



- **September 2007** -

Project Outline

Energy4Cohesion is in the process of preparing best practice in eight selected target regions; comprehensive Master Plans were elaborated in summer 2007 with the aim to facilitate the implementation of Renewable Energy actions in the selected regions by the identification of best funding mechanisms and suitable cooperation schemes. More information on the target regions can be found at the bottom of this newsletter.



Project Coordinator:
WIP –
Renewable Energies
Sylvensteinstr. 2
81369 Munich
Germany
☎ 49 89 720 12724
martha.bissmann@wip-munich.de
www.wip-munich.de/

NEWS from Energy4Cohesion

Past EVENTS

- National Project Seminar, 22 May 2007, Velky Krtis, Slovak Republic
- Special Seminar on Media Work, 22 June 2007, Budapest, Hungary

Upcoming EVENTS

- National Project Seminar, September 2007, Athens, Greece
- National project Seminar, October 2008, Kaunas, Lithuania
- International Investment Forum, March 2008 in Stuttgart, Germany



POLICY

Update on the national strategic reference frameworks and operational programmes process. All Member States have already sent their national strategic reference frameworks (NSRFs) to the Commission. Negotiations on these are at present in the final stages. As of today, 23 Member States have had their NSRFs officially validated by the Commission.

Approval of the NSRF is a legal prerequisite for adoption of operational programmes. In drawing up their NSRFs, Member States must take account of the Community strategic guidelines for 2007-2013, which place emphasis – among others- on the development of renewable energy sources. The objective is to implement the EU's strategic goal of becoming the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world.

Project Policy Coordinator:
EREC – European
Renewable Energy
Council
Rue d'Arlon 63-65,
1040 Brussels,
Belgium
errec@errec.org
www.errec.org

The upcoming months will be characterised by the discussion of the Operational Programmes of the New Member States by the European Commission and the Member States. All Operational Programmes should be approved before the end of

2007. For more info please contact Maria Laguna at laguna@erec.org

The European Parliament's ITRE committee urges the Member States and regional authorities to take full advantage of the possibility of applying the EU's financial instruments for the development of renewable energy projects. On 9th July the European Parliament's Energy committee voted the so called Thomsen report", the European Parliament's answer to the Commission's Roadmap for Renewable Energy. The report will be voted in Plenary in September.

The report **regrets** t that the EU energy policies on renewable are poorly reflected in the draft spending plans for the Structural Funds and the cohesion funds. It **calls** on the Commission to develop guidelines that ensure systematic support for renewable energy technologies in each Member State . For more info please contact Maria Laguna at laguna@erec.org

CEE Bankwatch Network and Friends of the Earth Europe Europe (FOEE) – strategic partner of the Energy4Cohesion project- have published in April 2007 a comparative analysis of the draft OPs and NSRFs submitted by the EU-10 countries to the European Commission, which are the subject of current negotiations. The analysis compares the financial allocations for energy efficiency, renewable energy and transport, which have varying impact in terms of greenhouse gas emissions. According to the analysis of the draft OPs , EE and RE have each been allocated only one per cent of all EU funds --1.8 billion euros -- in the CEE-10 countries taken as whole. No single country is planning to support EE and RE comprehensively in all key sectors, namely industry, the power sector, and housing. The report is available for download at http://www.bankwatch.org/documents/EU_cash_climate_clash.pdf

WWF Cohesion Policy score-card points out that only minor share are spent on efficiency and renewable energy under current the NSRFs and OPs. On May 2007, WWF– strategic partner of the Energy4Cohesion project - published a report" How green is the future of EU cohesion Policy: A Score-card basis of the Regional fund programming for 2007-2013.

With this scorecard examination, WWF has several objectives, among them to analyse the horizontal and vertical integration of environment and sustainable development in the national strategic reference framework and key operational programs and measures. The report focused on 11 countries (Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Italy Latvia, Poland, Romania, Estonia, Portugal, Slovakia and UK). The conclusion points out those investments concerning energy efficiency and renewable energy priorities are well below the expected share of funding. More info at www.panda.org

NEWS from Energy 4 Cohesion

Past EVENTS

National Project Seminar, 22 May 2007, Velky Krtis, Slovak Republic

About 40 municipal, heating and agricultural sector representatives participated on National Project Seminar in Veľký Krtíš, Slovakia. "Regional Energy Conception for the district of Veľký Krtíš" as comprehensive document in Slovak language analyzing current situation in energy sector of E4C target region has been presented by Mr. Igor Iliáš from Energy Centre Bratislava. Local stakeholders had time to amend the document till 22.6.2007. Final version of conception is now public available on ECB as well as E4C

project web page and was also sent to Banská Bystrica Self-Governing Region. Shorten English version of Slovak conception called "Master Plan" as the deliverable of E4C project will be published on project website www.e4c.org.

Second speaker, Mr. Hollan from Centre for Public Lighting has presented activities of centre in the field of energy saving in public lightning and auditing of systems in municipalities. Speakers of the B session presented current status of EU funds support programmes preparation in Slovakia. Another public support programmes to the projects of energy savings or RES utilisation have been presented as well. The last session was focused on commercial financing of the projects. Participants confirmed by the signature of the attendance list receiving of E4C publication "Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency projects within Structural Funds in the context of the Lisbon Agenda" with Slovak translation of the abstract included.

More information on the seminar is available. Please contact Energy Centre Bratislava, Mr [Igor Ilias](mailto:Igor.Ilias@ecb.sk) or visit the [Energy4Cohesion website](http://www.energy4cohesion.org).

Special Seminar on Media Work, 22 June 2007, Budapest, Hungary

"The Energy 4 Cohesion Media Seminar was organised on 22 June 2007 in Budapest. The main objective of the Media Seminar was to give a theoretical overview and practical tips for energy project developers, municipality energy managers about media relations. The training targeted the representatives of energy agencies and regional development agencies and other actors involved with promotion of sustainable energy in rural areas. Participants mainly from the new EU member states of Central and Eastern Europe were invited, the trainees had minimum practice in media work. The training consisted of theoretical and practical components. Both "what to do" to deliver the messages through the media and "how to do" the media work in practice were covered. Particular attention was paid to such types of media that are the most effective in remote areas (local and regional media), and such techniques that deliver the biggest effect. The practical part of the training included a hands-on session on structuring news stories and press releases, and a camera behavior training using interviews and quotable sound bites. After each workshop sessions, participants evaluated and commented each others' performance with the guidance of experienced moderators. In total, 21 participants were trained." More information and pictures on the training can be found on the following link: <http://www.e4c.org/6.0.html>

REGIONAL NEWS

Regional news: Slovak Republic

A "Regional Energy Conception for the district of Veľký Krtíš" has been published. It is a comprehensive document in Slovak language analyzing current situation in the energy sector of the E4C target region, and the potential for energy savings and RES utilisation, as well as presenting potential pilot projects of biomass and biogas utilisation. The document could serve also as a base for regional planning by Banská Bystrica Self-Governing Region while the district of Veľký Krtíš comes under its competence. Self-governing region will be also implementing organisation for some parts of EU funds, where coherence with regional conception will be advantage for the applicants. From presented pilot projects most promising are wooden chips firing boilers and also biogas plants construction in some municipalities. Implementation of proposed projects depends on national conditions for EU funds application. The most relevant operational programmes (OP Competitiveness and Economy Growth and OP Environment) haven't

been finally approved and published yet. More information on the seminar is available. Please contact Energy Centre Bratislava, Mr [Igor Ilias](#) or visit the [Energy4Cohesion website](#), where the document it is published.

Regional news: Latvia

The Project evaluation criteria for the EU funding in period 2007-2013 are published. One of the criteria included is the project coherence with the existing energy planning documents and strategies. The Energy Master Plan for Limbaži region elaborated within the E4C will be a strong tool for promotion of project eligibility. Energy Master Plan will be translated on national language and after the finalization – disseminated among the Limbaži region municipalities and other local stakeholders. For more information on Limbaži region Energy Master Plan please contact project manager *Ilze Dzene (Ekodoma, Ltd.)* or visit the [Energy4Cohesion website](#), where the document it is published.

Regional News: Italy

The Master Plan for Locride (Province of Reggio Calabria) is finalized. The selected energy actions of Master Plan present ambitious initiatives for the Municipality. However there are some barriers to overcome: indeed, the fact that the Operational Regional Plan 2007 – 2013 (POR Calabria) hasn't been approved yet, creates an ulterior problem to the development of the Master Plan. For this reason the financial mechanisms (loans; financial reduction, etc) that may be used for the selected actions are still not published. When more information about the definitive version of POR will be available, new analysis will be made. For any relevant information about the Italian target region status, please contact Mr Filippo Vivarelli (ETA – Renewable Energies)

Regional news: Czech Republic

First Calls for applications from Operational Programmes (OP) providing support to sustainable energy actions were already announced in the Czech Republic although intense negotiations with European Commission regarding details of the OP are still underway. The OP Entrepreneurship and Innovation 2007-2013 provides support from ERDF through programme “Eko-energie” to energy savings and renewable energy projects in SMEs. The first Call for projects was already announced at the end of April 2007, deadline for registration of projects was 31st July 2007 and the full applications have to be submitted until end of December 2007. The interest of applicants several times exceeded the available funds within the 1st Call – in total more than 550 energy efficiency and RES projects applications were registered! The total investment of all registered projects within in the 1st Call exceeds 11 bill. CZK, while only approx. 1.7 bill. CZK is allocated for support. The OP Environment 2007-2013 provides support from Cohesion Fund to energy savings and RES utilisation projects in public sector. The 1st Call for applications for support which focuses mainly on energy savings in buildings and heat production from RES was announced at the end of June 2007; the deadline for submission of applications for support is end October 2007. An intense development of applications for support for energy saving and RES projects from OP Environment and development necessary supporting documents such as energy audits and feasibility studies in Zlín Region is currently underway. The support applications focus mainly on schools and social care facilities. For more information about support of sustainable energy projects from EU Funds in the Czech Republic and Energy Master Plan of Zlín Region elaborated within E4C project please contact ENVIROS - Mr. Jaroslav Jakubes or Energy Agency of Zlín Region (www.eazk.cz).

Upcoming EVENTS

National Project Seminar, Greece

The national seminar will take place in Athens, on the 26th of September 2007. It will be an open event with representatives from the Prefecture of Evros, from the Ministries of Development and of Agriculture. For more information Please contact *AUA* for more information, Ms Chronopoulou or visit the [Energy4Cohesion website](#)

National Project Seminar, Kaunas, Lithuania

The national project seminar in Lithuania will take place in October 2007 in Kaunas, Lithuania. The organizer will be the Lithuanian Energy Institute, LEI. For more information on the draft agenda and the participation please contact the Lithuanian Energy Institute, Mr [Romualdas Skema](#) or visit the [Energy4Cohesion website](#).

Investment Seminar, March 2008 in Stuttgart

An investment Seminar will take place on 7 March 2008 in Stuttgart at the International Fair & Congress *Clean Energy Power 2008*. The event will focus on financing issues related to the development and implementation of biomass ventures and projects. Special attention will be given to the opportunities arising from EU Structural Funds, presenting the insight gained through Energy4Cohesion. Promising projects selected in the course of the Energy4Cohesion Project will be introduced to an international audience. The target groups of the seminar are financial institutions, investors, representatives from the RE industry, project developers, policy makers, local authorities and other stakeholders.

For more information, please contact Mr [Kai Sametinger](#) at forseo or visit the [Energy4Cohesion website](#)

On-site dissemination events in the target regions in CZ, SL, PL, GR, LT, LV, EST, IT

All target region partners will organize events in the end of the project (spring 2008). In these events the Master Plans will be disseminated and lessons learned from the important sectors 'finance', 'media work', and 'cooperation schemes' will be given. For more information please visit the [Energy4Cohesion website](#).

MASTER PLANS development in the E4C Project Target Regions

Energy4Cohesion is in the process of preparing best practice in eight selected target regions; comprehensive Master Plans have been elaborated in Summer 2007. Their aim is to facilitate the implementation of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency actions in the selected regions by the identification of best funding mechanisms and suitable cooperation schemes.

Energy4Cohesion's target regions are:

Czech Republic: Zlin Region (Zlínský kraj)

General data: South Eastern part of CR, area: 3 964 km², population: 593 130, population density: 150 inhabitants/km², unemployment rate: 10 %, 304 municipalities (29 cities)

Key RES: Biomass (mainly wood waste from processing / forestry), straw, biogas (from waste water treatment and agriculture)

Projects presented in the Czech Master Plan:

- Grid connected PV system in the facility of Vodní Zdroje Holešov
- Energy savings + RES utilisation project bundle in education facilities in the assets of the Zlín Region
- Energy savings + RES utilisation project bundle in social care facilities in the assets of the Zlín Region

Slovak Republic: District of Velky Krtis (Veľký Krtíš)

General data: Central Southern part of SR, area: 848 km², population: 46 724, population density: 55 inhabitants/km², unemployment rate: 25-35 %, 69 municipalities

Key RES: Woody biomass, especially inferior wood from timber-harvesting (top wood, bark and low-quality wood preliminary from young trees), waste from wood-processing industries

Projects presented in the Slovakian Master Plan:

- Fuel switch and biogas plant in town of Veľký Krtíš
- Energy savings in block of flats in town of Veľký Krtíš
- Biomass DH and biogas plant in Dolná Strehová

Poland: Nowa Sol county (Powiat nowosolski)

General data: Western part of Poland, area: 771 km², population: 86 800, population density: 113 inhabitants/km², unemployment rate: ca. 35 %, 8 communities with 89 municipalities

Key RES: Biomass from agriculture (mainly straw) as well as from forestry and wood processing industry, energy crops, organic fraction of municipal waste

Projects presented in the Polish Master Plan:

- Biogas plant in Niedoradz, Oryn municipality
- Gasification of municipal waste for heat production, Nowa Sol municipality
- Small hydropower plant in Leszno Dolne, municipality Szprotawa

Estonia: Saaremaa (Saare Country) (Saaremaa (Saare Maakond))

General data: Western part of Estonia, area: 2 992 km², population: 39 231, population density: 13 inhabitants/km², unemployment rate: 7 %, 15 municipalities, over 50 % is covered with forests

Key RES: Biomass (wood chips, saw dust, bark, demolition wood, forestry residues), energy crops, agricultural waste, reed, biogas, wind energy, solar power

Projects presented in the Estonian Master Plan:

- Renovation of District Heating boiler plant and switch to biomass fuel in Kärla municipality
- Switch from fossil fuel to biomass in the Community Centre of Sandla Village
- Reconstruction of district heating network and switch to biomass fuel in Lümända village

Latvia: Limbazi Region (Limbažu rajons)

General data: Northwest part of Latvia, area: 2 580 km², population: 40 097, population density: 16 inhabitants/km², unemployment rate: 10 %, 11 rural municipalities, 5 towns

Key RES: Biomass (wood waste from forestry and sawmills), energy crops

Projects presented in the Latvian Master Plan:

- Installation of solar collectors on municipal public buildings

- Insulation of multi-apartment buildings with support of municipality and EU Funding
- Biomass market development
- Increasing wood fuel burning efficiency in heating systems
- Biomass cogeneration plant building projects
- Support for “eco-building” (environmentally friendly, clean material, low energy) projects

Lithuania: Kaunas County (Kauno apskritis)

General data: Central part of Lithuania, area: 8 090 km², population: 703 200, population density: 87 inhabitants/km², unemployment rate: 5 %, 6 municipalities, Kaunas city: over 400 000 inhabitants

Key RES: Solid biomass (e.g. log wood, wood chips, straw), biogas (animal manure, wastewater treatment sludge, organic waste), energy crops for production of bioethanol and biodiesel, hydro power

Projects presented in the Lithuanian Master Plan:

- Lapes city landfill gas utilization for energy generation
- Utilisation biogas from wastewater treatment plant JSC “Kauno vandenys” using biogas for combined heat and power production
- Renovation of District Heating network of city Birštonas

Greece: Prefecture of Evros (Nomos Evrou)

General data: North Eastern part of Greece, area: 4.242 km², population: 149 354, population density: 35 inhabitants/km², unemployment rate: 10 %, 154 municipalities, 40 % rural population

Key RES: Biomass (mainly forestry and agriculture residues), wind power, hydropower

Projects presented in the Greek Master Plan:

- Functioning of the biomass district heating plant in Dadia
- Organization and function of a biooils production, treatment and utilization unit in transport
- Energy savings in municipal buildings, Prefecture of Evros
- Re-functioning of the Energy Agency of the Eastern Macedonia –Thrace Region

Italy: Locride

General data: Region of Calabria (South Italy), area: 1.200 km², population: 130 000, population density: 101 inhabitants/km², unemployment rate: 26 %, 40 municipalities

Key RES: Biomass (forestry residues, olive residues, agricultural residues), photovoltaic, wind power

Projects presented in the Italian Master Plan:

- PV installation of 130 kW is foreseen in at least 7 Municipalities
- Biogas plant for the sale of electricity produced by the plant
- District heating system construction for heat supply of public buildings, households and private sector

This Energy 4 Cohesion Newsletter was jointly elaborated by Maria Laguna, EREC and Martha Bissmann, WIP-Renewable Energies. Please send your request to be unsubscribed to: laguna@erec.org

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