ACCESS TO SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FOR ALL (ENERGY FOR ALL) 2011–2014
Finland Futures Research Centre

Location of the action: Finland, Mekong region, Cuba
Total costs of the project: 889 494 €
Funded by: EuropeAid
Length of the project: 4/2011–3/2014
Project partners: Hnuti DUHA - Friends of the Earth, Czech Republic; CEE Bankwatch Network, Czech Republic; Les Amis de la Terre – Friends of the Earth, France; Mani Tes, Italy; Corner House Research, United Kingdom; urgewald e. V., Germany

Access to Sustainable Energy for All project was implemented by a consortium of seven organizations and research centres in nine countries across Europe. Between 2011 and 2014 the FFRC research team conducted case studies in Finland, the Mekong region and Cuba in order to examine the drivers of energy futures in the target countries and the alternatives that are needed to make them equitable and sustatainable. The question of how to provide clean, accessible and affordable energy for all is far from straightforward. Especially those in poorer countries across the Global South lack opportunities to benefit from such luxury. The project aimed at enhancing local understanding and raise awareness among the European public about the importance of ensuring such energy sources, and also about the role of EU financing policies concerning this issue. On FFRC's part, the project included a capacity building component to enhance local abilities, and also produced two reports about the matter to stimulate public debate and instigate initiatives to promote a shift in policies and practices.

Turun yliopisto
University of Turku

FINLAND FUTURES
RESEARCH CENTRE

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT SDFUTURES-INFO@UTU.FI OR WWW.SDFUTURES.FI

The research findings stem from interviews with energy experts from research institutes, government and line ministries, non-governmental organisations and market actors as well as interaction with local communities in the Mekong region, Cuba and Finland. The research was strengthened by capacity trainings in order to enable local communities to take the matter of energy concerns into their own hands. Alternative options need to be promoted because energy modelling can be used as an influential tool to promote dominant policy views. As a scientific method, energy modelling has often been dominated by macroeconomic concerns over considerations related to climate change, access to energy or local environmental impacts.

The project produced two reports and organized one conference. The conference, together with with Mekong Energy and Ecology Network (MEE-Net), "Know Your Power: Towards a Participatory Approach for Sustainable Power Development in the Mekong Region" was held in Bangkok in 2012. It gathered 150 participants including NGO representatives, researchers, officials from energy departments and journalists from the Mekong Region and representatives of international development community. The conference examined the interlinkages between energy and development in the Mekong region by examining the multitude of actors, theor roles and influence within the power sector.

The first report aimed to improve the understanding on how energy models and scenarios are used and deployed and how dominant scenarios and future forecasts can be challenged in order to build the capacity for the development of alternative energy scenarios. In relation to discussions about energy and climate chamge, the report summarizes experiences and benefits from past energy policy research in the Mekong region, Eastern Africa and Nordic countries.

The second report aimed to make Cuban energy reforms more widely known and feed the local experiences constructively into the debates on models of sustainable energy production. It also informed EU's energy related aid and initiatives in supporting sustainable energy transitions. The report discussed the lessons learnt from the Cuban experiences with various energy saving measures and the country's potential related to decentralized power production sustems that rely on renewable energy sources.

Contributors to the project:

- Jyrki Luukkanen
- Mira Käkönen
- Hanna Kaisti
- Joni Karjalainen
- Jarmo Vehmas

Karjalainen, J., Käkönen, M., Luukkanen, J. & J. Vehmas (2014) Energy Models and Scenarios in the Era of Climate Change. Briefing Report. FFRC eBOOK 3/2014. Finland Futures Research Centre, University of Turku.

Käkönen, M., Kaisti, H. & J. Luukkanen (2014) Energy Revolution in Cuba: Pioneering for the Future? FFRC eBOOK 4/2014. Finland Futures Research Centre, University of Turku.

Mekong Energy and Ecology Network (2012) Know Your Power: Towards a Participatory Approach for Sustainable Power Development in the Mekong Region.