



Hamburg Institute
of International
Economics



Workshop „Wind Energy – Interregional Project“

3rd – 4th December 2014

Venue:

Hanse-Office, Joint Representation of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg and the State of Schleswig-Holstein to the EU, Avenue Palmerston 20, Brussels

Organisers:

MARIKO GmbH and HWWI

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Overview of the Workshop

On 3rd and 4th December 2014, the Hamburg Institute of International Economics (HWWI) carried out a workshop on "Offshore Wind Energy – Interregional Project Development" on behalf of the MARIKO GmbH (Maritime Competence Center, Leer, Germany).

The two-day event was held in the Joint Representation of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg and the State of Schleswig-Holstein to the European Union (Hanse-Office). A total of 29 invited participants from six European countries discussed cooperation opportunities in the field of offshore wind energy in the North Sea Region in order to jointly develop concrete ideas for an interregional project.

The audience included representatives of the European Commission and the European Parliament, employees of chambers of commerce, representatives of public authorities, regional development agencies, business development organisations, port operators, research institutions and regional representations to the European Union.

The results of the Workshop "Offshore Wind Energy – Potentials for interregional projects" in July were thereby taken as a basis.

Programme



Dr Mary Papaschinopoulou, Director of the Northern Chambers of Commerce Association (IHK Nord), acted as facilitator. She started by giving a short overview of the workshop programme, followed by a welcoming speech by Dr Thomas Engelke, Deputy Director of the Hanse-Office. He stressed the remarkable development of renewable energies in Northern Germany over the past years and gave a short overview over Schleswig-Holstein's efforts and achievements in the field of renewable energy, emphasizing that in 2013 already 90% of total electricity came from renewables.

Isabel Sünner, HWWI's Brussels representative, welcomed the audience and opened up the introduction round. MARIKO was represented by Mechtild Bode-Wübbeler (*photo above*) who introduced MARIKO's key working fields: maritime education and training as well as initiation and coordination of maritime research and innovative projects, offshore wind energy, innovative vessel propulsion systems or LNG.

Introduction of participants

The workshop was attended by 29 participants from six European countries, most of them belonging to the North Sea Region. Each participant was encouraged to introduce himself respectively his institution and to name the expectations on this workshop as well as topics of interest in the field of offshore wind energy (OSW) regarding a joint European project.



During the presentation round, Bernd van Ellen (*photo*) gave an overview of the Ems-Axis region where more than 100 participants are interacting in the field of offshore wind energy.

A short trailer was shown in which the importance of wind energy, the region in general and the City of Emden in particular were introduced to the participants.

Summary of results: Workshop "Offshore Wind Energy – Potentials for interregional projects", 3–4 July 2014

The previous workshop in July, in which current and future challenges in the field of offshore wind energy had been discussed, aimed at defining fields of action with regard to interregional cooperation project ideas. It was divided in three parts.

Part A of the workshop addressed the status quo of offshore wind energy and provided an insight into its policy prospects. Dr Mary Papaschinopoulou pointed out some noteworthy aspects: The call for provisioning a framework for safe investments in the renewables sector (RES) in order to encourage investors, the need to raise awareness for cost reduction opportunities in various fields of electricity production and meshed grids as well as knowledge transfer in risk mitigation from other resources were explained by representatives of the European Commission (Directorate General for Energy).

Isabel Süner, HWWI Brussels, presented funding schemes for renewable energy topics (Horizon 2020, INTERREG). All INTERREG projects need to have a transnational implementation, should focus on delivering progress on core programme goals, contribute to the implementation of EU policies and foster national and regional policies and strategies. INTERREG VB focuses on selected programme areas such as the Baltic Sea Region, the North Sea Region and North-West Europe and is based on thematic blocks, in particular:

- innovation
- transport
- environment

During the second part of the July workshop representatives of the regions introduced their regional competence profiles in the field of offshore wind (OSW) and discussed further needs for investigation and potentials for cooperation.

In the final part possibilities for interregional cooperation in specific areas were discussed, and a variety of suggestions regarding a proposal idea came up. The most pressing fields of action have been summarized in five thematic blocks that could become elements of an integrated offshore wind energy development in the North Sea Region:

- 1) Strategic/political issues related to OSW
- 2) Testing of infrastructure
- 3) Training
- 4) Support to innovative SMEs
- 5) Financing

Project development session

As a starting point, Dr Karsten Seidel, Ikerconsulting, gave an update of the new INTERREG V B programme and the differences compared to INTERREG IV B.

The focus in the future programme lies rather on demonstration, testing and pilot actions than on research. He stressed that (strategic) development of the North Sea Region, improvement of commercial take-up of research results and stimulation of the innovation process in private sector delivery are some potential project activities.

Elaboration of a project idea in working groups

After reflecting the results of the July workshop the project development session started. The group was split up into two parallel working groups:

- i. Cost reduction potentials in offshore wind energy-related logistics
- ii. Qualification and training, needs for standardization

For details, please get in contact.

The objective of these parallel sessions was the definition of the main coordinates of the North Sea Region project proposal, such as:

- areas of intervention
- beneficiary sectors
- policies and instruments
- categories of activities

The attributes the participants considered being important for the joint proposal were collected individually in a handed out spreadsheet and pooled on a flip-chart (*photo: Karsten Seidel*).



Mary Papaschinopoulou challenged all participants to reflect the input that was generated during the working sessions in order to further discuss it at a joint networking dinner as well as in a forthcoming session with the European Commission on Workshop Day 2.

Networking Dinner:

The networking dinner was joined by the Members of the European Parliament Gesine Meißner and Matthias Groote as well as Jacopo Moccia (Head of Political Affairs at EWEA - European Wind Energy Association.). The dinner guests took position on various aspects of offshore wind energy from a European perspective. The importance of closely linking politicians to project development and project implementation was emphasized, and a joint letter of support was met with wide approval.

Session with the European Commission (DG Energy)

Brendan Devlin, advisor at the Directorate General for Energy of the European Commission (EC) provided policy perspectives on OSW from the perspective of the Commission, and outlined steps that could be taken towards the idea of a European project application for the North Sea Region.

Brendan stressed that markets see the future in renewables. This message is at the same time combined with a new perspective that forces Europe towards sustainable and domestic energy systems. From the Commission's perspective especially the North Sea is a resource space that needs to be further developed. Jean-Claude Juncker (President of the EC) and Maroš Šefčovič (Vice President of the EU Commission) are dedicated to take action in this field and to have regional projects which stand out in their efficiency towards EU 2020 goals. With a huge variety at the Member State level lots of changes should be possible.



Brendan *(photo with Mary Pappaschinopoulou)* underlined that the EC would appreciate the creation of a forum for cost reduction in the field of OSW. One important aspect that could be discussed there is shared infrastructure, another one is the development of standards. Such a forum could obtain political support from the EC. Coordination on the regional and the national level about various standards and needs is crucial.

Brendan stressed that the management of competing interests (socialization of costs, optimal grid design and cost harmonization of spatial/environmental practices) between member states is a big task, e.g., due to a lack of trust and communication. The North Sea Region is still lacking of a local/regional development of networks, a political initiative coming from the local/national level to develop the process further. Additionally, a political/legal framework is needed to develop links within the region.



In the UK, changes in the regulatory environment have led to a movement towards a European perspective in energy policy and an asset based model.

Photo: Chris Ashe (European Institute for Innovation, UK) and Stine Øyna, (South Norway European Office) during the discussion.

Concluding remarks

Dr Mary Papaschinopoulou outlined that the workshop produced a great outcome in terms of developing the partner contributions into a format allowing to be submitted for funding in a European cooperation programme.