Title of STSM: Exploring the contesting functions of new energy landscapes

STSM Ref. No.: COST-STSM-TU1401-29031

Name of grantee: Dr. Stanislav Martinat

Home institution: Institute of Geonics, AS CR, Czech Republic

Host institution: University of Edinburgh, School of Geosciences, UK

Duration of STSM: July 1, 2015 – July 15, 2015

Resume:

Aim of this STSM, which was planned for 15 days to be spent at the School of Geosciences of the University of Edinburgh, was to follow work of WG2 of the RELY project under lead of coordinator of this working group (Dr. Dan Van der Horst of University of Edinburgh). Work of given working group (WG2) aimed for year 2015 to conceptually evaluate concept of best practices of renewable energy projects and to develop typology of these (good and poor) cases. In close cooperation with Dr. Dan Van der Horst the STSM was primary devoted to work on academic paper on this issue, i.e. definition of good and poor practices of renewable energy projects, identification of consequent criteria, driving forces, its importance for landscape protection and discrepancies between planning decisions and public acceptance of renewable energies. Regional differences of these problems were crucially taken into account. Secondary, attention was focused on other WG2 tasks in 2015 and planning of future activities and mutual scientific collaborations. The ground work during STSM was mainly devoted to gathering of relevant information and thematic literature retrieval concerning good and bad practices of renewable energy project, development of basic structure of the paper and development of its main theoretical components. Consultations with experts on this issue from academia in Edinburgh area were be also carried out and generally work on own definition of good practices in context of WG2 of the RELY project moved forwards. Attention was also paid to links between WG2 and WG3 works (Socio-cultural aspects of sustainable renewable energy production). As part of this STSM several field trips to renewable energy projects within urban area and in proximity of Edinburgh was organized to observe, evidence and asses their impact on landscape quality (with focus on anaerobic digestion plants). Rich sources of scientific information available at the University of Edinburgh (libraries, databases) were utilized to enrich knowledge base of STSM applicant too.