

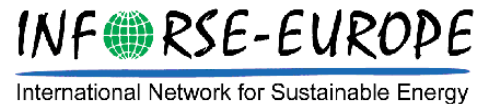
INFORSE-Europe Sustainable Energy Seminar
August 21-24, 2017
Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy, Denmark



Networking Towards Sustainable Energy – INFORSE-Europe

by Gunnar Boye Olesen; August 22, 2017

INFORSE-Europe, SustainableEnergy



NGO Networking for Sustainable Energy and INFORSE-Europe:



“Rio+25” - 25 years of networking for sustainable energy

- Roles of civil society in the future
- Experiences of participants.

Gunnar Boye Olesen
22/8 2017

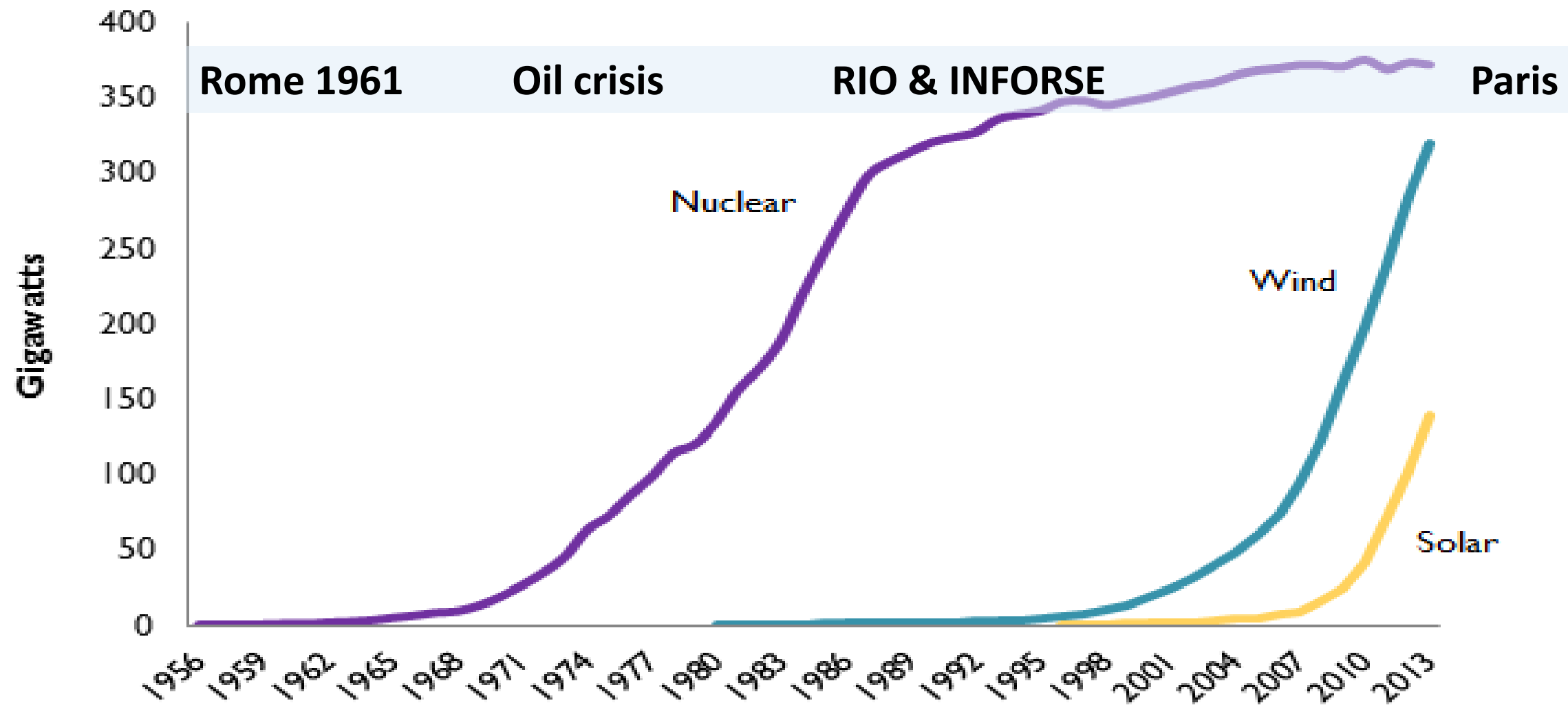
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International Network for Sustainable Energy

Modern history of sustainable energy in UN & NGOs

- UN Conference on New Sources of Energy, Rome 1961
 - (UN Conference for Environment, Stockholm, 1972)
 - UN Conference for New and Renewable Sources of Energy, Nairobi, 1981
 - Brundtland Report, 1987
 - UN Conf. on Env. & Dev. Rio 1992
 - UNFCCC agreed
 - UNFCCC Kyoto Protocol 1997 agreed
 - UN CSD on energy, 2001
 - International RE Conference, 2004
 - IRENA formed in 2009
 - SDGs and Paris Agreement, 2015
- Environmental movements – 1960's
 - Limits to growth - 1972
 - Nuclear protests, 1970's Oil crisis – 1973
 - CAT formed 1973
 - Sustainable Energy (DK) formed 1974
 - Renewable transition scenarios, from 1978
 - Tjernobyli 1986
 - Proposal for UN RE Agency for Rio 1992
 - INFORSE formed 1992
 - Energy & climate in envir. movements, 1990's
 - An Inconvenient Truth, 2006
 - Env. Movements embrace 100% RE 2005 –12
 - Climate Movements forming from 2008
 - Fukushima 2011

Figure 1. | World Nuclear, Wind, and Solar Generating Capacity, 1956-2013

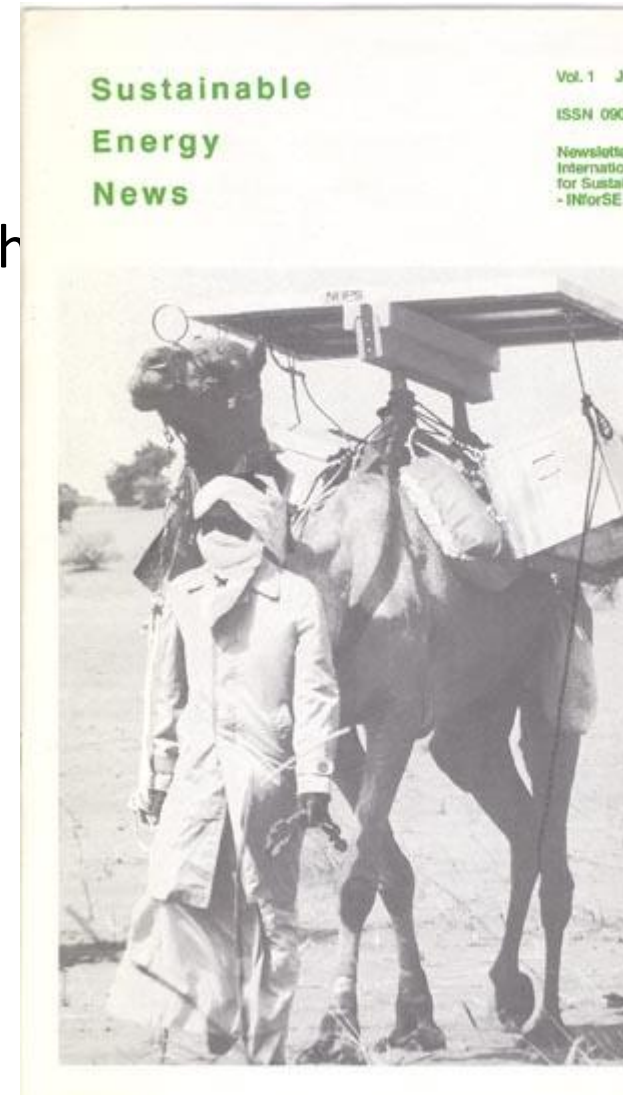


Roles of NGOs and Lessons learned

Why was INFORSE started in 1992:

- to compensate for lack of government/UN action
- to bring new actors into the global arena (we had researchers with ISES, we business, not SE-CSOs)
- to bring together and strengthen civil society, exchange experience
- in Europe to build civil society in Central and Eastern Europe + link East and West
- to promote an inclusive development with new actors and local solutions

And then: How did we succeed?



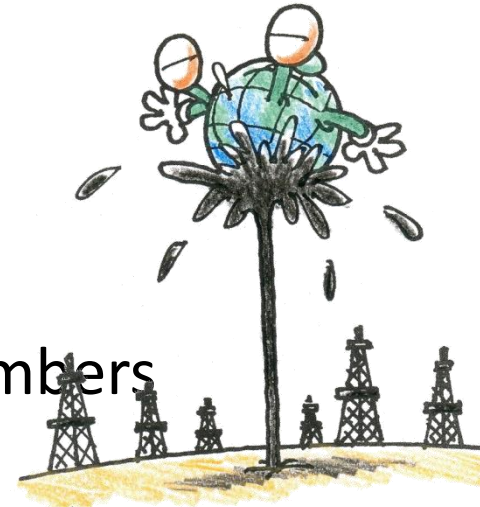
Successes

- We helped a new push for sustainable energy, and pushed environmental movements to promote renewables, bringing new actors for sustainable energy into international arenas
- Many people and organisations learned about sustainable energy and activities of other NGOs via INFORSE activities, and we involved many CEE civil society organisations
- INFORSE has helped the recognition of small solutions and actors in sustainable energy at EU and UN level



Challenges

- Many bigger NGOs supported our cause, but did not become members (Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, etc.)
- We spent a lot of time at international conferences that did not lead to much: World Solar Summit 1998, CSD 16, COP 15, Energy Charter, mm.
- Hard to bridge between EU policies and local CSO activities
- Conditions change, and it is hard for civil society organisations to adapt, for instance to EU membership, changing support, etc.
- CSO's in CE Europe has not developed as in NW Europe
- INFORSE stays too dependant on few sources of funding
- INFORSE & members have grown, but are becoming a smaller part of the transition as the renewable energy and energy ransition speeds up



Roles of INFORSE today

Today INFORSE:

- Represents sustainable energy CSOs at UN climate conferences, and enable CSO- involvement
- Follow EU policy and a bit of standardisation
- Provide news from members and on project activities
- Participate in projects to strengthen member's actions, support transition to renewable energy
- Maintain documentation on sustainable energy transition, contacts, and others



INFORSE-Europe activities 2017

- Follow and influence EU policies
- Support national work for 100% renewable energy
- Sustainable energy seminar
- Follow and influence international climate policies
- Cooperation with other INFORSE regions
- Danish network activities
- Starting new projects

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International Network for Sustainable Energy

What roles for CSO's in energy transition?

- Promoters of sustainable energy
- Provide documentation of potentials and benefits of transition – together with researchers
- Organising supporters of sustainable energy in associations
- Assist small energy users to use energy efficiency and renewable energy (free advise etc.)
- Organise local actors (cooperatives, funds, etc.) for sustainable energy
- Become actors in local sustainable energy development, on non-profit basis



Future for sustainable energy CSO's

- There is still a need to promote sustainable energy in all countries, and at EU and UN levels, and CSOs that has experience from the ground and understand the situation can make a positive difference
 - >= we need to continue promoting sustainable energy – and develop and maintain CSO capacity to do so in all countries
- Larger actors are entering renewable energy and prices are changing
 - >= we need to promote local actors and popular involvement
- To involve local actors is needed exchange of ideas and experiences
 - >= CSO's can be information hubs and channels for information for local actors
- Sometimes non-profits can be better actors for change than businesses
 - >= CSO's can be or form non-profit actors
- Funding need to be organised
 - >= We must improve the understanding for our different roles and their importances among our members/community, supporters, external funders

What will INFORSE do next 25 years?

- Help campaigns for 100% renewables in countries, where leaders have other plans?
- Promote local solutions and community power?
- Speak for sustainable energy organisations at EU level?
- Speak for sustainable energy organisations at UN level/UNFCCC?
- Be a specialised CSO network on sustainable energy with experience from national/ ground levels and transition potentials, working with other NGOs?
- Exchange ideas and experiences among CSOs
- Build capacities of civil society in sustainable energy
- Help forming non-profits that take part in the transition?

