



Reinforcing cooperation with ENP countries on bridging the gap between energy research and energy innovation

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Project Consortium

- Centre for Social Innovation – ZSI, Austria
- Regional Centre for Information and Scientific Development - RCISD, Hungary
- European Sustainable Energy Innovation Alliance - eseia, Austria
- Belarusian Institute of Systems Analysis and Information Support - BelISA, Belarus
- National Academy of Sciences – NAS-RA, Armenia
- Agency for Innovation and Technology Transfer - AITT, Moldova
- Technology Transfer Association - TTA, Armenia
- Belarusian Innovation Fund - BIF, Belarus
- Union "Energy Efficiency Center Georgia" – EEC, Georgia
- energy engineers - ee, Germany
- Organization for Small and Medium Enterprises Sector Development - ODIMM, Moldova

Project Mission

Energy supply and usage and the stimulation of innovation activities are some of the most important challenges for the EU and for the Eastern European countries within the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). Increased resource efficiency and innovation in renewable and sustainable energy offers the best potential to solve the urgent, interrelated societal challenges of insecurity over energy supplies, growing energy demand, and looming climate change.

The ener2i project focuses on the need to find innovative and sustainable solutions to these challenges, directly addressing the gap between new energy research and European industry. Existing research results are not being sufficiently transferred into innovative processes and products, and in many countries cooperation among research institutes, universities, and the business sector are at an early stage of development. In order to bridge this gap and accelerate innovation performance, ener2i will improve knowledge transfer and innovation support in the field of renewable energies (RES) and energy efficiency (EE) through a comprehensive trans-national cooperation programme.

The linkages between research and innovation will be stimulated with effective knowledge transfer methods in the ENP countries Armenia, Belarus, Georgia and Moldova, and sustainable cooperation between research and innovation actors across EU and ENP countries will be established with support from EU partners from Austria, Germany, Hungary, Netherlands and others. With a strong consortium of research organisations in the energy and innovation fields, innovation funding agencies, service providers, and SME support agencies, and a mix of proposed activities, including brokerage events and training workshops in each of the ENP partner countries, twinning schemes, and an innovation voucher scheme, we will address the difficult challenge of strengthening cooperation between research and business actors in EE/RES, while at the same time facilitating cooperation between EU and ENP actors.

Project Facts

Full title: Energy to Innovation - Reinforcing cooperation with ENP countries on bridging the gap between energy research and energy innovation

Acronym: ener2i

Reference of the Grant Agreement no: 609532

Project Start: 1 October 2013

Duration: 36 Months

EU Contribution: 999,555.00 EURO

Project Coordinator: Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI), Vienna, Austria

Background and objectives

The ener2i project focuses on the need to find innovative and sustainable solutions to these challenges, directly addressing the gap between new energy research and European industry. Existing research results are not being sufficiently transferred into innovative processes and products, and in Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries (Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova) cooperation among research institutes, universities, and the business sector are at an early stage of development. In order to bridge this gap and accelerate innovation performance, ener2i concentrates on the following main objectives:

- To enhance the innovation capacity and improve the innovation performance of manufacturers, energy service companies and industry in the field of energy efficiency (EE) and renewable energy sources (RES).
- To improve knowledge transfer and innovation support in the field of EE/RES through a comprehensive trans-national cooperation.
- To stimulate effective linkages between research and innovation with effective knowledge transfer methods in the participating EaP countries Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, and Moldova.
- To strengthen cooperation between research and business actors in EE/RES in the participating countries and at the same time facilitating the cooperation between EU and participating EaP countries.

Implementation

The ener2i objectives will be implemented through the following activities:

- Setting up a stakeholder database
- Analysis of the energy sectors and of the innovation situation in participating EaP countries
- Development of a roadmap for EE/RES in industry, including policy recommendations
- Twinning activities among EU and EaP partners
- Networking activities e.g. brokerages at local (EaP) and international level
- Targeted training activities on technology transfer, innovation issues, energy research, etc.
- Establishing an innovation voucher scheme for the implementation of energy innovations
- Dissemination of the project results

Expected Impact

- 4 analytical reports on the research and innovation landscape and on players in EE/RES in the participating EaP countries (Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova)
- 4 local brokerages in participating EaP countries and 4 brokerages in EU countries
- 8 training workshops on various aspects of innovation, which are relevant for EE/RES in participating EaP countries
- Staff exchanges/study visits – 24 experts exchanged in the frame of a twinning scheme
- 24 innovation vouchers, allocated to start-ups and businesses in the participating EaP countries as a result of a merit-based competition