

Newsletter
of PROMITHEAS Net
on energy and climate change
policy research issues



General Info

This bimonthly newsletter of the PROMITHEAS Network is distributed **free of charge** to more than 23,000 recipients in one hundred seventy (170) countries. It includes information about the network activities, its members and events concerning energy and climate change research. Its content reflects the network views. **Sponsorships for its circulation are welcome.**

PROMITHEAS Network, the origin of which is the Project Development Fund of BSEC, aims to promote scientific cooperation on the energy and climate policy issues between the countries of BSEC and EU and thus to contribute in knowledge transfer to that region, as a basic precondition for the development of human potential that will materialize policies of cooperation.



Messages

Editorial note

by

Prof. Dimitrios MAVRAKIS
Coordinator of
PROMITHEAS Network and
BSEC-Green Energy Network



The atmospheric concentrations of CO₂ emissions have reached the amount of 405.61ppm (Feb. 2017), while 10,000 years ago and up to the beginning of the Industrial Revolution in 1760, the CO₂ levels averaged at 280ppm.

The 10 warmest years, in a 136-year recording period, have occurred since 2000, with the exception of one year before that of 1998. It was the first time during year 2015 that the global average temperatures were 1°C or more above the 1880-1899 average.

The year 2016 is the warmest on record since 1884 with the annual average change in global surface temperature at 0.99°C compared to 1951-1980 [1].

The “UNEP – Emission Gap Report 2016” clarifies that achieving the 1.5°C and 2.0°C targets, set in the Paris Agreement, has a respectively 50% and 66% likely chance to occur up to the end of the 21st century, provided that negative emissions technologies and the relevant policies will be deployed sometime around the middle of the current century.

In the forward of the aforementioned UNEP report the authors warn, in a soft wording that we follow the pathway leading to global warming of up to 3.4°C and that the current commitments will reduce emissions by no more than a third of the levels required, to be achieved by 2030, to avert disaster.

Unfortunately, the reality is worse than the findings of the report show since they are based on the hypothesis that the undertaken commitments by the signatories of the Paris agreement will be fulfilled.

(Continued)

Research on Sustainable Development

by

Prof. Rajat GUPTA

Director of Oxford Institute for Sustainable Development and Low Carbon Building Research Group at Oxford Brookes University



Oxford Institute for Sustainable Development (Oxford Brookes University, UK) is the largest academic research institute in the UK dedicated to research on sustainable development in the built environment. The Oxford Institute for Sustainable Development (OISD) at OBU is committed to finding sustainable solutions at all levels of the built environment. See: <http://oisd.brookes.ac.uk/>

The Low Carbon Building (LCB) Group of OISD is a global leader in community carbon mapping, building monitoring and post-occupancy evaluation. The group’s research has influenced national and international standards such as the UN’s Global Common Carbon Metric protocol which is now an ISO standard. The group has attracted €6m external research funding (since 2010) from Research Councils UK, Innovate UK, EU Horizon 2020, United Nations and industry. The LCB Group’s research on low carbon communities (Innovate UK funded Project ERIC-Energy resources for integrated communities) received two prestigious Energy Awards 2016 (<http://www.brookes.ac.uk/about-brookes/news/energy-saving-community-project-wins-prestigious-energy-awards/>).

The group’s ongoing Horizon 2020 projects include:

- **HERON (2015-2017, Grant No. 649690)**
Forward-looking socio-economic research on Energy Efficiency in EU countries (<http://www.heron-project.eu/>)

(Continued)

Invitation

If you are established in one of the member states of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization and you are engaged in Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources, join us in the “BSEC-Green Energy Network” and benefit from it. Contact: promitheas@kepa.uoa.gr

New

Activities

Strolling through the submitted NDCs it is revealed that most (if not all) of the developing and least developed countries have made clear that their capacity to fulfill their commitments is related to the level of the technical and financial support that they will receive from abroad.

In addition to that, the new US administration has raised concerns on its intention to continue providing support to the Paris Agreement.

In other words, we travel towards to the uncharted area of 4°C where we don't know many things about the behavior of oceans, their streams and the CH₄ that is stored in their depths.

The global clock of the Climate Change shows that, we continue to consume irresponsibly the remaining CO₂ budget. We behave as passengers onboard of a spacecraft that although they know that the air-conditioning system suffers seriously, they refuse to repair it due to high cost.

Humans who consider themselves as "Homo sapiens", the ultimate irony!

[1] NASA - GISS

Distinction for HERON project

The research project HERON (H2020, R&I, no. 649690) titled "Forward looking socio-economic research on Energy Efficiency in EU countries" was selected by the European Commission as good practice project, incorporating social sciences and humanities in HORIZON 2020 projects, after a screening procedure with the participation of 500 project coordinators. HERON concerns the development of an innovative Decision Support Tool (DST) that enables the quantitative transformation of the qualitative characteristics of the end-users that hinder the implementation of Energy Efficiency (EE) policies in buildings and transport. The developed DST provides the policy makers with a friendly to use software that facilitates them in the selection of the optimum combination of technologies and practices minimizing the negative impact of end-users behavior in the implementation of EE scenarios. The tool was developed by KEPA (NKUA) and was assessed as successful and innovative by independent and EU evaluators.



More information at: <http://heron-project.eu/>.

- **ZERO PLUS (2015-2019, Grant No. 678407)**, Achieving near Zero and Positive Energy Settlements in Europe using Advanced Energy Technology (<http://www.zeroplus.org/>)

Other projects include:

- **LCB group website:** <http://architecture.brookes.ac.uk/research/lowcarbonbuilding/>
- **Building performance research:** <http://architecture.brookes.ac.uk/research/lowcarbonbuilding/resources/lcbg-bpe-booklet-2015.pdf>
- **EVALOC low carbon communities:** <http://www.evaloc.org.uk/>
- **UNEP funded mainstreaming sustainable social housing project:** www.mainstreamingsustainablehousing.org

Prof Rajat Gupta is Director of the multi-disciplinary Oxford Institute for Sustainable Development (OISD) and Low Carbon Building Research Group at Oxford Brookes University (UK). Rajat's research interests lie in evaluating building performance from a socio-technical perspective, carbon mapping buildings and neighbourhoods, scaling up energy retrofits and climate change adaptation.

As Principal Investigator, he has won over €10 million in research grants from Research Councils UK (RCUK), Innovate UK, EU, UNEP and Industry to investigate these subjects. Until recently Rajat was PI on a 4-year €1.5 million RCUK-funded EVALOC project on evaluating the impacts of low carbon communities on energy behaviours. Currently Rajat is lead academic on Innovate UK/RCUK funded projects on developing a feedback management system for housing providers (HAPI), guaranteeing energy performance in new homes (I-LIFE) and establishing the link between indoor environment conditions and occupant productivity (WLP+).

He is also presently Co-Investigator on two EU Horizon 2020 projects – HERON project on 'socio-economic research on energy efficiency' and Zero Plus project on positive energy settlements. Rajat is also leading United Nations (UN) funded research project on mainstreaming sustainable social housing in India. He has produced over 175 refereed publications.

See: <http://architecture.brookes.ac.uk/staff/rajatgupta.html>

News in Brief

Albania: The Parliament of Albania passed the Law on Promotion of the Use of Energy from Renewable Sources. The draft law was challenged by the operators of small hydropower plants in the country, as it changes the regulatory regime and support scheme hitherto applicable.

(Energy Community, 3-2-2017) – Details at: https://www.energy-community.org/portal/page/portal/ENC_HOME/NEWS/News_Details?p_new_id=13883

EU: The Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER) published a "European Energy Regulators' Overview Paper Initial Reactions to the European Commission's proposals on Clean Energy"

(ACER, 23-1-2017) – Details at: http://www.acer.europa.eu/Media/News/Pages/European-Energy-Regulators_Overview-Paper-Initial-Reactions-to-the-European-Commission_s-proposals-on-Clean-Energy.aspx

In the context of the State of the Energy Union report, the European Commission adopted the second implementation report on the carbon Capture and

Storage (CCS) Directive, which lays down the rules for the safe geological storage of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the EU.

(DG Climate Action, 1-2-2017) – Details at: https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/carbon-capture-and-storage-commission-adopts-report-ccs-directive-implementation_en

EU Member States agreed on the Commission's proposal to invest €444 million in priority European energy infrastructure projects. The 18 selected electricity, smart grids and gas projects will contribute to achieving the Energy Union's goals by connecting European energy networks, increasing security of energy supply, and contributing to the sustainable development by integrating renewable energy sources across the EU.

(DG Energy, 17-2-2017) – Details at: http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-17-280_en.htm

EU environment ministers reached an agreement in support of the revision of the Emission Trading Scheme (ETS) Directive for the period after 2020. The agreement comes after almost two years of discussions in the Council, led since the start of this year by the Maltese presidency, and serves as the basis for negotiations with the European Parliament.

(DG Climate Action, 28-2-2017) – Details at: https://ec.europa.eu/clima/news/eu-emissions-trading-system-council-deal-paves-way-negotiations-parliament_en

The European Environment Agency (EEA) published the reports “Climate change, impacts and vulnerability in Europe 2016”, “Financing urban adaptation to climate change”

(EEA, 25-1-2017, 27-2-2017) – Details at: <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/climate-change-impacts-and-vulnerability-2016> and <http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/financing-urban-adaptation-to-climate-change>

Indonesia: The World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved \$55.25 million in grants to support the Geothermal Energy Upstream Development Project in Indonesia, which aims to facilitate investment in geothermal power generation in the country.

(WB, 9-2-2017) – Details at: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2017/02/09/world-bank-approves-5525-million-grant-to-help-develop-geothermal-power-in-indonesia>

International: The World Bank Group allocated \$13 million through the third auction of the Pilot Auction Facility for Methane and Climate Change Mitigation (PAF). Thirteen companies from nine countries participated in the online auction, and five won contracts that give them the right to sell their future carbon credits to the PAF at a fixed price. If redeemed, these contracts will reduce the equivalent of 6.2 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

(WB, 11-1-2017) – Details at: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2017/01/11/13-private-companies-compete-in-13-million-world-bank-climate-auction>

NASA and the U.S National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) declared 2016 as the hottest year on record globally.

(WWF, 18-1-2017) – Details at: http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/footprint/climate_carbon_energy/?289991/2016-hottest-year-ever

Ecofys released a research paper for Mitigation Momentum. The paper investigates the landscape of multilateral climate finance for NAMAs and seeks to enlighten government representatives and project developers on the available multilateral funding options for NAMAs and climate mitigation actions in general. Most importantly, it provides light on how they can access these resources.

(Ecofys, 10-2-2017) – Details at: <http://www.ecofys.com/en/publications/connecting-multilateral-climate-finance-to-mitigation-projects/> and <http://www.mitigationmomentum.org/downloads/Connecting-multilateral-climate-finance-to-mitigation-projects.pdf>

World bank released the report RISE (Regulatory Indicators for Sustainable Energy). According to the report an increasing number of developing countries – Mexico, China, Turkey, India, Vietnam, Brazil, and South Africa – are emerging as leaders in sustainable energy, with robust policies to support energy access, renewables and energy efficiency. But there is huge room for improvement across every region in the world and particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa,

(WB, 15-2-2017) – Details at: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2017/02/15/world-bank-scores-sustainable-energy-policies-in-111-countries>

Since the Marrakech Climate Change Conference, 17 countries have ratified the Paris Agreement. The total number of ratifications stands at 132 countries.

(IISD, 20-2-2017) – Details at: <http://sdg.iisd.org/news/paris-agreement-reaches-132-parties/>

The International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) released the report “Planning for the renewable future: Long-term modelling and tools to expand variable renewable power in emerging economies”.

(IRENA, January 2017) -Details at: <http://www.irena.org/menu/index.aspx?mnu=Subcat&PriMenuID=36&CatID=141&SubcatID=3805>.

Kazakhstan: The Kazakh Ministry of Energy and the World Bank launched a new project aimed at designing and developing Kazakhstan's greenhouse gases (GHG) electronic reporting platform and its supporting institutional and legal frameworks. The project is supported by the World Bank's Partnership for Market Readiness (PMR).

(WB, 26-1-2017) – Details at: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2017/01/26/kazakhstan-develops-online-platform-for-ghg-reporting>

Regional: The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the European Commission are stepping up their joint efforts to promote energy efficiency across the Western Balkans. The EC is providing a €30 million grant to implement the next phase of the Regional Energy Efficiency Programme (REEP) which aims to unleash the energy efficiency and renewable energy potential of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYR Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia, also known as the Western Balkans Six.

(Energy Saving Association, 10-2-2017) – Details at: <https://www.the-esa.org/news/articles/-/west-balkans-get-energy-efficiency-funding>

Turkey: Ecofys released the report “Roadmap for the consideration of establishment and operation of a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading System in Turkey”. The report develops a roadmap on the consideration of establishment and operation of an emissions trading scheme for Turkey. It is the first in a series of analytical reports, prepared for the World Bank Partnership for Market Readiness (PMR). The report was prepared by a consortium led by Ecofys, including FutureCamp and LifeEnerji, and further supported by Özlem Döğertlioğlu, attorney at Law for the Turkish Ministry of Environment and Urbanisation.

(Ecofys, 11-1-2017) – Details at: <http://www.ecofys.com/en/publications/roadmap-for-an-emissions-trading-system-in-turkey/>

March

European Fuel Cell Car Workshop, 1-3 March 2017, Orleans, France, <https://efcw2017.sciencesconf.org/>

ARE Energy Access Investment Forum, 22-23 March 2017, Turbine Hall of MAAT/EDP Foundation, Lisboa, Portugal, <https://www.gogla.org/events/are-energy-access-investment-forum>

2nd International Conference on "Smart and Sustainable Planning for Cities and Regions", 22-24 March 2017, Bolzano, Italy, <http://www.sspcr.eurac.edu/>

2017 International Conference on Green Energy and Applications, 25-27 March 2017, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, <http://icgea.org/index.html>

World Bio Markets 2017, 27-29 March 2017, NH Grand Hotel Krasnapolsky, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, <http://www.worldbiomarkets.com/>

April

The III Energy & Materials Research Conference, 5-7 April 2017, Lisbon – Portugal, <http://emr2017.org/>

Conference 'Reducing Energy Poverty by Energy Efficiency Projects in Residential Buildings: The Case for Eastern Europe', 24-25 April 2017, Brussels – Belgium, organized by Habitat for Humanity International with the support of USAID, <https://getwarmhomes.org/>

"Energy Cities Annual Conference '2050 starts today'", 26 - 28 April 2017, Stuttgart, Germany, <http://www.annualconference.energy-cities.eu/>

May

2017 Energy Savings Summit: Europe's people at the heart of the energy transition, 2 May 2017, Residence Palace, Brussels – Belgium, <http://energycoalition.eu/energy-savings-summit-europe%E2%80%99s-people-heart-energy-transition>

Vienna Energy Forum 2017, 9-12 May 2017, Vienna International Centre and the Hofburg, Vienna, Austria, <https://www.viennaenergyforum.org/>

Smart Cities Symposium Prague 2017, 25-26 May 2017, Czech Technical University in Prague Prague, Czech Republic, <http://akce.fd.cvut.cz/en/scsp2017>

Green Jobs for a greener future, 29 May to 2 June 2017, Brussels – Belgium, <http://www.eugreenweek.eu/>

HERON Final Conference

The Final Conference of the HERON project is scheduled on **28 September 2017 in Milan, Italy**.

10th International Scientific Conference for "Energy and Climate Change"

The Conference that is scheduled for **11-13 October 2017** in Athens-Greece will include the **2nd Green Investment Forum**, the scientific sessions and a brokerage event facilitating cooperation on research projects. Information for the event at: <http://www.promitheasnet.kepa.uoa.gr>

International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) Internship Programme. Deadline: **Open**. Details at: http://www.irena.org/Jobs/Internship_desc.aspx?JobID=33&PriMenuID=13&CatID=58&SubCatID=0&mnu=Pr

UNFCCC's Internship Programme, Deadline: Generally around 2 months before the start of the internship period. Mid-October; deadline for Spring internships (mid-January to mid-March). Mid-March; deadline for Summer internships (early June to early August). Mid-June; deadline for Fall internships (mid-September to mid-November). Details at: https://unfccc.int/secretariat/internship_programme/items/2653.php

Climate Action Network, Position: Internship. Deadline: **Not mentioned**. Details at: <http://www.climateactionnetwork.org/jobs-and-internships>

Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Position: Internship. The application system is open throughout the year, but the applications are only evaluated three times a year (1 March, 1 June, 1 October). Details at: <https://www.ceps.eu/content/internship>

WindEurope, Position: Traineeship. Deadline: **None**. WindEurope continuously offers several traineeship opportunities to University and high-school students who require work experience to complete their courses. Details at: <https://windeurope.org/about-us/careers/>

Institute European Environmental Policy, Position: Internship - IEEP Executive Team Researcher. Deadline: **14 April 2017**. Details at: <http://www.ieep.eu/work-with-us/>

Tractebel Engineering. Position: Senior Consultant in Energy Efficiency Programs - Belgium. Deadline: **Not specified**. Details at: https://engie.taleo.net/careersection/10550/jobdetail.ftl?job=TR_A00000896

Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Position: Senior Hydro-Climatologist. Deadline: **19 April 2017**. Details at: http://www.topcareer.jobs/Vacancy/irc240662_7088.aspx

European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Position: Associate Banker, Energy. Deadline: **17 April**

2017. Details at: <https://jobs.ebrd.com/job/Casablanca-Associate-Banker%2C-Energy/339302501/>

BP, Climate Change and Sustainability Technology (CC&ST) team. Position: Power and Carbon Analyst. Deadline: **19 April 2017**. Details at: https://jobs.bp.com/job/south-east-london/power-and-carbon-analyst/198/4248067?IN_Indeed

European Investment Bank, Position: Energy Economist/ Environmental Economist. Deadline: **23 April 2017**. Details at: https://erecruitment.eib.org/psp/hr/EMPLOYEE/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM.HRS_APP_SCHJOB.GBL

Department of Environmental Science at Aarhus University, Roskilde, Denmark, Position: Professor in Environmental Policy Analysis. Deadline: **9 May 2017**. Details at: <http://www.au.dk/en/about/vacant-positions/scientific-positions/stillinger/Vacancy/show/894549/5283/>

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