

NWE network of energy agencies: Strategic Initiative project idea

Project name:

NW Europe Energy Champions Network

Which of the S.I. Fields of Action best describes your project:

2. Production and consumption of energy from renewable sources. (Section C: Promoting cooperation and coordination between existing energy agencies, spatial planning bodies, public procurers of energy and energy using appliances.)

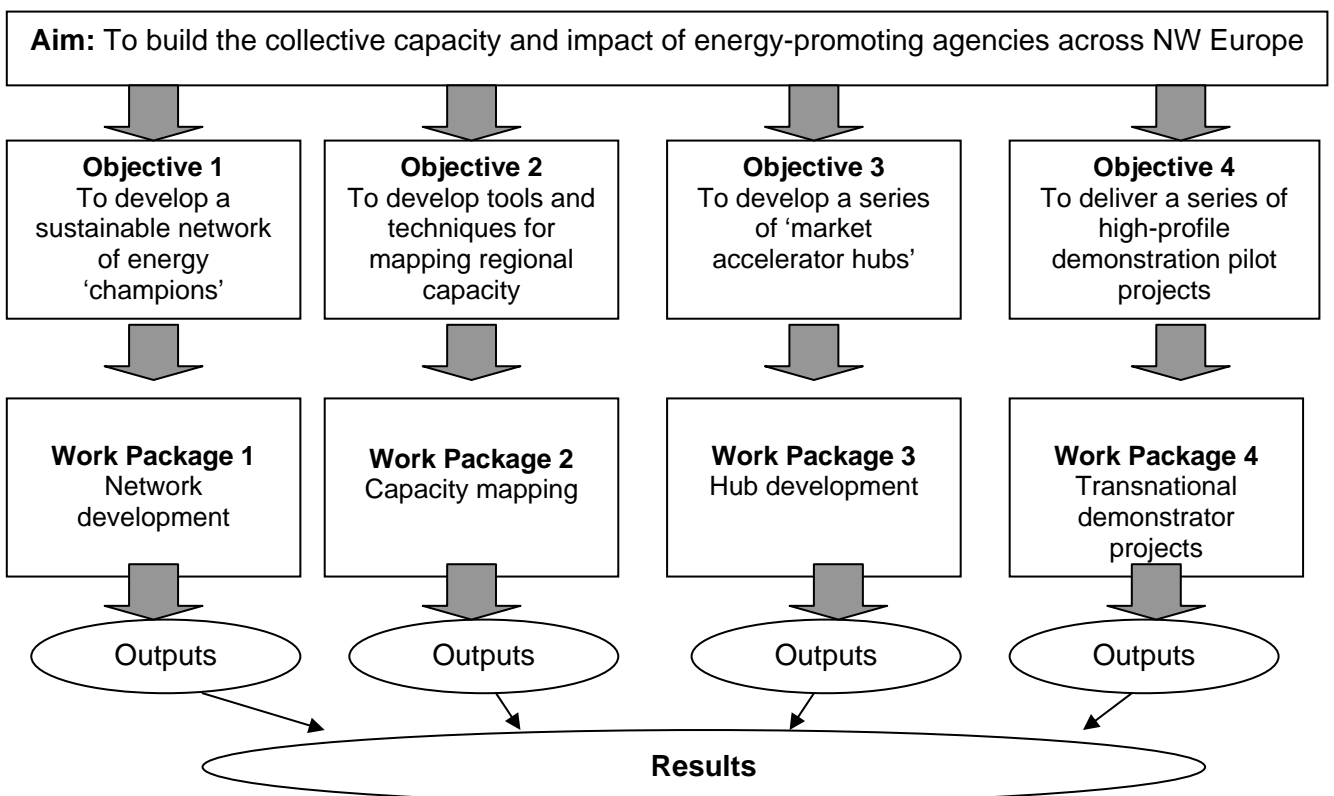
General aim of the project:

To build the collective capacity and impact of energy-promoting agencies across NW Europe

Specific objectives:

- To develop a sustainable network of energy 'champions' at a regional level (universities, energy agencies, public authorities)
- To develop tools and techniques for mapping regional capacity, and to identify opportunities and gaps
- To develop a series of 'market accelerator hubs', which will undertake thematic promotion at a regional level, and will act as a resource for the whole network
- To deliver a series of high-profile demonstration pilot projects, which will be promoted and disseminated by the network, and which encourage knowledge transfer across NWE

Link between objectives and activities



Project Activities

1 Network development

- staff exchange between partners and regions
- mentoring of staff by other organisations
- joint training/seminars for staff in 'champion agencies'
- secretariat/coordination of the network; to be located with one of the partners
- capacity building and additional resources for champion agencies(to create a leverage effect)

2 Capacity mapping

- creating transferable tools & techniques for identifying regional potential & gaps
- development of a transferable software tool? Collect best practices and existing tools and apply them at NWE level.
- Measuring/assessing the energy balance of regions (build on model currently in use in Tipperary)

3 Market acceleration

- Create regional 'accelerator hubs' in each region. Each region can concentrate on specific themes as identified in the capacity mapping (e.g. biomass, wind, tidal, energy efficiency, supply chain development, energy saving in large companies, etc.)
- bringing in technical expertise from other regions...develop a transnational pool of experts?
- create regional experts as a resource to whole network

4. Demonstration projects

- develop specific regional pilots as demonstrator projects, using the network expertise, and to be disseminated through the network
- monitoring and analysis of projects
- one possible transnational project could be international trading of biomass/biofuels (?)

Expected results:

- Development of sustainable network
- Development of energy capacity mapping tool for dissemination through EU networks
- Creation of market accelerator hubs for each region to stimulate development of key themes/sectors in that region
- Delivery of X number of demonstration projects

Possible total budget and ERDF sought:

Still to be defined according to the number of partners and the concrete action plan

Partners involved at this stage:

Interest so far from partners in BE, IE, NL and UK. Currently 6-8 partners are interested.

Further partners sought:

Interest sought particularly from other countries in the NWE area (DE, LUX, CH, FR)

How are the partners going to jointly benefit from this transnational cooperation project?

By setting up a NWE-project, partners will benefit from financial and political support. They will further be able to exchange their know-how/experiences and jointly elaborate best-practice models (by implementing pilot actions) which may then influence their respective national policy. In addition, the partners are often confronted with the same (EU-) requirements and therefore are most likely to welcome a European approach to these challenges.

How is your project relevant to the identified S.I. Fields of Action?

This project specifically addresses item C of the Strategic Initiative field of action on renewable energy; that is, it seeks to improve cooperation and coordination of existing energy agency activities to provide transnational added value

How does your project display a high degree of transnationality?

The project will gather relevant partners across North West Europe who will jointly elaborate actions which have to be relevant for a large part if not the entire NWE area.

What is innovative and original about your project?

Energy Agencies have existing for the last decade. However, they are active in response to regional factors, and do not network or cooperate for transnational added value. Furthermore, existing EU programmes (such as IEE) support the creation of energy agencies and the roll-out of 'soft' measures (promotion, awareness), but do not support demonstration projects to pilot new approaches.

Finally, this project concentrates on a range of organisations playing a role in energy promotion and roll-out at a regional level, rather than simply networking the existing designated Energy Agencies. The project will therefore include Universities, public authorities and enterprise/development agencies

What strategic impact is your project likely to have?

It will contribute to a growth in the use of renewable energy, and an increase in energy efficiency technologies, across the whole of the NW Europe area.

Is your project a follow-up to a previous project? If yes, how does it build on previous results?

Not directly. It should build on finished and ongoing projects which are funded under other programmes (table European projects), particularly the IEE programme, but also taking into account projects funded under other Interreg programmes.

If applicable, which other funding Programmes or EU Policies might be relevant for your project?

As mentioned above, there are some previous or ongoing projects in the Interreg IIIB and IVB programmes in North Sea Region, Alpine Space and Atlantic Area, as well as the Interreg IVC and Interreg IV A programmes. Moreover, the Intelligence Energy Europe Programme and Framework 6 respectively 7 also deal with the promotion and increase in use of renewable

energies.

Project idea source

- NWE Strategic Initiatives step1 workshops report, August 2008
- Strategic Initiatives Working Group (SIWG) PI proposal March 2009
- SIWG report, 21st May 09
- Intelligent Energy Europe programme www.ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent
- Strategic Initiative Workshop, Brussels, 16 November 2009