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New Central European countries, structural funds for sustainable energy, present and future

Main obstacles and opportunities

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15 June 2005, Brussels - INFORSE-EUFORES-EREF Policy Seminar





- Main funding needs
- How to use EU funding for environment?
- How to recognise funding possibilities?
- Intervention: Where/when?
- How to support EE & RES?
- Conclusion


Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

- Full **potential is not exploited**: low and fragmented financial support to energy related measures and projects.
- No significant funding received from SF or cohesion fund programmes so far, but huge potential, promising technologies and many possibilities for 2007-2013 funding





Main funding needs

- 3 major categories:
 - 1- Framework for **management and administration** (establishment of policy and administrative structures, capacity building for administration)
 - 2- **Operation and monitoring** (site/operation specific, ongoing management and related costs)
 - 3- **Infrastructure** (installation or improvement/renewal of existing infrastructure)

How to use EU funding for environment


- Key: inclusion and integration of environmental priorities **OPTION** for MS
- Many possibilities in regulation proposed for 2007-2013 period, but final decision depends on **programming at national and sub-national level**
- 2007-2013 only Life+ for environment, key is integration of environmental aspects into major funding→ Main funding instruments for EE&RES: Cohesion Funds, the ERDF (European regional development fund)




How to recognise funding possibilities?



- Important to **assess funding possibilities** in all proposed areas and instruments → **update information !!!**
- Environmental actors' **involvement and active participation** crucial: decisions are being made now → many opportunities





Intervention: Where/when?



- Community strategic guidelines (Commission) → influence?
- National strategic reference framework (MS) → basis for planned environmental funding in Operational Programmes (description of situation, objectives & priorities)
- **Operational Programmes** (MS or region) **most important** phase of programming process → define which environmental options are available in MS or regions. Description of priorities, management and financial sources

Intervention: Where/when?

Where?

- Intervention at **national and sub-national level**: MS responsible for planning and managing intervention → main influence
 - Regulation only offers options, not obligations
 - National framework determines programming process
 - National co-financing necessary and other principles (partnership, subsidiarity etc) may be limiting factor
 - Rules for eligibility
 - Content of development plans & priority setting






Intervention: Where/when?

When?



Summer 2005: adoption regulation and decision on FP
Autumn/end 2005: adoption Strategic guidelines
Spring 2006: decision on national strategic framework
End 2006: final decision on Operational Programmes

Programming should begin after EU regulation is decided, but in reality planning processes at different levels are usually carried out in parallel! → early involvement crucial



How to support energy efficiency & renewable energy

- Energy efficiency and renewable energy as **clear priority**
- Energy objectives must be **horizontally integrated** (e.g. fiscal policy, industry and transport policy, cohesion policy)
- Establish specific programmes
- **New technologies** must be encouraged and financed
- Inter-regional projects to **transfer know-how**
- Increase **public awareness** (promotion of energy saving and rational use of energy)
- Promote **energy saving activities for SMEs** and public entities
- Promote public procurement


Conclusion


- Commission's guidelines 2007-2013 must recognise energy efficiency and renewable energy as a priority
- Environmental interests to be integrated into "non-environmental-areas" (i.e. cohesion policy)
- Environmental actors must be actively involved from the beginning → knowledge of institutional framework and time frame
- Participation at national and regional level → careful planning, realistic objectives

Conclusion

- **No right way**: bring together past experience, expert knowledge, good ideas
- **Do not propose "what Commission likes"** → Commission likes good projects
- EU funds cover almost every area: try to find which fund suits you best (financial framework) in order to promote your projects





WWF handbook on EU funding for Environment available at:

- <http://www.panda.org/downloads/europe/eufundingforenvironmentweb.pdf>
- WWF EPO: www.panda.org/epo

thank you for your attention

