

Call for Pilot Regions

Please allow me first briefly introduce the SUPPORT_ERS project.

The overall objectives of SUPPORT_ERS are to strengthen the capacities in RES (renewable energy sources) related administrations particularly in the new EU member states and the candidate countries in order to increase the impact of support schemes and to fulfil future expectations, especially for the heat market.

The outcome produced by the SUPPORT_ERS consortium will be a comprehensive overview of RES-H support instruments and policy recommendations for RES-H support in the partner countries.

The specific aims of the project can be summarized as follows:

- to reduce administrative barriers hindering the efficient implementation of support schemes for RES-E
- to involve the new Member States in the process of the development of support schemes for RES-H in the EU
- to increase awareness of regional actors for the benefits of RES-E and RES-H and to optimize the implementation of support schemes on regional level.

The project consortium is composed of 12 partners; the core encompasses ministries and national energy agencies with a direct link to the RES policy processes. As the aim of the project is to ensure the link to the regional level, we are pleased to contact you with our proposal and request.

Your region was selected as the one with high RES-H potential. Among the criteria was high biomass potential, presence of respective industry in your region, experience with RES, awareness of regional authorities, existing international cooperation etc. If you will agree and will become our partner region, we will conduct with your support a seminar which will put together local actors and regional stakeholders with the decision-makers. The seminar will be lead by the Slovak Innovation and Energy Agency (include respective partner). Beside the national and

local decision-makers, speakers from other areas (industry, project developers and financing institutions) will be invited as well.

The advantage of the seminar placed in your region will be the interconnection between people from different areas with the aim to identify and remove existing barriers in RES development and to learn from best practices examples from other countries.

As the EU has set the indicative target of 12% of renewable energy in total energy consumption by 2010, we have to take local actions to support this political decision. Most important is to raise the awareness of people about the RES advantages and to help them to use efficiently all existing financial support schemes. High RES utilization will lead to higher independence on raising energy prices and will produce more career opportunities in a sector with great future prospects. As a combination of these factors your region will be more competitive with the others, which will lead to the positive sustainable development.

If you are open to this idea and agree with the vision to become our partner region, please feel free to contact us:

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