


# SUSTAINABLE ENERGY NEWS

A photograph of two children, a boy and a girl, at an outdoor exhibition. The boy, on the left, is wearing a striped shirt and a yellow backpack, looking at a small object in his hands. The girl, on the right, is wearing a grey hoodie with rainbow patterns and a black bag, looking down at a yellow toy car on a wooden table. The table also has a small wind turbine, a red cup, and other items. In the background, there are more exhibition items and a sign with a logo.

***CLIMATE COP-20  
THEME: BELARUS  
SOUTHERN VOICES  
NEWS FROM MEMBERS***



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**INFORSE-Europe Seminar**  
Sustainable Energy in Practice,  
August 17-21, 2015, Romania

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



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With the end of the climate meeting, COP20, and with new, but still inadequate commitments from EU, USA, and China, it is clear that this level of action will not solve the climate problem. Few believe that the global climate negotiations will lead to an agreement to limit greenhouse-gas emissions sufficiently to keep global warming to 2°C with reasonable certainty.

Unfortunately, scrapping the climate negotiations will not help. Looking back to the Kyoto Protocol, it is clear that the industrialised countries which joined it, today have lower emissions than in 1990 in average, while countries that stayed away have higher emissions.

And today the call from the climate negotiations is that all countries should deliver reductions at all levels and all sectors they deem fit, and to report their plans to the world in INDCs\*, already in the first half of 2015.

While these plans are not likely to add up to the climate action we need, they **will** bring us forward.

*When the global process leads us halfway to the target, what else can we do?* Obviously, we must step up local action, and we must keep on expanding action. We must have an increasing number of countries, towns, and local communities on a track to cover 100% of their energy needs with sustainable energy. We must also protect forests and other natural storages of carbon. And we must limit the exploration for new fossil-fuel resources, limit the funding, limit the permissions, and in the end set a cap to fossil-fuel extraction.

INFORSE members are promoting *local and national actions* for sustainable energy and greenhouse-gas reductions in many countries. We do that with proposals and campaigns for local actions and with national plans for faster transitions to sustainable energy.

This issue of Sustainable Energy News features a wide number of activities in which INFORSE members have been engaged: local actions in Belarus municipalities, climate-mitigation advocacy in Africa and South Asia, including reports on local actions that combine climate mitigation and poverty reduction, and national plans for transition to 100% renewable energy in Denmark, Hungary, and Bulgaria.

When people are adopting local, sustainable energy solutions, climate mitigation is just one of the many benefits, and often not the decisive one.

*We will continue with new projects for local communities*, in Belarus and other European countries, as well as with promotion of eco-village development in India and other South Asian countries, and with promotion of low-carbon development strategies and 100% renewable energy scenarios, in line with keeping global warming below 2°C.

As *local solutions* are showing how emissions can be reduced to sustainable levels and bring many other benefits, we must promote this idea around the world. We must show governments that this is the way forward. Climate action *from the bottom* is an indispensable part of the solution.

*Gunnar Boye Olesen, Roque Pedace*  
*Coordinators, INFORSE*

\* INDC: Intended Nationally Determined Contributions

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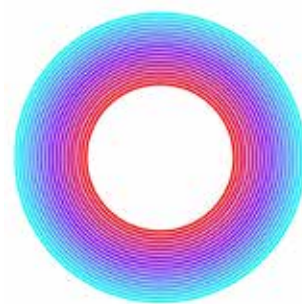


The articles reflect the views of the authors and of INFORSE, not of the financial supporters.

Photo on the front page:  
Mobile sustainable energy  
exhibition by Center for Environmental Solutions (CES) in  
Braslaw, Belarus.  
See articles on pages # 4-8.

Photo is made by Center for Environmental Solutions (CES), Belarus.

# Climate COP20 - Politics Lag Behind Real-World Momentum



LIMA COP20 | CMP10  
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2014

After two weeks of negotiations, the countries agreed at COP20 in Lima, Peru to put their individual climate pledges on the table in the first half of 2015. This will form the foundations of the global climate agreement due at COP21 in Paris next December.

They also agreed that the countries should provide information to help the world judge whether the pledges are adequate and equitable.

Further, they agreed that no country can backslide from their prior commitment, but they made no agreements on how to step up ambitions to keep global warming below 2°C.

## First Draft - Full of Brackets and Ambiguity

A first draft text for the Paris Agreement was made at COP20, but it is *full of brackets and ambiguity*. Among the positive elements is that phaseout of fossil-fuel use is listed as one of the options. Governments also set a deadline in May for turning the current draft into plain English negotiating text.

## Green Climate Fund.

Over the past months, countries have promised USD10 billion to the *Green Climate Fund*. Unfortunately, the momentum provided by the pledges got lost with the lack of a clear pathway to the USD 100 billion a year promised to support developing countries to take climate action by 2020. This lack of clarity cooled the enthusiasm of several developing countries for climate action.

## Shortcomings No- meaningful Action

In spite of the need for short-term actions, governments took no meaningful action to scale up climate action in the five years before 2020, the start date for actions in the Paris Agreement.

Another shortcoming of COP20 was the lack of agreement of how developed and developing countries are treated in a future agreement: as two blocks, as before, or based on each country's situation.

All in all, the agreements of climate COP 20 do not reflect the public support for transition from fossil fuels to sustainable energies, and will not suffice to limit climate change to 2°C.

## China, EU, and USA Climate Actions

The EU, in October 2014, set a target of at least 40% greenhouse-gas reductions by 2030.

China and the USA, in November 2014, made an accord that:

- USA shall reduce emissions by 26-29 percent in the period of 2005 - 2025, while
- China shall peak its emissions in 2030.

Together, these three commitments cover about half the global emissions, but the reductions are not adding up to a fair share of reductions to keep global warming below 2°C. See graph.



PHOTO: COP 20, LIMA, IISD.CA



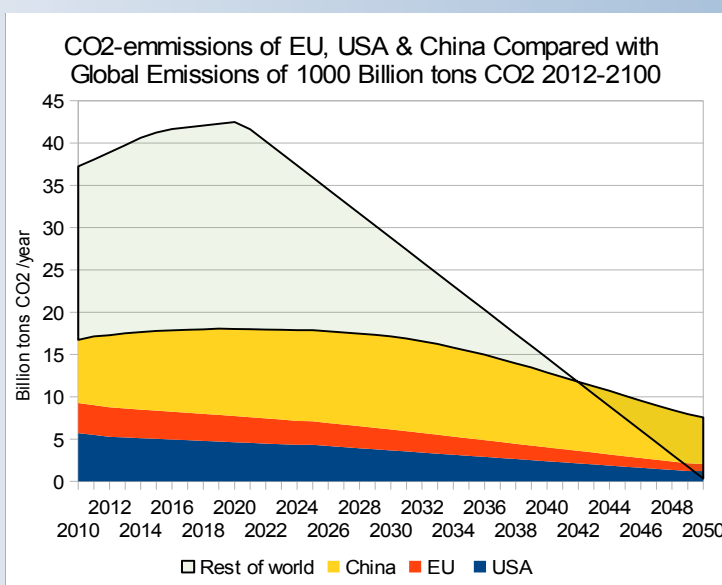
## IPCC: Large Reductions Needed for 2°C

With its 5th global assessment, IPCC, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, concluded this November that with current emission trends, "warming is more likely than not to exceed 4 °C by 2100 over pre-industrial levels", which "will lead to very high risk of severe, widespread and irreversible impacts globally". To keep temperatures below 2°C with 66% certainty, IPCC concluded that we must limit CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions in the period of 2012-2100 in total to 1000 billion tons of CO<sub>2</sub>. This could be done with a peak of global emissions in 2020 and then a linear reduction to zero net emissions by 2050. Indeed, a challenging task.

Read [www.ipcc.ch](http://www.ipcc.ch).

## GRAPH:

- CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions of EU, USA and China expected with current commitments, compared with global emissions trajectory to limit emissions after 2011 to 1,000 billion ton CO<sub>2</sub>.
- Chinese emissions are with the assumption that the current growth of 4% in 2012-13 will gradually decline so emissions peak in 2030 and then decrease up to 4% per year.
- Global emissions are with current growth, reducing to peak in 2020 and then falling linearly.







Billedtekst

# Belarus Cities Turning to Sustainable Energy

▲ Belarus municipalities visit an "Energy Yard" at a farm in North East Hungary during a study tour, as part of the Project.



**Center for Environmental Solutions (CES)** is an INFORSE member NGO, established in 2009. CES was established by a group of people, who were interested in the environmental field since 2001. Currently, there are 19 staff workers.

CES's mission is to promote environmentally friendly lifestyle and principles of sustainable development.

CES has been local organiser of the INFORSE cooperation projects ECSE and ADVICE in 2012-14.

Among other projects, CES is also active in the SPARE sustainable energy school program, which is supported and coordinated by another INFORSE member, FoE Norway.

An ambitious INFORSE cooperation project has promoted increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy in three municipalities in Belarus.

The municipalities learned how to do long-term energy- and climate planning, which can realise a 70-100 % renewable energy supply.

Two of the municipalities joined the EU's initiative of "Covenant of Mayors committed to Sustainable Energy" in 2014.

## Challenges

Belarus, a former Soviet republic, which became independent in 1991, is heavily dependent on the import of oil and gas from Russia. The share of its own energy resources is low, only 26%.

The country is facing many challenges related to its energy supply: increasing prices for imported energy and high energy intensity, as well as low energy efficiency at pipes, heating stations, and buildings.

There is also a global call for less burning of fossil fuels to preserve a better climate.

## Top priority of Energy Efficiency

The government of Belarus has officially declared energy efficiency and energy saving as state priorities. This policy is supported by several measures, like requirements for municipalities to make annual local plans to improve energy efficiency by 5%, to adopt more efficient building codes for new buildings, and to levy high feed-in tariffs for electricity produced by photovoltaic installations and windpower.

## Barriers

In spite of the national priorities, there are several barriers to reduction of fossil fuel use. The local authorities make annual plans, but many projects need longer-term planning to get realised. Renewable-energy technologies like solar, wind, and biomass still are not recognised as major solutions to the energy-supply problem. There is a target to increase using local resources, which includes biomass, but also peat that contributes to greenhouse gases.

Moreover, a nuclear power plant is being built in the country, financed by Russian loans and expected to run on Russian uranium. The nuclear power plant is planned to start in 2018. It was decided even though the country suffered the most from the radioactive pollution after the Chernobyl accident, as the wind was blowing to the north from Chernobyl in Ukraine in those unlucky days in 1986.

## Project Brings Solutions

Since 2012, INFORSE-Europe has cooperated on a Project called ECSE to facilitate the formulation aims, long-term sustainable energy plans, and specific proposals of three local authorities.

The local NGO organiser was the INFORSE member, **Center for Environmental Solutions (CES)** in Minsk. **Skaane Energy Agency** and INFORSE brought knowledge from experiences in Sweden, Denmark and EU.

The Project included *study tours to Denmark/Sweden and to Central Eastern Europe* to see the solutions in practice.



## Local Energy & Climate Plans

The ECSE Project supported three local authorities in Belarus in sustainable-energy planning, covering the Belarus municipalities of Pukhovichy, Braslaw and Shuchin.

Long-term energy- and climate planning included several steps through assessment, setting targets, development of actions, public consultations, and adoption of plans.

In addition, the Project included feasibility studies for specific proposals and some small demonstration projects.

### Planning - How to Do

Following the selection of the municipalities, CES and local authorities signed Memoranda of Understanding to work together.

Next step was that the experts of CES obtained and analysed the statistical data of energy in each municipality.

They mapped the present supply and demand, and the potentials for energy efficiency and renewable energy.

After this, they set goals for energy-saving, and for the increase of the share of renewable energy sources in the energy balance, as well as for the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Then, lists of activities were prepared to achieve these goals and to make the local energy plans.

### Solutions

Most of the planned activities are focusing on energy efficiency measures, as there are easy efficiency options in all three municipalities, the "low-hanging fruits". These include insulation of pipes and walls, as well as more efficient windows, lighting, boilers, and pumps. The proposed plans also included increased use of renewable energy, e.g., wood chips and straw boilers, solar energy for water heating and electricity, and biogas connected to waste water plants.

### Involvement of the Public

Involvement of the local stakeholders and local civil society was one of the important components of the process of developing the local plans. The results of the assessment and the local plans were presented to and discussed with the local public at public meetings.

Another vehicle for local representation was the creation of a temporary board of energy development in the municipalities. Adjustments to the list of activities of the local plans were made at the meetings in these boards.

In addition to this, the district's executive committee made available a draft version of the local energy plan on the municipal website. This offered another opportunity for the local stakeholders and civil society to suggest changes and improvements of the energy plan.

► Article continues on the next page



**Braslaw**

Area: 2,270 km<sup>2</sup>

People: 27,000



**Shuchin**

Area: 1,911 km<sup>2</sup>

People: 47,700



**Pukhovichy**

Area: 2,441 km<sup>2</sup>

People: 66,300

Read more on the Project ECSE on local energy planning at three municipalities in Belarus at [www.inforse.org/europe/ECSE.htm](http://www.inforse.org/europe/ECSE.htm)

The ECSE Project was supported by the EU Europe Aid and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Sweden.







▲ Renewable energy resources and technologies proposed as solutions in Belarus.

## Feasibility Studies and Demonstration Projects

► *Article continued from the previous page*

### Towards Implementation

To increase the likelihood that the adopted Local Energy Climate Action Plan actually would be implemented, feasibility studies of selected proposals, as well as small demonstration projects, were conducted in each of the municipalities.

### Feasibility Studies

The Local Action Plans included pre-feasibility studies for the proposed actions. From these, three actions were selected for each municipality for detailed feasibility studies.

This was evaluated necessary as detailed feasibility studies are required by all potential investors of the realisation of projects, whether they be private investors, governments, or United Nations and European Union programmes.

There were both a Belarus and a Danish consultant, which assisted in the development of the feasibility studies.

During the project, the experts of CES also learned how to use a professional program for feasibility studies, "EnergyPro".

Detailed feasibility studies are developed for solar thermal collectors producing hot water, biogas from waste water, insulation, straw fired boilers, and solar photovoltaic installations.

### Demonstration Projects

The pilot demonstrations include: a 500-W solar cell providing electricity to 4 energy efficient computers in a library, solar collectors providing hot water to a sport facility, and LED street lighting.



▲ The mobile sustainable energy exhibition of CES raised awareness also to the public meetings of the Local Energy and Climate Action Plans in the three municipalities.



Project partners and staff at an exhibition stall of CES in Minsk (from left to right) ▲ Judit Szoleczky (INFORSE); Cecilia Thapper, Per-Johan Wik (SEA); Dmitry Burenkin, Eugeny Lobanow (CES); Gunnar Boye Olesen (INFORSE); and Anton Gakhovitch (CES).



Annual Ceremony 2011 at EU Covenant of Mayors



## Belarus Cities Joining EU Covenant of Mayors & 100% RE

As a result of the project ECSE, coordinated by INFORSE-Europe, two more Belarus municipalities have joined the Covenant of Mayors in 2014: Braslaw and Pukhovichy. Thus, the total membership in Belarus has grown to ten. The sustainable energy plans they prepared to enter the Covenant of Mayors were very close to the local plans prepared within the framework of the project.

Moreover, Braslaw also committed itself to be CO<sub>2</sub> neutral by 2040 and it is in the process joining the 100%RE campaign. The plans were presented at the campaign's conference in Kassel, Germany in November 2014.

Some smaller communities have been net CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral for a decade by now, such as the Samsoe Island (Denmark), which managed to be 100% supplied with renewable energy on an annual average as early as 2005. While some have managed to become 100% renewable, an increasing number of small and large communities are setting targets for reducing their greenhouse-gas emissions. And they are also realising them.

### EU Covenant of Mayors - the Largest Network

The largest network for municipalities that want to increase their renewable energy supply is the EU initiative 'Covenant of Mayors Committed to Sustainable Energy' with 6,165 signatories. Each signatory is a mayor that has committed his/her municipality or region to meet or go beyond the EU-2020 objectives, reducing the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in its territory by at least 20%, through the implementation of a local Action Plan.

Most of the municipalities are in EU, where they help the EU to fulfill the EU 2020-targets. For rural municipalities, it is easy to meet the 20% reduction target with available renewable energy, but also many larger cities have joined, such as London, Paris, and Budapest, where the supply of renewable energy is harder to increase. An increasing number of municipalities outside the EU are now also joining the Covenant of Mayors, including 10 municipalities in Belarus, 67 in Ukraine, and 10 in Turkey. For the eastern members of

the Covenant, it can be more challenging to reach the climate target, but often the benefits are also larger, as their costs to purchase fossil fuels are a larger burden for the local economies.

### Climate Alliance for 50% Reduction

Another sustainable energy network of municipalities is the 'Climate Alliance of European Cities with Indigenous Rainforest People', where more than 1,700 municipalities and districts have committed to reduce their CO<sub>2</sub>-emissions by 50% by 2030 (from 1990 levels).

Like the Covenant of Mayors, the Climate Alliance supports its members with exchange of experiences at events, showcasing members' achievements, providing aids and tools for local climate-change policies, etc. Further, they organise initiatives on the conservation of tropical rainforests.

### 100% Renewable Energy

At least 55 European municipalities and districts have committed to turn to 100% renewable energy in the 100% RE campaign. Many of these are smaller municipalities, but not all. Among the larger ones are the Austrian regions Upper Austria and Burgenland, the French region Mené, the city of Copenhagen (Denmark), which wants to be climate-neutral by 2025, and the cities of Malmö (Sweden), Stockholm (Sweden), and Frankfurt am Main (Germany).



Read more at  
[www.covenantofmayors.eu](http://www.covenantofmayors.eu)  
[www.climatealliance.org](http://www.climatealliance.org), and  
[go100re.net](http://go100re.net)

# Energy Advice Center in Belarus

▼ Anton Gakhovitch and Dmitry Burenkin at the interactive house wall section.



## Increased Capacity

The advice center developed its information capacities by training, by establishing a technical library, and by enlarging the existing exhibitions items of CES with new features like:

- Interactive stand of a house wall section, where you can insert different type of insulation materials, and then you can see the wall's insulating capability (U values) and how much energy is needed to heat the room.
- Printed materials: roll-up, 4,000 copies of different leaflets.
- 500 Copies of foldable sustainable house model from paper, which is both informational material and an eye catching demo item, as well as a play house.
- Tools that also can be used at energy audits, like a CO<sub>2</sub>-humidity-temperature data recorder and a thermal imaging camera that reveals the infrared radiation of walls to identify where the major heat losses are.

## Breakthrough to Media

The most successful tool of media outreach was organising of 13 round tables for journalists, which resulted in 200 articles published in different information sources. The center's consultant gave 3 TV interviews and 8 radio interviews.



► Mobile exhibition of the Advice Center.  
More than 3,500 people visited the 18 exhibitions in Belarus.



**Energy Advice Center**  
Att. Anton Gakhovitch,  
E: [energy@ecoidea.by](mailto:energy@ecoidea.by)

The center has been run by the non-profit NGO, **Center for Environmental Solutions (CES)**, which is member of INFORSE.



**Skaane Energy Agency (SEA)** was Project coordinator and it brought expertise from Sweden on how to run an energy advice center.



**INFORSE-Europe** was partner and brought input from Danish experiences on advisory centers and help with international outreach

In 2013-14, a new public advice center helped the people who wanted to know how to improve energy use in their homes in Belarus. This "Information Center on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy" is well established in Minsk. Since it started 1.5 years ago, it has advised about 4,500 people throughout the country.

## Reaching Out

The advice center has advised people by:

- direct telephone consultations,
- showing a mobile exhibition to about 3,500 people in 18 different places in Belarus, e.g., in schools, education centers, conferences, and exhibitions,
- organising 18 seminars for school teachers, pensioners, and various NGOs, where the most popular topics were lighting, ventilation to control moisture, and insulation, and
- conducting energy audits at 30 different buildings as schools, offices, apartments and a small hotel.

Read more on the project **ADVICE**: [www.inforse.org/europe/ADVICE.htm](http://www.inforse.org/europe/ADVICE.htm)

The **ADVICE** Project was supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Sweden.





# INFORSE Engaged in Southern Voices and Low-Carbon Developments

**INFORSE has developed its activities in Africa and South Asia with the support of the Southern Voices on Climate Change Programme 2011-14, and continues in 2014-16.**

**INFORSE West Africa** has enhanced its capacity and increased membership. Among the activities have been mapping renewable energy actors, mobilizing civil society around regional renewable energy and energy efficiency policies/strategies, establishing a mailing list, and training members in advocacy.

It also developed *case studies* in English and French on energy-efficient cookstoves, energy-efficient ovens for bakeries, solar mini-grids, and others. It has co-operated with other regional and national networks including Climate Action Network (CAN) - West Africa and "Réseau Climat Développement".

One of the most active members, Mali Folkecenter, managed to promote sustainable energy in Mali, in spite of the difficult situation in the country.

## Climate Advocacy Toolkit

One of the outcomes of the Southern Voices on Climate Change Programme is a Climate Change Advocacy Toolkit, with a rich collection of cases and guidance for NGOs that would like to improve their advocacy work for climate mitigation and adaptation.

## INFORSE Publication: Combining Energy Access and Climate Protection

This publication, developed by INFORSE members during the Southern Voices on Climate Change Programme, is now available in an updated version with more cases of sustainable solutions that reduce poverty and mitigate climate change.

## New INFORSE Co-operation in 2014-16: Low-Carbon Development Project

Following the Southern Voices Programme, INFORSE has started a project promoting pro-poor low-carbon development strategies in cooperation with Climate Action Network (CAN) and with the Danish INFORSE member organisation SustainableEnergy, which is project coordinator.

The project involves INFORSE members in Africa and South Asia, including INSEDA and ENDA, which continue as coordinators. TATEDO from Tanzania participates as a coordinator for East Africa.

They developed and sent to the Government of Mali, with broad NGO support, a set of recommendations for a feasible path to expand access to energy, giving priority to sustainable energy over fossil fuels. They also work on a number of practical projects and are engaged in a dialogue on national sustainability criteria for biofuels for Mali.

**INFORSE South Asia** also expanded its activities and membership, organised meetings and seminars in India, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh, and documented a *series of cases* for poverty-reducing climate mitigation solutions.

The cases from Africa and Asia are used for advocacy and are now included in the below-mentioned INFORSE publication.



The Southern Voices for Climate Change Program was created by a consortium of five Danish NGOs, Climate Action Network, and IIED. It was coordinated by CARE Denmark and funded by the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA).

INFORSE activities included *INFORSE-South Asia*, *INFORSE-Africa*, *INFORSE-Europe*, and the Danish INFORSE member "SustainableEnergy", which was a consortium member of the Program.

### More Information:

[www.inforse.org/asia](http://www.inforse.org/asia)  
[www.inforse.org/africa](http://www.inforse.org/africa)  
[www.southernvoices.net](http://www.southernvoices.net)

### INFORSE publication

Combining Energy Access:  
[www.inforse.org/energyaccess-climate.php3](http://www.inforse.org/energyaccess-climate.php3)  
[www.inforse.org/energyaccess.php3](http://www.inforse.org/energyaccess.php3)

### Climate Change Advocacy Toolkits:

[www.southernvoices.net/en/news/programme-news/687-the-advocacy-toolkits.html](http://www.southernvoices.net/en/news/programme-news/687-the-advocacy-toolkits.html)

The main activities of the programme are promotion of national and regional low-carbon development strategies during 2015. Until now, activities have been preparations of information materials for the campaigns, baseline studies, and trainings.

Results from the project will be discussed at mid-term workshops in each region in the summer of 2015, in which other NGOs from the regions are also welcome to participate, to learn from the project and share their experiences. The new project is supported by DANIDA via the Danish CSO association CISU in 2014-16.

**More: [www.sustainableenergy.dk/global-network](http://www.sustainableenergy.dk/global-network)**



# News from Members



## Europe: Cool Products for a Cooler World

by Gunnar Boye Olesen, VE, Denmark

INFORSE-Europe is strongly engaged in the Coolproducts Campaign with other NGOs, including European Environmental Bureau (EEB) and the European environmental standardisation organisation ECOS. In the campaign, we push for higher energy efficiency in European products and for better consumer information via energy labels. Increased energy efficiency of products is an important part of a development towards a sustainable world in which we would like to live. We particularly focus on the EU Ecodesign

and Energy Labelling Directives that govern energy efficiency of products on the EU internal market. They are a model for energy-efficiency regulations around the world. They emphasize the energy efficiencies of light, heating, household equipments and others. In 2015, we will also focus on the revision of the Energy Labelling Directive and on plans for future regulation.

*INFORSE members and others are invited to participate and help to promote energy efficiency in more countries. To join the INFORSE-Europe Ecodesign group, send an email to [ove@inforse.org](mailto:ove@inforse.org).*

## Togo: Women Solar Groups

by Annette Luttah Aluora and Sena Alouka, Young Volunteers for the Environment (YVE), Togo

Six women's groups established solar mobile-phone-charging stations in their villages with support from YVE in Togo. Each group got an interest-free loan for 70% of the total amount, to be repaid within the first 15 months from the income made by charging telephones for customers. After this repayment, the charging station becomes the property of the group and the income is used for other income-generating activities as decided by the group.

People charge their phones about 2 times a week and the fee is 100 FCFA (0.19 \$). The 2,800 monthly recharges by 350 users yield a total income of about 530\$ (2,800 x 0.19 \$) for the women's group. This stable income for the women's groups also contributes substantially to the local economy.

More than a thousand people have their recharging costs reduced considerably through this arrangement, as earlier they spent typically 400 FCFA (0.76 \$) for transportation for charging. Others used to walk long distances, at least 5 km, to access a shop with an electric connection through which they could charge their mobile phones.

The activity is part of a project called "Resource Center for Alternative Energy", which aims to empower local communities both in developing local sustainable energy plans and in influencing decision-making at the national level, as well as in up-scaling poverty-reducing sustainable energy solutions.

The activity is supported by NORAD through FOE Norway, which is also an INFORSE member organisation.

**More:** [www.jve-international.org](http://www.jve-international.org)

## Latvia: Dialogue on Buildings' Energy Efficiency

by Selina Vancane, Latvian Green Movement (LGM)

In 2014, LGM co-organised national public debate, a conference, and working groups to start a dialogue among stakeholders such as experts, flat owners, and politicians in Latvia. Topics included:

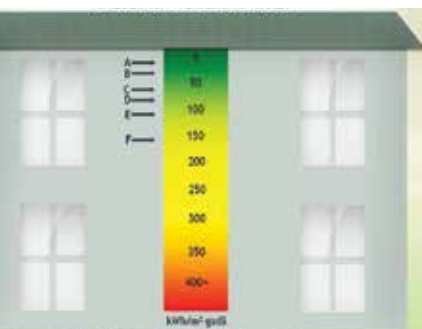
- how to implement the energy-efficiency measures for residential buildings and
- how to develop new support mechanisms to meet the requirements on the new EU energy-efficiency directive.

There were two working groups with decisions makers and politicians to seek the best solutions for the new effective support mechanisms as well as to raise motivation for sustainable energy planning in various regions. Recommendations resulting from these fruitful discussions have been delivered to the new government, and to the political parties.

A background report was published, "Available Support Measures for Energy Efficiency in Residential Buildings of Latvia" (both Latvian and English).

The activities are co-organised by LGM and the Latvian Freedom and Solidarity Foundation (BSF).

**More:** [www.zalie.lv](http://www.zalie.lv) E: [zalie@zalie.lv](mailto:zalie@zalie.lv)



▲ Latvian energy label for buildings from the background report.



INFORSE-Europe scenario builders:  
(from left to right) Paul Allen, CAT, UK;  
Bela Munkacsy, EENA, Hungary, and  
Gunnar Boye Olesen, VE, Denmark.



## European Scenario Work

### Hungary

by Bela Munkacsy and Adam Harmat, EENA

**The report „Vision 2040 Hungary 2.0 - Go Ahead This Way: A Framework of a Sustainable Energy System in Hungary”** is a new edition of a possible renewable energy transition scenario. The scenario was developed by the Hungary Environmental Education Network Association (EENA), in cooperation with the ELTE University Sustainable Energy Research Group along with several other institutes.

The scenario is a result of continuous work began in 2009 in cooperation with INFORSE-Europe. For this updated edition, GIS applications were used to

calculate the potentials of the various renewable-energy sources, and the analysis has been expanded with issues like the advantages of decentralized energy systems, sustainable transportation systems, the regulation background, and psychological aspects of the energy transition. *The report is important and timely*, as the Hungarian government is planning a new nuclear power plant to be built with a loan from Russia.

*Published: October 2014, 200 pp. See report at [www.ktf.elte.hu/index.php/erre-van-elore-2-0/](http://www.ktf.elte.hu/index.php/erre-van-elore-2-0/) An English summary will be available at [www.inforse.org/europe/VisionHU.htm](http://www.inforse.org/europe/VisionHU.htm).*



### Bulgaria

by Todor Slavov, Za Zemiata

**The report: “Expanded Nuclear Power Capacity in Europe, Impact of Uranium Mining and Alternatives”** refutes the myth that nuclear energy is clean, reliable, cheap and climate-friendly. In reality, nuclear-energy capacity in Eastern Europe is characterized by hidden externalised costs, technical problems, and covered-up dangers. At the same time, alternative options for energy production and measures for managing energy demand already exist. The report zooms in on Bulgaria and Slovenia, where the full range of issues with nuclear energy are exposed: from closed-down mines to badly managed radioactive waste. Both countries consider to build new nuclear power plant(s).

The report concludes that projected energy needs are deliberately exaggerated by the responsible authorities, while the nuclear power-plant costs and risks are grossly underestimated. The plans ignore the existing economically justifiable potential for renewable energy solutions, at lower cost per kWh.

The report includes inputs from the Bulgarian “100 % Renewable Vision by 2050” scenario worked out in cooperation with Za Zemiata and INFORSE-Europe.

*Published: November 2014, 134 pp. See report: [www.ejolt.org/2014/10/expanded-nuclear-power-capacity-in-europe-impact-of-uranium-mining-and-alternatives/](http://www.ejolt.org/2014/10/expanded-nuclear-power-capacity-in-europe-impact-of-uranium-mining-and-alternatives/).*



### Denmark

by Gunnar Boye Olesen, SustainableEnergy (VE)

**The report: “Fast Transition to 100 % Renewable Energy by 2030”**, developed by the Danish NGO SustainableEnergy, shows that the transition is possible by 2030, which cuts out an extra 20 years of emissions allowed by the the Danish government's target of 2050.

The new Danish NGO proposal includes increased expansion of renewable energy, in particular of wind power; increased focus on energy efficiency; a sustainable transport system; and increased use of wind power for heating (via heat pumps) and for transport (via electricity and hydrogen).

A technical evaluation shows that the energy system is in balance hour by hour over a typical year.

An economic evaluation shows that the system has lower costs and risks for the society than continued use of fossil fuel, using standard estimates of future fuel prices and energy technologies from International Energy Agency and the Danish Energy Agency.

*Published: November 2014, 24 pp. and February 2015 (full report).. See report at [www.ve.dk/energivisionen-forside](http://www.ve.dk/energivisionen-forside) An English summary will be available at [www.inforse.org/europe/VisionDK.htm](http://www.inforse.org/europe/VisionDK.htm).*





# INFORSE-Europe Seminar

Sustainable Energy in Practice, August 17-21, 2015, Romania

## Do-It-Yourself Project to Make:

- **Solar dryer** for fruits and vegetables (wood frame and plastic cover)
- **Solar water heater** (wood frame and glass)
- **Solar parabolic cooker** (folding mirrors)
- **Thermal cooking bag** (sewn from cloth and filled with sheep's wool).

## Workshop on Waste Water:

### Safe Sanitary Solutions

- Learn how to install a **composting toilet**, which can separate urine and faeces for use as fertilizers and which will not pollute the groundwater.

## Workshop on EU Ecodesign:

### Efficient Lighting

- Measure the energy use of different **light bulbs and LED lights**.
- Learn about the **NGO Coolproducts Campaign** to influence the EU rules on how much energy household equipment should use and how they should be labelled in the shops.
- Learn how much energy and money you and your community can save with energy efficiency.

**Venue:** New Center built by the Romanian NGO Earth Friends in Brusturoasa, Carpathian mountains, Romania.

## JOIN Enthusiasts

The Seminar is organised by groups of enthusiasts from *Earth Friends in Romania* and *Ecoact in Germany*.

**Accommodations** will be at the center or with local families.

## Registration to the Seminar:

att. Ion Zamfir, E: [Ion.Zamfir@gmail.com](mailto:Ion.Zamfir@gmail.com)  
*Earth Friends (Prietenii Pamantului), Romania*

## More information:

[www.prieteniiipamantului.ro](http://www.prieteniiipamantului.ro)  
[www.inforse.org/europe/seminar15\\_Romania.htm](http://www.inforse.org/europe/seminar15_Romania.htm)

# INFORSE

## International Network for Sustainable Energy

INFORSE is a world-wide network of 145 non-governmental organizations in 60 countries.

INFORSE was established in 1992 at the UN "Earth Summit" in Rio de Janeiro to promote a transition to efficient and sustainable use of renewable energy.

The organisations work with renewable energy and sustainable development to improve environment and to reduce poverty through advocacy as well as by raising awareness.

### Lobby United Nations

INFORSE has NGO consultative status with the UN ECOSOC since 1998, and with the UNFCCC since 2002. It has sent delegations to many of the Climate COP-meetings as observers as well as organized official side events and exhibitions.

### Lobby European Union

INFORSE-Europe is registered in the EU lobby register and has a permanent seat at the EU Ecodesign Directives' consultations.

### Communication

The communication is facilitated by a newsletter, a database of more than 1000 relevant contacts, and NGO seminars.

### Projects

INFORSE's member organizations often work together to achieve progress through influencing politics, to build capacity through exchanges of information and of services, and through cooperative projects. The last include, in the last 10 years:

- "Southern Voices on Climate Change", a NGO capacity-building program in South Asia and Africa.
- Social participation in local energy planning in Poland.
- Local sustainable energy planning and advice center in Belarus.
- 100% renewable-energy scenarios for the EU, for Denmark, Hungary and for others.
- Cool Products Campaign for the EU EcoDesign Directive.

- NGO cooperative projects in Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, Russia, Ukraine and Denmark. Associated activities included development of national sustainable energy plans, campaigns, exhibitions, and study tours.
- Low-carbon scenarios for Germany and France, along with creation of a network of NGOs and researchers.
- NGO cooperation on biogas promotion in Kazakhstan.
- Educational programs e.g., SPARE, DIERET, and a database of school materials.
- Compiling documentations of successful cases and of a renewable-technology manual for South Asia.

Supporters have included the EU, DANIDA, SIDA, the Nordic Council of Ministers, AirClim, ECOS, Swiss Fund, and the Danish Europa-Nævnnet.

**More:** [www.inforse.org](http://www.inforse.org)