



## Project Fact Sheet

Updated: April 2007

### Sustainable Energy Actions for Europe's Cohesion (Energy 4 Cohesion)

<b>Programme area:</b>	Horizontal, financing mechanisms & incentives
<b>Status:</b>	ongoing
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<b>Partners:</b>	EREC – European Renewable Energy Council, Belgium Forseo GmbH, Germany ENVIROS, s.r.o., Czech Republic SEGI-AT Sp. z.o.o., Poland Geonardo Environmental Technologies Ltd, Hungary Archimedes Foundation, Estonia ECB, Energy Centre Bratislava, Slovak Republic LEI, Lithuanian Energy Institute, Lithuania EKODOMA, Latvia ETA-Energia, Trasporti, Agricoltura S.r.l., Italy AUA, Agricultural University of Athens, Greece
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.e4c.org">www.e4c.org</a>
<b>Objective:</b>	To improve knowledge on the using of EU Structural Funds for the promotion of renewable energy in less developed rural regions
<b>Benefits:</b>	Greater access to Structural Funds for renewable energy projects; better funding and cooperation schemes
<b>Keywords:</b>	European cohesion, renewable energy, Structural Funds
<b>Duration:</b>	01/2006 – 06/2008
<b>Budget:</b>	€ 1.196.407 (EU contribution: 50 %)
<b>Contract number:</b>	EIE/05/103/SI.420018



#### Short description

The project was set-up to lay the ground for an extended use of decentralised and sustainable energy actions of the European Cohesion Programmes after 2006. Starting from the favourable framework conditions the EU set for the Cohesion Policies the project will help to bring these priorities into the national and regional Cohesion and Structural Programmes. An alliance out of industry, SMEs, political pressure groups and development organisations will target decision makers in countries with underdeveloped rural regions.

The project will demonstrate best practice in eight target regions by the design of Master Plans that aim at the implementation of RE projects in selected regions. It will identify the best funding mechanisms and elaborate suitable cooperation schemes. The following target regions were selected:

Czech Republic:	Zlin Region	Latvia:	Limbazi Region
Slovak Republic:	Velky Krtis	Lithuania:	Kaunas Region
Poland:	Poviat Nowa Sol	Greece:	Prefecture of Evros
Estonia:	Saaremaa Island	Italy:	Alta Locride

## Expected and/or achieved results

- Eight comprehensive Master Plans for RE actions in selected regions of Southern and Eastern Europe.
- Guidelines for planning RES and RUE actions within the European Cohesion Policies.
- Strategy paper on innovative financing schemes for new RES and RUE projects.
- Guidelines for bundling RE actions making them bankable and feasible for Structural and Cohesion Funds.
- Seminars on the potential of Cohesion Programmes for funding small scale RES and RUE actions.

## Lessons learnt

- The *renewable energy* references within the National Development Programmes for the period 2007-2013 will be very heterogeneous in the individual Member States. It is politically desired that *renewables* will have a prominent place in the Cohesion Policies after 2006, but more action is needed. The success of strategies will strongly depend on the implementation at national and regional level.
- Some conditions have to be met for the development of *renewable energy* within Cohesion Policies:
  - Transparent and well managed Programme structure, since these technologies are often promoted from small and remote actors.
  - The financial threshold for Structural Funds applications has to be well adapted to the needs of *renewable energy*, this means that the investment sizes of a project should also be possible below 3 Mio Euro.
  - Additional funding sources must be provided for the project pre-feasibility and feasibility work.
  - Clear definitions for *renewable energy* actions are required.
  - Speed-up the transfer of funding (compared to the ongoing situation) in order to ease the financial engineering.
- Funding of technology producers is strongly welcomed, since in the long run the extended use of regional *renewable energy* resources is only possible with domestically produced technologies.