



## NEWSLETTER 1 – June 2009

### Editorial

A famous old tune insisted that “*The future’s not ours to see*”, but surely this has not put off generations of scientists in their search for clues: the EFONET network, for one, is committed to explore possibly energy futures, with the ambitious goal of “*contributing to EU vision(s) for a transition to a sustainable, low carbon, secure energy future for Europe and beyond and providing elements for the definition of a European strategy*”. A tall order, indeed, which since the project launch in early 2008, the EFONET team has pursued through the involvement of a wide variety of stakeholders in a series of lively debates on such issues as long term energy scenarios, the role of technologies in facilitating the transition to a low carbon economy, the social dynamics that will affect demand patterns, how to ensure an effective integration of energy systems and infrastructure, and many others. This first EFONET newsletter reports on selected highlights of the on-going discussions, and intends to broaden the participation to the debate. We trust it will encourage you to seek involvement!

*Andrea Ricci (EFONET Coordinator)*

EFONET is centred around five Workpackages following specific thematic priorities in which focused debates are organized.

Click [here](#) to see the list of Workshops.

### **Workpackage 3 “Methodological Approaches to Energy Foresight”**

Work Package 3 is dedicated to the question: “*How can foresight methodologies be improved to arrive at a European Energy Foresight*”. As a first step, two workshops

were held focussing on the link between energy foresight makers and foresight users, i.e. decision makers, both in policy & law making (Nov 2008, European Parliament) and in industry (Nov 2008, Shell International).

A second set of workshops (April 2009, National Technical University of Athens) focused on new approaches on European level, on one hand generally drawing from with success stories on national levels, and on the other hand concentrating on potentials and needs for participatory approaches in



European energy foresight. Key issues discussed were:

- The early involvement of decision makers into the foresight process in order to create decision makers' ownership and trust to foresight results,
- The clear definition and communication on the type of process and expected results (exploratory vs. normative; scenarios vs. prediction),
- The clear role for European foresight beyond the sum of national foresights
- The adequate choice of methods and tools available & the need for more training and education for foresight specialist beyond quantitative modeling
- Missing links for the integration of quantitative modeling in to decision making processes
- Potentials of participatory processes for enhancing knowledge base as well stakeholder acceptance, however connected with high efforts



Workshop discussion on "Energy foresight & policy making"

#### Workpackage 4 "End use energy efficiency strategy"

This workpackage mainly aims at identifying possible pathways to implement new and more efficient energy consumption patterns. To this end, a first workshop was held last October in Rome to discuss about "*Low and very Low energy consuming buildings*".

Notably, the debate addressed three main issues:

- "Analysis of the current state of art" that provided a detailed analysis of some relevant energy efficiency interventions in the building sector.
- "The medium-long term vision and strategies" focused on the necessity to lead to three transition paths chosen as technical extremes to reduce CO2 emission in the built environment (i.e. maximal insulation and minimal installations, local production of renewable energy, centrally produced renewable or climate neutral energy carriers)
- "Societal requirements and constraints, market situation and policy instruments required to modify the current state of art" addressed the question how policy instruments (e.g. codes and standards, etc.) might be suited to improve energy efficiency of existing building stock.

The second workshop will take place next September in Turin. It will focus on "*New approaches and concepts for the EU energy products*".

#### Workpackage 5 "Foresight in the transport and mobility sector"

The purpose of WP5 is to investigate, through four main workshops, where we are today as regards these technology perspectives. Two workshops have been organized so far: The first one on "*Technologies for hybrid and the electric vehicles*", the other on "*Technologies for hydrogen and fuel cell vehicles*". Around 20 people attended each workshop, coming mainly from the car industry (PSA, FIAT, Renault, Daimler, etc.) and from public research labs. Enerdata did animate the discussion with the help of the French Car manufacturers association. The workshops addressed issues like:

- What is currently the range of an electric vehicle?



- When the batteries and fuel cell will become cost-effective?
- What is the problem of the hybrid vehicle?
- Which technology for which vehicles?

Those topics have been discussed by experts during one day, and have been drawn in a report. There is no doubt that the shape of the meeting has stimulated the exchanges between experts.

### Workpackage 6 “Technology integration and scenario”

The core objective of this WP is to investigate and discuss past and present, medium and long term energy scenarios with a specific focus on technology modelling. Moreover, it aims to in-depth investigate present scenarios on future energy perspectives with respect to the criteria identified from successful past scenarios. Finally, recommendations for an improved integration of energy technologies in future modelling of technology scenarios will be drawn.

Last November the first out of three workshops has been carried out in Vienna, addressing the topic: “*Comparative analyses of past energy scenarios and modelling approaches: success and failure criteria*”. The main identified conclusions are:

- Not to use models for other than the originally pursuit purposes
- Involve decision makers in the scenario development at an early stage in order to achieve the desired impact of the whole research process.

Consequently, the second workshop – just taken place in Oslo – outlines “*Comparative analysis of future energy scenarios – visions up to 2050 with a focus on energy technology modelling*”. Well-versed speakers presented and discussed several relevant scenario approaches and developments in detail.

### Workpackage 7 “Acceptability and development conditions of (new and more efficient) energy technology”

The first workshop on the “*Social acceptance of new and more efficient energy technologies*”, which took place on November 6 and 7 at the CIEMAT’s premises in Madrid, focussed on the need for promoting behavioural changes in order to enhance progress in energy efficiency in the European Union. The group discussion drew from research results in psychology and sociology on behavioural changes and analysed the implication of these findings for the energy sector. Some new ideas were brought forward, which would merit further research, for example:

- How to make energy efficiency more “fancy” or how to make the waste of energy unpopular
- How to promote “green default” in products and policies
- How to make policies designed to deal with energy poverty compatible with the need for reducing energy consumption.

The second workshop related to social acceptance will draw in these first results and analyse specific technologies (centralized and distributed generation, as well as energy-related ICT applications in households).



Workshop discussion on “Behavioral changes–backcasting and future trends”



EFONET includes 14 partners and a large group of experts representing EU Member States. It presents a balanced mix of public and private research, EU and national institutions, international organisations, industry and NGOs.

**Public documents, presentations and background materials are available on the EFONET website.**

Please [click](#) here to download documents related to each workshop

***EFONET website: [www.efonet.org](http://www.efonet.org)***

***Are you interested in joining the EFONET project?***

***Contact us now!***

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