

Action on New Member States and Candidate Countries

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Action on NMS and CC

Previous activities on NMS/CC:

- First inputs by MERG members from NMS/CC – there is a difference!
- Concept paper on Actions in NMS/CC, by Ralf Goldmann – proposals for action to be taken
- ECUBA Study on Energy Agencies – detailed SWOT analysis of EAs in Europe, priority areas for further action
- EC Green Paper on Energy Efficiency – activity areas and possible actions outlined
- Direct questions sent to NMS/CC MERG members to update the status

MERG Meeting, November 30, Brussels

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Results:

- 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
- 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 – still centralized approach
- missing legislation on EE/RES creates the principal barrier towards EAs development

MERG Meeting, November 30, Brussels

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Results

- should EAs be independent – are they – if too close to LAs?
- if not, lack of commercial and PR know-how
- HR and capacity building problems,
- mission deviations undermine sustainability
 - however, successful agencies provide good know-how transfer potential
 - flexibility and problem solving orientation – competitive advantage
 - cross-sectoral approach, PR skills
 - well balanced services portfolio and business approach
 - leaders in their respective field of operation

MERG Meeting, November 30, Brussels

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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 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

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What can be done through:

- **Managenergy initiative**
 - brochure for local energy actors on experience and benefits of EA establishment and operation – concrete examples
 - targeted trainings for local/regional authorities – leaders, not deputies
 - capacity building trainings for EAs directors/staff (financing, mission development, networking, HR policy, PR, EU projects management) – linking the regional differences, experienced agencies as trainers
 - know-how transfer on regional/local planning procedures and local energy policy development (EnEffect as example)
 - trainings on financing of RES/EE projects - investments
 - involve financial sector (banks, investors as lecturers)
 - attract industry, ESCOs and SMEs to active participation
 - annual contest on the best EA, winning wide recognition/certificate

MERG Meeting, November 30, Brussels

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- What can be done in the frame of:
 - **EIE II Programme**
 - support to capacity building of existing agencies - staff exchange, trainings, conferences, twinning programme for EAs
 - tender for training of public authorities in NMS/CC
 - is 50% EC support sufficient? – problems with co-financing
 - co - financing of replication projects in NMS – as showcases

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- What can be done by:
 - **DG TREN / IEEA**
 - regional/local energy plans compulsory – EC Green paper on EE and Action plan – vehicle to changes in legislation
 - targeted dissemination within Sustenergy campaign in selected regions according to their success in EAs start up/operation
 - in EIE call – EAs – propose to applicants to discuss their project with experienced agencies/associations
 - attend the Managenergy events / pressure towards national authorities

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- What can be done through:
 - **Co-operation with networks (BISE, EnR, FEDARENE, ...)**
 - know-how transfer towards public decision makers – in line with Managenergy events
 - EnR members – lobbying and info dissemination towards national authorities – cooperation benefits with EAs – local action brings inputs for national policy
 - direct promotion/support of EAs where appropriate
 - BISE Forum / E-Cites could play an essential role in NMS?
 - what else could be done?

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- What can be done with help of:
 - **MERG members**
 - national help desk – supported by EIE Programme (tendering?)
 - national information days/energy days/weeks – EIE Events
 - support/promote projects for creation of National Networks where they do not exist (Seance, Finance, BISE)
 - dissemination of information brochure/guidelines on EAs to local administrations
 - attending the Managenergy events as trainers/speakers
 - provide comments on EIE Programme

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- **Follow-up**
 - Specific tasks to be proposed/elaborated in discussion paper and communicated to stakeholders via internet (Managenergy, EnR, FEDARENE, IEEA, MERG members, relevant authorities) and events:
 - Increase participation of NMS/CC in MERG
 - co-operation with EnR working group on CEE
 - capacity building and know-how transfer issues (trainings, workshops)
 - national help desks and info – points in each country
 - Response from relevant stakeholders (MERG, Managenergy, EnR, BISE, DG TREN, IEEA..)
 - Bringing actions to life – mobilisation of all stakeholders
 - Permanent feedback through Managenergy website and events

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Thank you for your attention!