



## **National report on the capacity building sessions**

General remarks to the events:

- There was a very high interest of the attendance in the topics mainly the evaluation of the costs of the renewable systems.
- After evaluating the events more than 95% of the attendance were satisfied with the events and over 86% gained new skills within the trainings.

### **Introduction**

In November and December 2016 three capacity building events took place in different parts of Austria. The events were established to disseminate on one hand the project's results of FROnT and on the other hand to give experts the chance to discuss different topics and come together with experts in their fields of work. Therefore to attract more people the events were linked to events within the framework of klimaaktiv, the Austrian climate protection initiative which is also part of the Austrian climate strategy. The initiative brings quality into the renewable systems with the development and provision of quality standards, the education and training of professionals, with advice, information and a large partner network. The initiative was also supporting the project during the project duration.

The three events were designed as evening events starting at 18.30 o'clock and ending at around 21.30 o'clock. All events followed the same structure, first an introduction to the event was given, then the FROnT project results were presented and discussed and after this 2<sup>nd</sup> block experts gave presentations on relevant interesting renewable topics to initiate a discussion. After the expert discussions a conclusion on the event was made. The relevant renewable topics of the combined events (presentation of projects results FROnT and the expert discussion rounds) were discussed beforehand with experts in the field and were finalized within following topics:

- "smart technologies - smart interaction, visions, possibilities and obstacles" in the field of heat pumps in combination with photovoltaics
- "energy autonomous buildings" self-consumption of energy or how expansive are storage in reality?
- "solar thermal energy is dead, long live the solar thermal energy?"

After promoting the events via partners networks e.g. local energy agencies or trade associations, e-mailing and postal service, 60 participants from different sectors e.g. industry, NGOs, energy agencies, consultants, government representatives, architects, installers and electricians attended the successful events. All available documents were sent to the participants and other interested professionals after the events took place.

After the evaluation of the events it was observed that the attendance were very satisfied with the events as over 95% mentioned that the events met their expectations and over 85% gained more



knowledge from the trainings. For more than 75% the information received was good or even excellent.

### **1<sup>st</sup> capacity building event on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2016**

The first event on the 14<sup>th</sup> of November 2016 was organized in the premises of the local energy agency in Innsbruck, Tyrol. The presentation of the FRONt results was linked to the topic "smart technologies - smart interaction, visions, possibilities and obstacles" in the field of heat pumps in combination with photovoltaics. At the event 20 attendances from industry, NGOs, energy agencies, architects, engineers, energy consultants, installers, network operator and representatives from government were participating. All available documents were sent to all participants and other interested professionals after the meeting took place.



### **Opening**

The capacity building event was opened, participants were welcomed and the program was explained by Gundula Weber. There was a small introduction of the participants in which everybody gave his or her expectations.

### **Presentation FRONt results**

Gundula Weber gave a presentation on the FRONt project and all the achieved results. In detail the findings on the key success factors of a funding system, the calculation tool and its usage was explained, the results of the market surveys in the participating countries and the strategic policy priorities which were defined in the consortium. The interest of the participants in the topics was very high and good discussions mainly on the costs of the systems developed.



## **Presentation on the combination of photovoltaics and heat pumps**

Thomas Triendl, employee of an engineering company for renewable energies in Tyrol presented possibilities to combine heat pumps and photovoltaics but obstacles with the regulation and control systems still remains in this area. It was summarized that the systems can't work active together as at the moment the systems build in Austria are just suitable for a passive usage and not smart grid ready.

## **Presentation of actual heat pumps on the market**

Markus Krieger, employee of the company Viessmann which produces heat pumps in Austria explained briefly the technologies and possible system combinations available on the market, new developments and possibilities to enhance the self-consumption. Also costs and life time of the products were explained.

## **Discussion**

Within the expert discussions especially the life time of the components and the payback times were discussed, but also the quality of the components and the usage depending on the location. After evaluating the evaluation questionnaire some of the participants would like to discuss further in details the lifecycle costs of systems and also the operational costs.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> capacity building event on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2016**

The second event took place on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2016 and was organised in cooperation with the University of Applied Sciences in Vienna. The presentation of the FROnT results was linked to the topic "energy autonomous buildings" self-consumption of energy or how expansive are storage in reality?. At the event 20 attendances from industry, energy agencies, architects, engineers, energy consultants, installers, network operator, students and representatives from government were participating. All available documents were sent to all participants and other interested professionals after the meeting took place.



### **Presentation FROnT results**

Gundula Weber gave a presentation on the FROnT project and the results achieved. In detail the findings on the key success factors of a funding system, the calculation tool and its usage was explained, the results of the market surveys in the participating countries and the strategic policy priorities which were defined in the consortium. The interest of the participants in the topics was very high and good discussions developed after the presentation.

### **Presentation of storage technologies**

Helmut Mayer from the company BlueSky Energy gave an overview on storage technologies, costs, advantages and disadvantages of the technologies and their life time. Within the presentation also structural measures and safety aspects were taken into account and discussed. From the attendance the costs were the most important factors which were discussed.

### **Presentation of the AAPH Absolut Autark Plus Haus**

Werner Schäfer from the AAPH Absolut Autark Plus Haus GmbH presented their newly build building and energy concept of an autonomous building. The building concept itself was presented but also the energy system with the different energy suppliers and storages. As the whole energy system is monitored, first results of the monitoring systems were explained and discussed.

### **Discussion**

Within the expert discussions especially the concept of the Absolut Autark Plus Haus was of high interest of the participants as the energy concepts in combination with the energy suppliers and storages were very innovative and cost intense. After evaluating the evaluation questionnaire the interest of people was in further information on legal and financial aspects of storage systems but also on the technologies.



### **3<sup>rd</sup> capacity building event on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 2016**

The third event took place on the 5th of December 2016 and was organised in cooperation with the association of solar thermal energy in Austria and the energy agency in Graz. The presentation of the FROnT results was linked to the topic “solar thermal energy is dead, long live the solar thermal energy?”. At the event 20 attendances from industry, energy agencies, architects, engineers, energy consultants, installers and representatives from government were participating. All available documents were sent to all participants and other interested professionals after the meeting took place.



#### **Presentation FROnT results**

Gundula Weber gave a presentation on the FROnT project and all achieved results. In detail the findings on the key success factors of a funding system, the calculation tool and its usage was explained, the results of the market surveys in the participating countries and the strategic policy priorities which were defined in the consortium. The interest of the participants in the topics was very high and good discussions developed after the end of the presentation.

#### **Presentation of the status of solar thermal energy in Austria**

Roger Hackstock from the association Austria Solar gave an overview of the status of solar thermal energy in Austria, obstacles and chances for further developments. As many installers attended the event a discussion on further activities in the field started as there was a common understanding that the Austrian market for single family houses in the area of solar thermal energy is stagnating. Therefore for the attendance new developments in the sector were the most important factors which were discussed.



## **Presentation of SOLID**

Nicol Olsacher representative from the company SOLID gave an overview of the company and where new fields of activities can be seen. Practical best practise examples mainly in the area of high temperature and contracting installations were presented. Mainly the area of controlling the system, the seasonal storages and the operating system were of high interest of the attendance.

## **Discussion**

Within the expert discussions especially the topic of new developments and areas of work was of high interest, also the costs per kWh and the solar gain, seasonal storages and their costs. After evaluating the evaluation questionnaire the interest of people was in further information on the combination of heat pumps with solar thermal energy and seasonal storages.