

Resource efficiency in Europe

Overview of policies and approaches to resource efficiency in European countries

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About the European Environment Agency (EEA)

Specialised agency of the European Union, established in 1994 in Copenhagen

EEA provides information on the state of environment, trends and outlook, to support policy making

32 member countries: EU-27, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and Turkey.

6 cooperating countries in the West Balkans

Covering over 500 mln people, and about 1/3 of world GDP



Context of our work on resource use / res. efficiency

- 2010** SOE reports + thematic assessments
- 2011** Country survey of RE policy initiatives
- 2012** Indicator report Green economy
Green CAP report
RE policy instruments - showcases
- 2013** Report on measuring environmental pressures from consumption and production
Indicator report RE and health
- 2015** SOER



2011 Roadmap to a resource efficient Europe

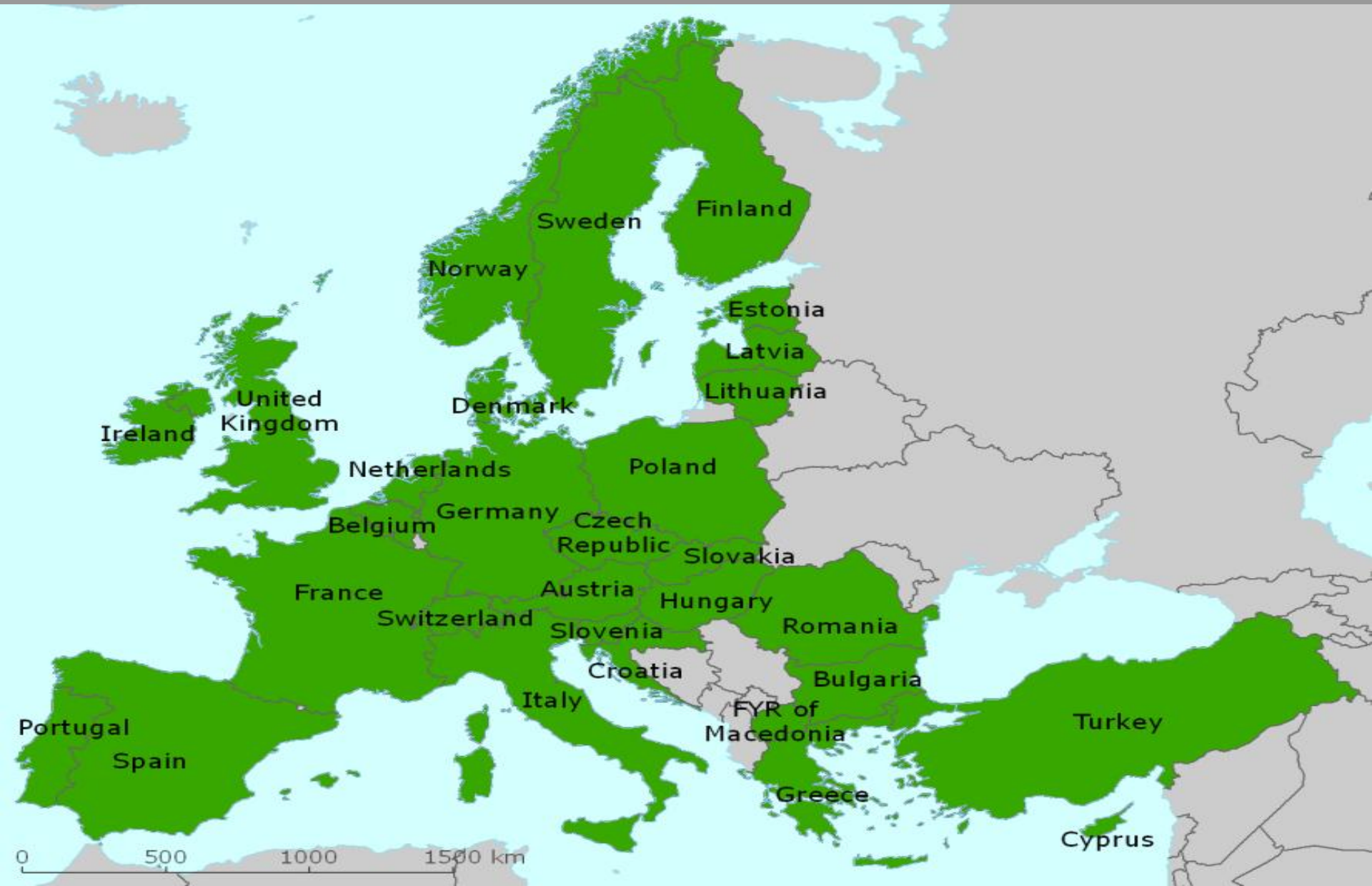
Member States should:

- *Develop or strengthen existing national resource efficiency strategies, and mainstream these into national policies for growth and jobs (by 2013);*

Various interesting policy initiatives already in place in the member states ➡ opportunity for sharing experience and information exchange



Early in 2011, EEA collected information on resource efficiency policies in 31 countries



The ten things about resource efficiency policies which we asked about

1. Main drivers for resource efficiency policy
2. Dedicated strategies or action plans on resource efficiency
3. How resource efficiency is addressed in economy-wide policies
4. Major sectoral strategies and action plans which include an objective to improve resource efficiency
5. Priority resources identified in policies
6. Product groups identified for efficiency improvements
7. Strategic objectives and targets for resource efficiency, and indicators used to monitor developments
8. Institutional setup in place
9. Specific policy instruments or initiatives on resource efficiency to be shared as examples of good practice
10. Knowledge gaps and information needs regarding development and implementation of resource efficiency policies.



Detailed information available at:
www.eea.europa.eu/resource-efficiency

- Thirty one detailed ‘country profiles’ available on the EEA website
- An analytical report “Resource efficiency in Europe”



Follow-on work

- In the Spring of 2012, EEA member countries invited to provide 'good practice' examples of policy instruments used to support resource efficiency (17 countries responded)
- In the second half of 2012, analysis of the material received, to draw some conclusions on the direction of resource efficiency policies development
- In February 2013, a webinar ('e-meeting') with EEA member countries to share their experience with implementation of resource efficiency policies.
- As part of the webinar, a quick poll whether countries expect to be ready on time with "developing or strengthening existing national resource efficiency strategies' by 2013"



Some reflections on the definitions of 'resources' and 'resource efficiency'

- There is no generally accepted common understanding of the terms “resources” and “resource efficiency” across countries
- A few countries formally define the term ‘resources’ in their policies
- Others use the more narrow term ‘raw materials’ when looking at resource efficiency
- Translation of terminology into national languages further complicates things
- Countries would welcome clarity on how ‘resource efficiency’ policy area relates to ‘sustainable consumption and production’, ‘sustainable use and management of resources’, ‘green economy’, etc.



How is resource efficiency embedded in policies ?

- Few countries have a dedicated strategic document (strategy, action plan, etc) specifically on resource efficiency (➡ although all EU countries will have to “*develop or strengthen existing national resource efficiency strategies*” by 2013)
- Instead, six broad ‘economy-wide’ strategies or action plans generally include aspects of resource efficiency :
 - National sustainable development strategies
 - National environmental strategies /action plans
 - SCP action plans;
 - Raw materials plans and strategies;
 - Strategies and plans related to climate change;
 - Economic reform programmes



Resource efficiency in sectoral policies

Two ‘sectors’ by far most commonly mentioned:

- The energy sector (including improving energy efficiency, increasing use of renewable energy sources, etc).
- Waste management and recycling sector

Additionally, frequently noted :

- Forestry and agriculture
- Water management
- Building and construction
- Transport
- Public sector (GPP)



Strategic objectives and targets for resource efficiency

- Strategic objectives are fairly general in nature, and tend to just express guiding principles
- A few countries address absolute amounts of resources used
- Concrete targets in place mainly in those areas where they are required by the EU legislation
- Targets mostly aimed at technology-driven production efficiency improvements ➡ few initiatives aiming to steer consumption or manage demand
- Limited experience in addressing consumption impacts or ecosystems resilience



A sample of objectives and targets in place

Examples of targets on resource efficiency reported by countries

- Doubling of the **abiotic material productivity** by 2020 (Germany)
- Doubling the **energy productivity** by 2020 (Germany)
- Reduction of Italian **TMR** by -25% by 2010, -75% by 2030 and by -90% by 2050
- 2,3 million ha **forest area** by 2013 (Estonia)
- All government **buildings** that are new, under renovation or leased must be passive by 2015 (Finland)
- Decrease in **final energy consumption** by 2050 of at least one third of the 2020 level (Finland)
- The share of **ecologically farmed areas** on all agriculture used areas shall increase to 20 % by the year 2010 (Austria)
- By 2010 extraction of **natural gravel** in the country will not exceed 12 mill tonnes/year (Sweden)
- Reduction of **land use** for housing, transport and soil sealing to the daily growth of 30 ha in 2020 (Germany)
- **Renewable energy share** had to be 49,3% of total consumed energy in 2010 (Latvia)
- Installation of 165 MW **wind turbines**, 25 MW CPS, 10 MW PV systems, 4 MW biomass, and 3 MW biogas systems until 2015 (Cyprus)
- Increase the per capita consumption of wood and wood **products from sustainable forestry** from 1.1 m³ to 1.3 m³ (Germany)
- Reducing the quantity of yearly **waste** produced by 20% (Hungary)
- At least 70% of the **construction-demolition waste** should be recycled until 2020 (Hungary)

Institutional framework

- Great variety of institutional settings and organizational arrangements for resource efficiency
- Generally, four types of Ministries involved : Environment, Energy, Economy, and Agriculture
- Sometimes overlapping competencies and usually limited inter-institutional coordination
- Some “specialised agencies” recently established to support RE policy development (Finland, Germany)
- It would appear that the involvement at the local and regional levels is rather limited – RE seen as central gov’t issue

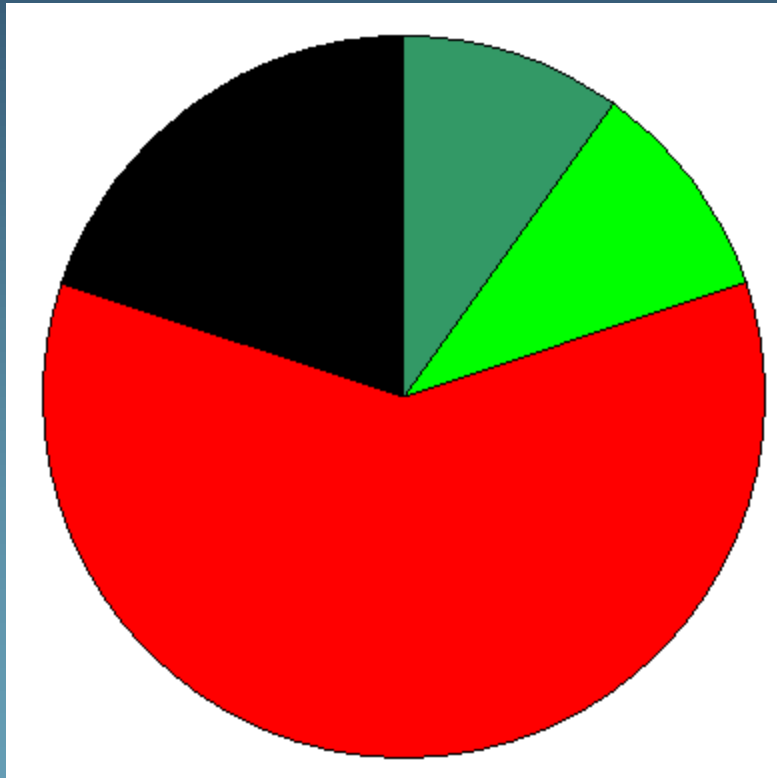



Some conclusions /1


- RE has become politically recognized to some extent in most countries but its mainstreaming into other policies is still at an early stage;
- Many countries have yet to establish an integrated approach to RE policy making;
- The focus is still primarily on energy resources and waste as established fields of environmental policy. A widening of RE policy scope to include other relevant resources is not yet common in the majority of countries;
- Only few dedicated RE strategies / policies have been developed / adopted.



WEBINAR FEB 2013: Will national resource efficiency strategy be ready and mainstreamed by the end of 2013?



 The work has been initiated but is not likely to be completed by the end of 2013

 The work has yet to begin

 Adopted and in place

 On track to be completed by end of 2013



Some conclusions /2

- Targeting stakeholder groups (beyond companies and some business associations) still remains at an early stage;
- The knowledge base (also in terms of scientific evidence) for development and implementation of RE is not always readily available;
- Specialized agencies for RE could be a strong driver for additional capacity building, especially if connected with implementation;
- A need to increase awareness of, and discussions on, the institutional dimensions of RE.



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Thank you !

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