



- March 2007 -

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## Project Outline

Energy4Cohesion is in the process of preparing best practice in eight selected target regions; comprehensive Master Plans will be completed 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.



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## NEWS from Energy4Cohesion

### Past EVENTS

- National Project Seminar, 4 October 2006, Zlin, Czech Republic
- Dinner Debate, 10 October 2006, Brussels
- National Project Seminar, 15 November 2006, Tallinn, Estonia
- National Project Seminar, 20 February 2007, Reggio Calabria, Italy
- National Project Seminar, 27-28 February 2007, Nowa Sol, Poland
- National Project seminar, 7 March 2007, Riga, Latvia
  
- Project Publication and translation of abstracts available!
- Regional News Czech Republic and Slovakia

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## Upcoming EVENTS

- National Project Seminar, 12 April 2007, Evros, Greece
- Media Seminar, 20 April 2007, Budapest, Hungary
- National Project Seminar, May 2007, Velky Krtis, Slovakia
- Investment Seminar, 7 September 2007, Milan, Italy
- National Project Seminar, October 2007, Kaunas, Lithuania



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## Policy

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. It can be expected that the Member States and the European Commission have signed these by summer 2007. The first Calls for Proposals under Structural Funds are going to open doors for decentralised renewable energy actions and the project tries to best prepare the target regions for these funding possibilities.

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## NEWS from Energy 4 Cohesion

### Past EVENTS

#### **National Project Seminar, 4 October 2006, Zlin, Czech Republic**

A national seminar organised in the frame of the Energy4Cohesion project with the title “Financing of RUE and RES projects from EU funds in the period 2007 - 2013” took place in Zlin, Czech Republic on 4 October 2006. The seminar focused on the presentation and discussion of experiences related to the development of energy projects in the region, the development of applications for support and possibilities, conditions and limitations for funding from Structural and Cohesion funds in the period 2007 – 2013. The key section of the seminar included a presentation on the current status of the Operational Programme Environment and the Operational Programme Entrepreneurship and Innovation for the period 2007 – 2013. In addition, practical experiences from solar energy utilisation by the municipality of Valasske Mezirici and energy utilisation of the biodegradable part of municipal solid waste in biogas plants in Germany were presented. The seminar was concluded by a presentation of two important regional stakeholders: the newly established Energy Agency of the Zlín Region and the Environmental Institute Veronica. There were in total 48 registered participants at the seminar. More information on the seminar can be obtained from Enviros s.r.o., Mr [Jaroslav Jakubes](#) or visit the [Energy4Cohesion website](#).

#### **Dinner Debate, 10 October 2006, Brussels, Belgium**

EREC organized a Dinner Debate at Renewable Energy House on 10 October 2006. Constanze Krehl, Member of the Socialist Group in the European Parliament, chaired the debate. Various speakers demonstrated the development potential of decentralised Renewable Energy actions in the rural environment, the possibility of rural development through the EU’s development policy, and the Intelligent Energy Executive Agency’s approach to raising awareness and to encourage renewables. The event tried to sketch a vision of how a transparent and well-managed Structural Funds administration in the Member States can help Renewable Energy projects to develop, thus contributing to economic development in regions, the creation of jobs (300.000 in the Renewable Energy sector in Europe already) and environmental protection. Renewable Energy Sources offer solutions for electricity generation, heating & cooling as well as biofuels for transport. So far a 15 billion € annual turnover is already achieved. Structural Funds offer the opportunity for more decentralised Renewable Energy actions in the rural environment, an opportunity that should be seized! The presentations of the speakers can be downloaded from the [EREC website](#) or visit the [Energy4Cohesion website](#).



EREC was happy to have provided a platform for the exchange of information and discussion on Structural Funds and Renewable Energy. As a result of the debate EREC was contacted by an external expert group to support a study on the “Use of Renewable & Sustainable Energy in the Framework of the Structural Policy at the Municipal level” that the group is currently implementing on behalf of the Directorate Internal Policies of the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Committee for Regional Development.

### **National Project Seminar, 15 November 2006, Tallinn, Estonia**

The national project seminar in Tallinn, Estonia had the title “Investment Possibilities for the Energy Sector”. It was designed as a seminar for specialists of local administrations from the target region Saaremaa, and other regions in Estonia. The seminar focused on Structural Funds during the period 2007 – 2013 and the energy priorities within it; about the resource of biomass and its usage; investment support for local administrations in order to promote energy efficiency; cogeneration as seen by the Estonian Energy Company; and support schemes for the energy sector. The seminar topics were presented among others by two speakers from the ministerial level (Ministry of Agriculture, and Ministry of Economic Affairs and Communications), and the private sector. More information can be obtained from Archimedes Foundation, Mrs [Maria Habicht](#) or visit the [Energy4Cohesion website](#).

### **National Project Seminar, 20 February 2007, Reggio Calabria, Italy**

The national project seminar in Italy attracted 23 participants and was held in Palazzo Nieddu, the official building of Locri’s Municipality. The event was destined to politicians and local stakeholders, such as energy companies and project implementers. In preparation of the event, an invitation leaflet was sent to all local mayors in the area of Locride explaining the scope of the project and of the seminar. It helped to mobilize resources and raise awareness of the project in the target region.

The speakers were well-selected stakeholders from the local administration, the local environmental organization, and the regional development agency. The contents of their presentations were inherent to the scope of the project, focusing for example on the actions developed by the Province of Reggio Calabria in the field of energy. For more information, please contact ETA-Renewable Energies, Mr [Filippo Vivarelli](#) or visit the [Energy4Cohesion website](#).

### **National Project Seminar, 27-28 February 2007, Nowa Sol, Poland**

A two-day national seminar in the Polish target region took place on 27-28 February 2007 in Nowa Sol, Poland. The event 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 project implementers. The meeting predominantly aimed at promoting the issues related to use of renewable energy and preparing the local players for realisation of RES-projects. The participants 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. Altogether over 50 representatives from different target groups took part in the seminar. High attendance proves an increasing interest in renewables 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. The event was rounded up with side events to RES installations in the region (a straw boiler installation, an installation for fermentation of sludge in the wastewater treatment plant, and a small hydropower plant of 500kW were visited). For more information, please contact SEGI AT, Mrs [Monika Wosik](#) or visit the [Energy4Cohesion website](#).

### **National Project Seminar, 7 March 2007, Riga, Latvia**

The seminar “Financing of RUE and RES projects from EU Structural and Cohesion funds in the period 2007-2013. Limbazi region experience in the frame of “Energy 4 Cohesion” project” took place on 7 March 2007 in Riga. The objective of the seminar was to provide interested stakeholders from the Latvian regions and institutions with information about possibilities of EU funds for the regions. It was furthermore to discuss the experiences gained in the previous funding period (for example the experience on the implementation of DH system renovation projects in 2005 – 2006 with the support of ERDF) and to discuss Limbazi region’s energy vision and specific project ideas. Together with representatives from the ministry of economy, the participants were able to discuss specific funding possibilities for small-scale renewable energy projects. The seminar was targeted primarily at regional administrations and municipalities from Limbazi region, which is one of the Energy 4 Cohesion target regions as well as other municipalities and private sector representatives in Latvia. For more information on the seminar visit the [Energy4Cohesion website](#) or contact Ekodoma, Mrs [Ilse Dzene](#).



## **Project publication** **“Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency projects within Structural Funds in the context of the Lisbon Agenda”**

A first milestone publication with the title [\*Renewable energy and energy efficiency projects within Structural Funds in the context of the Lisbon Agenda\*](#) was launched on 10 October 2006 at the Renewable Energy House. It can be downloaded in PDF format from the project homepage [www.e4c.org](http://www.e4c.org) and from the EREC website at [www.erec.org](http://www.erec.org). The publication contains information about renewable energy sources (RES), the possible applications in rural environments, while stressing the benefits of these decentralised energy actions for rural areas. For example, RES and their effect on employment in rural areas are discussed.

The publication of course includes best practice examples from the EU. These are from Ireland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. An indication of the requirements for Structural Funding is given, too. More information can be obtained from the [project website](#). For print copies, please contact [EREC](#).

Translations of a 2-page abstract of the publication into the national languages (Polish, Czech, Estonia, Latvian, Greek, Italian, Slovak) of the target regions have been created. The translations can be downloaded from the [Energy4Cohesion website](#)

### **Regional news: creation of the Zlin energy agency**

An important stakeholder started its work in the Zlin region in the Czech Republic, one of target regions of the Energy4Cohesion project. The Energy Agency of the Zlin Region was formally established by the Zlin region as a non-profit organisation in June 2006 and is part of a consortium of energy of agencies AGIRE (Mantova, Italy) and Energy Agency Gijon (Spain), which has applied for support from the Intelligent Energy programme of the EC. In January 2007 the financial contribution by the EC was finally confirmed. The Agency is supported by the European Commission, and currently employs 4 people. Since March 2007, Mrs. Miroslava Knotková, formerly the agency's supervisor, is the Director of the agency. The Monitoring Board supervises the energy agency and the Management Board, in which elected representatives of the region and of the towns are represented, approves the agency's activities.

The Energy Agency of the Zlin Region is oriented on both strategic and project based activities. Its target groups are energy management (public sector), SMEs and schools. The current key activities are provision of expert support to the Zlin region administration in implementation of the Regional Energy Plan which was elaborated in 2003 and identification and further development of energy savings and RES utilisation projects in public sector eligible for support from EU Structural and Cohesion funds.

More information can be obtained from the [website of the Energy Agency of the Zlin Region](#).

### **Regional news: Slovakia**

Most municipal representatives in the district of Velky Krtis very well receive the E4C activities in the target region. A special interest was identified in fuel switch from natural gas or brown coal towards biomass or biogas utilization. The opportunities of using Structural Funds were discussed, and the support of E4C activities in the region certainly gained visibility due to this. Municipalities such as Maly Krtis, Busince, Cebovce, Nenince, Vinica, Zavada are thinking about the possibilities of biomass heat utilisation for their consumption. Based on E4C data survey and biomass potential analyses wooden biomass utilisation or biogas production is feasible in all cases. A sufficient amount of biomass sources in surrounding wood-processing or agricultural companies exists. The meetings and negotiations with local stakeholders are being organized to develop suitable cooperation and financing schemes and to prepare pilot projects to be submitted under up-coming calls for proposals under EU Structural Funds. For more information, please contact Energy Centre Bratislava, Mr [Igor Ilias](#) or visit the [Energy4Cohesion website](#).

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## Upcoming EVENTS

### **National Project Seminar, Evros, Greece**

The national project seminar in Evros, Greece will take place in the Prefecture of Evros on 12 April 2007. The title of the event is “Renewable Energy Resources in the Region of Eastern Macedonia – Thrace: Prospects and Opportunities” and the target group for the seminar is composed of regional & political stakeholders and organizations that play a key role in policy formulation in the region. The presentations will focus on the RES Potential of the region (with a special focus on energy crops and the local geothermal potential), project funding possibilities, and the presentation of the Energy4Cohesion project. For more information please contact the Agricultural University of Athens, Mrs [Niki Chronopoulou](#) or visit the [Energy4Cohesion website](#).

### **Media Seminar, Budapest, Hungary**

A media seminar including media training will be organised by Europa Media PSC in collaboration with the project partner Geonardo Ltd. The aim of the seminar is to train interested project developers, politicians and local stakeholders on their media work. The training is going to provide useful knowledge and help participants develop their skills to use local and national media effectively in communication with the target groups of their energy policy and projects. Mr Pavel Antonov, Editor in Chief, Green Horizon, Regional Environmental Centre for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), will supervise the seminar, which takes place in the Graphisoft Park, Budapest, Hungary on 20 April 2007. The draft invitation and registration form is available for download from the Energy4Cohesion [website](#). Participation at the seminar is free of charge. The language of the seminar will be English. For further information please contact Geonardo Ltd., Mr [Attila Uderszky](#) or visit the [Energy4Cohesion website](#).

### **National Project Seminar, Velky Krtis, Slovakia**

The Slovak national seminar will be held in May 2007 in the town of Velky Krtis. The main target groups are the municipal representatives of the target region (district Velky Krtis) and local entrepreneurs in the energy, agricultural and wood-processing sectors. The focus of the seminar will be on informing the different target groups about the progress in the regional energy master plan preparation, the presentation of proposed pilot projects of biomass energy utilisation to be submitted under up-coming calls for proposals under EU Structural Funds and a presentation of the new Operational Programmes. The expected number of participants is 50. Local banks will also present possibilities of private funding of the bio-energy projects. More information on the draft agenda is available. Please contact Energy Centre Bratislava, Mr [Igor Ilias](#) or visit the [Energy4Cohesion website](#).

### **Investment Seminar, Milan, Italy**

An investment seminar in the frame of the Energy4Cohesion project will take place on 7 September 2007 in Milan, Italy. It introduces financing schemes for the PV sector and showcases attractive investment opportunities, with special attention to EU Structural Funds. As a side event of the [22nd European Photovoltaic Solar Energy Conference and Exhibition](#), it provides a unique platform for networking and the creation of new partnerships. Please contact forseo for more information. forseo, Mr [Kai Sametinger](#) 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](#).

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## Project Target Regions

Energy 4 Cohesion will elaborate best practice for Renewable Energy (RE) actions in eight selected target regions by the design of eight Master Plans, one for each region. All regions are located in rural and remote areas of Eastern and Southern Europe. They were selected for their large development potentials concerning innovative and RE actions. Energy 4 Cohesion target regions are:

### Czech Republic: Zlin Region (Zlínský kraj)

*General data:* South Eastern part of CR, area: 3 964 km<sup>2</sup>, population: 593 130, population density: 150 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>, unemployment rate: 10 %, 304 municipalities (29 cities)

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

### Slovak Republic: District of Velky Krtis (Veľký Krtíš)

*General data:* Central Southern part of SR, area: 848 km<sup>2</sup>, population: 46 724, population density: 55 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>, 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

### Poland: Nowa Sol county (Powiat nowosolski)

*General data:* Western part of Poland, area: 771 km<sup>2</sup>, population: 86 800, population density: 113 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>, 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

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

*General data:* Western part of Estonia, area: 2 992 km<sup>2</sup>, population: 39 231, population density: 13 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>, 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

### Latvia: Limbazi Region (Limbažu rajons)

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

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

### Lithuania: Kaunas County (Kauno apskritis)

*General data:* Central part of Lithuania, area: 8 090 km<sup>2</sup>, population: 703 200, population density: 87 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>, 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

### Greece: Prefecture of Evros (Nomos Evrou)

*General data:* North Eastern part of Greece, area: 4.242 km<sup>2</sup>, population: 149 354, population density: 35 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>, unemployment rate: 10 %, 154 municipalities, 40 % rural population

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

### Italy: Locride

*General data:* Region of Calabria (South Italy), area: 1.200 km<sup>2</sup>, population: 130 000, population density: 101 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup>, unemployment rate: 26 %, 40 municipalities

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

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