

## ManagEnergy Reflection Group, co-operation with EnR

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### MERG

- part of the EC **ManagEnergy** initiative, DG TREN, formed in 2002. MERG was set up to reflect on programmes and strategic issues (CIP, EIE II, GPEE etc).
- an **informal think-tank**, as a global thinking group for local actions on energy. In summary, the objectives of the Reflection Group are to:
  - advise** the Commission on Community legislation, programmes, local initiatives, partnerships and good practice that can help identify policy priorities of the EU
  - suggest** supplementary areas of action, which can be particularly recommended on the basis of the experiences at local and regional level
  - disseminate** Community policies and project results to actors at the local and regional level
- two-way forum for **communication** and **reflection** between the Commission and local energy actors, including European networks.
- important in helping to bring the EC closer to the citizens, offering a **high-level voice** for local and regional energy agencies at the decision-making table.

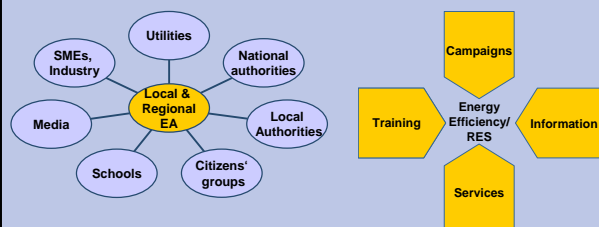
### MERG

- composed** of representatives for actors at local/regional levels - National Associations of Local and Regional Energy Agencies, relevant European Networks and experts from countries where no association exists so far.
- represents **more than 350** local and regional energy **agencies/networks** in Europe.
- Strategic orientation:**
  - To reflect on **ManagEnergy** and other EC dissemination activities
  - To reflect on the development of the **Energy Intelligent Europe II Programme**
  - To offer **high-level advice** on strategies, such as the **GPEE**, especially concerning the needs of the local level for sustainable energy action
  - To support the formation of new energy agencies, esp. in NMS/CC, and deliver ideas to strengthen the capabilities of existing ones**
  - To support **national associations** of local and regional energy agencies
  - To reflect on how **clean transport issues** can be taken up
  - To facilitate the two-way **communication** between the Commission and local energy agencies and actors

### Unique strengths of Agencies – *Ecuba Report'05*

- Established under SAVE/EIE Programme
- Dealing with energy demand issues on the **local level**, close to citizens, municipalities and SMEs
- Independent** & can work in **open market**
- Non-profit but with **business skills**
- Flexibility** and quick response, strong **local capacity**, key drivers in implementation of policy to local level and info dissemination
- Problem-oriented**, not technically-oriented
- Ability to develop **partnerships** with public and private companies and across sectors – bottom up initiatives
- EU connection** gives credibility

### Partners in Day to Day Use of Energy



### Application of existing measures - GPEE

- The potential of **local and regional authorities** and their energy agencies must be fully captured = **sleeping giants**
- Need for a **clear top-down signal** to the city and county level giving recognition and value to their energy efficiency actions
- Transposition of new Directives must not delay implementation of the GPEE Action Plan
- Joint forces are necessary to meet national and EU targets (co-operation on EU, national and local level), without local actors targets will hardly be met.

### Gaps in existing measures - GPEE

- Demand side management has gaps:
  - Current emphasis is on load peak-shifting
    - Effective for large industrial/commercial consumers
    - Less effective in domestic sector
  - Needs emphasis on total consumption reduction
- Public information and awareness campaigns - gaps in 2 areas:
  - Information - commercially, politically & technically neutral
  - Localization of information, with local reference, examples & context
- Energy efficiency is acceptable to all
  - What is missing is information and co-ordination

### Situation in NMS/CC

#### Background/history

- Differences in the **historical background** for development of regional/local decision making structures in NMS/CC – process of EU accession
- Lack of organisations/actors on the local level (policy not implemented in full extent)
- Lack of financial means and lack of priorities on the local political agenda
- Lack of awareness among local/regional/national decision makers to support the local energy players

#### Critical issues/questions:

- How can more local/regional energy agencies be established in NMS/CC
- How to keep their operation sustainable
- How can the awareness among national/local authorities be raised
- How can the national actors be convinced to support the creation of EAs as important elements in EE/RES strategy
- How national/regional/local actors can join forces towards RES/EE uptake

### MERG & EnR

- **Benefits and synergies** are seen and necessary for both groups.
- **Enhanced partnerships** with local energy actors would help the national energy agencies to better implement their objectives and programmes.
- **Increased awareness** among national agencies about the relevance and needs of the local level would help to improve the effectiveness and impact of local energy agencies.
- Strengthened relations between national, regional and local energy agencies can lead to a **more effective way of increasing energy efficiency and using renewable energy sources**.
- Energy Policy and Legislation has to be tailor made to local needs and citizens
- To create a wise policy, information from local level is necessary
- Information is crucial point on both levels
- Mutual exchange of experience and ideas **creates strong capacity** on both sides

### MERG & EnR

- Co-operation started and needs to be developed further
- EnR is full member of MERG
- Initial discussion was held to find relevant fields for co-operation
- Meeting of chairmen (Rob Kool and Boris Papousek) in 2005
- MERG letter to EnR for continuation of dialogue /feb 2006
- Follow – up...

### MERG & EnR WG CEEC in NMS/CC - suggestions

- Support for **creating new local and regional energy agencies** in areas where they do not yet exist is proposed by the MERG. The EnR WG CEEC could help as good basis for this.
- **Know-how transfer** on energy management issues **towards public decision makers** (in line with Managenergy events/EnR events?)
- EnR members – **pressure** and info dissemination **towards national authorities** – cooperation benefits with EAs – local action brings inputs for national policy and creates demand/market
- **Direct promotion/support of EAs** where appropriate and needed

### MERG & EnR WG CEEC in NMS/CC - suggestions

- **Increased participation** of local and regional energy agencies in EU projects is seen as valuable contribution to EU sustainable energy goals.
  - However, local actors meet several barriers for participation and national co-financing for EU projects is seen as a big problem in many countries.
  - EnR members could support local and regional energy agencies in submitting proposals and through helping to get **access to appropriate funds**.
- **Joint actions** towards implementation of **EU initiatives** (SEE Campaign, EU Biomass Action plan, GPEE AP, joint EU projects)
- Close **co-operation on national initiatives** and projects (implementation of energy policy and legislation, information dissemination, education etc.)
- Ongoing **capacity building** on both sides
- **what else could be done?**

Thank you for your attention!

