



Project Fact Sheet

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Sustainable Energy Citizenships (SEC)

Programme area: Main area, main key action

Status: finished

Coordinator: Dr. Michael Stöhr
B.A.U.M. Consult GmbH, GERMANY
E-mail: m.stoehr@baumgroup.de
Tel: +49-89-18935-0

Partners: Landratsamt Ebersberg, Germany
Communauté de communes de Feurs en Forez, France
Loirénergie, Agence Technique pour une Énergie Respectueuse de l'Environnement, France
Regionalverband Salzburger Seenland, Austria
Salzburger Institut für Raumordnung und Wohnen, Austria
Instytut Paliw i Energii Odnawialnej (IPIEO), Poland

Website: www.sec-project.eu

Objective: To trigger processes towards regional sustainable energy supply and to set up the necessary implementation structures

Benefits: Consensus about ambitious sustainability targets shared by a broad range of citizens in target regions

Keywords: Citizen participation, sustainable energy, regional processes

Duration: 10/2007 – 05/2010

Budget: € 694,214 (EU contribution: € 347,108)

Contract number: EIE/07/116/SI2.467612

Short description

In three target regions, the District of Ebersberg, Germany, the Communities of communes Feurs en Forez and Collines du Matin, France, and the Salzburg Lake District, Austria, road-maps towards sustainable regional energy supply were set-up on the basis of SWOT-analysis and RES and RUE potential assessments, involving a broad range of citizens and local stakeholders from the outset. The road-maps were unanimously accepted by the political authorities. Newly created and existing organisations received the mandate and clear responsibilities to implement the road-maps. The latter include lighthouse projects whose implementation was started, already contributing today significantly to a more sustainable energy supply. The project included intensive dissemination activities within the target regions and beyond. A particular focus was on Poland where the larger area of Łódź could be won as a replicator area which follows now similar aims as the first three target areas of the project.

Achieved results

- ⇒ ambitious regional road-maps towards sustainable energy supply with clear objectives, milestones and lighthouse projects have been set up in three regions in Germany, France and Austria;
- ⇒ implementation structures with clearly defined responsibilities were defined for the road-maps;
- ⇒ in May 2010 the already implemented installations that can be traced back to the project produce 10.4 GWh heat and electricity annually; including planned installations, 125 GWh will be achieved during the next years;
- ⇒ a fourth region in Poland, the voivodship of Łódź, could be won as a replicator region;
- ⇒ the English and Polish translation of the handbook "On the way to the 100% region" was produced and can be ordered from the Polish project partner IPIEO (www.ipieo.pl);
- ⇒ further, a broad range of public materials, giving guidance to potential replicator regions, has been put on the project website;

Lessons learnt

- ⇒ When formulating a vision for the energy supply of a region “thinking big” can be recommended: even if many will consider an ambitious aim, such as the 100% supply from renewable energy sources, rather symbolic than realistic, such a vision can trigger decisively a regional dynamics which is a fundamental precondition for achieving the defined objectives.
- ⇒ If many citizens are successfully involved in regional processes, the chance exists to reintegrate even measures that have been categorically excluded in advance, e.g. wind parks, as elements of a wider package of measures and actions. It is important that the dissemination activities about such critical elements are very comprehensive and leave room for controversial debates and the discussion of critical aspects. If possible, site visits to other regions with installations similar to those that are critically seen should be organised.
- ⇒ It is inevitable to combine elements of rational use of energy with measures for the deployment of renewable energies. In particular, energetic refurbishment of the existing building-stock must be considered because it has a very high potential for energy savings.
- ⇒ It might come out that the identified options, at least when taking into account the actual state-of-the-art and disregarding future technical developments, do not allow to supply the region entirely from regional renewable energy sources. Then, the option of import of renewable energy from other regions, e.g. off-shore wind power or wood from neighbouring regions with a larger forest area, can be integrated in the developed scenarios.
- ⇒ It is important to define an implementation structure for the developed action plans. Here, people who are already (voluntarily) active in the field of sustainable energy should be involved and the establishment of duplicate structures should be avoided.
- ⇒ If, for instance, an already existing working group is nominated to be (the core of) the implementation structure, it is important that the nomination is legitimised by the relevant institution, e.g. a committee of the district assembly or a community assembly, and that it is documented and widely communicated.
- ⇒ General communication of the citizens and awareness-raising should happen via a wide range of various communication channels.
- ⇒ Consultation services for citizens need to be low-threshold offers for being accepted. It is important that such services can easily be reached and at least the first basic consultation is free of costs for the citizens. Appropriate locations for basic consultation are town halls and other public establishments, but equally well the branch offices of local saving banks. The consultation can be done by energy consultants, but also by trained employees of the respective institutions.