

The integration of smaller partners in EU supported R&D

By Gunnar Boye Olesen, INFORSE-Europe

European Energy Policy Seminar

June 15, 2005, Brussels

Barriers for SMV's etc.

- Drive towards larger projects (>1 mill. Eur)
- Priorities for local authorities (easy, stable)
- Difficult to overview existing projects, particular problem for smaller partners
- (administrative complex)
- Large co-financing

Why smaller partners ?

- Many important development were started by smaller organisations, companies and even even grass-root groups (windpower in Denmark, solar in Austria, etc.)
- Some support for smaller partners can increase the outcome of a programme, while reliance on large, in particular multi-national partners can be problematic

Recommendations, ideas

- Low minimum grant (50,000 Eur)
- Independant Central Agency for smaller grants (but agencies are not only good; they can increase administrative burdens)
- Equal access for all, in general
- Budget line with less co-financing for smaller partners (SMV's, NGO's etc.)
- Evaluation of results according to size
- BUT, the funds must be there