



Project Fact Sheet

updated: December 2008

Solar thermal applications in EASTern Europe with Guaranteed Solar Results (EAST-GSR)

Programme area: ALTENER – New and renewable energy sources

Status: Ended on December 31st 2008

Coordinator: Stéphane POUFFARY
ADEME (Agence de l'Environnement et de la Maîtrise de l'Energie)
France
stephane.pouffary@ademe.fr
Tel: +33 (0)4.93.95.79.55

Partners:

- ARSENAL Research (Österreichisches Forschungs und Prüfzentrum Arsenal Ges.m.b.H), Austria
- CRES (Centre for Renewable Energy Sources), Greece
- DENA (Deutsche Energie-Agentur GmbH), Germany
- KAPE (Krajowa Agencja Poszanowania Energii SA), Poland
- OVM-ICCPET (Oscar Von Miller-Institut de Conceptie, Cercetare si Proiectare Echipamente Termoenergetice), Romania
- SIEA (Slovenská Inovačná Energetická Agentúra), Slovakia
- SEC (Sofia Energy Centre), Bulgaria
- TEC SOL SA, France
- UL FME (University of Ljubljana), Slovenia

Website: <http://www.solareast-gsr.net>

Objective: Encourage the emergence of a sustainable solar thermal market through the GSR quality approach

Benefit: Development of local industries and distribution networks

Keywords: Solar thermal market, guaranteed solar results, telemonitoring equipment

Duration: 01/2006– 12/2008

Budget: EUR 1.082.394 (EU contribution: 50%)

Contract number: EIE/05/208/SI2.420214



Short description

EAST-GSR is a 36-month project based on the Guaranteed Solar Results (GSR) quality approach. Austria, France, Germany and Greece, which already successfully implemented this performance guarantee contract, transferred their experience to Bulgaria, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia in order to support the development of a sustainable solar thermal market in those target countries.

The project started with a "knowledge acquisition" phase by identifying the existing solar thermal market, the most promising sectors for large-scale applications and the potential stakeholders to be involved. A know-how transfer between the project partners led to the GSR contract adaptation to national situations and to the implementation of a telemonitoring system (a key component of the contract) on one existing installation per target country in order to serve as a pilot site.

The project then focussed more particularly on the dissemination of the GSR approach. This was achieved through dedicated pedagogic tools, national networking and training sessions, presentations of the project in national and international events and publications, a project website (www.solareast-gsr.net), the realisation of pre-feasibility studies for potential projects and, more generally, through the consortium's networking activities.

Achieved results

- *The Guaranteed Solar Results contract has been adapted to the national legal context and reviewed by a national lawyer. A template is downloadable from the project website for public use.*
- *One existing large solar thermal system per target country has been equipped with a telemonitoring system in order to demonstrate the reliability of solar thermal installations, the possibility to guarantee the produced solar energy thanks to appropriate calculation tools, and the interest of performance monitoring in terms of maintenance and professionals' know-how continuous improvement. The day to day telemonitoring data are available on the project website and will be accessible and updated at least until 2011.*
- *National networking and training sessions, including a visit of the pilot site, have been organised in the five target countries. More than 300 well-targeted stakeholders of the solar thermal field (decision makers, professionals, potential investors) were informed about the GSR concept on these occasions. Pedagogic tools such as a professional handbook, a telemonitoring manual and the project CD-Rom gathering the project documents have been distributed. Presentations and discussions were also encompassing design and sizing issues, the importance of a quality approach, the need for appropriated support schemes, etc. Such transverse meetings gathering different players of the field appeared to be highly appreciated.*
- *Following those meetings, interesting initiatives have emerged. As an example, a first GSR project will be soon implemented by a Slovak municipality and interesting partnerships, such as with the Slovene elderly home association, have been initiated. Different financiers have also expressed their interest in promoting the GSR contract as a pre-requisite for financing. The project partners will continue their networking in that sense.*
- *Pre-feasibility studies have been proposed to potential investors during the last months of the project in order to foster the implementation of concrete projects with GSR which would be reference projects for the solar thermal sector. The results of those pre-feasibility studies have also been communicated to potential investors in order to encourage them to invest in such projects. It is expected that this will lead to concrete realisations in the coming months.*

Lessons learnt

- *A lot of similarities can be noted between the Eastern European countries' solar thermal markets which are facing common barriers (lack of clear state support and clear subsidy schemes, need for professionals' training, need to develop quality standards and testing facilities, need for awareness raising campaigns, need to set reliable database about key inputs such as solar radiations, standard hot water consumptions, existing installed capacity, etc.). Projects targeting specifically Eastern European countries do make sense and should be encouraged.*
- *There is a clear potential for solar thermal in the EAST-GSR target countries in a context of rising energy prices. For collective applications, some sectors as the health and the hotel ones appear to be particularly promising. This potential should be encouraged at the state or local level through subsidy schemes and/or awareness raising campaigns, especially in the context of high energy dependence.*
- *This project confirmed that a performance guarantee is a win-win approach which can be promoted at the same time by professionals proposing quality services, financiers who want to secure their investment or loans, institutions who want to promote efficient support schemes and clients who need guarantees in a developing market. Its promotion in the EAST-GSR target countries allowed to foster a constructive dialogue focussing on quality aspects and gave to the different stakeholders a common knowledge for a sustainable market development.*