

INFORSE-Europe Work Programme 2007

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NETWORK ACTIVITIES

INFORSE-EUROPE WEBSITE

The INFORSE-Europe website will be updated regularly, and will include information on activities, members and important links.

The website will feature the activities of the network and give background information.

This will include EU policy formulation and implementation for sustainable energy with regular update of EU policies, comments & proposals from INFORSE-Europe.

The website will feature a database of renewable energy projects supported by structural funds, evaluation of selected structural fund programs, a database on educational materials, a database of sustainable energy contact with over 1000 organisations worldwide, and online information of INFORSE-Europe's activities.

The website will be updated to increase user-friendliness .

Members will be asked to exchange links with INFORSE-Europe. Members without a website can be offered a simple presentation on a dedicated page on the website.

Responsible: secretariat, coordinators

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY NEWS AND CONTACT LIST

Publish Sustainable Energy News.

In 2007 four issues are planned, featuring activities and proposals of INFORSE-Europe and other INFORSE regions, EU energy policy formulation and implementation, articles from members, relevant events and publications. Before each issue, the members will be invited to provide news and write articles. The newsletter will be printed in 1600-2000 copies in average per issue, each 12 pages, and will be distributed to members, selected contacts, subscribers and at conferences and other events. It will also be available online.

The Contact List of over 1000 organisations worldwide will continue to be freely available on-line on the internet in a searchable way from the MySQL database. It will be updated regularly.

Responsible: secretariat.

REGIONAL, NATIONAL, & LOCAL SUSTAINABLE ENERGY VISIONS AND ENERGY STRATEGY PROPOSALS

INFORSE-Europe will continue to work with interested members and other NGOs on development of national and local sustainable energy plans, following the Vision2050 framework. The framework will be improved to improve documentation . The visions for EU will be updated and developed to a vision for the EU-27. Two national visions in EU countries will be developed: one vision for Latvia will be developed and the vision for Romania will be updated and improved. In addition one vision will be developed for a region in North West Russia in cooperation with Russian NGOs.

In addition to the long-term visions, INFORSE-Europe will develop proposals for short-term measures for countries with particular high dependence on imported energy to increase security of supply and reduce environmental effects in ways that yield economic benefits. In 2007 will be developed such a proposal for Slovakia that will be based on national implementation of the new EU energy policy objectives with proven, short- and medium term measures for renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Information and documentation about visions and proposals will be available on the website, and additional information will be available from the co-ordinators.

Responsible: Secretariat, for work with short-term measures in Slovakia FAE and for national activities in Romania: Prietenii Pamantului.

DIERET (Distance Internet Education on Renewable Energy Technologies)

This is a free internet-based course developed by INFORSE-Europe and INFORSE South Asia. The DIERET material will be updated .

The updated version of the material will be used for one round of the course in English, with main focus on new persons (volunteers/members) from INFORSE member. A special focus will be on members in former Soviet Union, and the DIERET material will be given to all members in former Soviet Union countries.

Members will also be able to use the material for national courses and sell/distribute the CDs.

Responsible: FAE and the secretariat

ENERGY & CLIMATE EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS

The network will actively work for strengthening NGOs working on environmental education on energy and climate. The focus will be to promote ways where the schools and the pupils can combine education about sustainable energy with practical activities to increase energy efficiency or use renewable energy at the school and at home. One programme that combines sustainable energy education with practical activities is the SPARE programme that is promoted by several INFORSE-Europe members and that the network will promote throughout Europe and the former Soviet Union. INFORSE-Europe will work with members and other NGOs to introduce and develop environmental education on energy and climate, nationally or locally, including use of the SPARE programme. This will include printing and dissemination of instruction books, and other instruction and information material, production and dissemination of three issues of a newsletter on environmental education, and organising a competition for schools. The network will coordinate activities in countries where SPARE activities are already ongoing and will assist introduction in at least two countries (Romania and Portugal).

Responsible: Friends of Baltic in cooperation with Norwegian Association for Nature Protection (in-kind involvement) and the secretariat. Prietenii Pamantului, and Almagem will be responsible for national introduction in new countries.

The existing INFORSE database on good practices and resources on sustainable energy and climate education throughout Europe will continue to be developed and expanded. INFORSE-Europe will raise the attention of the members of this unique resource and ask them to further contribute with materials. Cooperation with other networks active in education on energy and climate will continue to be developed, including cooperation with other networks such as the European Sustainable Energy Education Forum (ESEEF).

Responsible: Secretariat

ORGANISING TRAINING WITH FIELD TRIPS IN COOPERATION WITH MEMBERS

To improve the visibility of existing, well-working sustainable energy solutions, INFORSE-Europe will work for cross-border trainings with field-trips to relevant sustainable energy sites, in cooperation with members. These will be available to groups via members and contacts. The major aims will be to increase visibility across borders and to increase sharing of practical experience and knowledge among EU countries.

INFORSE-Europe will assist member(s) to organise at least one training with a field trip for about 20 participants and will in addition organise training with field trips on demand.

Responsible: Secretariat

HIGHLIGHT CLIMATE ISSUES

INFORSE-Europe will raise awareness among NGOs on new findings on climate change and its impacts, using information from the reports of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) new 4th assessment. This will be with information on the INFORSE website, via emails, articles in Sustainable Energy News.

Responsible: FAE in cooperation with the secretariat

COOPERATION ON NETWORK ACTIVITIES WITH OTHER INFORSE REGIONS

INFORSE-Europe will co-operate with other regions of INFORSE, and will follow the UN Commission for Sustainable Development's sessions on energy 2007, the EU Energy Initiative and other global energy partnerships, Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition. Cooperation for capacity building with INFORSE South Asia will be continued; this activity is carried out as cooperation between INFORSE members and does not involve INFORSE-Europe economically.

Responsible: mainly OVE, work: half month

SEMINARS

INFORSE-Europe will organise a European energy policy seminar in Brussels in cooperation with European Renewable Energy Federation (EREF) and European Forum for Renewables (EUFORES).

In addition INFORSE-Europe will co-organise a European Sustainable Energy Seminar together with a relevant national NGO in October (Seminar at Samsøe renewable energy island, Denmark, Oct. 1-5.)

INFORSE will participate in one international exhibition, .

INFORSE-Europe will also contribute to events organised by members, such as provide trainers for a regional seminar for South East Europe, or co-organise an event.

Responsible: Secretariat. For seminars initiated by members, the host organisations will have primary responsibility.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER NETWORKS

INFORSE-Europe will continue cooperation with other NGO networks such as Climate Action Network - Europe, WWF-Europe, World Information Service on Energy (WISE), World Renewable Energy Council (WREC, where INFORSE is a member), and EUFORES. The closer cooperation with European Renewable Energy Federation (EREF) will continue on European policy and related issues.

Continue participation in the Citizen's United for Renewable Energy and Sustainability (CURES), and European Eco-Forum. In both networks INFORSE-Europe is one of the coordinators.

Cooperation on educational activities shall be continued with European organisations and networks active in climate and energy education. They will include coordination with European Sustainable Energy Education Forum (ESEEF).

Explore more general co-operation opportunities with other relevant organisations, where the network can cooperate to strengthen its work on issues in this work programme.

Responsible: Secretariat and FAE

OTHER ACTIVITIES

INFORSE-Europe will cooperate with members and other NGOs to strengthen their capacity, in particular with knowledge about sustainable energy. This can include activities that will be run by special projects, not included in the general budget.

ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

FOLLOW DEVELOPMENT IN EU

INFORSE-Europe shall continue to follow the development of EU's energy and climate policies, including policies for the new EU countries, and will develop positions on relevant EU proposals in climate and energy. The positions will be sent to the European Commission, in particular for its public consultations, as well as to the European Parliament and other relevant entities. Update of the policies will be made regularly to the website (bi-monthly updates) and in Sustainable Energy News. Some positions will be made in cooperation with other organisations.

The policies that will be followed are EU's energy and climate policies, in particular the new EU energy policy under development; support policies for renewable energy and energy efficiency, policies and directives on renewable energy in electricity, transport, and heat; policies and directives on energy efficiency/energy performance in houses; energy services; emissions trading; relevant structural funds; energy market regulations; update of the guidelines for environmental state aid; EU's external policies.

The work on policy formulation will include members that will be consulted on development and adoption of new and updated policy positions. The two European seminars organised by INFORSE-Europe will also deal with policy formulation.

Implementation of EU policies will be a major focus, aiming at better implementation of EU policies that support the increase of sustainable energy solutions.

A basic activity is to inform about recently adopted or revised EU energy and climate policies, including with good examples on how these policies are implemented, and with proposals from NGOs regarding their implementation.

INFORSE-Europe will take part in the implementation of selected policies on the EU level. This will include the new EU energy policy that the EU prime ministers are expected to agree upon in March 2007, and the second Intelligent Energy for Europe (IEE2) support program for sustainable energy. The activities will include development of recommendations for implementation of elements of the new energy policy and development of recommendations for IEE2 for 2008 based on experience from 2007. Funded by special sources, therefore outside the budget of this work programme, INFORSE-Europe will work on the implementation of the eco-design directive, where the network has a seat in the Consultation Forum.

INFORSE-Europe will also work with members on national implementation of selected policies, including the use of structural funds, implementation of the energy service directive, and national follow-up of the new EU energy policy. In Poland and Slovakia there will also be seminars where results and recommendations will be presented.

A special focus will be on EU structural and cohesion funds in particular in the new EU countries. The structural funds (SF) seem to be the most promising source of financing for sustainable energy projects in new EU member states; but assessments of the use of structural funds in the years 2004-2006 show that only a small fraction is devoted to renewable energy, while SF have funded a small number of good renewable energy projects. Several barriers hold back larger use of SF for sustainable energy including relatively low priorities in the national allocations, and lack of basic information on utilisation of SF for renewable energy on local level (municipalities); but NGOs can address these barriers and work with stakeholders to overcome them. The work will include continued evaluation of national policies related to utilisation of EU structural funds (program documents, operational plans) for renewable energy in selected EU member states, (e.g. Poland, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary). This will include evaluation of selected projects started 2006 as well as barriers. It will lead to updated recommendations

for improving SF programs. In addition the database of RE projects funded by SF will be expanded with new projects and improved.

INFORSE-Europe will work on EU policy implementation in Turkey as an accession country. The focus will be on policies that will have the largest short-term impact for the increase of energy efficiency and renewable energy use in Turkey and the work will be done in cooperation with other Turkish NGOs. The activities will include:

- Information to NGOs on at least three selected EU policies/legislative acts for sustainable energy that are to be implemented in Turkey
- Organise discussions among Turkish NGOs via email on recommendations for implementation of the selected policies in Turkey.
- Presentation of the recommendations to the Turkish government and to the public. This will include organisation of a seminar.

INFORSE-Europe will work with members and other NGOs in countries covered by the European Energy Treaty and by EU neighbourhood agreements. In one country covered by European Energy Treaty (Macedonia) will be analysed the impacts of EU policies, proposals will be developed for progressive implementation, and the proposals will be presented publicly and for the government.

To supplement the other activities, to give a focus for the work for the involved members, and to exchange experience in the network, the two seminars that the network will organise will also deal with policy implementation.

Responsible: Secretariat and the coordinator in Slovakia with responsibilities for national activities delegated to CLER (France), Almargem (Portugal), PKE-OG (Poland), Prietenii Pamantului (Romania), OVE (Denmark), FAE (Slovakia), Eco-sens (Macedonia), and Eurosolar Turkey (Turkey).

PAN-EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITIES

INFORSE-Europe will follow the Pan-European environmental process with special emphasis on its energy-related initiatives. This will include to follow the Pan-European environmental ministers meeting in Belgrad in 2007 and the Energy Charter's Committee on Energy Efficiency. In this, INFORSE-Europe will work for increased cooperation on sustainable energy throughout the geographical Europe.

Responsible: Secretariat

GLOBAL and UN-RELATED ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES

INFORSE-Europe will co-operate with other regions of INFORSE, to follow the UN Commission for Sustainable Development's sessions on energy 2007, including funding of NGOs from INFORSE South Asia and from INFORSE Africa, world regions that are typically under-represented at these meetings, with funds raised specifically for the purpose. At least five travel and participation will be funded. The participation will be used to highlight the value of sustainable energy solutions in North and South, and to promote a strategy from CSD15 with priority for sustainable energy solutions over fossil fuel in international cooperation. INFORSE will work on CSD issues together with the CURES network (Citizens United for Renewable Energy and Sustainability), where INFORSE-Europe is coordinator.

In cooperation with other INFORSE regions, INFORSE-Europe will also follow the EU Energy Initiative for Sustainable Development and Poverty Reduction and other global energy partnerships, the Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition, and the REN21 network.

Responsible: Secretariat