



Newsletter n°7

December 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

RENREN IN BRIEF

EVENTS

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A SUCCESSFUL YEAR 2012 FOR RENREN – AND AN ENCOURAGING VIEW AHEAD

By the end of 2012 the current project phase of RENREN will come to an end. And in fact, 2012 was a successful year for RENREN. The original aim of this network was to help and encourage regional authorities across Europe to enhance their own efforts for a more widespread deployment of renewable energies (RES). During the current INTERREG IC C project phase (2010-2012), the 14 network partners designed a comprehensive set of “RENREN Policy Recommendations”, explored and identified over 50 Good Practices and a number of bottlenecks and developed an IT-based “RES Development Monitoring Tool”, which will help regions explore their RES potential and measure the progress made on RES deployment in their area.

These results were welcomed by representatives from the European institution at the **RENREN Final Project Conference**, held on 18 October 2012 in Brussels at the Committee of the Regions. They also asked the network partners to continue their cooperation aimed at encouraging the regional authorities across Europe and to lend a voice to the needs of the regions concerning the the deployment of RES concerned. With a view to future European RES targets beyond 2020, Mr Claude Turmes MEP asked RENREN to become rather more political.

The network partners themselves already agreed to **continue the cooperation beyond 2012**. By nature, this will happen at a lower level than during the project phase – without the frame set and the financial means provided by the INTERREG IV C programme. At least, a good number of Good Practice transfers from one RENREN partner to another, already started, will need to be continued due to the more strategic and complex character of the Good Practice case studies they refer to. Dissemination of project results as well as continued communication flow among the partners on domestic RES-related measures and initiatives will provide consistency of network cooperation.

In the longer run, the partners will reflect on whether and how best a new project application may be prepared in order to continue and further specify the ambitious work of the current RENREN project. Yet, the framework conditions of future EU fundings from 2014 onwards seem unclear. But the RENREN partners intend to get a concrete view on this by 2013/2014.

The most recent news on RENREN and its project results are presented in this Newsletter. This 7th issue, an addition to the obligations set to the project, shall also indicate that RENREN intends to continue its information work, too, beyond the year 2012.



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“RENREN OUTCOMES: POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS”

Renewable Energy
Regions Network

A major objective of the RENREN project was to design a comprehensive set of policy recommendations to support regional governments in further developing their own *renewable energies* (RES) oriented policies. These “**RENREN Policy Recommendations**” are experience-based, reflecting both good practices and bottlenecks. They are not solely directed to the partners of the RENREN project. Rather, they are open for consideration by all regions wishing to reflect upon their potential and capacities to foster the development and use of RES.

The recommendations are addressed to “*learning regions*” as well as “*experienced regions*”, depending on their stage of experience in establishing and expanding the use of RES in their regions through regional action. They are not only about RES as such and the best way to develop a regional energy & climate strategy. The recommendations also underline that RES may help advance a region’s economy by creating jobs and driving innovation:

Institutionalise Renewable Energy:

- ✓ Commit to RES by setting goals and objectives
- ✓ Provide a guiding framework: develop a regional energy and climate strategy
- ✓ Establish regional RES management structures
- ✓ Establish regional RES communication structures, including e.g. a central platform of information, RES branding, stakeholder dialogue and citizen engagement



Increase the success rate at the project development phase:

- ✓ Use spatial planning as a strategic tool for RES development, including its role in balancing (competing) interests
- ✓ Provide information & guidance for developers
- ✓ Reduce the complexity of the permitting process
- ✓ Increase transparency of the permitting process



Use RES as a motor for jobs and to drive innovation :

- ✓ Qualification and skills are key to keeping and attracting jobs in a region
- ✓ Create and use cooperation opportunities within and beyond a region, including stakeholders and citizens
- ✓ Foster innovation by integrating existing and/or new research facilities in your regional energy and climate strategy

Incentivise the use of renewables in your region:

- ✓ Apply and demand standards for the use of RES
- ✓ Provide incentives to use RES by demonstrating their benefit and added values
- ✓ Review specific RES use for transport & mobility
- ✓ Award forerunners



Financing is available - create access:

- ✓ Mobilize EU funds & programmes for regional renewable energy projects
- ✓ Create demand - use public procurement as a (strategic) tool
- ✓ Leverage private money via engaging in Public-Private-Partnerships, leveraging
- ✓ private investments or via participatory models

For the entire document “RENREN Policy Recommendations”, including in-depth description of recommendations as well as those Good Practice case studies they refer to, please have a look at “Final Results of the RENREN Project” at: www.renren.project.eu



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RENREN Renewable Energy
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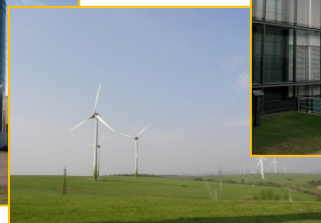
RENREN GOOD PRACTICES: CASE STUDIES AND TRANSFERS

Good practice case studies were central to the RENREN project. As a first step, the partners collected and explored a broad range of bottlenecks and good practices based on their own domestic experiences. Bottlenecks often consist of tools existing as a good practice in some regions, but lacking in other regions, such as missing or incomplete regional strategies. This work was mostly done in three themed working groups, covering all major renewable energies (RES) technologies. At thematic Project Workshops, the partners looked at these technologies in relation to the following political and/or administrative tasks: *"Strategic planning for RES at regional level"*, *"Permits and compliance"*, *"Fostering job market, RTD & innovation"* and *"Finance and incentives"*.

The **bottlenecks** identified and **Good Practice** case studies encompass e.g.

- ☐ regional energy & climate strategies;
- ☐ practical approaches to reduce complexity of the permitting process and to increase transparency;
- ☐ spatial planning strategies on designating land or offshore areas for RES;
- ☐ tools for communication and education supporting the economic development of RES and related industries, e.g. clusters, centres of excellence or vocational education and training courses;
- ☐ the integration of existing research & development facilities into regional energy strategies;
- ☐ financial and non-financial incentives provided by regional governments.

In a second step, some of these good practice case studies were checked as regards their **transferability to other regions**. Sometimes only selected elements of a good practice could be transferred, taking into account the differing conditions given in the "beneficiary" and the "donor" partner region. Nonetheless, it turned out that a good number of transfers became more complex than initially expected. Consequently, several RENREN partners decided to continue the transfer and implementation of these good practices on a bilateral basis even beyond the project's time frame.



For the entire documentation of more than 50 **RENREN Good Practice case studies** please have a look at "Final Results of the RENREN Project" at: www.renren.project.eu



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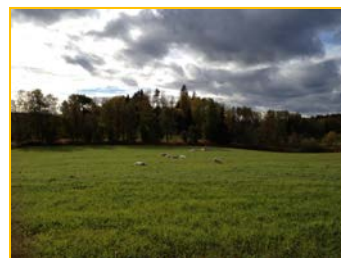
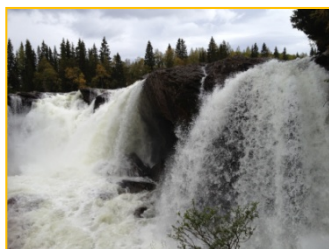


COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS: RES POTENTIALS AND FRAME CONDITIONS ACROSS THE RENREN PARTNERS

The RENREN project's work and its major outcomes were underpinned by a Comparative Analysis on framework conditions and measures at the each of the partner regions. This analysis, which an external experts' group was tasked with drawing up, comprises basic regional RES data as well as existing potential and decision-making powers.

"To date information on quantitative figures for regional RES development is scarce. Whereas in countries that have a feed-in-tariff or quota, data is at least available for electricity fed into the grid, the data for heat or transport fuels based on renewable sources, as well as the data on reduced energy demand, on a regional level is hard to obtain. Gaps and incomplete data series are a fact." This quotation from the Comparative Analysis underlines the difficulties a region may face when trying to generate a region's own energy strategy.

Further items and factors were analysed with a view to a region's options for influencing RES exploitation, such as (nominal) decision-making power, cooperation with national governments, RES share to population density ratio, involvement of stakeholders, financing or the entire "grid issue" (from access via capacity through to storage). Where no specific data were required, the external experts led interviews with the partner regions or with relevant stakeholders identified by them.



The conclusions from this **Comparative Analysis** are available at "Final Results of the RENREN Project" at: www.renren.project.eu





RENEWABLE ENERGY REGIONS NETWORK (RENREN) PRESENTS RESULTS AT FINAL CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS (I)

On 18 October, the 14 RENREN Partners presented the results of the Interreg IVC project at the final conference in the Committee of the Regions (CoR).

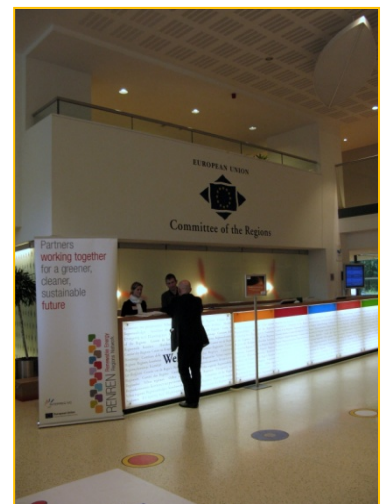
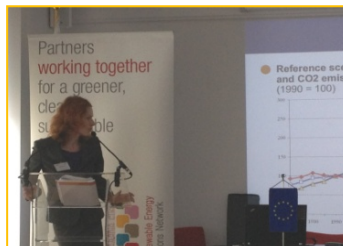
During the project, 13 regions and one Member State sent their energy experts from their governmental and other administrations to find out how the development and the application of the renewable energy sources (RES) wind, biomass, solar, hydro, geothermal and marine energy could be enhanced at regional level.

State Secretary Ingrid Nestle, who is responsible for energy transition and who represented lead partner Schleswig-Holstein in Brussels, underlined the important role regions play for the development of RES. At the same time, she made clear that missing grid and storage facilities result in a bottleneck for all regions: "The EU should enhance the cross-border installation of the energy infrastructure and the further development of storage capacities".

The RENREN partners described the major challenges and the most important results of the project in the RENREN declaration: the sharing of bottlenecks and more than 50 good practices resulted in policy recommendations to the regional decision makers. Basic elements for the successful development of RES are for example:

- the commitment of the government

- an energy strategy including quantitative objectives for the development of RES
- effective and central management structures within the governmental body
- communication structures.



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RENEWABLE ENERGY REGIONS NETWORK (RENREN) PRESENTS RESULTS AT FINAL CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS (II)

In a second step, spatial planning (where to build up installations and where not?), information and guidance for developers, simple and transparent licensing procedures were be considered as important building blocks for the initiation and extension of RES. Moreover, good education schemes, regional clusters, research infrastructures and technical standards are helpful tools, always accompanied by communication.

Of course, the RENREN partners wish for better financing. At the same time, the access to available (European) financial resources should be improved.

The RENREN partners were surprised concerning the echo of the European institutions on 18 October: high ranking representatives of the European Parliament, the European Commission and the Committee of the Regions attended the final conference and welcomed the RENREN results. Claude Turmes, MEP, encouraged RENREN to transfer the results further into the political realm. Different representatives on the podium, for example from the European Council of Renewable Energies (EREC) asked RENREN to continue this successful work with the regions.

- Ingrid Nestle, State Secretary for Energy Transition in Schleswig-Holstein: *"European regions have a key role concerning the development of renewable energies"*.
- Gerhard Stahl, Secretary General of the Committee of the Regions: *"The Development of the renewable energies is of great importance"*.
- Claude Turmes, Member of the European Parliament: *"A second RENREN should be more political"*.
- Maud Skaringer, Directorate General REGIO, European Commission: *"Investments into renewable energies are needed"*.
- Hans Van Steen, Directorate General ENER, European Commission: *"We must develop mile stones for 2030"*.
- Lucie Tesnier, EREC: *"At conferences I've always said exactly what I read in the RENREN policy recommendations"*.

Presentations available by [click here](#)

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RENREN IN BRIEF (I)

RENREN - RETS - IMEDER joint action

The joint RENREN - RETS – IMEDER inter-network meeting «Renewable Energies in Europe and in the Mediterranean: working together to face the challenges of the future» was held with great success on 14 November 2012. It took place in the impressive building of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Marseille Province ([CCIMP](#)) and attracted around forty participants. Among them were partners of the RETS and the RENREN projects (both funded by the INTERREG IVC Programme), members of the IMEDER (Institut Méditerranéen des Energies Renouvelables), members of the CCIMP and other stakeholders, mainly from the Mediterranean basin countries.

In the introductory session, Dr Tomas Engelke presented the outputs of the RENREN project, emphasizing the policy recommendations, which aim at helping partners and other EU Regions to optimize their policy frameworks and to achieve or to go beyond their renewable energy targets. He concluded that the implementation of good practices should follow all the work done in such projects. The audience showed great interest in his speech, asking questions.

Also, two round tables, on «Implementing an Energy Mix Strategy: Challenges and Opportunities» and «Mutualisation, Capitalisation and Funding Perspectives» were organized. Afterwards, two sets of parallel workshops took place on a variety of subjects concerning RES, such as cross-border areas opportunities, training and policy recommendations, or project management and communication tools. The RENREN policy recommendations were much appreciated as a good practice. The conclusions of all working groups were presented in a final plenary session.



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RENREN in BIOMUN

On 23, 24 and October 2012, the RENREN network participate in the BIOMUN event in the frame of Expobioenergía 2012.

During the event were presented to over 400 municipalities some of the best practices extracted from the three years work of the RENREN working groups. Taking into account the potentiality to transfer in their municipalities. On the other hand it was presented and distributed the policy recommendations in order to involve then to help regions to fulfil the renewable energy targets.





RENREN IN BRIEF (II)

RENREN in RoENERGY

Organized for the third time, RoEnergy Timisoara 2012 attracted 70+ exhibitors and over 3000 visitors during 28th – 30th of November 2012, the highest indicators organized in Western Romania.

Within the Fair two types of conferences were scheduled. On the first day, the 28th of November, the presentations were focused on cooperation in RES field and also on solar energy. The second day was dedicated to bioenergy.

As RENREN partner and RES use promoter, ADETIM participated within the first day of conferences. Focusing on RENREN principles activities and results, ADETIM presented to the audience the wide range of activities accomplished by our organization within RES promotion domain, starting with 2007. The presentation of the RENREN videoclip was also included, followed by an interesting debate upon renewable energy at local and regional level.



RENREN-HOMEPAGE

The project homepage gives 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 project developments.

For more information [click here](#)

SOME RES-EVENTS

EXPOBIOENERGIA 2012

Valladolid (Spain), 22, 23 & 24 October 2013

For more information: <http://www.expobioenergia.com>

World Sustainable Energy Days 2012

Wels (Austria), 27 February-1 March 2013

For more information: <http://www.wsed.at>



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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@jcyf.es) assisted by the Welsh Assembly Government. The newsletter will be published twice per year. This **newsletter issue 7** covers the project's first period from September to December 2012. The next issue will be published in June 2013.



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