



R&DIALOGUE, BUILDING A LOW-CARBON FUTURE TOGETHER

Energy production based on coal, oil, and gas has a profound impact on the world's climate. We need to create a more sustainable future by reducing our energy consumption, increasing energy efficiency, increasing the share of renewable energies and by capturing and storing CO₂. Awareness of the importance of reducing CO₂ emissions is rising but the transition towards a low carbon society is slow and complex. The much needed fundamental change requires extensive research and involves many civil society stakeholders, each with vested interests that are often not aligned.

A dialogue between research and civil society, including industry, NGOs and public authorities is essential to move towards sustainable low-carbon energy production. This dialogue is needed for shared and sustainable solutions, which could thus significantly accelerate the transition. It helps to understand viewpoints and interests for the actual implementation of low-carbon energy technologies, reduction of energy consumption and higher energy efficiency.

The R&Dialogue project initiates this dialogue in an inclusive, democratic and transparent way: All stakeholders from civil society and research are welcome to join.

Together we focus on the main energy challenges at European, national and regional level in 10 participating countries. We will address social, technological, ecological and economic aspects and learn from each other. Our focus on the social aspects of the transition process is what makes R&Dialogue a unique and crucial effort.

R&Dialogue aims to develop both national action plans and a European vision. We identify valuable lessons regarding the dialogue from all over Europe, bring them to Brussels and improve effectiveness and speed of research efforts. The lessons can be diverse, open and multiple. What matters is that they work. In R&Dialogue we believe that economic growth and a low-carbon society can go hand in hand.

It is up to us all to work together to improve the common European dialogue towards a low-carbon society.

OUTLINE R&DIALOGUE PROJECT

R&DIALOGUE: RESEARCH AND CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE TOWARDS A LOW-CARBON SOCIETY.

WHY R&DIALOGUE IS A RELEVANT PROJECT

Many scientists and policy makers agree that man-made climate change caused by greenhouse gases is a threat to society. It needs to be prevented or at least mitigated. This has prompted the European Commission to adopt the "Energy Roadmap 2050". The EU aims to reduce its greenhouse gas emission to 80-95% below 1990 levels by 2050. To achieve this reduction, we need to build a wide range of sustainable energy solutions. Such solutions require collaboration of all levels of society. To achieve it, we must improve the low-carbon dialogue by participation of all stakeholders, especially civil society.

WHO WE ARE

R&Dialogue is a consortium of 15 partners in the field of energy (scientists, NGOs, industry, consultants and policy advisors) in 10 European countries.

WHAT WE DO

In R&Dialogue:

- 10 country teams start a dialogue in Czech Republic, Germany, Spain, France, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal and the UK;
- The teams connect the single country learning experience on a European level;
- A social science team facilitates the social process for an effective sharing and mutual learning experience;
- A management team directs the project, taking into account the different perspectives of research institutes, NGOs and business.

To see who the initiators of R&Dialogue are, please have a look at www.rndialogue.eu/partners.

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

We are looking for key stakeholders to join R&Dialogue; organisations who want to improve the capacity of society to make decisions on sustainable energy solutions. Participation from a wide range of stakeholders is essential for R&Dialogue to succeed. Only a vision shared between the different social actors through dialogue, exchange and mutual learning can bring the necessary level of consensus for the transformations that lie ahead. ►

WHAT WE WANT TO ACHIEVE

At the end of the project we will have developed a European vision towards a low-carbon society, we will have identified ways to improve the dialogue and we will have agreed to actions to support implementation of low-carbon technologies. Also the dialogue can lead to:

- Long lasting partnerships between the research community and civil society organisations at national and international level;
- Public and private initiatives for a low-carbon society;
- New networks for a continuous dialogue;
- New policy in maintaining the dialogue towards a low-carbon society.

PROJECT TIMELINE AND PHASING

The project starting date is 1 June 2012. The project lasts 3,5 years and will conclude in a European event at the end of 2015.



- Phase 1 is for the consortium to prepare for the dialogue action;
- In phase 2 we aim to involve a group of key stakeholders in each of the 10 countries who are motivated to face the issues together with us;
- In phase 3 the dialogue is broadened to a national level. This phase is concluded with national events;
- In phase 4 the national dialogues are taken to the level of European learning, which concludes with a big European event.

Information about R&Dialogue: www.rndialogue.eu or contact us at info@rndialogue.eu

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