

Sustainable Energy News

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INFORSE

International Network for
Sustainable Energy (INFORSE)
is a worldwide NGO network
formed at the Global Forum
in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1992.

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Photo on the front page:

Participants of the INFORSE-
Europe Seminar in Samsø, 2007
See article on page # 8.

INFORSE

15-years

for
Sustainable
Energy,
Basic Needs,
and
Global
Problems



INFORSE 15-year anniversary party. Note: People are in the INFORSE T-shirt printed for the event. "15 Years Good Work for our World"

INFORSE celebrates its fifteenth anniversary this year. It is time to reflect back and to find out what we have gained. We also need to reflect on the new and upcoming global challenges and how to face them.

The Network was formed during the sustainable-energy conference-cum-meeting of NGOs at the 'Global Forum' in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) in 1992. The representatives of NGOs from different countries who gathered at the Global Forum felt that their isolated efforts in the promotion, implementation, and capacity-building in renewable/sustainable energy would only succeed if it were backed by concrete and convergent advocacy at the international level.

Some few of us who were there as the founding members held to visions that INFORSE would play a role in realizing the vast potentials for sustainable energy. This was reflected in the INFORSE Charter to which each 'Core Member' agreed. Six years later, in the meeting of regional coordinators held in Denmark in 1998, it was decided to concentrate more on improving the situation of over 1 billion people, particularly in Africa and Asia, who had no access to energy, sustainable or otherwise, to satisfy their needs. Therefore the INFORSE vision, goals, and overall objectives were revised and enlarged to focus on using sustainable energy to empower the poor and the marginalized, especially women. Thus, the new INFORSE charter was formulated and, after it was circulated in a consultation with all members, it replaced the old one.

With the onset of the new millennium and global problems related to unsustainable forms of energy, a few other NGO networks began to emerge. Thus, the role of INFORSE was duplicated somewhat in the arenas of international lobbying and advocacy. But INFORSE had one clear advantage: its regional and national memberships were based in grassroots.

In this situation, INFORSE decided to demonstrate proactively that it was indeed possible for sustainable energy to supply power to over 1 billion poor people currently without access to energy. In this connection, INFORSE South Asia members launched a project for capacity building of NGOs on sustainable energy for poverty reduction in 2004. This project has resulted in the participatory preparation of two important manuals - namely, a manual on renewable/sustainable energy technology for poverty reduction and a financial manual. The large interest attracted by the project and the manuals demonstrates the sustainable-energy technologies vast potential for poverty reduction.

By the start of the Millennium, INFORSE also focussed on sustainable energy visions, showing how to solve global energy and climate problems with timely introduction of sustainable energy solutions varying in scope from global and regional to national and local. This has led to sustainable energy visions for the world, for the European Union, and for a growing number of countries, showing what it takes to introduce sustainable energy solutions on a macro scale, decade by decade.

Thus INFORSE and the member organizations are responding to the new and emerging challenges by demonstrating practical solutions to introduce sustainable energy use in the affluent North, and just as much for the poor and the marginalized groups, like women, in the developing countries. With global climate problems growing bigger and poverty reduction advancing too slowly, we have big challenges ahead of us in our next 15 years.

Raymond Myles *Gunnar Boye Olesen*

Raymond Myles, and Gunnar Boye Olesen
INFORSE Coordinators



INFORSE: 15 Years Good Work for our World

INFORSE was formed in 1992 at the NGO Global Forum held in parallel to the UNCED in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and got 44 members in its first year. In 2007, 15 years later, 168 NGOs are members of INFORSE.

Vision and Aims

INFORSE and its members have a common vision of a world where the energy services are sustainable as well as conducive to just and human-centred development. The energy supply should be 100 % provided by sustainable renewable energy by 2050. It sounds ambitious? Yes, it is not only ambitious, but realistically attainable. Read about it on page 4.

Influencing Global Agenda:

INFORSE has a consultative status to UN ECOSOC, and as such also participates in UN events and their parallel NGO Forums.



Cooperative Projects

Members of the network collaborate on a range of projects. Members have been working together on joint publications, mobile exhibitions, study visits, campaigns, and educational materials.

Sustainable Energy News

INFORSE has published this quarterly newsletter since 1993. It is actually a continuation of "Soft Energy Europe" and "Soft Energy World", which were published in 1990-1991 and 1992, respectively. It



focusses on specific issues and provides updates on sustainable energy initiatives from our contacts around the globe. Themes have included gender, poverty, education, financing, desertification and social change.



Sustainable Energy Solutions for Poverty Reduction

Since the start of INFORSE, sustainable energy solutions for poverty reduction have been a major focus, addressing the needs of the more than 1.5 billion people that lack basic energy services. In 2004, INFORSE-South Asia began a cooperation to collect the best solutions in the region, to share experiences, to formulate manuals on sustainable energy solutions for poverty reduction in five languages, and to help increase use of these solutions.

Follow EU Policy



INFORSE-Europe follows EU energy and climate policies, commenting on relevant parts based on inputs from its members. Updates and INFORSE-Europe positions are available in the Sustainable Energy News and on the web site. Among the EU policies of interest are structural funds

as well as renewable-energy and energy-efficiency directives. A special database on structural-fund projects for renewable energy indicates the use (or not) of these funds for renewable energy in any selected EU country.

Since 2004, annual EU policy seminars has been organised to NGOs on EU Policy. In 2006, INFORSE-Europe became Associate Member of the EU Sustainable Energy Campaign.



Online Database

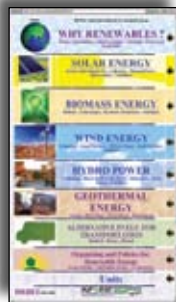
INFORSE's database has grown to include contact information for more than 1,000 NGOs, institutes of



research and education, and decision-makers whose work relates to sustainable energy. The database went online in 2001 and can produce lists of members and contacts sorted according to counties and regions. Visitors to the web site can also search according to the name of the organisation or country.

DIERET: Distance Internet Education

DIERET is a high-school level course on renewable energy, which students complete via email correspondence. The course is aimed at increasing the knowledge of people active in European NGOs. The study material is available on the web, but the questions are sent to the students enrolled. It has been conducted annually in English since 2001. It has been translated to Russian, Slovakian, and Albanian. The Russian course has been conducted since 2004, and was updated in 2007.



Energy & Climate in Schools:

- An online school resource database was developed in 2004-06 collecting games, experiments, teaching material, and successful programs from different countries. Each resource has a one-page description in English. The aim is to make a unique collection, as well as to bridge the language barriers across Europe. Making non-English materials known outside their respective original linguistic regions can lead to their use and translation in other countries.



- INFORSE started a cooperation on SPARE in 2006. SPARE is an educational program started in 1996-1999, when 50,000 school children from 10 Eastern European countries used it. In 2003, it was updated and it was launched in Russia, 10 former CIS countries, and Poland. In 2007, it is being introduced in Romania and Portugal.



Vision 2050

- 100 % Renewables

INFORSE assists its members in preparing national and regional visions as well as strategies for transitions to sustainable energy systems by the year 2050. See p. 4 for further details.



Sustainable Energy Vision 2050:

Vision2050 is INFORSE's campaign for a global transition to renewable energy by 2050.
Possible? Realistic? Historical Change in the Industry?

Sounds good ! Is it realistic? Yes it is ! How is it possible to achieve it ?

! - By 2050, the **fossil-fuel resources** will be seriously **depleted**, and consequently will become gradually more and more expensive, which will make the renewable-energy technologies more competitive.

! - By 2050, the **renewable-energy technologies** will be **cheaper and cheaper** as their mass production increases.

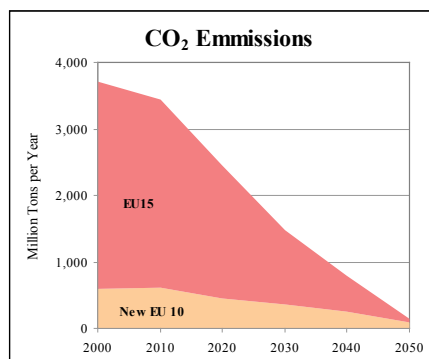
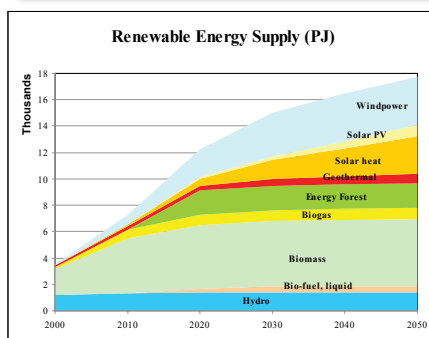
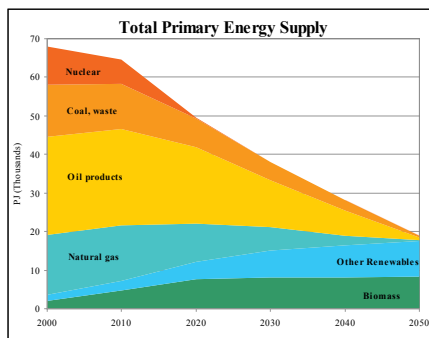
! - By 2050, the **amount of energy** to be supplied can be only **one fourth** of the present, in spite of growing population and increasing consumption in the poorer parts of the world. This can be realised if best available technology is used for energy efficiency.

! - By 2050, there will be **no new nuclear power** plants built, and the present reactors will be closed. This will be the result if states face the costs of handling of the nuclear waste, other costs to meet higher standards of radiation protection, and the liability of nuclear installations. Currently there is no insurance company that will pay in case of nuclear accidents.

Political Will and the Civil Society's Responsibility

We need to make politicians aware of the opportunities for sustainable-energy development. Moreover, we need them to give priority to this aim; they must come to realize that it is cheaper in the long term to invest in renewable-energy production and research than to hang on traditional fuels as supplies decline to the extent that scarcity starts to cause wars, which are even more expensive for a state. Unfortunately, politicians are short-sighted and influenced by large industrial lobbies, which fight to protect their huge incomes. NGOs, as representatives of civil society, have a big responsibility to push the politicians onto the sustainable-energy path.

Industry also has to face the need for change in the face of an emerging trend toward renewable energy technologies combined with energy efficiency. It would not be the first such change in industrial history; see, e.g., the abandonment of coal mines and coal plants in many places of the world.



Graphs of the Vision 2050 for EU-25.
The excel-based model of the INFORSE Vision 2050 is a tool to demonstrate that the shift is technologically and economically possible if there is sufficient political will.



More information:
<http://www.inforse.org/europe/Vision2050.htm>

Global Scenario

INFORSE started its work with visions in 2000 based on scientific studies on how to supply the world with 100% renewable energy by 2050, in particular the Global Renewable Energy Scenario by prof. Bent Sørensen of Roskilde University and others. It finds that with a world population of 9.4 billion in 2050, all basic energy and food needs can be met with renewable energy and with efficiency increased by a factor of 4 to 8.

INFORSE presented its global vision in 2001 at CSD9 and later at a number of other events.

Vision to the EU Countries

INFORSE-Europe members have worked on sustainable energy visions for several years, such as the Danish Organisation for Sustainable Energy's vision from 1998 for phase-out of fossil fuels by 2030. In 2002, INFORSE-Europe started the development of a sustainable energy vision for the 15 EU countries, showing decade-by-decade the transition to sustainable energy with 100% renewable energy use in 2050. In the work we used INFORSE studies such as the "Wind Power for Western Europe", and guidelines for estimation of renewable energy potentials in Europe. In 2003, INFORSE-Europe started to develop national sustainable energy visions, starting in Slovakia, Ukraine and Romania, followed by Belarus in 2004, Denmark in 2005, Lithuania in 2006, and Latvia in 2007. In parallel, the EU vision was expanded to include 25 countries in 2004 and is now expanded again to include Romania and Bulgaria.

The visions combine realistic growth of renewable energy, high priority for cost-effective efficiency, and sustainable transport. Their targets include:

- 25% renewable energy by 2020 in EU;
- 40% and over 95% respective shares of renewable energy in 2030 and in 2050;
- emphasis on wind-power and biomass in the first decades, and later in the period, predominant growth in solar technologies.

End-use efficiency would be expected to increase by a factor of four by 2050, except for houses, for which the increase is limited to 57%.

INFORSE-EUROPE History, Ups, Downs, and Ups

Start of Energy NGOs

During the late 70's and early 80's, special organisations for renewable energy and energy efficiency were formed in many European countries, but there was little international cooperation among them. In the early 80's, a Dutch group visited the Danish Organisation for Renewable Energy (OVE) and was inspired to form the Dutch Organisatie voor Duurzame Energies (ODE).

In 1987-88, the French Comité Liaison pour Energies Renouvelables (CLER) and others invited NGOs working on renewable energy to meeting in Belgium to discuss European cooperation including an association for renewable energy. After two meetings, it was clear that the citizen-based organisations such as CLER and OVE could not cooperate with the European renewable-energy industry federations. Later, CLER organised a meeting in Paris, where a European Federation for Renewable Energy (EFRE) was formed, based on citizens' organisations promoting renewable energy. Due to lack of funding, EFRE only lasted about two years.

In 1989, OVE and other Danish NGOs participated in a large east-west event in which Nordic people met with people from the Soviet Union, organising exhibitions and a conference in Kiev on alternatives to nuclear power. Based on this success, OVE and Folkecenter for Renewable Energy organised a European renewable-energy seminar in 1990 that brought together more than 30 NGO representatives from East and West. This was followed by the start-up by OVE of a newsletter, "Soft Energy Europe", and a contact list with about 600 contacts. In 1991, a seminar was held in Estonia; which started in the Soviet Union and was finalised in the independent Estonia, as the seminar took place the very week when Estonia became independent.

INFORSE-Europe Begins

After INFORSE was formed as a global network in 1992, INFORSE-Europe was formed as one of the regional networks of INFORSE at a European seminar organised in Spain by OVE and AEDENAT (now Ecologistas en Accion). Adam Gula and Gunnar Boye Olesen were elected as coordinators. In 1994, at a European seminar in Slovakia, INFORSE-Europe's bylaws were agreed and thereby it became an official organisation.

While European sustainable-energy seminars continued, the network started to comment on EU policies, often in co-operation with Climate Network Europe (now CAN-Europe). In 1995, INFORSE-Europe started a project with EU support to develop a guideline for assessment of renewable-energy potentials. In 1998, it began developing the Distance Internet Education on Renewable Energy Technologies (DIERET) in collaboration with INFORSE-South Asia.

In 2000, INFORSE-Europe launched a proposal with targets of 66,000 MW of windpower by 2010 and of 220,000 MW by 2020.

Reorganising the Network

After organising NGO activities at the 1998 Pan-European Environmental Ministers' meeting in Aarhus, Denmark, the network had no further European seminars until 2001. The next year, 2002, brought big changes for INFORSE. Suddenly, the Danish support for the global INFORSE network was cut and the host organisation of INFORSE, the Forum for Energy & Development, was closed. In this critical situation, the decision was to focus more on European activities, and with cofunding from the EU it was possible to continue European activities as well as some of the global INFORSE cooperation. This led to participation in the Johannesburg Summit 10 years after UNCED in Rio, and produced a European policy seminar, a sustainable energy vision for EU, and much more.

In 2003, the EU support was discontinued. Once again the network struggled with limited funds, but continued with a number of cooperation projects focussing on Romania, Slovakia, Belarus and other countries.

Since 2004, INFORSE-Europe has received EU support for its core activities each year, enabling it to run a large number of network activities, with focus on EU policies, sustainable energy visions, environmental education and others. In parallel to that, INFORSE-Europe carries out projects such as the "Azur Flame" biogas promotion project in Kazakhstan, (2004-2006) which put renewable energy, and biogas in particular, much higher on the agenda in Northern Kazakhstan.

We continue to assist in cooperation among members, starting new projects together, etc.



The participants of the INFORSE-Europe Seminar 2003 at CAT, Wales, UK.



The Seminars Program and proceedings can be found here: www.inforse.org/europe/seminar.htm

INFORSE-Europe organises Annual Seminars and EU Policy Seminars:

- 2007 October 1-5, Samsø Island, Denmark (with Samsø Energy Academy)
- 2007 March, Brussels, EU Policy (with EREF, EUFORES)
- 2006 September, Solta, Croatia (with Green Action)
- 2006 March, Brussels, EU Policy
- 2005 September, Romania (with Earth Friends)
- 2005 June, Brussels, EU Policy
- 2004 November, Budmerice, Slovakia (with FAE, AGREE-NET)
- 2004 November, Brussels, EU Policy
- 2004 August, Spain (with Escanda)
- 2003 Wales, UK (with CAT)
- 2002 Brussels, Belgium
- 2001 Denmark, (with Folkecenter, WISE and CNE)
- 1998 Aarhus, Denmark (with NGO events to the Environmental Ministers Conference)
- 1997 Budmerice, Slovakia (with FAE)
- 1996 Copenhagen, Denmark with the 'City as Organism' conference
- 1995 Budmerice, Slovakia (with FAE)
- 1994 Deister, Germany (with Energie- und Umweltszentrum)
- 1993 Folkecenter, Denmark
- 1992 Madrid, Spain (with AEDENAT, before AWEC Alternative World Energy Conference)
- 1991 Virtsu, Estonia (with Estonian Green Movement)
- 1990 Folkecenter, Denmark

INFORSE Coordination, Countries, Members

Just after the inaugural meeting of INFORSE, at the Global Forum of NGOs parallel to the UNCED conference in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, the founders of INFORSE met and appointed contact persons for each of the world's regions. Each of these contact persons went home, presented the network in his/her region, and conducted the election of regional coordinators at regional meetings of members.

These regions became the basis for the activities of INFORSE. The European region is registered as a legal body, while the other regions are informal networks. INFORSE has regional coordinators on all continents except Australia and North America.

Number of members per region:

Southern Asia: 28

Eastern & Pacific Asia: 12

Western Africa: 19

Eastern & Southern Africa: 10

Europe: 79

Latin America: 17

North America: 3



Countries with INFORSE members:

Albania	France	Macedonia	Serbia
Argentina	Gambia	Malaysia	Sierra Leone
Armenia	Georgia	Mali	Slovakia
Bangladesh	Germany	Malta	Slovenia
Belarus	Ghana	Mauritania	South Africa
Belgium	Great Britain	Moldova	South Korea
Belize	Greece	Namibia	Spain
Brazil	Guinea	Nepal	Sri Lanka
Bulgaria	Guinea-Bissau	Netherlands	Switzerland
Burkina Faso	Hungary	Nigeria	Thailand
Burundi	India	Norway	Turkey
Canada	Indonesia	Pakistan	Uganda
Chile	Japan	Philippines	Ukraine
Croatia	Kazakhstan	Poland	Uruguay
Czech Republic	Kyrgyzstan	Portugal	USA
Denmark	Kenya	Romania	Venezuela
Estonia	Latvia	Russia	Vietnam
Finland	Lithuania	Senegal	Zimbabwe

INFORSE is a global network of independent non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that encourage the growth of sustainable energy solutions to protect the environment and to reduce poverty. The members support the INFORSE Charter.

Over 168 organizations from 72 countries are members of INFORSE, participating in the network's regional and global activities. The network is organized by region, with coordinators located in Southern Asia, Eastern & Pacific Asia, Western Africa, Eastern & Southern Africa, Europe, and Latin America.

Contacts: Online Database

INFORSE maintains a database of more than 1,000 NGOs and public officials, including as well research and educational institutions that are actively working in renewable energy. These contacts include all INFORSE members and span 159 countries. The database is available through our website and can be searched by membership, country and name. www.inforse.org/regions.



Screen shots from the INFORSE online database and the subset of the INFORSE-Europe database

UN and Global Meetings with INFORSE participation

- UN Commission for Sustainable Development, CSD 5 (1997, review), CSD 9 (2001, energy), CSD 14 (2006, energy), and CSD 15(2007, energy), New York
- Beijing International Renewable Energy Conference, 2005
- International Conference for Renewable Energies, Bonn, 2004
- WSSD & Civil Society Forum, Johannesburg, 2002
- Climate Conferences (UNFCCC) 1995 and later
- 5th International Conference on Adult Education 1997
- UNESCO World Solar Summit 1996
- World Summit for Social Development 1995
- UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), Rio de Janeiro, 1992, and
- a regional conference series European Environmental Ministers' Meeting Sofia 1995, Århus 1998, Kiev 2003, Belgrade 2007



INFORSE Coordinators at a meeting in 1999, Folkecenter, Denmark .

INFORSE Web Publications

Sustainable Energy News available as pdf file at:

http://www.inforse.org/s_e_news.php3

<http://www.inforse.org/europe/news-fr.htm>



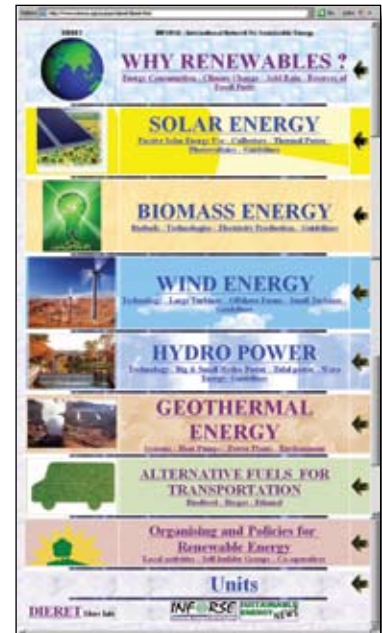
DIERET; Distance Internet Education, a material of 300 pages:
www.inforse.org/europe/dieret/

INFORSE-Regions have their own web site designed in the same style:

Europe: www.inforse.org/europe

Africa: www.inforse.org/africa

Asia: www.inforse.org/asia



INFORSE- Europe has 4 major collection of resources:

- School Resources
- EU Policy
- Restructuring Funds
- Success Stories

Among other resources are:

Description of INFORSE in Spanish, French, Hungarian etc.
 Description of cooperation projects,
 Online database (see page 6), and
 Seminar Proceedings (see page 5).



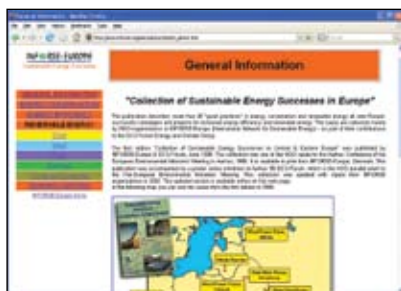
www.inforse.org/europe/schools.htm



www.inforse.org/europe/eupolicy.htm



www.inforse.org/europe/Structuralfunds



www.inforse.org/europe/success/SU_About.htm

