

RURENER

Network of small
RURal communities for
ENERgetic-neutrality



02/2010

NEWSLETTER

To the reader,

welcome to the second edition of the RURENER newsletter! This newsletter is aiming to inform you, the working and decision making people in small rural communities, the decision makers on regional, national and European level in terms of energy policies and any other interested elsewhere about the work done within the RURENER network to date and any other relevant news and information concerning "energetic neutrality".

What do we mean by this artificially created term "energetic neutrality"?

It means the approach to become CO₂ neutral, to save or use energy efficiently and to produce energy from local renewable resources. Within the RURENER network, we want to support small rural communities to become energetic neutral.

We hope you enjoy reading it, if so please forward it to interested colleagues and subscribe to the newsletter by sending an email to info@rurener.eu. If you don't like it, you can also unsubscribe there.



Focus: Improving energy efficiency of public lighting

Increasing energy costs, technical innovation, as well as changes concerning legal requirements are challenges in times of low public budgets faced by the communities, especially when it comes to public investments, for instance for street lighting. Particularly in the field of public lighting, innovative solutions can save up to 40% of the electricity costs and a lot of energy at the same time.

Street lighting has to contribute to road safety and to the safety of the citizens as well as to the attractiveness and the stimulation of public spaces, in a most efficient way. Energy efficiency plays a major role: more than 10% of the European energy consumption is used for lighting. In other words, more than 2000 billion kWh electricity are used and 2900 million tons CO₂ emissions are produced. In Germany 30% of the installed lights are from 1960, where up to 70% of the energy used can be saved and a lot of money at the same time.

Index

- To the Reader 01
- Focus 01
- Between us 03
- In brief 03
- Zoom on 04

What can be done?

Efficient street lighting can achieve:

- a reduction of the energy consumption, decreasing annual electricity costs
- lower operational costs by the installation of new, modern and reliable technology
- an improved lighting situation of public spaces
- a contribution to climate protection
- the support of producing energy efficient lighting technologies.

How does it look in practise?

Italy's Lombardy Region with nearly 10 million inhabitants in 1546 local authorities set up a "Regional Program for Competitiveness 2007-2013", including 10 million Euros for street lighting. By adding 9 million Euros from ERDF 2007-2013 Program, 42 projects could be covered. These followed the objectives of Operational Regional Program and the mandatory standards of the Regional Law 17/2000 "Urgent measures for energy saving in street lighting and against luminous pollution". A tender was set up dedicated to the rational use of electric energy in street lighting and reserved for local authorities (even aggregated). Moreover the tender was coherent with the national strategies for Sustainable and Efficient Resources' Use.

The main goal of the initiative was to promote a rational use of energy in public lightings both through retrofitting existing lines and realising of new ones, in order to reduce energy consumption, costs and the excessive use of artificial lights.

The projects are asked to reach these aims by:

- the reduction of light number
- the substitution of old light devices with more efficient ones, which are able to regulate the luminous flux
- the optimization of medium light setting (even in coherence with local lighting plan)

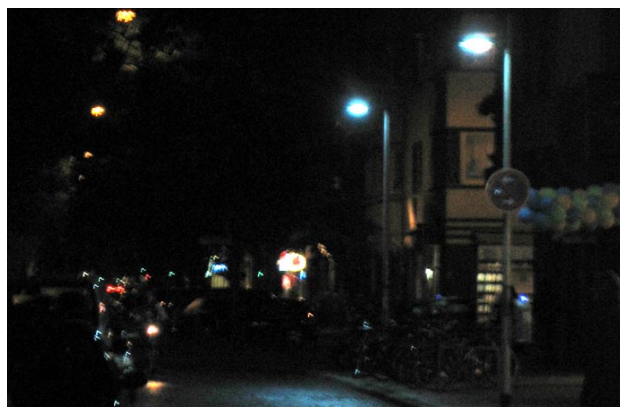
The requirements for a project to be financed are the following:

- work on public lighting lines on the Lombardy Region territory
- lighting lines along streets, squares, bicycle-pedestrian paths and in general places, which can be defined as "public path"
- design definition at least 'final' (a medium level between preliminary and executable detailed design)

The official merit ranking, published in March 2010, shows that about 40 municipalities all over the Lombardy Region territory financed their projects by this tender. After the tender closure, the local authorities had to present the executable project within 2 months and, that approved, began the work within 5 months.

On the European level, the program IEE funded a project called "E-street". The main objective of the project is to expand the market for energy efficient street lighting, which means significant energy saving potential (40 to 70 % energy reduction), environmental and economical benefits and the increased level of traffic safety for the public. To find out more about the project, please take a look at: www.e-streetlight.com

For a best practice example from Hungary, please take a look at: http://energy-bestpractice.eu/eng/magy/main_hu_hodmezo.html
To disseminate further best practise examples, please send us yours!



Between us

The RURENER roadmap is online. It offers six steps towards energetic neutrality. These include advices, a toolbox and good practise examples to choose from according to local needs. The roadmap is available in national languages, too. Please take a look at the main web site on www.rurener.eu and follow the flags to get to the national web sites.

The RURENER meet these days in Călimănești-Căciulata, one of the pilot communities in Romania. You find a portrait of that community on the RURENER web site and an interview with the mayor below. The RURENER partners have the chance to go on a site visit, too, but the main purpose of this meeting will be the discussion of the project outcome and to plan future activities.

RURENER is looking for new members. 14 pilot communities set up the network and are looking forward sharing their experiences with other small rural communities. If you are on your way to energetic neutrality or if you want to make the first step, don't hesitate to contact either on of the project partners directly or info@rurener.eu

Another new item on the RURENER web site is a knowledge bank in order to facilitate the exchange of experiences and knowledge throughout Europe. Every visitor of the web site has the opportunity to raise a question concerning any energy issue. It will then be answered by one of the experts gathered by the RURENER consortium. The questions and answers will be online and can be commented by every reader.

In brief

Repowering of wind turbines – the role of municipalities

This is the title of a brochure published by the German association of towns and municipalities. The focus of this brochure is on spatial and urban land use planning, but it also describes technical, acceptability and nature conservation aspects, as well as the legal background in Germany and it demonstrates good practise examples.

It is available in English and German at www.repowering-kommunal.de

National Renewable Energy Action Plans

Article 4 of the renewable energy Directive (2009/28/EC) required Member States to submit national renewable energy action plans by 30 June 2010. These plans provide detailed roadmaps of how each Member State expects to reach its legally binding 2020 target for the share of renewable energy in their final energy consumption.

Member States must set out the sectoral targets, the technology mix they expect to use, the trajectory they will follow and the measures and reforms they will undertake to overcome the barriers to developing renewable energy. The plans are published here: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/renewables/transparency_platform/transparency_platform_en.htm. The Commission will evaluate them, assessing their completeness and credibility.

European Commission website offers advice on energy efficient light bulbs

On 1 September 2009, incandescent light bulbs and other energy-inefficient lamps started to be gradually replaced by more energy efficient bulbs in Europe. By switching to more energy efficient lighting products, European households can save energy and contribute to reaching the EU's climate protection targets.

The services of the European Commission have created a website in 22 languages to

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02/2010 **NEWSLETTER**

inform consumers, professionals and the media about the wide range of energy efficient bulbs currently available, the phase-out of inefficient bulb types and what European legislation is already in place.

The website includes an interactive tool that helps you select the appropriate bulb for your needs and a description of important product parameters that will have to be included on the packaging of bulbs from 1 September 2010 to allow consumers to make informed choices. www.e-lumen.eu

Zoom on

Interview with Ilie Amuzun, Mayor of Calimanesti (RO), one of the RURENER pilot communities.



Why are you joining the project? What did you learn so far?

We joined the project to present the potential of our area, Călimănești-Vâlcea, involving geothermal waters and other renewable sources, too.

The project approaches in a serious manner all the possibilities to obtain renewable energy, considering the potential of each area.

How would you define energetic neutrality?

The energy production from local sources is at most equal to the total consumption of the area.

What are the development objectives/potentials for your region?

The potential of our region is the geothermal water. The exploitation area expands to the south area of the town, where the business tourism develops, as well as the recreation tourism. Our area is also tested for wind energy.

What is the highlight in your local action plan?

The main objective is to test the possibilities of using wind energy.

What is the biggest problem/challenge on the way to energetic neutrality?

We are challenged to use all available resources in order to obtain energetic neutrality.

What do you expect from the European energy policy made in Brussels?

We expect support, namely the experience of the developed countries, similar potential and modern technologies to exploit this potential to be shared with eastern countries.

Do you have any advice for the RURENER Network?

The network should offer a bigger attention to the countries with less experience and more seminars like the one here from September 30 to October 1 in Călimănești.

Imprint

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frequency: Newsletter number 2, issue 2/2010, published 30st September 2010

