



## RURBAN ENERGY: CHALLENGES FOR URBAN-RURAL ENERGY COOPERATIONS

### Background

The practical implementation of greenhouse gas emission reductions targeted at both national and European-levels, which must take place primarily at the regional and local levels, represents a significant challenge. Greater exploitation of renewable domestic resources could help drive reductions in energy imports, strengthening the regional value chain and helping drive progress towards reaching these goals. In this context, the increasing integration of holistic energy concepts in the formal and informal instruments of city and regional development plays a critical role. This also touches on spatial conditions, with regard to changes in land use in the urban-regional context; additionally, action guiding questions about how societies react to these issues and develop solutions to the related conflicts will arise. Against this background, energy cooperations between cities and their

surrounding regions are a very promising, though still barely explored concept.

### Objectives

The central project goal of the project partners from Germany, Poland, Latvia, and Norway is, therefore, to identify the most important factors contributing to the success of the development and implementation of such cooperations as well as any major challenges. These will be explored as part of a feasibility study for urban-rural energy cooperations and then reflected onto the previous approaches and experiences of the participating regions. As part of a workshop in Latvia, the main results of the study will be made public. Finally, an online platform, as well as two planning workshops held in early 2013 will support continued work towards an EU project.

RURBAN Energy builds on the results of the project "R&D network Renewable Energy Concepts in the Baltic Sea Region".

#### Contact person:

**Urban Kaiser**

**Research Fellow**

**Energy and Social Dialogue**

Phone: +49 (341) 23 10 39-150

E-Mail: [urban.kaiser@moez.fraunhofer.de](mailto:urban.kaiser@moez.fraunhofer.de)

Fraunhofer MOEZ

Neumarkt 9-19

04109 Leipzig

[www.moez.fraunhofer.de](http://www.moez.fraunhofer.de)

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