



## EUEI PDF NEWS

Dear Reader,

### Welcome to EUEI PDF News!

This quarterly newsletter of the Partnership Dialogue Facility (PDF) of the European Union Energy Initiative (EUEI) provides information on EUEI PDF's energy access facilitation with updates on selected ongoing projects and events organised by EUEI PDF.

EUEI PDF is promoting the development of energy access policies, strategies and action plans as well as conducting thematic studies on key issues. Its activities are designed to lead to a variety of concrete actions to improve energy access for the majority of the population in Africa and other regions. To learn more about EUEI PDF's projects please visit [www.euei-pdf.org](http://www.euei-pdf.org).

If you wish to receive EUEI PDF News please subscribe [here](#). We appreciate your feedback and encourage you to forward this newsletter to interested colleagues.

Sincerely,

Celia Nork  
EUEI PDF Project Manager

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## 00 | Editorial

Over the past year, energy for economic growth and social development has gained increased attention with concerns about the reliability of existing supplies and the urgent need to expand access to services. Rising energy prices and greater awareness of the environmental impacts of fossil fuels have brought a new urgency to the debate about energy security and climate change. As a result there is now an even greater need for clear national, regional and global policies and strategies to address energy resource and environmental constraints.

The Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP), currently getting underway, seeks to improve dialogue between Africa and the EU on energy issues, to increase access to sustainable energy services and to promote investments in energy infrastructure and energy efficiency at all levels in order to improve energy security and facilitate economic growth. It is an ambitious undertaking that brings together the activities of regional, national and local governments, civil society and the private sector in both continents. Effective dialogue between the 27 EU and 53 AU member states, including the associated African regional economic communities, is a major challenge with potentially enormous benefits for both continents.

The Partnership Dialogue Facility (PDF) of the EU Energy Initiative (EUEI) has been actively promoting dialogue between governments at regional level (see report on the meeting in Dakar below) in Africa and the development of national and regional strategies for energy access (see reports on the workshops on Biomass Energy in Africa and on energy access in Amazonia below). In extending its mandate to March 2012, Member State donors have seen an important role and opportunity for the EUEI PDF to support the implementation of both the EUEI and the AEEP. As a flexible, rapid response instrument it is able to react to needs and opportunities as they arise and to facilitate donor cooperation. I believe that its services will prove invaluable over the next three years.

Peter Davies  
Senior Energy Advisor DFID, member of EUEI PDF governing board

## 01 | Extension of the EUEI PDF

### EUEI PDF is extended until March 2012

In 2005 the Partnership Dialogue Facility (PDF) was initiated by 6 EU member states and the European Commission in support of the EU Energy Initiative (EUEI) with the objective to improve access to energy. At that time it was planned to operate for 3 years. Due to its flexible, fast and demand-driven nature it was quite successful and was therefore extended for another year until March 2009. In the light of the importance and achievements of the EUEI PDF, and the ongoing need for support to the EU Energy Initiative, the funders of the EUEI PDF as well as the European Commission decided at the 20th meeting of the EUEI Advisory Group on Energy to extend the EUEI PDF until March 2012. In addition to supporting the development of policies and strategies for the promotion of access to energy at national and regional level, the EUEI PDF will act as a major facilitator for the EUEI in close cooperation with the European Commission in the implementation of the Africa-EU Energy Partnership Action Plan.



## 02 | Staff changes in the EUEI PDF Management Unit

### Staff Changes

In June project manager Lucius Mayer-Tasch moved from the EUEI PDF to a new post within GTZ - to join an energy advisory project in Uganda. His work in the EUEI PDF management unit, where he had been managing a number of projects in Africa, and some thematic projects was much appreciated.

Project manager Celia Nork will be working at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in the division Energy for Sustainable Development. She will leave the EUEI PDF management unit end of August. Celia's work in EUEI PDF, where she had been managing projects in Latin America and Africa, as well as developing the website, the newsletter, and the M&E system, was much appreciated.

We thank both colleagues for their excellent contributions and wish them the best for their new job. A new staff member, Steffen Behrle will be joining EUEI PDF from UNDESA at the beginning of October.

We would like to draw your attention to two vacancies for experienced energy and development professionals within the EUEI PDF - one post in Brussels and one in Eschborn/Frankfurt.

For more information on the Brussels post see [here](#).

## 03 | Project News

### Workshop on Renewable Energy and Rural Electrification for the Sustainable Development of Amazonia

Amazonia, with its very dispersed communities, is the region with the lowest coverage of electrical energy in Latin America. In each of the nine countries which share the huge river basin there has been some limited success with decentralised electrification. However, there has been little coordination or sharing of information between these initiatives. OTCA, the Amazonian Basin Treaty Organisation has proposed the development of a regional strategy for scaling up access to electrification in the Amazonia, particularly for providing essential social services. As a first step EUEI PDF organised an initial workshop in Coca (Ecuador) in July 2008 to review experiences in the different countries of the Amazon basin region with community energy projects. Renewable and rural energy experts from Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Spain, Germany and UK participated in the workshop to identify barriers, possible common legal and regulatory framework requirements and means of regional cooperation. The workshop made recommendations for a number of actions as components of a regional rural electrification programme, including public policies, management and governance models, capacity development, cooperation between national initiatives, technology R&D, standards and technology transfer and exchange of experience. These activities will now be defined in more detail and developed into a regional programme.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop on Regional Activities for Increased Access to Energy in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) in Dakar, Senegal

Regional Economic Communities (RECs) are playing an increasingly important role in SSA. In the case of energy access there is a need for information exchange between the different RECs on recent experiences in the development and implementation of energy access strategies, and to identify opportunities for cooperation. EUEI PDF organised a 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop on Regional Activities for Increased Energy Access in SSA in Dakar (Senegal) in April prior to the UNIDO International Conference on Renewable Energy in Africa. The workshop was attended by representatives from RECs including CEMAC, EAC, ECOWAS, SADC, and UEMOA, selected African Union, European Union and donor representatives as well as officials from ministries of energy, energy experts and representatives of international development organisations. A number of issues that emerged from the recent experiences of the RECs and the Africa-EU Energy Partnership in the development and implementation of energy access strategies were discussed. Drawing from the presentations some underlying themes and challenges common to all the RECs emerged and were discussed to identify opportunities for future cooperation. ECOWAS proposed to host a 3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop on Regional Activities for Increased Energy Access in SSA, to be held in Abuja, Nigeria in early 2009 in line with requests made by the workshop participants.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional BEST Workshop in South Africa

Biomass resources including wood and charcoal remain the major sources of energy for cooking in most African countries. While current practices often contribute to environmental damage such as indoor air pollution and local deforestation, there is great potential to improve the supply chains and introduce improved appliances so that this important renewable resource can be more sustainably and safely used. As part of their Biomass Energy Strategy (BEST) initiative, EUEI PDF and GTZ organised a 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional BEST Workshop in South Africa in June as a forum for exchange of experiences in the development and implementation of biomass energy strategies (BEST). Representatives of governments in the process of developing such strategies (Botswana, [Lesotho](#), [Malawi](#) and [Rwanda](#)) and others with an active involvement (Uganda, Ethiopia) and selected household energy and forestry experts, including some private sector entrepreneurs discussed best practices and major constraints based on proven practical interventions to improve fuelwood and charcoal supply and use. A follow-up workshop is planned to be held in January 2009.



## 04 | Subscription Information

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EUEI PDF Management Unit  
c/o Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)  
P.O. Box 5180; 65726 Eschborn; Germany  
[www.euei-pdf.org](http://www.euei-pdf.org)  
Editorial Team: Ray Holland, Celia Nork