



Press Release

Share of renewable energy in EU final energy consumption rise to 16.7%. Renewables avoid € 87 billion of energy costs

EurObserv'ER releases "*State of Renewable energies in Europe 2016*"

Free Download: <https://www.eurobserv-er.org/pdf/annual-overview-2016-en/>

Paris, 15 May 2017

Key data for European Union (EU) in 2015

- 28.8 % Renewable electricity share in total EU generation in 2015 (27.5% in 2014)
- 18.6% Renewable heat share in total EU generation (18.1% in 2014)
- 94.2 Mtoe Renewable heat (and cooling) consumption in 2015 (89.2 Mtoe in 2014)
- 935.8 TWh Electricity production from renewables in the EU in 2015 (899 TWh in 2014)
- 1.14 mln. Jobs in the European renewable energy sector
- € 153 bn. Turnover generated by renewable energy sources in EU-28 in 2015
- € 87 bn. Avoided expenses in EU-28 through renewables in 2015 (€104 bn. in 2014)
- 302 Mtoe EU-28 substituted fossil fuels in 2015 (292 Mtoe in 2014)

Main findings

Gross final energy consumption in the EU-28 increased by 2.2% between 2014 and 2015 (from 1 097.7 to 1 121.4 Mtoe), after suffering an exceptional 4.2% drop over the previous twelve-month period. The actual share of renewable energies in EU's total *electricity generation* rose from 28.2% in 2014 to 28.9% in 2015 (+0.7%) while overall output rose from 3 190.8 TWh in 2014 to 3 234.3 TWh in 2015.

Increased renewable energy work force in 2015

EurObserv'ER assumes a growing renewable energy work force of 1.139 million persons employed throughout the EU for ten monitored RES technologies, a growth of 10 000 jobs compared to 2014. The combined turnover of 10 renewable energy sectors in all 28 EU member states reached € 153 billion in 2015 and thus slightly grew compared to 2014 (€ 148.7 billion).

Solid biomass least expensive RET for electricity production in the European Union

Based on aggregated results for the European Union the levelised cost of energy (LCoE) for solid biomass seem the least expensive, and even in the same range as the reference electricity price. Commercial large scale PV and wind energy show a wide LCoE range, which is due to Member countries' preconditions for PV and wind energy generation.

Renewables replace substantial amounts of imported energy and avoid costly imports



The increased use of renewable sources of energy in power, heat and transport fuel sector led to the reduction of €87 billion in the EU-28 member states. In addition 302 Mtoe of fossil fuels (gasoline, oil, coal, gas) were substituted by renewable sources of energy in 2015.

R&D expenditures in renewable energy technologies reveal strong position of EU

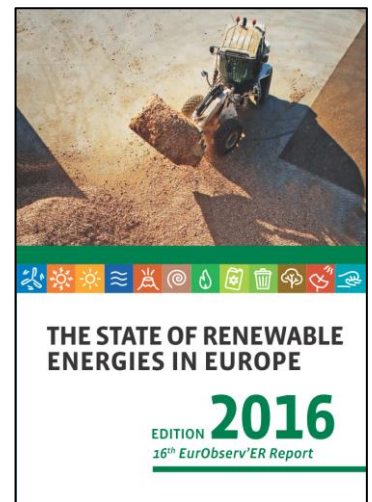
In 2014 total public R&D investment in renewable energies technologies amounted to 781.6 Mio. Euro in the EU28. The GDP shares hereby display a very strong position of Sweden, France and Belgium. In a global context the EU 28 was followed by the US with 671.5 Mio. Euro of R&D expenditures taking the lead in 2015 with 755.4 Mio. Euro.

Links

- Free download of 16th annual overview barometer “[State of renewable energies in Europe 2016](#)”
- Free download of [all Barometers](#) (PV, Wind, solar thermal/CSP, Biomass, Biogas, Biofuels)
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Further Information:

- <https://www.eurobserv-er.org>



The topic of the next barometer will be:

Solar thermal / CSP



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About EurObserv'ER

EurObserv'ER regularly publishes market reports (Barometers) containing energy data reflecting the current dynamics in renewable sources of energy in 10 sectors (solar, wind, hydropower, geothermal, biogas, solid biomass, biofuels, heat pumps, small hydro, renewable waste) within the European Union and worldwide.

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This barometer was prepared by Observ'ER in the scope of the EurObserv'ER project, which groups together Observ'ER (FR), the Energy research centre of the Netherlands (ECN, NL), the Renewables Academy (RENAC, DE), Frankfurt School of Finance and Management (DE), Fraunhofer-ISI (DE) and Statistics Netherlands (NL). The information and views set out in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of the Commission. The Commission does not guarantee the accuracy of the data included in this study. Neither the Commission nor any person acting on the Commission's behalf may be held responsible for the use which may be made of the information contained therein.