



Foundation Agreement North Sea-SEP

Prologue

The foundation agreement of North Sea-SEP is based on a discussion paper from March 17th, 2011 and the Oldenburg Recommendation. Raising a foundation for further activities beyond the life time of the project is the main objective of the foundation agreement. Over the past three years a number of tools and best practices have been established for a focused engagement on climate protection and a decentralised approach to energy policies on local and regional level. A high transferability of the scientific and technical findings of this project is given through the holistic approach of North Sea-SEP.

Background

The activities providing a foundation for a continuance after the project end were predominantly conducted in the scope of the Work package 2 (Building up of Think Tank), Work package 4.3 (Knowledge base) and Work package 3.2.1 (building a transnational network).

Firstly, the Think Tank has been created to give advices to the project partners concerning future developments in sustainable energies and techniques as well as give guidance to the whole North Sea-SEP project and its development. The Think Tank has been the starting point of an SEP-foundation which works beyond the project life time.

Furthermore, activities of Work package 4.3 aims to develop an output which should provide guidance on how to follow up the gains which have been established in the frame of the project.

WP 3.2.1 stimulates that the partners participate in transnational networks. The benefit of a transnational partnership is to learn from each other and thinking about new concepts and ways to increase the use of renewable energy sources.

Success factors for a continuance of the project activities:

- The degree of cooperation on a transnational level: project members start cooperating in new projects, transnational involvement in local processes, participating in EU projects other than North Sea-SEP
- The degree of connection to Institutions outside North Sea-SEP, such as the NSR or European Commission, other universities etc.
- The degree of impact/influence of individual network members on a (trans-) national level, e.g. it makes a difference if the network consist of a group of small local companies or of mayors of municipalities that have signed a manifest for sustainable cities.

- An open communication structure (e.g. Linked-in group or email dispenser) facilitating the existing local networks to connect on a transnational level, beyond the life time of the project
- A signed confirmation of the project members to work together in the future
- An institution with a membership, budget, a program, website and good connections to high level research institutes, communication forums and the European political arena

North Sea-SEP recommendations

On November 28th, 2012 the project partners of the Interreg IV B project „North Sea-SEP“ met in Oldenburg (Germany) for their final conference. At the end of the event, the project partners agreed on a set of recommendations during the Final Conference of the project. Supported by the European Union, the North Sea-Sustainable Energy Planning Network collected extensive knowledge regarding the transnational transferability and applicability of tools and methods for future oriented energy planning-processes in European regions. Based on the experiences the network partners have gained within the project, North Sea – SEP strongly recommend to observe the following measures as conducive to a sustainable regional energy planning:

- To determine a reliable basis for planning processes, comprehensive baseline studies should be conducted for every planning region by local agents. For reasons of better regional comparability and transferability, the introduction of European standards for these regional baseline-studies would be advisable.
- Efficient state-of-the-art tools for the comprehensive analysis of available and unused potentials of renewable energies and energy-savings in the regions should be used to frame possible fields of action for sustainable energy planning policies.
- The processes of energy transition should be grasped as a great opportunity, in the way that new regional and local resources and value chains are created.
- The implementation of regional networks and public participation are to be used as important measures to involve the local people and relevant stakeholders. To shape a beneficial change process in regional energy supply, it is vital to secure social acceptance, if not even to boost the process by inducing a positive public

dynamic for sustainable energy development.

- Practical strategies and roadmaps for sustainable, regional energy planning build the necessary framework to ensure the long-term reliability of regional energy supply. The strategies for regional energy transition have to be supported by a persisting political commitment to be successful.

The partners of North Sea Sustainable Energy Planning continue to be the local contact persons in the persisting group of experts. They will further develop the measures mentioned before and keep on working on transnational knowledge transfer.

Signatures of the North Sea-SEP partners

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