

**Project Information
on**



<http://www.e4c.org>
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For more information please contact:



WIP-Renewable Energies

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1. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

- **Project consortium:** WIP-Renewable Energies, Germany (coordinator)
 EREC – European Renewable Energy Council, Belgium
 forseo, Germany
 ENVIROS, Czech Republic
 SEGI-AT, Poland
 GEONARDO, Hungary
 Archimedes Foundation, Estonia
 ECB – Energy Centre Bratislava, Slovak Republic
 LEI – Lithuanian Energy Institute, Lithuania
 EKODOMA, Latvia
 ETA-Renewable Energies, Italy
 AUA – Agricultural University of Athens, Greece

- **Main objectives:**

"Energy 4 Cohesion" will prepare a knowledge base for the implementation of Renewable Energy (RE) actions in less developed rural regions of Europe. The project's focus is on dimensioning the RE actions for being relevant to receive financial support from Structural and Cohesion Funds during the funding period from 2007-2013. The project will demonstrate best practice in eight selected target regions by the design of comprehensive Master Plans. Their aim is to facilitate the implementation of RE actions in the selected regions by the identification of best funding mechanisms and suitable cooperation schemes.

- **Target Regions:**

Czech Republic:	Zlin Region	Latvia:	Limbazi Region
Slovak Republic:	Velky Krtis	Lithuania:	Kaunas Region
Poland:	Poviat Nowa Sol	Greece:	Prefecture of Evros
Estonia:	Saaremaa Island	Italy:	Locride

- **Duration:**

1st January 2006 – 31st June 2008 (30 months)

2. WORK PROGRAMME

Phase 1: Political Work on European Cohesion Programmes

As a first step, the Structural and Cohesion Fund Programmes for the development of marginalised regions in Central, Eastern and Southern Europe will be studied. A survey of the relevant European Cohesion Policies will be undertaken, and their suitability will be assessed with regard to decentralised energy actions for the development of rural areas. The results will be used to establish a policy platform, where experiences can be shared and best practices can be identified in connection with the policy development process. Action Plans for the promotion of small scale energy actions in the rural areas of Europe will then be developed, recommending measures to be taken on European, national and regional levels, within the Cohesion Policies.

Phase 2: Pilot actions in eight selected target regions

During the second step pilot actions in the eight selected rural target regions of Eastern and Southern Europe are planned. These regions are characterised by a large potential for the development of innovative and renewable energy actions. The outcome will include eight Master Plans, one for each region, covering the design, performance and planning of decentralised energy actions. A particular focus of the plans will be their suitability for funding in the frame of the new European Cohesion Policy.

Phase 3: Development of funding and co-operation schemes

A key barrier to the implementation of decentralised energy actions is the lack of suitable funding sources, often caused by the small size of projects. Hence, the project will provide support to local energy and development agencies in the design of tailor-made funding concepts in the framework of the European Cohesion Policies. Private investments will also be promoted and facilitated through an Investment Forum. An innovative concept of a co-operation funding scheme will be developed in order to bundle the energy projects and thereby to create a package with a sufficient size to suit the available funding. Other innovative funding tools will be developed to provide Seed Money and a new Funding Quality Standard, in order to attract third party investments.

Phase 4: Training and capacity building

An intense series of training and awareness raising actions will be implemented comprising ten seminars, each with a different focus. Eight of the seminars will take place in the target region countries, one special seminar on media work will be held in Hungary and the final project seminar will be in Brussels. These seminars will address project developers, representatives from municipalities, politicians, utilities, energy stakeholders and Energy Service Companies. These seminars will increase the awareness of the development potential of decentralised RE actions and will teach the relevant stakeholders about the possibilities, within the new Structural Fund Programmes from 2007 to 2013. The seminars are therefore expected to act as a strong mobilising tool for regional pilot actions.

Phase 5: Dissemination

During the project, dissemination activities will promote the results of all of the above activities, particularly the work on European Cohesion Policies, the pilot actions and the innovative funding schemes. All of these elements will be promoted through a dissemination campaign (project homepage, newsletters, presentations, publications etc.) boosting direct action in the Structural Fund Programmes after 2006 for an expanded support of decentralised energy actions.

Note: All actions in the target regions are supported by local subcontractors. These are: CEPA for Slovak Republic, VERONICA for Czech Republic, EREA for Estonia, ANETA for Greece, PKE for Poland, Locride Sviluppo for Italy and Regional Energy Centre of Kaunas for Lithuania.

3. PROJECT OUTCOMES

- **Publication** on decentralised energy actions within Structural and Cohesion Funds.
- **Guidelines** for planning Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency actions within the European Cohesion Policies.
- **Project website (www.e4c.org), newsletters, press articles.**
- **Strategy paper** on innovative financing schemes for new Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency projects in the framework of the European Cohesion Policies.
- **Guidelines for bundling Renewable Energy actions** making them bankable and feasible for Structural and Cohesion Funds.
- **Seminars on the potential of Cohesion Programmes** for funding small scale Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency actions.
- **Eight comprehensive Master Plans** for Renewable Energy actions in selected regions of Southern and Eastern Europe, including explanations of how these actions can be made suitable for funding under the Cohesion Policy Programmes beginning in 2007.
- **Political Action Plan** for decentralised energy actions in less favoured rural regions of Europe, This will recommend measures for enhanced implementation of innovative energy measures within EC Cohesion Policies.