

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY NEWS

Newsletter for **INFORSE** International Network for Sustainable Energy

No. 54, September 2006

**Manuals for Poverty Reduction
Networking in the Balkans
New SPARE School Competition
South-North DIERET Twin Teams
INFORSE Call for Energy Efficiency**



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Photo on the front page:

Solar cookers preparing food on the Solar Cookers International (SCI) Conference in Spain. Photo by SCI.

See article on the conference on page #10, and on the new manuals for poverty reduction on page # 9.



Benefits and Importance of Environmental Networking in the Balkans

Sent from the INFORSE Seminar in Croatia

The European Sustainable Energy Seminar held on Solta island in Croatia on the 3rd - 8th of September, 2006, was organised by INFORSE-Europe together with Green Action from Croatia.

It gave NGO participants from the whole of Europe a chance to discuss energy topics, to do practical work on renewable-energy sources, and to network with each other in matters pertaining to energy and climate issues. The themes of discussions during the seminar were related to the newly formed European energy market in southeastern Europe; the global oil peak; EU energy and climate policies; EU structural funds; and visions 2050 for Denmark, Ukraine, and Lithuania.

The seminar created a strong basis for further networking of the already existing NGOs and NGO networks in the Balkans in their joint efforts for better energy and climate policies in the region, as well as for more democratic processes in the new South East European regional energy market (SEEREM). Such networking is important for greater involvement of the public in these issues and to increase the credibility of NGOs in their dealings with officials. It helps the exchange of experience among the regional Balkan NGOs and fills in some gaps in their knowledge and skills. The process will lead to stronger NGO influence in the region, e.g., towards reaching goals for ratification of the Kyoto protocol by the countries that still have not done so.

Members of such regional networks can influence the transparency and democratisation of the privatisation and liberalisation processes in the energy sector in South East Europe. Better NGO access to the mechanisms of energy-market transformation in the region as well as NGO influence on future energy policies increase the likelihood that renewable-energy and energy-efficiency solutions will succeed. NGO influence also contributes to positive social perceptions of renewable energy within the energy sector.

In addition to influencing policies, NGO networking can help to raise public awareness. NGOs working together can organise simultaneous events throughout the whole region on chosen topics. One example of such coordinated action is Climate Change Action day, the 4th of November.

We hope that NGOs will use these opportunities for cooperation. We also believe strongly that only with joint work and mutually supportive efforts can the NGOs from the Balkans reach goals in the fields of energy and environment as well as provide good opposition and advisors to governments.

Marija Jankovska, Eco-sense, Macedonia, and Danijela Anastasov, Association of Science and Research "Josif Pancic", Serbia

INFORSE Call for Global Cooperation on Energy Efficiency

A new proposal for global cooperation on energy efficiency was put forward by INFORSE in July. The background is that world leaders, including the G8 leaders and EU leaders, have proposed new international cooperation on energy, including energy efficiency; but so far they have failed to specify the energy-efficiency side of the cooperation.

A central element of the proposal is cooperation on energy-efficiency standards between countries that produce equipment and those that use it. Other features include more effective international financing with energy-efficiency funds instead of direct loans, integration of energy efficiency in international cooperation, and new cooperation in technology transfer.

Read the full proposal at www.inforse.org.



The 25 participants of the European Sustainable Energy Seminar built solar collectors, (down) and several wind-mill and solar-powered (above) models during the seminar on the island in Croatia.



INFORSE Proposals for UN

NGOs are already preparing for the UN Commission for Sustainable Energy's final session on energy, planned for May, 2007.

In August INFORSE sent its proposal to the UN Secretary General, who is preparing a report for the CSD.

INFORSE is also cooperating with NGOs in the CURES network on joint NGO positions that will be presented to the UN in November. The main elements of INFORSE's statement to the UN Secretary General are:

- emphasis on the need for a transition to sustainable energy, for the global environment as well as for development.
- the need to make the energy sector sustainable and not accept all solutions. In particular, the report highlights the need to phase out nuclear power.
- the need to involve citizens in energy regulation and in energy strategies.
- the need to promote sustainable energy better in international cooperation.
- a call to phase out environmentally harmful subsidies as well as to stop international assistance and lending to unsustainable energy projects.

Read the entire statement at www.inforse.org.

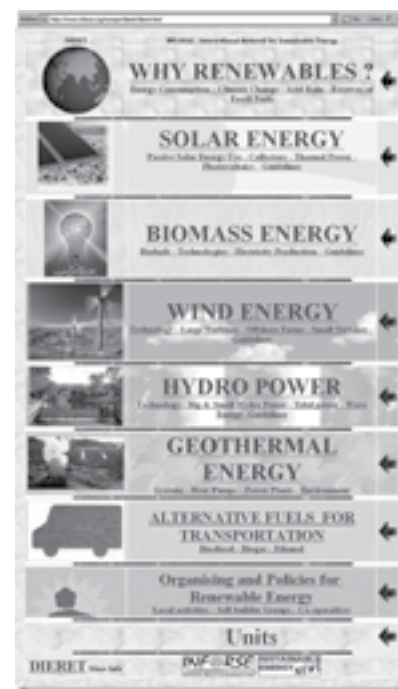
South-North Twin Energy Teams in the Framework of DIERET Study Course

This year, INFORSE has introduced a new feature of our DIERET course: **South-North Twin Energy Teams.**

The exercise is to connect our students from developing and developed nations so that during the study course they will create Twin Energy Teams (one person from a South, or developing, country and one person from a North, or developed, country). These teams will be solving each other's energy problems in their municipalities (villages, cities). A person from the North will solve the problem of the municipality in the South and vice versa. They will do it by e-mail with the rules set in advance by us. Each paired student will communicate to the other the necessary information about the respective energy needs as well as the technical and financial possibilities of a typical family in the

municipality to be helped. Then, with the help of information gained from the DIERET course, each person will prepare a short proposal on renewables for the other person's energy needs. This proposal will be checked by the twin partner as well as by us. No strict rules for evaluation of the job will be set. The main idea behind this is to involve students in solving the energy problems of other countries and thus to better understand the situation there. Of course, the new partnership and increased possibility of future cooperation between students from different parts of the world can also be viewed as a positive outcome of the job.

Nevertheless, this part of the DIERET course is not obligatory. It is up to students to decide whether they want to take part in this activity.



DIERET - Distance Internet Education on Renewable Energy Technology - is INFORSE's distance learning course. To learn more about DIERET and join the course: e-mail: fae@inforse.org, see www.inforse.org/europe/educat.htm

EU-Update



Edited by
Gunnar Boye Olesen,
INFORSE-Europe
Coordinator



EU Energy-Efficiency Strategy

The EU Commission has given high priority to energy efficiency. Thus, the expectations are high for the coming energy-efficiency strategy that the Commission will propose at the end of September. There are several actions that the EU can take to increase energy efficiency.

In particular, there is a need to make the EU internal market work better for energy efficiency with improved energy-efficiency labelling and standards as well as with energy-efficiency requirements for public procurements.

Renewables Roadmap

EU renewable-energy policy is up for improvement with a new renewable-energy roadmap that the EU Commission will publish this fall.

The roadmap is expected to lead to new initiatives such as a directive for renewable-energy/biomass for heating and a strengthening of the "biofuels" directive on renewables in transport. This will probably include stronger enforcement of the biofuels targets.

EU Energy Policy Still Under Development

When the EU leaders called for a new EU policy this March, they started a process that is now on its way in the EU Commission.

INFORSE-Europe and many other stakeholders used the Commission's stakeholder consultation to express their positions on future energy-policy priorities over the summer, but only in December will the Commission publish a strategic review. This will lead to the spring 2007 EU Summit, where the EU leaders are expected to agree on new energy-policy initiatives.

Energy in EU's International Cooperation

As part of the new EU energy policy, foreign policy will increasingly focus on energy. Finland, which has the presidency of the EU this fall, has set international relations at the top of their energy agenda. In particular, they will work for improved cooperation with Russia, including a better institutional framework. Energy will also

be high on the agenda on EU summit meetings with China, India, Ukraine, Caspian Sea countries, and others. Unfortunately, energy supply will be highest on these summit agendas. Increasing cooperation on energy efficiency will be featuring on the agendas for at least some of these summits, however.

South East European Energy Market Opened

On July 1, 2006, the new "Energy Community Treaty" entered into force. It combines EU's electricity and gas markets with those of South East Europe, namely of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Montenegro, and Kosovo under UN administration. Turkey is also expected to become partner.

This new South-East Europe Regional Energy Market (SEEREM) will gradually introduce the rules of the EU internal market. Some highlights of the timetable are:

- January, 2008: liberalization of the market for all non-household customers.
- December, 2011: reduction in the sulphur content of certain liquid fuels.
- January, 2015: liberalization of the market for all customers.
- December, 2017: limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from large combustion plants.

Additionally, the countries have committed to

- Adopt energy strategies.
- Adjust power tariffs so they effectively cover costs (including losses on bad payers).
- Adopt and implement grid codes and methodologies for transmission tariffs.
- Increase the transparency of utilities with International Accounting Standards (IAS).
- Reduce corruption with best practices on corruption abatement.
- Implement EU directives on renewable electricity and biofuels.
- Countries using gas for less than 10% of their energy are to adopt and implement plans to increase use of gas above this threshold before 2010.

The treaty does not address social issues, and the trade unions fear that opening the market will lead to privatizations followed by lay-off of workers. They have protested

against this, and the social issues are now being dealt with by a memorandum of understanding on the social dimension of the new market.

The EU Parliament supported the workers with a resolution on the issue in May, 2006.

The regulation of the new energy market, from the ministerial meetings downwards, is open neither to the public nor to

NGOs. This is an obvious impediment to its contribution towards sustainable development. NGOs must ask for participation.



SEEREM was high on the agenda at the INFORSE European Sustainable Energy Seminar in Croatia, September 3-8, 2006.

Read more about SEEREM at:

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South-East_Europe_Regional_Energy_Market,
- <http://www.energy-community.org>,
- <http://www.seecon.org/infrastructure/sectors/energy/>
- www.inforse.org/europe/eupolicy.htm

New SPARE Competition of School Energy Projects in 2006-07



By Olga Senova,
Friends of the Baltic,
(INFORSE member)
Russia. Coordinator
of SPARE interna-
tional competition



During the school year of 2006-2007, students and teachers will once again compete to produce the best projects addressing the topic "Energy and Environment" within the framework of SPARE. The international project SPARE (School Project for Application of Resources and Energy, works in 14 countries from Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Caucasus. SPARE has for a long time provided school children with important knowledge about energy and with possible practical steps for promotion of energy efficiency.

Students, both individuals and groups, can compete by submitting any of three types of entries:

- descriptions of how they have saved energy at school and at home;
- investigations of the possibilities of renewable energy sources in theory (technological aspects of a renewable-energy technology or construction of a model);
- practical project ideas on how to apply renewable energy sources accessible in their respective areas to meet local energy needs.

Teachers can participate with descriptions of the practical lesson on the actual energy theme, which can motivate school children to apply energy-saving or renewable energy in practical life.

In the biggest countries, competition will be organized regionally and nationally; in smaller countries, nationally. The national award ceremonies will be organized by national NGOs, which coordinate SPARE in their respective countries.

In the 2006-2007 school year, students and teachers can enter the SPARE competition "Energy and Environment", which is supported by SPARE international network, Norges Naturvernforbund and INFORSE Europe.

All interested teachers and students can contact their national SPARE coordinators, who can provide consultations, methods, and materials on the energy theme and on competition regulations.

The deadline for national competitions is February 1, 2007.

Winners of 2005-2006

In 2005-2006, the 5 best projects from each country were nominated to the International SPARE Competition.

Among the winners there were projects on renewable energy:

1. prize – Mobile Helio Station (solar kitchen and dryer, Kishinev, Moldova)
 2. prize - Prospects for Biogas Energy in Ukraine
 3. prize - Rotated Solar Collector, Georgia
- Special prizes for solving local energy problem were: "Local Micro Hydro Power Station" (St. Petersburg, Russia) and "Modernization of School Heating System" (Uzhgorod, Ukraine).

The winners in the nomination "Energy Saving" were school teams from Belarus, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, presented best school projects on applications of simple low-cost energy saving measures at schools.

The teachers' best works were: educational seminar "Warm House" for local residents, made by schoolchildren (Apatity, Russia), practical work for students "Recycling of Packages" (Yerevan, Armenia), game for primary school "Elektroshka" (Kazakhstan), lesson "Making calculation of consumed electric energy costs" (Poland), lesson "How to Stop Oil Dependence" (Moldova), action "We are Against Plastic Bags" (Turkmenistan).

The International Award Ceremony took place at the end of the 2005-2006 school year in St. Petersburg, Russia within the seminar, supported by INFORSE Europe. National SPARE coordinators received diplomas and prizes addressed to the winners from Norges Naturvernforbund, which has coordinated and supported SPARE from its beginning.

As a result of the competition, 12 students' projects are ready for implementation, and can improve living conditions, reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, and conserve nature resources.

More information including contact details to the SPARE Coordinators:

<http://www.spareworld.org>,

e-mail: spare-rus@yandex.ru.

Pictures from left to right:

- SPARE team from an Armenian school learning methods for insulation of windows.

- Performance about energy-efficient house at the international seminar

- Awarding ceremony of the winners of the all-Russian SPARE Competition

- Action for promotion of wind energy, Archangelsk



Young Scientists and INFORSE Cooperation

By Galina Shmidt Renewable Energy Agency (REA) and Andriy Konechenkov REA, INFORSE-Europe Board member, Ukraine

Today, the United Kingdom and Ukraine are countries in which the future of the energy sector is the focus of national debates. Both countries have huge potentials for renewable-energy development; both countries support and develop nuclear power. The Kyoto protocol ratified by the Parliaments of both countries creates favorable preconditions for Joint Implementation Projects.

Non-governmental organizations play a key role in the implementation of renewable energy via promotion, support and dissemination including lobbying and social work within communities. Promotion of new energy-saving technologies requires novel sustainable mechanisms and schemes that take into account political, economic, environmental and technical aspects of sustainable development. Exchanges of views between Ukrainian and UK specialists are essential milestones towards sustainable energy development in Ukraine.

Sustainable energy is very important for all the former Soviet Union countries. Public perception of this growing alternative industry has changed dramatically in the last few years. It is very important that places such as the Center for Alternative Technology (CAT) or Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy exist in the world because they show ordinary people how to incorporate renewables into their own lives. When people can see something firsthand, they feel they really can trust it.



Visit at SWEA: Pete West (left) shows the Ukran group around at SWEA. See also the article on SWEA on the next page.

Visit at CAT: Peter Harper (second from the left) guided the group at CAT, Wales.



Ukraine – UK Cooperation

Within the framework of International Networking for Young Scientists (INYS) programme managed by the British Council, a group of 7 Ukrainian scientists working in the renewable-energy sector visited the United Kingdom from 6 to 13 July, 2006.

The local Ukrainian partner organization was the Renewable Energy Agency with Andriy Konechenkov, as a main contact person, while CAT, with Joan Randle, and Severn Wye Energy Agency (SWEA), with Pete West, acted as UK partner organizations.

During the visit two workshops were devoted to renewable energy's current status in the UK and Ukraine. The workshops also included discussions of ideas on joint projects for renewable-energy development, energy-efficiency improvement and climate-change issues. Ukrainian scientists had an opportunity to acquaint themselves with various renew-

able-energy technologies implemented in the UK. During the workshop in Gloucester, special attention was paid to the innovative energy-efficiency project "Warm and Well" successfully implemented in the region by the experts of the Severn Wye Energy Agency.

The exchange of ideas will be continued during different international events, and conferences. For example, this autumn in Kiev, Ukraine, there will be two big international conferences: "Biomass Energy – 2006" and "Climate and Business" as well as three international seminars on RE and energy efficiency organized by the British Council Ukraine. Scientists from both countries are invited to participate.

All three organizations participating in the project, i.e., Renewable Energy Agency (REA), CAT and SWEA are members of INFORSE. More information: fae@fae.kiev.ua.

From left to right: Yuri Matveev, (Biomass and REA); Oleksandra Pukhnyuk (National Energy Company Ukrenergo); Sergey Artemenko, (Department of Thermodynamics, Odessa State Academy of Refrigerator); Kostiantyn Drozd, (Bioenergy laboratory, Institute of Thermal Physics Engineering); Galina Shmidt (REA), Andriy Konechenkov, (REA and INFORSE-Europe board member); Sergey Chaplugin (Biomass).



Severn Wye Energy Agency Project Wins UK Ashden Award for Sustainable Energy

By Pete West, SWEA (INFORSE member), UK.

The innovative energy-efficiency project, Gloucestershire Warm and Well, has won 1st prize, worth £30,000, in the Energy-Efficiency section of the UK Ashden Awards.

The project was set up in October, 2001 to promote the health benefits of energy efficiency by providing affordable warmth measures and advice, thus reducing the health risks associated with cold homes as well as realising reductions in energy use and in carbon emissions.

The scheme reaches out to local communities through an efficient referral system of health and care professionals as well as via extensive canvassing of rural communities. It's a unique partnership of seven local authorities, three Primary Care Trusts, and a fuel supplier with heating, insulation and solar-water installers. It was developed and is managed by Severn Wye Energy Agency (SWEA).

"It was really refreshing to see a highly professional, slick and organised approach combined with a strong mission-led ethos, combining the best from private, public and NGO sectors." Peter Capener, Ashden Awards visiting judge.

The scale of work already achieved in five years is impressive: 16,000+ households have been advised and over £5.2 million of energy-efficiency measures have been installed in nearly 9,000 homes (almost 4% of homes in Gloucestershire). These will prevent emissions of an estimated 332,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide over the lifetime of the measures. This is an average cost of £580 per home, including expensive boiler installations as well as cheaper insulation work.

Energy-efficiency measures undertaken include cavity-wall and loft insulation, hot-water tank jackets, draught-proofing, thermostatic radiator valves, and solar thermal hot water. In addition, energy advice is



Above: Catrin Maby from SWEA receiving the Ashden Award.
Below: Prince Charles (middle) was also interested in SWEA's wood fuel co-operative project in Gloucestershire.

given by telephone, information leaflets and home visits to vulnerable clients.

The majority of clients targeted by the scheme are either older people with health problems associated with poor heating or lower-income households living in fuel poverty. Warm and Well offers 100 percent grants for insulation measures to all those over 70, and subsidised installations for people who can afford to make some contribution.

The scheme targets both owner occupiers and tenants of private rented housing.

Rates of take-up are high, as the scheme offers a one-stop-shop, from giving people simple advice right through to implementation and follow-up. SWEA found many people were confused by the array of energy schemes offered to them, and concerned about the stigma of registering on benefit-related schemes, so they avoid this by offering services to all householders in the region, not just those on benefit.

Severn Wye Energy Agency (SWEA) is an independent limited company and registered charity established in 1999.

SWEA is a member of INFORSE-Europe and currently has 16 staff members. It has carried out a host of renewable-energy and energy-efficiency schemes in the region, involving prisons, rural communities, local authorities, schools, and adults lacking basic skills. It works with a network of partners across the UK and Europe.



More information: SWEA, pete@swea.co.uk www.swea.co.uk

Large-scale Integration of RES & CHP in New EU

„Potential for and major barriers to large-scale integration of renewable electricity and CHP in the new EU countries”

Under this banner, researchers met with government and EU officials and with prof. Adam Gula, who represented INFORSE, on June 19-20, 2006 in Warsaw. During this conference, government officials briefed attendees on the major common barriers to the development of renewable energy. Among these, the most important were lack of detailed analyses of available RES potential, lack of adequate promotion schemes, high investment costs, lack of domestic technologies, and lack of know-how.

Polish and Czech problems with large-scale biomass co-firing and its serious influence on local biomass markets were also discussed, including price increases and limited availability of biomass for small end-users. There is a need to distinguish carefully among technological options and to consider indirect impacts on the market. Biomass co-firing is an option, but preferably using energy crops.

Adam Gula raised the important questions of externalities in energy production and of embedded energy as essential considerations in future sustainable energy production and utilization. Internalisation of external costs will lead to a comparison of electricity generation prices on a fair basis, which in turn, ideally, will accelerate RES-based energy production. This could lead to huge reductions of fossil-based GHG emissions.

One of the problems in the region is that presently increasing GDP growth rates lead to rising energy consumption, which in turn will cause increases in emissions. Further, carbon emissions due to production, transformation and consumption of energy are relatively high in the region. There is great potential for energy savings and for CO₂ reductions.

The presentations from the conference can be downloaded from <http://www.ceeres.org/presentation.html>.



By Peter
Richards, REEEP
Communications
Director



REEEP - Creating Market Conditions for Sustainable Energy



Type-II partnership: PV in a village in China.

REEEP supports the expansion and development of a number of databases:

- International Energy Treaties
<http://lawweb.colorado.edu/eesi/>;
- APEC Standards and Labeling,
<http://www.apec-esis.org/>;
- RETScreen Project Analysis Tool,
<http://www.retscreen.net/> ; and
- Reegle information gateway,
<http://www.reegle.info>

In 2001, the G8 Renewable-Energy Task Force recognized that a lack of favorable policies and regulations were holding back the emergence of renewable energy and of energy-efficient technologies. It agreed that only positive legal and fiscal instruments, together with supportive financial incentives and subsidies, would draw out the potential of this market.

By the end of the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development a year later, international governmental negotiations on climate change and renewable energy came to a standstill. No agreements were signed, but the UK government put forward the idea of establishing a UN Type-II partnership called REEEP (Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Partnership). REEEP was to be a demand-driven bottom-up stakeholder partnership cutting across national boundaries, helping to create policy and financial tools as requested by local and national governments.

After a global consultation process in 2003, REEEP was formally launched in June 2004 as a public-private partnership registered as an international NGO based in Vienna following a two-year incubation period within the UK foreign ministry.

In April, 2005, REEEP grants were awarded to 18 projects and in April, 2006, 32 more projects received REEEP funding. On average, 12% of the proposals submitted to REEEP meet selection criteria and are approved for funding. REEEP's commitment to projects is providing quality endorsement that allows project developers to approach and unlock other sources of funding for sustainable energy projects in the developing world. Project budgets vary, but average around 600,000 EUR, with the REEEP contribution capped at 70,000 EUR.

Since 2004 REEEP has disbursed more than 3.2 EUR million to projects in more than 44 countries. Policy, regulation and innovative financing projects developed by NGOs have been awarded funding.

NGOs such as SouthSouthNorth (SSN) in Cape Town, the Biomass Users Network (BUN-CA) in Costa Rica or Winrock in Brazil are working on carbon finance, energy efficiency and rural electrification projects. In other cases, energy-management consultancies, such as Econoler, have received funding. Econoler developed a financial model for a municipal street lighting in India.

The partnership and donor criteria determine the types of projects eligible for REEEP funding. For example, Ireland recently donated funds to REEEP earmarked specifically for projects located in the least developed countries of Africa. The 18 REEEP projects completed in the summer of 2006 will be evaluated in terms of possible replication elsewhere in the developing world.

After the ratification of the Kyoto Protocol in 2005, emissions reductions and energy access became the drivers for clean energy. A year later, though, the focus has shifted slightly towards energy security and energy efficiency. This was in part driven by the G8 Gleneagles Plan of Action, where REEEP was highlighted as a delivery mechanism for energy efficiency in buildings.

REEEP is therefore trying to balance its portfolio of renewables projects with energy-efficiency work, and policy with finance.

The next project call is scheduled for November 2006. The call for project proposals will be presented formally via the REEEP website and in the newsletter NewsREEEP.

REEEP is also deeply involved in the intergovernmental policy-making process. It has organized a series of high-level events to engage policy-makers with the financial community, typically alongside

international meetings such as the CSD, UN-FCCC or G8 events. As a subset of the international dialogue process, REEEP is also developing regional networks, establishing, for instance, the Sustainable Energy Regulation Network (SERN) in Africa to bring regulators together. Regulators in developing countries typically lack the capacity required to support renewables and SERN works to educate regulators. In the same way, the Renewable Energy and International Law (REIL) project works to develop policy recommendations on request. REIL has current projects in both India and China.

The governments of Austria, Australia, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States all fund REEEP. The partnership is backed by more than 200 national governments, businesses, development banks and NGOs. In the last six months, Argentina, Switzerland, Singapore and Croatia have joined REEEP. For more information NGOs should contact their nearest REEEP regional secretariat in Beijing, Budapest, Cape Town, Melbourne, Moscow, New Delhi or Washington.

Recognizing that many sustainable-energy partnerships already exist, REEEP works to identify synergies and to reduce duplication. It has signed collaboration agreements with the GVEP, GNESD and CLASP.

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Sustainable Energy for Poverty Reduction: How-to

INFORSE South-Asia Project

By Gunnar Boye Olesen (OVE, Denmark & INFORSE-Europe Coordinator), and Raymond Myles (INSEDA, India & INFORSE South-Asia Coordinator)

INFORSE South Asia is now launching its new manual on sustainable energy solutions to reduce poverty. The manual together with a package of additional information summarises the most successful sustainable energy solutions to reduce poverty, for use in South Asia.

During more than a year, the INFORSE South Asia coordinator and focal points in Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka have collected material on sustainable-energy successes from the region and have edited a short manual from the large collection of materials. In the coming year, the manual will be used to support NGOs in South Asia that want to work on sustainable energy for poverty reduction.

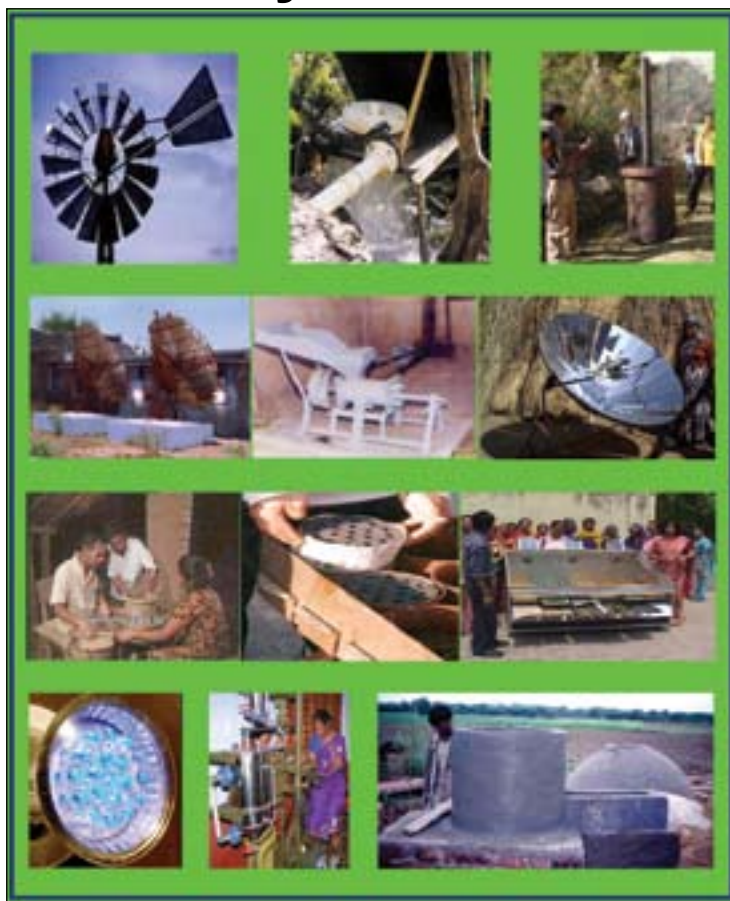
The manual will be available electronically and in printed form in English, Hindi, Nepalese, Bangladeshi and Singhalese. It will describe:

- a way to compare different solutions and to develop a strategy for better energy supply for a village.
- the most important sustainable energy technologies for poverty reduction in South Asia, including improved cook-stoves, biogas, solar cookers, solar PV electricity, micro-hydro, solar drying, and other solutions. The descriptions include basic data on how to use the technologies as well as their costs and benefits, etc.
- organisational solutions for the new local cooperation that is needed to introduce many local sustainable energy solutions.

Together with the manual, the following have been developed:

- A collection of cases of successful use of renewables, available electronically in English.
- Manual on financing sustainable energy for the poor, available electronically in English.
- Manual for NGOs on introducing sustainable energy in development, available from INFORSE focal points in South Asia, in English.

The manual and other electronically available materials will be printed on a CD that will be sold by INFORSE and on the website www.inforse.org/asia.



Pictures from the front page of the Manual

INFORSE-South ASIA

The INFORSE South-Asia project partners are:

- Integrated Sustainable Energy and Ecological Development Association (INSEDA), India
- Centre for Rural Technology (CRT), Nepal
- Integrated Development Association (IDEA), Sri Lanka
- Grameen Shakti, Bangladesh
- The Danish Organisation for Renewable Energy (OVE), Denmark

South Africa's First Commercial Windfarm

Cape Town residents will soon have an opportunity to make a positive contribution towards addressing the looming effects of global warming through purchasing "Green Electricity" from the Darling Windfarm. On August 3, the city signed a 20-year contract with Darling Wind Power for the supply of environmentally friendly electrical energy. It is a R70m (7.5 mill. Eur) national pilot project to build South Africa's first commercial windfarm.

The project is to be funded jointly by

the Danish Development Aid (DANIDA), the Central Energy Fund, Darling Independent Power Producing Company and (through a loan) by the Development Bank of South Africa.

The windfarm will initially comprise four 1,3 MW wind turbines to be located northwest of the town of Darling in the Western Cape. Annual estimated production is 13,200 MWh. The green electricity is to be sold at a premium to interested electricity consumers.

It is hoped that the Provincial government, which is still strongly opposing the establishment of windfarm projects on the West Coast, will finally also come to the table and create together with the National Government the desperately needed political and financial framework to make the new windpower industry a success.

Information from Cape Town City, www.southafrica.info and WWEA, www.wwindea.org.

September 26th 2006

New Europe, New Energy Conference, The Open University, UK

Renewable energy for the expanded EU. The primary aim is to look at renewable resource potentials, meeting the EU Renewables Directive targets, opportunities for collaboration, support mechanisms, and what NGOs can do to help.

Gunnar Boye Olesen from INFORSE-Europe has been invited to present the network.

More information:
<http://eeru.open.ac.uk/conferences.htm>

**September 28 – October 1, 2006
RENEXPO International Trade Fair and Conference for Renewable Energy Augsburg, Germany**

Visit us at the INFORSE exhibition !

The event, consisting of three parallel trade fairs: RENEXPO/ IHE, WoodEnergy/ reCONSTRUCT will take place simultaneously in an exhibition area of 17.000 m² divided into three halls. INFORSE-Europe will exhibit in Hall 3. Expected: 1,600 conference participants. 380 exhibitors and 18,000 visitors.

More information:
<http://www.renexpo.com>

**January 28 - February 7, 2007
Sustainable Energy Week, Brussels, Belgium**

Under the umbrella of the Sustainable Energy Europe 2005-2008 campaign, there will be an EU Sustainable Energy Week from January 28 to February 7, 2007. During this week, several conferences and events will be organized by the European Commission, associates and partners.

In 2006, INFORSE-Europe became campaign associate of the Sustainable Energy Europe 2005-2008 initiative.

INFORSE-Europe and Sustainable Energy News participated on the 1st Annual Conference EU Sustainable Energy Europe Campaign in November 2005 in Brussels.

More information:
<http://www.sustenergy.org>

**February 28 - March 2 2007
World Sustainable Energy Days, Wels, Austria**

Europe's largest annual event on sustainable energy with special exhibitions and conferences on wood pellets, energy efficiency, rural development & sustainable energy, and "Energy Future 2030".

More information:
<http://www.esv.or.at/esv/>

**February 26 - March 2, 2007
CSD15 Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting, UN Headquarters, New York, USA.**

Commission for Sustainable Development. Preparatory meeting for global policy discussions on practical measures and options to implement energy issues for sustainable development.

More information: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/policy.htm>

**April 30 - May 11, 2007
CSD 15, UN Headquarters, New York, USA**

Commission for Sustainable Development, final session on energy, industry, atmosphere and climate change.

More information: <http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/policy.htm>



Reporting from July 2006 Solar Cookers Conference, Granada, Spain

Sent by Ganesh Ram Shrestha, CRT Nepal, and SCI, USA

About 200 participants from countries on the five continents attended the Solar Cookers and Food Processing International Conference, which, on behalf of Solar Cookers International (SCI) (INFORSE member) was organized by Terra Foundation and held in the Spanish city of Granada in July 12-16, 2006.

The diverse participants in this event shared their visions and experiences in the dissemination and possibilities for solar cooking worldwide.

There was an exhibition of devices from simple to complex solar cookers, as well as a practical demonstration to the general public in an open area at Granada's science museum.

Among the outcomes of the Conference, a new international association was created under the umbrella of SCI, with an

international volunteer steering committee of members from Asia, Africa, Europe and America. One of the representative members nominated from the Asian Region was Ganesh Ram Shrestha from the Centre for Rural Technology (INFORSE member).

In addition, the participants from the Asian Countries initiated an Asia Regional Network and planned future actions, such as hosting a conference in Nepal in April 2007.

The successful conference concluded with a visit to the largest centre for concentrating solar technologies in Europe: Plataforma Solar de Almería.

More information, pictures and proceedings are at: www.solarconference.net



Study of the Introduction of Renewable Energy in the EU

This report presents the current situation and trends in renewable energy in the 25 EU countries, including policies for renewable energy and energy efficiency as well as the EU Emission Trading Scheme. The study outlines these developments in three countries - the United Kingdom, the Czech Republic and Hungary. In the report's annex you can find an overview of each country with basic statistical data and graphs describing its economy and energy supply.

Compiled in 2006 by the International Network for Sustainable Energy - Europe (INFORSE-Europe) for the EU-Japan Centre for Industrial Cooperation. Of the total of 200 pages, the report comprises 92; in addition, there are 25 Country Annexes.

The authors are: Gunnar Boye Olesen (EU Chapter), Pete West (UK Chapter), Emil Bedi (Czech Republic Chapter), Judit Szoleczky (Hungary Chapter), and Niki Fowler.

A free PDF version (2.7 MB) can be downloaded from <http://www.eujapan.com/europe/energy.html>.

Anti-nuke Books and Videos

www.laka.org/indexeng.html

This site offers an enormous collection of reports, magazines, books, posters, and videos all related to nuclear energy. The documentation and research centre are maintained by the Dutch LAKA foundation.

The library includes 7,000 books and brochures, many thousands of magazines (some 600 different titles) and some 350,000 newspaper clippings, divided into 600 subject categories.

The video collection includes 250 hours of alternative productions, news bulletins, and documentaries. The material can be searched by country (about 30 countries) or by subject.

If you are interested in a specific documentary listed, you can write an email to info@laka.org with the year, and the title. Given these and your desired mailing address, the foundation can make a copy of the material and send it to you.

You are also welcome to donate material to the foundation.

Collecting Information for a Study on Gender and Climate



By Ulrike Roehr (left) and Minu Hemmati (right) genanet / LIFE e.V., INFORSE member organisation

A new study is on its way that aims to review, analyse and assess existing research relating to gender and climate change. The study is being carried out by Genanet / LIFE e.V., based in Berlin, Germany, from August 2006 until April 2007 supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

We will be contacting individuals and organisations working on gender and climate change and related issues, and we very much welcome our readers' forwarding relevant materials, information, links and contacts to us.

Our goal is to include existing research (peer review and grey literature) as well as information about ongoing and planned research projects.

PLEASE get in touch with us if you can contribute in these or other ways!

In 2006, LIFE e.V. became member of INFORSE-Europe.

Articles on women are collected under www.inforse.org/europe/sen_gender.htm.



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roehr@life-online.de,
www.genanet.de*



Biofuels to Replace Oil DVD Video

Length: 11 minutes

Languages: German, English, Spanish, French, Italian, Polish

Published by European Commission, DG Energy and Transport

Copies of video CD-ROM can be ordered free of charge from EC DG-TREN:

e-mail: tren-publications@ec.europa.eu

The video can be downloaded in MPEG format (76MB) from:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy_transport/publication/videos_en.htm

More information:

http://europa.eu.int/comm/energy/res/legislation/biofuels_en.htm

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www.inforse.org/asia



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DIERET Online Education Course 2006 still open. From October 2006 New CD version available. See also page 3.



New:

- South-NorthTwin Teams
- Alternative Energy for Transport
- CD available, 15 EUR/piece

<http://www.inforse.org/europe/educat.htm>
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