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Dear readers of the 2nd MADEGASCAR e-letter!

The IEE project Madegascar has now reached a phase where the focus lies on the preparation for regional activities to increase the share of natural gas vehicles. Some more developed countries have already started with implementing specific measures, others have elaborated work plans or marketing strategies. As a first task, all of the Madegascar partners have launched several regional network meetings to build up their regional consortiums of stakeholders.

Regional activities (in alphabetical order)

Aragon, Castilla and León (Spain)

The Spanish network was constituted as result of the first meeting held in May 2008 and it is composed by 21 members with different profiles: regional authorities, energy companies/gas suppliers, gas filling owners, non-profit organisations and vehicle manufacturers.

The Spanish Network has held 2 national events with the support of two regional governments. The first meeting was chaired and supported by the Deputy Ministry of Sustainable Development in the Castilla and León region. The second meeting took place on 21st October in Zaragoza and it was chaired and supported by the Regional minister of Industry, Commerce and Tourism of the Aragón Regional Government, Mr. ARTURO ALIAGA LOPEZ.

The common and main on-going actions planned as result of these meetings and the subsequent contacts are among others:

- to anhere the members attending the meetings to the Spanish MADEGASCAR network
- to foster the implementation of biogas/natural gas fuel stations for public supply for all type of vehicles in Aragón, Castilla-León.
- to increase the number of biogas/gas natural vehicles for public fleets (Castilla-León: Salamanca, Valladolid, Burgos).
- to assess the possibility of implementing biogas/natural gas buses in a protected natural park).
- to assess the economic feasibility and technologic of implementing natural gas buses for interurban regular lines such as Zaragoza-Huesca-Zaragoza).

- the selection of biogas/natural-related best practices, methodologies or new technologies for their inclusion in a benchmark international catalogue...
- to implement actions in sensitive areas with a great environmental interest and to include them in the MADEGASCAR dissemination strategy at national and international level.
- the involvement of the regional public administrations in the very same project development in order to reinforce the dissemination strategy.

Berlin-Brandenburg (Germany)

A regional workshop was held between Berliner Energieagentur GmbH and GASAG (Berlin's municipal gas supply company) in May 2008, in which the market strategy and product development for bio-methane at NGV filling stations as well as the market introduction of home refuelling appliances was discussed. As of mid-2009 it is aimed to introduce the first home refuelling appliances in Berlin-Brandenburg. Furthermore, a certain share of bio-methane will be offered at all GASAG supplied NGV filling stations in Berlin as of mid-2009. The bio-methane will be produced in Rathenow, Brandenburg. The plant is currently under construction and is scheduled to start operations early 2009. A CO₂ analysis of the bio-methane offered is currently being performed by Berliner Energieagentur GmbH in order to certify the environmental benefit of the product – as shown in preliminary analyses. More information on the regional activities will be available soon.

Eastern Bulgaria (Bulgaria)

The Bourgas Regional Agency for Energy Management had a series of informational meetings in Bourgas and Varna, on announcing the MADEGASCAR project and on discussing the position, tendencies and opportunities for enlarging the market share of the CNG fuel in Bulgaria.

Some 45 000 vehicles are running on CNG in the country, estimated by mid of 2008, and the number is growing. As a major stimulus behind the decision for conversion is considered the cost per 100 km ride, which is ca. 4 €. There are some 31 Bulgarian cities offering CNG fuelling stations, the latter numbering 65 for the whole country.

As a major target and partner institution of BoRAEM, the municipality of Bourgas did meanwhile announce the purchase of ten modern CNG busses TEDOM C12 G for its PT fleet. Due to the networking efforts of BoRAEM nine organizations decided to participate in a regional group of stakeholders interested in CNG issues. They present a variety of interested parties – educational establishments, energy agencies, municipalities, PT providers, Civil society associations. Ongoing communication of BoRAEM with potential partners is expected to bring more content and value to the emerging network node.

Vilnius (Lithuania)

The first compressed natural gas (CNG) filling station was officially opened on 21st October in Lithuania. It is located in Vilnius region on Vilnius public transport vehicle fleet territory. One of undertaker of this station, Director of limited company UAB "Autoideja" Mr. Laimonas Dapšys gives the information concerning this very important fact. During this opening event the CNG using cars were demonstrated. This station is one of biggest in East European countries. It is first significant step towards the development CNG use in transport in Lithuanian region.

The main part of CNG filling station is located on the bus fleet territory. This part has slow and fast filling components that allow to fill 100 buses during 4 hours. Also there is one filling place for private cars. Private cars are filled in 3 – 5 minutes.

The UAB "Autoideja" has direct contacts with Vilnius municipality, Vilnius public transport fleet and Lithuanian energy institute. As a result of the activities of network partners of the Madagascar project, articles about this innovation will be regularly published in regional newspapers.

Lower Austria (Austria)

As a result of regional network meetings in Lower Austria, a consortium of stakeholders from the bio-methane and compressed natural gas (CNG) sector was established. The consortium includes car dealers, gas suppliers, owners of gas filling stations, departments of the regional government and biogas plant operators. The overall goal of the consortium is to increase the use of natural gas and bio-methane as a vehicle fuel and to increase the number of CNG filling stations in Lower Austria.

The Austrian Energy Agency has elaborated a work plan for common activities in the upcoming year to raise the share of gas driven vehicles. In the near future, information material and training courses on natural gas and bio-methane as a vehicle fuel will be offered to gas filling station owners as well as to car dealers. This educational measure ensures that relevant information will be passed on to costumers. Furthermore, the Austrian Energy Agency will directly contact fleet managers, and, in addition to general information, offer a fleet management tool which helps estimate and compare energy demand, CO₂ reduction, environmental effects and cost effects of using natural gas and bio-methane compared to petrol and diesel. Finally, the Austrian Energy Agency will publish articles in regional newspapers on a regular basis and promote the existing public subsidies for gas driven cars in Lower Austria in particular.

Malardalen (Sweden)

In January 2008 a large network meeting for bio-methane took place in Stockholm with over 70 participants. After the meeting a smaller network with participants from the whole biogas chain in the region was formed, and frequent meetings have been taking place since then. In the project, a lot of different activities have been taking place. A brochure with available NGVs in the country has been published and distributed, and another brochure with information about filling stations will be completed shortly.



One of the most successful activities performed has been the possibility to cooperate with FIAT who has provided the project with the opportunity to display a Fiat Punto, Natural Power, on all meetings, conferences and exhibitions. Thanks to this, the project has been able to show a NGV to several thousands of people in the region. Smaller meetings about possible new bio-methane production plants and filling stations has also been taking place, and within the next year there will most likely be an increase in the number of plants and filling stations.

Somerset (UK)

In the UK there is some interest in natural gas and biomethane as vehicle fuels, but little action. Indeed, over the last few months three more gas filling stations have closed, leaving just one publicly accessible gas filling station in the country.

In order to remedy the situation, a regional meeting, hosted by South Somerset District Council, was attended by transport operators, natural gas industry suppliers, biogas plant suppliers, and transport and environmental officers from local authorities. Three major presentations were made by national organisations. Cenex introduced their new Biomethane Toolkit. CNG Services Ltd illustrated how gas vehicles are now accepted around the world. Finally a presentation was made by Biomethane for

Transport, a national forum on biomethane as a road transport fuel under the auspices of Environmental Protection UK.



In order to raise the profile of biomethane and natural gas amongst the public, Organic Power exhibited at major public events such as the Royal Bath and West Show, the People's Eco-Rally where our gas vehicle won first prize for lowest emissions, and the Greenfleet Capital Fuel Challenge. Study Days are held regularly for interested parties to plan the implementation of new biogas plants, new gas filling stations, and the conversion of fleets to natural gas and biomethane.

Southeast Sweden 1 (Energy Agency of Southeast Sweden)

A new network "Biogas Sydost" (Biogas Southeast) was launched in a kick-off meeting on the 4th of June 2008, held in Kalmar. The meeting attracted 50 participants.

The goal for Biogas Southeast will be:

- coordinate the districts Kronoberg, Blekinge and Kalmar regarding the biogas topic
- offer a platform for different operators in the biogas supply chain
- to be a link to other biogas networks in the region i.e. Biogas South, Biogas West, Biogas East.



A Biogas seminar was held in Kalmar at the 25th of September 2008 with 75 participants with an opening ceremony for a new filling station and an upgrading plant in Kalmar. Another regional meeting was held in Karlskrona in the beginning of October. The discussion focused on following questions: Where is the best area for a biogas plant? How do we find material for digesting? Can we get big fleet owners to buy CNG cars? The work will go on, the next step is to do a preliminary study of the access of materials for digesting.

Southeast Sweden 2 (Skåne Energy Agency)

As an outcome of the now well-established regional network, Biogas South, a co-operation between Skåne Energy Agency and the three major gas suppliers in the region (E.ON Gas, Lunds Energi and Öresundskraft) has been established with the aim of running a market campaign for gas-driven vehicles. The main target groups of the campaign are municipalities, car dealers and fleet owners.

The first common activity carried out was a joint exhibition at a motor fair with more than 35 000 visitors. A Mercedes E200 NGT and a Volkswagen Touran EcoFuel were shown in the common showcase and the existing and planned filling stations were promoted. The visitors also had the opportunity to test-drive six different NGV's.



An important part of the campaign is to inform and inspire car dealers on how to promote their gas cars. In spring 2008 the first training courses were held at three resellers for Volkswagen and Mercedes in Malmö and Helsingborg. To raise awareness and interest for gas driven cars among regional fleet owners, a series of "breakfast seminars" are planned in different cities in the region. The two first seminars attracted about 50 interested participants. As a result of the seminars, direct contacts have been established with fleet owners interested in taking further measures.

Styria (Austria)



The Styrian administration is driving on natural gas! During the official press event, seven NGVs were transferred to operate in the district offices of the Styrian administration. Before the purchase of this gas driven vehicles the administration employees could

convince of the vehicle advantages in the frame of test driving and a drive training event. With the highest hydrogen and the lowest carbon rate natural gas has the smallest environmental burden during combustion.

Due to outstanding environmental benefits natural gas as a fuel has developed to an attractive alternative to petrol or diesel. Driving on gas reduces the amount of CO₂ and NOx, soot and particle emissions which have severe climate effects. Beside the environmental benefits also the economic advantage and a comfortable supply network were essential for the Styrian administration vehicle purchase. Natural gas vehicles can easily be filled with biomethane to drive CO₂ neutral. It is of further importance that the filling station network in Styria and in Austria general is expanding rapidly. The supply is provided via a wide network under the subsurface – millions of tank truck kilometers can therefore be saved. The Grazer Energieagentur is providing a tailor made advice package for all interested parties. The cost saving potential as well as the emissions reduction of natural gas vehicles in comparison to regular petrol or diesel cars is demonstrated.

Join the network!

The Madagascar project consortium runs a European network with the purpose of transferring knowledge and establishing the contact between key stakeholders from all the sectors of the biogas and natural gas sector. If you send us your contact data you will get access to the European address register with currently more than 60 entries.

If you want to be a part of the European network, please get in touch with the contact person in your country or region (<http://www.madagascar.eu/Country-specific-facts-and-developments.264.0.html>).

Website

Please have a look at our MADEGASCAR project website www.madagascar.eu frequently! Currently there is a brand-new overview of all available natural gas vehicles in 10 partner countries!

