



Project Acronym : MOUNTAIN-RES/RUE

Project Title : RES and RUE Stimulation in Mountainous - Agricultural communities towards sustainable development

Coordinator : National Technical University of Athens (Greece)

Website : <http://sustainablemountains.epu.ntua.gr>

ABSTRACT

The mountainous – agricultural communities can benefit from the use of Renewable Energy Sources based on their high potential, as well as the penetration of Rational Use of Energy, taking into consideration the increased energy and electricity consumption, as an inevitable outcome of the economical development. In the above context, the project aims at the RES and RUE stimulation of four mountainous – agricultural local communities of the European Union, in a way that will ensure both the integrated and balanced evolution in the most common dimensions (economical – employment, environmental, social and technological) of the Sustainable Development. In addition, the knowledge and experience will be transferred into less developed communities of the enlarged EU with the same characteristics. In particular, the project's objectives can be summarized as follows: • Identification of specific RES and RUE needs and determination of opportunities, • Preparation of viable and socially matured RES and RUE project opportunities, • Formulation of the first European “sustainable energy network in mountainous - agricultural communities”, • Enhancement of the involved actors' communication bridges, through the development of permanent local communication networks, thus constituting prototype “sustainable mountainous - agricultural communities”.

The project is running for more than one year now, and it is expected to have finished on December 2009. Up until now, the project outputs can be summarised at the following: • Overview of 32 RES and RUE implemented projects in the examined communities (Karditsa, Murtal, Regional Park of the mountains of Ardeche, Rouge Municipality), • Brief description of the RES and RUE applications and technologies that are technically available for mountainous/ agricultural communities, • Technology suitability assessment for their implementation in communities with mountainous/agricultural characteristics, • Identification of the technologies' impact in the Sustainable Development's dimensions, • Identification of the needs and prospects for proceeding from a “technological potential” to a “market potential”, within the framework of sustainability in the examined communities. In this framework, a detailed analysis of each community's sectors was realized, with special emphasis on the energy sector and the existing RES/RUE infrastructure, • The general benefits from the implementation of RES and RUE projects in the four examined communities, as well as the impacts of specific RES and RUE projects, in the four dimensions of sustainable, namely Environmental, Social, Economic & Governance, are evaluated. Additionally, the main priorities, which are also the basic project outputs, during the current and following period, include: • The completion of the Guide for Sustainable Energy Communities, • The identification of promising RES and RUE project ideas and the development of short prefeasibility studies for the most promising among them, and also • The development of the first European mountainous communities' network.

Consequently, the results related to the targeted communities in each one of sustainable development's dimensions, can be summarized as follows: • Economical-Employment: Enhance region's development through the provision of new business opportunities (e.g. exploitation of the agricultural resources) to local market, thus enforcing the local income, • Environmental: Promote energy to meet expanding energy demand under the umbrella of the Kyoto Protocol's requirements and supplied in such a way that respects the beauty of the local environment, • Social: Improve the life quality through the delivery of modern social services and enhance the local population energy culture through diffusing the concept of the “energy citizenship” and raising awareness about RES and RUE, • Technological: Promote the best practice solutions for RES and RUE, providing thus the local designers, manufacturers and industries with the appropriate know-how to be actively involved in the RES and RUE market.

PARTNERS

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