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Action Plan

Vorarlberger Regional OP ERDF 2014-2020

Developed by the partner:

Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences

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Content	ts

I. Introduction	,
I.I. Region under Analysis	
II. Labour Market	
III. AP CONTEXT OF RES IN INDUSTRY	
III.I. AP GENERAL INFORMATION	
III.II. CONTEXT OF AUSTRIA AND VORARLBERG RES ASSESSMENT	
IV.I. DETAILS OF THE OP ADRESSED	
IV.II. PROPOSAL OF IMPROVEMENT IN THE APPLICATION FORM	
V. THE LEARNING PROCESS OF Vorarlberger	
VI. APPROACH OF Vorarlberg TO THE POLICY INSTRUMENT IMPROVEMENT	18
Vorarlberg Market Analysis	19
Vorarlberg Best Practices	21
Vorarlberg Action Plan.	24
VI.I. VORARLBERG ACTIVITIES AND LEVELS OF LEARNING COVERED	24
INTERREGIONAL WORKSHOP (IW) AND STUDY VISITS (SV).	25
MASTER CLASS (MC)	27
EXPERT MISSIONS (EM)	28
LOCAL STAKEHOLDER SEMINAR (LSS)	29
POLICY BREAKFAST (PB)	29
INSTITUTION INTERNAL MEETING (IIM)	30
COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION	31
VI.II. THE QUALITY OF THE PARTNER LEARNING	
VII. CONCLUSSIONS FROM THE LEARNING PROCESS	
VII.I. THE OPPORTUNITIES OF THE SECTOR	
VII.II. DEFINING INDICATORS FOR POLICY EVALUATION	
Solar thermal energy	40
Solar photovoltaic energy	41
Biomass	42
Comparison of indicators per country	44
Best practices potential improvement to Market Analysis	48
National public investment indicators	49
Comparison national public investment indicators	50
VIII. DETAILS OF THE ACTION ENVISAGED	
VIII.I. ACTION 1 – Operational measures	
VIII.I.A. The background	53













VIII.I.B.	Action	53
VIII.I.C.	Players involve	53
VIII.I.D.	Timeframe	54
VIII.II.	ACTION 2 – Technology & Infrastrucutre	55
VIII.II.A.	The background	55
VIII.II.B.	Action	
VIII.II.C.	Players involve	55
VIII.II.D.	Timeframe	56
VIII.III.	ACTION 3 – Stimulating Green Practices	57
VIII.III.A.	The background	
VIII.III.B.	Action	
VIII.III.C.	Players involve	57
VIII.III.D.	Timeframe	57













Page 53 of 59

VIII. DETAILS OF THE ACTION ENVISAGED

VIII.I. ACTION 1 - OPERATIONAL MEASURES

Stimulating renewable system integration through operational flexibility.

VIII.I.A. THE BACKGROUND

Diverse structure of legal entities involved as well as the different consequences of its inclusion in stimulating renewable energy systems through the policy system exhibits fragmented influences in divergent geographical context. Monitoring of the effects of the policy instrument at national but also international level, and the evaluation of particular measures implemented in industrial context, should continuously been compared and further incorporated within the RE-related policy mix.

Selection procedure of RES projects to be financed and further promoted, as well as the context of the thematical calls are managed based on diverse economic, social, and political structure of partner regions. Integration of RES within industry is targeted through different priorities and mechanism of implementation, as well as the share of RES in the energy system of countries. However, these can be further advanced through the promotion and replication of international practices comparable to the specific region.

Lessons learned indicate the tendency that companies can benefit from a green supply chain by cooperating with upstream suppliers of environmentally responsible production technology and by exchanging environmental information with them. In addition, considering the views of customers and green consumers in companies' production processes can further the process of advanced stimulation RES use in industry. This can be managed by greater integration of environmental measures into different measures of the operational programme (e.g., sustainable innovation).

Better understanding of the policies and politics of transitions is on the top of agenda in managing sustainability transitions among partner regions. To move towards a decarbonized energy system and the more increased use of RES in industry, the redirection and acceleration of technological change is a must. With this regard, policies play a key role, while efficient configuration among these is the necessary to drive such sustainable growth.

VIII.I.B. SUB-ACTIONS

Updating the methodology for monitoring and evaluation in the scope of the policy instrument

Advancing the way thematic calls are organised and the selection procedure of RES projects

Integrating environmental measures into different measures of operational programme and stimulation of green practices into operational performance of companies

Addressing policy inconsistencies, mixed signals to investors and long-term sustainable growth

VIII.I.C. PLAYERS INVOLVED

Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences (FHV) – Responsible for monitoring the action, concrete measures taken to achieve the goals, as well as their impact

Vorarlberg Government – In the context of designing policies and programmes which stimulate proactive role of companies in managing renewable energy transition as well as stimulating private sector investments within the scope of renewable energy: take materials and input provided by RESINDUSTRY, FHV and other players of the action into consideration for the design, implementation, and steering of current as well as upcoming policy instruments.













City of Dornbirn, City of Bregenz, City of Feldkirch – Promotion of the renewable use at the local level; spatial planning alignment with RES policies; involving citizens and private sector in the energy-planning processes; monitoring and evaluation of the policy effects devised from higher political level on municipal renewable energy policy; management of multilevel municipal networks; monitoring and evaluation of the budgetary situation between municipalities and its role in RE policy.

Austrian Chamber of Commerce and Vorarlberg Service organisations for Industry and Economy -Establishing contact to industry and disseminate relevant materials

VIII.I.D. **TIMEFRAME**

The time frame for this action is 2022 – 2023 in accordance with Phase 2 of the RESINDUSTRY project.

Tasks to be executed within this timeframe are (responsible partner FHV):

- Monitoring of the implementation of the action, especially the number of industries in Vorarlberg adopting RES
- Coordination of participation in the dissemination events as well as relevant events promoting policy instrument changes as detailed in the action and its sub-actions. This includes project events according to the guidance of LP (online / hybrid / in-person) as well as local events organised by Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences and the players involved (see section above).
- Further consultation with policy makers w.r.t. the action as well as stakeholders, especially with consideration of newly starting ERDF funds (new funding period), in order to ensure communication of regular updates and disseminate the results of FHV and other RESINDUSTRY partners to a wider
- Submit information to the LP w.r.t. to the level of achievement of the action and its sub-actions.
- Monitor Vorarlberg OP performance indicator 'New industries with RES' and increase the number of industries targeted as laid out in the application form of RESINDUSTRY
- Disseminate the Market Analysis (MA) developed within Phase 1 further, as the MA was received with great interest in bi-lateral talks conducted with stakeholders and staff, as well as use the list of industries in the MA in order to monitor performance indicator















VIII.II. ACTION 2 - TECHNOLOGY & INFRASTRUCUTRE

Quality infrastructure for renewable energy technologies

VIII.II.A. THE BACKGROUND

Based on lessons learned from the project implementation, there is a wide gap in available infrastructure for easier access and the use of RES. Therefore, to assess regional innovation potentials it is necessary that policies further promote the development of energy infrastructure and consider specific measures for evaluating its contribution to the use of RES.

Stimulation of practices that ensure a long-term specialisation of employees as well as introduction of academic programs directed towards development of experts that will lead sustainable environmental growth through the application of green innovation operations in industrial sector is of particular importance when considering lessons learned from the project implementation. Thus, policies should consider and further stimulate research and innovation, develop infrastructure that ensures faster uptake of new technologies, and development of skilled workers in order to promote sustainable transition and a more efficient use of RES in industry.

Lessons learned indicate that a more effective instrument should encompass a wider target group, considering that the non-industrial sector still manifests lower levels of RES integration in comparison to industrial sectors, in Austria as well as in some other project partners' national settings. These should include changes and modelling of potential RES development paths for other sectors (transport, households, etc.), which would allow access to necessary measures for energy infrastructure development.

VIII.II.B. SUB-ACTION

- Assessing necessary measures for energy infrastructure development
- Developing and attracting skilled workers in the sector

Stimulating the use of innovative technologies in collaborative cross-sectoral value creation (Modelling potential development paths for other sectors as well (transport, households, etc.) to decarbonise the energy system, based on RES sources. However, a more integrated perspective of the policy instrument requires bridging the barrier to integration of RES into industry – such as adoption of new technologies used to generate renewable energy, understanding the boundaries and maturity levels of technology as well as the commercialisation process of the knowledge in the market.

VIII.II.C. PLAYERS INVOLVED

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VIII.III. ACTION 3 - STIMULATING GREEN PRACTICES

Green innovation promoting RES integration and promoting RES through research and development (R&D)

VIII.III.A. THE BACKGROUND

During the project implementation it is exhibited that at diverse geographic locations industrial companies take different roles which affects the level of RES integration into industry.

Stimulating the use of RES in industry requires measures which promote the larger share of RES in the national electricity mix, exhibiting in specific countries greater availability of RES for the use in the manufacturing sector (e.g., establishing of model regions). These measures should contribute to the lower RES costs as well as a robust growth of environmental protection.

VIII.III.B. **SUB-ACTIONS**

Promoting the role of industrial companies as prosumers and the exposure to concepts of RES as prosumers via R&D. This way, industrial companies should be able to react flexibly to changes and to contribute to maintaining the security of supply as well as the more efficient use of RES sources. Thus, new concepts and coupling points between the energy sectors must be identified so the instrument can be more effective, both for the state and business sector.

Stimulate the larger share of RES in the national electricity mix and support the expansion of a local manufacturing sector (Advancing policies that: stimulate the larger share of RES in the national electricity mix; support the expansion of a local manufacturing sector; ensure reasonable RES costs and environmental protection; establishing of model regions).

VIII.III.C. PLAYERS INVOLVED

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