



# ACTION PLAN 2020

LandesEnergieAgentur GmbH  
Hessen, Germany



Low-carbon  
economy



LANDES  
**ENERGIE**  
AGENTUR



European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund



# Content

<b>I. General Information</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>II. Policy Context – Hessian Innovation Strategy</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>III. Project Structure Firespol</b>	<b>6</b>
Managing Authority for Policy Instrument	6
Project Partner 5: HA Hessen Agentur GmbH and LandesEnergieAgentur (LEA)	6
<b>IV. Renewable Energy Sources in Germany and Hessen</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>V. Details of the planned Actions</b>	<b>8</b>
Short Summary	8
Action 1 “Amending the Hessian Innovation Strategy 2020 to implement projects using innovative financing instruments”	8
ACTION 2: “Establishment of a One-Stop-Shop in Hessen to implement innovative financial schemes and raise acceptance and participation levels”	11
Improvement Policy Instrument of both actions	15
Self-defined performance indicator	15



## I. General Information

**Project:**

FIRESPOL – Financial Instruments for Renewable Energy Investment

**Partner organization:**

LandesEnergieAgentur Hessen GmbH, Hessen, Germany

**Country:**

Germany

**NUTS region:**

Darmstadt

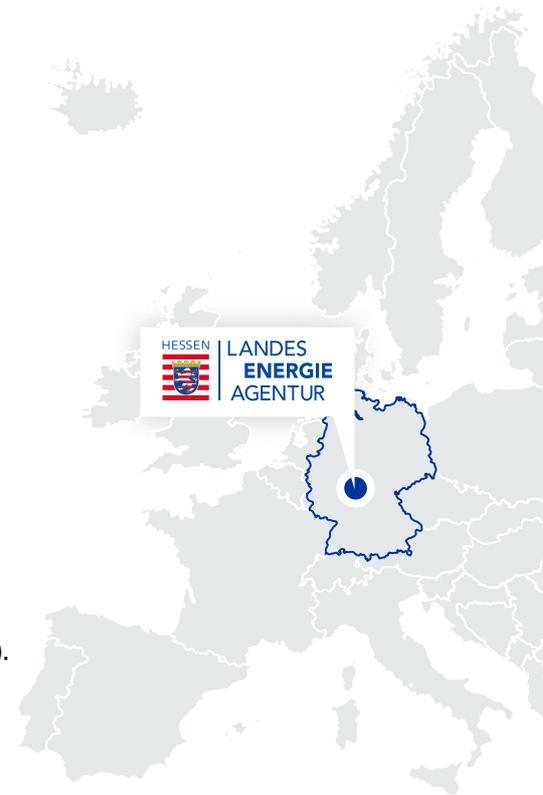
**Contact person:**

Dr. Karsten McGovern

email address: karsten.mcgovern@lea-hessen.de

phone number: +49 611 95017 8627

The Action Plan has been devised by LandesEnergieAgentur GmbH (LEA). The foreseen actions will be carried out by LEA and the managing authority/intermediate body of the state of Hessen in Germany.



## II. Policy Context – Hessian Innovation Strategy

The Action Plan aims to impact

- Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
- European Territorial Cooperation programme
- **Other regional development policy instruments**

Name of the policy instrument addressed:

**Hessian Innovation Strategy 2020**

→ future competence field energy systems and efficiency

The Hessian state government wants to further strengthen the competitiveness of Hessen as a business location and is committed to the promotion of innovation. To increase the effectiveness of this support, the Hessian state government has developed a regional innovation strategy based on a requirement of the European Union.

In the “Hessian Innovation Strategy 2020”, the State of Hessen identifies innovation priorities and fields of action for promoting innovation. These support all synergetic links in the innovation chain from basic research to the sales market in Hessen.

This strategy was developed with the participation of all Hessian ministries as well as the economic and social partners. It has been in force since August 2013 and is being continuously developed.



The Hessian Innovation Strategy 2020 is part of an overall growth and employment strategy. For this reason, the development of the following indicators must be continuously monitored:

- GDP per inhabitant in purchasing power parities,
- Development of employment,
- Development of the unemployment rate.

The environmental technology sector plays a prominent role in the Hessian economy. It is one of the key future-oriented fields of technology in Hessen. According to a recent study by “Aktionslinie Umwelttech”, there are 1,260 companies in the environmental industry in Hessen, accounting for total turnover of around 14.4 billion euros and employing around 50,600 people. The main focuses of the environmental industry in Hessen are on renewable energy (46% of companies), waste/recycling (40%) and water/wastewater (39%).

Environmental technology is an important economic factor in itself, but it also makes a significant contribution to sustainable and high-performance business in several other sectors of the Hessian economy. Innovative environmental technology processes, for example, enable companies to use raw materials and energy more efficiently, avoid waste and wastewater, and thus significantly reduce their costs.

With its broad spectrum of manufacturers, service providers and research institutions, environmental technology in Hessen offers considerable potential for long-term and sustainable competition. It is home to innovative small and medium-sized companies as well as well-known, leading international producers such as Siemens and InfraServ. They deploy their outstanding scientific expertise to devise sustainable solutions and develop new products.

The finite nature of fossil fuels and the new climate targets are increasing the demand for efficiency technologies. The fast-growing emerging markets are the main focus of Hessen’s foreign trade strategy, and there is a huge backlog of demand in this area, which is expected to trigger the next growth spurt. The export of high-quality goods will not only ensure growth in Hessen but can also have an impact far beyond the borders of our state and thus help to reduce resource consumption and CO2 emissions worldwide. This will help the buyers of efficiency technologies from Hessen to achieve their climate targets and increase their own energy and resource efficiency levels; in turn, this will open up global markets for Hessen’s manufacturers.

In order to meet these new challenges, the following two overarching principles are set out in the Hessian Innovation Strategy 2020:

Financial resources will be concentrated primarily on highly innovative energy technologies that promise long-term success and are important for the transition to sustainable energy supply in Hessen, Germany, and Europe. The funding policy will thus focus on: Renewable energies, energy efficiency, energy storage technologies, system and network technology, integration of renewable energies into the energy supply and the interaction of these energy technologies.

The aims of the funding are to support the rational and environmentally compatible use of energy in the State of Hessen and to help ensure that energy is generated and used in a way that is economically viable, environmentally friendly and safe.

The original project framework and the project application stipulate that the Action Plan is intended to bring about an improvement in the Operational Programme (OP) of ERDF funding in Hessen. In the last part of phase 1, however, it turned out that optimisation is difficult to guarantee here. The current Operational Programme is well advanced and the scope to introduce innovative grants or FIs through a new scheme or projects is extremely limited.



The innovation strategy is a requirement of the EU and is therefore a prerequisite for the Operational Programme. In addition, it should ensure the effectiveness of innovation support.

#### Reasons for Improvement:

In 2015, 16.4% of the total electricity consumption in Hessen was generated from renewable energy sources. The target is to cover 25% and 100% of the total energy consumption (electricity and heating, excluding transport) through renewables by 2019 and 2050, respectively. Monitoring programmes have shown that good progress is being made in Hessen. In the first half of 2019, the share had already reached 24.5 percent. However, further measures will be necessary to achieve the ambitious goals in the coming years.

These include measures for

- increasing private investment in the utilization of renewables.
- improving the leverage of public spending.
- promoting demonstration plants/pilots (generation, storage, and system integration)
- marketing and expansion of the new technologies
- raising the social acceptance levels

#### Type 2 Changes: Change in policy instrument management

LandesEnergieAgentur Hessen GmbH (LEA) investigated measures to improve the governance of expanding the use of renewables. As the main priority area in FIRESPOL, alternative financing models were investigated and supported to stimulate private investment in and expansion of the use of renewables. Increasing the social acceptance of the “energy transformation” by promoting municipal information and acceptance measures is another priority for Hessen in FIRESPOL. The aim was to develop mechanisms for supporting municipalities in overcoming conflicts of interest in the context of renewable energy projects. Hessen’s preferred solution was to create a new project typology (funding scheme), focusing on the introduction of innovative measures in grant management, ensuring that they have a similar impact as innovative financial instruments, and thereby opening the way for well-designed innovative financial schemes in the next period. The Ministry for Economic Affairs, Energy, Transport and Housing – State of Hessen is responsible for the Policy Instrument.

#### Main Stakeholders of the Project:

- Ministry for Economic Affairs, Energy, Transport and Housing – State of Hessen
- Wirtschafts- und Infrastrukturbank Hessen
- Technical University of Darmstadt
- University of Kassel
- House of Energy
- Municipal and private project developers
- Commercial and cooperative banks
- Energy utilities
- Municipal utility operators



## III. Project Structure Firespol

### Managing Authority for Policy Instrument

The Ministry for Economic Affairs, Energy, Transport and Housing – State of Hessen pursues a sustainability-based policy aimed at securing Hessen's wealth, based on balanced economic development and a sensible ecological approach. By promoting and developing renewable energies and improving energy efficiency, it aims to ensure reliable, affordable, future-oriented energy provision for Hessen's citizens and companies. It strengthens diversification in the Hessian economy by promoting the innovative and competitive power of the region and by providing a favourable environment. Located in the heart of Germany and Europe, Hessen also attaches a great deal of importance to mobility, in the sense of providing the best possible transportation for people and goods. To achieve this, the Ministry maintains a high-performance infrastructure and optimal links between various means of transportation.

The Ministry for Economic Affairs, Energy, Transport and Housing – State of Hessen is responsible for the Innovation Strategy Hessen and its implementation, including funding.

### Project Partner 5: HA Hessen Agentur GmbH and LandesEnergieAgentur (LEA)

#### HA Hessen Agentur GmbH

HA Hessen Agentur GmbH is the service company of the state. It implements projects, campaigns and promotional activities and acts as an advisory board and think tank. Its goals are optimizing the position of Hessen within the national and global competition, securing, and increasing the prosperity of its citizens as well as supporting the sustainable development of Hessen as a location.

#### LandesEnergieAgentur (LEA) – State Energy Agency

The LEA, a state-owned subsidiary of HA Hessen Agentur GmbH, is the central point of contact for all questions relating to the energy transition and climate protection in Hessen. It bundles a range of services and support on issues such as renovation, energy efficiency, electromobility and subsidies. The LEA's work is aimed at Hessian citizens, social organizations, municipalities, and companies. The LEA offers information, initial consultations and support to Hessian citizens and companies in the selection and implementation of measures for climate protection, energy efficiency, energy saving or expanded use of renewable energies within their own environment. The LEA is a reliable partner when it comes to attracting third parties for climate protection and energy transition-related measures.

#### Brief description of Firespol and its objectives

Most Member States and European regions have introduced measures to boost RES generation and storage in their regional RIS3 strategy, national energy strategic plans and their respective regional Investment for Growth and Jobs programmes, although most Member States are below the published RES 2020 targets. RES is not growing as expected, and the Member States are now looking for new solutions such as energy storage or innovative financial schemes. The RES sector requires new support schemes which are capable of unlocking the great potential of private investment by overcoming the financial, legal, and administrative barriers in decentralized investment for both RES generation and storage.

FIRESPOL seeks to boost regionally specialized and decentralized private investment in renewable energy by improving the management of policy instruments which will break the financial barriers currently holding back investment in the RES sector. The objective is to create new support schemes such as Financial Instruments (FIs) or new grant schemes which can achieve the same socioeconomic impact as FIs.



## IV. Renewable Energy Sources in Germany and Hessen

Since 2000, the Renewable Energy Sources Act has proven to be an effective and efficient instrument for promoting electricity from renewable sources in Germany. Renewable energies are making an increasing contribution to the electricity supply in Germany. This is accompanied by a significant reduction in carbon dioxide emissions in the electricity sector and positive economic effects.

In 2000, the Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG) replaced the Electricity Feed Act, which had been in force since 1991. The aims of the EEG include

- enabling the sustainable development of energy supplies, in particular in the interest of climate and environmental protection,
- reducing the economic costs of energy, including by exploiting long-term external effects,
- conserving fossil energy resources and
- promoting the further development of technologies for the generation of electricity from renewable energy sources.

As a rule, the support is set at 20 years. For systems up to 100 kilowatts (kW), the subsidy is granted in the form of a fixed feed-in tariff, differentiated according to renewable energy source, system output and other parameters. It can be adjusted for new start-ups, to take technical progress and decreasing costs for new plants into account. Above the threshold of 100 kW, direct marketing is obligatory, and the subsidy is paid to the operator as a market premium in addition to the average monthly technology-specific market value (this is derived from the average electricity price achievable on the electricity exchange). For wind energy and photovoltaic plants of 750 kW and above and for biomass plants of 150 kW and above, the level of remuneration is not uniformly specified but is determined in tendering processes. In order to ensure that the tenders reflect the different specific framework conditions as accurately as possible and that the offers are directly comparable, the tendering processes are conducted separately, with specific provisions for onshore wind energy plants, for photovoltaic plants and for biomass plants.

The actual implementation of renewable energy projects in Hessen depends to a large extent on the use of subsidies and supplementary external financing. The local authorities in Hessen in particular are dependent on receiving corresponding subsidies. The financing aspect plays a secondary role but is still considerable and should remain in focus. This is because, despite all the climate targets and ideals, renewable energies must still be economical, otherwise they will never be an option for many institutions. In Hessen and throughout Germany, the Renewable Energy Sources Act has ensured a guaranteed feed-in tariff over 20 years. Although this is now lower for new projects, the level remains constant for 20 years after commissioning. This is an important element in minimizing financing costs, as banks regard the feed-in tariff as security with regard to the potential returns of plants. Furthermore, there is an investor market in Hessen and throughout Germany. This means that many players would like to invest in renewable energies. However, the number of projects is small. This means that relatively few projects are actually implemented. External financing represents an attractive solution here, but this regularly presents project developers with challenges at the processing stage. The subsidies that can be obtained at the different levels (Hessen/Germany/Europe) are an important aspect here.

However, the financing aspect will also become more relevant in the future. The decreasing feed-in tariffs are lowering the likelihood of project profitability, and the security levels for banks are also decreasing. Therefore, alternative financing models, outside the EEG, are necessary in Hessen.



## V. Details of the planned Actions

### Short Summary

Two actions are defined in this Action Plan. The starting point is **Action 1 “Amending the Hessian Innovation Strategy 2020 to implement projects using innovative financing instruments”**. This lays the foundation for the eligibility of new projects. **ACTION 2: “Establishment of a One-Stop-Shop in Hessen to implement innovative financial schemes and raise the acceptance and participation”** builds on this. The aim here is to provide project developers with support and advice throughout the entire implementation process and to ensure the pooling of information.

The common goal is to establish and implement a new typology of projects and in doing so to develop innovative financing instruments and demonstrate their effectiveness.

### Action 1 “Amending the Hessian Innovation Strategy 2020 to implement projects using innovative financing instruments”



#### Background

During the course of the project, there were repeated discussions with the project partners and stakeholders, which showed that the provision and pooling of information are essential factors in the successful implementation of renewable energy projects.

#### Interregional Learning

The sharing of information with the European partners has shown that there is a greater likelihood of attracting private investment in the partner countries than in Germany and Hessen. In many places there are no feed-in tariffs for the electricity produced, or these have been discontinued, as is the case in Germany. This makes private investment and external financing all the more important. In Germany, we are getting closer and closer to this situation. Therefore, it can be said that the situation in both Europe as a whole and in Germany are comparable.

This was illustrated by the partners at various points. For example, the Spanish partners presented a PPA wind project (Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) – Wind power farm in Zaragoza: Extremadura Energy Agency, Spain). In Ireland, there are various PPP models, for example for waste processing plants (Public Private Partnership (PPP) – Dublin Waste to Energy Project: Southern Regional Assembly, Ireland). These examples were discussed in our workshops, and study visits were also organized. Here we were able to gain an insight not only into the infrastructure that had been built up, but also into the financing framework.

This shows that Hessen should also continue to focus on attracting private investment in renewable energies. All these schemes are the result of manifold discussions between the project partners and their stakeholders. These exchanges form the basis for all measures that are developed. However, in order to support private or at least non-public subsidies, it must be ensured that the projects remain attractive and profitable. Discussions held on the fringes of the event in Croatia with Spanish stakeholders (Extremadura Energy Cluster) showed that private investment is common practice there, thus raising the importance of project profitability. It emerged that mixed investment partners and long-term power purchase contracts were signed even before the completion of construction, thereby increasing the security on investments if the approval procedures are delayed.



Furthermore, projects with innovative financial instruments could be a more secure financial model for old and new power plants. Municipalities might be able to conclude contracts under preferred conditions as major consumers. Above all, the discussions and demands for stronger municipal participation in the energy transition are currently becoming ever louder in Hessen and Germany. Municipalities, in particular, are struggling with limited budgets for some municipal or municipally owned waste management companies, and this is hindering large-scale investment. The same challenges are found in almost all partner regions: declining acceptance of renewable energies, need for participation (both financial and communication-related) and transparency in project implementation. Our project partner from Ireland (Southern Regional Assembly) reports on successfully implemented projects in which a combination of public and private investors has worked very well. Models like PPPs could provide funding opportunities for large investments. Ownership stays with the public authorities. This opportunity enables long-term municipal ownership of infrastructure. The investment risk is shared between a private company and the municipality. This appears to represent a sensible combination for Hessen and its municipalities, too.

The Hessen Innovation Strategy 2020 sets the funding requirements in a wide range of development areas in Hessen. It is thus the basis for classifying projects as viable and eligible for funding. This addition to the strategy will open up opportunities for innovative projects. The fact that such projects are classified as worthy of support now makes it possible for Hessen to promote them and thus make use of innovative development instruments. These innovative models are already being used in Ireland and Spain (PPA: wind farm in Spain, PPP: waste disposal plant in Ireland). The various meetings held during the course of the project (e.g. in Croatia and Ireland) have shown that innovative financing options are a matter of course in our partner countries and that attractive solutions already exist for generators and customers. These project presentations were very inspiring and have motivated us to take similar steps.

### Stakeholder Input

Investment in RES has been stagnating in Hessen for some years. Furthermore, public bodies only have small budgets for RES projects. And of course, smaller municipalities in particular only have limited resources at their disposal to apply for large scale projects and for funding.

The actual implementation of renewable energy projects in Hessen depends to a large extent on the use of funding and additional external financing. The Hessian municipalities in particular are dependent on appropriate funding. There is a will to invest in renewable energies, but there is limited access to projects, to information about possible subsidies and to known and suitable models for involving the population in energy system transformation.

Over the past two years, our stakeholders have repeatedly approached us with attractive projects. These included projects that enabled regional participation via savings bonds. The "Bürgerwind Aktie" of Abo Wind allows participation in wind projects all over Europe and stakeholders to share in the proceeds, which can be used in turn to finance new projects.

Sonneninitiative has explained on several occasions that the joint construction of solar plants based on shared knowledge and financial resources represents a viable solution, especially for municipalities. Such promising Hessian approaches must now be spread and applied more widely.

However, the financing aspect will become more important in the future. The falling feed-in tariff is reducing the guaranteed cost-effectiveness of projects and the collateral for banks. What has been learned should now be transferred to Hessen. This will require "amending the Hessian Innovation Strategy 2020 to implement projects using innovative financing instruments".



## Action

The aim of this measure is to use innovative financing instruments to create the basic conditions for making projects eligible for funding. A textual adjustment in the strategy, i.e. the specific mention of innovative financing approaches as eligible measures, creates new eligibility conditions.

The intention is to support pilot projects that use participation models with higher costs and thus publicise them. At the same time, the continued operation of plants that no longer receive feed-in tariffs and therefore have to use other sources of financing must be considered.

A new type of project funding should be applied.

We foresee various implementation steps as sub actions:

1. **Continuous coordination** with the actors involved in updating the innovation strategy  
The Hessian Ministry of Economics is responsible for the innovation strategy. A decision will be taken in the course of the year on the extent to which an adjustment is appropriate and useful.
2. Submission of **text proposals** for adaptation of the strategy  
Strategy adjustment proposals are submitted by LEA to make innovative approaches eligible for financing.
3. **Textual additions to the strategy** to make projects which use innovative financial instruments eligible for funding  
The text of the innovation strategy will be adapted and submitted to the relevant decision-making bodies in the Ministry.
4. Implementation of **pilot projects** on innovative financing instruments  
The first projects that will be funded as a result of the changes will be monitored and supported as best as possible by the Ministry, with support by LEA. This is followed by Action 2. In other words, the one-stop-shop will provide low-threshold support for these pilot projects. Furthermore, more intensive support of these pilot actions is possible. Through the platform, potential project participants become aware of the funding opportunity, information is provided, and contacts can be established. The available ERDF funds can then be used to finance scientific support, feasibility studies and other measures for these projects.



## Players involved

- Ministry for Economic Affairs, Energy, Transport and Housing – State of Hessen (various departments and divisions – Adaptation of the strategy and promotion of possible pilot projects)
- LandesEnergieAgentur (support for the amendment process and monitoring of possible pilot projects)
- Possible project developers like municipalities (application and implementation of pilot projects)



## Expected outcome

Projects with innovative financing approaches will become eligible for funding. Furthermore, pilot projects worth 5 per cent of the available funding will be financed (max. 1 million euros).



## Timeframe



## Costs

Personnel costs of approx. 5,000 euro have been incurred. These funds do not come from the Firespol project budget but are provided elsewhere.

In addition, money from existing funding sources (EFRE) is being used for the pilot projects. These funds relate to the financing made available from the future competence field of the Innovation Strategy, i.e. approximately 1 million euros for various pilot projects.

## ACTION 2: “Establishment of a One-Stop-Shop in Hessen to implement innovative financial schemes and raise acceptance and participation levels”



## Background

During the course of the project, multiple discussions were held with and by the project partners and stakeholders. These showed that the provision and sharing of information are essential preconditions for the successful implementation of renewable energy projects.

There are only five major cities in Hessen. This means that there are large rural areas with smaller municipalities which have limited opportunities to apply for large-scale projects and funding. There has been declining investment in both the wind sector and small private solar plants in recent years.

### Interregional Learning

An interesting example of local associations was presented at the Interregional Event in Lublin in January 2019 by Lubelskie Voivodeship. In the Dolina Zielawy energy cluster, small municipalities have formed an association in order to carry out larger projects and acquire EU and other funding. The example was discussed several times, both among the project partners as well as among the stakeholders in Hessen. Furthermore, it was possible to meet those responsible for the project and the local government representatives personally during our study visit in Poland. There was an intensive discussion about the successes and the challenges involved in this project.

Hessen discovered that neighbouring municipalities lack the capacity to act. This could compensate the disadvantages of small rural municipalities towards the Rhine-Main metropolitan area, urban districts in northern and central Hessen and could also increase the chances of EU funding for small municipalities.



In many different discussions with the Croatian project partners and also in our interregional learning workshop, we realized that it is not only large projects which can be pursued. Small, individual projects can be attractive and contribute to the implementation of new renewable energies, too (example of Špansko-Zagreb solar roof – thermal and electric power supplied by solar energy, financed by private investment was presented by Environmental protection and energy efficiency fund). Especially in the solar sector, these are some very exciting approaches which are applicable for Hessen. Small, private-sector projects allow a large number of plants to be built which permit combined electricity and heat generation for private households. Hessen holds a great deal of potential in the area of solar energy. To highlight this, the “Solar Kataster Hessen” was created which allows every private household and building owner to determine the solar potential of their roof.

The acceptance and participation aspect has also been hotly debated in recent years. Here, too, the project partners face similar challenges. As already described, there is a steady decline in support for decentralized renewable energy projects. Good participation models appear highly attractive here.

The partners from Latvia showed various interesting projects. The country’s innovative Green Bond should be mentioned here (Green Bonds issued by ALTUM – state aid for the finance of RES and energy efficiency projects without collateral were presented by the Ministry of Environmental Protection & Regional Development of the Republic of Latvia). But activities aimed at involving the population were also presented. Latvia and Hessen are pursuing very similar approaches and rely on transparent communication and the disclosure of information. This should increase acceptance of the planned projects.

Therefore, innovative financing schemes represent a further step for Hessen. They will enable both financial and communication-based participation. Financing models with a participatory model provide funding opportunities for small and medium projects with widely spread and thus limited risk. Such green investments provide opportunities for private investors and additional funds for RES and allow energy efficiency projects to be publicly (co-)funded.

It became clear at many points that there is a great demand for information and that knowledge about unusual concepts can significantly support project development. A one-stop-shop can provide such information and orientation for innovative models.

### Stakeholder Input

In addition to the points mentioned in Action 1, all the Firespol project meetings identified the lack of knowledge about complex and innovative grant schemes as a major problem for municipalities, private households, SMEs, and political institutions. In addition, approval procedures are becoming longer, more complex, and more unpredictable in their outcomes for the project developers. Beyond this, there is growing local resistance to renewable energies. Participation at both the communication and financial levels is becoming increasingly important as a means for not losing the population completely on this issue.

A fixed point of contact, where reliable information is available for different target groups, allows for faster consultation and implementation of funded projects. Here, the “Energy Cluster” from Poland in particular has proven that municipalities can achieve a great deal together if they receive appropriate support and advice. Similar activities in Croatia, Ireland and Latvia also show that a reliable pool of shared information and target-group-specific advice are indispensable and increase the likelihood of project success.

The one-stop shop approach is intended to be such a central contact point for all those interested in renewable energies and potential projects. This should cover the complete range of services necessary for successful implementation: planning, financing, implementation, and monitoring. The aim is to establish a simplified central contact point for the development of innovative financing mechanisms, attractive projects and mediation between investors and financiers.



The one-stop shop approach represents an important intervention in the regional ecosystem of renewable energy projects. It creates a strong link between different project actors and reduces time-consuming procedures. It acts as a point for gathering together important information and for creating direct links between the actors involved. In this way, all parties can benefit, increase their knowledge, and ultimately develop projects at the regional level.

In addition, such a one-stop shop acts as a central point for providing information and support to larger potential investors and entrepreneurs who are interested in contributing to the financing. This can reinforce the personal advice offered by the LEA and help establish effective exchange formats.

In turn, this will create a project-friendly environment and support the implementation and financing of renewable energy projects.

The aim of the one-stop shop approach is to close the gaps between the different actors along the process chain while meeting the need for transparent and trustworthy information. This information should make the implementation of projects easier, including their financing and monitoring.



### Action to be implemented

We propose various implementation steps as sub actions:

1. **Building on the findings of phase 1** of the Firespol project, such as the analysis of existing platforms, the information gained as a result, identified information gaps, liaison with stakeholders, mapping of the complete project chain including planning, financing, implementation, and evaluation.
2. **Deciding on the appropriate location**, i.e. extending existing platforms or developing a new platform of your own for implementation.
3. **Creation and coordination of a development concept** in cooperation with experts like web developers, implementation of a suitable back-end.
4. **Continuous coordination** with the Managing Authority on the content and objectives as well as promotion of the platform.
5. **Live activation of the One-Stop-Shop**, if necessary as a beta phase including appropriate public relations to publicize the platform. Furthermore, the platform is used to present innovative projects and support awareness of them and their dissemination. This is intended to increase the acceptance of innovative financing approaches and renewable energies as a whole.
6. **Continuous liaison** with the users in order to identify permanent optimization needs and further potential.



## Players involved

- Ministry for Economic Affairs, Energy, Transport and Housing – State of Hessen (Managing Authority/ intermediate body)
- WI-Bank, KfW (processing of funding instruments and technical review of funding applications – knowledge provider)
- LandesEnergieAgentur (possible platform operator and provider of consulting services)
- Project developers and planners (target group for one-stop shop enquiries concerning concrete requirements and continuous evaluation)
- Municipal utilities (target group for one-stop shop enquiries concerning concrete needs and continuous evaluation, plus providers of own funding opportunities where appropriate)
- Investors (target group for one-stopshop inquiries concerning concrete needs and continuous evaluation)
- Financiers and banks (target group for one-stop shop inquiries concerning concrete needs and continuous evaluation)



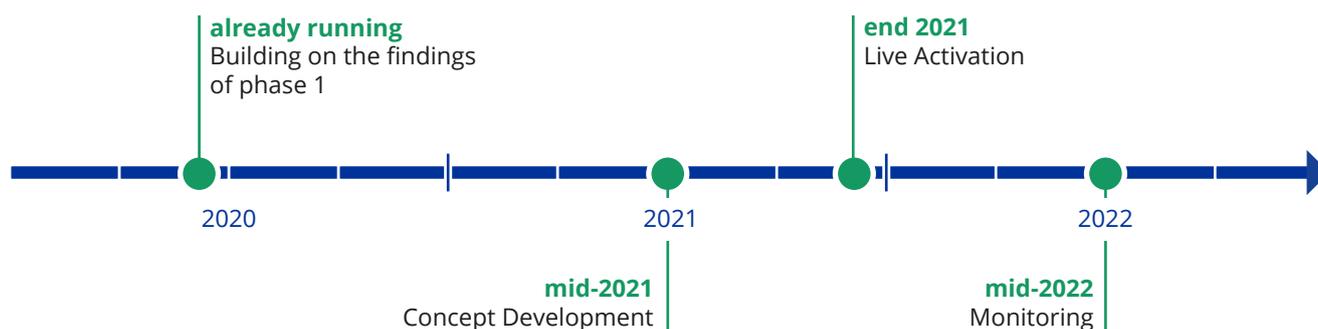
## Expected outcome

Increased project implementation, easier access to information, sharing of information, immediate use of the information provided, facilitation of cooperation through direct links, capacity building on the part of investors, financiers, and project developers.



## Timeframe

- Preparation of the findings from phase 1 on an online platform throughout 2021 (continuous optimization until mid-2022)
- Development of a concrete implementation concept including web development (until mid-2021)
- Implementation (Live-Activation) of the one-stop shop with promotion event at the end of 2021
- Monitoring of the platform, the approved funding projects (Action 1) and their evaluation from the middle of 2022



## Costs:

Approx. 100,000 euros (from 2021)



## Funding sources:

Ministry for Economic Affairs, Energy, Transport and Housing – State of Hessen, where existing ERDF funding is available



## Improvement Policy Instrument of both actions

- Modification of the policy instrument text: Innovation strategy for new funding schemes
- Establishment of completely new funding opportunities for a new and forward-looking system in Hessen
- Support for private investment in renewable energies
- Mobilization of existing funding in a new field of future competence
- Identification of different financing instruments and their testing in the demonstration projects, including evaluation
- Dissemination and implementation of demonstration projects with innovative financial instruments, creating role models
- Increasing the competitiveness of renewable energies
- Ensuring the continued operation of plants
- Competitive distribution of renewable energies
- Supporting the acceptance of energy system transformation through the creation of financial participation in projects within the framework of financial instruments

## Self-defined performance indicator

Influence 5% of the funding (approx. 1 million euros) of the available resources in the future competence field of energy systems and efficiency.

---

Date

---

Signature

---

Stamp of the organization (if available)



Low-carbon  
economy



HESSEN | LANDES  
**ENERGIE**  
AGENTUR



European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund