the contribution of renewable energy to the EU's energy mix, to strengthen the single European energy market, remove market barriers and regulatory obstacles, enhance the effectiveness of renewable energy support schemes, advance energy infrastructure development, increase consumer involvement in energy markets and ensure sustainability.

The Commission is taking four main actions following this Communication. It will:

- continue to drive forward the integration of renewable energies into the internal energy market and address power generation investment incentives in the market
- prepare guidance on best practices and experience gained on support schemes to encourage greater predictability, cost-effectiveness, avoid over compensation when proven and develop greater consistency across Member States
- promote and guide the increased use of the cooperation mechanisms, allowing Member States to achieve their national binding targets by trading renewable energy and so lowering their costs
- ensure improvements to the regulatory framework for energy cooperation in the Mediterranean, noting that an integrated regional market in the Maghreb would facilitate large-scale investment

Whatever form the post 2020 renewable energy milestones take, they must ensure that renewable energy is part of the European energy market, with limited but effective support where necessary. It proposed a new Directive to step up Member States efforts to use energy more efficiently at all stages of the energy chain. The EC proposed simple but ambitious measures: legal obligation to establish energy saving schemes in all Member States, public sector to lead by example and major energy savings for consumers.

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](#)





NEXTREREN EVENTS



RENREN FINAL CONFERENCE

Brussels (Belgium), 18 October 2012

www.renren-project.eu

RENREN in BIOMUN

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

http://www.expobioenergia.com/sites/www.expobioenergia.com/files/programa_biomun_2012.pdf

RENREN in ROENERGY FAIR

Timisoara 28 & 30 November 2012 with ADETIM participation

<http://www.roenergy.eu/en>

OTHER RES-EVENTS

EXPOBIOENERGIA 2012

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

For more info [click here](#).

5th European Economic Forum – Łódzkie 2012

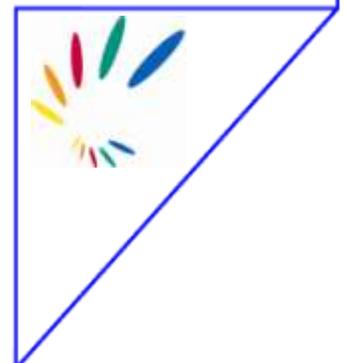
Lodz (Poland), 7 & 8 November 2012

For more info [click here](#).

World Sustainable Energy Days 2012

Wels (Austria); 27 February-1 March 2013

For more info [click here](#).





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@jcyf.es) assisted by the Welsh Assembly Government. The newsletter will be published twice per year. This **newsletter issue 6** covers the project's first period from May to September 2012. The next issue will be published by December of 2012.