

NEWSLETTER

FOR THE

BALTIC SEA REGION



Issue No. 2, November 2010

Foreword

Dear partners and friends,

as we are approaching Christmas as well as the end of the second project phase we are delighted to address you with a new edition of our PEA newsletter.

Towards the end of the year we hope that this past one was successful for you. Surely, our project has been a success.

Since the kick-off-meeting in Wittenberge in March this year some time has passed and a lot has happened.



Having organised the project structure and the project tasks the partners also delivered the baseline study which they handled effectively. These studies can now be looked at on the project platform.

Besides this joint transnational step there was also a lot of progress on side of the individual project partners. For example, Lathi University together with BTU Cottbus and other partners have drafted a practice module. The intention is to in-form public administrations but also individuals about the possibilities for saving costs and resources by using energy in a clever way.

Wittenberge Council as leading partner is particularly happy about the newly started feasibility study on the use of waste heat which is generated during the electrification of biogas in the biogas plant Groß Warnow. The plant is to be put on stream in spring 2011.

Given its feasibility not only council buildings but also nearby residents will then be connected to the heat grid. The benefits and, in particular, the feasibility of such a move could be seen during a project meeting in Güssing/ Austria.



What else can you expect from this issue?

After presenting nine of the project partners in the first issue you will find profiles of the remaining twelve partners in this one. There is also an article on the baseline study, an article on the project meeting in Tartu in June this year and further information on cross-project cooperation.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition of our newsletter. We also want to wish you a merry Christmas and a happy and successful new year 2011.

Eckhard Britt
Jan Schmidt

PEA project office
Wittenberge

PEA Project Partners

After we introduced the first nine partners participating in the project in the first issue of the PEA Newsletter, we now want to take the opportunity to present the rest of the 21 PEA Project Partners and their ideas for the PEA Project.

South Estonian Centre of Renewable Energy

South-Estonian Centre of Renewable Energy (LETEK) was founded in 2003 by a team of engineers and consultants with tens of years of experience in different energy related spheres, as a private non-profit organisation with the aim to contribute to the wider implementation of renewable energy sources (RES) and rational use of energy (RUE) in local municipalities and enterprises by joining efforts of private and legal entities in:

- Achieving regional independence and sustainability of energy production
- Decreasing environmental effects of energy industry
- Developing necessary infrastructure
- Creating new jobs
- Improving quality of life



Trip on Peipsi Lake

Activities of the Centre include:

- Performance of analyses and feasibility studies and compilation of development plans
- Organisation of practical training
- Preparation and management of renewable energy related projects
- Collection and dissemination of information
- Cooperation with other organisations with similar profile
- Organisation of seminars and exhibitions for information of the wider public and changing traditional energy behaviour and public attitudes

- Individual consultations on regional and local energy
- Planning, development plans, different aspects of heat production etc.
- Active participation in research supporting activities

Since its creation, South-Estonian Centre of Renewable Energy has managed to create good contacts with all county governments and the majority of local and rural municipalities of the region. A number of successfully completed investment projects in the district heating industry, including fuel switch from heavy or light fuel oil to biomass combustion, have been initiated and prepared by experts of the centre. Besides, the centre has won one PHARE service contract and prepared feasibility studies for several project proposals and reconstruction projects and performed calculations of emissions.

What the team expects from the PEA project:

- Increase the leading role of local municipalities in changing the energy consuming habits of local population
- Dissemination of success stories of RES and RUE applications
- Mobilisation of joint efforts for the common benefit in systematic planning and implementation of targeted investments into energy efficiency
- Introduction of new energy technologies
- Decrease energy dependency of the regions
- Increase self-sustainability and share of locally produced RES energy

Estonian University of Life Sciences

The mission of the Estonian University of Life Sciences is to guarantee sustainable use of natural resources and enhance rural development. Universities, just like people, differ from each other. The «character» of the University is, first and foremost, expressed in its responsibility to society — in its mission. Estonian University of Life Sciences is the only university in Estonia whose priorities in academic and research activities provide the sustainable development of natural resources necessary for the

existence of human beings as well as the preservation of heritage and habitat.

The Estonian University of Life Sciences (EMU) is an independent university since 1951 made up of five institutes of which one is dedicated to agricultural and environmental sciences. Its expertise lies in the fields of energy efficiency in buildings, new and renewable energy resources (study of efficiency in small scale energy production to improve the rational use of energy), social impacts of new energy production and consumption methods, trainings and courses for increasing energy and topic related knowledge transfer.



University of Life Sciences

The main role for EMU in the PEA project is to support local/ regional activities and the whole project on R&D field through:

- Mapping and analyzing the existent energy plans in the region
- Supporting activities of international working group for R&D institutions
- Generating/updating the methodology for energy strategy and planning
- Developing and implementing a study plan for energy management and energy efficiency on end user level

Rouge Municipality Government

Rõuge Rural Municipality bears the name of the former parish. Rõuge village is the centre of the municipality and the bigger hamlets are Nursi, Viitina and Säanna. The picturesque Rõuge area has inspired several Estonian artists and writers and it offers plenty of nature experiences up until today. Rõuge is called the Land of Seven Lakes. Rõuge primeval valley is the home of the seven deep and clear-watered lakes abundant in fish and connected through the Rõuge River. At the

centre of the village, there is Rõuge Suurjärv, which is the deepest lake in Estonia – 38 metres. Rõuge Renewable Energy Park and energy class at the school have been created with the purpose to learn about renewable energy and to make it more widespread. The use of eco-friendly and renewable energies like ground source heat pumps, solar batteries, water mills and hydraulic ram pumps, are promoted here. An energy trail from Ööbikuorg (the Nightingale Valley) to Ala-rõuge introduces natural landscapes, traditional culture as well as new technology.

Rõuge Rural Municipality is proud of being highly energy efficient making lots of use of the energy that the beautiful nature provides to its people. There have been 22 water mills working in Rõuge, three of which are still operating today. Water has helped to make flour, produce electricity and power machines. Forests cover more than half of the area of the municipality, one third are fields and grasslands. The introduction of renewable energy gives an important role to biomass – wood waste, energy cultures to be grown on the abandoned agricultural areas.

Rõuge School was founded in 1688. The building of the parish school was erected at the same spot in 1876. Its extension was completed in 1967. The newest part of the house was built in 2003. In 2008, the renovations of all parts of the schoolhouse were finished. Rõuge school makes use of solar and ground energy. The ground heat pump generates more than four kWh of thermal energy with just one kWh of electric energy, the process is environment-friendly and safe. The solar collectors are mounted on the roof of the school house and are used to produce some warm water for every day-use in school. A 3kW horizontally rotating wind generator has been placed on top of the 25 metres high tower in Ööbikuorg.

As our area is not the windiest in Estonia, we have chosen the horizontally rotating generator that is specially designed for weak winds. The produced energy is directed to the Ööbikuorg Visitor centre's supply network (lightning mainly). Rõuge is a quickly developing municipality with a slowly, but firmly growing population. We want to become an exemplar in our district showing how

to use the renewable energy potential under the described conditions.

Mustvee Municipality

Mustvee is a town and municipality in Jõgeva County, Estonia, located on the western coast of Lake Peipsi (Peipus is the fourth biggest lake in Europe).



Shore of Lake Peipus

The name of Mustvee was first recorded in 1493. It became a haven for Russian Old Believers after the Russian government declared them outlaws in 17th century. Mustvee received its town rights in 1938, and at that time the population was 2800. The area of Mustvee is 5,45 km², its population now is about 1630, and according to year 2000 Population Census, the population of Mustvee is 57% Russian, 41% Estonian and 2% others nationalities.

In 1909, works started for cleaning the river and building Mustvee harbour, which was guarded against waves with 570m piers. In 1934 harbour renovations started, a new concrete pier was built and an opening ceremony was carried out by Konstatin Päts, State Elder of Estonia. This was the beginning of passenger shipping to Tartu and regular shipping trade to Tartu, Narva and Pihkva, which was all slowed down in Soviet time. Mustvee Municipality plans to renovate the whole harbour area in the near future, a complex with new marina, port building, docks, bridge for light traffic and a beach for swimming. Historically, the main source of subsistence has been fishing and, to a lesser extent, the cultivation of agricultural products (onions, cucumbers, vegetables etc.). Due to its position at the broadest part of the lake, this traditional fishing town is increasingly popular as a tourist centre.

Mustvee Municipality's small collective has been created to write projects for town development and

are grateful to be a partner of Public Energy Alternatives (PEA). The municipality has a considerable need for modernising its energy facilities, especially for heating public buildings. Thusly, Mustvee will take advantage of the know-how provided by the other partners, and gain experience through participating in strategy development and implementation. In return, Mustvee will provide their lessons learned from the different project activities. The municipality supports sustainable energy strategies as a possibility to improve development in rural areas and is trying to find the best option for using alternative and sustainable energy in Mustvee, mainly using the possibilities of Lake Peipus.

Võru County Government

The County of Võru is the most Southern county of Estonia, the only one bordering two different States – Latvian Republic (in the South) and Russian Federation (in the East). It is bordered to the north by Põlva County and Lake Pihkva and to the west by Valga County. The territory of Võrumaa covers 2,305 km² and is influenced by a temperate seasonal climate. 37,888 people live in Võru County – constituting 2.8% of the total population in Estonia. The County centre is Võru town with 14.435 inhabitants.

The county is subdivided into municipalities. There is one urban municipality (Võru town) and 12 rural municipalities (parishes) in Võru County. The activities of Võru County Government are a realisation of the state's social and healthcare policy in the county, co-ordination of the work of the municipalities, administration of county's GIS, county's regional development planning and development of the economic environment and local infrastructure. The Võru County Government is also responsible for keeping population registries, management of land, co-ordination of tourism and transport activities, management of regional development projects and co-ordination of regional international projects and events.

The Võru county's main economic sectors are forestry and wood processing, furniture and food industry and also tourism. 47% of enterprises in the county belong to primary sector (agriculture, forestry),

38% of enterprises work in the tertiary sector (trade, services) and 15% of enterprises are involved in secondary sector (processing industry). The Võru

County has a long history of keeping active foreign relations on county level with South-Yutland and Borholm County (Denmark), Värmland County (Sweden) and Keski-Pohjanmaa (Finland). There have been and are still on-going several tourism and development projects with Aluksne District (Latvia) and Pskov Region (Russia) in cooperation with the local municipalities.



Wood is used to create energy

Participating in the Project “Public Energy Alternatives – Sustainable energy strategies as a chance for regional development” and cooperating with 20 regions & institutions who also take part in this project, offers a possibility to work out an effective, systematic and viable energy development plan for the Võru County. The county’s role in the project is to carry out energy research that investigates type and quantity of energy resources used in local level and gives a clear overview of energy use and ways to increase energy saving and efficiency. The organization’s liability in the project is to work out input of energy research, arrange information enquiry and accomplish an energy research and development plan. Besides the energy researches and development plan the Võru County Government provides relevant knowledge of researches by publications and press articles and regional seminar on energy efficiency and energy saving.

The organization is involved in every stage of the project, including preparation and project following activities, development and implementation of regional energy strategy with the support of the target groups and national and regional politicians. With the PEA project the county aims to rethink and remodel regional energy politics and experience the benefits of the use of the triple helix approach. With the

gained information the Võru County will add value to the project value chain, produce outputs in the Regional Energy Strategies and their actual implementation.

Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant Regional Development Agency

The core competencies of the Agency are organizing and implementing the preparation of the social and economic projects dealing with the mitigation of the negative consequences arising from the decommissioning of Ignalina NPP.

In anticipation of the job losses resulting from the decommissioning of the Ignalina Nuclear Power Station in Visaginas, funding was set aside in 2001/2002 from the economic and social cohesion Programme for a Technical Assistance Project in order to prepare statutes and an operating plan for a regional development agency for the INPP Region which was seen as a mechanism for coordinating the development actions of both the state and civil society in the region of the three Municipalities of Ignalina, Visaginas and Zarasai.

The objectives of the agency are as follows:

- Mitigate the negative social and economic consequences arising from the decommissioning of Unit 1 of INPP on the inhabitants of the INPP Region
- Diminish the immense difference in economic, cultural, educational and living conditions between the INPP Region and other regions
- Provide assistance to enterprises in cooperating with the institutions of the State Power and Government and the entities of foreign countries when arranging the preparation and implementation of social and economic projects
- Provide support for the development of market economy, to provide overall assistance to enterprises and businessmen when using the European Union Structural Funds
- Advice on the preparation of the National Development Plan

Within the PEA project IEARPA’s role is to coordinate the project implementation in the INPP region (RWG),

in Lithuania (LEI) and on a transnational level. It will also foster cooperation in municipal strategies and measure plan preparations, organize regional partners participation in transnational activities and awareness raising measures.

Participating in PEA project, Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant Regional Development Agency expects to raise public awareness on the issue of using sustainable (renewable) energy sources, using existing energy saving potential and finding new ways of doing this. It will be achieved by publishing specialized stories and educational articles on energy alternatives and saving in local newspapers and internet, to organize trainings for inhabitants and public service providers to show the possibilities of usage of energy alternatives and energy saving.

Moreover, INPP RDA expects to prepare a strategy on energy saving and alternatives and a plan of measures for the period of 2011-2025. This strategy will allow having a plan for regional energy sector development for 15 years period. What is more, INPP RDA expects to create strong partnership among project partners in the sphere of public energy alternatives. Project partnership with other countries is a great possibility to exchange knowledge and experience with them.

Ignalina District Municipality

Ignalina district municipality is located in the eastern part of Lithuania, in Utena County, at the border with Belarus. The centre of the district municipality – Ignalina – is a young town, surrounded by pinewoods and nine lakes, situated astride the railway line Vilnius–Saint Petersburg, at a crossing of highways. Today, Ignalina is not only an administrative, but also a prospective educational, cultural and tourism centre. In 2007, the residential areas of Ignalina town, Strigailiškis and Palūšė were granted the status of resort areas. Hopefully, given a further consistent development of the infrastructure and expansion of the service network, one more resort will come into existence in Lithuania. New tourism and sports objects appear in

the district annually, new projects aiming at the improvement of living conditions of the locals are implemented, which makes the region a more attractive and interesting place.



Utena County in winter

The idea of the project Public Energy Alternatives (PEA) to extract the energy without the use of any fuel, but solar energy is very attractive to the municipality of Ignalina. In Dūkštas town (Ignalina district) it will be realized – the local boiler-house will be equipped with solar collectors for water heating. Hot water will be consumed through the centralized hot water supply system. This boiler-house was chosen because the heat supply system is four-pipes and population consumes relatively little hot water - 5-8 cubic meters per day. The Collector will be installed on the roof of the boiler-house. Implementing this project the problem of hot water supply in Dūkštas will be solved – the local inhabitants will get the hot water every day.

Lithuanian Energy Institute

The Lithuanian Energy Institute started its activities in 1956 as the Institute of Energy and Power Engineering of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences. In 1992 it became independent from the Academy of Sciences and was named the Lithuanian Energy Institute. Activities of the LEI are governed by its statute and include the following areas and goals:

- Perform research and accumulate data regarding the development and forecasts of energy utilization in Lithuania
- Assist the Government of the Lithuania in developing and implementing the national energy policy of Lithuania
- Assessment of utilisation possibilities for renewable energy (RE), assessment of RE resources and implementation new technologies

- Explore aspects of energy generation, conversion and transmission, relevant to local conditions
- Accumulate and classify world-wide information on the rational utilization of energy resources, present recommendations to governmental institutions, industries and other facilities
- Monitor the environmental impact of power plants and develop emission abatement technologies
- Investigate hydrological characteristics of rivers and lakes in Lithuania, evaluate human impact on surface water resources and prepare suggestions for their protection

Lithuania, like other countries, sees a problem with rising costs of energy resources. Such problems should be solved on the national level by implementing strategies on energy saving and efficiency. Lithuania consists of ten territorial regions with different geographical and economical structure. Each region should have its own regional energy development strategy, based on energy efficiency and local energy resources usage.

The PEA project takes a significant role for solving such problem on regional levels. Lithuanian Energy Institute's role in the project:

- Formulate methodology for preparation regional energy strategies and contribute to pilot actions planning
- Contribute by adapting experience of implementing energy saving measures in public buildings from project partners.
- Organize education and training courses for regional and municipal stakeholders on energy efficiency strategies.
- Contribute by establishing network of building and facilities (suppliers, plant operators, consumers)
- Transfer the experience and know-how to regional, municipal, consumer's organisations

The results of the PEA project will be used for further development of other regional and national energy strategies.

Riga Technical University

The Institute of Energy Systems and Environment (VASSI) of Riga Technical University (RTU) was officially established in 2006 (decision of RTU Senate from 29/06/2006) however the activities of VASSI already started in 1997. VASSI provides qualitative environmental studies and scientific research cooperating with other educational institutions. The institute also intervenes with local and international projects with the goal to obtain active scientific movement in the field of energy and environment and to advance sustainable technical solution development based on natural resources conservation and elimination of pollution.



A view on the city of Riga

The Institute of Energy Systems and Environment has three scientific research laboratories. In the Green laboratory main activities are connected to research of environmental politics, development of environmentally friendly energy solutions, solving issues of environmental politics, development of green strategies as well as consultations for governmental and non-governmental organizations regarding environmental and energy issues. Activities of the Environmental Monitoring laboratory are focused on environmental process control: atmospheric pollution, industrial, transport and energetic object pollution, energy sources environmental impact, water facilities condition monitoring which is done by using modern laboratory equipment. However, the main mission of the staff of Climate Technology laboratory is to reduce the impact on climate by establishing new technological methods: use and application of renewable energy sources (wind, solar, biofuels) technologies and rational use of energy at the energy source, transmission and energy end-user side. Currently VASSI participates in two EU Baltic Sea Region projects (PEA and PlasTEP project), as well as in

two projects co-financed by EEA Financial Mechanisms (System thinking integration in environmental policy and Compact Solar and Pellet Module), Intelligent Energy Europe program project (North Pass) and 7th Framework program projects (BioWalk4Biofuels) as well as in local projects. The main expectations for the PEA project are related to the creation and development of evaluation methodologies that will be used for assessing the outputs of the project as well as the project in general. We believe that it will be a great challenge for us and the whole project team.

AGH - University of Science and Technology Krakow

AGH University of Science and Technology in Krakow is a leading Polish technical university. It has a long tradition (90 years) in research and higher education. The Department of Robotics and Mechatronics is one of the leading research and scientific institutions in Poland in the field of interdisciplinary research, integrating knowledge on mechanics, electronics, control and information technology.



Nice park in Krakow

The department was established in 1990 as a part of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Robotics, University of Science and Technology in Krakow. Since its beginning, the department has been developed as a scientific and educational unit. Research works involve theoretical analyses, computer simulations and experimental research, all having strong practical focus, with excellent links to the industry. In this respect, the department cooperates with domestic and foreign companies, undertaking joint research and development projects.

Through its academic background AGH has excellent abilities to perform complex research work in multinational environments. Highly

educated staff is elaborating theoretical and practical tasks using modern measurements methods and devices, equipment and scientific software. For the PEA project AGH will provide scientific support to the partners in the development of methods and measures concerning: identification of present state of renewable energy sources in the region, implementation of modern technologies, feasibility studies, process monitoring, pilot projects, management of energy sources. AGH will help to develop practice modules on energy management and implement them in the region. AGH is also planning to develop a conceptual design of a heat and power system for a public utility building based on various renewable energy sources to reduce consumption of fossil fuels and grid electricity. Various sources will be discussed considering local resources and limitations as well as a calculated amount of energy production and costs. Also the selection method of optimal system configuration will be elaborated. The method will include procedures applicable in different regional conditions.

Together with the Commune of Niepołomice, AGH is working on a small scale renewable energy pilot system to be installed in public building (appr. 150 sq. m), located in Niepołomice. It is configured to provide thermal and electrical energy during day (PVT panels) and night (hydrogen cell). Part of the electricity produced at day time will be consumed by electrolyser to generate hydrogen and store it in the tank. At night, the hydrogen cell will use stored fuel to generate heat and electric power. The pilot installation will give the opportunity to examine economical, ecological and social results of renewable energy sources utilization instead of fossil fuels in the building in popular size.

Commune of Niepołomice

The municipality of Niepołomice has an area of 95 square kilometres, less than one third of which is occupied by the town. The population is over 22,000 people, half of them living in Niepołomice. The city could be characterized as a dispersed, residential area (corresponding to suburban quarters or small satellite towns of bigger cities).

Today Niepołomice is one of the most rapidly developing municipalities in Poland. Thanks to its favourable location, good infrastructure and the initiatives of local self-government, it has become a place where over twenty large corporations including Coca-Cola, MAN, Royal-Canin, Nidec or Oknoplast run their businesses. In addition, there are over 1300 businesses registered in Niepołomice.

Together with development of the local economy, also the quality of life of its citizens is growing, which is visible in the electricity and heat consumption per end user – Niepołomice achieved the value which is very close to the average EU (3000 kWh) and almost twice as large as average value for Poland.



Niepołomice is using alternative energies for electricity and heat

The town of Niepołomice and commune is carrying out a lot of projects mainly in the fields of energy, transport, infrastructure and forest. Experienced staff gives advice and is implementing the activities of the PEA project in a proper way. Niepołomice is ready to adopt experiences made by other partners as well as contribute to the overall gain of knowledge by conducting own studies and elaborating strategies. Together with AGH University of Science and Technology, Niepołomice is working on small scale renewable energy pilot system which will be installed in public building, located in Niepołomice.

(You can find the description of the project in the article about AGH.)

Szewalski Institute of Fluid-Flow Machinery

The Institute of Fluid-Flow Machinery Polish Academy of Sciences (IFFM PASci) is a legal representative and coordinator of the Baltic Eco-Energy Cluster (BEEC). The Cluster was established in 2007 as a common initiative of Marshals and Self-

Governments of the Pomorskie and Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeships, University of Warmia and Mazury,

Gdańsk University of Technology, Koszalin University of Technology, as well as the economic units and associations having their seats in those voivodeships. It is the biggest eco-energy cluster in Poland and currently associates 76 partners representing i.a. academia, local government bodies and the

businesses sector. The main mission of BEEC is to introduce and promote a widely understood idea of distributed co-generation, understood as simultaneous small and medium scale production of thermal energy and electricity from renewable energy sources, mainly biomass, but also by converting water, solar and wind energy. Geographically, BEEC's activity covers the area of Northern Poland from Koszalin through Pomorskie Voivodeship to eastern confines of Warmińsko-Mazurskie Voivodeship.

IFFM-BEEC activities include network building, searching for investors and developing new financing models, as well as developing web-based tools for cost benefit analysis. Other tasks of IFFM-BEEC are: performing regional SWOT analyses for the purpose of preparing local/regional energy strategies as part of the Baltic Energy Compendium; elaboration of testing and implementing measures for energy saving and efficiency; development of pilot training courses and carrying out project dissemination.

...Summing up...

The overall aim of the PEA Project is to promote renewable energy sources as a driving force for business, technology, and engineering in the Baltic Sea Region

The partnership consists of 21 Partners coming from six different countries:

- Estonia
- Finland
- Germany
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Poland

Therefore, there is a wide range of expertise from several different areas and scientific fields involved in order to move forward the overall aim of the project and to foster innovative ideas and strategies.

News from within the project

Great development in the Workpackages

After the first meeting of PEA's work package leaders in June in Riga, the different workpackages of the PEA Project have really started to work on the different issues concerning the implementation of energy saving methods in the Baltic Sea Region.

The meeting in Riga was hosted by the Technical University responsible for Work Package 6 "Quality and Evaluation". Partners from Estonia, Finland and Poland met the project management to define the structures for a successful project implementation. This meeting was a great success for moving forward the ideas of the project and it was a good

preparation for the next meeting in Estonia which took place just shortly afterwards. Amongst other things the workpackage leaders agreed on regular meetings at least twice a year and monthly phone conferences as the future back bone of their communication with the project management.



Some of the partners at the Riga Meeting

Estonia hosts PEA partners in Tartu

From 27 June until 30 June 2010 Experts from six European countries of the Public Energy Alternatives project paid the Estonian partners of PEA a three day visit. Workshops on project quality control, value added chains and the implementation of European further training courses were held and extensive work plans were devised. An energetically optimized School was presented by the mayor of Rouge. The mayor of the municipality of Mustvee accompanied work groups to show holistic regional development concepts.



Participants at the workshop

After visiting Tartu, Mustvee and Voru the meeting ended in Rouge where the group discussed the possibilities of developing a theme park for energy efficiency. A member of the Estonian parliament explained the economic as well as socio-economic aspects of the plan and emphasized the importance of the Interreg IVB Baltic Sea Programme. Tartu is the seat of the Ministry of Education of Estonia and consequently is known as the center of education. Tartu University,

the University of Life Sciences and 14 further institutions of higher education support the city's endeavor to be an internationally respected research town. All field of science in Estonia are represented in Tartu, from the Institute of Physics to the Estonian Marine Institute which makes for a versatile scholastic and scientific environment. The PEA-project has enjoyed visiting this thriving region!

University of Wildau elaborates the status quo of the German region

Within the PEA project the Technical University of Applied Sciences Wildau [FH] is currently elaborating a baseline study for the German region in preparation for the German energy strategy. This includes a detailed analysis of the status quo of the region concerning e.g. the economic development and the current energy situation. The study will be the basis for the development of a regional energy strategy.



Town hall Wittenberge

The project partner region in Germany is the so called Regional Core of Growth (RCG) Perleberg – Wittenberge – Karstädt which is located in Brandenburg in the administrative district Prignitz. Since November 2005 the three municipalities Perleberg, Wittenberge and Karstädt form one of the 15 Regional Cores of Growth in the state of Brandenburg with the aim to strengthen their economic potentials sustainably. The RCG Perleberg – Wittenberge – Karstädt apart from the City of Wittenberge and the district town Perleberg is a mostly rural area of in total 440.46 km². 65.7% of the overall ground area in the RCG is used for agriculture. The forest area in the region amounts to 22.6% of the overall ground area.

The RCG Perleberg – Wittenberge – Karstädt has to face an enormous population decrease. From the year

1990 to 2009 the number of population in the RCG Perleberg – Wittenberge – Karstädt decreased from 52,425 to 37,672 inhabitants which is a reduction of 28.14%. The reason for that can be found in the high unemployment rate resulting from the collapse of the industry in the region after the German turnaround in 1989/1990.

The loss of population leads to a high vacancy rate in the residential buildings and to a loss of energy consumers for the energy supplying companies in the region. The adaption of the heat and electricity networks in the RCG to the changing energy demand will be a challenge for the region within the PEA project and the next years.



Municipality Perleberg

An important strength of the region is the production of renewable energies. Prignitz is one of the leading administrative districts in Germany to produce renewable energies. Wind power, solar power, water power and biomass are used. In Prignitz more electricity out of renewable energy carriers is produced per year than can be used.

PEA signed "Memorandum of Understanding"

On June 24, 2010 in St. Petersburg representatives of the projects Public Energy Alternatives (PEA), BaltCICA, Longlife, SPIN, and Urb.Energy agreed suggesting their project partners to enhance the cooperation between these projects in the future and to inform about the proceedings and the results.

Therefore, on 11 August 2010 the "Memorandum of Understanding" was signed at the Technical University of Berlin, laying the foundation for the collaboration of five INTERREG-Projects in the Baltic Sea Region. The projects are specialized on different aspects of climate, energy and

sustainability related issues but they all share the common goal of creating sustainable energy strategies for the Baltic Sea Region.



Meeting of participants

To enhance the exchange between the projects and to be able to use the synergies, representatives of the five projects agreed on exchanging strategies and results of the current work. For a stronger presence not only within the Baltic Sea Region but also on an international level a joint appearance at a meeting in Brussels is being planned. The signing of the memorandum is seen as a step towards developing the Baltic Sea Region further to a model region for sustainability in Europe.

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