

RES & RUE Stimulation in Mountainous-Agricultural Communities, towards Sustainable Development

Project Description

The mountainous – agricultural communities can benefit from the use of Renewable Energy Sources based on their high potential, as well as the penetration of Rational Use of Energy, taking into consideration the increased heat and electricity consumption, as an inevitable outcome of the economical development. In the above context, the project aims at the RES and RUE stimulation of four mountainous – agricultural local communities of the European Union, namely Karditsa (Greece), Regional park of the mountains of Ardeche (France), Murtal (Austria), Rouge Municipality (Estonia), in a way that will ensure both the integrated and balanced evolution in the most common dimensions (economic – employment, environmental, social and technological) of the Sustainable Development. In addition, the knowledge and experience will be transferred into less developed communities of the enlarged EU with the same characteristics.

Our project “RES and RUE Stimulation in Mountainous – Agricultural Communities, towards Sustainable Development” is carried out under the Intelligent Energy for Europe (IEE) Programme. The project began in December 2007 and is expected to be completed by December 2009.

Project Objectives

In particular, the project’s objectives can be summarized as follows:

- Identification of specific RES and RUE needs and determination of opportunities.
- Preparation of viable and socially matured RES and RUE project opportunities.
- Formulation of the first European “sustainable energy network in mountainous - agricultural communities”.
- Enhancement of the involved actors’ communication bridges, through the development of permanent local communication networks, thus constituting prototype “sustainable mountainous - agricultural communities”.

Lessons Learnt

- On the managerial level, development of a monitoring system, as well as an internal communication system, are considered necessary for the smooth implementation of the project.
- There is slight reluctance from the project developers to share detailed information regarding the characteristics of already implemented projects. However, the local agricultural and mountainous communities seem to have strong potential for RES& RUE actions.
- Although general proposed policy measures, initiatives and guidelines can be helpful for the communities, customised guidelines and specific targeted measures, taking into consideration each community’s special characteristics and needs, can make the difference for the local administration and stakeholders in order to engage them in the effort towards sustainability



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Expected Results

Through an integrated consultation of all involved actors (policy makers, energy market and citizens), the expected results include the establishment of channels for the continual stimulation and adaptation of RES and RUE solutions. Furthermore, the needs and prospects of these communities will be analyzed, as well as project ideas in terms of new technologies and new uses of land will be identified.

Other results related to the targeted communities can be summarized as follows in each one of sustainable development's dimensions:

- **Economical-Employment:** Enhance region's development through the provision of new business opportunities (e.g. exploitation of the agricultural resources) to local market, thus enforcing the local income.
- **Environmental:** Promote energy to meet expanding energy demand under the umbrella of the Kyoto Protocol's requirements and supplied in a way to ensure the preservation of the local environment.
- **Social:** Improve the life quality through the delivery of modern social services and enhance the local population energy culture through diffusing the concept of the "energy citizenship" and raising awareness about RES and RUE.
- **Technological:** Promote the best practice solutions for RES and RUE, providing thus the local designers, manufacturers and industries with the appropriate know-how to be actively involved in the RES and RUE market.

Latest News

The 1st Stakeholders' Workshop will be organized in Bulgaria, on the 13th of May 2009. For more information regarding the event's realization, please visit the project site.

List of Partners

- National Technical University of Athens, Greece
- Rhônalénergie-Environnement, France
- Syndicate Mixte de Gestion du Parc naturel regional des Monts d' Ardeche, France
- Energieagentur Obersteiermark, Austria
- Rouge energy centre - Rouge municipality, Estonia
- Sofia Energy Agency, Bulgaria
- Energy Institute Hrvoje Pozar, Croatia
- European Renewable Energy Council, Belgium
- Energy Center of West Thessaly, Greece

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