



## DOSSIER

### 5th Interregional Event in Hesse, Germany

15-16 October 2019



*Picture by Fredrik von Erichsen*

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## Introduction

Interregional learning and exchange of experiences are at the heart of the Interreg Europe programme. FIRESPOl project develops this approach through Interregional Events. There are 7 Interregional Events (IE) planned. The first IE combined with kick-off meeting took place in Badajoz (Spain). The second, third and fourth Interregional Event of Interreg Europe FIRESPOl project was held in Lublin, Split and Waterford. The events are organized by the respective partners. On 15 and 16 October 2019, the project partners and their stakeholders visited the LandesEnergieAgentur in Hessen, Germany.



## Summary 5th Interregional Event 15. and 16. October 2019 in Hesse

Developing new financing instruments for renewable energies is the aim of the EU-funded Firespol project (Financial Instruments for Renewable Energy Investment). For this reason, six European partner regions regularly exchange information in interregional events.

Hesse is one of these regions and will welcome its partners in Wiesbaden and the surrounding area on 15 and 16 October. At the start of the event State Secretary Jens Deutschendorf has invited to the Hessian Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy. In the afternoon about 30 stakeholders from Spain, Poland, Croatia, Ireland, Latvia and Hesse come together to discuss the respective challenges and the optimization potential for the regions. After the opening by the State Secretary, Prof. Knodt from the TU Darmstadt introduced the workshop by presenting the derived transfer potential for Hesse from the "Good Practice" example projects of the partners.

"The exchange and mutual learning are a real benefit for all concerned and demonstrates the strength of cohesion within the European Union" says Dr. Karsten McGovern, Head of the Hessian State Energy Agency (LEA). "We are pleased about the visit and the interest in the Hessian initiatives, which we will present in the next two days. Afterwards, we will work intensively on transferring the advices and recommendations to Hesse" continues Dr. McGovern (LEA).

The goal of all six partners is to work out an action plan by summer 2020 on how to transfer the positive aspects of the partner projects to their own region. In Hesse, there is a great willingness to invest in renewable energy. But the number of attractive projects does not increase as hoped. The availability of space and acceptance for projects are challenges. Hesse is therefore particularly interested in promoting financing models that, on the one hand, enable participation in local projects for citizens and, on the other hand, support the public sector in financing projects. Therefore, the presentations of the partners on their first ideas for actions for the action plan are eagerly awaited. These show clearly that the regular exchange, transparent information and the advice of investors and financiers play a role in all ideas for actions. Whether the different framework conditions in the six regions, the proposals go in similar directions. Now the partners have to develop their ideas and the suggestions of the stakeholders to concrete measures. At the next meeting in Latvia in February the draft action plans have to be presented.

The Firespol project is one of almost 180 funded projects in the Interreg Europe funding program of the European Union. The Hessian State Energy Agency (LEA) carries out the project Firespol on behalf of the Hessian Ministry of Economic Affairs, Energy, Transport and Housing. The project is funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

## Agenda of the Interregional Event

### First Day: 15 October 2019

9:45 – 13:00 **Steering Committee Meeting**

Place: HA Hessen Agentur, Hessen State Energy Agency

### Interregional Learning Workshop

Place: Hessian Ministry of Economics, Energy, Transport and Housing

- 13:00      Lunch together with stakeholder
- 14:30      Start Interregional Learning Workshop, Greeting and Moderation Dr. Karsten McGovern
- 14:35      Short Welcoming Speech, ERDF and strategies of energy policy in Hesse, State Secretary Jens Deutschendorf
- 14:50      Good practices – lessons learned. Towards a Draft Action Plan, Prof. Michel Knodt, TU Darmstadt  
  
             Discussion/queries
- 15:30      Introduction of the first ideas for the Action Plan, Project partner (each about 5 minutes)  
  
             Afterwards Discussion
- 16:10      Division in small groups with a selected topic, deepened discussion
- 16:50      Summary and future prospects, Dr. Karsten McGovern
- 19:00      Dinner together in Wiesbaden

## **Second Day: 16. October 2019**

### **Study Visit Weilrod**

8:30 – 12:00 Energy Trail with ABO Wind in Weilrod

12:00 – 14:00 Lunch together

### **Information Workshop Frankfurt**

Place: Social Impact Lab, Falkstraße 5, 60487 Frankfurt am Main

14:15      Start Workshop II, Greeting & Moderation Lisa Körner

Presentation Social Impact Lab, Michael Wunsch

Presentation Citizen Energy Co-operative (Energiegenossenschaft) Main-Kinzigtal, Jürgen Staab

Presentation SDG Investment, Dr. Stefan Bund

Presentation research project University Kassel, Daniel Engler

Discussion/queries

Conclusion and further activities, short refreshment

18:00      Guided city walk Frankfurt

19:30      Dinner in Frankfurt Sachsenhausen

## First Day: Interregional Learning Workshop on Action Plan

After the Steering Committee Meeting, all project partners and stakeholders met for a lunch together in the Hessian Ministry of Economic Affairs, Energy, Transport and Housing. Subsequently, the State Secretary of the Ministry opened the Interregional Learning Workshop with more than 30 partners and stakeholders. State Secretary Jens Deutschendorf introduced the Hessian energy and development policy and handed it over to Prof. Knodt from the Technische Universität Darmstadt. Prof. Knodt took stock of the first two semesters of project work and presented examples of good practice from the partners. Specifically, these were the ones that offer interesting transfer potential for Hesse. Ms. Knodt placed particular emphasis on the acceptance of renewable energies and that financing instruments can definitely make an acceptance contribution. If they are properly designed and accessible. Networking and continuous information sharing are also key factors here.

This was followed by the first ideas of the project partners for the respective Action Plans. After the short presentations, the suggestions were roughly clustered and further discussed in two groups on notice boards. The aim was to identify the respective challenges and goals of the individual measures.

The results should help the project partners to further develop the concrete measures and further prepare the preparation of the Action Plans.

After a short final discussion, the Interregional Learning Workshop was over.

In the evening there was a common dinner in a traditional restaurant in Wiesbaden's old town. With this cosy end the first day of the event ended.



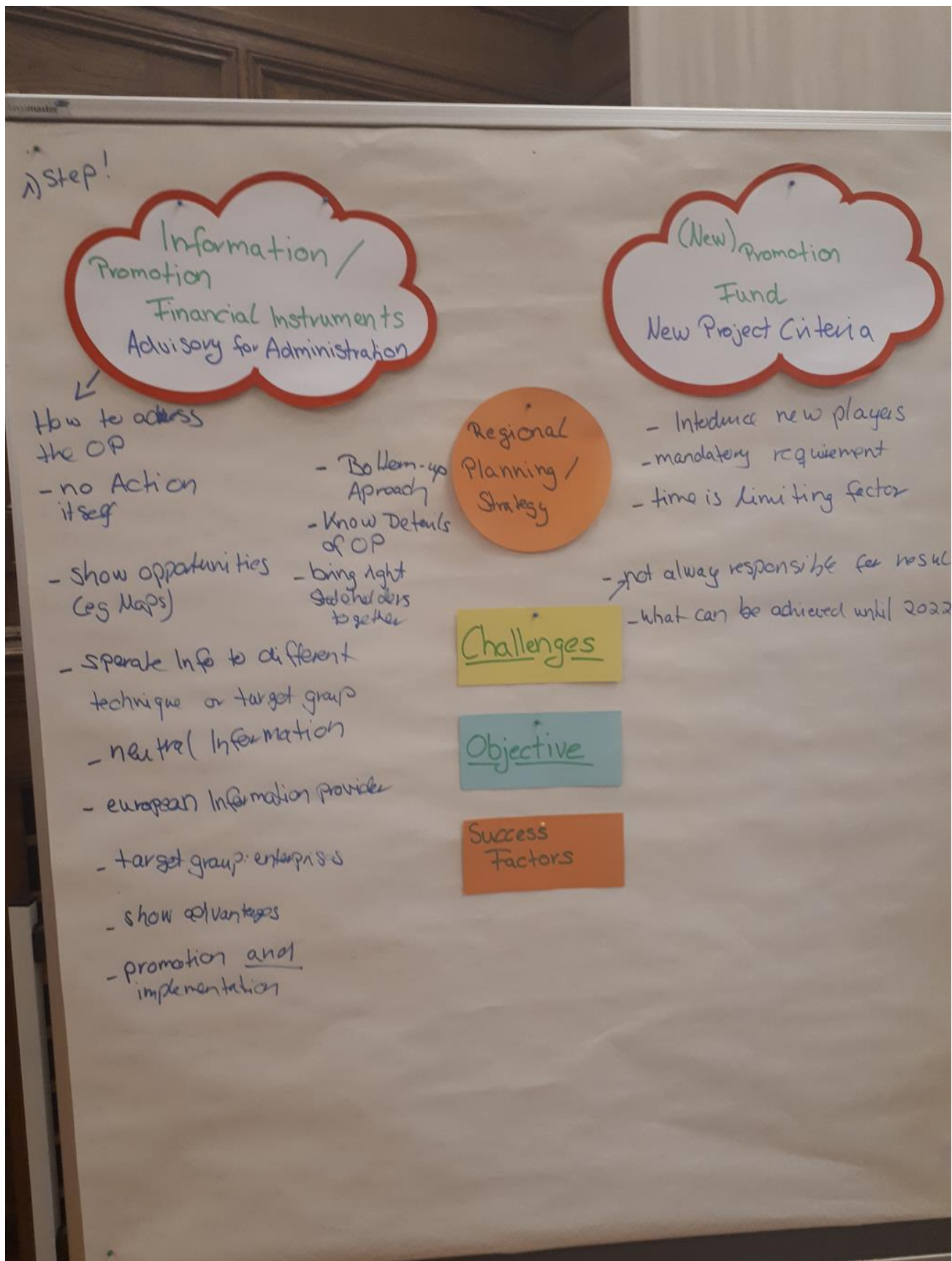


Photo : Results group 1









*Photos : Interregional Learning Workshop (by Frederik von Erichsen)*





*Photos : Prof. Knodt and Stakeholder (by Frederik von Erichsen)*

## Second Day: Study visit to Weilrod and Frankfurt

On the second day of the meeting, visitors will have the opportunity to take a look at an energy trail on a wind farm, followed by further presentations of Hessian initiatives for the financing of renewable energies at the Social Impact Lab in Frankfurt. On a city tour of Frankfurt, you can see the historic highlights of the city. The conclusion of the Interregional Event is a dinner in the traditional district of Sachsenhausen. Until the partners return with a hydrogen bus to Wiesbaden.

### Energy Trail Weilrod

At wind farm Weilrod in the Hochtaunus, in the fall of 2015, ABO Wind inaugurated an energy trail with information boards, gaming and quiz stations, the "Energy Experience Tour". The approximately five km tour provides information on the history of energy use and entertainment for the whole family.

This educational trail was visited on the 2nd day of the interregional event with the project partners and stakeholders. The fuel cell bus goes from Wiesbaden to Weilrod. There, Lena Fritsche and Patrick Djuga from ABO Wind were already waiting to introduce their guests to the trail and to provide some background information about the wind farm, the technology, the costs and investment models of ABO Wind. On this day two stations of the path could be visited.

#### STATIONS OF THE TOUR

The start of the approximately five km circuit is the parking lot "Am Zollstock" in Weilroder district Cratzenbach. At station 1 you can see the model of a coalmine. Charcoal was until the 19th century, the main source of energy, the forest was completely overused. Children can guess how they used to live without electricity. Station 2 on environment and nature is located at a windfall point - a visible sign of climate change. A vivid symbol of the effects of global warming is the life-size model of a wooden polar bear awaiting visitors. Here children are given the task of searching for the "savage wind" on their way, who has raged in other places. At Station 3, visitors can expect information about the wind farm and the technology. Here you can slip for a photo in the role of a wind turbine technician high on the plant. Station 4 is dedicated to the energy transition, children can play in the wooden "electric car", while adults can get an idea of the energy supply of the future on an interactive board.

Between the stations, quiz boards with questions and answers about the wind energy accompany the hiker. Included in the design of the path are the forest, the nature park Taunus and also a businessman from the region.



## Impressions



## Information Workshop Frankfurt

After a joint lunch at the Saalburg, exciting lectures continued at the Social Impact Lab in Frankfurt.

Since 2011, Social Impact GmbH, which is a non-profit organization, has been developing labs offering the start-up programs. There are already Social Impact labs in Berlin, Hamburg, Frankfurt, Leipzig, Duisburg, Stuttgart und Potsdam. The labs provide scope for co-working, networking and events in addition to the programs already mentioned. The host of the lab briefly presented his initiative to the project partners and stakeholders.

This was followed by a short presentation of the energy cooperative Main-Kinzigtal by Jürgen Staab.

The Energy Cooperative Main-Kinzigtal e.G. offers all those interested the opportunity to participate in the energy transition in the region. By becoming a member of the Energiegenossenschaft Main-Kinzigtal eG you benefit directly from many different projects in the field of renewable energies, without having to commit yourself to a concrete project for your participation.

After Mr. Staab got Dr. Bund of SDG Investment the opportunity to present its One Stop Shop for financiers and investors for sustainable projects. SDG Investment GmbH was founded in September 2017 as a spin-off from AHP Capital Management GmbH. At this point AHP Capital Management GmbH already structured several investment products with a sustainability focus. The implementation of the SDG INVESTMENTS® Platform was a logical next step in order to bridge the gap between investors seeking sustainable investments and project initiators seeking funding.

The end was Daniel Engler, who presented a research project of the University of Kassel.

The University of Kassel is a young, modern and vibrant university, characterized by its openness to new ideas in every single area of its work. Receptivity, initiative, transdisciplinary thinking and unconventionality are traits we cherish and welcome in studies, research and teaching, but also in knowledge transfer and entrepreneurial ventures, to which the university provides special support.

The IF project ("Investment Funds for low-carbon Infrastructure") investigates financial instruments for low-emission infrastructure designed to mobilize new investors. Institutional investors are of particular interest, as they arguably favour the risk-return profile of infrastructure projects but have yet largely ignored green infrastructure. And small institutional as well as individual investors currently have very limited access to low-emission infrastructure investment. The project draws on a broad methodology to identify investment vehicles that can mobilize investment by these investor groups, exploring the spectrum of existing finance instruments as well as developing new instruments. Central questions are what makes low-emission infrastructure attractive as an investment for institutional investors and



households, and how much private infrastructure investment can contribute to climate change mitigation.

Project partner: Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research, University of Kassel – Institute of Economics, University of Kassel – Institute of Management and Business Studies

The IF project is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) from December 2018 to November 2021 and part of the BMBF Dialog on the Economics of Climate Change in the theme Climate protection & transformation and the crosscutting theme Financial markets, financial sector and climate finance.

After the lecture the events ended with an guided city tour of frankfurt and a joint dinner in “Sachsenhausen”.

### Impressions



*Photo : Dr. Bund, SDG Investment*