RENREN Renewable Energy Regions Network

…for a cleaner, greener energy future.

Policy Recommendations

Recommendations to accelerate the implementation of RES across the Regions

European Union
European Regional Development Fund

RENREN Final Conference hosted by

EUROPEAN UNION
Committee of the Regions

INTERREG IVC
INNOVATION & ENVIRONMENT
REGIONS OF EUROPE SHARING SOLUTIONS

Table of contents

Foreword 1

I. Introduction 3

II. Policy Recommendations 6

1. Institutionalise renewable energy 6
2. Increase the success rate at the project development phase 11
3. Use RES as a motor for jobs, driving innovation 14
4. Incentivise the use of renewable energy in your region 17
5. Financing is available – create access 19

Annex – RES specific "Issues to be considered" 22

Summary of Policy Recommendations 23

Imprint

This document was adopted at the final RENREN Project Workshop held at Östersund (Sweden) on 14 September 2012. It was published in October 2012 on behalf of the RENREN project consortium by EREN, the Regional Energy Agency of Castilla y León (Spain), assisted by the Welsh Government and the Schleswig-Holstein Land Government.

For more information see: www.renren-project.eu

Foreword

In 2010, 14 regional partners from across Europe and Iceland launched the Renewable Energy Regions (RENREN) network. The group of regions represents a broad range of geographical and climatic conditions, various forms of legal status, differing land areas, and diverging stages of experience in using Renewable Energy Sources (RES). The common goal, however, is to increase the use of renewables in their regions.

A major objective of the RENREN project was to design a comprehensive set of policy recommendations to support regional governments in further developing their own RES oriented policies.

To this end, the partners collected own Good Practice case studies and explored whether they could be transferred to other regions. This was with done with reference to four major fields of political/administrative action, covering all major renewables technologies (from wind and hydro power to solar and photovoltaic, through to geothermal and biomass).

While POLICY has a normative, content related dimension and is about programmes of action and approaches, setting goals, objectives and targets; we understand POLITICS as the processes around formulating and developing political will and interests as a basis for the policy to be agreed upon. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS then are understood as proposals that can lead to target oriented policy and politics, and are as much about policy instruments as they are about procedures, processes, structures and prerequisites that help achieve targets.

Target group Regions. The main target group for the policy recommendations are regions and their administrations as well as the political decision makers at the regional level. Regions are understood to be sub-national entities, one level below the national level. The present set of policy recommendations is presented both with a shorter paragraph (target group politics) and a more elaborated section (target group administration). The policy recommendations are not solely directed to the regions of the RENREN project. Rather, they are open for consideration by all regions wishing to reflect upon their potential and capacities to foster the development and use of renewable energy sources.

Output based on experience. The recommendations build upon the experiences of the regions participating in the RENREN project consortium and are based on the issues discussed therein, reflecting both best practice and bottlenecks.

For both the less and the more experienced.

The recommendations aim at two groups

a) Policy recommendations relevant for all kind
of regions, regions with little or no experience in establishing and expanding the use of RES in their regions through regional action. These we refer to as »learning regions«).

b) Policy recommendations for regions with existing longer term experience and success in expanding the use of RES in their regions through regional action. These we refer to as »experienced regions«.

The text structure follows this distinction, but the present document does not, separate recommendations for group a) from group b).

Instead, it is noted whether or not each policy recommendation is aimed at learning or experienced regions (or even all). It is also indicated as well whether the recommendation is useful for a particular type of renewable energy source or has a wider application.

Whether a region considers itself learning or experienced can certainly differ depending on the RES in question and - in absence of widely

agreed indicators - is **based on a region's self-assessment.**

And, while the present policy recommendations are about changes and improvements targeted at the supply side, i.e. the generation and provision of energy, it is understood by the RENREN network partners that any policy supporting the EU goals of a decarbonised and sustainable society has to consider also the demand side. Both are needed to achieve cost - optimal results.

Looking more closely at energy efficiency and energy savings is not within the scope of this paper, however.

I. Introduction

Modern society is energy dependent. We are surrounded by machines that simplify our lives and are powered by electricity or fuel.

This dependence is increasing by almost 1% annually and has reached a level of 54% in 2009. It can be can be satisfied by nuclear, fossil or renewable sources. We are living in a competitive world, and satisfying this dependence must be cheap and manageable, provide European jobs and technology, and be as environmental friendly as possible.

We are confident that much more energy must be produced from renewable sources in the near future.

In the last two decades, renewable energy source (RES) technologies have experienced a promising process. Numerous technologies became as competitive, or in some cases more competitive, than conventional ones.

Technologies for the production of **electricity** have arguably moved on fastest. However, the degree of development that we have witnessed for **thermal** uses, or that of RES for **transport,** was largely unthinkable five or ten years ago.

Now the challenge is intensifying this development in a more complex economic context. Short term concepts and goals are not yet aligned with long term ones, with an energy sector with more renewables and which could promise benefits for

- Rural and regional development and economic growth
- Employment and social effects
- European technology and industrial capacity
- Stability in prices and supply
- The environment
- The national balance of payments

European Framework

The EU has committed itself to reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 80-95% below 1990 levels by 2050. The contribution of RES has become more explicit over time.

An increasingly comprehensive policy package, culminated in Europe's 20-20-20 strategy and (regarding RES) lead to the 2009 adoption of the Directive on the Promotion and Use of Energy from Renewable Sources with indicative but legally binding targets. Overall, Member States are requested to reach a share of RES in the gross energy consumption of 20 % and 10 % in transport by 2020.

Especially now, at a time of economic crisis, it becomes clear that what once started as sustainability policy is today at the core of economic policy.

In the **Energy Roadmap 2050,** the Commission explored the challenges posed by delivering the EU's decarbonisation objective; but as well considers ensuring **security of energy supply** and **competitiveness**. The roadmap is the basis for **developing a long-term European framework** together with all stakeholders. It builds on the idea of a single energy market, the creation of energy infrastructure fit for this market, and climate objectives as outlined in the 2050 low carbon economy roadmap.

The Commission Communication "**An energy policy for Europe"** of 2007 was an important milestone and a point of departure. It set the goal of "combating climate change, limiting the EU's external vulnerability to imported hydrocarbons, and promoting growth and jobs" and takes its cue from the Lisbon Treaty. The role of energy from renewable sources is already clearly implied in this goal.

The Commission Communication on **Renewable Energy** of June 2012 looks at renewable energy and its integration into the single market. It gives some guidance on the current framework until 2020 and outlines possible **policy options to further support RES beyond 2020**.

It is widely accepted that sustainable development action and responding to climate change requires input from many sectors and stakeholders. . However, within government, the responsibility for these items tends to lie mainly with environment ministries. Measures to reduce levels of emissions are for the most part, however energy-related and are under the responsibility of energy or economic ministries and administrations.

Therefore, the need of a stronger link between environment and energy policy seems advisable. The imperative to act and the need to design steps to respond to the threats have been discussed in depth and acknowledged at all levels. Projects such as RENREN take their cue from this.

Regions and RES - the example of RENREN network

What then is the role of regions and generally the subnational levels in delivering and contributing to the EU's success in beating the climate change clock?

Results are essentially delivered at a local level, where people live. The government tiers below national level need to be able to **translate policy into action**, to **communicate** with and **engage citizens** and companies in actions that will result in progress.

Around three quarters of the **EU legislation is implemented at local or regional level**.

It makes perfect sense for local and regional representatives to have a say in the development of new EU laws, one of the reasons why the Committee of the Regions was established in 1994.

RENREN is a representative group of regions from across Europe, north, south, east, west, "old" and "new" Member States, regions with long experience in working on RES and those with aspirations but less experiences and fewer competencies.

For a first glance at formal differences, the **Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS)** is used. NUTS is, according to the European Commission, a hierarchical system for dividing up the economic territory of the EU for the purpose of collecting, developing and harmonising EU regional statistics for socio-economic analyses of the regions. It is also a classification for eligibility in relation to the EU Structural funds. The main levels are

- NUTS 1 - major socio-economic regions
- NUTS 2 - the basic regions for the application of regional policies
- NUTS 3 - small regions for specific diagnoses

Further LAU are Local Administrative Units and NUTS 0 national structures.

While the majority of the RENREN regions are assigned NUTS 2 level, there are few regions which are classified as NUTS 1 level (Schleswig-Holstein and Wales) as well as NUTS 3 level (Jämtland, Timiş and Ústí). The most extremes are represented by Cyprus (NUTS 0) and The Westfjords (LAU). Although the NUTS classification can only give a very general idea of the partners' characteristics as regions, the existence of five different NUTS levels is yet an indicator of the **large variety and different levels of general, legal, fiscal and political competences**.

RENREN regions may vary in terms of legal competencies, geography and climatic conditions, but each has a similar goal as regards RES. Sharing their different experiences can be instructive and bring about better policy outcomes.

Regions can strengthen RES development **no matter their level of formal competencies.** They can directly or indirectly influence national level developments, but they can also strengthen their role by means of inter - and intra-regional cooperation and exchange, RENREN being the obvious example.

Direct interaction with the national level ranges from general cooperation between regional and national level in federal systems to regions submitting their views on draft legislation to thematic boards involving national and regional levels, through to

providing input on the themes of the Structural Funds' operational programmes.

More indirectly, regions can make their needs heard via regional stakeholders, liaising with national institutions, forming joint national/regional enterprises, and implementing smart procurement processes.

Regions need to address local needs and respond to and implement national and EU level legislation and targets. The challenge is to grow regional capacities and know-how, to integrate increasing demands into regional processes and leverage synergies for effective action.

Without committed contributions on a regional level across Europe, the ambitious EU target set for RES deployment risks failure.

The following policy recommendations provide ideas how to support faster RES deployment.

.

II. Policy Recommendations

1. Institutionalise Renewable Energy

The development of renewable energies (RES) in a region needs a framework within which it can grow. Without a vision and specific objectives, opportunities are lost. And RES need to be embedded in a region's overall policy and action, not being treated like a solitaire.

Institutionalising RES is therefore about a strategic, hence long term approach to achieving the desired results. ***Institutionalisation of RES in a region is about leadership****; knowing and managing resources and connecting it to economic development. It follows a continuous management cycle of action and reaction, of review and adjustment.*

First and foremost, however, it is about ***commitment****.*

A policy statement and a clear set of targets are effective signals, both towards the citizens that there is a political will, and towards investors and others willing to engage, inviting them to take initiative.

1.1 Commit to RES by setting goals and objectives

Applicable to all RES, relevant for all regions. Prerequisite for success.

Political commitment is the **decision of leaders to use their power** and influence **to ensure that RES receives the visibility, leadership, resources, and on-going political support** that is required to support effective action. It is the basis also to engage civil and community leaders at all levels of society to equally commit to realising the vision. Without political commitment, activities tend to be much more tentative and certainly less effective.

Administrations have, within their daily activities, room to drive the use of RES, but political commitment is a key driver for effective and well-coordinated regional support of RES. In a constitutive process, the political agreement to adopt a vision and strategy for the use of RES in the region is the first step. Ideally this will result in the approval of a strategy with clear goals and objectives, based on a sound analysis of the current situation, and including a strategy for achievement.

A first step can, however, also be the commitment to utilise RES in a region and to commission the development of a sound regional strategy. In this manner, all relevant stakeholders (political and others) can be involved at an early stage, essential aspect to ensuring a long term sound basis for action and success.

Jämtland (SE) Climate & Energy strategy 2020
A Consultation-group with some thirty representatives from municipalities, counties, businesses, trade associations and interest groups were involved in the preparation of Jämtland's strategy development before , in 2009, the Council of Regional Development adopted the plan and the County Administrative board approved it.

Further RENREN good practice includes **strategic energy planning** in Andalusia, Castilla y León and Navarra (Spain), Schleswig-Holstein (Germany) or Timiş County (Romania).

1.2 Provide a guiding framework: develop a regional energy and climate strategy

Applicable to all RES, implementation can be technology specific as well as technology neutral. Relevant for all regions.

Developing a regional energy and climate ***strategy, with RES at its centre,*** *is the* ***cornerstone of success****. Whenever possible, such a concept should encompass all potential energy uses, i.e. electricity, heating*

& cooling, transport & mobility. While the overall commitment towards RES is a necessary step to legitimise action, an overall regional energy and climate strategy (rural, economic, and industrial aspects included) serves as an action plan for the attainment of the goals. Such a strategy is also the ***basis for communication****. A* ***vision*** *should be part of the concept. Where there is no vision developed, there is nothing to communicate. Last but not least a goal can be set and achievement of the goal can be measured, thus making the decisions* ***accountable****.*

Regions have different climatic conditions as well as different economic, agricultural, or industrial settings. Therefore a concept needs to include a **baseline review**, a review of potentials and limitations, risks, challenges and opportunities. Based on this review the focus of actions can be identified. A baseline review will also look at the consumption as well as the generation side of energy and the contribution that RES can make.

Then **specific targets** can be developed, and the fundamental strategies for implementation, the **working principles**. The preparation of such strategy could include discussing questions on the extent to which urban and spatial planning and others such as consumer protection can contribute to increasing the share of RES and to saving energy in the medium and long term. It should consider how a cost-optimal policy choice can be found, balancing between support for better insulation of buildings so as to use less heating and cooling, and the systematic use of solar thermal energy as well as the waste heat of electricity generation in combined heat and power (CHP) plants.

A sound, realistic, coherent and well-founded regional RES strategy has the potential to achieve more than just the steady increase in RES production. It is the contribution to enhance a region's resilience. RES is one element in the overall goal to achieve a society following the path of resource efficiency and sufficiency.

Regions should **consider different options** and be aware of consequences of decisions, technology **oriented versus integrated approaches** to RES:

With a view to generating synergies and effective use of public funding, regional administrations aiming at ambitious RES targets should consider integrating or clearly defining the links between RES (energy) strategies and other regional (economic) development strategies and initiatives.

The longer regions have worked on the promotion of RES, the more likely it is that they have overcome a number of principle bottlenecks and are able to move towards a more integrated and admittedly more complex approach.

For regions which are starting their support of renewable energy it may be more useful to first focus on those initiatives that offer a sound prospect of contributing to a region's goals and the likelihood of success. It should be noted that separate approaches to specific sources of RES may be easier to manage. However, they are often less effective in their results. Solar thermal installations, for example, are best combined with biomass or geothermal devices, and biomass could support solar thermo electrical or wind power plants to get more electrical manageability.

Once organisational structures and communication channels are established, it these may provide natural steps towards other RES types. Regions have to strike a balance between the potential for the exploitation of RES and their energy needs.

Navarra and Andalucía (Spain) are working with General Energy Planning as the key instrument for a coherent and integrated approach and have achieved high levels of RES development.

Further RENREN Good Practice Examples: **Bioenergy Action Plan** (Castilla y León / Spain), **Grid Development Initiative** (Schleswig-Holstein / Germany), **Integrated Energy & Climate Plan** (Schleswig-Holstein / Germany), **Strategic Planning for the Emerging Marine Sector** (Wales / UK).

1.3 Establish regional RES management structures

Applicable to all RES, implementation cross cutting.

Management structures for RES should be incorporated, making use of the existing structures in regional administration, and not vice versa. It is essential to have ***responsibilities clearly assigned*** *for effective implementation of goals and objectives. Coordination and allocated responsibilities are important within the administration, between different administrative units as well as for external partners, stakeholders and citizens.*

Where to start: It is essential to clearly allocate responsibility. Coordinating efforts are needed both within an administration and as a point for contact to other actors, within different administrative units and external stakeholders. Establishing an effective coordination between the different actors involved does not automatically ask for separate or additional structures. Rather, an integrated management of RES should make use of existing structures and decision making processes.

Regional management structures for the implementation of plans and programmes should be identified and analysed, as well as monitoring and reporting structures within plans and programmes available. Possible gaps with regards to RES exploitation may then be identified and an appropriate organisational set up with clear **leadership** developed for those missing elements.

Regional **indicators to measure success** and data collection.

What you can measure, you can manage. To date information on quantitative figures for regional RES development are sometimes scarce and scattered. In countries that have investment subsidies, feed-in-tariff systems or quotas, some data is available. Yet the data for heat generation, biofuel production or stand-alone devices as well as the data on reduced energy demand on a regional level is a challenge. It is therefore important to move towards sound information gathering, preferably as part of an overall energy management system. Here the consenting process is one area to be looked at, as are other fields that can support gathering information.

Continuous data collection, indicators, monitoring and evaluation are essential to keep RES development in line with regional needs, and the basis for a (regular) review of RES strategies. Effective monitoring and reporting includes

- Clear and specific targets for RES
- A set of relevant indicators to measure performance
- A schedule and set of guidelines to refer to
- Periodic reviews of the progress achieved
- A link between the evaluation and planning cycles

For “newcomer” regions in RES, monitoring the installed capacity and energy production can be a good starting point later to be expanded to a more complex analysis. For example, the quantification of regional resources in skilled workers or companies involved in RES energy generation, the investment costs, the accessibility of good finance conditions, the market share of fossil fuels providers in the region, etc. illustrates developments in the RES sector as much as the evolution of the yearly increase of wind energy capacity does.

Exchange with peers. Why reinvent the wheel again? The exchange of experience between peers can hardly be underestimated. Other regions with similar geographic or economic settings, with similar experiences are helpful allies in achieving own goals. The involvement in networks and international projects like RENREN provide an excellent platform for mutual learning, transfer of knowledge and good practice and potentially joint conception of projects. Common activities of exchange provide good use of the time and funding invested by the regional partners, as well as the supporting institutions on European Union and national level. Cooperation is also among

the options for bordering regions to overcome capacity gaps, as staff could be shared to reach common goals.

Renewable Energy Regions Network (RENREN): 14 partners from across Europe are collaborating to this end, working on their contribution to helping achieve the EU 2020 targets, exchanging experiences, discussing and learning from and with one another.

1.4 Establish Regional RES Communication structures

Applicable to all RES. Implementation usually more technology specific.

*Information & communication are essential elements in **creating trust and support** for RES in the region. Developing and commissioning new RES facilities despite public resistance can be an unwanted drain of resources. Regions therefore need to be accessible and pro-active with information at every step of the processes.*

1.4.1 Central Platform of information

One suggestion is to **create a central point of reference channelling key information on RES**. In addition to establishing clear responsibilities within the administration, it is important to have an access point for external requests.

This can be for example a central website explaining the region's goals and objectives, providing an overview of RES in the region, of technology, as well as of processes and support for investments in RES. The key points are to inform, as well as to invite exchange and engagement. The platform should be home to guides and guidance on RES in the region. Guides can be on state-of-the art technology, guidance on the steps (and the responsible administrative units) for installation of a biogas plant, a small scale PV plant, a wind farm, or other.

1.4.2 RES Branding

"Bio Energy Region", "Fossil-Free Region", "100% RES Region" are only a few examples of the kind of branding regions are developing, depending on a region's vision. Often, these actions are incentivised by awards and respective competitions between regions.

Jämtland (Sweden) is promoting its vision of being »fossil-fuel free region« by 2030

1.4.3 Stakeholders are your potential allies or downfall

Stakeholder dialogue (with project developers, grid owners, etc.) helps RES developers to know early about possible arguments and to integrate this feedback into the planning process before applying for any permits. Initialising a **mandatory stakeholder process for large projects such as wind, biogas plants, etc**. could be one action in a region that helps speed up the project implementation, since optimised planning can take place at an early stage.

Regional interest group: Even if a region decides to go with a separate RES strategy at the beginning, it should include milestones for **reflection and exchange** between different existing strategies within the region (climate, economy, education, etc.), for example via discussions in a regional interest group. Essentially, RES are about economic development and needs to be cross-referenced with economic development (plans & activities).

Increasing Public support: **Engage citizens** in regional citizen platforms. Public acceptance, or lack of it, is a recurring theme. Acceptance can grow with well-informed citizens, companies as well as administrative staff. **Opportunities to** take part and **directly** participate in the **benefits** of renewable energies can also contribute to increased acceptance. However, the process is demanding. It will require communication

skills on side of the administration, and usually involve external support for moderation.

Increasing passive support with information campaigns, transparency; presentations of benefits – not only general but specifically what the region, including citizens and businesses, can expect to gain – and showing what the benefits for the region have been thus far. This could be technology specific or RES specific (e.g. grid or biomass) in order to increase acceptance and to build a positive image for RES usage in the region.

Especially in regions which have identified a gap between existing and realised potential of a specific renewable source, a targeted, rather than general campaign can bring progress.

Further support is built by **engaging stakeholders through participatory processes** in the planning process, in those priorities which are relevant for the region, but also via possibilities to reap the benefits of renewable energy directly, as a shareholder, through a new job, or other.

All processes with public involvement need to be built on:

- **Persistent and consistent information**
- **Reliable information**
- **Target oriented information**

Schleswig-Holstein (Germany)*:* In a combined effort, the regional government, system operators and affected districts started the „Grid Development Initiative" – an information campaign and coordination structure to accelerate permit procedures by increasing public acceptance of renewal and basic enlargement of grid capacity.

Andalusia (Spain) targeted public acceptance through undertaking a **study on the socio-economic** impacts and **benefits of RES**, such as the creation of RES-related jobs. The study shows how RES jobs created by investment on RES facilities and fostered by public support on RES are a kind of social investment for a profitable and economically sustainable business.

2. Increase the success rate at the project development phase

Applicable to all RES. Implementation is predominantly technology specific with some potential for cross- cutting improvements regarding the size of installations.

Efficient and predictable permitting procedures are crucial. They are in the end the turning point for changes in the supply system. Currently many of the energy technologies are disputed, their deployment delayed, posing problems and risks for investors. In general terms (perhaps more than in other aspects of the RES development), political commitment and will to shape may be the real driving factor for optimising administrative procedures.

A RES initiative can affect four levels (European, national, regional, and municipal) and depending on the project, involve some twenty kinds of authorities from heritage conservation to traffic, mining or public health. Obviously, having effective and efficient procedures is essential as is well informed staff, able to use available tools. Spatial planning offers itself to be used as a strategic tool to help structure and guide the process for RES development in a region.

2.1 Use spatial planning as a strategic tool for RES development

Most relevant for wind, marine, large scale solar green field developments, large scale biomass, transmission & distribution grid development (electricity, heat, and [bio-] gas), network of fuel for transport.

The expansion of RES is linked to demands for space, which poses new challenges. **Planning at the regional level** plays a key role. Practical approaches are needed to better integrate the expansion of renewable energy sources with spatial planning (land or offshore planning – further *on only »spatial planning«*).

Spatial planning is about safeguarding a sustainable development of the spatial structures and their core elements "**settlement**", "**transport routes**", and "**open space**". Spatial planning is also about protecting natural resources and the **identification of preferred areas** for the use of these resources. Its role with respect to RES cannot be to slow down or speed up political decisions for the expansion of RES. The **role of spatial planning** is much more a role of **balancing (competing) interests**, to visualize options and alternatives for expanding RES usage in a spatial context.

Zoning: the growth of space-intensive RES, such as wind energy, requires the allocation of space at the regional level.

The identification of potential and specifically suitable areas, e.g. for wind development, therefore represents a core field of action for spatial planning.

The relevance of zoning can also be visualized with the following examples, when looking at creating the base for spatial and technological "cooperation": Biogas production sites and the (natural) gas network, where biogas can be fed into the gas network, thus increasing the efficient use of the technology. It is also supporting security of supply, because in this case biogas is used as a buffer for energy, since it is available for use in CHP plants connected to the gas network in question. Or the connection between transport routes and biofuel production sites and their supply stations where proximity and accessibility are important.

For the **integration of RES into spatial planning**, the regional energy and climate concepts should be considered key tools. The evaluation of potential, locations, needs and the development of the focus field of action are core content, that is relevant for spatial planning especially where space consuming RES are concerned. Energy infrastructure in general and electric grid development

specifically, are important issues to consider: how to upgrade existing grids towards higher levels of decentralized energy generation; be it biomass generated heating energy in a District Heating network, or fluctuations in electricity generation by wind or photovoltaic.

In this context, the need for improved data basis becomes again evident as a supporting tool for appropriate planning, and monitoring.

Based on its usually mandatory public participation procedures, spatial planning is also a tool to inform, and engage civil society, thus a tool for increasing acceptance for RES development.

Schleswig-Holstein (Germany) and **Castilla y León** (Spain) aid developers' planning through **zoning** by identifying strategic areas for development of on-shore wind, documented in the region's spatial plan.

Wales (UK) has developed the Marine Renewable Energy Strategic Framework, a spatial planning tool for the identification of preferred areas for marine energy development.

2.2 Provide information and guidance for developers

Applicable to all RES, relevant to all regions, (Reference also to RES management structures, communication, and incentives)

Provide guidelines and tools to enhance the quality and know-how for business and RES developers to how to best apply RES in their environment.

RES resources guides such as solar maps (or solar atlas), biomass potentials, geothermal options etc., which are produced by several organisations also for regional levels can help investors with information on whether or not their property is suitable or within a preferential planning zone for RES developments. Furthermore, legal documents or templates for the permitting process will spur both the application process for applicant as well as administration unit.

Principle **participation guidelines for large scale installations**, i.e. how to involve the public (and permitting authorities) at an early stage in the planning process, increase success.

Public resistance and mistrust in the potential of RES can arise from a lack of knowledge about the prerequisites and necessary conditions for such installations; hence such a tool also supports the acceptance by increasing awareness and information.

Wales (UK). The Welsh Government has published a Technical Advice Note (TAN 8) supporting local governments in how to organize or what to consider when involving stakeholders.

Schleswig-Holstein (Germany) investigated the potential of biomass use by 2020.

In **Andalusia** (Spain) a study on recovering small hydro power plants has been published to promote investments in currently abandoned hydro power plants.

2.3 Reduce complexity of the permitting process

Applicable to all RES, relevant to all regions

The procedures for gaining permits for renewable energy generation plants are in most cases complex and lengthy. An essential element to make this process easier to handle, is the coordination of responsibilities, and process simplification where possible.

Key findings about elements that together cause the permitting process to be complex, are unclear timelines and rules, a high number of contact points for the applicant, as well as - foremost in the case of wind energy - a lengthy EIA process.

In response to creating a process that on the one hand does the technology and its impact justice and on the other fulfils its role of providing a clear guidance and support system for guided development, it is necessary to provide clear procedural steps

and to reduce complexity in the permitting process

Simplification options will vary with the size and type of installation. Small scale installations can easier be integrated into building regulations, resulting in a one-stop-shop via the usually locally issued authority building permit. An example might be to introduce a simple registration process for building integrated PV instead of the need for a building permit. Here the regions can provide guidelines and information on standards to be realised.

For larger impact RES such as wind farms, but also larger scale biogas plants, a different approach may be needed. Reducing contact points for investors (one-stop shops) for larger installations should be discussed. Such initiatives can e.g. involve the decision to provide access to land together with the building permit. Permits can thus be granted faster.

Capacity building on the side of administrative staff is yet another issue to be tackled. Here the networking with peers as well as specific training (peer-to-peer) can be envisaged.

Cyprus simplified its **procedure for small-scale photovoltai**c installations. Systems up to 100 kW do not need specific permits if the instructions and certain guidelines of the Town &Housing department issued, are followed.

Wales (UK) has **simplified** consent for **small hydro power** plants.

2.4 Increase transparency of the permitting process

Applicable to all RES, relevant for all regions

Clarity of procedures not only **reduces complexity.** It also contributes to **increased transparency**, because every step of the process is defined and can be followed. This in turn increases the accountability of the administration.

For a process to be defined and transparent, it needs to have:

Clear deadlines. The response time, deadlines for both applicant and the evaluating administration need to be set, and communicated.

Clear communication. If the status of the evaluation and permitting process is being published, it will further increase the transparency.

Data tracking. The permitting process is a valuable and key source of data. Without much additional work, the data on RES type, plant size (installed capacity), location can be fed into a central register and thus constitute the basis for evaluation of RES deployment.

Transparency for support. RES are space consuming technologies, some more, others less. However, all of them are visible and have an impact on the perception of people in the vicinity. If a RES technology is considered to be intrusive, it will trigger protest and may delay or even prevent its installation. Therefore mandatory stakeholder participation for larger project developments such as wind, biomass, green-field solar, and concentrated solar thermal electrical plants may be advisable.

3. Use RES as a motor for jobs & driving innovation

The use of RES is not only about a different way of supplying electricity, heat, or fuel. Besides supplying energy to run an existing (regional) economy, RES itself is at the centre of business developments and innovation, providing jobs in many fields. RES have therefore a potential to advance a region's economy, to increase regional added value.

The **possible value added covers all parts of the life cycle and of the value chain for renewable energies**. This means that the more successful a region is, the more elements of that value chain and therefore value added created remains within the region's boundaries.

The value chain covers all phases from

- Research & development
- Production
- Planning & planning related services
- Installation
- Technical operation & maintenance
- Commercial operation including running costs: electricity, land use charges, insurance

Particularly, the production of RES technology may shift from one region to another – as could be observed in the PV panel production capacity where European producers were leading the market until recently. Now Asian producers dominate.

Services in operation and maintenance, as well as the supply of raw materials however, are very much bound to local providers, and thus a source for local jobs. Research & Development (R&D) continues to be a crucial element in overall RES policy. It not only provides a perspectives for long term jobs, given that a number of technological challenges have to be overcome, technologies still need to be brought to maturity (e.g. ocean energy). R&D contributes to a region's overall competitiveness, because know-how and innovation developed in the region reach to markets beyond.

3.1 Qualifications & Skills - key to keeping and attracting jobs in a region

Applicable to all RES, implementation technology specific.

Raising the professional standards *of those who are engaged in renewable energy is creating and* ***extending*** *the* ***regional knowledge base****. It is one step towards creating jobs and added value from RES and keeping it in the region.*

3.1.1 Integrate RES in educational curricula

RES can and should be part of the educational curricula, in primary as well as secondary education. Elementary schools and high schools, technical schools and secondary qualification centres to vocational training to universities, all of the curricula should integrate some aspects of RES. Such a process could be launched under the auspices of a regional cooperation platform, where actors from various fields are connected, and can provide a link from theory to practice in the form of internships or training. Essentially these kinds of cooperation are a key recruiting source of companies.

3.1.2 Quality & Certification Schemes for installers

While a technology is new, a lack of trained staff for actual on the ground implementation is a common situation. Until RES becomes an integrated part of apprenticeship, the level of expertise of those who install, and maintain any RES plant, needs extra support and training to be provided, for example via special training courses at the Chamber of Commerce or the like.

The level of quality of services can greatly positively or negatively influence the image of a technology, so the quality of work that installers are delivering is important to build trust in the technology.

3.1.3 Qualification of planners

Planning new buildings, new facilities or planning the refurbishment of buildings and processes needs to reach a stage where RES is considered a principle option of energy generation and use to be checked. Only when planners have an appropriate level of know-how on issues to be considered, can projects move from a level of "yet another pilot project" to mainstreaming the application of RES. This applies to architects as well as engineers.

Timiş County (Romania) has developed a set of trainings/seminars on low energy buildings and the use of RES for engineers, architects, also students, in order to increase the professional competencies available in the region.

Through the collection and use of forest residues for energy generation new jobs are available in **Jämtland** (Sweden)

The »BZEE Husum« education centre for RES in **Schleswig-Holstein (Germany)** showcases how demand-oriented technical training and education helps a regional RES sector adapt the standards of staff to steadily increasing needs. Integrating the related business sector in a facility like this also helps provide immediate transfer of expertise.

3.2 Create and use cooperation opportunities within and beyond your region

Applicable to all RES, implementation usually technology specific.

Cooperation has a high potential in bringing synergies and aligning RES and other regional activities. The coordination of technology transfer, initiating and / or implementing joint research projects, providing educational and information activities, elaborating guidelines, promoting the use of RES and energy efficiency etc. is a means of triggering innovation and regional economic development.

The location of such **cooperation platforms** is recommended in particular for regions where a number of stakeholders are already active in RES, but not very well connected.

Cross-border cooperation is another approach to increasing the learning speed of a region. This can be the engagement in international projects (RENREN being an excellent example in itself), membership in thematic international networks (e.g. Energy Cities, EcoProcura) but also inter and intra-regional cooperation is possible and potentially feasible. Sometimes a region across the national border, but adjacent, shares similar challenges and settings and enables the neighbours to join forces while looking for solutions.

The **Centre of Excellence for Biomass** in Schleswig-Holstein (Germany) is the centre of transfer of expertise, coordinating the scientific aspects of biomass exploitation and the technology transfer within this field in Schleswig-Holstein. It established a sustainable structure for collaboration, a strong network of companies, farmers, agricultural enterprises, higher education, and institutions of Land Schleswig-Holstein. The created know-how enables companies in Schleswig-Holstein to increase the use and exploitation of biomass.

Cluster »Bioenergy for the Region« in Lodz Region (Poland) is a co-operation platform of companies, research institutions, local administration and business support institutions (including local authorities) aiming at a sustainable energy development in Central Poland. One core focus of the cluster's activities is education and information, promoting the use of renewable energy and energy efficiency, promoting innovative solutions in renewable power engineering in local and regional dimensions.

Timiş County Council (Romania) took the initiative to develop necessary structures for RES in its region by establishing a **Technology Park**. Core aims is to set up a business support structure for companies specialized in producing specific equipment for alternative energies (photovoltaic, wind, geothermal, biogas, etc.), located on 15 ha of dedicated land, and securing co-funding from EU Funds. The project supports the region's goal to reduce the CO_2 emissions by

promoting technologies for alternative energies. Its establishment is accompanied by a marketing programme to ensure that after 5 years the project can run independently of the county.

Further RENREN Good Practice Examples: **Bioenergetics Innovation Cluster** (North Hungary), Cluster **"Windcomm SH"** (Schleswig-Holstein), **"Gathering stakeholders in Cyprus"**, **Solar Energy Cluster** (Navarra), **Sustainable Energy Cluster** (North Hungary).

3.3 Foster innovation by integrating existing and/or new research facilities in your regional energy and climate strategy

Applicable to all RES, implementation can be both technology-specific and cross-cutting.

Research (R&D) facilities in most cases are initiated as national structures or as private sector initiative, and serve as a basis for innovation and business development. Establishing relevant technological R&D facilities strengthens a region's RES strategy and economic prospects.

Good practice from the RENREN network include the **Wind Turbine Test Laboratory** in Navarra (Spain), **Centre of Excellence for Wind Energy** (Schleswig-Holstein), the **Offshore wind research platform "FINO-3"** in Schleswig-Holstein (Germany), in Wales (UK) the **RES multi-institutional collaborative**, the **Solar Energy Cluster** in Navarra (Spain), the **CyLSOLAR** Photovoltaic cluster (Castilla y León, Spain) or the **Renewable energies advanced technology centre (CTAER)** in Andalusia (Spain).

4. Incentivise the use of RES in your region

Applicable for all RES, at various levels of experience in the regions.

The aim of incentives is to make RES technologies more attractive than conventional technologies. Incentives can, but not necessarily are monetary.
Regions have a number of ways to incentivise the use of RES. It is important to communicate the direct as well as the indirect benefits that renewables provide.
*There are regions where it is possible to have a very **direct impact** on whether and how RES is being used, for example through including RES in the technical requirements for new or renovated buildings. In other regions, more **indirect impact** has to be leveraged, for example by adopting management structures or the promotion of technology standards to be used in RES applications installed in a region.*

4.1 Apply & demand standards for the use of RES

Standards:

- Technology Quality Standards for RES
- Minimum Standards for the use of RES

An example is the mandatory inclusion of RES in refurbishment or new buildings. Possibilities are to define a minimum solar contribution towards preparation of hot water (all building types with a demand for domestic hot water and/or air conditioning, swimming pools) as well as a minimum photovoltaic contribution to electric power.

Standards can also be applied to industrial processes, for example to optimise efficient use of resources by generating on-site energy with a highly efficient co- or tri-generation unit fuelled either by natural or biogas. Here regions can define a guide for assessing RES options for refurbishment in industrial processes.

Adopting standards for administrative processes:

Introduction to EMAS, ISO 14001, ISO 50001 standards or similar in regional administration in order to lead by example as well as showcasing an efficient structural approach to integrating RES into the overall resource management processes.

4.2 Provide incentives to use RES by demonstrating its benefit and added values

Sometimes, only seeing will result in believing. Demonstrating the application possibilities and the benefits is key. There are a number of ways, ranging from pilot installations and targeted information campaigns accompanying the development to preferential treatment of RES, e.g. preferential parking for RES fuelled cars.

Other **examples** of RES are

- Energetic self sufficiency of agro-industries using bio fuels, CHP, solar, using production residues for energy production, for example olive pumice and pits
- Geothermal energy for buildings
- Biomass in District Heating & Cooling
- Public roofs available for RES, e.g. on schools
- Promotion of community owned PV & solar thermal
- An administration holding shares in RES plants (Wind, biomass district heating, etc.)
- Regional administrations offer marginal land such as landfill sites for the installation of RES

A more complex example is the development of **model RES districts**. The planning and the realization of such districts e.g. by setting specific high building standards can represent a strong example for entire regions, from an environmental, social and economic point of view. In order to make this valuable and

relevant to the local and the regional community – rather than just a stand-alone non-replicable best case – some pre-conditions should be fulfilled.

First of all **the process should bear both on public decisions and regulations and on private enterprise and initiative**. Should the local - or regional - government decide to subsidize the buildings, this must be accompanied by strict and transparent documentation (quantitative as well as qualitative) which guarantees the scientific and political value of the operation. A long-term communication campaign needs to accompany this kind of initiatives.

In **Schleswig-Holstein** (Germany), a targeted campaign entitled »Zukünftig Bioenergie« (Bioenergy for the Future) informed about bio energy by promoting the use of biomass (wood-pellets) for heating in households in the region.

Castilla y León's (Spain) »Hospisol« programme promotes benefits of solar thermal energy through installations in public hospitals.

4.3 Review specific RES use for transport & mobility

Applications including Biogas, Biofuels, electricity for vehicles

Sustainable transport today not only refers to fuel efficiency and modal split, but also to fuel supply from RES. Transport & mobility need specific attention when it comes to RES given its intrinsic connection to other sectors. RES for transport & mobility includes biogas, biofuels and electricity for vehicles. Regional energy and climate concepts need to review access to fuels, considering locations of production sites and the fuel station network in connection with key transport routes in the region.

On a simpler note, support for RES in transport & mobility can include preferential parking for RES fuelled vehicles, procurement of buses running on biofuels or biogas, or incentives to the taxi industry for using electric/hybrid vehicles.

RENREN good practices include **Jämtland** (Sweden) offering free parking to RES fuelled vehicles, and Andalusia's (Spain) Smart City initiative targeting e.g. the taxi industry to consider electric / hybrid vehicles.

4.4 Award forerunners

Easily implemented for all RES and in all regions.

Recognize the **contributions** of individuals, companies and groups. This not only motivates those who are being honoured. It is a simple communication tool that can trigger interest in a topic, and replication. Awards can be the result of a competition. Awards can also be recognizing individual or group success, without the imitators knowing about it. In both cases, however, the results are based on an evaluation of a set of agreed and monitored criteria.

Competitions can be created between companies, local authorities, schools, or citizens & households. They can cover an array of topics related to renewable, from drawing /photo competitions to competitions on the percentage of energy demand covered by RES in companies.

Competitions have also been used to promote subsidies, e.g. to replace old boilers or heating units with modern ones or to decide design questions, such as the design of biogas/biofuels or electricity stations to fuels / charge vehicles, for bus stops using solar energy to power displays, among others. It is important to **document success and failures**!!

Competitions and awards engage, inform and build a local base of good practice and lessons learned.

5. Financing is available – create access

Growth of RES today is strongest when the policy-makers in charge have established a favourable environment. ***A favourable environment includes the creation of a long term framework of key principles.*** *In order to be able to compete with established technologies, a financial framework is important to help bringing new technologies to the market.*

Feed-in tariffs and similar financial schemes for RES have proven an indispensable tool for enhancing RES deployment across a country. Provided a regional government may be able to refer to own financial means, these probably may be valid to address specific needs or competitive advantages within a region. But these will by no means be able to replace financing tools such as feed-in tariffs or alike. Furthermore, feed-in tariffs and similar financial schemes are providing a sound source for supporting RES deployment without as such causing competitive advantages between different regions. Regardless of the needs to reform existing schemes or adapt these to steadily changing framework conditions, it is strongly recommended to further stick to such schemes.

Further options for financing are available, but may not be easily accessible. Regions can spend their budget on new technologies; help create demand, for example by purchasing RES electricity and/or RES heat for their buildings. Furthermore, however, it is important to make access to further funding support available, and from a regional perspective, the EU Funds are a relevant source to co-finance actions.

The European 2020 strategy for a »smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth«, as well as the Energy Roadmap 2050, key documents, place high emphasis on rational use of energy as well as RES, and the priorities are reflected in the current and draft budgets for all funds.

5.1 Mobilize EU funds & programmes for regional renewable energy projects

Applicable to all RES, relevant to all regions. Needs internal capacity building.

Long term availability of financing for RES is a driver for innovation. It also reduces risks for investors. *Hence it is important to make use of existing funding opportunities in an efficient manner. Not only those programme lines which specifically mention RES are relevant, but also those that have a more indirect connection. Increased RES implementation covers many aspects in different fields, and key words to look for in funding lines include innovation, competitiveness, rural development, education or infrastructure.*

The so called **EU Structural Funds** comprise the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF) and the Cohesion Fund (CF). They are added by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EARDF), financed from Common Agricultural Politics (CAP). Also the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP), specifically its funding line Intelligent - Energy - Europe (IEE), is relevant, albeit more for information and awareness. EU funding can directly support RES Technology pilot project implementation, to create a Research arena or to co-finance vocational training of planners or installers. It can also be the basis for exchange between regions, and support the development of a communication plan. For infrastructure projects, the new Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) – suggested by the European Commission to be established from 2014 onwards – might become an important instrument.

Regional Administrations can be implementing projects directly, but it is crucial to build know-how and capacity on how to attain funding from EU sources and how to run EU projects. It is further important to create access for it to multipliers in the

region, i.e. to support (especially smaller) companies in getting access to such funding.

One such measure could be bringing together staff from both the administration on RES development and from the EU funds regional management authority in order to overcome the serious gap of specific thinking on both sides.

For the new funding period from 2014 onwards, the Operational Programmes (OPs) are currently under discussion. **Regions need to voice their needs** and proactively **contribute to the programme development** under the OPs of Europe's cohesion policy in order to be able to use funds more effectively for the benefit of goals such as the increased use of RES.

Regions can also already start to develop ideas for project proposals, for example, under the programme called "COSME", Competitiveness for SME, which will support national, regional and local authorities, supporting "tools for effectively reforming policy such as reliable, EU wide data and statistics, best practice and financial support to test and scale up sustainable solutions for improving global competitiveness".

5.2 Create Demand - Use Public Procurement as a (strategic) tool

Applicable to all RES, implementation technology specific. Relevant for all regions.

Currently, around 18% of European Gross Domestic Product is spent by the Public Sector, on all levels. Public procurement can be instrumental to address also the goals of increasing the use of RES.

Extending the use of RES by setting an example is a signal to and motivation for stakeholders. Integrating RES into procurement decisions, in order to effectively support a regional vision is an effective way to create demand. Examples are the purchasing of electricity or heat fully or largely based on RES generation, or the procurement of vehicles that run on biogas.

Help with greening public procurement is available for example via the European Commission's DG Environment.

Navarra (Spain) developed a public procurement approach favoring RES. When selling ground for a new eco-district, Sarriguren, more points were given to those promoters presenting building projects including RES installations.

Castilla y León's (Spain) »Hospisol« programme promotes benefits of solar thermal energy through installations in public hospitals.

5.3 Leverage private money

Applicable to all RES, implementation technology specific

5.3.1 Public-Private-Partnerships

The growth of RES will in the beginning depend to a substantial extent on the success of using public money as a leverage to trigger private investment. At the same time, scaling up all steps of the RES production chain will reduce costs considerably. Options to trigger investments are to engage in Public-private partnerships, for example to initiate demonstration projects.

A good example for involving private investors is combined energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. These kinds of projects have multiple benefits, reducing energy demand as well as demonstrating the use of RES. Renovation of public buildings is a good leverage point for such projects, also because of usually stable and long term usage.

5.3.2 Private investments & participatory models

Leverage for **investment can also come** from **local residents** and **companies**. Participation is a powerful tool to engage, and if people can directly benefit, the acceptance has shown to be larger; as well as benefits for added value on a regional level, keeping the money as well as its return on investment within the regional economy.

Possibilities for such participatory projects e.g. via the foundation of **Co-operatives** have been successfully implemented for example with solar PV, district biomass-heating networks and wind energy. It is a model of Active Support through opportunities to buy-in and fosters public acceptance as well as increasing direct interests in RES deployment whose benefits remain in the region.

In **Castilla y León (Spain)**, the ESCO concept (Energy Services Companies) finds application for biomass and solar projects. The region supports specifically the ESCO run projects increasing the percentages of subsidies given respect to a RES conventional project.

In **Schleswig - Holstein** (Germany), community owned wind farms were fostered, where citizens, local businesses either initiate, plan and own a wind farm, or »only« provide funds investing in a development.

Financial guarantees by the regional government **Castilla y León (Spain)**: In order to help investors make projects more reliable and reduce the financial risk, the Government of Castilla y León has not only been giving direct subsidies, but also developed a program of financial guarantees to the loan asked for the investors in renewable energies. Additionally, the loan had an extra support to the interest rate of 2%.

Annex - RES specific "issues to be considered"

The following list of "issues to be considered" (no policy recommendations) was gathered as RES specific in the RENREN Working Groups.

1) Biomass & Geothermal

- *Better coordination of Agriculture, Forest, Residues and Energy policy at EU level needed*
- *Promote EU collaboration with North Africa, South America, USA and other regions*
- *Importance of Biomass standardization and quality standards needs emphasis*
- *Financing geothermal: Both research and demonstration*
- *Promote new technologies for exploiting geothermal energy (and managing physio-chemical problems of fluids)*
- *Financing agricultural small industries to use their sub products in order to become self-sufficient energy-wise (for biomass and other thermal technologies)*
- *Financial: Wise and adaptive feed-in tariffs systems and new financial schemes*
- *Taxes: decrease taxes for biofuels and increase for fossil fuels*
- *Simplifying and harmonization of procedures for biomass plants*
- *Reduce time-limit for procedures for thermal plants*
- *Promoting cogeneration, ensuring heat consumers*
- *Promoting geothermal for building*
- *Biomass for district heating & cooling installations*

2) Wind, Ocean, Hydro

- *Necessity of lobbying at national level due to the fact that most competencies lie at national level*
- *Grid development & RES storage needs high level of attention*
- *Need to make more manageable the use of these resources through technologies hybridization, more electricity connexions, specific procedures for electricity grid control, and storage facilities.*
- *Smart grid as coming issue with high relevance on any grid / network decisions*

3) Solar thermal, Photovoltaic, Concentrated Solar power

- *Introducing solar (both thermal and PV) in public buildings*
- *Set standards for the use of solar in new buildings*
- *Consider solar thermal integrated into a greater pack (building thermal equipment) facilitating hybrid installations as e. g. solar biomass.*
- *Reduce permit process for small scale solar to a registration process*
- *Training and certification of solar installers*
- *Public acceptance initiatives: show cases for the public*

SUMMARY of Policy Recommendations

1. Institutionalise Renewable Energy

RES needs leadership. Institutionalisation of RES in a region is about leadership; knowing and managing resources and connecting it to economic development. It follows a continuous management cycle of action and reaction, of review and adjustment. **First** and foremost**, however, it is about commitment.**

- (Political) **Commitment to RES** by setting goals and objectives. (1.1.)
- Provide a **guiding framework** through a regional energy and climate strategy (1.2)
- Establish **regional structures for managing** (1.3) **and communication**, preferably via a central point of contact and reference, easing access, delivering transparency (1.4.1)
- Make RES in the region **a brand name** such as 100% fossil fuel free as Jämtland is doing (1.4.2)
- Engage and use the **potential of stakeholders** at your region, they are key to success (1.4.3)

2. Increase the success rate at the project development phase

Currently many of the energy technologies are disputed, their deployment delayed, posing problems and risks for investors. Crucial on the way to reducing risks on both sides are clear rules. But also other tools are at hand to help better project development and fewer disputes.

- **Spatial planning** is a strategic tool for RES development balancing (competing) interests, to visualize options and alternatives for expanding RES usage in a spatial context (2.1)
- **Information & guidance for developers** will improve proposals and reduce efforts and risk on both sides (2.2)
- Reduce the **complexity of the permitting process** (2.3) to avoid unnecessary barriers, by measures such as simplified procedures for small scale applications. One-stop-shops for large scale RES are also helpful.
- Increase **transparency of the permitting process** (2.4) via binding response times. This is necessary to assure compliance and swift proceedings.

3. Use RES as a motor for jobs & driving innovation

RES are not only about an energy supply to run an existing (regional) economy. RES itself are at the centre of business developments and innovation, providing jobs in many fields. RES have therefore a potential to advance a region's economy, to increase regional added value and to make economy more efficient. At all stages of the life cycle and the value chain for RES, but needs know-how and the power to innovate within a region:

- Raise the **professional standards** of those who are engaged in renewable energy to create and extend the **regional knowledge base**. (3.1) Key areas are: qualification, certification, but also education to increase knowledge, trust and quality of work.
- The wheel does not need to be re-invented again. There are many opportunities to create and use **cooperation within and beyond a region** to support RES (3.2)
- **Research and development** facilities have a key role that should be recognized in a regional energy and climate strategy so as to provide a supporting environment for their implementation (3.3)

4. Incentivise the use of renewable energy in your region

The aim of incentives is to make RES technologies more attractive than conventional technologies. Incentives can, but not necessarily are monetary

- Apply and demand **standards for the use of RES** (4.1) such as ISO 50001.
- Provide **incentives to use RES** by demonstrating their benefit and added values (4.2)
- Review how specific RES can be used for **transport & mobility** (4.3)
- Recognizing the contributions of individuals, companies or groups with **regional awards** (4.4) is an easy option that will not only motivate those who are being honoured. It is a simple communication tool for wider attention growth.

5. Financing is available - create access

Growth of RES today is strongest when the policy-makers in charge have established favourable conditions. This includes a long term framework of stable basic principles. In order to be able to compete with established technologies, a financial framework is important to help bring new technologies to the market. Feed-in tariff systems have proved to be a key approach, but other means are also available:

- Mobilize **EU funds & programmes** for regional renewable energy projects (5.1)
- Create demand through the **smart use of public procurement** as a (strategic) tool (5.2)
- Leverage private money (5.3) via engaging in **Public-Private-Partnerships** or leveraging private investments, either direct or via **participatory models and cooperatives**.

RENREN partners:

Schleswig-Holstein Land (Germany, Lead Partner)

Welsh Government (United Kingdom)

Jämtland Regional Council (Sweden)

Cyprus Institute of Energy (Cyprus)

The Association of Municipalities in the Westfjords (Iceland)

Government of Navarre (Spain)

Regional Energy Association of Castilla y León (Spain)

Pays de la Loire Region (France)

Agency for Social & Economic Development of Timiş County (Romania)

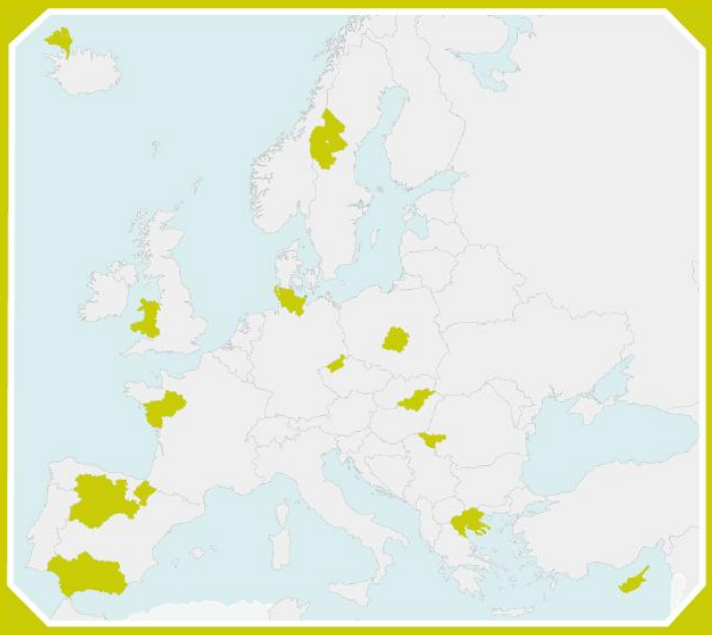
Lodz Region (Poland)

Ústí Region (Czech Republic)

Central Macedonia / Decentralized Administration of Macedonia-Thrace (Greece)

Andalusia Energy Agency (Spain)

Bay Zoltán Nonprofit Ltd. for Applied Research (North Hungary)



Key data of project:

Project reference: RENREN 0624R2
Duration of the project:
January 2010 –December 2012

Total budget: 2.095 M€
ERDF contribution: 1.646 M€

www.renren-project.eu