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#### Partners:

- O.Ö. ESV, (AT) ■ Agencia Andaluza de la Energía, (ES) ■ University of Ljubljana, (SI)
- EREN, (ES) ■ Rhônalpénergie-Environnement, (FR) ■ MWEA, (UK) ■ STEM, (SE) ■ IZES, (DE) ■ ARE Liguria, (IT) ■ DTI, (DK) ■ Gobierno Navarra, (ES)
- FEDARENE ■ EREF

Upon the initiative of O.Ö. Energiesparverband and FEDARENE, European regions are invited to sign the Declaration "European Regions for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources". The aim of this declaration is to increase the visibility of the commitment and of the actions of European regions in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources and to encourage and motivate regions that have not defined quantitative objectives to take action.

Between March and June 2006, the following 22 Regions and Provinces have signed: Abruzzo, Andalucía, Avila, Castilla y León, Chepelare, Chieti, Ile de France, Jaen, Kalmar, Central Finland, Lazio, Liguria, Mid West Ireland, Milano, Navarra, Norrbotten, Oberösterreich, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, Poitou-Charentes, South East Ireland, Valenciana and West Sussex.

## Declaration European Regions for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources

*Recognising the crucial role of energy for economic development and the environmental situation in Europe and,*

*Understanding the important contribution sustainable energy production and use can make to a positive economic and environmental development and,*

*Acting out of responsibility for future generations and in partnership with other regions across Europe,*

*We, the undersigned regional and local governments, have made a commitment to increasing our share of renewable energy and to boosting energy efficiency in our regions. We acknowledge that energy efficiency and renewable energy sources are most important cornerstones of sustainable development because they contribute to environment and climate protection, to local job creation and economic growth, to security of energy supply, to independence from energy price fluctuations as well as to social cohesion and innovation.*

*Recognising the importance of local and regional action in making sustainability happen, we are actively promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy sources in our own buildings, installations and sites as well as to the citizens, municipalities and businesses in our regions.*

*Deeply concerned about climate change and the increasing dependency on imported fossil fuels and their impact on our environment and economies, we call upon other European regions, but also upon local and national governments as well as the European institutions, to join forces for a better and more sustainable energy future!*

The declarations have been signed by either regional president or the relevant regional ministers. The Declaration is available in [all EU languages](#)



## Energy Future 2030 in Upper Austria

Presently a number of activities in Upper Austria are going on to develop a regional energy strategy with the time horizon of 2030. The aim is to develop a regional strategy which continues the existing strategy (2000 – 2010) from 2010 to 2030. The on-going activities include an analysis of the present electricity consumption and developing different scenarios of long-term RES-e potential.



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Within the RES-e project, a dialogue platform was started where key actors are invited to participate in the discussion on the strategy. As one interactive element of the platform, an on-line questionnaire was developed and put on the website of ESV. So far more than 125 people participated actively and filled in the questionnaire.

Another part of the activities implemented so far was the regional seminar, which targeted regional stakeholders interested in the energy future of Upper Austria. The regional seminar "Energie-Zukunft 2030" was organised on the date of the 20th anniversary of the catastrophe of Chernobyl (26 April 2006) and gave the possibility to discuss within workshops the future trends of green energy, especially renewable electricity until the year 2030. The seminar combined presentations on energy trends and outlook with interactive workshops, where the participants were invited to contribute actively. The interest in the seminar was very high, 162 people attended and participated actively in the workshops.

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## The sun always shine on Ullevi outdoor arena

Up to this year Sweden's largest solar PV system at 50kWp was built in 1998 and is located at IKEA's headquarter in Älmhult which means that practical experience from large systems is almost non-existent whilst the trend in the rest of the world is obvious: grid connected systems with an increasing share of large scale PV plants and capacities of several MWp.

Since the introduction of the 70% investment support for PV on public buildings initiated last year several new larger installations are planned in Sweden. One of them is on the Ullevi outdoor arena situated in Gothenburg, Västra Götaland. Other examples are Kungsbacka south of Gothenburg (64 kWp) and in Malmö in south Sweden (65.9 kWp).



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Ullevi is Scandinavia's foremost outdoor arena, and over the years has hosted a huge number of topflight international sporting and music events. In 2006, Ullevi will host the European Championships in Athletics.

The project consists of a large scale PV system of more than 600 sq m which will produce about 70 000 kWh/year.

The structure's lighting system is sized at 500kW and is used in its maximum capacity on approximately 10 occasions for the duration of approx 6 hours during any given year. This results in an annual electricity consumption of 30MWh for lighting alone, hence the project title "The Sun will always shine on Ullevi": whilst solar irradiation is captured via solar cells in the form of electricity and fed into the grid during daylight hours, the energy is regained at the point of peak consumption – during the floodlit football game!

A number of placement alternatives with an accumulated effect of over 1,4 MWp have been examined in a feasibility study. The individual options are presented according to construction technology/architecture, cost as well as added marketing value. International experiences from similar installations (such as during the Olympic Games in Sydney, 2000) were included for the evaluation of overall marketing value add.

The feasibility study concludes that a number of placement alternatives provide feasible conditions for the installation of solar photovoltaic systems on Ullevi. By far the most suitable location with regards to photovoltaic –

and construction specific technology as well as added marketing impact was, however, identified on the sheet metal roof of approx. 600 sq m size which is located inside the arena on the north-eastern grandstand.

The feasibility study further concludes that the return of investment of placing a solar PV system on the roof of similar structures has reached twice the original investment in terms of added marketing payback.

The PV system will most probably be installed after the European Championships in Athletics during this summer.

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## Slovenian Commitments to Renewable energy Sources

Electricity consumption is growing more rapidly than the consumption of all other types of energy products. Since 2000 final consumption of electricity has increased by on average 4.5% per year and in the last year by 4%. This exceeds planned growth and it is therefore essential to devote more attention to this sector in planning measures to reduce growth.

Because electricity consumption has grown faster than the generation of electricity from renewables, the share of electricity obtained from renewable sources fell from 31.7% in 2000 to 29.1% in 2004. Hydrological conditions have caused some sharp peaks and troughs over the years, for example 22% in 2003, a drought year. In the primary balance in 2004 the share of renewables was 11.7% or 1.2 percentage points higher than the year before; however there is no increase in the long term.

A long-term tendency towards a gradual increase in electricity generation from renewables can be observed (besides hydro power, production from wood biomass and landfill gas is also increasing). However, owing to the faster growth in consumption, the share of renewables in electricity consumption is falling and is therefore moving us further from achieving the target of 33.6% which is an obligation under Slovenia's EU accession treaty.

Energy policy targets in the Republic of Slovenia are set out in the Resolution on the National Energy Programme:

Raising the share of renewable sources of energy in the primary energy balance from 8.8% in 2002 to 12% by 2010 and targets in individual spheres:

- increasing the share of renewables in the supply of heat from 22% in 2002 to 25% by 2010,
- raising the share of electricity from renewables from 32% in 2002 to 33.6% by 2010,
- ensuring up to 2 % share of biofuels for transport by the end of 2005.

Increasing the share of electricity generated from renewable sources of energy to 33.6 % of gross electricity generated by 2010 will require the inclusion of all types of power plants using renewable sources, from large wind farms to micro solar power plants. Total annual electricity generation from new renewable power plants in 2010 will have to be between 1 and 1.5 TWh, depending on generation in large hydroelectric power plants; this will require construction of new renewable power plants with installed power of between 200 and 400 MW.

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*Landfill gas engine for electricity production in the Municipality of Celje*



## Rhône-Alpes Region strongly commits to RES

The outcome of the support given during the year 2005 to the renewable energies by the Region Rhône-Alpes reveals that renewable energies are a strong aspect of the current regional political orientation.

The most memorable fact of the past year is the strong increase of the demand from the private owners, which has led the Region to give subsidies for the 5000th solar domestic hot water system, the 1000th combined solar system for space heating and hot water, the 1000th automatic wood boiler and the 700th photovoltaic solar roof.

A strong demand for collective installations is also present, since 470 solar thermal systems were installed in the sectors of social housing, tourism and tertiary buildings.

The whole sector of solar thermal systems was particularly dynamic this year, since the annual rate of 20 000 m<sup>2</sup> of solar thermal panels has been reached. This target was scheduled to be reached only next year.

In spite of an insufficient rate of tax credit for the private owners which has led to a decrease in the demand for photovoltaic solar roofs in 2005 compared to the previous years, the Region has nevertheless maintained a good level while reaching a cumulated power of 2.7 MWp which have received regional subsidies until now.

Regarding wood biomass, the collective wood boilers meet an increasing success among the rural municipalities and the social backers as well as the small structures of accommodation and tourism. The subsidies to 185 collective wood boilers until now has contributed to mobilise from 150 000 to 200 000 tons of chipped wood, sawdust and clean wood waste.

The regional target remains ambitious, since the regional programme for renewable energies and energy efficiency voted in April 2005 schedules to give a direct financial support for the installation of 150 000 m<sup>2</sup> of solar thermal panels, 120 000 m<sup>2</sup> of solar photovoltaic panels and 300 MW of automatic collective wood boilers on the period 2005 to 2010. A financial envelope of 100 millions of euros will be dedicated for this time-period.

Beyond the traditional financial support with subsidies, the Region Rhône-Alpes has also decided to foster the market of renewable energies by encouraging innovative financing schemes from banks.

Energy efficiency remains a strong topic in the regional commitment, as the basic requirement prior to any use of renewable energies. This is the reason why the Region will show through pilot projects that the thermal renovation of buildings to a high level standard can be economically efficient.



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## Commitments of Navarra to RES

The Energy Plan of Navarra with year 2010 as horizon is focusing its efforts on different objectives. Main objectives are as follows:

- Motivate efficiency in the energy consumption, involving the public authorities to promote the saving and rational use of energy, both on a public and private consumption level.
- Strategically support the establishment of renewable energies and contribute towards the fulfilments taken by Spain with the EU, so that in year 2010, 12% of the primary energy consumption comes from renewable energy, the electric production of renewable energies amounts to 29,4% and the contribution of bio-fuels to the transport consumption is 5,75%.

On the one hand, renewable energy represents currently 14,2% of the total consumption of primary energy of the region, and it is expected they to reach 14,7% by year 2010.

On the other hand, the coverage of the total demand of electric energy of Navarra, from renewable energies, will exceed 75% in year 2010.

Finally, the housing development, commercial and services sectors have a potential of improvement in the efficiency of energy use, both in the execution of concrete measures and in the gradual change of how to use

energy to assure the comfort that society is demanding. Therefore, apart from associating a decrease of energy consumption to the execution of a set of measures, also the reduction of base consumption has been considered in order to improve energy use of the resources, through awareness campaigns to sensitize and make aware society as a whole.

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## Andalusian targets by 2010

- 15% of primary energy demand in Andalusia should come from renewable energy sources in 2010,
- primary energy saving of 7.5% over the predicted consumption for 2010,
- obligatory incorporation of low temperature solar energy installations for hot water production in buildings belonging to the Andalusian Regional Government.

The Andalusian Energy Plan 2003-2006 (PLEAN 2003-2006) is the strategic planning and coordination instrument of sectorial policies in the area of energy infrastructures, the promotion of renewable energies, as well as actions carried out in the areas of energy saving, energy efficiency and diversification that are developed in Andalusia.

- 15% of the total energy demand by the Andalusian people in 2010 comes from renewable energy sources. Each one of the renewable technologies will contribute in obtaining this objective, but a special emphasis will be given to wind, solar PV and thermal.
- to obtain an energy saving over the predicted consumption of primary energy of 4,07% in 2006, with a predicted saving of 7,5% in 2010. To reach the first of these objectives, both horizontal measures as well as sectorial measures should be acted upon. In the first case, cogeneration electric power expects to be increased by 280 MW in the period 2001-2006, and the technical saving originates from substituting a fuel from petroleum by other more efficient fuels like, for example, natural gas. Among the sectorial actions, a special emphasis is placed on the industrial, residential and service sectors, including the public sector in the last case.
- compulsory use of solar installations in public buildings of the Andalusian government. Agreement of the Governing Board (September 2003), which approves the mandatory incorporation of solar thermal installations for hot water production in buildings belonging to the Andalusian Regional Government, its autonomous organisations or public entities, and have a hot water consumption higher than 30m<sup>3</sup> per year. The requirements established in this Agreement have to be fulfilled in a maximum time limit of 10 years.

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Subbetic Mountains, Cordoba.  
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## Commitment of Welsh Assembly Government to RES

The Welsh Assembly Government has set the following target for RES-e generation:

4TWh of electricity to be generated from renewable sources by 2010 and 7TWh by 2020.

This target is to be reached predominantly through the use of large-scale onshore wind development, with a target of 800-1000MW of installed capacity by 2010. The wind installations will be targeted within designated zones, and will be combined in groups of not less than 25MW.

New offshore wind farms might contribute some 200MW additional capacity towards this target. Other sources of renewable energy are quoted as having "some contribution" by 2010, projected to be 0.1TWh.

Local planning authorities are asked to adopt policies for larger sewage treatment facilities to enhance anaerobic digestion.

Appropriately designed PV systems 'should be supported' by local planning authorities by being constructive when considering their installation on domestic properties.

Wave and tidal systems are considered to be in the early stages of development and are therefore not considered to be likely to contribute to the 2010 target.

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## Regional targets and strategies in Liguria

Energy production in Liguria is in excess of the consumption of the region (almost double): 58% of all pollutants are due to electricity production (2003).

This fact is the starting point in the definition of the regional strategies concerning energy policy.

In December 2003 Liguria adopted a document which laid down the energy and environmental policy in the region up to 2010. It is the so called "P.E.A.R." (Regional Energy and Environmental Plan). This Plan focuses on rational use of energy, energy saving, reduction of fossil fuel consumption and a specific emphasis on the use of renewable energy sources.

The primary task of the energy policies in Liguria is to review the energy situation in the region by gradually creating a production system characterised by small and medium-size plants with high efficiency and low impact on the environment .

The P.E.A.R established some main targets to be reached by 2010:

- Increase energy efficiency in the sectors that consume the most energy with total energy savings of 10%;
- Produce 7% of the total energy consumption in the region from renewable sources;
- Stabilise pollutants at 1990 levels.

The adoption of a Regional Energy Environmental Plan confirms the intention of the regional administration to reach targets in energy from renewable sources .

The specific targets to be reached by 2010 in Liguria are:

- Biomass CHP: 150 MWt ;
- Solar Thermal: 40 MWt ;
- Wind 8: MWe ;
- and also some MWe in Solar PV.

In order to reach these targets, feasible and cost-effective energy saving and efficiency measures will be taken to make consistent reduction of energy demand. The Region of Liguria mandates ARE Liguria for the implementation of the Regional Energy and Environmental Plan by giving, for example, technical assistance to 56 municipalities, in order to help them

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## Res-e: an experience in Castilla y León region

The region of Castilla y León has taken energy into account as an essential factor in its economic progress, which will be conditioned by some factors such as reliable energy supply at a suitable cost, including the integration of the environmental issue, improving the competitiveness among big companies

and SMEs, and increasing the citizens' comfort and quality of life. On the other hand Castilla y León covers 15% of the national electricity contribution to the national energy balance and the energy sector represents the 7.2% of the net value-added in the region.

With regard to the above Castilla y León has integrated, as part of its political guidelines strategy, concepts such as an efficient management of the energy demand, improvement of energy supply and infrastructures, diversification of energy generation sources, the increment and the improving competitiveness and the availability of the energy. These guidelines together with the best exploitation of the renewable energy sources represent an essential part of the Res-e strategy in the region, which involves the promotion of a new sustainable development culture in the region, where Renewable Energies play an increasingly prominent role every time more considerable. In this way, Castilla y León has developed a characteristic Res-e Energy Policy Strategy focused on every RES sector, where different sectorial plans have been designed. These plans are the Wind Power Plan from 1999, determined by the regional Decree 189/1997, dated 26th of September, 1997; the Solar Plan, from 2001 to 2006 and the Bioenergy Plan (not finalised). With regard to the Bioenergy promotion Castilla y León is organising a fair called "BIOENERGIA". The event will take place in Valladolid (Spain) from 19th to 22nd of October, 2006. (more information: <http://www.expobioenergia.com>).



The objectives deriving from the Castilla y León RE plans are part of the national contribution targets which are detailed for every Spanish Autonomous Community in the national energy plan, known as "Plan de Fomento de las Energías Renovables (PER)". Also the region of Castilla y León has signed the Wels Declaration with a commitment to Res-e based on reaching a share of 18% of renewable energy in primary energy consumption and a share of 32% in electricity production by 2010 (not including Large Hydro electricity production).

This entire framework has led the Castilla y León Res-e sector to involve 470 companies with 2,600 employments. In the region 2,300 MW have a renewable origin which covers 16% of gross RES-e contribution in the region.

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## Green electricity for Europe's Regions

The conference "Green electricity for Europe's regions" on 3 March was held in the framework of the annual conference "WORLD SUSTAINABLE ENERGY DAYS 2006" from 1-3 March 2006 in Wels/Upper Austria, which was very successful with more than 930 participants from 56 countries. The "Green electricity conference" was organised as part of the "RES-e regions" project by the project coordinator O.Oe. Energiesparverband and met with very high interest: 435 participants attended.

The conference offered an overview of different exemplary regional strategies in the field of RES-e, green electricity perspectives as well as technology solutions and regional benefits. It was started by a presentation about the EU potential for electricity from renewables to 2020. Rafael Delgado Nuñez presented the successful green electricity strategy of Castilla y León and Kent Ögren from Sweden green electricity in Norrbotten. An overview of sustainable wind energy development in Wales was given by Andy Bull from the Powys County Council. Dagnija Blumberga highlighted green electricity for the Baltic States. Green electricity in Upper Austria was presented by Gerhard Dell.

Green electricity perspectives were presented by Reinhard Haas ("Promotion instruments for electricity from RE"), Dörte Fouquet ("Green electricity for Europe – desire and reality") and J. Nandakumar ("Transition to renewable energy supply in India and China – a strategic necessity?").

Afterwards, technology solutions and regional benefits were presented. Rüdiger Wolf discussed a 40 MW solar thermal concentrator and Johnny



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Hesp gave an overview of labelling biomass fuels. Finally, Martin Schlerka presented innovative biogas plants in Upper Austria.

### **Declaration "European Regions for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources" (article above)**

A highlight of this conference day was the signing of the declaration "European Regions for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources". This declaration was signed by representatives from the Region of Upper Austria (Austria), the Country Council Norrbotten (Sweden), the Region of Castilla y León (Spain), the Province of Milano (Italy), the Regional Council of Central Finland (Finland), the Province of Chieti (Italy), the Region of Navarra (Spain) and the Region of Valencia (Spain).

The commitment shown by the 8 regions signing the Declaration, is an encouraging sign to trigger regional sustainable development.

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### **Solar, Wind Power and Mini Wind Turbines: the most common technologies for RES**

The workshop "Solar, Wind Power and Mini Wind Turbines: the most common technologies for energy from renewable sources" was held on 25 May as part of "Energethica, Sustainable Energy on Show" (Fiera del Mare, 25, 26, 27 May 2006).

The seminar which attracted people from different target groups focused on the opportunities of renewable sources in our region.

The workshop was opened by Roberto Longo (President of APER – Association of Producers of Energy from Renewable Sources), who highlighted the main issues concerning distributed generation. Alex Sorokin an expert on renewable energy then presented the legislative situation in Italy and Europe. Hermann Scheer described the German scenario of green electricity; his contribution was very important for the comparison of the Italian experience with that of other European countries. The seminar was also an interesting occasion during which the RES-e project and the strategies for the future of green electricity in our region were presented to the wider public. Franco Zunino, who is the Regional Councillor for the Environment, highlighted the interest of our region in achieving concrete targets in the exploitation of renewable sources at the close of the day's proceedings. The workshop also gave us a deep insight into the latest developments in the energy market and specifically on PV, both concerning technological (Pier Paolo Rossodivita's speech on "The integration of solar energy in architecture") and financial aspects.

The 89 participants were very interested and participated actively in the discussions which gave rise to a sort of platform dialogue and they even contacted ARE Liguria for information immediately after the event.

 [www.areliguria.it](http://www.areliguria.it)



### **Meeting of representatives and planners in Slovenia**

A meeting between administrative representatives and planners to acquire the status of qualified producers of electrical energy is foreseen for the middle of October 2006. The objective of the meeting will be discussion about conditions of grid-access and related problems. The connection to the electrical grid in Slovenia is extremely complicated and therefore time consuming. The problem we have to face is very high cost for grid connection, especially on some local levels. The basic barriers causing slow development of electricity generation from renewables are low purchase prices. Another barrier is the guaranteed purchase period provided by current legislation in the Republic of Slovenia, which, at ten years, is too short.

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## Come back of solar energy activities in municipalities?

An event addressing the municipalities in GCR is under preparation to take place by the beginning of September. The event is arranged in cooperation with the member organization Solar City Copenhagen (SCC). SCC is partly financed by the Copenhagen Municipality and is promoting the utilization of solar energy in urban areas. The aim of the event is first of all to strengthen the network between the municipalities regarding solar energy activities and by presentations from DTI, SCC, and pioneering municipalities to inspire other municipalities to elaborate strategies and start projects. Tools developed in the context of the "RESe for Regions"-project will be presented by DTI, and SCC will introduce a new subsidy scheme for preliminary projecting. A considerable amount of time will be devoted to a discussion headed by a chairman on strategies, barriers, and needs in order to stimulate the feeling of the municipalities that they also bear a responsibility of developing renewable energy systems. Despite the fact that the subsidies for renewable energy systems are historically low, it is expected that many municipalities will attend the training session, the driver being the new building code, which implements the EU directive on energy performance of buildings. Utilization of solar energy will be an obvious choice in many buildings in meeting the requirements of the code.



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## Regional seminar on RES-e in Västra Götaland

The seminar on electricity production from renewables in the county of Västra Götaland was arranged within the conference Energisession 2006. The one-day seminar had 12 speakers and in total the seminar attracted 199 participants.

The development of RES-e on regional level is very much depending on the planning, agreements and the understanding of different actors and their roles and objectives. These actors are e.g. the local and regional authorities, the utilities and grid owners, the project developers and the financiers as well as representatives from the general public and other groups and organisations with an environmental concern. Thus, it is important to highlight the different approaches, objectives and specific concerns amongst these groups.

The idea of this seminar was to attract as many as possible from all different target groups to bridge the gap and to get an insight of their different barriers and approaches.

The seminar was initiated with a plenary session with key note speeches. After the plenary session the seminar was addressing key technologies and their role, prospects and barriers within the region but first a presentation of the RES-e Regions project was held as well as an overview of the status in the region. The selected technologies were wind power, solar energy and biomass CHP.



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## Five successful events to boost RES e in Saarland

Since the beginning of the RES e project, IZES organized five events for different target groups with different intentions and results. The overall aim was of course to implement more directly knowledge and know-how on RES e plants in a larger range of the population encouraging the installation of more RES e plants in our region. To address our target groups we were looking for a lot of different co-operations e.g. with municipalities and the members of the project steering group who are representatives of local authorities, utilities, trade associations and energy providers. Depending on

the kind of event we associated also other partners such as craftsmen, engineers, fabricants of RES e plants and planners.

Our initial event to implement the project in the region took place in the Chamber of Crafts. The seminar was organised with the participation of craft guilds. The guilds of roofers, electrical engineering technicians, gas, sanitation and heating system installers and chimney sweepers were involved together with the Centre of environment from the Chamber of Crafts. The speakers showed good realised examples of bigger PV plants, talked about technical details and financial issues such as cheap credits and feed in tariffs from the Renewable Energy Act (EEG). At the end of the event a snack with beverages was offered to give the possibility for coming together and talking about concrete projects or finding the right partner to initiate projects in a relaxed atmosphere. About 100 people joined this event.



Our second seminar was dedicated to the promotion of RES e from biomass and evaluated the effects of the German renewable energy act (EEG). The first part of the seminar was a visit to one of the biggest PV plants of the world which is situated on an old colliery pond. Another part of the colliery site was transformed in a congress centre which was the reason to hold the seminar there. The PV plant had nothing to do with the main subject "RES e from biomass" but being on site it was interesting to visit for the participants.

These two seminars were more for experts in municipalities and other administrations, planners, craftsmen and all project developers who wanted to boost projects and to learn more about RES e plants and the legal and technical frame conditions.

Two more public events with general but targeted information delivery were held in two municipalities, one in Saarbrücken, the capital of Saarland and another one in Ensdorf, a little town in the south west of Saarland. These events were dedicated to the public but also to the members of the local parliaments. Good practice examples of realised plants were shown, and the discussion on financing as well as on technical issues found the interest of the participants. In Saarbrücken where a lot of people don't have the possibility to install their own plants because they are tenants and not owners of buildings, different participation and investment models for bigger plants in the region were presented. In each of both events participated at least between 40 and 50 persons.

Our last event so far took place once again in the Chamber of crafts in Saarbrücken. The subject was a discussion with lectures on grid access of RES e plants. Due to the Renewable Energy Act (EEG) in Germany the energy providers are obliged to feed in and to remunerate electricity generated by renewable energies. The feed in tariffs are fixed on twenty years up to the grid connection of a plant. Every year for almost all renewable energy sources there is a decrease in percent on the feed in tariffs. So it depends on the date of grid access which tariff the plant operator will receive within 20 years. E.g. for PV the tariff for 2006 is 51,80 cent per kWh. From 2007 it will only be at 49,21 cent per kWh which concerns all plants connected in 2007 for the next 20 years.

The seminar showed that there are no problems to connect plants up to 30 kW. There a rapid and efficient grid access is viable. For bigger plants the grid operator normally is verifying whether the grid capacity is sufficient to accept the performance of a further RES e plant. The general conclusion of the event is that it is usefull to inform the grid operator in due time about planned new RES e plants, especially if bigger plants are planned. All the conclusions from the seminar will be published in a so called "planners leaflet" that informs planners and craftsmen working in this field how to connect RES s plants without any problems and in accordance with the grid operators.

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