

## **COST RELY – PR statement**

According to the EU Renewable Energies Directive, European countries are obliged to participate in delivering the overall European objective of 20 % energy from renewable resources by 2020. While transposing this goal into the national framework and policies, member states take on different approaches: introduction of incentives, new regulations etc. These provisions will sooner or later become visible in the landscape where the renewable resources are located. Landscape impacts of the renewable resources »power plants« are several, including noise pollution and visual landscape changes. Landscape quality is the main subject of investigation of the scientists and practitioners who cooperate in the European COST Action “Renewable energy and landscape quality” (RELY).

### About COST

COST is the longest-running European framework supporting trans-national cooperation among researchers, engineers and scholars across Europe. Its major activity is networking and a joint development of the ideas and new initiatives across all fields in science and technology, including social sciences and humanities. Through joint activities, members of the action, also called participants, bring in the knowledge from their national research activities or other past transnational research projects. This knowledge is then further elaborated based on collaboration in working groups, meetings and conferences, within and outside the Action.

### About RELY

The Action is chaired by Prof Dr Michael Roth of Nuertingen-Geislingen University, Germany. Currently more than 160 members from 37 countries have joined the Action. The major aim of the Action is to exchange scientific knowledge and practical experiences of how to appropriately address landscape-energy conflicts that occur due to the rollout of renewable energy installations. Scientists are brought together to discuss and build new integrated and interdisciplinary approaches necessary to guide the transformation process towards renewable energies while at the same time maintaining landscape quality. Work is performed in four working groups: WG1 “Renewable energy production systems and impacts on landscape quality”, WG2 “Landscape sensitivity and potentials in terms of renewable energy production”, WG3 “Socio-cultural aspects of sustainable renewable energy production” and WG4 “Synthesis of findings and dissemination”. Results are and will be presented in various forms, such as conference presentations, academic exchange visits, the Action’s homepage, a travelling exhibition, databases, scientific articles and a final monography.

### Past and future activities

Participants of the Action have had six major meetings so far: The kick-off meeting in Brussels, Belgium (October 2014), Working Group and Management Committee Meetings in Lisbon, Portugal (March 2015), and in Dresden, Germany (September 2015) where a majority of attendees also participated at the European Conference of the Landscape Research Group

with the title “Energy Landscapes: Perception, Planning, Participation and Power”<sup>1</sup>. The conference was organised jointly with the IOER institute<sup>2</sup>. The fourth major meeting was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in April 2016. In September 2016, RELY was present with a special session at the PECSRL conference in Innsbruck, Austria<sup>3</sup>, where also a Working Group and Management Committee Meeting was held. In spring 2017, the Working Groups met in Thessaloniki, Greece. The next meeting with all four WGs will be held in September 2017 in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina. In March 2018, the Working Groups and Management Committee will meet in Brno, Czech Republic.

If you are interested in learning more and staying informed about the Action, please consult our web page: <http://cost-rely.eu/>

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Figure 1: General COST-RELY Action meeting spring 2015 in Lisbon with more than 50 participants. Photo: Csaba Centeri HU

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<sup>1</sup> <http://lrg2015.ioer.info/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ioer.de/1/home/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.pecsrl2016.com/>



Figure 2: COST-Action Working Group 3 Meeting in Dresden, September 2015, Photo: Csaba Centeri, HU



Figure 3: COST-Action RELY Logo