

7th January 2011

AESOP members

Invitation for co-operation

Dear AESOP member,

Climate Change has set new requirements on urban planning in order to reduce energy consumption in living and transportation. Urban planning has a great impact on what measures will be viable to reduce overall energy consumption as well as to introduce variable forms of renewable energy.

In September we started an EU's Intelligent Energy Programme supported project - UP-RES (Urban Planners with Renewable Energy Skills), in which pilot training of urban and regional planners will be organized in five countries to comprise integration of renewable energy with urban plans. Those countries represent various parts and environments in EU, namely Spain, Hungary, U.K., German and Finland as leader. The task is to expand such training to other European countries in fall 2012. In such expansion we will need your support.

We have now the training needs interviews underway in five countries to find out what the specific training needs are. We are willing to inform you of the results in February in case you are interested.

In Finland, we are closely following up Skaftkärr district development in the city of Porvoo. Integration of renewable energy options to the spatial design of Skaftkärr district has been thoroughly analyzed. For comparison, the base case is based on traditional urban plan with rather small houses spread over the district and connected with relatively long streets. Heating services of the base case would have been provided with mixed oil, electricity, heat pumps and district heating, depending on the size and location of the particular buildings. Renewable energy and more dense and convenient living alternatives were considered instead of the base case. The alternative urban planning would result in substantial savings in fossil fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. For instance, as one option, passive energy houses to be served by bio fuel driven district heating would reduce primary energy consumption by 35% and the GHG emissions by 24% relative to the base case.

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More of the Skaftkärr case and many other ones will be discussed in the Best Practices of urban planning to be compiled in spring 2011. We are just starting to collect the best practices about cases in which renewable energy and emission reduction have been integrated to urban plans and implementations.

In February-March we will organize a number of short courses in those five countries to introduce the training idea and to provide some examples of training to urban planners in various cities. In February we would like also to tell more on the development and show examples of the planned 9 month training to take place in four countries.

In March we would like to ask for your interest/commitment of using some of the modules of UP-RES in your curricula.

In case you are interested in learning more on UP-RES and to co-operate with us by addressing the climate change through enhanced urban plan schemes, please feel free to send us email.

We appreciate your co-operation.

Wishing a Happy New Year

On behalf of UP-RES Team

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