

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY NEWS



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ECO-VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT
IN SOUTH ASIA



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GREEN AND DARK WORLDS AT THE EXHIBITION IN MINSK, BELARUS.
 PHOTO: CES, BELARUS

From Global Success to Local Action

While the Paris Agreement in itself was a success, so was the fast ratification of the Agreement in just 11 months.

Now, the challenge is to channel this into action. It cannot be a top-down exercise. National policies must be in place for the transition, but the initiatives for the change must come from the citizens.

Only when the support is broad enough can it be possible to realise the fast changes that are needed.

With the *ever-lower prices of renewable energy*, the costs of providing energy for all also are falling, but the best energy options are not looking the same as they were in the past. Now that decentralised means of energy production such as solar home systems and mini-grids are getting cheaper, the optimal solutions are much more decentralised than in previous decades.

Unfortunately, in many countries, and in international assistance, funding that are provided mostly for centralised solutions are still distorting the picture. Support should be given equally to central and to decentralised solutions. In addition to funding, also organisations and capacity building must change.

When the entire energy supply is local, maintenance skills, financial management, etc., have to be local. When it is done well, it can yield extra benefits for local development.

INFORSE recommends Eco-Village Development (EVD), wherein local, sustainable energy solutions are

integrated with other sustainable solutions for water, farming, etc. We find that this is providing better ways out of poverty than other approaches. This concept must be integrated into the climate actions following the Paris Agreement. It must be bolstered as well with national and international support for climate mitigation.

Local communities are more than just providers of sustainable energy for themselves. All over the world, places exist that provide good wind, sun, and other sustainable energy potential; such energy can be sent to cities and to industries both near and far. When local communities in these places become energy suppliers, it is crucial that they also benefit from their new role, and that they govern the development of the new resources.

Too often the development is governed by outside investors, which leads to protests by locals, to many projects being stopped, and to local communities being weakened.

On the other hand, many examples show that when local communities are initiators and get the benefits, they will welcome the development and they will prosper. If we are to succeed with the fast transition, we must give local communities the lead.

Internationally, we need support for good practices to use in engaging local communities, formal as well as informal communities, in the climate and energy transition.

Gunnar Boye Olesen,
 Coordinator, INFORSE

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 "Energy-Saving Suitcase" shown
 to children in St. Petersburg.
 See article on pages # 4-5-6.

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Paris Agreement in Force

– A New Framework for Climate Action & COP22

After a historically fast ratification process, the Paris Climate Agreement enters into force on November 4, 2016. This provides a firm framework for national action to limit global warming to 1.5 - 2 °C. Yet, scientific evidence suggests that countries are not taking the 1.5-2 °C climate target seriously, judging by their National Determined Commitments (NDCs).

Stronger actions are needed. This is best done through fast, ambitious implementation of the provisions of the Paris Agreement and of the agreed pre-2020 actions (also agreed in Paris during COP21), combined with additional national actions.

Giving the inadequacy of current commitments to reach the 1.5-2 °C target, it is vital that the ambitions are raised well in advance of the dialogue to take stock of collective climate efforts, scheduled for 2018. To succeed with this the countries must start a process at COP22 to raise ambitions to make the 2018 stocktake a success for the climate.

COP22 will include an evaluation dialogue on progress in enhancing the provision of climate finance. It is crucial that this occasion be used to set a meaningful, global **definition of climate finance**. What can be included and what can NOT be included. It is also important to discuss the recent optimistic reports from industrialised countries on climate financing, and try to reach a consensus on how far we are towards the 100 billion \$/year previously committed by the industrialised countries for 2020.

Coming to COP22 in Marrakech with the Paris Agreement already in force is a nice surprise, but it is a surprise. The first meeting of Paris Agreement countries will take place during COP22, well before the timetable expected in Paris at COP21.

The COP21 agreements include 17 decisions on elaborations of guidelines, etc. that are to be adopted at the first meeting of the Paris Agreement.

All of them are needed before the Paris Agreement can be implemented, yet work has hardly started on them. They will not be ready in time for COP22.

On the other hand, the climate urgency reflected by the fast ratification of the Climate Agreement must be translated into **fast action**. The COP22 should set an **ambitious timetable** to make the Paris Agreement operational as soon as is realistically possible.

As an example: with the Paris Agreement, the **UNFCCC technology mechanism** (for technology transfer and development) is expanded into a technology framework, but much of the content of that new framework is left to coming negotiations. It is important to have a comprehensive technology framework agreed as soon as possible to help climate actions with the best technologies. To achieve this and to resolve the 16 other issues, fast and comprehensive processes are essential.

Thus, COP22 should speed up the work needed for implementation of the Paris Agreement.

COP22 should also strengthen climate actions leading up to 2020, when the Paris Agreement enters into force. One aspect of this action, among others, is ensuring that the climate institutions are operating well, including the Climate Technology Center and Network, which currently is short of funds.

UNFCCC COP22 - Gender Events:

- Gender Day: November 15, 2016
- Side Event: Gender Just Climate Solutions November 14, 15:00 - 16:30
- Global Gender and Climate Alliance Innovation Forum: November 12- 13

Women and Gender Constituency
www.womengenderclimate.org



UNFCCC COP22
INFORSE IN THE
BLUE ZONE:

Exhibition

Nov. 7 - Dec. 19, 2016

Side Event

November 11, 2016

Time: 16:45 -18:15

Room: Mediterranean

Title: Improving NDCs: Ecovillage Development, Energy Access, and Zero Carbon Societies in Africa, Asia & EU

Organisers:

INFORSE (lead),
Nordic Folkecenter for
Renewable Energy, ECOLISE,
Global Ecovillage Network

Speakers from INFORSE members include:

IDEA (Sri Lanka); CRT (Nepal)
Grameen Shakti (Bangladesh)
INSEDA (India), Nordic
Folkecenter for Renewable
Energy (Denmark), CAT (UK).

Mini Side Event

November 8, 2016

Time: 12:00 to 13:00

Room: Climate Change Studio

Title: Eco Village Development as a Low-Carbon Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy for Development in South Asia

Baltic Sea NGOs Promote Energy Efficiency in Buildings



▲ First exhibition presentation to teachers in St. Petersburg, Ecozentrum: "How to teach about energy saving in schools and homes?"



▲ Energy efficiency measures and renewable energy used in buildings are in the focus of the posters made by the partners.

In 2016, an INFORSE-Europe cooperation project involving Belarus, Latvia, North-West Russia, Denmark, and Norway focus on the need and the means to improve energy efficiency in buildings for climate protection and local development.

Buildings Consume One-Third of All Energy Produced

Buildings consume about 1/3 of all energy consumed. Careful strategic changes in selection and usage of practices, building technologies, and equipment can drastically reduce this. Making such energy efficiency improvements help individuals and communities to improve their lives, reduce their energy costs, and reduce global energy consumption for the benefit for all. It is possible to avoid unnecessary energy demand that so often is met with fossil fuels. The reduced fossil fuel consumption leads to reduced emissions and thereby to reduced climate change and pollution.

North-West Russia

Russia's Big Challenge: Energy Efficiency

Energy efficiency is a big challenge for Russia. The energy intensity of production here is two or three times bigger than in other developed countries. Inefficient use of energy is a problem both in industry and in the residential sector. The potential energy-saving by

deploying energy-efficient solutions, particularly in buildings constructed between 1960 and 1980, may reach 70% of their current energy consumption.

The Russian State Program on energy efficiency declared the goal to reduce the energy intensity of production by 40% by 2020. In reality, however, governmental steps for improving energy efficiency still do not provide sufficient results.

In this situation, local initiatives can move forward with energy-efficient solutions. Everyone is interested in reducing energy costs. Owners and users of premises as well as energy managers are motivated to undertake the whole complex of energy-saving measures.

Information Taken to Citizens and Schools

Friends of the Baltic has been working on promoting small-scale local energy-efficient solutions for many years. The organisation informs citizens on simple energy-saving measures, and has been developing SPARE school project on resources and energy. SPARE teaches children about climate and energy, after which the youngsters apply simple energy solutions in their schools and in their homes.

New Steps

In 2016, the cooperation within INFORSE-Europe supported taking new steps in this work. These included creating a mobile exhibition and a new online education course.

Mobile Exhibition

A mobile exhibition entitled "Energy-Efficient Building" has been created. It presents technical options that reduce energy consumption by using energy-efficiency measures.

The exhibition is addressed to energy managers of residential and public buildings, as well as to any active resident who would like to improve energy-efficient parameters of an individual apartment. It also will be useful for educators, including those working for non-governmental organizations supporting public education and those in state educational organizations.

The exhibition consists of five thematic posters (Losses of Energy, Decrease of Heat Losses, Efficient and Economical Heat Supply, Efficient and Economical Use of Electricity, Saving Water); the "Energy-Saving Suitcase" with examples of energy-saving devices, and an informational brochure.



▲ The project group presenting the posters and the energy-saving suitcase at the knowledge sharing seminar at the Energy Efficiency Center in Jurmala, Latvia in June 2016.

Mobile Exhibition on Tour

Until now, the exhibition was shown at the PoliFest - St. Petersburg Festival of Science, Environmentally Friendly Technology and Design, as well as at the Public Environmental Festival in Lomonosov.

During the fall of 2016, it will be presented at the round table of leaders of housing communities and municipal specialists and at the conference "Climate and Energy - Solutions for the Future", organized by Russian Social Ecological Union (RSEU) in St.Petersburg.

Both Friends of the Baltic and other RSEU member NGOs in Arkhangelsk, Bryansk, Kaliningrad, Murmansk, and other cities in Russia will use this exhibition. It will strengthen their work for promotion of sustainable and climate-friendly development of their regions.

Belarus

Buildings Challenge Also Exists in Belarus

The challenge of improving the energy efficiency of buildings in Belarus is comparable to that faced by Russia. The total housing space of Belarus is 240.3 million m², about 3.9 million apartments. The annual energy demand to provide heating and hot-water supply to existing housing stock amounts to more than 55 500 mln. kWh, in average 230 kWh/m². The new building code is quite ambitious in Belarus: All new multi-story houses should consume between 38 and 98 kWh/m² per year, depending on number of floors and on the function of the building. Unfortunately, most of the old buildings, about 195 million m², consume more than the average 230 kWh/m² per year.

Steps Forward

In Belarus, the project also contributed to, strengthened, and increased knowledge with good results built on existing experiences and on the dialogue among the partners. These efforts include the exhibitions and the online course material.

Mobile Exhibition

The Belarus NGO, Center for Environmental Solutions (CES), already has a mobile exhibition on energy efficiency and renewable energy. Within the current Project, this existing mobile exhibition was extended with interactive models and some new stands.

The extended exhibition was in the Dzerzhinsk region in June and in the Puchovichi region in August, where together more than 200 people saw it. In October, it is exhibited in Dubrovno (Orsha region) during a conference for teachers, and school children.

Part of Permanent Exhibition

The project also contributed to a permanent new exhibition, to promote environmentally-friendly lifestyles in the youth design center, "Ecotechnum".

The exhibition is located in a large room, where children can find information about energy-saving, climate, renewables, water, and transport in very interesting form because of creatively designed informational posters. Moreover, children will have some help with understanding the physical laws by using the interactive stands and games.

In the exhibition are also examples of energy-efficient equipment and of renewable energy sources.

▼ Mobile exhibition on energy efficiency and renewable energy in Belarus



▼ The "Energy-Saving Suitcase" shown to children at the Polifest, St.Petersburg



▼ The part of the project group at the exhibition in Minsk, Belarus in the company of the element "Air" symbolizing also "Wind" saying: "I believe in the laws of physics".





▲ "Transport" display at the educational energy efficiency exhibition in Minsk. The boxes represent the CO₂ consumption of the different transport means. The figures are representing the four classical Greek elements: Air, Fire, Earth, and Water, which also symbolize Wind, Sun, Biomass and Hydro Energy.

Interactive stands demonstrate the greenhouse-gas effect and show a model of water-cleaning. Children can produce energy on the "energy-bike" and play with a "secret monitor", which only shows the answers for questions when they put on special glasses. They also can learn how to separate wastes and will be able to take photos with the characters of the exhibition. The official opening will be in November, 2016.

Seminar in Minsk

As part of the Project, a seminar included a study tour and a meeting of the partners with representatives of other Belorussian NGO's in Minsk that work on climate and energy concerns. The study tour included visits to the above-mentioned exhibition under construction in Minsk and a visit to the small city Braslav to learn about the municipality's ambitious project on climate neutrality. The group also visited sites in Braslav where energy-efficient and renewable-energy equipments are installed, such as a heat pump in a church, efficient wood boilers in a kindergarten, and a solar collector in a sport school.

▼ Visiting a solar collector installation at a sport school in Braslav, Belarus.



Online Training Course

Other results of the Project include developing and promoting a training course for "energy advisers" in Russian, which is a quite an important new tool. It will be promoted among teachers and local authorities both in Russia and in Belarus.

"The possibility to exchange experience with similar organizations was very useful. During the meetings we learned that there are a lot of solutions which we can use in our country and our work, plus we got a lot of ideas for future cooperation. Dmitry Burenkin, Centre for Environmental Solutions, Belarus"

Cooperation

The NGOs Cooperation included a start-up seminar along with a study tour in Norway and Denmark, and two knowledge-sharing seminars, one in June, 2016 in Latvia, and the above-mentioned in September in Belarus. The final conference is on November 1-3, 2016 in Saint Petersburg.

INFORSE-EUROPE
International Network for Sustainable Energy

Latvijas Zaļā kustība
Latvian Green Movement

ЦЕНТР ЭКОЛОГИЧЕСКИХ РЕШЕНИЙ



The NGO project partners: INFORSE-Europe (coordinator), Latvian Green Movement (LGM), Centre for Environmental Solutions (CES) in Belarus, Friends of the Baltic in St. Petersburg, Kola Environmental Center, and the Norwegian Association for Nature Protection. The Russian organisations are not participating in the budget allocations. The Project's support comes from the Nordic Council of Ministers.

See more at http://www.inforse.org/europe/se_buildings_project.htm



▲ National dialogue meeting on eco-village development in Nepal. Photo by CRT/N, Nepal.

Eco-Village Development as Climate Solution

Regional Presentation

On October 17-19, 2016, the Eco-Village Development (EVD) concept was presented at a parallel session on the 5th Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) Adaptation Forum, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Fitting Regional Platform

The Adaptation Forum provided a fitting regional platform for policy advocacy of the low-carbon, pro-poor, Eco-Village Development (EVD) concept.

The Forum of the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) brought together adaptation practitioners worldwide to share their experiences on adaptation practices and solutions. It was an opportunity for cross-training and for the sharing of ideas among diverse stakeholders.

The Forum, hosted by the Government of Sri Lanka, is also one of the series of events organised to promote the programme “Sri Lanka NEXT – A Blue Green Era” with an aim to present low-carbon development as a development strategy for Sri Lanka.

Parallel Session: October 17, 2016

The key principles and experiences of the EVD Concept were promoted at the parallel session “Coordinating Policy Initiatives for Adaptation in South Asia”.

Experiences and case studies were shared from India, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka by the Project partners and the co-chairs of the Panel.

The cases demonstrate the various climate impacts faced by communities, challenges in executing the EVD approach in the areas, and the outcomes of such approaches. The case studies also argue for urgent policy measures to expand EVD concept and solutions.

The session focused on the linkages, which demonstrate the effectiveness of the EVD approach in meeting climate-change-adaptation objectives as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Read more on the EVD Concept in the 60-page Publication, the Policy Briefs, and on some of the recent activities in the next two pages.



▲ Parallel Session at the Adaptation Forum where the EVD Concept was presented in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Participants (from left to right): Lokendra Thakkar, CDM Agency Coord. Dep't of Env't, Gov't of Madhya Pradesh, India; Niraj Shrestha, CRT/N, Nepal; Raymond Myles, INSEDA, India; Vinod Menon, Founder Member, National Disaster Management Authority, India; Atiq Rehman, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies, Bangladesh; Zareen Myles, WAFD, India; Dumindu Herath, IDEA, Sri Lanka; and Santosh Patnaik, CANSA.

See: INFORSE Side Events at UNFCCC COP22. Page 3 and Back Page.

Eco-Village Development (EVD) Concept

The EVD concept addresses the rapid-development imperative and emission-reduction objectives of developing countries. It involves low-carbon, low-cost, locally adapted solutions. It reduces poverty and drudgery in the lives of women, generates income, and improves lifestyles of rural people.

The solutions include planning, renewable energy, efficient cook stoves, water management, agriculture, gardening, and housing. Combined together, these concepts can generate improved agricultural productivity; diversify livelihood; generate employment; and provide affordable, safe, clean energy for lighting and cooking.

Most EVD solutions have multiple effects, as they address both climate-change mitigation and adaptation.

EVD was developed by INFORSE-South Asia members in cooperation with CANSA within the framework of a Project in 2015-17. The Project is supported by the Climate and Environment Fund of CISU - Civil Society in Development, Denmark. Read more at INFORSE-South Asia: www.inforse.org/asia/EVD.htm.



▲ The 60-page publication, and the Policy Briefs are available online.



▲▲ Sri Lanka: Exhibition at the Environmental Day; Efficient Cookstoves; Conference "Localizing the Transformation". Photos by IDEA, Sri Lanka.

▲ (left) India: National Dialogue Meeting's opening and group photo. Photos by INSEDA and WAFD, India. (right) Bangladesh: Exhibition at the Environmental Fair. Photo by Grameen Shakti.

Sri Lanka

In Sri Lanka, Eco-Village Development (EVD) solutions are being tested and implemented actively in villages, with the support of local community-based organisations (CBOs) and governmental officials.

Through village planning and the raising of awareness, communities have been strengthened against socio-economic and climatic challenge. Specific skills promoted include organic farming, livelihood development, disaster-resilience-building, household-energy conservation, and efficiency improvements.

The EVD concept and its local demonstration activities were brought into focus nationally by two events in 2016:

- On June 5, 2016, an exhibition marking the *World Environment Day* was organized by the Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment at which the Integrated Development Association (IDEA) exhibited EVD solutions, attracting a lot of interest.
- On June 27, 2016, the first provincial sustainable-development engagement platform, "*Localizing the Transformation*", was organized by the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife (SDW). The high-profile event was attended by the Chief Minister of Central Province and by the Minister of SDW. Mr. R M Amerasekera, director of IDEA, participated on a panel and briefed attendees on the importance of EVD activities such as sustainable village planning in localizing transformations for sustainability.

On the Road to Large-scale use of EVD

EVD is promising for use throughout Sri Lanka, especially given the current national context. Committing to the COP21 Paris Agreements, Sri Lanka launched the "Sri Lanka NEXT Blue Green Era" initiative in January, 2016, acknowledging the need for low-carbon strategies in national development.

Under this initiative, 10,000 eco-friendly Haritha Suhuru villages ("Climate Smart" villages) are to be developed until 2021.

To implement this programme within the period of 2016-2020, the Sri Lankan government will collaborate with community organizations. These include the community-based Sanasa Movement and the Sarvodaya Movement, a social-uplift organization. Linkages and involvement with these community organizations should pave the way to incorporate EVD activities actively into future national programmes.

India

The First Eco-Village Development (EVD) national stakeholders' dialogue in India was held in Dehradun, the capital of Uttarakhand, on June 28, 2016.

The meeting was organised jointly by the Integrated Sustainable Energy and Ecological Development Association (INSEDA), Women's Action For Development (WAFD), INFORSE South Asia, and CANSAs.

The 45 participants included national climate negotiators, representatives of Indian ministries and the government, researchers, academics, civil society organisations, environmental activists, private-sector representatives, EVD beneficiaries, and journalists.

The main objectives of this meeting were:

- to introduce the EVD concept into India as a flexible, integrated approach to development as well as to climate-change mitigation and adaptation, and
- to brainstorm on ways to mainstream EVD effectively into national and state development agendas.

Local beneficiaries shared their personal experiences with EVD. Candid discussions addressed environmental and developmental challenges. Useful strategies were formulated for scaling up EVD and for enhancing its effectiveness.



Lalita Balakrishnan

For nearly 50 years, Lalita worked tirelessly to promote sustainable energy.

She worked with All India Women's Conference (AIWC) and INFORSE, which she represented at the World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. She attended international summits, won several awards and has contributed many articles to Sustainable Energy News.

But first and always, she dedicated her life's work to bringing energy to the poor in India.

On October 21, 2016, she breathed her last at the age of 84 years.

She lives in our memories!



▲ National Dialogue Meeting in Kathmandu, Nepal.
Photos by CRT/N, Nepal.

To extend EVD practices, four main themes emerged:

1. *Emphasize community ownership of resources*, with participatory management that leverages social and community knowledge to achieve environmental sustainability.
2. *Decentralize planning and development*. The inputs of grassroots populations can be taken more effectively through a devolved and participatory system. NGOs working with them can be effective conduits in communicating the needs and aspirations of the people.
3. *Leverage print, radio, online, and social media* to share human-interest stories about development and climate change. For India the spoken-language media is a powerful communication tool to reach the masses. Replicating the EVD concept at a larger scale throughout the country can be done more effectively by engaging not just policymakers, but also opinion makers and the general population via the media.
4. *Persistently mainstream gender and equip women* with the leverage that they require. Practitioners and policymakers repeatedly noticed that the involvement of women in development programmes has led to better implementation and to the building of social networks that add resilience to those programmes.

Nepal

More than 50 people discussed Eco-Village Development (EVD) at a national interaction meeting in Kathmandu on May 9, 2016.

The meeting was organised by Centre for Rural Technology/Nepal (CRT/N). Participants included concerned stakeholders from villages, districts, and the national level, as well as representatives of media and of project-beneficiary villages.

The main objective was to provide a common platform on which to share the rationale of developing climate- and environment-friendly villages in the contexts of rural development in Nepal.

The meeting included an introductory panel session and four interactive sessions, with presentations on concrete initiatives of the EVD Concept, perspectives of project beneficiaries, panel discussion, and an open forum.

Among the highlights were the importance of integrating *climate-friendly agro-practices* and *renewable energy*, as well as *gender-mainstreaming* in rural development and planning processes.

Participants stressed that EVD should be integrated into the conventional planning process, where it has great potential to boost the progress of national agendas concerning:

- energy, tourism, and agricultural sectors;
- development by enhancing livelihood;
- conservation of surrounding environment;
- climate-change mitigation and adaptation;
- Indicators mentioned in Environment Friendly Local Governance Framework (2013); and
- SE4ALL initiative to double the share of renewables and to improve access to modern energy technologies.

Participants concluded that the best way to expand EVD would feature

- direct dissemination of information to grassroots and other stakeholders about ongoing plans, policies, and programs;
- reaching out to media; and
- building capacity in required skills.

The dialogue meeting participants decided to continue to work further with sharing of knowledge and with establishing coordination among the concerned stakeholders.

Bangladesh

In 2016, the activities organised by Grameen Shakti to promote the EVD concept included:

- Demonstrating community-based solutions like solar-powered street lights and pumps for drinking water, as well as a bamboo cage for the slurry-pit of a biogas plant.
- Exhibition stall at the National Environment Fair in August, 2016. The theme of the stall was "Eco-village Development with Focus on Renewable Energies". The visitors included many representatives of NGOs, governmental officials, researchers, and students.
- A national discussion is planned at the National Energy Week in December, 2016.

Project Partners are 6 INFORSE member organizations and CAN-South Asia.

NEPAL:
CRT/N - Centre for Rural Technology
www.crtnepal.org



SRI LANKA:
IDEA - Integrated Development Association
www.ideasilanka.org



BANGLADESH:
Grameen Shakti
www.gshakti.org



INDIA:
INSEDA: Integrated Sustainable Energy and Ecological Development Association
www.insesta.org



WAFD - Women's Action For Development
climateandgender.org



REGIONAL NETWORKS:
CANSAs
www.cansouthasia.net



INFORSE-South Asia
www.inforse.org/asia

INFORSE-South ASIA
International Network for Sustainable Energy

COORDINATOR:
DIB, Denmark
www.dib.dk



Towards Prosperous Low-Carbon Development in West Africa



▲ INFORSE West Africa meeting in November 2015, before project start.

Throughout West Africa, the countries have decided to strengthen renewable energy and energy efficiency.

They have made regional agreements within the ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States), followed by national action plans. They also are taking part in global initiatives such as Sustainable Energy for All, and, recently, the Paris Agreement.

Do these multiple agreements and plans lead to change on the ground? Have they led to more sustainable energy systems and to better energy solutions for the poor? How could these plans bring more sustainable energy and help the poor better in this part of the world? This is exactly what a number of INFORSE organisations have set out to analyse.

Coordinated by ENDA, the West African INFORSE coordinator, and SustainableEnergy in Denmark, a new project is analysing the situation in seven West African

countries as well as within the regional sustainable-energy activities. In 2017, ENDA, together with Mali Folkecenter and CEAS in Burkina Faso, will use the resulting analysis to promote improvements in policies and practices in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Senegal. Together with other INFORSE West Africa members, the three organisations will work towards improvements of regional policies, as well.

The focus will be ensuring that policies and strategies lead to real improvements on the ground, accelerate the implementation of sustainable energy, and increase energy access for the poor.

These activities are supported by CISU, Denmark; see www.cisu.dk.

Analysis and other project results will be available on INFORSE and ENDA websites. See www.inforse.org/africa and www.endaenergie.org.

Sustainable Energy Transition in Latin America



Following the Paris Agreement, there is greater commitment in Latin America to increase use of renewable energy (RE). Costa Rica is aiming at 100% RE as early as 2030, while Uruguay will reach 100% RE in the electricity mix. Many other countries are stepping up their renewable energy transition, such as Brazil, Peru, Mexico, and Chile, as well as smaller countries, e.g., Honduras, Panama, and Nicaragua.

Pressure from civil society, along with improved financing from Inter American Development Bank, World Bank and others, are making change much more feasible. At the same time, the lower costs of solar PV and windpower are important triggers for the change. In many Latin American countries, solar power plants with 1 MW capacity, as well as windmills, now produce cheaper power than fossil-fuel power plants.

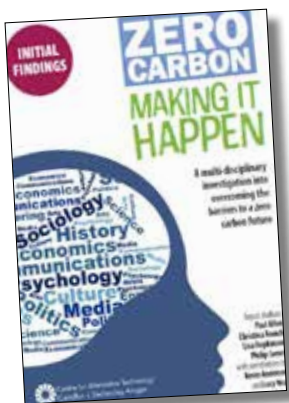
For smaller installations, solar PV systems are often cheaper in use than the traditional fossil-fuel-driven generators.

UNEP and the Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean (ECLAC) have put forward visions of zero-carbon development for the Latin American countries. There is, however, an urgent need to translate the many good examples and the visions into national policies and practices.

Toward that end, INFORSE and Climate Action Network Latin America (CANLA) want to develop proposals for transitions to 100% renewable energy on the national level. The proposals shall show how it is possible to turn national economies to renewable energy in economic and sustainable ways. We will welcome cooperation from all interested parties.

Regarding the UNEP vision, see www.unep.org/stories/climate/LAC-Could-Go-Zero-Carbon-by-2050.asp

Regarding the CANLA and INFORSE proposal developments, please contact Roque Pedace, e-mail: roque.pedace@gmail.com.



Zero Carbon: Making it Happen in Britain

To reach a zero-carbon economy is not just a technical challenge. It is increasingly evident that, to reach zero carbon, we face a mix of political, cultural, and psychological barriers.

The new *Zero Carbon: Making it Happen* report from the Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales, UK brings together findings from psychology, sociology,

geography, political science, economics, and other social sciences, as well as from spiritual practice, arts, and culture, to show how we can overcome the barriers and make the changes required by the Paris Agreement. See: <http://zerocarbonbritain.com/en/new-research> www.inforse.org/europe/Vision2050.htm www.lowcarbon-societies.eu.

Seminar at Danish Parliament with EU Commissioner Margrethe Vestager and others, on 9 September, 2016. ▶



Read presentations from the seminar, as well as documentation of a Scottish transition to renewable energy with local projects, the European Renewable Energy Federation's concerns about the coming EU regulation, and a framework for 100% community power in a global perspective on www.inforse.org/europe/europa-naevnet.htm.

Promoting Locally Driven Energy Transitions in Denmark

INFORSE-Europe and several Danish INFORSE-Europe members are now focussing on energy transitions driven by local "community power".

The largest event by far that they have organised took place on September 9, with 70 participants including the EU Commissioner for Competition, Margrethe Vestager, along with four energy speakers of the Danish Parliament. They discussed problems and opportunities for locally based and owned renewable energy, how EU regulations can promote or deter local involvement, and how national rulings can make best use of the EU framework.

One key message from the organisers was that local involvement is crucial for local developments and for the continued transition to renewable energy. Local involvement and acceptance are critical to project success.

Another key issue is the upcoming EU renewable-energy directive implementing the EU 2030 climate and energy targets, which will set rules that can either help or stop local involvement in renewable-energy projects. The substance of these rules ultimately can determine the success of the EU transition to sustainable energy.

The event was supported by the the Danish "Europa-Nævnet" (www.europa-naevnet.dk).

New NGO Actions for Sustainable Energy Transition in Eastern Europe

Six INFORSE members have come together to advocate for sustainable energy transition in Eastern Europe. Five of the organisations are developing proposals for and promote transition of their countries, or of



a municipality in their country, to reliance on efficient use of renewable energy. Armenia, Macedonia, and Ukraine will have national proposals, while Belarus and Serbia will develop proposals covering municipalities.

The five Eastern-European organisations are EkoTeam (Armenia), Centre for Environmental Solutions (Belarus), Eko-Svest (Macedonia), CEKOR (Serbia), and Renewable Energy Agency (Ukraine). The sixth organisation is SustainableEnergy (Denmark), which has helped with fund-raising and coordination.

The results will be presented at a European sustainable-energy seminar in Denmark in August, 2017. (See box on this page).

These activities are supported by a CISU civil-society support programme within the Danish Neighbourhood programme, www.cisu.dk.

Follow the project on www.inforse.org/europe/ASET.htm.

◀ Project start-up meeting in Subotica, Serbia on August 30, 2016.

European Sustainable Energy Seminar 2017, August 21-25, Denmark

INFORSE-Europe is organising a one-week seminar to be held in 2017 at the Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy to address two main topics:

- Methods leading to successful local and national transitions to sustainable energy. Recent proposals from NGOs will be presented and discussed on how a municipality, a region, or a country can make a fast and sustainable transition to efficient use of renewable energy. The focus will include the best examples from around Europe as well as how to develop plans and

promote the transition in Eastern Europe, where transitions to renewable energy are still far from mainstream.

- Local involvement in the energy transition. It has been demonstrated that local involvement and "community power" can succeed, and that it can help the transition not only to a better energy system, but also to stronger economies in thriving local areas, in which the renewable energy resources are also resources for local development.

Read more and sign up at www.inforse.org/europe/seminar_17_DK.htm



Sign Up Now!



MARRAKECH COP22 | CMP12
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2016

INFORSE IN THE **BLUE ZONE**
UNFCCC COP22
Marrakech, Morocco

Exhibition

Nov. 7 - Dec. 19, 2016

Side Event

Friday, November 11, 2016

Time: 16.45-18.15

Room: Mediterranean

Title: Improving NDCs: Ecovillage Development, Energy Access, & Zero Carbon Societies in Africa, Asia & EU

Speakers include:

INFORSE-South Asia:

- Kavita Myles, INSEDA, India;
- Shovana Maharjan, CRT, Nepal;
- M.M. Hasan, Grameen Shakti, Bangladesh;
- Dumindu Herath, IDEA, Sri Lanka.

INFORSE-Europe:

- Preben Maegaard & Leire Gorroño, Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy;
- Paul Allen, Center for Alternative Technology (CAT), UK.

**Organiseres: INFORSE (lead),
Nordic Folkecenter for Renewable Energy,
Global Ecovillage Network, ECOLISE.**

More: www.inforse.org/INFORSE-UN.php3

Mini Side Event

Tuesday, November 8, 2016

Time: 12:00 to 13:00

Room: Climate Change Studio

Title: Eco Village Development as a Low-Carbon Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy for Development in South Asia

More: www.inforse.org/asia



INFORSE is a world-wide network of 145 non-governmental organizations in 60 countries

INFORSE was established in 1992 at the UN "Earth Summit" in Rio de Janeiro to promote a transition to efficient and sustainable use of renewable energy.

The organisations work with renewable energy and sustainable development to improve environment and to reduce poverty through advocacy as well as by raising awareness.

Active at the United Nations

INFORSE has NGO consultative status with the UN ECOSOC since 1998, and with the UNFCCC since 2002. It has sent delegations to many of the Climate COP-meetings as observers as well as organized official side events and exhibitions.

Active on European Union Level

INFORSE-Europe is registered in the EU lobby register and has a permanent seat at the EU Ecodesign Directives' consultation forum.

Communication

The communication is facilitated by a newsletter, a database of more than 1000 relevant contacts, and NGO seminars.

Projects

INFORSE's member organizations often work together to achieve progress through influencing politics, to build capacity through exchanges of information and of services, and through cooperation projects. The last include, in the last 10 years:

- "Southern Voices on Climate Change", an NGO capacity-building program.
- Low-Carbon, Pro-Poor Development Strategies in Africa and South Asia.
- Eco-Village Developments as Climate Solutions in South Asia.
- Social participation in local energy planning in Poland.
- Local sustainable energy planning and advice center in Belarus.

- 100% renewable-energy scenarios for the EU, for Denmark, Baltic Countries, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary etc.
- Cool Products Campaign for the EU EcoDesign Directive.
- NGO cooperation projects in Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, Russia, Ukraine and Denmark. Activities included development of sustainable energy plans, campaigns, exhibitions, and study tours.
- EU and sustainable energy information and debates in Denmark
- Creation of a network of NGOs and researchers on low carbon scenarios.
- Educational programs e.g., SPARE, DIERET, and a database of school materials.
- Compiling documentations of successful cases and of a renewable-technology manual for South Asia.

Supporters have included the EU, DANIDA, SIDA, the Nordic Council of Ministers, AirClim, ECOS, Swiss Fund, and the Danish Europa-Nævnet.

More: www.inforse.org

INFORSE
International Network for Sustainable Energy



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