



# Energy 4 Cohesion

**Renewable Energy and  
Energy Efficiency projects  
within Structural Funds  
in the context of the Lisbon Agenda**

Supported by

Intelligent Energy  Europe

## Introduction

The main focus during the upcoming programming period 2007-2013 of the Structural Funds lies on the Lisbon Criteria. This reflects the ambition of the EC to use all available programmes and means to reach greater sustainability, more employment and increased economic growth, targets that are embedded in the Lisbon Agenda.

Renewable Energy Sources can contribute to greater sustainability, more employment and increased economic growth. Thus, they are fully in compliance with the Lisbon Agenda. Moreover, they help increase the competitiveness of communities and regions, and foster cohesion. Serious commitment to Lisbon and to renewables should lead to more Renewable Energy Sources projects in the regions of Europe with the help of Structural Funds.



## Table of Contents

Benefits of decentralized energy actions in rural areas	<b>P.3</b>
The Biomass Action Plan	<b>P.5</b>
RES and the Lisbon Agenda	<b>P.6/P.10</b>
Three best practice examples: <i>Oil from the soil</i>	<b>P.7</b>
<i>Green light for the Beskydy Mountains</i>	<b>P.8</b>
<i>Boiler room reconstruction in Šaľa, Slovakia</i>	<b>P.9</b>
Relevant information sources	<b>P.11</b>

**R**enewable sources of energy (RES) are fully in compliance with EU Energy, Cohesion, Rural Development and Environment policies and significantly contribute to the implementation of both EU Lisbon and Gothenburg agendas. They help reduce the dependence of energy imports, or do not create a dependence of energy imports, thereby ensuring a sustainable security of supply, the very essence of the EU's energy policy. Furthermore, Renewable Energy Sources can help improve the competitiveness of industries and have a positive impact on regional development and employment while at the same time helping the EU to meet its Kyoto commitments.

Europe is the global leader and frontrunner in Renewable Energy technologies with 300.000 jobs and an annual turnover of 15 billion €. In addition Europe also avoids external costs on a grand scale, such as negative environmental effects of fossil fuel use. Renewable Energy technology projects are often smaller than fossil fuel and nuclear projects and they can be brought on-line quicker. Finally, the deployment of renewables creates more employment compared to other energy technologies.

Combined with the improvement of energy efficiency and the Rational Use of Energy (RUE), Renewable Energy can replace fossil fuels in all senses (energy services):

**Heating and cooling:** solar domestic water heating, solar passive, biomass and solar space heating for buildings, geothermal heat and geothermal heat pumps are entering the market as mainstream technologies. Solar cooling for buildings and industry has been installed in a number of demonstration projects, such as the Renewable Energy House in Brussels, which opened its doors in March 2006.

**Electricity:** Electricity from wind power, small hydropower and biomass are a market reality. Geothermal electricity has existed for decades and supplies electricity to 30 million people worldwide. Photovoltaic is already cost-effective in certain markets, while tidal and wave power as well as concentrated solar power will need further research and development before their full commercial potential is reached.

**Transport fuels:** liquid bio-fuels, e.g. bioethanol and biodiesel produced from agricultural crops, will require better recognition of their low-carbon benefits and their rate of progress will be influenced by decisions taken in other areas of policy such as taxation policy and agricultural policy.

Furthermore, the EU together with its Member States is working intensively to improve energy efficiency in all end-use sectors whilst at the same time increasing the use of Renewable Energies (supply side). This decade will be crucial to solve environmental, self-sufficiency and cost problems and adequately provide for increasing needs for lighting, heating, cooling and motive power.

Actions in the rational use of energy include actions on the demand side, where users of energy play an important role. It also concerns the increase of comfort and the quality of life in addition to a reduction of energy intensity and energy consumption, fostering energy efficiency in buildings (both public and private buildings), encouraging energy efficiency in industry and in transport. The bottom line is to try and adapt the behaviour of the end-energy user so that energy is consumed in a much more efficient way.



## Benefits of decentralized energy actions in rural areas

Incentives for developing rural approaches to sustainable development are found in the ever-increasing world energy demand, in international agreements to reduce greenhouse gases (such as the Kyoto Protocol), in the growing concern about the environment, and in the well-developed RES technologies and RES technology markets in many European countries. Numerous examples of communities, so-called 'Energy Sustainable Communities' (ESC) are using these incentives to apply a sustainable approach.

The benefits for rural communities are numerous. The move towards decentralized energy provision, i.e. the sustainable use of local resources for electricity production, heating and cooling, as well as for the provision of transport fuels, not only fosters community involvement, it also raises the image of the local community at the regional level, increasing the region's profile and the potential for future support. In this way ESC can make a strong contribution to the UN's Agenda 21 sustainable development strategies, in particular local and regional development in favour of economic and social cohesion.

Renewable Energy Sources are indigenous sources. They mitigate climate change, generate employment and contribute to increased energy security and supply. Renewable Energy Sources are in line with an overall strategy of sustainable development. They can help reduce the dependence of energy imports, or do not create a dependence of energy imports, thereby ensuring a sustainable security of supply. Renewable Energy technologies are well suited to respond to the limitations of current energy patterns and contribute to the further modernization of the energy sector.

There are more benefits than the ones mentioned above. These can be categorized into environmental, economic and social benefits (Table 1). Positive effects can include an increase of tourism in the region, as a result of RES and RUE measures, which in turn generates new incomes and jobs. The agricultural sector equally benefits from increased needs of local biomass produce and measures to strengthen the local supply of biomass (e.g. through the increased promotion of short rotation forestry, pellets and wood chips production, etc.).

Environmental	
	RES and RUE measures involve “clean technologies”, i.e. technologies that generate heat, electricity or transport fuels without making use of fossil fuels, thus offering safe, reliable, clean, local and increasingly cost-effective alternatives for all our energy needs, and helping to reduce emissions of CO <sub>2</sub> and other pollutants. They also contribute to decreasing the negative impacts of climate change.
Economic	
Cost reduction	In the long-run the energy demand declines through energy efficiency measures and fuel costs decrease through RES utilisation, which in turn results in the reduction of the overall energy cost for the community. The supply of energy from own resources brings with it a strong planning security for small-scale industries and so significantly improves the competitiveness of the community or region.
Job creation	RES and RUE measures stimulate the development of local businesses and create additional (local) jobs, e.g. in manufacturing, construction, and operation and maintenance.
Added value at local level	Energy Sustainable Communities have the opportunity to be able to promote economic development and investment within their community. They keep the "economic strength" in the region, which would otherwise be used for example for fossil fuel imports and thus leave the community.
Social	
Social regeneration and improvement of living conditions	RES and RUE measures lead to an improvement of living conditions which can be felt quite imminently, in terms of cleaner air, less noise, etc. Pilot projects have shown that the promotion of an innovative and regional energy supply also creates a strong identification between and motivation for the residents and in this way can put a partial stop to migratory movements.

Table 1

### RES and their effect on employment in rural areas

The European Renewable Energy industry has already reached an annual turnover of more than 15 billion € and employs approximately 300.000 people, many of them in remote areas. Renewable Energy technologies create employment at much higher rates than many other energy technologies. They provide for economic opportunities for new industries and new industrial and craft jobs through production, installation and maintenance of Renewable Energy systems. Table 2 shows the employment prospects in the RES industry leading up to 2020, and includes both direct and indirect employment. The job losses in the conventional energy sector have already been subtracted.

### Employment

	2020 jobs Fte*
Wind	318.000
Photovoltaic	245.000
Biomass	528.000
Biofuels	614.000
Small Hydro	28.000
Geothermal	10.000
Solar Thermal	280.000
<b>TOTAL RES</b>	<b>2.023.000</b>

Table 2

\* Full time employment  
Source: EREC

It is important to note that many very attractive sites for Renewable Energy Sources are located in remote and rural areas. It is due to this reason that they create jobs in places where they are absolutely vital and necessary. Furthermore, those additional jobs do not only help individuals; they help entire communities.

Biomass energy (i.e. production of biogas and bio-fuels, wood chips, pellets etc. for electricity generation, heating and cooling, or as transport fuels) for example offers particular opportunities in areas where traditionally farming plays a major role. This opportunity for regional development must be seized, as it is a welcome diversification from established energy industries and a chance for further economic development and increased competitiveness.

Photovoltaic off-grid installations, the use of geothermal energy and solar thermal collectors can have similar positive effects, stimulating the local economy and creating jobs.

The jobs mentioned here are "Green Jobs", involving skills and processes that are going to be in ever-greater demand around the world as time progresses. Developments in the EU today will set an example for other areas of the world, which will revert to RES. This will help the EU to be in pole position in the future global market for sustainable development.

Renewable Energy technologies are important for local employment and income generation which results from manufacturing, project development, servicing and more specifically in the case of biomass, rural jobs and income diversification for farmers.

As a CO<sub>2</sub>-neutral source of energy, bioenergy technologies will be increasingly used to meet the Kyoto Protocol commitments.

## The Biomass Action Plan

The biomass sector is very complex – biomass can be used for the generation of electricity, heat and fuel for transport. In 2005 the Commission came up with a Biomass Action Plan for a coordinated approach to biomass policy. The Biomass Action Plan sets out measures to increase the development of biomass energy from wood, wastes and agricultural crops by creating market-based incentives for its use and removing barriers to the development of the market. The Biomass Action Plan is a coordinated programme for community action, including measures to improve demand for biomass; improve supply; overcome technical barriers; and develop research. In this way Europe can cut its dependence on fossil fuels, cut greenhouse gas emissions and stimulate economic activity in rural areas.

**Cost effective measures in favour of biomass need to be developed at European level to:**

- Draw maximum advantage from national & local innovation
- Provide a clear way forward for major industries organised on a European scale
- Share burdens fairly



## RES and the Lisbon Agenda

The Lisbon Summit (23 – 24 March 2000) confirmed the commitment to a new economic and social agenda. The Heads of State and Government agreed on a new strategic goal for the EU for the next decade:

*to become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion.*

At the same time, an overall strategy was agreed that should allow the EU to achieve this goal as a result of:

- Preparing the transition to the knowledge-based economy and society
- Promoting economic reforms for competitiveness and innovation
- Modernising the European Social Model by investing in people and combating social exclusion
- Sustaining a macro-economic policy mix for sustainable growth

This strategy requires that “the Union must mobilise all appropriate national and Community resources – including cohesion policy”. In addition, the Commission noted in 2005 in its communication COM(2005) 0299 that

*“greater ownership of the Lisbon objectives on the ground was necessary, involving regional and local actors and social partners. This is of particular importance in areas where proximity matters, such as in innovation and the knowledge economy, employment, human capital, entrepreneurship, support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) or access to risk capital financing. Moreover, national policies should also consistently address the same strategic objectives in order to mobilise the largest amount of resources and avoid conflicting actions on the ground.”*

RES and RUE measures are fully in line with the objectives of the Lisbon Agenda of the European Community, as they are outlined above. What follows are three best practice examples of the integration of Renewable Energy Sources within Structural Funds (programming period 2003-2006) which document the environmental, economic and social benefits of the extended use of Renewable Energies in rural areas, while at the same time contributing to the increase of the region’s competitiveness, through for example the long-term stable provision of electricity, of heat or of transport fuels at a competitive, stable price.

It is important to note here that RES and RUE measures in rural areas require public funding in most cases, which can come in the form of Structural Fund money, and/or state funding. The reason for this is that communities often find it hard to raise the initial funding needed to buy the equipment, to assess the energy needs of the community or the region and to get the project off the ground.



**In the following pages, three best practice examples will be presented.**

## **OIL FROM THE SOIL: THE SEEDS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY IN IRELAND**

Bio-fuel is pure plant oil that is used as a fuel. In 2002 a group of Irish farmers and a marine engineer who had been involved in the Renewable Energy industry for years, became very interested in the production of bio-fuels from rapeseed oil.

Liquid bio-fuels, suitable for fuelling diesel engines can be made from, for example, oilseed rape, sunflower oil, soy oil, etc. There are two ways to use bio-fuels in diesel engines in Ireland: the first is to produce bio-diesel from the raw materials to the required EU Standard and use it in diesel engines with up to a 5% blend. The second possible way is to press pure plant oil (from rape seed) under very specific conditions to produce a fuel that can be combusted in modified diesel engines in a 100% pure form.

The Wexford farmers decided on pressing pure plant oil from rapeseed, not only to supplement their incomes from farming, but also to make a contribution to rural development, the local energy supply, and the competitiveness of the county Wexford. Their inspiration sprang from a meeting of the local branch of the Irish Farmers Association focusing on alternative opportunities for farming, in parallel with a Renewable Energy training course. The idea to press pure plant oil from rapeseed was then explored through a pre-development project, undertaken in 2002 in Germany. This in turn led to the project described here.

With the help of the local company W.O.R.D. (Wexford Organisation for Rural Development Ltd.) the Irish farmers applied for a LEADER+ transnational cooperation project grant. LEADER+ is one of 4 initiatives financed by EU Structural Funds and is designed to help rural actors consider the long-term potential of their local region. Leader+ is the follow-up to the LEADER, and LEADER II programmes. A seed mill was bought, crop research was conducted, and 3 vehicles (diesel car engines) were modified for operation with bio-fuels under the project. In addition the grant was used to co-fund the further exchange of experience with a German group of plant oil producers at Plankstetten oil mill in Bavaria, Southern Germany. Processing and storage facilities were built soon thereafter, and eventually, the 3 project initiators set up a company for the production of bio-fuels. The first bio-fuel harvest in 2002 produced 60 tonnes of oilseed rape, which by 2004 had risen to 2.000 tonnes. For the 2005/2006 season, 11.000 tonnes of rapeseed production is foreseen. The project development can be described as having taken place in phases: predevelopment, first phase, and second project phase. The total cost of the project amounts to 2 Mio. €. The first project submitted to the EU had a budget of 75.424 €. The second one had a budget of around 40.000 €. The EU contribution within Leader+ typically amounts to 50% funding. To-date, the project absorbed 60.000 € (39.694 + 20.306 €). Current developments and future plans include the conversion of 100 cars to run on bio-fuel. Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI) supplied additional funding for engine modification, oil testing and monitoring equipment (through a new project submitted to the EU 150.000 €).

Biogreen Energy Products Ltd. was commissioned at the end of 2003, and it can process 10 tonnes of oilseed per day.

The company buys its oilseeds from local farmers. In this way, it is helping other landowners to get more benefit from their land. In addition, the farmers can buy animal feed, the by-product of the pressing, for an affordable price. Pressed oilseed rape produces vegetable oil and a residual cake in the approximate ratio of one tonne of oil to two tonnes of cake. The cake can be sold as an animal feed supplement replacing imported soy and the oil may be filtered and used in vehicles, which have been appropriately modified. It is estimated that every tonne of oil used will result in a reduction in emissions of 2,2 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.

### **Further direct benefits to the local community include:**

- Creation of a new industry which provides rural based jobs (3 full-time, plus vital income in addition to farming income for 4 members of Biogreen who would otherwise have had to take up other employment)
- Additional know-how and training for local mechanics for engine conversion (2)
- Production of an essential commodity – liquid bio-fuel
- Provision of a new non-food crop for the farming community
- 1.000 tonnes of carbon dioxide will be abated per year when the planned 100 cars are running on bio-fuels
- the cars have further advantages: no sulphur emissions, reduced emissions of smoke, particulates and hydrocarbons

The Irish bio-fuel project shows that a combination of EU structural funding (LEADER+), rural community involvement in sustainable development, and commitment of people with energy in local communities, help to create jobs and a better living environment, lead to better economic opportunities and higher incomes, and increase the competitiveness of the region.

### **Contact:**

*Wexford Organisation for Rural Development Ltd.  
(W.O.R.D.)*

*Johnston Castle, Wexford  
CO. WEXFORD  
Ireland*

*Tel: +353 5391 46453*

*Fax: +353 5391 46456*

*I: [www.wexfordleader.ie](http://www.wexfordleader.ie)*

*I: [www.rapoleum.com](http://www.rapoleum.com)*



## GREEN LIGHT FOR SOLAR THERMAL USE IN THE BESKYDY MOUNTAINS, CZECH REPUBLIC

The town of Valašské Meziříčí is located in the northern part of the Zlín region, Czech Republic. Thanks to a very pro-active municipality (Valašské Meziříčí), which was the most important driving force behind the project, a municipal outdoor swimming pool was fitted with solar thermal collectors for hot water production, as well as with 3 heat pumps for hot water and space heating. The project is ongoing.

With the support of the EU Interreg IIIA programme, 80 flat plate solar thermal collectors (total surface area covered: approximately 160 m<sup>2</sup>) and 3 heat pumps of the type air-water (the air-water heat pump is a type of heat pump that transfers heat in outdoor air to water for space or water heating) with a total thermal capacity of 140 kW were installed. The solar thermal collectors as well as the heat pumps primarily heat up the water of the outdoor swimming pool as well as the swimming pool's showers. Prior to the project, the pool was unheated. In addition, the heat pumps produce space heating for the technical background building during winter. This building (see picture) contains facilities for customers such as the dressing rooms, showers, toilets as well as an office and a machinery room.

### The project has numerous benefits for the community of Valašské Meziříčí and the operator of the swimming pool:

- improvement of the quality of services provided by the municipal swimming pool (the pool was not heated before; thanks to the new systems, the water temperature is 26°C and the swimming season could be extended)
- contribution to development of tourism in the region
- reduction of operating costs
- environment benefits (less fossil fuels, more Renewable Energy resources)
- independence of fuel imports
- increased income due to extended time of operation of the outdoor swimming pool
- estimated annual heat production is 155 MWh/year
- estimated reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is 76 t/year

The start of the project implementation was June 2005. All work will be finalised by November 2006. A test operation of the solar thermal collectors and the heat pumps was initiated in May 2006 and the first results of the project are under evaluation (August 2006).

The total cost of the project amounted to 6 million CZK (approximately 207.000 €). The support from the Structural Funds (ERDF) covered 75 % of the total costs; 25% were covered by the sources of the municipality of Valašské Meziříčí.

The project received support from the EU Interreg IIIA cross-border cooperation initiative between the Czech Republic and Slovakia. The Slovak partner of this cross-border project is the town of Čadca which has cooperated in the coordination of the project activities. The city of Čadca will contribute to the dissemination of the project results, the evaluation of the project as well as the promotion of the replication potential.

### Contact:

*Town of Valašské Meziříčí*  
*Mr. Bohdan Mikušek, I. Deputy Mayor*  
*Náměstí 7,*  
*CZ-757 01 Valašské Meziříčí*  
*T: +420 571 622 608*  
*E: mikusek@muvalmez.cz*



## WOOD CHIP AND STRAW BOILER INSTALLATION IN ŠAĽA, SLOVAKIA

The town of Šaľa, Slovakia, located 60 km outside Bratislava, is in the process of reconstructing two boiler rooms with the help of Structural Funds. Šaľa has 25.000 inhabitants. Two thirds of them live in housing estates that are supplied by heat and domestic hot water by municipal and private heat plants through a district heating (DH) system. The plans for reconstruction of the boiler rooms by the Slovak company Menerttherm were approved in the year 2005. Two biomass boilers are starting to operate in autumn 2006. A new biomass boiler in the boiler room of Pázmaňa is fired by wood chips. A second new biomass boiler, located in the boiler room of Kukučínova, is fired by straw. Straw and wood are local products. As both boilers are supplied by raw materials which are available in abundance in Southern Slovakia, the project contributes to the security of supply and helps reduce the dependence of fuel imports.

The modern wood and straw firing boilers each have an installed capacity of 1,5 MW. The switch to alternative fuels and the reconstruction of the boiler rooms has resulted in a reduction of the heat prices to 530 SK/GJ (14,09 €/GJ) in 2006, while the average heat price in 2006 in Slovakia was about 700 SK/GJ (18,61 €/GJ). This is one of the direct benefits for the town of Šaľa and for the final consumers.

As part of the project, two 2,3 MW gas firing boilers were decommissioned. However, one 1,86 MW gas firing boiler remains operational in the Pázmaňa boiler room, and two gas firing boilers – 0,89 MW and 2,6 MW - in the Kukučínova boiler room. The back-up DH capacity (about 15% of the heat supply) is therefore still covered by natural gas.

The project was financed with the help of Structural Funds (41% of total costs), under the Operational Programme Basic Infrastructure, Priority 2 – Environmental Infrastructure, Measure 2.2: Improvement and development of infrastructure for air protection. The managing and implementing authority is the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic. In the case of the wood chip boiler, 5.312.196,16 SK (141.232,98 €) were approved. Another 5.620.250,07 SK (149.423,07 €) were allocated for the conversion of the second boiler (straw).

### Other benefits for the citizens of Šaľa:

- CO<sub>2</sub> savings amounted to 2100 t/year in Kukučínova and 2100 t/year in Pázmaňa
- Annual CO<sub>2</sub> savings of 4200 t/year in total compared to natural gas firing
- Reduction of the dependence of fuel imports
- Creation of employment opportunities in the local wood chips supply chain, and in the collection, distribution and provision of straw for biomass boiler firing



### Contact:

*Energetické centrum Bratislava/  
Energy Centre Bratislava  
Ambrova 35*

*SK- 831 01 Bratislava*

*Tel: +421 2 593 000 91*

*Fax: +421 2 593 000 97*

*E: office@ecb.sk*

*E: menerttherm@menerttherm.sk*

*I: www.ecb.sk*

*I: www.menerttherm.sk*

## RES and the Lisbon Agenda continued...

Structural Funds are going to be available for Renewable Energy and energy efficiency project funding during the programming period 2007-2013. The Commission documents make this very clear:

- As a first step in launching the discussion on the priorities for the new generation of cohesion policy programmes, the Commission published on 6 July 2005 draft Community Strategic Guidelines entitled "Cohesion Policy in Support of Growth and Jobs: Community Strategic Guidelines, 2007-2013". The Guidelines set out a framework for new programmes, which will be supported by the European Regional Development Funds (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Cohesion Fund (CF). COM (2005) 299. These Community Strategic Guidelines are setting the context for frameworks at the level of the Member State to be negotiated in partnership (EC and national officials) and taking account of different national and regional needs and circumstances. The National Strategic Research Framework (NSRF) is intended to define clear priorities for Member States and regions, underpinning the synergies between cohesion policy and the Lisbon strategy and increasing the consistency with the Broad Economic Policy Guidelines and the European Employment Strategy.
- While the National Strategic Research Framework has a more general character, the Operational Programmes are more specific. The national priority areas for Structural Funds (e.g. transport, energy/renewables, etc.) identified in the NSRF become individual Operational Programmes most of the time.

**The main focus during the upcoming programming period 2007-2013 of the Structural Funds lies on the Lisbon Criteria (sustainability, employment and economic growth). In fact 60% of all fund money is earmarked for projects in the frame of the Lisbon Criteria. This should be seen as a unique chance, and an open door not only for rural development, but also for making a valid contribution to reaching the Lisbon goal, and thus help Europe become the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social cohesion.**

### Requirements for Structural Funding

In order for a project idea to qualify for funding, several steps need to be taken by the project developer in order to be able to submit a project proposal that stands a chance of funding. First of all, accordance of the project idea with the priorities of the national Operational Programme(s) of the country is crucial. Has the project little or no relevance to a specific OP (in some cases there is only one country OP, in others, there exist several OPs), the project will not qualify. Secondly, the project size is a matter of concern. Thresholds have been specified in all countries, which must be met. In addition, sufficient energy generation must be guaranteed,

the amount of investment specified, etc.

As a third parameter, the project developer must be aware that he/she is being evaluated on the availability of sufficient resources for project preparation, too.

Finally, access to equity funding becomes crucial at a later development stage, as well as the elaboration of publicity and political assistance.

The above information is not country specific. Every project developer must make sure that he/she understands the country-specific requirements, such as thresholds, Operational Programmes, and learn about the specificity of Calls - whether continued Calls or defined Calls within deadlines.

### Three political priorities are also given:

- The convergence of countries (Gross National Income < 90 % of the average) and regions (regional GDP < 75 % of the average) and the regions concerned by the statistical effect (~79 % of the budget)
- The regional competitiveness and employment: reinforce attractiveness and ensure that socio-economic changes are anticipated in other regions, without community zoning (~17% of the budget)
- The European territorial cooperation: Cross-border, transnational and inter-regional (~4 % of the budget)

### Which programme can be used for financing RES actions in the EU Member States?

Apart from national support programmes, research and development programmes, and the 'Intelligent Energy - Europe' Programme, which provides support to European consortia consisting of a minimum of three partners committed to promote RES, energy efficiency and the rational use of energy, there are Structural Funds, i.e. the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Cohesion Fund (CF), which can all be used for financing Renewable Energy actions in the EU





## Relevant information sources include:

**EC Regional Policy** – Inforegion website

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional\\_policy/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/index_en.htm)

**ERDF:** <http://europa.eu/scadplus/leg/en/lvb/l60015.htm>

**ESF:** [http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/esf2000/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/esf2000/index_en.html)

**Cohesion Fund**

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/funds/procf/cf\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funds/procf/cf_en.htm)

**New regulations for renewed Structural Funds and instruments 2007-2013**

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional\\_policy/sources/docoffic/official/regulation/intronewregl0713\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/official/regulation/intronewregl0713_en.htm)

**European map of eligible areas for Structural and Cohesion Funds**

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional\\_policy/atlas/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy/atlas/index_en.htm)

**Biomass Action Plan**

[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/biomass\\_action\\_plan/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/biomass_action_plan/index_en.htm)

**Communication of the EC from 05.07.2005 (COM(2005) 299)**

[http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2005/com2005\\_0299en01.pdf#search=%22com%202005%20299%22](http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/lex/LexUriServ/site/en/com/2005/com2005_0299en01.pdf#search=%22com%202005%20299%22)

**Lisbon Agenda**

<http://ec.europa.eu/growthandjobs/>

**The Community Strategic Guidelines on Cohesion 2007-2013**

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docoffic/2007/osc/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docoffic/2007/osc/index_en.htm)

**WWF study:** Structural Funds for Renewables. Analysis of possible uses for RES  
<http://assets.panda.org/downloads/structuralfundsforrenewables.pdf>

**European Community Initiative Leader +**

[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rur/leaderplus/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/rur/leaderplus/index_en.htm)

**European Community Initiative Interreg IIIB**

<http://www.nweurope.org/>

**Intelligent Energy – Europe Programme**

[http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/index_en.html)

**Sixth Framework Programme (FP6)**

<http://cordis.europa.eu/>

*The sole responsibility for the content of this publication lies with the authors. It does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Communities. The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.*



## The Energy 4 Cohesion Project

The project's objective is to prepare the ground for the extensive and efficient use of Structural Funds between 2007 and 2013 and beyond for the promotion of RES and RUE actions in the less developed regions of Europe. This means the project will identify the best funding mechanisms, and demonstrate best practice in 8 selected pilot regions in Europe.

### The partners:

- WIP - Renewable Energies (Coordinator of the project)
- EREC - European Renewable Energy Council
- forseo GmbH
- ENVIROS s.r.o.
- SEGI-AT
- GEONARDO Ltd.
- Archimedes Foundation
- ECB - Energy Centre Bratislava
- LEI - Lithuanian Energy Institute
- EKODOMA
- ETA – Renewable Energies
- AUA – Agricultural University of Athens

The project work started off with a survey of EC Cohesion Policies, which included an analysis of the decision-making structures in Central and Eastern European Countries. Pilot actions in 8 selected target regions are under preparation, as well as a comprehensive Pilot Action Plan per pilot region.



### The Pilot regions:

- Czech Republic:** Zlín Region
- Poland:** Poviát Nowa Sol
- Latvia:** Limbazi Region
- Greece:** Prefecture of Evros
- Slovak Republic:** Veľký Krtíš
- Estonia:** Saaremaa Region
- Lithuania:** Kaunas Region
- Italy:** Locride

Training and raising awareness also plays a major role in order to facilitate replication – a joint seminar platform will be elaborated and seminars for RES and RUE stakeholders on Cohesion policies with a particular focus on representatives from municipalities will be organized.

More information can be found on the project website at [www.e4c.org](http://www.e4c.org)