Standardisation and Certification of Renewable Energy Projects

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Overview



- Investitionsbank Schleswig-Holstein
- Schleswig-Holstein: pioneer to wind energy
- Structural barriers to renewable energy projects
- Classic financing instruments
- Financial barriers to renewable energy projects
- Alternative financing methods
- Photovoltaic projects
- Biogas plants
- Wind energy and its potential until 2020
- Hybrid system for Afghanistan (wind / solar)
- Lowering transaction costs: standards and certification
- EU-Project on certification needs in wind energy sector



- Public bank of the Land Schleswig-Holstein for economic promotion and infrastructure
- Loans, public funds and consultancy for energy efficiency, renewables, economic development
- Co-financer of more than 50 wind farms in the region
- Access to knowledge pool and competence centers in the wind energy sector of Schleswig-Holstein





Structural Barriers to Renewable Energy Projects



- Economic, legal and political uncertainty
- Little knowledge about renewable technology and lack of acceptance
- Energy market: liberalisation?
- Market support mechanisms?
 - Feed-in tariffs for electricity from renewables
 - Purchase obligation or renewable quota for utility
- Market distortions
 - E.g. subsidies for conventional energy
- Purchasing power of potential end users



Classic Financing Instruments for Renewable Energy Projects



• OECD

> equity, utility companies (balance sheet)

• Germany

- > private investment and local co-operatives
- "Citizen wind parks" with high local content

• Developing countries

- Micro lending for experience through small pilot projects
- Public funding for development projects
- Reform of export insurance / guarantees: level playing field
 - Premium for public good "clean air" vs. internalisation of negative externalities/social costs



Financial Barriers to Renewable Energy Projects (I)



Disadvantages within the renewable energy sector

- Most project developers & manufacturing companies are small or medium enterprises (SME)
- Difficulties for SMEs to achieve debt financing
- Loans often with high interest rates / high equity ratio
- Country knowledge?
- International infrastructure for distribution?

Barriers within the financial sector

- Various risks (political risk, currency risk, long term commitment of local actors)
- International Finance Institutions (IFI) and international banks high transaction costs -> only large projects
- Reliability of local banking sector?







- Energy as precondition for development
 - > Horizontal integration in development policies
 - E.g. UN programs on health, education (digital divide)
 - Water supply and purification through hybrid power plants
- Decentral energy supply for off grid households
- Technology transfer
 - Creation of local employment and local know-how
 - > Adaptation to local conditions
- Combination with trade of goods/services
 - Integration of electricity supply into supply of PCs, internet, phone etc.



Photovoltaic Projects



- 1 kW corresponds to 10 m2
- Costs at 5,500 €/kW, above 1 MW 4,000 €/kW
- Precondition for sustainable growth:
 - Fixed tariff for electricity produced
 - in Germany 20 years according to Renewable Energy Law "EEG"
 - Long term reliability PPA with commercial user, grid operator or utility
- Amortisation between 15-20 years
- Advantages of photovoltaic modules:
 - Easy installation
 - Low variation of solar radiation: low risks
 - No emissions -> permits for construction only (EIA)
 - Low service & maintenance requirements
 - 20-25 years guarantee from manufacturer!
 - PV modules can be sold easily in case of bankruptcy
 - ⇒Facilitated financing conditions!





Biogas technology

- High complexity of projects depending of substrate, technology, sold energy output and permit procedures
- Dependance on market instruments (tariff, PPA)
- Lifecycle 15-20 years, proven technology
- Schleswig-Holstein some 28 plants

Evaluation of projects on individual basis

- Different concepts depending on manufacturer, project developer, operator etc.
- Output calculation difficult with changing composition of "fuel"



Wind Energy – General Issues



• Large variability in usage

- From small kW turbines to large MW converters
- Usage in small and large projects, at different wind speeds
- Investments secured for long term through
 - Feed-in tariff or
 - PPA (commercial user / grid operator / utility)
- Proven technology with availability of 98%
- Crucial: project development with choice of site

• Until 2020 feasible:

- 12% of global electricity demand from wind power
- 2.3 mio. jobs
- Avoidance of 10 mio. tonnes of CO2
 Source: "Wind Force 12" publication of EWEA/Greenpeace, download at www.ewea.org



Wind Energy – Potential until 2020





Distribution of annual installed capacity by region

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Wind Energy – Employment Potential until 2020





Distribution of employment by region

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- Pilot project for university north of Kabul (2005)
 - Initiative of non-profit associations
 - Sponsoring through industry for market entry and good image
 - 50,000 € volume with high media attention
 - Wind energy converter 1.5 kW
 - Two solar modules of 1 kW each and a battery
- Technology transfer
 - Long-term cooperation with Tech. Univ. Hamburg intended
 - Training of two engineers in Germany
 - Transport of hybrid system to Afghanistan
 - Spare parts included in delivery
 - Operation and maintenance through local university
- Long term goals on renewable energy projects
 - Schools and hospitals to benefit from experience
 - For details see www.zukunft-afghanistan.org (in German)



Lowering Transaction Costs: Standards and Certification (I)







Lowering Transaction Costs: Standards and Certification (II)







EU-Project on Needs of Standardisation and Certification in Wind Energy Sector (I)

• Wind Energy R&D Network (WEN)

- EWEA project 2002-2005 sponsored through EU
- Working group "Financiers & Insurers" exploring needs on standardisation and certification
- Defining future EU research funding policy for wind energy
- First Strategy Paper published on www.ewea.org

Certification of a project and/or its elements

- "Rating" for individual project
- Aim: facilitate risk assessment and lower transaction costs for financiers and insurers

Thank you very much for your attention.

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