

# INFORSE-EUROPE

International Network for Sustainable Energy

## ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2013-14

*(for financial period 1/4-2013 – 31/3 2014)*

**8 November, 2014**

*INFORSE-Europe is a network of 80 non governmental organisations (NGOs) from 34 European countries working for sustainable energy on the political level and with practical solutions.*

*In 2013-14 the main activities were climate negotiations, including assistance to Southern INFORSE regions for their participation, EU policies on Ecodesign, Energy labelling and 2030 climate and energy strategies, cooperation projects on local, sustainable energy developments in Belarus and Poland. INFORSE-Europe organised and co-organised 7 public events and made three publications in the period.*

More information at INFORSE-Europe Webpage: [www.inforse.org/europe](http://www.inforse.org/europe)

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## Global Policies, Cooperation with other INFORSE Regions

**INFORSE-Europe** participated in UNFCCC climate negotiations, together with other INFORSE regions. INFORSE has observer status at ECOSOC as well as UNFCCC and as environmental NGO, INFORSE belongs to the ENGO Constituency coordinated by Climate Action Network.

This year INFORSE-Europe participated at the climate negotiations in Bonn in June 2013 and at COP19 in Warsaw in November 2013, where INFORSE was in charge of a side-event and exhibition that among others highlighted European activities, including national scenarios for reduction of greenhouse gases and transition to renewable energy.



In the climate negotiations, INFORSE-Europe followed, among others, the development of the climate technology mechanism and the new Climate Technology Center and Network (CTCN). INFORSE-Europe also promoted ambition in the climate mitigation agenda, in dialogues with countries, EU, and stakeholders.

In addition to the climate negotiations, INFORSE-Europe participated as observer in the first advisory board meeting of the CTCN in May 2013.



INFORSE-Europe assisted the INFORSE networks in Africa and South Asia within the Southern Voices on Climate Change programme, in particular to strengthen their voices in the climate policies on mitigation. This year the main activities of the second phase of the Southern

Voices programme took place. In addition to assisting with advocacy and participation in climate negotiations, INFORSE-Europe assisted with the development of a publication "Combining Energy Access and Climate Protection", where the first version was presented at COP19.

INFORSE-Europe also assisted in fundraising for a new project for promotion of lowcarbon development strategies in selected countries in Africa, Latin America and South Asia. The fundraising was successful and the project started in April 2014.



## European Policies

**INFORSE-Europe** was continued to be registered in the EU Transparency register and followed EU energy policies in general and in particular the implementation of the Ecodesign and Labelling Directives with participation in EU Ecodesign Consultation Forum's for stakeholders, where the regulations following these directives are discussed, both at face-to-face meetings and with written procedures. INFORSE-Europe follows these processes together with European Environmental



Bureau (EEB) and the European Citizen's Organisation on Standardisation (ECOS), and has taken the lead among NGOs in product policies for the important group of heating equipment. Together with EEB and ECOS, INFORSE-Europe also took part in the Coolproducts Campaign to increase outreach on the important work on setting European environmental minimum criteria to products and energy labels.



Together with ECOS, INFORSE-Europe started to follow CEN standardisation for Ecodesign, and followed this year standardisation of gas fuelled water heaters that we identified as a product group with specific standardisation problems for the setting of minimum efficiency requirements and energy labelling. (which turned out to be true).

INFORSE-Europe organised a seminar on the future of the Ecodesign process together with Coolproducts Campaign, EEB, and the EU Commission as part of the European Sustainable Energy Week, June 2013.

On the general policy level, INFORSE-Europe participated in the dialogues on the long-term climate and energy targets, in particular the 2030 targets, and advocated for ambitious targets. This was, among others, communicated to the EU Commission as response to its public consultation of future climate and energy policies, July 2013.

INFORSE-Europe has joined several political statements including one against uranium mining on Greenland.



As part of the work on the long-term strategies, INFORSE-Europe organised an open dialogue meeting on the 2030 Energy and Climate Strategy with the EU Climate Commissioner Connie Hedegaard in Denmark in March 2014.

INFORSE-Europe also organised a public meeting after climate COP19 titled "EU's role in the Climate Negotiations - Back from Warsaw" and co-organised three other public dialogue meetings on EU, energy, environment, and sustainable development in Denmark. These dialogue meetings were co-organised together with the Danish INFORSE-Europe members (SustainableEnergy, Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy, Samsø EnergyAcademy and NOAH. The events were supported by a Danish fund Europa-Naevnet.



## European Cooperation Projects

**INFORSE-Europe** was involved in a cooperation project on local sustainable energy in Belarus with Centre for Environmental Solutions in Minsk and the Skaane Energy Office in Sweden. INFORSE-Europe was the project leader. We have organised tours for Belarus local municipalities to Denmark, Sweden, Poland, Slovakia, and Hungary, and work on local plans to increase renewable energy and energy efficiency. The project started in 2012 and continues in 2014. The project is supported by EU EuropeAid and SIDA.



INFORSE-Europe is involved in a cooperation project on local and sustainable energy planning in Poland, with the Institute for Sustainable Development in Warsaw as the project leader. The project started in 2012 and continues in 2014. The project is supported by a Swiss Fund.

INFORSE-Europe participated in the development of the report *"The 10 best climate mitigation measures in the Nordic Baltic Region"* published by AirClim Secretariat. The report sums up evaluations of national energy policies by NGOs and experts in 5 Nordic countries and 3 Baltic countries. INFORSE-Europe contributed to the regional selection of the best measures, and

presented the work for the Nordic Council Environmental Committee, October 2013, Oslo. The report was supported by the Minor Foundation.

INFORSE-Europe participated in a research of electricity to gas plans and processes, in cooperation with Hespul and E&E Consult, France for the French Energy Agency ADEME.

INFORSE-Europe worked on information in Denmark on EU's energy policies with a school game of an energy crisis, and update of a CCS website.

INFORSE-Europe participated as associate partner to a new project for scenarios for transition to sustainable energy (fully or partially) of countries in South East Europe.



## National Transition to Sustainable Energy

**INFORSE-Europe** continues the Lowcarbon Societies Network and continues cooperating with members that are active on sustainable energy scenarios and visions. This included promotion of the new ZeroCarbonBritain, blueprint for a fast transition of the UK to renewable energy, and assistance with the development of a Hungarian scenario for transition to renewable energy.

In 2013, INFORSE-Europe assisted the Danish member "VedvarendeEnergi" to start the development of a scenario and plans for a fast transition of Denmark to renewable energy in a sustainable way. The work continued in 2014.





## Network Activities, etc.

### Sustainable Energy News:



- Issue nr. 75 was published in November 2013. In addition, members were kept informed via emails.

- A Special Issue / Reader was published on Gender and Energy as online pdf version. The publication collected and edited together materials and articles from Sustainable Energy News in the period between 2001-2012. The work of the editor was supported by AirClim, in Sweden.



**General Meeting:** INFORSE-Europe organised a General Meeting in Warsaw, November 16, 2013, where the new board was elected for the following 2 years. The General Meeting was held during the UN Climate Conference.



**Website:** The INFORSE website was regularly updated, including an update of EU policy pages and other INFORSE-Europe pages. This was mainly done by trainees and volunteers.  
[www.INFORSE.org/Europe/](http://www.INFORSE.org/Europe/)

**The Secretariat** is placed in Aarhus, Denmark together with the Danish NGO SustainableEnergy. During 2013, two people worked full time at the Secretariat. The work was assisted by 2 trainees, by an accountant, and a layouter.