



ReRina

NEWSLETTER

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The RERINA Project

The RERINA project, Integration of Renewable Energy Technologies in Rural Insular Areas, runs for a period of two years, January 2006 - December 2007. The project is supported by the programme "Intelligent Energy – Europe", of the European Commission - Directorate-General Energy and Transport.

www.rerina.net

Intelligent Energy  Europe

The RERINA EU CONFERENCE 10-11 October 2007, Brussels

The RERINA project held on 10-11 October 2007 a European Conference in Brussels that attracted **more than 100 participants from more than 17 countries** representing international organizations, local public authorities, the European Institutions (EU Commission, EU Parliament), energy offices, researchers, engineers and academics.

The Conference was organised by the Environmental Engineering Department - Technical University of Crete, and ISLENET. It focused on **the Integration of Renewable Energy Technologies for Sustainable Energy Planning in European islands and ecologically sensitive areas** and highlighted:

- the potential for the development of Sustainable Energy Communities in European islands and ecologically sensitive areas
- the requirements for the development and implementation of efficient Sustainable Energy Plans
- the socio-economic and environmental issues that policy makers should consider in order to encourage the successful development of

Sustainable Energy Communities

- best practices and the renewable energy technologies that fit the needs of this specific typology of communities



During the RERINA Conference the participants had the opportunity to discuss future perspectives of sustainable development of European Communities, to share ideas and experiences, to learn from successful initiatives at local and regional level and to work together in order to transfer knowledge with a view to promoting competitiveness and sustainable development.

Professor Nikolas Kalogerakis, Dean of the Environmental Engineering Department, Technical University of Crete opened the conference together with **Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, Member of the European Parliament and Vincent Berrutto, Head of Unit, Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI)**.

Mr. Kalogerakis referred to the Environmental Engineering Department's innovative research activities in the areas of environmental management, quality and remediation and its contribution towards finding sustainable solutions to environmental problems faced by Greece. The Department is celebrating in 2007 ten years since its creation. He also referred to the Department's educational role in training engineers capable of contributing to the monitoring, analysis and management of the problems that men inflict to the environment.



Professor Nikolaos Kalogerakis, Dean of the Environmental Engineering Department, Technical University of Crete, at the official opening of the RERINA EU Conference

Mr. Berrutto emphasized the need for the development of sustainable energy plans in EU islands. He also highlighted the responsibility that EU politicians bear in supporting sustainable development in island communities in the EU.



Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, Theocharis Tsoutsos and Vincent Berrutto, at the opening of the RERINA EU Conference

Mr. Chatzimarkakis is a member of the European Parliament's [Committee on Industry, Research and Energy](#), and has been awarded the prize of "EU MEP of the year" in the area of research and technology. He focused on the need to increase the use of Renewable Energy Sources (RES) in order to reduce CO₂ emissions. He also stressed the contribution of biofuels in protecting the environment. The European Union and the national governments should make the adoption of environmentally friendly energy sources as their utmost priority and should develop financial incentives (e.g. tax reduction measures) and adapt EU standards and directives that would promote green energy.

The conference heard the following presentations:

Session I: European Policy on Insular and Ecologically Sensitive Areas

Priit Enok, Sustainable Energy Communities Unit - **EACI** presented an overview of the Intelligent Energy Programme in the framework of the Competitiveness and Innovation Initiative 2007-2013, and focused on Sustainable Energy Communities, "Local communities in which politicians, market actors, citizens co-operate to demonstrate high degrees of sustainable energy supply and end-use", and gave examples of innovative projects and best practices on Sustainable Energy Communities.

Theocharis Tsoutsos, Assistant Professor at the Environmental Engineering Department, Technical University of Crete and project coordinator, presented the RERINA project that focuses on sustainable energy planning for insular and ecologically sensitive European areas. He highlighted that these areas face various challenges as the existing energy systems cannot cope easily with the ever increasing energy demand. As energy security and self-sufficiency are important priorities for these areas, local communities need to develop SEPs based on specific local needs. The elaboration and implementation of long-term SEPs that would promote RES use and introduce energy savings measures can help island regions achieve sustainable development. An integrated policy of energy production and savings can improve both the local economy and the quality of life of the residents while at the same time protecting the environment.



Christos Gogakis, Energy Attaché, Permanent Representation of Cyprus to the EU presented the Energy Policy of Cyprus.

Niki Frantzeskaki, Faculty of Technology, Policy & Management, TU Delft argued that a transition to sustainable energy systems requires 3 steps: first to Identify forces driving transitional change, second to design transition policies that stimulate and steer the transition process and finally to refine transition policies by taking into account the context particularities.

Virginia Bombelli, sustainable energy contact for

the Italian Ministry of the Environment presented the Sustainable Energy policy of the Ministry of the Environment - Italian Islands.



Jorgo Chatzimarkakis and Theocharis Tsoutsos with a team of engineers and postgraduate students from TU Delft.

Session II: The Sustainable Energy Planning for European Insular Areas. The RERINA Experience

Virginia Bombelli presented The Sustainable Energy Plan of the Commune di Cabras Area Marina Protetta Penisola del Sinis, Sardinia.

Andreas Lizides, Cyprus Institute for Energy, presented The Sustainable Energy Plan of Aphrodite Hills-Cyprus.

Petros Vlachakis, Mayor, Municipality of Armenous (Kalyves-Chania) in Crete, presented the Sustainable Energy Plan of the Municipality of Armenous.



P. Coroyannakis-ISLENET, Petros Vlachakis-Armenous Crete, Andreas Lizides-Cyprus, during the RERINA EU conference

Session III: Sustainable Energy Methodologies for European Islands

Dora Petroula, WWF Hellas, presented the SEP Guide, a technical guide for those who intend to develop and implement sustainable energy plans. This is one of the main deliverables of the RERINA project and it will be finalised and published at the end of the project towards the end of 2007.

Ms. Petroula explained that the guide will contain practical and easy to understand information and guidelines on how a community could establish a sustainable energy planning process and develop an integrated and operational sustainable energy plan.

It will highlight current energy planning tools in the European Union and elsewhere, and indicate the steps that should be taken when developing a SEP. It will also provide successful examples and best practices and will assist the user to select the most appropriate renewable energy technologies (RET) for their community needs, according to local socio-economic and environmental conditions.

Hans Jacob Mydske, NEPAS Norway presented the 3-NITY and the SEC-BENCH Projects.

Dr Michalis Karagiorgas, ASPAITE, Greece presented the Renewable energies and energy savings in hotels of insular areas: experience and conclusions from the EU "HOTRES" and "HOTEST" projects.

Ilias Efthymiopoulos, DIPE, Greece presented DAFNI: a Greek Network of Islands of the Aegean promoting sustainable energy communities.

Special presentation:

Ruy Spencer L. dos Santos, Electra SARL, Cape Verde on Wind powered desalination in Cape Verde.

Session IV: Sustainable Energy Policies for the EU Islands: The attitude of the Market Players and Stakeholders

The Conference concluded with a **panel discussion**. **Theocharis Tsoutsos** acted as the **Moderator**. The panel members were:

- **Panos Coroyannakis, Manager, ISLENET**
- **Ignazio Farris, Director Ecology, Province of Cagliari, Italy**
- **Sonja Starnberger, Advisor, Eurochambers**
- **Nicolas Lymberopoulos, Director, Projects and Programmes, UNIDO-ICHET**
- **Konstantinos Liarikos, WWF**

The discussion focused on issues regarding the effectiveness, the role and the barriers that public authorities face in the elaboration and implementation of SEPs, and the new policy directions that have to be taken in order to encourage the development of sustainable energy communities in EU islands.



Panos Coroyannakis (ISLENET), Konstantinos Liarikos (WWF), Nicolas Lymberopoulos (UNIDO-ICHET), Sonja Starnberger (Eurochambers), Ignazio Farris (Province of Cagliari, Italy), Virginia Bombelli (Cabras Sardinia)

At the end of this session, the panel offered the following conclusions:

- The energy supply deficit, oil dependence, the high costs of conventional electricity production and the increasing energy demand create energy related problems for islands and ecologically sensitive area that are frequently characterized by energy poverty particularly during the high tourism season. The islands' high RES potential is a great opportunity for their energy needs, energy self-sufficiency and environmental protection.
- The role of local and regional authorities in the elaboration and implementation of SEPs is of great importance, particularly in islands and ecologically sensitive areas. Local authorities have the power to support RES and sustainable development initiatives (e.g. clean vehicles). Their role may, however, be limited by national legislation.
- Any local community may be converted to a "Sustainable Energy Community". The mobilisation of local stakeholders and most importantly the mobilisation of the residents is an essential prerequisite for the successful implementation of a sustainable energy plan. Involvement from the initial inception phase to the acceptance of the plan will become the motivating force behind it.
- A realistic plan must be linked to specific local needs. It must take into account local resources and experiences and be capable of convincing the average citizen of the area. In addition, it has to reflect local reality in a way that the residents would be able to incorporate these new policies into their daily routine.
- A SEP must be based on several criteria (social, financial, environmental) and take into account all relevant technological

considerations. It should respect the demand requirements of the area – demand side- but also specify the funding requirements. Finally it should introduce measures and incentives that encourage RES utilization.

- Continuous citizen awareness and training can play a catalytic role not only in the public acceptance of the new policies but also in promoting citizen involvement in their implementation.

All presentations can be found on the RERINA website, under the project description, EU Conference October 2007.

<http://rerina.net/?secid=2&pid=26>

NEWS



29 January 2008, Brussels ISLENET will organise a workshop on **"Sustainable Energy Activities in European Islands Communities"** within the context of the **EUSEW 2008: EU Sustainable Energy Week and 7th ManagEnergy Annual Conference**.

The 7th ManagEnergy Annual Conference is once again planned to coincide with the EU Sustainable Energy Week from Monday 28 January to Friday 1 February, 2008. The plenary session of the ManagEnergy Annual Conference



will take place in Brussels on Wednesday 30 January, with education and local energy action workshops on Tuesday 29 January and Thursday 31 January.

The event will take place in Brussels, Belgium and will also be live on the Internet

More: www.managenergy.net and <http://www.eusew.eu/>

We invite you to visit the above sites and register in the event!

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