

Interdisciplinary Winter and Summer School on Energy Systems in Austria and the Czech Republic

February 2013 – September 2013

Energy in its various forms is essential for today's society as a whole. That is the reason why the research in this area is included as very important part of many scientific disciplines. The fact that it is necessary to devote significant attention to this topic stimulated the ideas of cooperation of Czech-Austrian Energy Expert Group (CZ-AT EEG), which has been lasted since 2002. Experts from this group, within the scope of this project aim to provide students the latest knowledge, to teach them how to use this interdisciplinary knowledge and collaborate on bilateral projects.

The project aims to deepen students' knowledge in the field of energy and market contexts associated with it as well as sustainable development and renewable energy resources in this area and also brought closer Energy Policy of the Czech Republic and Austria and to outline possible future directions of cooperation.

For the Winter School in Prague Prof. Jiřina Jílková will be the main coordinator, and for the Summer School in Vienna Prof. Reinhard Haas will be the main coordinator. The provided courses will be focused on Master students.

The scientific objectives of the proposed cooperation

Students of various scientific disciplines from two different countries under the guidance of experts of Czech-Austrian Energy Expert Group (CZ-AT EEG) will have the opportunity to consult each other irreplaceable knowledge of their disciplines and enrich them with new information obtained through bilateral cooperation and lectures. The uniqueness lies precisely in meeting a diverse group of future professionals who are connected by the topic of energy. They will gain valuable experience for their future professional development. Winter and Summer School will provide space for a detailed explanation and mutual understanding of different energy policies in Austria and the Czech Republic.

Program and project results

Winter and Summer School is open to students from all universities in Austria and Czech Republic. Our experience is, that most students are from University of Graz, University of Technology Graz, Vienna University of Technology, University of Economics Prague, Czech Technical University in Prague and Charles University in Prague. Winter School will take place in Prague, Summer School in Vienna.

Winter and Summer School is a perfect way for students to get to know more about the situation in the field of energy in Austria and the Czech Republic. The Winter School is organized in Prague and the Summer School in Vienna. Time between Winter and Summer school will be used to work on bilateral seminar papers, where paired Austrian & Czech students will analyse the situation in their home country and put it together in one paper which will be presented at the Summer School. Thanks to the Winter and Summer School - students will therefore get an experience of bilateral collaboration and improve their presentation skills. The whole Winter and Summer School is taught in English and the final paper is in the same language. 2013 for the seventh time will published the students paper on the website of Czech-Austrian Energy Expert Group and this step is a high motivation for the students to hand over a paper of good quality.

There will be prepared lectures for students by participating experts from Czech-Austrian Energy Expert Group (CZ-AT EEG). During the lectures topics will be focused on renewable energy resources, different ways of their use, advantages and disadvantages of their use, finance and related cost associated with different energy policies, etc. The lectures will be followed by open discussion. Knowledge already acquired by students will be extended by illustrative examples of practice during the planned excursion. At the beginning of the Winter School students will be familiar with the rules for writing their paper. Then they choose the topic from the area of energy policy of a global or international – Czech – Austrian point of view. Based on the similarity of the topics students will choose will be created bilateral couples of them in case of writing the paper. Students' paper will be written in English. Each couple gets the supervisor from the team of participating experts according to the selected topic. The students will be processing the papers in the period between Winter and Summer School.

Summer School will be held in Vienna. There are prepared lectures for the students, which will follow up by their content on lectures and discussions of the winter school in Prague. The newly acquired theoretical knowledge will again be supplemented by practical application in the form of excursion. Papers processed by bilateral pairs of students will be presented during the summer school to other students and experts. Based on these presentations discussions of the findings of each study will take place. The final decision to award points for the participation of each student during Winter and Summer School is mainly included the activity of students during both parts of Winter and Summer School, their participation in the discussions, the quality of papers they wrote and their professional orientation in the topic they chosen.

During the previous Winter and Summer School we succeeded in accrediting this seminar (or course) with the 6 ECTS-points at the University of Economics in Prague. The students will get a certificate for their successful participation in this seminar. On the grounds of this certificate students will get the ECTS-point on their universities. They will also get assistance to apply for a scholarship to fund work for a joint master thesis dealing with the topics of the seminar.

Between years 2006-2012 has been the Winter and Summer School organized by University of Economics in Prague and University of Graz. This year it was decided, that the main organizers will be two other universities: Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ustí nad Labem and Vienna University of Technology. Reasons for this step are very rational. Professor Haas from Vienna University of Technology is every year participating on teaching during the Winter and Summer School and he is familiar to the concept of W/S School. Former Austrian project guarantor – Prof. Schleicher is (because of his high workload) not able to continue with managing this project and Vienna is much closer to Czech Republic than Graz. Czech guarantor of the project – Prof. Jilkova - is now vice-rector of Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ustí nad Labem and her activities at University of Economics in Prague are not so intensive now. Even though formally is the W/S School organized by Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ustí nad Labem, the lectures will be held in Prague (at Czech Technical University).

The importance of the planned cooperation and contribution to practice

Winter and summer school will bring to students a unique and irreplaceable experience with bilateral processing of research paper. Collaboration with a colleague who examines the issue from the perspective of another research discipline and from different point of view (different perception of energy policy in Austria and the Czech Republic) is very valuable contribution. Students have a unique opportunity to deepen and connect their knowledge not only within different fields of research discipline but also due to introduction with a different attitude of other students and experts of another member of the European Union.

About Czech Austria Energy Expert Group (CZ-AT EEG)

The joint Czech-Austrian Energy Expert Group (CZ-AT EEG) group was appointed by both governments at the end of 2002 to establish the so-called “Energy Partnership” mentioned in Chapter III of the “Protocol on the Negotiations between the Czech and the Austrian Governments, led by Prime Minister Zeman and Federal Chancellor Schüssel, with the Participation of Commissioner Verheugen from the EU” signed on December 12, 2000 in Melk, Austria.

The aim of this group is to jointly study the problems of energy supply and consumption and sustainable development in both countries. It consists of a number of energy experts from different Czech and Austrian universities and institutes. The CZ-AT EEG is convening at regular meetings both in Austria and the Czech Republic and is jointly working on energy projects of mutual interest.

Following major CZ-AT EEG activities have already been organized:

- In November 2012 (21st November) Discussion seminar: “Critical Reflection of the Energy Policy in Austria and Czech Republic after 10 Years” was held in Carolinum, Charles University in Prague
- February 2012 and June 2012 “**Interdisciplinary Bilateral Winter and Summer School on Energy Systems in Austria and the Czech Republic**” was again successfully organized with the support from the Program AKTION.
- February 2012 was published third book of research papers: Energy for Sustainable Development vol. 3: Energy Savings and link to other policies.
- In September 2011 (26th September) Discussion seminar: “Energy Perspectives in Central Europe” was held in Carolinum, Charles University in Prague
- February 2011 and June 2011 “**Interdisciplinary Bilateral Winter and Summer School on Energy Systems in Austria and the Czech Republic**” was again successfully organized with the support from the Program AKTION.
- February 2010 and June 2010 “**Interdisciplinary Bilateral Winter and Summer School on Energy Systems in Austria and the Czech Republic**” was again successfully organized with the support from the Program AKTION.
- December 2010 was published second book of research papers: Energy for Sustainable Development vol. 2.
- In May 2009 (16th May) Discussion seminar: “**Implementation of the EU Climate and Energy package**“ was held in Carolinum, Charles University in Prague
- February 2009 and June 2009 “**Interdisciplinary Bilateral Winter and Summer School on Energy Systems in Austria and the Czech Republic**” was again successfully organized with the support from the Program AKTION.
- In May 2008 (14th May) Discussion seminar: “**Is the climate change opportunity for Europe?**” was held in Carolinum, Charles University in Prague.

- February 2008 and June 2008 “**Interdisciplinary Bilateral Winter and Summer School on Energy Systems in Austria and the Czech Republic**” was again successfully organized with the support from the Program AKTION. (www.ieep.cz/projekty/login.php, both “Ident projektu” and “Heslo projektu”: “V8A”).
- February 2007 and June 2007 “**Interdisciplinary Bilateral Winter and Summer School on Energy Systems in Austria and the Czech Republic**” was again successfully organized with the support from the Program AKTION. (www.ieep.cz/projekty/login.php, both “Ident projektu” and “Heslo projektu”: “V7A”).
- February 2006 and July 2006 “**Interdisciplinary Bilateral Winter and Summer School on Energy Systems in Austria and the Czech Republic**” (www.ieep.cz/projekty/login.php, both “Ident projektu” and “Heslo projektu”: “V6A”).
- In April 2006 (28th April) “Discussion seminar on the experiences with the EU-ETS scheme” was held in Carolinum, Charles University in Prague.
- In March and April 2005 the exhibition “Building for the future” and a symposium with building experts and architects from Austria and the Czech Republic was organized in the exhibition rooms of the Charles University in Prague.
- The final reports of the jointly Research Papers in 2004 are currently being published in a book “Energy for Sustainable Development” by the Charles University. More information about the CZ-AT EEG can be found on <http://www.energy-europe.net>.

WINTER AND SUMMER SCHOOL 2013 – PROGRAM PROPOSAL AND BASIC STRUCTURE

