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RES H/C SPREAD NEWS

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www.res-hc-spread.eu

RES H/C SPREAD project summary

The project will develop six pilot regional plans for heating and cooling from renewable energy (RES H/C) in six European regions: Castilla y Leon (Spain), Emilia Romagna (Italy), Riga Region (Latvia), Rhodope (Bulgaria), Western Macedonia (Greece), and Salzburg Region (Austria).

Regional heating and cooling maps matching energy supply and demand, cost-benefit analysis of RES H/C options, and strategies and measures promoting sustainable RES H/C applications are among the planning elements.

Guidelines and tools will be elaborated to underpin the development of these plans and support other regions in their planning.

To improve the participatory governance of the planning and enable the collaboration of local, regional, and national stakeholders, in each Region a Country Governance Committee (CGC) is established. CGCs will support the plan development, adoption, and implementation.

The project is co-funded by Intelligent Energy - Europe programme of EU and runs from 03/2014 to 08/2016.

Additional information is available at the project website:
www.res-hc-spread.eu

Dear readers,

The first year of our project RES H/C SPREAD has passed. During this year we have laid the foundations of the regional plans for heating and cooling from renewables (RES H/C).

Best practices of policies and measures supporting RES H/C throughout Europe have been identified (available at the project website) and the existing energy plans (i.e. SEAPs) in the target regions have been collected and assessed to support the planning.

A draft planning methodology (guidelines) has been elaborated to frame a common approach for the plans development and monitoring. The methodology covers the data sources and collection procedures, tool (EnergyPLAN) for cost-benefit analyses of RES H/C options, and development of regional H/C demand and supply maps. It is likely that a GIS-based European Heating Atlas (currently under development within IEE project STRATEGO) will be used as a basis for the maps.

Country Governance Committees (CGC) have been established in all project countries to enhance the development, adoption, and implementation of the regional plans. The first meetings of these committees have already taken place in Austria, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, and Latvia, while the Spanish one is scheduled for 5th March. Below you can read more information about these meetings.

RES H/C SPREAD team

Austria

The first CGC meeting was held in Salzburg, Austria, on January 8th, 2015. The Region under study covers two regional associations ("Regionalverband Salzburg Stadt und Umgebungsgemeinden" – City of Salzburg and Surroundings as well as "Regionalverband Salzburger Seenland" – Salzburg Lake district) with 21 municipalities and approx. 240 000 inhabitants in total. Currently, a regional heat demand map is being developed and the data availability can be described as very good. The contribution of RES H/C SPREAD project covers mainly methodological expertise regarding RES-cooling as well as the implementation of profound cost-benefit analyses.

Bulgaria

The Bulgarian planning region Rhodope is a mountainous biomass-rich territory, covering 21 municipalities. The 1st CGC meeting took place in the town of Smolyan on January 30th, 2015. There were 24 participants from local, regional and national authorities, energy agencies and utilities.

The meeting concluded that the regional plan need to primarily address the improvement of the current inefficient and polluting biomass utilization in individual primitive stoves through introduction of efficient biomass heating (individual, local, district heating) options. Other issues important for the region include the assessment and mapping of the biomass and geothermal energy potentials and cost-benefit analyses of introduction of new biomass and geothermal energy systems.

Greece

The 1st CGC meeting in Western Macedonia Region - Greece was conducted on Tuesday, December 16th, 2014 in Kozani. In total 15 stakeholders participated, providing valuable insights on the discussed three objectives of the workshop.

According to the obtained outcomes the development of heating and cooling plans in the

EnergyPLAN

EnergyPLAN (the software tool selected for the cost-benefit analyses in RES H/C SPREAD project) analyses the energy, environmental, and economic impact of various energy strategies. The tool models a variety of options so that they can be compared with one another, rather than model one 'optimum' solution. The tool simulates the operation of energy systems on an hourly basis, including the electricity, heating, cooling, industry, and transport sectors.

The model is developed and maintained by Aalborg University, Denmark, and is used by many researchers, consultancies, and policymakers worldwide.

The tool is a freeware available at: www.energyplan.eu



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region of Western Macedonia is considered as rather challenging, while the local and regional authorities showed strong interest for this undertaking. Moreover, it was pinpointed that the RES potential is relatively high and it is essential to be combined with the existing district heating network.

Finally, the next steps include the discussion on the RES potential maps, the selection of the most efficient technologies for heating and cooling and the development of the regional RES H/C plan on a consensus basis.

Italy

The first Italian CGC workshop was organized in Bologna, on December 1st, 2014. More than 40 experts, energy planners at regional and local level, researchers, entrepreneurs, NGOs, and other actors discussed a common vision for the RES H/C future in Emilia Romagna region (over 4 million inhabitants, 3rd GDP per capita in Italy).



This participative planning approach will continue in the next workshops, in order to define a strategy to reach the envisaged objectives, in parallel with the preparation of a toolbox - a robust analysis of the energy supply and demand to support local authorities in carrying out a preliminary assessment of efficient CHP and DHC applications. The results of these activities will be used for the preparation of a RES H/C guideline, potentially integrating the ambitious Regional Energy Plan (2007-2020).

Latvia

The first CGC meeting was hosted by RPR (Riga Planning Region) in Riga, Latvia, on January 29th, 2015. The meeting brought together all main CGC stakeholders: development and planning specialists from municipalities, representatives from energy utilities, local energy agencies, Ministry of Economics and RES H/C project partners. The main objectives of the meeting were:

- to introduce project objectives and activities;
- to discuss stakeholder expectations;
- to clarify situation with data availability for mapping;
- to create willingness to participate in project activities.

The Ministry of Economy supports the development of regional RES H/C plan which could help municipalities to set the framework needed for the development of their own energy plans. Sooner or later the legislation would make such municipal plans obligatory. The planned project activities are supported at all levels - national, regional, and municipal. They have, however, high expectations towards the relevance and quality of the plan.