

INFORSE-Europe Work Programme 2008

Adopted at General Meeting, October 3, 2007, revised December 7, 2007 and March 12, 2008

NETWORK ACTIVITIES

INFORSE-EUROPE WEBSITE

The INFORSE-Europe website will be updated regularly. It will feature the activities of the network and give information on sustainable energy policies and practices as well as important links.

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 EU structural funds, evaluation of selected structural fund programs, a database of educational materials, a database of sustainable energy contacts with over 1,000 organisations worldwide, and online information of INFORSE-Europe's activities.

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 and FAE (coordinator)

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY NEWS AND CONTACT LIST

Publish Sustainable Energy News.

In 2008 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 2,000 copies in average per issue, each 12-16 pages, and will be distributed to members, selected contacts, subscribers and at conferences and other events. It will also be available online. Two-three issues will include themes such as gender and energy, climate change and energy, sustainable energy visions, and energy in environmental education.

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. National visions will be developed/updated for Latvia, and Lithuania. Other countries can be included as appropriate.

The work with the visions will be supplemented with a paper on best practices on how to use visions and make them most useful with successful examples from INFORSE members.

INFORSE-Europe will work on a substantial improvement of the sustainable energy vision for EU together with Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) and other members. This will lead to a revision of the EU-wide vision so it shows how the energy-based greenhouse gas emissions of the EU-countries can be kept within sustainable levels, following the best available climate science and a North-South equity approach. It will also describe the necessary changes and proposals for how they can be achieved. The results will be presented at relevant European and national events, including at a seminar in Barcelona, April 26, as well as with presentations at the international climate conferences in Poznan 2008 and later in Copenhagen in 2009.

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, and CAT. Other national NGOs will be included for national visions.

DIERET (Distance Internet Education on Renewable Energy Technologies)

This is a free internet-based course developed by INFORSE-Europe and INFORSE South Asia. There will be a general update of the DIERET material, organised as a special session during 2008.

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 members. Activities in Russian will be continued, organised by REA, Ukraine.

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

Responsible: FAE (coordinator) and the secretariat

ENERGY & CLIMATE EDUCATION

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 and learning about sustainable energy with practical activities. 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. In addition, INFORSE organisations will develop a programme for sustainable energy training at school summer camps.

The work in 2008 will include work with the SPARE programme and testing a programme for sustainable energy training at school summer camps in one country (Romania). Regarding the SPARE programme, the network will coordinate activities in countries where SPARE activities are already ongoing, will continue the introduction of SPARE in Romania, and will assist SPARE activities in Portugal.

Responsible: Friends of Baltic in cooperation with Norwegian Association for Nature Protection and the secretariat. Prietenii Pamantului and Almargem will be responsible for the continued introduction and use of SPARE in respectively Romania and Portugal. Prietenii Pamantului will be responsible for the summer camps.

The existing INFORSE database on good practices and resources on sustainable energy and climate education throughout Europe will continue to be developed and expanded. In 2008 a special emphasis will be on including a collection of physical, working models and teaching-aids used for education in sustainable energy.

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 ESEEF, European Sustainable Energy Education Forum.

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 promote the field trips on its website, via a leaflet, etc. and will be ready to assist members to organise trainings with field trips.

The network will organise two field trips for Belarus NGOs to Finland and Denmark, to train them in sustainable energy information services that Danish NGOs and the Finnish Motiva has a long experience with. The network can also organise training with field trips on demand.

Responsible: Secretariat

HIGHLIGHT CLIMATE ISSUES

While climate change is high on the EU agenda, there are remarkable little activities on climate change in Central Europe, including in most of the new EU countries, and further east in Europe. To increase NGO activities in climate change in Central Europe, INFORSE-Europe will raise awareness among NGOs on climate change and its impacts, as well as on climate mitigation policies and solutions. This activity will consist of general information and a special initiative targeted Central European countries. The general information will be with information on the INFORSE website, via emails, articles and a theme in Sustainable Energy News, The general activities will be linked with the above-mentioned sustainable energy visions.

The special initiative towards Central Europe will be collection and dissemination of information on climate policies in Central Europe: collecting information of climate and energy policies as well as current trends in greenhouse gas emissions from energy use from eight Central European countries, mainly via INFORSE members in the countries, comparing and analysing the developments, and publish the results on the INFORSE-Europe website, in a publication that will be ready for the UNFCCC climate conference " COP14" in Poznan, and at a side-event in Poznan.

in addition to this INFORSE-Europe will work on a small climate and energy exhibition in Bulgaria.

Responsible: FAE (coordinator) 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 UN FCCC including the COP14 in Poznan, Poland in 2008 and COP15 in Copenhagen, Denmark, the EU Energy Initiative and other global energy partnerships as well as the Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition. Other cooperation with INFORSE South Asia and other INFORSE regions will be continued as appropriate.

Responsible: mainly Secretariat

SEMINARS

INFORSE-Europe will organise a European energy policy seminar in Brussels in cooperation with European Renewable Energy Federation (EREF). In addition INFORSE-Europe will co-organise a European Sustainable Energy Seminar in France during the French EU-presidency (second half of 2008) together with Comité Liaison Energies Renouvelables (CLER) in August or September.

In UK (Wales), Slovakia, Romania, and Bulgaria will be seminars with discussions of EU policies and INFORSE-Europe positions of EU policies.

- INFORSE will in 2008 participate in at least one, relevant international exhibition such as the EU Sustainable Energy Week in January/February, the EU Green Energy Week in Brussels in June, Intersolar in Munich in June, ECOMONDO exhibition in Rimini in November, and the Climate Conference COP14 in Poznan in November/December.

- 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 CURES 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 (coordinator).

OTHER ACTIVITIES

INFORSE-Europe will cooperate with members and other NGOs to strengthen their capacity, in particular with knowledge about sustainable energy. This will be included in the work program with an amendment; but can also 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 (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 elements of the 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; EU's external policies and policies towards relevant international processes in the UN and in international partnerships. With the aim of decreasing climate impacts and energy consumption, INFORSE-Europe will also discuss sustainable transport with above-mentioned seminar in Brussels, and when relevant in relation to work on renewable energy in transport.

- 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, and they will be discussed at seminars/conferences co-organised by INFORSE-Europe in UK, Slovakia, Romania, and Bulgaria.

- Implementation of new 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 elements of the new EU energy policy that the EU prime ministers agreed upon in March 2007, and energy parts of the 7th Framework Program Research and Development (FP7). The activities will include development of recommendations for implementation of elements of the new energy policy and development of recommendations for FP7.

- 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 policies. In UK, Slovakia, Romania, and Bulgaria will 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. Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania). This will include evaluation of selected projects started in 2006-2007 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 with members and other NGOs in countries covered by the European Energy Treaty and by EU neighbourhood agreements. In one country covered by a neighbourhood agreement (Ukraine) will be followed the impacts of EU policies, proposals will be developed to improve implementation, and the proposals will be presented publicly and for the government.

- In one country covered by a neighbourhood agreement (Ukraine) will be analysed the impacts of the neighbourhood cooperation, proposals for improvements will be developed, and the proposals will be presented publicly, and for relevant authorities in EU as well as in Ukraine.

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

Responsible: Secretariat and FAE (coordinator) with responsibilities for national activities delegated to INFORSE members in the relevant countries, such as REA in Ukraine.

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 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 follow the UNFCCC climate negotiations in cooperation with other INFORSE regions, including the COP14 in Poznan, Poland in December 2008.

INFORSE-Europe will co-operate with other regions of INFORSE, to 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.

As part of that INFORSE-Europe will invite at least two representatives of NGO-representatives from the global South.

Responsible: Secretariat

Draft budget of INFORSE-Europe 2008

The general budget is proposed to be 137,000 Eur including support from the EU of 87,446 Eur. In addition to this, there are activities with Eco-design, a network project for sustainable energy visions, and activities outside the EU (in Belarus, SPARE in Russia, etc).