

## Partnership

COST Action TU1401 is composed of more than 140 individual partners from more than 35 countries. This Action consolidates existing research networks across the science/social science/engineering divide, thereby creating a network of networks.



COST Action TU 1401  
**RELY**

Renewable Energy and Landscape Quality

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## About COST

COST is the longest-running European framework supporting transnational cooperation among researchers, engineers and scholars across Europe. It is a unique means to jointly develop own ideas and new initiatives across all fields in science and technology, including social science and humanities, through pan-European networking of nationally funded research activities. Based on a European intergovernmental framework for cooperation in science and technology, COST has been contributing - since its creation in 1971 - to closing the gap between science, policy makers and society throughout Europe and beyond.

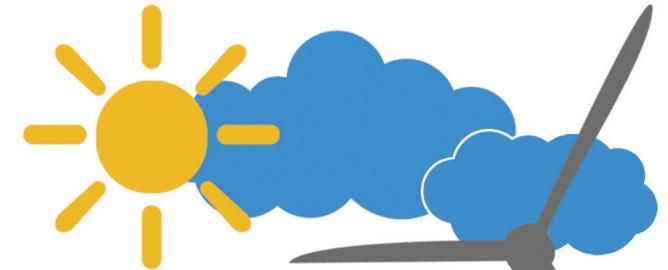


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Developing a better understanding of how European landscape protection/management and renewable energy deployment can be reconciled to contribute socio-environmentally to the sustainable transformation of energy systems.



## About the Action TU1401 RELY

In response to climate change, limited fossil fuels and rising energy demand and prices, renewable energy is heavily promoted throughout Europe. While objectives to boost renewable energy and trans-European energy networks are ambitious, it is increasingly understood that public acceptance becomes a constraining factor and general support for green energy does not always translate into local support for specific projects. Perceived landscape change and loss of landscape quality have featured heavily in opposition campaigns in many European countries, even though renewable energy can facilitate sustainable development, especially in disadvantaged regions rich in wind, water, biomass, geothermal or solar energy.

This Action investigates the interrelationships between renewable energy production and landscape quality and the role of public participation for the acceptance of renewable energy systems. COST RELY will develop a better understanding of how landscape protection and management and renewable energy deployment can be reconciled to contribute socio-environmentally to the sustainable transformation of energy systems. The Action will consolidate and extend knowledge from a pan-European perspective using a modular methodological framework.

This Action will enhance the science base for decision-making and develop guidelines for public participation in planning of sustainable energy systems. The potential of sustainable landscape development, with innovative land uses producing synergies for landscape quality and renewable energy, will be revealed.

## WG1 Renewable energy production systems and impacts on landscape quality

Working Group 1 reviews specific renewable energy production systems and their impacts on landscape character and landscape quality in Europe from a past, present and future perspective (e.g. by using scenario methods). It produces a systematic review of the nexus between renewable energy production systems and Europe's landscapes as living, economic, ecological, social, cultural and recreation spaces, as cultural heritage and as a basis for individual and social identification, and provides a pan-European documentation and synopsis of landscape quality and character assessment methods.



## WG2 Landscape sensitivity and potentials in terms of renewable energy production

Working Group 2 provides a risk and potential analysis for landscape functions and qualities affected by renewable energies, and an analysis of specific landscape functions' and qualities' vulnerability to specific renewable energy systems. Intended outcomes are: (1) a typology of best practices of sustainable, landscape compatible renewable energy production, (2) guidance for assessing the potential of areas for renewable energy systems and their effects on landscape quality/character, (3) a catalogue of relevant criteria, indicators and GIS proxy data for assessing landscape suitability of renewable energy production systems.



## WG3 Socio-cultural aspects of sustainable renewable energy production

Working Group 3 investigates socio-cultural aspects of sustainable renewable energy production and proposes ways of integrating specific aspects of renewable energy in participatory toolkits. It conducts an inventory of best practice examples for participatory renewable energy projects and selects case study regions. To generate scenarios as basis for the toolbox, advanced GIS-based 3D-visualization is used in empirical studies on cross-cultural comparison of reactions to the scenarios. WG 3 develops and disseminates a toolbox for landscape-aware public participation in all stages of planning for renewable energy systems.



## WG4 Synthesis of findings and dissemination

Working Group 4 focuses on the synthesis of findings and dissemination of results and establishes the communication and dissemination structures. The Action website is maintained by this WG, also for a certain while after the project's lifetime, and serves as an internal and external information platform. Furthermore, WG 4 coordinates the development of a multilingual glossary for scientific collaboration and trans-border public participation and exchange of knowledge in all WGs. Finally yet importantly, WG 4 serves as assistance for the other three WGs with service for exchange and communication.

