



Dear members, dear friends,

Please find below the first AER Energy newsletter. This newsletter will not be published in a regular basis, but on an ad hoc basis, depending on the developments and relevant information regarding the energy issue at EU level. We hope that this tool will be useful to you and wish you a good reading!

If you wish to publish any relevant information from your Region on energy, do not hesitate to contact us. Take advantage of our large data-base! We will integrate it in our Newsletter and inform our members accordingly.

Best regards,

The AER Committee C 'Regional policies' Secretariat

AER ENERGY NEWSLETTER JUNE 2006

INTELLIGENT ENERGY EUROPE PROGRAMME (IEE): LAST CALL FOR PROPOSALS NOW AVAILABLE!

The 2006 call for proposals – the last under the IIE programme – has now been published. Deadline for submitting the application is 31 October 2006. Approximately 50 million euros will be made available to co-finance up to 50% of the project costs. Organisations and regions from EU member States, but also from Romania, Bulgaria, Croatia, Iceland, Norway and Lichtenstein can apply.

The AER is looking forward to help you in the preparation of your project. The following services are at your disposal:

- **Our energy homepage**, where you can find all relevant link to the IIE programme, the text of the 2006 call and the 2006 IIE Work programme, which you should read carefully to find out which actions may be funded, the conditions to apply, the evaluation criteria and how to submit your proposal. Look under: <http://www.a-e-r.org/main-issues/environment-sustainable-energy.html>
- **Our partnership pool**, which can help you to find partners for your project or where you can find out more about projects submitted by other regions searching for partners. Look under: <http://www.a-e-r.org/databases/partnership-pool/partnership-pool-on-energy.html>
- **Our energy mailing list**: In addition to publishing your project proposal on our website, we will circulate it to all members registered in our energy mailing list, to increase your chance to quickly find partners. If you have not signed up for the energy mailing list yet, you can do so by sending us an email with the title 'energy mailing list' to: st.comc@a-e-r.org
- **Our list of energy experts**: the AER has identified experts who may help you to organise and define your project, and give you some advice for preparing a pre-proposal (1 or 2 page outline) which you should send to the IEAA project officers to obtain early feed-back on your ideas and plans ('pre-proposal check'). These experts may also provide you with some advice for filling in the relevant application forms (to be published soon in the 'call documents area' of the IIE website). The contact details of these experts are available upon request, at the AER Committee C Secretariat (st.comc@a-e-r.org).

You can also find attached to this Newsletter a short report on the IIE programme European Info Days held on 30 May in Brussels and in which the AER took part. You will find in this report some key elements about the IIE programme that can guide you in the preparation of your project. We also have at your disposal the list of participants in the National Info Days, with their contact details. Should you have interest in receiving a copy of it, contact us under: st.comc@a-e-r.org

Should you be interested in finding a partner for your project, the AER has received a Partner Search Document that contains declarations of interest to find partners for joint IEE projects. The document is divided in the respective projects under the IIE programme.

If you are interested in reading the propositions, contact us under: st.comc@a-e-r.org

We also encourage you to take part in the IIE national info days. Dates and locations of these meetings are available on the IIE programme website under:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/events/infodays_en.htm

We are looking forward to receiving your project proposals and promoting, with your help, the use of renewable energy sources and rationale energy management throughout Europe! For any questions on the IIE programme, please do not hesitate to contact us under: st.comc@a-e-r.org

FUTURE AER ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

As mentioned in our last information note, the AER has set up as one of its key activities the creation of a data-base of best practices on RES and energy efficiency.

The objective of our data-base is to show to all relevant stakeholders the active commitment of Regions in the energy issue, and also to have a unique platform where Regions could find partners for their energy projects.

To keep you informed on the progress we are making with the development of the data-base; we are currently running a pilot test with the Input Form among 4 regions: Norrbotten, Valencia, West-Sussex and Lower Saxony. These four regions have kindly agreed to provide us with the requested information in the Input form and on the basis of their data we will finalise the preparation of the online launch of the Input form and the data-base.

Our aim is to send out the Input Form on RES and energy efficiency to all AER Committee C member Regions in the second half of June 2006.

CONSULTATION ON THE GREEN PAPER ON ENERGY: SEND US YOUR VIEWS!

The Green Paper on a European Strategy for Sustainable, Competitive and Secure Energy was published on 8 March 2006. It is a consultation document designed to stimulate ideas on what should be done to deal with practical challenges and problems. On the basis of the response to this Green Paper, the Commission would like to develop more concrete ideas on a number of energy issues. The closing date for this consultation is **24 September 2006**.

You can find the online questionnaire on the Green Paper under:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/green-paper-energy/index_en.htm

The AER strongly encourages its member Regions to take part in this Consultation, and to inform Committee C Secretariat about their answers or reactions (st.comc@a-e-r.org). In addition to answering the questionnaire, the AER is indeed looking forward to drafting an official response to the Green Paper on Energy, to be handed in to Commissioner



Piebalgs. Regions sending their views on the Green Paper to the AER will be invited to take part in the meeting with the Commissioner, which could be organised in autumn 2006.

INVITATION TO THE "EUROPEAN PELLETS CONFERENCE 2007", 28 FEBRUARY 2007, WELS/AUSTRIA (IN THE FRAME OF THE NEXT WORLD SUSTAINABLE ENERGY DAYS)

Pellets markets in many European countries have seen a remarkable development over the last few years. Encouraging increases in demand lead to new challenges in supply when moving from market niches to mass markets.

Mark the conference date in your agenda if you are interested in in-depth information on pellet technologies, innovation and market trends as well as an opportunity to meet a majority of the European players in the pellets sector to discuss new co-operation projects!

Call for Papers: Take the opportunity to share your work and experience with the world-wide pellets community and submit your paper to the European Pellets Conference: deadline for submitting abstracts is **18 October 2006**. Send your papers to:

office@esv.or.at

More information on the Conference available under:

<http://www.wsed.at/wsed/index.php?id=1657&L=1>

*For any information or remark on this Newsletter, or if you want to publish an article, please contact the AER Committee C Secretariat:
Jojannecke Schut, Temporary Assistant, st.comc@a-e-r.org*



ANNEXE: SHORT REPORT ON THE AER PARTICIPATION IN THE IIE INFO DAYS, 30 MAY 2006, BRUSSELS

INTELLIGENT ENERGY EUROPE : CONVERTING POLICY TO ACTION

The 2006 call for proposals : A great opportunity for funding of your project !

The Assembly of European Regions took part in the Annual conference and European Info Day in Brussels, 30 May 2006. This event was organised by the Intelligent Energy Europe Agency (IEEA), under the inspiring theme 'Converting policy to action'.

The event brought together about 400 people and organisations from across Europe to learn more about the policy context, ongoing projects and results, the lessons learned and the future perspectives. But of course, the main topic was the 2006 call for proposals that has been published; all participants could take advantage of the experience of successful project leaders who presented their know-how and gave tips on how to avoid common pitfalls that they had encountered in the past.

The morning session was opened by Jorgen Henningsen, Principal Advisor of the Directorate-General for Energy and Transport, who discussed the challenges that lie ahead for future EU Energy policy. He stated that « after 50 years of EU climate policy, there is virtually no change in EU emissions, we can actually speak of an upward trend ». Mr Henningsen posed the rhetoric question « How will we be able to provide profitable Energy sources in a competitive market? » and answered « that some alternatives can only work if they are carried through further than at a national level ».

In the afternoon, participants had the opportunity to go into detail on applications related to Renewable Energy sources, during a workshop related to the ALTENER programme of IEE. A survey of ongoing projects was presented, so that people could get an idea of what is already existing and do not duplicate work. It was strongly advised that one should investigate the state of the art by checking out the existing projects supported under the IEE programme, before launching its own initiative.

Success stories were presented as well, which were very helpful and inspiring because they gave a realistic image of what it requires to set up and apply your project successfully. These people were once in the position where most of the participants find themselves today: Wanting to apply for funding for your project and/or search for partners. Please note that the AER list of energy experts can also be consulted if you need help to organise or define your project.

The partner search was an interesting part of the afternoon. All participants were provided with a Partner Search document when they arrived, but it is difficult to network and find a partner in a room of over 400 people. The chair of the workshop granted all people or organisations interested in finding a partner in an ALTENER project the opportunity to present themselves. This way, it became easier to approach one another after the workshop.

It was inspiring to see how many people had registered to be in the Partner Search document. For the AER, this is a positive signal that the AER database will serve as an interesting research tool for Regions looking for a partner, or Regions who would like to know what projects are already implemented in the field of Energy.

The AER will keep on working in this area by continuing its work in the field of sustainable energy. As is previously mentioned in this newsletter, various tools are at your disposal to involve your Region in the implementation of the AER Action Plan on energy, and play a key role for promoting environmentally-friendly, sustainable sources of energy.

The Intelligent Energy Europe Information day was inspiring for the AER and we encourage Regions and organisations to submit a proposal before the 31st October. The AER is happy to help you in preparing your project.

By Jojanneke Schut – Temporary assistant, AER Committee C 'Regional policies'

