



Wide the SEE by Succ Mod – NEWS (Newsletter Nr 1)

About “Wide the SEE by Succ Mod”

Solar energy is clean, safe and available. The reasons for using thermal solar energy are numerous. In some countries in the EU, such as Greece and Austria, the use of solar energy for heating and water heating is widespread. In other countries it is used less. The project “Widening the Thermal Solar Energy Exploitation by The Successful Models – Wide the SEE by Succ Mod” was started to boost the use of this environmentally friendly and sustainable source of energy in more European countries.



The project partners from eleven countries of SEE (South-East Europe):

- develop a common political and financial structure for the successful spread of thermal solar energy;
- develop awareness campaigns for residents and other target groups;
- provide qualification campaigns for HVAC (abbr.: heating, ventilation and air conditioning) technicians ;
- investigate deficiencies and obstacles that impede the market for thermal solar energy for residential heating and domestic water heating.

“Wide the See by Succ Mod” aims to cover the increasing energy requirements by using thermal solar energy, to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases, and to create new jobs on the sustainable energy sector.

Besides scientific organizations from these five countries, others from Greece and Austria, where the concentration of thermal solar systems is above average, are also participating in “Wide the SEE by Succ Mod”. Partners from the EU candidate countries Croatia and Macedonia as well as Ukraine and Moldova are also participating.

Overview of current events at Wide the SEE by Succ Mod

The official kick-off for “Wide the SEE by Succ Mod” (September 2009)

The starting event for the SEE project “Wide the SEE by Succ Mod” in Teramo, Italy, lasted from 7th to 9th September 2009. About 30 delegates of the participating project partners decided the course of the project. The aim of Wide the SEE is to increase the use of thermal solar energy. Using the example set by Austria and Greece; successful models will be examined, then transferred to and tested in other countries. At the official launch in Teramo, the project partners from business, politics and research decided on the design of the website www.widethesee.eu, where the public will be informed about the course of the project. Three workshops were also held to exchange experience spanning the countries. The first goal will be to collect best practice projects for the use of thermal solar energy throughout Europe. Consequently, worthwhile measures will be developed to make thermal solar energy more popular and will be implemented first in Romania and then in Slovenia, Italy, Bulgaria and Hungary.



Study Visit to Austria (26th to 28th January 2010)

Some 20 participants in a study visit to Austria had an extensive program waiting for them. In their work groups, via intensive discussion, from numerous proposals they selected best-practice examples for the installation of solar collectors. They also had the opportunity to make practical contact with projects and production companies. The visitors toured Austria Solar, Eco World Styria, AEE – Institut für Nachhaltige Technologien (Institute for Sustainable Technologies) and Solid. Federal and provincial government officials informed the participants about legal conditions and subsidies for solar energy.



In combination with the study visit, initial discussions took place to select the best practice examples. From examples collected before the study visit, groups selected those that proved particularly interesting for the project. More information will be collected concerning these projects to enable them to serve as showcase examples for the proliferation of solar thermal energy in the Wide the SEE partner nations.

At the end of the tight program, a press conference informed the Austrian media about the project Wide the SEE.

Study Visit to Greece (22th – 24th March 2010)

The Market Operators group organized a study visit in Xanthi, and the Policy Group and House Owners met in Thessaloniki. The study visits were organized by local companies.

The first visit was at Systems Sunlight S.A., which operates in the field of engineering, production, distribution and construction of integrated

renewable energy systems and special specification battery cells. The study visit took place in the photovoltaic park of N. Kessani, which has been in operation since September 2008.



The second visit was at Thrace Plastics Group, which operates in the field of production and trade of PP & PE products. The study visit was hosted in the photovoltaic park of Xanthi, which has been in operation since 2007. Its nominal power is 100 kW and it feeds pure green energy into the grid.

Both companies prefer to sell their production to the public electricity enterprise instead of using it for two main reasons:

1. The power produced by those parks is low voltage and could not be used in the production line of the industries without modifications.
2. It is more profitable for the two companies to sell the electricity produced by their parks to the public electricity enterprise, since as suppliers they sell the energy for € 0.56 while they buy the energy as customers for € 0.11.

Furthermore, both industries have submitted a feasibility study and have requested financial aid in order to enlarge the photovoltaic parks and produce more energy, part of which, after the necessary modifications, will be used in their production line.

Policy Makers Seminars (March to June 2010)

Policy makers seminars were held in the Wide the SEE partner countries; experts in renewable energy were invited from management, research and installation firms. The goal of the seminars was to improve a methodological guide that serves to promote the utilization of solar thermal energy in the Wide the SEE partner countries. Discussions in different nations took somewhat different directions based on the respective local situation. The Seminar from CERE took place on May 17th in Güssing in close cooperation with GET.



Participants in the policy maker's seminar in Austria

Particularly important aspects proved to be subsidies and legal conditions for the use of solar energy. This demonstrates that well-planned subsidies can significantly promote the use of solar energy. Likewise building codes can promote (or hinder) solar systems.

Another topic of discussion was quality management, which assures that a solar system fulfills its purpose. This applies not only to the components of the system but also its expert installation. Possible solutions include legal regulation and training HVAC technicians.

Possibilities were identified for better informing HVAC (abbr.: heating, ventilation and air conditioning) technicians and home owners about available options and so motivating them to use solar thermal energy. In Austria, e.g., there are regular energy discussion groups in many locations that involve HVAC technicians, home owners and local decision makers. These meetings have enabled significant improvement of conditions for solar thermal energy.

The results of the seminars will be compiled in a Methodological Guide to make it an effective instrument to promote the utilization of solar energy.

Meeting in Patras, Greece (15th to 17th June 2010)

The primary topic of this three-day Wide the SEE meeting was the formulation of guidelines to promote Europe-wide market penetration of thermal solar systems for domestic hot water. To consider the views and initial local situations in the partner countries, expert seminars were held over the past months in each participating nation. The results of these events were compiled and discussed in Patras to produce an extensive guide to be utilized primarily in those partner countries where solar power is not used extensively. The new concept will first be applied starting in autumn in Romania, where the usability of the guidelines will be tested in practice.



To enrich the meeting agenda, participants visited Patras Science Park, the home of project partner Industrial Systems Institute (I.S.I.).

For more information` s visit our website: www.widethesee.eu

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