



# Newsletter n°3

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## “POWERING REGIONS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY”

During this year's “EU Sustainable Energy Week” two befriended INTERREG projects jointly arranged a conference at the House of Dutch Provinces in Brussels, titled “Powering Regions for the 21st Century”: Both the RENREN project and the MORE4NRG project are aiming at strengthening the regions' capacities for enhanced RES deployment. Parallel to this, both projects took the opportunity to stress the all-European needs of enhanced RES efforts at regional level, too.

“The objective of more renewable energies in Europe requires enhanced efforts at all level, in particular at regional level. Not least the current tragic events at Japanese nuclear power plants are increasing the importance of rapid further development in this area. Thus, there is a serious need to enhance the capacities of regions across Europe to work for more renewable energy use at their home grounds.” Ms **Cordelia Andreßen**, State Secretary from the Schleswig-Holstein Land Government, stated on behalf of the RENREN Lead Partner in her welcome address to the Conference.

Following the presentation of some first results samples from both projects, other speakers contributed to the conference too. Like e.g. Mr **Karl Kellner** from the European Commission's Directorate General for Energy talking about the importance of effective regional cooperation in the EU in terms of sustainable and green energy. Or Ms **Justyna Podralska**, project coordinator at the Assembly of European Regions (AER), presenting the results of a study mapping the various obstacles which AER member regions meet when looking to invest in clean and sustainable energy. At the end all speakers participated in a lively panel discussion on “What can Regions do to Support the European Targets for RES?”.

The major aim of **RENREN project** is to identify and transfer good-practice experience and develop “Policy Recommendations” encouraging other regional administrations to upgrade their own RES policies. The **MORE4NRG** project is focussing on the delivery of regional strategies on RES and energy efficiency by exchanging best practices. For more information on both projects please visit [www.renren-project.eu](http://www.renren-project.eu) or [www.more4nrg.eu](http://www.more4nrg.eu) .

For more info on the Conference including presentations as well as a comprehensive Conference Report please [click here](#).



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## GOOD PRACTICES TRANSFERABILITY CHECK STARTED AT THIRD RENREN WORKSHOP IN ÚSTÍ, CZ

**Proving the transferability of Good Practice examples identified is one major aim of the RENREN project. At the third project workshop hosted by Ústí Region (Czech Republic) this ambitious work was started. Good Practices proved to be transferable will also be a basis for defining “Policy Recommendations” addressed to regional administrations aiming at upgrading their own RES policies.**

The third RENREN workshop was held in the Ústí countryside at castle Červený Hrádek, close to the Town of Chomutov. The participants were welcomed by Mr. Antonín Terber, representing the Regional Board of the Ústí Region. According to his words, Ústí Region is historically a mining region and the highest producer of electric power in the Czech Republic – mainly generated by burning of brown coal in power plants. Nevertheless, the Ústí regional supports RES development with the aim of contributing to improving the environment in the region, in particular by reducing air pollution.

During the workshop, the RENREN partners finalized their work on identifying good practices and bottlenecks among the project's Topic 2 (“Permits & compliance”). As regards Topic 3 (“Fostering job market development, RTD and innovation”) a good number of subjects were identified to be further worked upon. Quite more important: The RENREN network decided to start the transferability check of Good Practice examples already on the basis of two (out of four) project topics finalized so far: Partners interested in Good Practice experiences won by other partners will analyse these with a view to concrete measures to be tested for transferability within the timely limits of the project's life cycle.

Furthermore, the RENREN network received a presentation on some first results from the “Comparative Analysis” which a group of external experts is contracted to elaborate on RES potentials and perspectives at the individual partner regions. Bay Zoltán Foundation, the north-hungarian RENREN partner, also presented a draft version of the “regional RES development monitoring tool” aimed to be finally developed in the margins of the RENREN project. After the end of the workshop numerous participants made use of the opportunity to visit a wind farm in the neighbouring Ore mountains as a means of additional exchange of experience on regional RES efforts.

For more info on Workshop results please visit the “Activities” page at [www.renren-project.eu](http://www.renren-project.eu) . As regards the thematic work of RENREN Working Groups in the frame of this third RENREN Workshop please see separate articles from their individual viewpoints on the pages following.

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## STUDY VISIT IN THE LODZ REGION OF RENREN

RENREN partners had the possibility to gain insight into some aspects of biomass and geothermal energy potential in Lodz Region.

Although the region of Lodz, has got big potential in biomass and geothermal energy, the number of existed installations is not sufficient. Partners were interested in some of the projects implemented by Cluster Bioenergy for the Region. Some interesting discussions took place and hopefully it will be continued. Lodz region wants to build up cooperation with biomass cluster in other RENREN regions. This cooperation should start with this on-site visit and during RENREN project lifetime.

The on-site visit in the Lodz region was mainly devoted to problems of biomass and geothermal energy in the region. These topics come from the natural conditions of the region. The visit was divided into a part of a visitation character (first day) and part of a session character (second day).

During the first day of the visit the project partners were officially welcome by the Marshal of the Lodz region, Witold Stepień at the headquarters of the Marshal's Office in Lodz. After the official part, the vote was put to Ms. Dr. Eve Kochanska, President of AEC Pro-Academia, which presented the story of the organization, the main spheres of activities and projects implemented under **Cluster Bioenergy for the Region**.

Then spoke young scientists from the Cluster project Bioenergy for the Region - **Integrated Development Program PhD Students**, who introduced two presentations. The first one - House 2020 - the zero-energy building, was dedicated to the design of a passive house, including its construction, location, impact on the environment, availability of materials in the Lodz region and economic considerations.

The second presentation concerned the local power plant hybrid project. The project involves the construction of a local power plant in Daszyna community of 2 MW powered by biomass (straw pellets). In addition, the project involves upgrading of the fuel - woody biomass. After the two presentations, short discussion took place.



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## WG 1: TO VERIFY TRANSFERABILITY OF GOOD PRACTICES

Experience in Wind, Ocean and Hydro energies want to be transferred by RENREN partners.



When dealing with the Workshop's major themes, Working Group 1 (on "wind, ocean & hydropower") considered the potential transferability of good practice examples identified so far. The experiences gained by Wales in developing its "Marine Energy Strategy" will be tested by Pays de la Loire, Schleswig-Holstein and partially also by Andalusia and Westfjords. In particular, the group examined whether the model for the development of marine energy potentials – including funding, co-operation, key focuses and studies – could provide additional stimulus to the offshore wind energy sector.

Similarly, good practice experience e.g. cluster management "windcomm Schleswig-Holstein" or the "Wind Turbine Test Laboratory" at Navarra provide a high degree of "transferability" for exploration by other partners.

"Adaption of industries to offshore development" has emerged as a new broad-based subject of interest to partner regions at WG 1, i.e. the transformation of old industrial structures to modern infrastructure needs in the offshore wind energy sector. Also in this respect, the Welsh "Marine Energy Strategy" will be taken up for transferability exercise by a number of partner regions.

A major objective of the RENREN project is to develop a number of "policy recommendations". It is envisaged that the transferability experiences gained throughout the RENREN project will provide the basis for some of those recommendations.

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## WG 2: INFLUENCE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Jämtland's "Influence on national legislation" was presented with their strategy of setting regional goals, broad collaboration and aims of being a regional RES-forerunner.

The strategy is supported by e.g. regional subsidies as taxes reliefs and free parking for electric cars or cars using biofuels.

Transferabilities discussed came by input from several partners. Some group members found that specific segments could be applied in their region and almost all partners consider that the free parking idea can be the subject for their lobbying.

Short presentations were held for each bottleneck followed by discussions around possible solutions to find in other regions. For instance "Lack of institutions/laws" could possibly be addressed to Timis' initiated project of a County Energy Management Association. The contradictions between mining and RES could be addressed to a model in CyL.

The WG discussed elements for policy recommendations. From Jämtland's best practice "Influence on national legislation" some key points were emphasized, such as: higher taxes on fossils, faster development of biofuels and the availability of electricity for electrical vehicles.

The WG was also bringing so called "one stop shops" to the table, as a mean to obtain simplified administrative procedures.



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## WG 3: PROFESSIONAL SKILLS, CLUSTERS AND SHORTER ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

**Improvements of installers skills, the creation of clusters, and better Solar RES quotas can be help to survive the solar energy market.**

During the group, sessions it was discussed the following points and what to do so far:

The New energy strategy plan in Navarra for 2020 which has been recently approved and which steps could be used as a reference to transfer by other partners, the Hospisol programme from Castilla y León to install solar thermal energy in public hospitals, the build up skills in solar issues for Timis that could be a best practice, the certification of installers which is required in France was explained by partners from Pays de la Loire, the improvements of storage of electricity were discuss among partners.

Again the bottleneck of the administrative procedures: came into discussion, as well as the lack of information regarding grid capacity.

Management energy policy in Timis (Rumania) and RES Quotas by Andalusia (Spain) were analysed during the session.



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## CONCENTRATED SOLAR POWER PLANTS IN ANDALUCIA

**Andalusia has launched since last summer four new concentrated solar power plants, summing up to 167 MW.**

So there are now operational in 11 plants 397.91, according to the Andalusian Agency Energy.

The four new facilities are three parabolic trough-type: “[Solnova](#) Four” (Seville, Abengoa Solar), “Palma del Río I” and “Palma del Río II” (Córdoba, Acciona) and Gemasolar-Solar Tres (Seville, Sener-Torresol Energy) This way Andalusia is the leading region in Europe in CSP technology with near 398 MW under operation located in the provinces of Cordoba, Seville and Granada, 117 MW of them have the ability of storing thermal energy and producing electric power even during the night.

In addition, there are another 10 plants under construction, with 499.69 MW in the provinces of Seville, Cordoba, Cadiz and Granada.

## TWO WIND FARMS IN THE TWO SITES OF THE MOUNTAIN VERMIO, MACEDONIA, GREECE

**One of the leader wind farm projects in Greece is the one built in the two sites of the mountain Vermio, in our area, by the ENERGEIAKI POLYMYLOU S.A., partner of the GAMESA ENERGIA S.A. group of companies.**

The project is divided in two parts. The first is situated in the ‘Panaghia Soumela’ site of the Imathia area (Central Macedonia) and the second in the ‘Zoodochos Pighi’ site of Kozani area (West Macedonia), with an installed capacity of 14 and 24 MW, respectively.

The turbines have already been installed, the function trials have been completed and the Operation License will soon be issued. The combined electricity generation of the two parts of the plant will be enough to power more than 16,000 households.



## 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](#)







## BIOCLUS

Bioclus, is a project co-financed by 7th FP, which objective is to boost the regional competitiveness and growth in five European cluster regions: Central Finland, Navarre (Spain), Western Macedonia (Greece), Slovakia, Wielkopolska (Poland).

The project promotes collaboration and integration of cluster regions and strengthens the innovation environment by improving research potential and innovation management. Besides, the project supports sustainable development by improving the use of biomass resources. The development is achieved by promoting scientific, strategic and business competence at cluster and consortium level; developing collaboration capabilities in the clusters and consortium level; and improving innovation to business environment by mutual learning and by mentoring

The BIOCLUS clusters locate in the rural regions. According to Community strategic guidelines for rural development (COM (2006) 144) the development in the rural regions should be improved. All cluster regions have great biomass resources such as forests, agriculture, industrial and agricultural by-products as well as municipal waste. The biomass resources are used for food and fodder production, industrial materials and products as well as for bio energy. There is great potential in terms of economically, socially and environmentally sustainable development related to a higher level and more integrated way of biomass utilisation and biomass related business.

Available biomasses at BIOCLUS regions are: Food supply and Biomass for industrial products (Pulp and paper industries, Lumber and Forest products and Bioenergy) .

## EVENTS

### INTERREG IVC - GOOD PRACTICE FAIR

Krakow (Poland), 24 November 2011

For more info [click here](#).

### 4th International Energy Farming Congress

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

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@jcy.es](mailto:eren@jcy.es)) assisted by the Welsh Assembly Government. The newsletter will be published twice per year. This **newsletter issue 3** covers the project's first period from Jan to September 2011. The next issue will be published by end of 2011.



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