

National Seminar in the Polish target region

On 27-28th February 2007 a seminar „*Energy for Cohesion* as a chance for the development of the RES-sector in Nowa Sol County” took place in the County Educational Centre in Nowa Sol. The event was organised in the framework of the international project *Energy for Cohesion* which is co-financed by the EU. The project aims at creating some foundations for the development of RES sector in the selected regions of the EU among others in Nowa Sol County. As a result of the project a concept for the development of renewable energy sector in the region is to be elaborated. Furthermore, some viable projects in line with this strategy are to be selected and their preferable financing should be suggested.

The seminar – organized by SEGI-AT Sp. z o.o. in collaboration with Polish Ecological Club and authorities of Nowa Sol County offered its participants a wide variety of topics presented by the speakers from both national (representatives of the Ministry of Environment and National Energy Agency) and regional/local level, experts on project financing as well as practitioners. The meeting predominantly aimed at promoting the issues related to use of renewable energy and preparing the local players for realisation of RES-projects. They were presented versatile possibilities for co-financing of RES-projects from national and European resources as well as the existing experiences in the field of RES in the region. Project developers reported their experiences with different investments: solar collectors, pellets, hydropower plants, energy crops etc. The speeches were followed by some discussions on the availability of financial support for different sectors and formal obstacles in developing RES-projects. Interesting discussions on RES issues continued during the common dinner in the restaurant up to the late hours.

As a result of the discussion a proposal for some modification in the Regional Operational Programme has been elaborated recently and sent to the competent authorities. Moreover, the Vice-President of the County suggested to establish a working group on RES consisting of the representatives of all interested parties. Hopefully, this proposal will successfully be adopted and the working group will actively promote RES in the region.

On the second day of the seminar the participants were offered a sightseeing tour, while they were guided around 3 RES locations:

- straw boiler house (1,5 MW) in Zabor
- installation for fermentation of sludge in the wastewater treatment plant in Gubin-Guben
- hydropower plant (500kW) in Lozy on the Kwisa river.

Altogether over 50 representatives from different target groups took part in the seminar: local authorities, municipal services companies, agriculture and private sector, little fewer in the tour. High attendance proves an increasing interest in the RES-topics in the region. The organizers hope that as a result of the seminar the discussion about renewable energy will be continued and thus several interesting and prospective projects can be carried out in the region soon.

All presentations from the seminar as well as any follow-up materials are available at SEGI-AT webpage: www.segi.com.pl