

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.

Through active participation 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, the identification of viable and socially matured RES and RUE project opportunities and the development of integrated guidelines towards the sustainable development of mountainous - agricultural communities.

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.

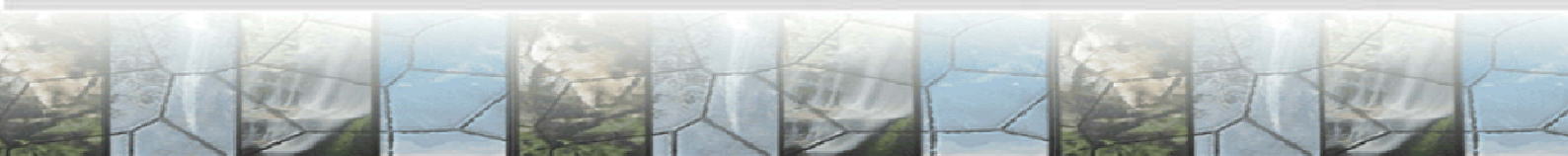
Project Objectives

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

- Identification of specific RES and RUE needs in these communities and determination of opportunities.
- Preparation of viable and socially matured RES and RUE project opportunities.
- Preparation of guidelines towards sustainable energy mountainous and agricultural communities.
- 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”.

Project Outputs so far

- Overview of the mountainous – agricultural communities in EU (Karditsa, Murtal, Regional Park of the mountains of Ardeche, Rouge Municipality).
- Brief description of the RES and RUE applications and technologies, technology suitability assessment for their implementation and identification of the technologies’ impact in the Sustainable Development’s dimensions.
- Identification of the needs and prospects for proceeding from a “technological potential” to a “market potential” through a detailed analysis of each community’s sector, with emphasis on the energy sector and the existing RES and RUE infrastructure.
- Synopsis of the benefits from the implementation of RES and RUE projects and the impacts of specific RES and RUE projects in the four mountainous – agricultural communities.
- Completion of the integrated document regarding the Guidelines for Communities’ Energy Sustainable Development.
- Identification of promising RES and RUE ideas in these mountainous – agricultural communities in EU.



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NEWS and EVENTS

1st Stakeholders' Workshop, May 13th, 2009, Bulgaria

Venue: 1, Germaneya Street, Tourist Information Center,

Area "The Geysir", Municipality of Sapareva Banya

The Mountain RES & RUE project organizes the 1st stakeholders' workshop, bringing together local stakeholders of Bulgarian mountainous communities and experts from other EU mountainous and agricultural communities. Basic aims of the workshop are the dissemination of project results and the exchange of knowledge and experiences via interaction and participatory processes. Consequently, the workshop organizers place special emphasis on the establishment of fruitful dialogue and acquiring the stakeholders' feedback on the following issues:

- Integrated guidelines towards sustainable energy communities.
- Identified project ideas that meet each community's special needs.
- Development and participation in the first European mountainous communities' network.

Within the workshop's framework, an overview of the activities carried out in Bulgarian mountainous and rural areas will be realized, and active feedback exchange among the participants will take place.

The event is open to all interested local stakeholders. For more information on the event, as well as the workshop's agenda, please visit the project site, or contact Mrs. Papadopoulou (alexpapa@epu.ntua.gr) or Mr. Georgiev (zgeorgiev@sofena.com).

List of Partners

- National Technical University of Athens, Greece
- Rhôneénergie-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

Contact Details

Project Coordinator: Prof. John Psarras, NTUA-EPU

Contact Person: Ms Alexandra Papadopoulou

E-mail: alexpapa@epu.ntua.gr

Tel: +30 210 7722083, Fax: +30 210 7723550

<http://sustainablemountains.epu.ntua.gr>



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