

National Workshop Spain

Minutes

Date of workshop: 26.3.2010

Location: Vitoria-Gasteiz

Responsible for minutes

Name: Xabier Marrero Múgica

Email address: xmarrero@vitoria-gasteiz.org

1. Best practices and city actions on solar energy

1.1. **Navarra Solar Promotion Plan (Plan de Impulso Solar en Navarra). Begoña Vicente.**

The main objective is to develop a Promotion Plan for the Solar Utilization in Navarre community, through the knowledge of their circumstances, opportunities and interests, and consensus with business and agents involved,. This Plan promotes lines of work that can improve competitiveness and enhance the business development of this sector in the short and medium term as well as identify, design and plan a series of concrete measures to put in place by the management companies and Navarra Government to achieve this objective”

1.2. **Plan Midar: Miranda Solar City**

“Plan Midar: Miranda Solar City” is the solar energy promotion plan of Miranda de Ebro city. This plan aims to promote the use of solar energy and the development of an economic market and employment in this sector. Miranda de Ebro presented an evaluation of the results of the Plan and the areas that need some improvement.

1.3. Solar Energy in Donostia-San Sebastián: An opportunity for sustainability and economic development

The city of San Sebastian is installing solar PV panels on approximately 100 municipal buildings with the aim of promoting solar energy and developing a new economic sector. San Sebastian has elaborated as well in 2009 a new “Energy Efficiency and Environmental Quality on Buildings” Ordinance, integrating solar passive and active into urban planning.

1.4. Solar potential in Vitoria-Gasteiz (Lakua District).

The Polytechnical University of Madrid, technical partner of Vitoria-Gasteiz during POLIS, presented the preliminary results of the solar passive and active map in the Lakua district of Vitoria-Gasteiz. Although not finished yet, the solar potential of the city has shown to be better than expected.

Links to the [presentations](#) (Only in Spanish)

2. Round Table: Questions and debate

Many aspects of solar energy were discussed during the round table. The most important issues debated were the following ones:

a) Solar PV market: There are no companies in the Basque Country region that produce photovoltaic cells made of silicon. There is a project where a company may start this production and be the first one in the region, but experts comment that it won't succeed cause silicon cells market is already mature and there is too much competitiveness on silicon technology and prices, mostly from China.

However, different Technological Centres in the Basque Country and Navarre region are investigating new technologies different to silicon where a new PV market could be developed.

b) Promoting solar PV on industrial roofs: Vitoria-Gasteiz, with the aim of protecting and conservating the land resources, is avoiding the installation of solar PV panels on rural soil. The big surface areas over the industrial roofs open a more sustainable way of promoting solar PV without impacting rural soil. The installation of solar PV over industrial roofs has many legal barriers to deal with though. Navarre has already started some projects with industrial roofs and will provide Vitoria-Gasteiz with information about this theme.

c) Solar PV on historical buildings: Although there are some cases where historical buildings as hotels, could progress and promote solar PV on their roofs,

there were different arguments from those who favoured the installation of solar PV on historical buildings and those who think that historical buildings should be preserved for cultural and historic reason and that district heating or district energy distribution could solve the energy demand problems from historical building without the need of modifying their roofs or facades.

d) Vitoria-Gasteiz Solar Map: All assistants found interesting the data provided by the solar map of Lakua District (not concluded yet). The integration of this data and recommendations for solar passive and active in the urban planning is something that all cities are aiming at, except from San Sebastian, who has already developed an ordinance on this.

e) Administrative barriers: The licence and other administrative legislation needed to install solar thermal and PV projects in Vitoria-Gasteiz seem to be too strict and time consuming. Other cities as San Sebastian and Miranda de Ebro have simplified these procedures, giving Vitoria-Gasteiz information to make its procedures faster and simpler.

“POLIS – Identification and mobilisation of solar potentials via local strategies” is supported by Intelligent Energy Europe.

The sole responsibility for the content of this document lies with the authors. It does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Union. The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.