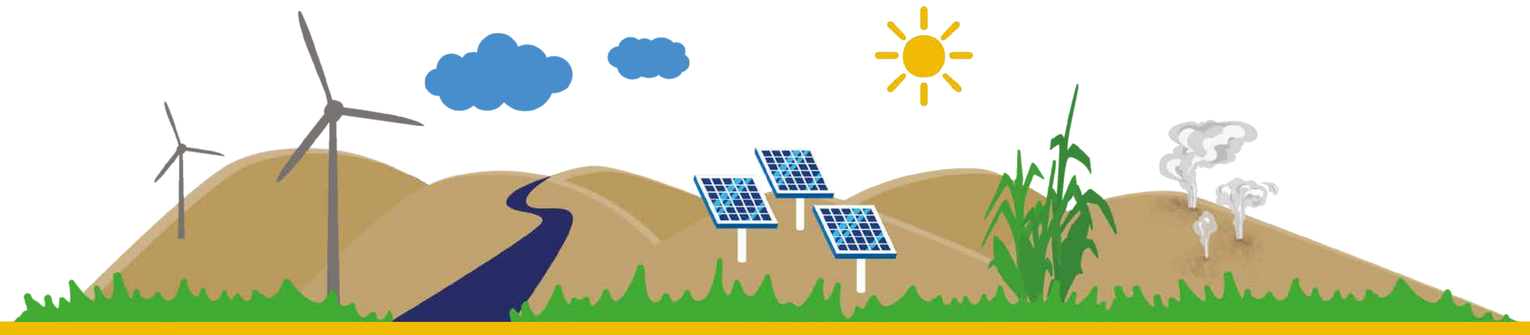
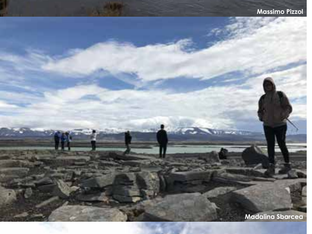
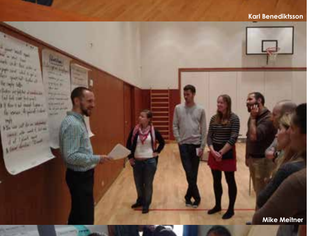
COST Action TU 1401

RELY

Renewable Energy and Landscape Quality







2nd COST Action TU1401 Training School 2017

Questions of power and participation

The training school dealt with thoughtful policy making for a successful transition to renewable energy systems as well as sesnsitive yet robust planning processes applicable to diverse geographical scales. An ongoing strategic planning process in Iceland provided a broad context for the training school, while first hand experiences of the Icelandic landscapes grounded the explorations. In the training school, participants have gained an understanding of:

- The importance of strategic and spatial planning for renewable energy
- The complexities of considering local views and values in the planning processes
- Methods used in energy planning and policy making
- Critical analysis of particular cases of renewable energy proposals at different levels of planning

Quick facts

- **Venue:** Árnes & Reykjavík, Iceland
- **Date:** from 22nd to 26th May 2015
- **Host:** University of Iceland, Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences
- **Number of participants:** 22
- **Number of trainers:** 7
- **Countries represented:** CA, CZ, DK, DE, EL, ES, FR, UK, HR, IS, IT, NL, NO, PL, RO, SK, SL
- **Contents:** Strategic RES planning, scenario design, local views and landscape values, political decisions, public participation

Before the training school
Applications gathering and preparatory material distribution.

Day 1
Introductory seminar in Reykjavik on Icelandic situation.

Day 2
Field excursion in South Iceland to existing and proposed energy sites.

Days 3-4
Group work in six workshops mentored by trainers.

Day 5
Open public presentations of results by workshop groups.

After the training school
Conference presentations and publications of results.

Workshop 1

Use of qualitative scenarios for policy and planning
Karl Benediktsson, University of Iceland

Scenarios are frequently used among experts and professionals to discuss future action and policies. How can they also be used to engage the general public in creation of energy policy?

Employing well-established methods, a set of four scenarios was constructed portraying Iceland´s energy landscapes in 2040 and evaluated in terms of their value for generating public debate.

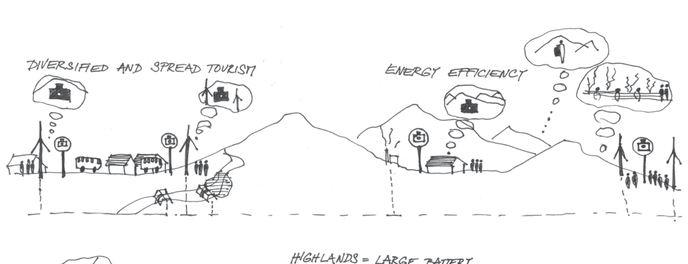


Figure 1: Two of the four scenarios (sketch: Attila Tóth)

Workshop 2

Strategic planning processes and planning theory
Tim Richardson, Norwegian University of Life Sciences

Strategic planning strives towards achieving economically, socially and environmentally sound decisions. How does Icelandic Renewable Energy Master plan fit in the different planning theories?

Examined against strategic planning, Icelandic Master Plan was not set up as a strategic plan leading to too detailed analysis of each project and the main goals and priorities are neglected.

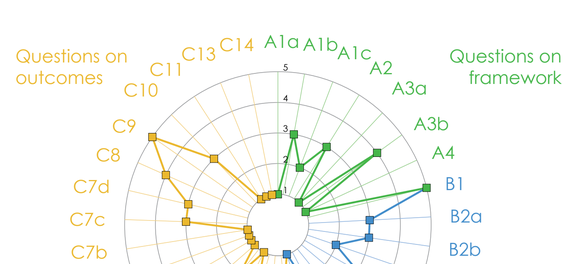


Figure 2: Results of Icelandic Master plan evaluation agains theory

Workshop 3

Participatory planning through role-playing games
Yves Michelin, VetAgro Sup

Renewables planning is a complex and multi-scale effort. How can local actors and the general public be motivated to participate in planning of renewable energy projects at different scales?

A planning simulation game was developed which allows stakeholders to get to know each other‘s reality and introduce their own narratives of the landscape and (energy) development.

Figure 3: Role-playing game presentation (photo: Karl Benediktsson)

Workshop 4

Power Play: a tool for engagement and planning
Michael Roth, Nürtingen-Geislingen University
Mike Meitner, University of British Columbia

Stakeholders hold different perspectives towards renewable energy. How can planners understand these in a well-informed planning process using planning simulations games as a tool?

Using weighted-decision-making planning game players have to work together to reach individual and common goals in a landscape arena.

Figure 4: Planning simulation developed (photo: Karl Benediktsson)

Workshop 5

Analysing individual perceptions and attitudes
Bohumil Frantál, Institute of Geonics

Response to energy landscape is subjective and involves individual perception. How can these subjectivities be captured, analysed and mapped?

A survey on appreciation of landscape was carried among the participants at a proposed windfarm site with two existing test turbines. Reponses were diverse and correlated with share of RES in country of origin.

Figure 5: Participants observing energy landscapes (photo: Tadej Bevk)

Workshop 6

Landscape democracy and renewable energy
Finn Arler, Aalborg University

Planning includes expert analysis, public views and political decisions. What is the relationship between them and which ethical issues need to be considered when balancing different forms of knowledge?

Democratic energy decision making must account for top-down and bottom-up initiative, involve local people, justly distribute benefits, offer appropriate subsidy system and preserve landscape values.

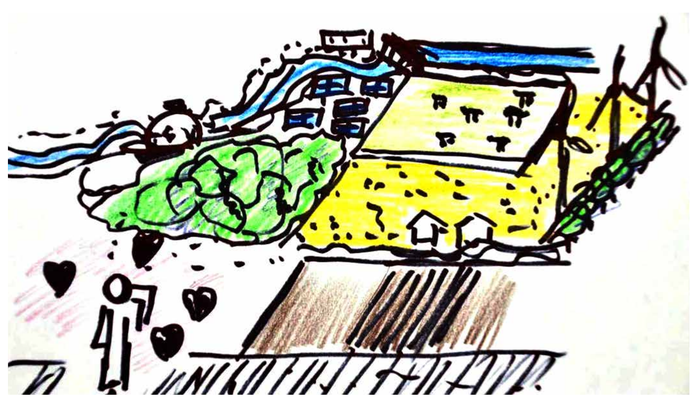


Figure 6: Decision making must preserve landscape values

Contact

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