



European
Commission

Energy Agencies in Europe

Results and perspectives

*Executive
Agency for
SMEs*

are able to support the preparation of sustainable energy projects, but not all energy agencies have the skills required to do that preparatory work. Exchanges of experience are therefore still needed to develop the necessary skills in more energy agencies and to build greater confidence in the financial institutions. Indeed, according to the information provided by those energy agencies that responded to the surveys, only 10% of energy agencies count financial institutions as one of their four main target groups.

The development of pilot projects is usually a good way to engage with local politicians. Some energy agencies have provided examples of rational use of energy (RUE) or renewable energy sources (RES) projects, which have been seen as a great success by the general public and, therefore, also by decision makers. In Croatia, for instance, the renovation of a significant number of condominium buildings has generated a very high interest in both the media and the general public, and has therefore been welcomed by decision makers. In Italy, the construction of local cogeneration plants using biogas on farms has been very successful⁵ and was warmly welcomed by local decision makers. Indeed, by financing the implementation of innovative renewable power generation, the Italian project involved the agricultural sector and opened it up to new opportunities for business development. These examples highlight how projects with a holistic approach can win political support from decision makers with different allegiances.

E.3.5 Needs and expectations of energy agencies

Some energy agencies ask for the implementation of EU directives on Energy Efficiency and RES to be adapted in ways which would make it easier for energy agencies (fully or partly public) to implement cost effective energy actions in their areas. For example, energy efficient district-heating networks supplied by RES could be more easily implemented by local, provincial or regional authorities with the help of their local energy agencies than by central governments, but the existing legal and financial frameworks need to be adapted in some Member States in order to facilitate this.

In view of the delays which are occurring between the signing of SEAPs and their actual implementation, energy agencies are calling for more targeted training on new financial tools and services, such as energy performance contracting, and on how to mobilise public-private partnerships and ESCOs. They also call for more training on how to develop bankable project packages and how to prepare appropriate business models for local RES and energy efficiency related projects.

Structural funds will play a growing role in supporting the development of sustainable energy activities and in bringing them into the mainstream. Energy agencies recognise this and would like to become more involved in designing and developing policies and frameworks for using these funds for sustainable energy projects

5 FORAGRI project led by provincial energy agency AGIRE in Mantova successfully engaged local decision makers in a rural area and won Sustainable Energy Europe Award 2008.

Agenzie per l'Energia in Europa

Risultati e prospettive

Ringraziamenti

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DG ENER: http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/energy/index_en.htm

EASME: <http://ec.europa.eu/easme/en/executive-agency-small-and-medium-sized-enterprises-easme>

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Lo sviluppo di progetti pilota è solitamente molto utile per incentivare la collaborazione con il mondo politico locale. Alcune Agenzie per l'Energia hanno prodotto esempi di utilizzo razionale dell'Energia (EE) o progetti nel campo delle fonti energetiche rinnovabili (RES) che hanno ottenuto un apprezzabile successo a livello di opinione pubblica, con grande soddisfazione anche del mondo politico locale.

In Croazia, per esempio, la ristrutturazione di un gran numero di edifici condominiali, con particolare attenzione al risparmio energetico, ha generato un grande interesse nei media e nel pubblico.

In Italia il cofinanziamento di impianti di cogenerazione finalizzati alla produzione e utilizzo di biogas nelle aziende agricole ha riscosso un notevole successo, grazie ad un accordo tra Amministrazioni di estrazione politica opposta, perché ha permesso lo sviluppo di opportunità di business innovative per il settore agricolo⁵.

Entrambi gli esempi evidenziano come progetti estremamente concreti e con un approccio che si definisce olistico possano ottenere il supporto dei decision makers anche a dispetto di una diversa appartenenza politica.

⁵ Il progetto FORAGRI, coordinato da AGIRE, l'Agenzia per l'Energia della Provincia di Mantova, ha coinvolto con successo gli attori politici locali (Regione Lombardia e Provincia di Mantova) in un'area a forte vocazione Agricola vincendo anche il prestigioso "Sustainable Energy Europe Award 2008".