



Dear Subscribers,

REALISE-Forum has officially terminated on February 28, 2007. It has been an enticing task to coordinate it. We are pleased to present our last newsletter. The partners and the co-ordination have been working together and have managed to build a strong, complementary team. The efforts of the partners and co-ordination have been rewarded by a high level participation and discussion in the Final Conference. Politics and new orientations in RES policy at both national and EU level have been providing challenges and the challenges have been met.

The REALISE-Forum project has progressed with a coherent scientific approach and a rich and rewarding intellectual process has been set in place. Parallel to the continuing consultations with stakeholders, the executed tasks have involved analytical adjustments according to changed political and policy frameworks of the EU Commission and of the participating countries as well as new input from some running EU-projects.

REALISE-Forum has reached a high level of visibility and our web page has enjoyed the attention of both academia and practitioners.

We kindly invite you to visit our web page and download documents and reports!

Sincerely,

Lutz Mez (Project Co-ordinator)

PROJECT MAJOR RESULTS

- An independent and coherent analysis and an assessment of the interplay between RES-E measures and liberalisation of the electricity markets in selected new/old Member States of the EU, where the liberalisation of the electricity market has already been completed or almost accomplished;
- Lessons for policy from ongoing experiences from feed-in and quota/certificate schemes;
- The establishment of a regular dialogue and of a web platform (REALISE-Forum) in the shape of a forum (national desks activities and hearings/workshops) to promote a broad debate and exchange of experience and information between policy makers, energy practitioners, regulators, NGOs, consumers associations and major stakeholders involved in the initiation, implementation and promotion of renewable energy;
- Increased interaction between various market actors in the development and mapping of national/EU paths and establishment of a balanced dialogue (national surveys, workshops and hearings).
- Recommendations for a coordinated, open and transparent support system in line with liberalisation principles, cost-efficiency and sustainability criteria;
- A broad debate with national/international stakeholders, among other things about criteria to render future support schemes compatible with other policy objectives such as industrial and technology policy, environmental policy, competition policy, etc.

Reports and Downloads

- REALISE-Forum flyer
- Country reports (updated drafts)
- Comparative survey
- Guidelines for a coordinated approach
- Recommendations for policy
- Workshops and conference proceedings
- Articles/Reports
- Newsletter



General lessons learnt

- It is still too early for the harmonisation of RES-E support in the EU;
- Hasty reforms based on theoretical foundations are bound to fail. Liberalisation is not accomplished yet;
- In some countries the investment context for RES-E is still perceived as too risky or unstable, especially because of administrative and grid barriers;
- Feed in tariffs are the most widespread instrument to support RES-E within the EU. There has been a pattern of policy diffusion from pioneer countries like Germany to Spain (premium tariffs) and new member countries as Slovenia and the Czech Republic;
- The co-existence of systems provides an ideal ground for learning about the strength and weakness of different types of support and to step up coordination;
- In some cases the two main support schemes, namely Quota/TGC and FIT, could be complementary rather than competing (Italy);
- The optimum set-up of RES-E support instruments can vary widely from one country to another depending on its peculiar electricity market and economic and social conditions;
- The compatibility between the RES-E market niche and the internal electricity market can be facilitated by rules on disclosure GO, redemption trading, labelling and the like;
- Trading schemes for greenhouse gas emissions, green certificates and white certificates must be carefully designed to keep the different markets separate. Linking their associated environmental markets would risk undermining the objectives of the respective schemes

COMMENTS

Dr. HANS-JOACHIM ZIESING, Chairman of the REALISE-Forum Steering Group

Talking about renewable energies seems to have become fashionable these days. There are no statements by politicians in the EU and its member states and by stakeholders - even including energy companies or energy associations - which do not express their conviction that renewable energies should play an important - if not a decisive - role in the future energy mix. The path chosen might be different, though.

Accompanying the development of the REALISE-Forum Project over the last two years witnessed growing shares of renewable energies and had exciting discussions within the Steering Group and with the project team. Most important was the common understanding that renewables must play a greater role in the energy field. Obviously there

were differences regarding the impacts of liberalised markets and instruments for promoting this energy form.

It really was a pleasure to chair the Steering Group and to follow the work of the project team which has now finalised their report with a widespread bundle of recommendations. Hopefully these will not only be read by the different addressees but will also be implemented. Time is in favour of renewable energies – and we should size the opportunity. We should not waste too much time quarrelling about the question which of the supporting schemes might be the best. We should not try to harmonise the different supporting schemes at this early stage, but rather come to an enhanced coordination at the EU level.



ROBERTO VIGOTTI, Chairman of the IEA Renewable Working Party

IEA Long Term Energy Technology Perspectives: a Key Driver for innovative Policy to accelerate renewable Development

I participated with pleasure in the Steering Group of REALISE-Forum in my capacity of Chair of Renewable Group at the IEA, in order to provide an updated, credible and informative context to their work. In the recent years also at the IEA we have to acknowledge that the world is not on course for a sustainable energy future. If the future is in line with present trends, CO₂ emissions and oil demand will continue to grow rapidly over the next 25 years, even taking account of energy efficiency gains and technological progress that can be expected under existing policies. But this outlook can be changed: by employing a portfolio of technologies that already exist or are under development the world, like energy efficiency measures and renewables, the world could be brought onto a much more sustainable energy path. Europe is in a leadership role also in the deployment of renewables, which have made very significant progress over the last three decades: through R&D a number of sustainable technologies have advanced and are gaining a growing market share while contributing significantly to energy supply. R&D and market deployment complement each other and result in faster and more meaningful technology learning. In view of the impact of technology deployment policies in advancing the state of the art and expe-

ditioning commercialization, governments should stress new deployment policies that will facilitate renewables' market growth. R&D and policy strategies need to differentiate among technologies in order to address diverse problems of particular and unique technical challenges. I believe that the outcomes and recommendations of REALISE-Forum do respond to these criteria and will be effective in pointing out to the EU and its decision makers also at national level how the policies for renewable and efficiency if properly tailored can indeed meet the various aims of security of supply, environmental compatibility and economic competitiveness of our energy industry. It will require a transformation in the way power is generated, in the way homes, offices and factories are built and used, and in the technologies used for transport. In the end, it is the private sector that will have to deliver the changes required. But the market on its own will not always achieve the desired results. Governments have a major role to play in supporting innovative R&D and in creating and maintaining efficient policies to allow even new renewable technologies to surmount some daunting barriers. REALISE-Forum has worked hard toward this aim and it was my pleasure to contribute from outside to this aim.

ANDREJ KLEMENC, Coordinator of the Slovenian Desk

REALISE-Forum has not only provided an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss controversial issues in a balanced way, but also had policy relevance. In order to improve the cooperation among EU Member States using Feed-in schemes, the governments of Spain and Germany at the International Conference for Renewable Energies in Bonn in June 2004 initiated the so called Feed-In Cooperation. Thereafter, a

joint declaration between both governments was signed on October 2005. On January 29, 2007 also Slovenia signed the joint declaration. The Slovenian desk of REALISE-Forum has discussed and recommended this step especially in the second international REALISE-Forum Workshops held in Maribor in May 2006.



CONCLUSIONS

During its 26 months the project has:

- assessed supporting mechanisms and incentives for RES-E in countries that are in the phase of completing or have liberalised their electricity market. (See Country reports and Comparative survey – downloadable under Publications and Reports);
- identified barriers to a possibly converging support system;
- encouraged a broad debate in workshops, hearings and within the Steering Group about criteria for a coordinated, open and transparent support system in line with liberalisation principles, cost-efficiency and sustainability criteria. (See Comparative Survey and Recommendations for Policy);
- addressed/involved major stakeholders and decision makers in the development of a discussion platform and of Policy Recommendations.
- prepared recommendations for the EC, Members States and selected stakeholder groups.

Output-CD of the Final Conference

A CD with the proceedings of the Final Conference and project highlights is available. If you are interested to get it please register on the REALISE-Forum website!



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Responsible for content:

Ralf Goldmann
Phone: +49 30 2933300
info@berliner-e-agentur.de

Partners:



CESI RICERCA

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