Brussels 20 June 2012

Final Conference of the IEE InterPares Project

During Energy Week, the Final Conference of the IEE InterPares Project took place in Brussels.

UPI

The event opened with two keynote speeches, giving an overview of the project’s activities in Italy and Romania. Representing Italy, Luisa Gottardi from the Union of Italian Provinces (UPI) described the institutional context that has characterised the entire project, underlining how the process of reforming the Provinces, which got underway in the second half of 2011, has had a strong influence on the Provinces’ actions. In fact, following the Government’s initiation, through Article 23 of the *Salva Italia* decree no. 201/11, a process of taking powers away from the Provinces, a strong sense of urgency has developed in the political and institutional capacity of the Provinces to interact with other institutional subjects involved in the procedures of authorising renewable energy installations, and in particular with the Regions and other national stakeholders. Furthermore, the regulations regarding incentives for renewable energy have slowed down in the last 6-8 months (exactly those months affected by the trials undertaken by the Provinces), due to the fact that the Ministry of Economic Development is in the process of enacting decrees connected to new incentivisation systems.

UNCJR

Liliana Mangeac, in her role as a UNCJR representative, then spoke about the regulatory context of the renewable
energy system in Romania. She stressed the importance of energy in the development of local communities and the need for substantial investments in clean energy. Ensuring an increase in renewable energy proves to be a complex challenge, not only from the point of view of the investments cost but also from the point of view of related policy areas, managing this process requiring a structured approach. However, the economic potential for investment in this area is enormous, renewable energy sources leading to increased productivity and jobs creation – leading to a lower rate of migrants from rural areas.

The local government has a major role in the success of strategies proposed by the Commission, in terms of planning, licensing, procurement, production, transmission, distribution, energy efficiency, etc. In this respect, any initiatives taken at European level in terms of energy infrastructure should ensure their management at regional and local level.

The participation of UN CJ R in the InterPares project was aimed at the simplification of the authorization process regarding investments in renewable energy. Sharing experience with the Italian partners in the project was welcomed and concrete results have been reached in some counties. These results will be disseminated to all the UN CJ R members and to European partners.

Ecosistemi

Dana Vocino, from Ecosistemi Srl, a technical partner of the project, described the work the organisation had done in preparing the “simplified kit”, the simplification tool which resulted from the project. Starting from a recognition of the framework of key authorisation competences in Italy and Romania, various workers in the sector spoke at the national meetings and various round tables, moving discussion onto a possible means of simplifying the administrative procedures connected to renewables. This is how the forms which are to be trialled were prepared. The aim of the “simplified” forms is to speed up the process for each individual authorisation, giving the proposer all the useful information needed for the preparation of the installation request, reducing any potential room for arbitrary interpretation of the regulations and supporting the completeness of the data.

Italian Provinces

There then followed speeches related to the Italian Provinces that have received positive results from the trial, the Provinces of Benevento (Giuseppe Marsicano) and Salerno (Katja Aversano)

The two Provinces representatives have presented in concrete term the
applications of the models used for the authorization procedure. The main results obtained can synthesized as follows:

**Province of Benevento**

- All needed certificated are produced in the preparatory phase;
- The procedure is standardized and used in all Provinces using the models interparens;
- Many bureaucratic obstacles are overcome;
- 30% of reduction of the time needed for authorization.

**Province of Salerno**

- Clear and simple models for authorization;
- No room for free interpretation of the information required;
- A guide for the Project drafting;
- 21% of reduction of the time needed for the authorization.

**GSE e Terna**

Dr. Natascia Falcucci from GSE and Dr. Stefano Tosi from Terna then took the floor. The GSE representative described the role and tasks that GSE (Gestore Servizi Energetici) undertakes, on the recommendation of the Ministry of Economic Development, in regulating the renewable energy market. It focuses particularly on monitoring the attainment of the 20-20-20 objectives, as well as the whole series of incentives awarded to renewable energy installations, but it is also involved in communication and awareness campaigns on clean energy for the whole Public Administration. The GSE representative pointed out that in recent years there has been a sharp increase in non-hydroelectric installations, with specific reference to solar.

The Terna representative, meanwhile, stressed the need for the development of transmission networks to take place in a coherent manner, and sustainably in relation to the installations. Administrations responsible for issuing authorisations must pay particular attention, with due promptness, to the need to focus on the harmonised and integrated development, in any given region, of distribution installations and facilities. Otherwise there is a real risk of making incentive payments without the green energy produced being transferred effectively onto the network, and therefore being made available to the public.
Cases Specific to Romania

It was then the turn of Dr. Miruna Ralea, a representative of the Romanian technical partner Alma-Ro, to describe the situation and the institutional context of the incentivisation policies for renewables in Romania. The representatives of Romanian County Councils (Dolj, Prahova, Teleorman and Timis) made an overview of the most important results in terms of procedures simplification. For example, each County Council adapted and published a Guide for RES investors, starting from a model developed by another partner involved in this project, Maramures County Council. Moreover, each County Council designated a specific staff member as contact point for RES investors. In this way the interested investors have now a single contact point in the county council, no longer having to pass through multiple services or departments to request the necessary information. Positive feedback has already been received from investors, which found these measures helpful. Some of this feedback led to the initiative to translate the Guide into English. In addition, three of the County Councils involved in the project concluded agreements with local authorities (communes) on the resolution of requests for RES investments as a matter of priority. Local maps for RES potential and suitable areas for RES investments are currently being produced with the help of local communes and the National Meteorological Institute.

Project Officer

Finally, at the end of the speeches, Emilio Font De Mora, Project Officer at the Renewable Energy Unit of the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI) briefly outlined the role of the Energy Unit and the main sectors of interest for the related projects.