CA-RES

WORKING GROUP 3

Authorisation of plants and infrastructures

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Authors:
Natascia Falcucci, GSE, Italy
Agime Gerbeti, GSE, Italy

CA-RES CONCERTED ACTION RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES DIRECTIVE

In a Nutshell

Directive 2009/28/EC, Article 13 on authorisation of plants and infrastructures calls for Member States (MS) to ensure that authorisation, certification and licensing procedures are proportionate and necessary.

The Directive requires an integrated approach both for the new renewable energy sources (RES) plants and for the associated transmission and distribution network infrastructure.

The scope of the working group (WG) on authorisation of plants and infrastructures is to support MS with the implementation of Article 13. Therefore, administrative barriers that affect the approval, licensing and grid connection of renewable energy plants have been examined in depth. In particular, MS worked together to identify good practices relating to existing procedures which lead to improved coordination between the different authorities involved in the approval process.

When the CA-RES project started some countries were in the process of transposition of Article 13. However, regardless of the transposition of the Directive, other countries had already put in place regulatory measures aimed at simplifying authorisation procedures and so there was no need for changes.

These differences between MS strengthened the exchange of best practices and information. The discussion in the working group was useful for exploring opportunities on how to implement Article 13 but also for making improvements to current systems, where feasible. In fact, during the three-year project topics closely related to Article 13 were discussed together with others with more cross-cutting themes such as public acceptance.

Attention was given to factors that influence the performance of the overall permit issuing procedure. Dealing with the specific items of Article 13 the WG identified several discussion areas based on good practices in the MS, namely:

1. Overview of the authorisation process of RES power plants in EU countries
2. Measures taken or to be taken by MS to overcome barriers
3. Solutions for public acceptance of RES plants
4. Authorisation procedures for connecting RES plants to the grid
5. Role of local authorities in implementing Art. 13
6. The effectiveness of measures taken by Member States in order to comply with Art. 13

First a survey of the state of play relating to authorisation procedures for electricity generation plants was conducted. Consequently it was possible to identify barriers with respect to: the numbers of entities involved in the authorisation process, the documentation needs and the information/transparency. The overall discussion was concentrated on legislative and practical measures at both national and local level to guarantee that authorisation procedures are proportionate, streamlined, expedited and necessary. The experts' dialogue was also focused on developing possible and common solutions to tackle problems related to public acceptance of RES plans as an important aspect in the decision making process during the authorisation procedure.

While looking at positive experiences to speed up the current processes various national measures were discussed. In particular, the use of online application to favour small installations was analysed in depth.

MS attending this forum had the opportunity to learn from each other and this exchange of experience was of great importance for the quality of the implementation of the directive. The comparison between countries was very stimulating and had a positive effect on the adoption of best practices and improvements. The work conducted by this group is also useful to experts from other involved stakeholders because it provides a general European country overview of best practice shared by participants, lessons learnt and conclusions drawn.

2 Authorisation procedures for connecting RES plants to the grid

The issue of authorisation procedures relating to grid connection is of great importance. The RES Directive calls for MS to simplify these procedures.

This chapter provides an overview of MS authorisation procedures and shows how acute the problem of grid connection is for RES electricity generation. It is quite clear that the majority of MS are affected by common barriers but not all countries recognise them as such.

One of the main problems in building new RES plants is the lack of coordination between authorities which are issuing procedures i.e. who issues authorisations for the construction of the plant and authorisations for the construction of the connection to the grid. In addition, another barrier is the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) permit which usually impacts the timing of the procedure. The national experts, members of this working group, agreed on the benefits that may derive from having one single permit replacing both the grid connection permit and the EIA permit. Some countries have done so. Others have defined clear responsibilities for the competent authorities involved in the process (central or local administration and Transmission System Operator/Distribution System Operator - TSO/DSO). Responsibilities in some MS have been reinforced by pecuniary penalties for delays in issuing permits or constructing electricity lines. As a consequence, authorisation procedures have been speeded up and timelines reduced.

DG Energy commissioned the project "RES integration" (March 2012) in order to analyse the National Renewable Energy Action Plans (NREAPs) related to the integration of RES electricity into the grid and the electricity market (see Table 1).

The table below shows whether the issues related to grid connection such as the long time and complex procedures, virtual saturation of the grid etc., have been detected. If the issue was not identified in a country the respective cell is left white. Then, if in a MS the detected issue was not addressed at all the respective cell is coloured dark gray; if the issue/problem was acknowledged but no solution proposed or if a solution was proposed but the solution seemed obviously insufficient, the respective cell is coloured light gray; if the detected issue is mentioned in the NREAP and a proper solution has been formulated or the detected issue has been addressed by an appropriate solution independently from the NREAP, the relevant cell is coloured orange.

GRID CONNECTION	AT	BE	BG	CY	CZ	DE	DK	EE	ES	FI	FR	GB	GR	HU	IE	IT	LT	LU	LV	MT	NL	PL	PT	RO	SE	SI	SK
Long lead times & complex procedures	■		■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■			■	■	■	■	■	
Lack of grid capacity & different pace of grid and RES-E development		■	■			■		■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■			■	■	■						
Speculation & Virtual saturation			■		■			■		■				■		■			■					■			■	■
Lack of communication & Conflicts & judicial system	■	■	■		■	■		■	■	■			■	■					■			■		■				
Non-shallow costs	■							■			■	■					■	■								■	

Table 1. NREAPs results on grid connection procedures ("RES integration" study)

2.1 Bottlenecks and possible solutions for connecting RES plants to the grid

The barriers related to grid connection differ in nature. As a result, the first step for all MS should be the recognition and identification of hindrances. This is of utmost importance in the case of MS who have not taken appropriate measures in order to overcome at least the main obstacles.

As regards authorisation procedures bottlenecks can be grouped into three categories as follows:

1. Long lead times & complex procedures
Plausible measures to be adopted by MS are the introduction of qualitative deadlines and the issuance of a single authorisation for the building and grid connection of a RES plant. The procedures can also be accompanied by financial sanctions in case of delays.
In order to speed up and shorten the length of the authorisation procedure some countries have simplified these processes by introducing a fast track approach for small plants. In addition, the procedure has been speeded up by means of a well-structured IT system. Other possible solutions can be: identification of existing inefficiencies; reduction in the workload for public administration and/or grid operators.

2. Lack of grid capacity / different pace of grid and RES development
This issue may be tackled through better coordination between grid & RES development. This problem can be managed by good grid development planning that should identify areas where RES potential needs to be further exploited after taking into account the location of relevant consumption areas and generation still available.

3. Virtual saturation & speculation
This issue is strongly connected with the lack of grid capacity / different pace of grid and RES development. Reservation of network capacity has been tackled through different measures such as reservation fees, concessions for RES capacities, deadlines and sanctions.
The grid connection procedure would benefit from having the same authority to issue licences to both grid and energy production. This is especially important when it comes to the licensing of wind power.

The European Commission is encouraging MS to take steps towards faster and more transparent permitting procedures and has proposed the following recommendations:

- One-stop shop approach: national coordinating authority
- Maximum time limit for final decision to be taken (positive or negative)
- Overruling power of the national authority to decide in cases of persistent delays after expiry of time limit
- Early involvement of stakeholders and more transparency
- Minimum requirements for compensation of affected populations
- Provide rewards and incentives that facilitate authorisation procedures.

Finally it has to be mentioned that the countries' experts participating in the CA-RES had the opportunity to share experiences and learn from each other.

3 Challenge Meets Solution

Growth of plants in number and size leads to increased public attention regarding financial, grid and environmental impact on which central and local authorities (LAs) have to react.

Authorisation procedures play a crucial role for the development of RES plants. Therefore during the work carried out on authorisation of plants and infrastructure the following items were addressed:

1. Overview of the authorisation process of RES power plants in EU countries
2. Measures taken or to be taken by MS to overcome barriers
3. Solutions for public acceptance of RES plants
4. Authorisation procedures for connecting RES plants to the grid (see paragraph 2)
5. Role of local authorities in implementing Art 13
6. The effectiveness of measures taken by Member States in order to comply with Art 13.

3.1 Member States' Experiences

3.1.1 Overview of the authorisation process of RES power plants in EU countries

The barriers concerning RES generation plants put at risk the achievement of targets pledged by MS. For this reason Article 13 of Directive 2009/28/EC foresees that MS shall take appropriate steps to ensure that authorisation, certification and licensing procedures are proportionate and necessary. In particular MS shall guarantee streamlined and expedited administrative procedures taking into account the particularities of individual renewable energy technologies.

Dealing with this item the participants discussed the barriers related to the high number of entities involved in the authorisation process, deficiency of information/transparency of the overall process including availability of assistance to potential applicants and the lack of coordination between the administrations (central – local) in charge of issuing permits.

The countries have been collated, based on the type of authorisation into two groups: one stop shop and plurality of permits. It has emerged that competences are on the whole distributed in line with mainly the size and source of plants.

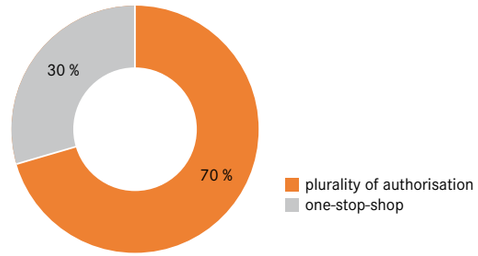

Figure 1: Share of countries with one stop shop and plurality of authorisation.

On the one hand, there is experience of a one stop shop where MS have simplified the authorisation process and ask the project developers/applicants to interface with only one public entity, which is responsible for the whole procedure. However, the documentation needed may depend on the project size (small or large scale) and if necessary on obtaining an Environmental Impact Assessment permit. This is the case in Austria (AT), Italy (IT), Malta (MT), The Netherlands (NL), Norway (NO), Germany (DE) and Sweden (SE).

On the other hand other MS such as Croatia (HR) Lithuania (LT), Portugal (PT), Spain (ES), Slovenia (SI), Greece (GR), Bulgaria (BG), Cyprus (CY) Estonia (EE), Finland (FI), Poland (PL), and Czech Republic (CZ) have set up an authorisation process with a plurality of permits. The permits are issued to applicants on the basis of plant size and territorial competences.

3.1.2 Measures taken or to be taken by MS to overcome barriers

Participating countries discussed the measures taken at national level (e.g. amendments of various legal acts) to ensure that the administrative procedures are in line with the requirements of Article 13. The objective was to facilitate sharing best practice examples on the measures already taken (or planned) to improve the authorisation regime for RES power plants.

The intent of the chosen topic was to understand how MS had transposed in their legislation the following concepts of proportionate, necessary, streamlined and expedited authorisation procedures. MS are expected, where possible, to differentiate between RES projects of diffe-

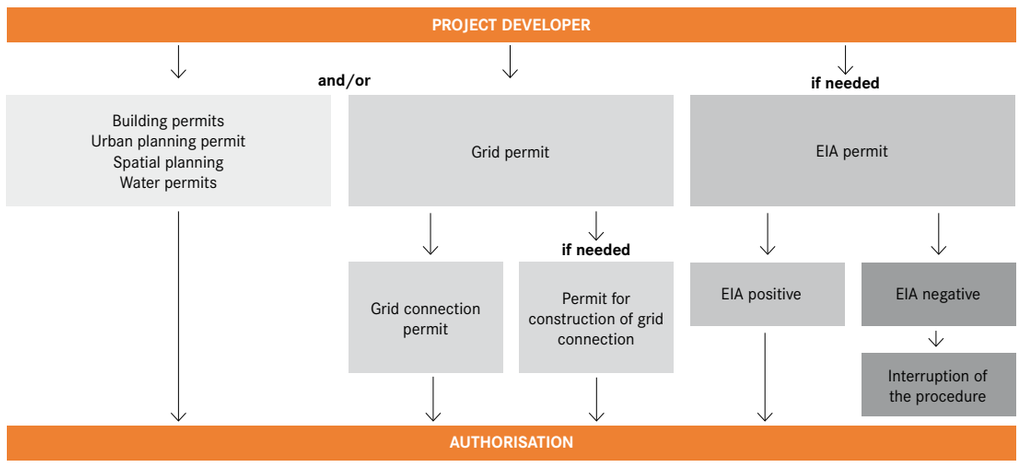

Figure 2: The permitting procedures of the MS can be traced in this graph.

rent sizes and/or of different technologies; the size threshold should be indicated, as well as the specific technology type.

The discussions showed that not only the authorisation procedures, regarding timing and required documents, are very different among European countries but also the fact that some of them have not transposed the directive yet. Therefore, it was difficult to classify and group countries. Nevertheless, it was possible to represent in a chart the different types of permits needed for a project developer to obtain the final authorisation.

3.1.3 Solutions for public acceptance of RES plans

"Acceptance" can be categorised into two types: the first is the general public acceptance where opponents protest against all RES projects anywhere. The second is the local community acceptance where the person or a group is contesting the project or a small number of projects due to its possible impact in their territory. In general, there is broad public acceptance in principle that renewable energy is necessary. However, in respect of individual applications, different types of renewable energy projects tend to attract different types of objections.

The public consultation as part of the authorisation procedure plays a crucial role in the decision-making process for the authorisation of RES. Therefore, it is necessary to adequately inform the public about the benefits and potential impacts resulting from development of specific projects and engage the public early on in the process. Public consultation is considered a very useful legislative instrument that allows stakeholders to take part in the authorisation procedure of plants. However, it often involves negative effects on the project especially in terms of delays. It is necessary to adopt appropriate measures to explain to citizens the benefits arising from specific projects and involve them in the process. That's why the role of information on the multitude of RES benefits to communities is essential.

Besides the information given, the so called Benefit Sharing Mechanisms (BMS) is also important for the development of renewable energy; so project promoters of a new plant should provide BMS from time to time to minimize the opposition of local communities and ensure that they can benefit from the development of the project (such as new jobs for local workers, construction work and services for the common citizens, low cost of kWh electricity to consumers, etc.). The graph below refers to the Re-Share project on public acceptance which includes a variety of BMS.

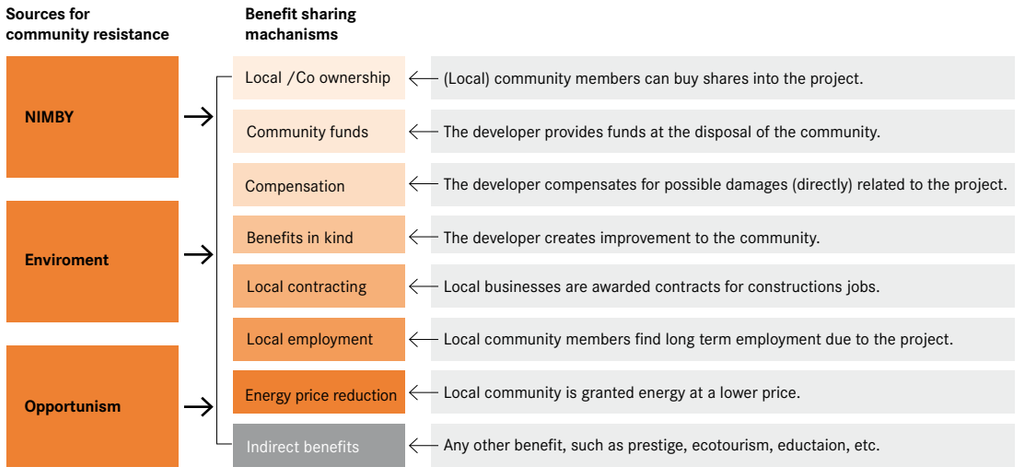

Figure 3: Benefit Sharing Mechanisms, Re-Share project

3.1.4 Role of Local Authorities in implementing Article 13

The role of LAs favouring implementation of European rules for the simplification of authorisations is crucial. Local governments can optimize the permitting procedures and make them simple. However, training the staff in charge of issuing authorisations, developing online applications and increasing the transparency and information regarding all steps of the permitting procedure contribute significantly to accelerating the lead time for authorisation procedures. Nevertheless, what contributes to speeding up the overall process and making it more transparent can also be:

- Classifying procedures on technology and size of plants. (Reducing the required documentation and simplifying the procedure for small scale project and for widespread technologies).
- Setting up deadlines on issuing permits.

Whilst they play a key role in the implementation of Article 13 of the RES Directive, some LAs declared that they are not currently in a position to prepare all the actions required to simplify and speed up authorisation procedures for RES due to the particular economic and historical circumstances of the EU. Nonetheless, other LAs are very active in this process taking the appropriate required measures and voluntary ones. Regarding the voluntary measures, it is worth mentioning that starting from January 2013 the Lombardy Region, after having consulted all relevant stakeholders, has adopted computer based authorisation processes of authorisation procedures.

As regards possible synergies between the Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment – SEA (Dir. 42/2001/EC) and the Directive on Environmental Impact Assessment – (Dir. 85/337/EEC) there is a need to improve the links between the various environmental authorisations in order to shorten the time for obtaining all permits. This refers in particular to installations that require an EIA permit and at the same time are included in programmes/plans which are subject to SEA. Having a concerted effort between these two types of assessments can impact positively on the simplification of authorisation procedures for RES plants.

3.1.5 The effectiveness of measures taken by Member States in order to comply with Article 13

Three years after the enactment of the RES Directive, the effectiveness of measures taken so far by MS for the simplification and acceleration of authorisation procedures for RES plants was discussed. Possible common indicators to support the monitoring and evaluation of policies and measures taken for the implementation of Article 13 of the RES Directive were taken into account.

The comparison showed that, in most cases, in Europe there is a tendency to use the achievement of the target assigned by the directive as a parameter for assessing the effectiveness of the authorisation procedures.

However, the usefulness of adopting other parameters in order to better identify any critical issue of the system and plan possible solutions is recommended.

The suggested indicators are as follows:

- Percentage of permits issued on petitions filed.
- Mean duration of the authorisation procedure.
- The level of administrative appeals related to authorization procedure issues. In fact, a low percentage of appeals of applicants against rejection of permission or against conditions fixed in permissions can indicate clear and proportionate authorisation standards and their implementation, as applicants usually only make appeals with reasonable prospect of success.

3.2 Good Practice

3.2.1 Measures taken by local authorities – United Kingdom

In the UK, the planning system is the responsibility of the devolved administrations. Planning policy is set by the relevant devolved administration and is interpreted at local level by local planning authorities in their development plans. Responsibility for energy policy is not devolved and remains the remit of the UK Government.

In Wales the Welsh Government has set out its planning policy in Planning Policy Wales and Technical Advice Note 8 (TAN 8) for RES in Wales which should be taken into account. The policy of interest in TAN 8 is the restriction of onshore wind developments (over 25MW) to particular areas known as Strategic Search Areas (SSAs). Welsh Government have said that “This

approach addresses the issue of location of onshore wind facilities at a strategic all-Wales level. Local planning authorities are best placed to assess detailed locational requirements within and outside SSAs in the light of local circumstances". For each SSA the boundaries are not strictly set and they all have indicative targets for installed capacity. "There are 7 Strategic Search Areas (SSAs). Not all of the land within the SSAs may be technically, economically and/or environmentally suitable for major wind power proposals; however the boundaries are seen as encompassing sufficient suitable land, in one or more sites, to deliver the (Welsh) Assembly Government's energy policy aspirations. It is a matter for local planning authorities to undertake local refinement within each of the SSAs in order to guide and optimise development within each of the areas. If there is robust evidence that land outside (but close to) the SSA is suitably unconstrained local planning authorities might wish to consider the possibility of development of wind farms in these areas as well. For each of the SSAs there are indicative targets of installed capacity (in MW), compiled on the basis that the majority of technically feasible land for wind turbines in each area is utilised".

This provides an incentive for LAs (and planning authorities) to develop appropriate policy for SSAs. Outside of SSAs, large-scale wind is not encouraged and the focus is on supporting smaller community based wind farm schemes (generally less than 5MW).

However, some LAs do provide additional measures or incentives to promote renewables voluntarily. The examples given below are for specific projects and do not provide a comprehensive overview of all the measures LAs are doing to promote renewables, nevertheless it gives some insight into the work being done across the UK.

- Some LAs have produced supplementary planning guidance which gives additional information and guidance on what energy efficient and renewable energy technologies homes within the borough may be able to install and what requires permission. The Camden Council[1] example provides useful guidance as they have assessed their housing stock and tailored their information towards the homes that are prevalent within the borough which include many Victorian (pre 1900 homes) and Edwardian homes (1900–1914).

[1] http://camden.gov.uk/ccm/content/environment/planning-and-builtenvironment/two/ planning-policy/supplementary-planning-documents/filestorage/retrofitting-planning-guidance.en

- Oldham Borough Council for hydro technology has undertaken the following measures; LA involvement from the beginning of the project; regularly attend steering group meetings; have provided some funding; have waived some of the statutory planning costs; provided some project management support; helped promote the project around networks in order to successfully raise £120K from a community share offer over 6 months; endorsement from the LA has been a positive influence on United Utilities, the landowner of the site.

- Lake District Park Authority (LDNP) has been involved from the early stages of the project and has had considerable input into the project prior to the submission of the planning application. The topography of the hydro site is challenging and an extensive underground cable is required to feed into the grid. The LDNP has faced new challenges with a "can-do" attitude and worked closely with the group raising concerns promptly thereby saving time and effort. The involvement of LDNP was related to Hydro and Biomass, including grid connection technologies.

- Cheshire West and Chester has been involved in a Bankrolling project. Providing cash flow for grant funding that can only be claimed retrospectively. The biomass project would not have gone ahead without this facility.

- Lancaster County Council has provided match funding for all aspects of the project. They were involved with the project (biomass, hydro and photovoltaic (PV)) from an early stage. Early involvement meant that the planning process has been relatively smooth especially considering some early objections relating to the hydro project and the possibility of disturbing fish populations.

3.2.2 Simplifying licencing regime - Portugal

Following the adoption of the RES Directive, PT has simplified the authorisation procedure especially for micro-production and mini-production. A simplified licensing regime for connecting to an existing consumer installation in the distribution network has been put in place. A brief overview of the relevant categories is outlined below:

1. Micro-production (up to 5,75 kW)
The pictures below show step by step the authorisation procedure for these kinds of plants.

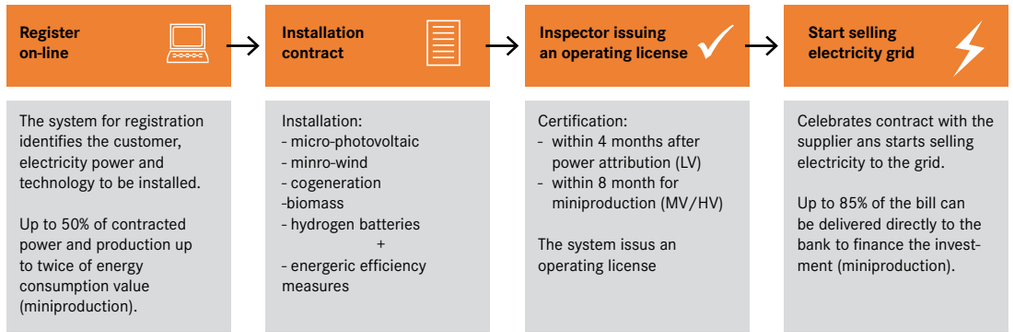

Figure 4: Authorisation procedure for micro-production

2. Mini-production (up to 250 kW)
A simplified licensing regime for connecting to an existing consumer installation in the distribution network has been defined. The procedure is managed through the internet (see www.renovaveisnahora.pt) and consequently has been totally computerised. There is, therefore, no need to send paper documentation. Only contact with the electricity supplier is required.

Concerning the grid connection:
Micro-production – low voltage connecting for small-scale producers of renewable energy (max. 5, 75 kW or 3, 68 kW with feed-in tariff) and
Mini-production – low and medium voltage for small-scale producers of renewable energy in 3 steps: I <= 20 kW, 20 kW < II <= 100 kW, 100 kW < III <= 250 kW.

Energy efficiency is also promoted both for micro-production (for thermal solar panels; energetic audit if the consumer installation is a condominium - implementation of measures with an investment return of up to 2 years) and for mini-production (existing certification regimes - Energetic Building Certification or Management System for Intensive Energy Consumption; obligation for an energetic audit to the consumer installation - implementation of measures with an investment return of up to 2, 3 and 4 years).

3. Special production regime (conditions are defined in each power attribution)
In 2009 a procedure for accepting solar based concentration photovoltaic (CPV) and thermal solar power (CST) plants was published. Out of the 33, 5 MW of CPV and CST, 24, 6 MW are already under licensing or licensed.
In 2010 a procedure for accepting 75 grid connection points of 2 MVA each, for photovoltaic power plants, was published (150 MVA). Of the total, 122 MVA were assigned, 82 MW of which have on-going licensing or are licensed.

3.2.3 RES plants grid connection - Italy

There are two main types of permits for construction and connection to the grid a) Administrative and b) Technical. The main ones which are always required are:

1. Authorisation to build and operate – depends on plant's size
2. Connection works – TSO/DSO
3. Fiscal license – Customs Agency
4. Qualification of plant (as RES) and incentive requests - GSE

The Italian authorisation procedure is centralized at regional level. Authorisations for building, operating and connecting to the grid are issued together when the following applies: a) The simplified authorisation procedure decree 28/2011 for plants below the fixed thresholds ("small" plants); b) The single authorisation, which is issued during the "Meeting of Competent Authorities" where all relevant government departments and TSO/DSO participate, has to be issued within 90 days.

Technology	Threshold (kW)
Wind	over 60 kW
PV	over 20 kW
Hydraulic	over 100 kW
Biomass	over 200 kW
Landfill gas, residual gases from purification processes and biogas	over 250 kW

Figure 5: Thresholds for simplified authorisation procedures

The EIA permit does not have an impact on the timing of authorisation – it should be obtained prior to requesting authorisation to build the RES plant. However, the lack of EIA halts documents integration. The main criticality of the system is that competent authorities do not respect the deadline.

To ensure RES integration the following measures have been taken:

- For electricity grid overload and its limited capacity to absorb all RES energy, the TSO has identified areas and critical lines in the national transmission grid of high and very high voltage. For plants with a capacity of greater than 1 MW, a definitive reservation of network capacity is obtained at the same time as the authorisation for the construction of the plant. Conversely, for plants with a power capacity up to 1MW, the acceptance of the cost estimate involves the reservation of grid capacity. So, a definitive reservation of network capacity only occurs in conjunction with obtaining the authorisations for the construction and operation of the plant. The solution identified stays with a fixed deadline after which the technical solution that has been given to the applicant is not valid and has to be examined again. Therefore it discourages the impractical requests.

- The regulator established the creation of a single system of Master Data Management for the production plants managed by the TSO which will create one control panel that allows the monitoring of connection phases following the conclusion of authorisation procedures.

As far as responsibilities of the competent authority are concerned, compensation of damages for missing deadlines is in place. So, public authorities have to compensate the damages caused as a consequence of intentional or negligence for not completing the single procedure.

Starting from 1st January 2011, for PV plants the regulator has established an additional compensation for losses of incentives caused by a delay in grid connection.

Also a mechanism of automatic financial compensation applies if TSO/DSO: a) Delays to make the ad hoc estimate for the grid connection and b) Fails to meet deadlines for construction and activation of the connection.

4 Main Findings and Achievements

Topic	Issue	Outcomes	Future
Overview of the authorisation process of RES power plants in EU countries	- Number of entities involved in the authorisation process - Centralised/decentralised procedures - Information/ transparency of the overall process including availability of assistance to potential applicants	- One stop shop /plurality of permits - Ambiguous and divergent permitting conditions - It is useful to have an overruling power of the national authority - There is no coordination between spatial and energy local planning - Deficiency of information/ transparency towards operators	- One stop shop - Unambiguous and uniform permitting conditions - Overruling power of the national authority - Ensure update and coordination between spatial and energy local planning
Measures taken or to be taken by MS to overcome barriers	- Practical and legislative measures to ensure that authorisation procedures are proportionate and necessary - Measures taken by MS for ensuring RES electricity generation plants are streamlined and expedited - Level of coordination between the administrations (central/local) in charge of issuing permits.	- Authorisation exemptions favour small RES plants - There are firm deadlines for the adoption of implementing legislation at local level; - Lack of coordination between the administrations (central/local) in charge of issuing permits. - Identify relevant legislation; publish consolidated laws; combine this with low number of involved authorities; - Guidance to regions: if regions do not adapt their rules within a certain deadline, the national guideline will apply	- Set firm deadlines for adoption of implementing legislation at local level; deadline expired = national rules apply - Increase coordination between the administrations (central/local) in charge of issuing permits

Topic	Issue	Outcomes	Future
Solutions for public acceptance of RES plants	- Overview of barriers related to public acceptance - Viable solutions to local opposition and best practices	- The public consultation, as part of the authorisation procedure, is an important aspect in the decision making process for the authorisation of RES plants. - Besides the information role, appropriate compensation measures should be put in place by the project developer.	- Specific information campaign towards the public especially for big plants and some technologies - Compensation measures
Authorisation procedures for connecting RES plants to the grid	- Key factors affecting grid connection of RES plants - Legal measures undertaken by MS to speed up grid connection procedures	- Having two separate authorisations for the construction of the plant and the construction of the connection to the grid. - Long lead time and complex procedures for grid connection - The EIA usually impacts the timing of the process being a stand-alone procedure. - In most MS there are no penalties in place for delays from the network operator constructing the required electricity lines	- A single procedure for the construction of the RES plant and connecting it to the grid; including also EIA permit. - The responsibility of the competent authorities for issuing permits and sanctions provided in the event of delay

Topic	Issue	Outcomes	Future
Role of local authorities in implementing Article 13	- Simplifiction - Acceleration - Necessary, clearly coordinated and transparent - Interaction between EIA and SEA	- Regional energy targets: split 2020 targets (Italy) - Make integration of RES in municipalities plans obligatory - Develop a model region as benchmark - Computerisation of application process favours RES plants - Training; guidelines	- Make integration of RES in municipalities plans obligatory - Develop a model region as benchmark - Training; guidelines for LAs
The effectiveness of measures taken by Member States in order to comply with Article 13	How to measure the effectiveness of national/ regional policies: - The percentage of the authorisation requests received by the competent authorities compared to the number of those released. - The actual time for issuing permits. - The level of administrative appeals related to authorisation procedure issues.	- Factors that impact smooth running procedures are: staff qualification of permitting authorities; short duration/ fix timeline/flexibility/ predictability; clear technical and legal standards; a lack of coordination among authorities - Monitoring activities are important to measure the success of policies but at the same time they are useful to identify criticalities/weakness and to explore possible solutions. - Most MS monitor only the installed capacity data towards the national RES target.	- Administrative procedures are still an issue for the development of RES because they raise the overall cost of RES plants. - Monitoring effectiveness of national/regional policies is important to measure the success and criticalities/ weakness and to explore new solutions

5 The Way Ahead

Measures have been taken to overcome non-economic barriers, as these are a relevant obstacle still present in the market that have an indirect impact in shaping support schemes.

Administrative burden and length of the procedures, public acceptance and lack of LAs knowledge are often relevant obstacles to the development of RES generation. For instance, it is of utmost importance that, during the assessment, planning or licensing procedures for renewable energy installations, MS take account of all environmental legislation and the contribution made by renewable energy sources in particular when compared to non-renewable energy installations, etc.

Nevertheless for the majority of MS the following objectives still remain challenging:

- Keep authorisation procedures simple
- Raise awareness and knowledge level of local staff to enable informed decisions and encourage local/regional action in line with national goals
- Ensure public participation to reduce local opposition

However, project operators' barriers related to environmental permits have been confirmed during the meetings as being one of the main constraints that affect the authorisation of RES plants. Therefore, coordination among competent authorities is needed in order to comply with the directive's provisions. Some countries have put at everyone's disposal the information related to strategic available areas for which they have already performed the environmental impact study, potential of sources and grid availability assessment. This is the case for SE. IT and the UK have partly done so in relation to specific sites.

Finally, we must also emphasise the issue related to monitoring the effectiveness of national/regional policies undertaken to implement the RES Directive. Monitoring effectiveness is important to measure success and to identify criticalities/weakness of policies and explore new solutions to deal with these barriers.

6 Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full name
BMS	Benefit Sharing Mechanisms
CA-RES	Concerted Action on the Renewable Energy Sources Directive
CST	Thermal Solar power
CPV	Concentrated photovoltaic
DSO	Distribution System Operator
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
LAs	Local Authorities
LDNP	Lake District Park Authority
MS	Member States
NREAP	National Renewable Energy Action Plans
PV	Photovoltaic
RES	Renewable Energy Sources
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SSAs	Strategic Search Areas
TAN 8	Technical Advice Note 8
TSO	Transmission System Operator
WAG	Welsh Assembly Government
WG	Working Group

This is a public CA-RES report
The Concerted Action to support the implementation of the RES Directive 2009/28/EC (CA-RES) was launched with the participation of the responsible authorities from 30 EU countries and supported by Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) in July 2010 to provide a structured and confidential dialogue on how to address the cost-effective implementation of the RES Directive 2009/28/EC.