



Press release

Brussels 21 June 2010

Small Hydropower, defined by installed capacity up to 10 MW, is one of the most cost-efficient and reliable source of renewable energy. Today there are over 21 000 small hydropower schemes in the EU. They generate over 41 000 GWh electricity and account to over 13, 000 MW of installed capacity, which would be enough to supply electricity for over 12 million households in Europe. This contributes to annual avoidance of CO² by 29 million tonnes, which translates into annual avoided CO² cost of about 377 million euros.

Over 300 participants from 37 countries attended the biennial key event of the Small Hydropower sector, Hidroenergia 2010, on 16-19 June in Lausanne, Switzerland. The debate of the Conference focused on technological innovations and the challenges & trends of Small Hydropower development in Europe and world-wide with the following conclusions:

- There's a considerable potential left for new Small Hydropower development together with refurbishment and modernization in Europe and world-wide.
- Multipurpose plants (combining energy production with drinking water, waste water treatment and irrigation) together with refurbishment of abandoned sites open up new markets and possibilities for Small Hydropower.
- New technologies, automation and innovations are continuously evolving and needed for the development of the sector – however, as a site-specific technology financing for further research is essential to further improve environmental performance.
- Legal framework and sufficient financial support schemes are necessary for successful SHP development.
- Complicated administrative and licensing procedures are still key barriers for SHP development.
- The sector is concerned by the non-coordination of the implementation of the two main EU Directives impacting the sector, the Water Framework Directive and the RES Directive

aiming at promoting the use of Renewables in the Member States. ESHA calls for further cooperation and coordination to tackle this problem at national level.

- Small Hydropower can significantly help in boosting local economy and employment – local authorities need to be better informed of the benefits and technological advances of the sector.

HIDROENERGIA conferences are the biggest and most important event for the small hydropower sector in Europe. Leading experts meet to convey knowledge and best practice experiences to investors and professionals from different areas.

HIDROENERGIA 2010 Conference was co-organised by ESHA, the European Small Hydropower Association, together with MHyLab.

ESHA, the European Small Hydropower Association, is an umbrella organization for the promotion of small hydropower in Europe. ESHA is a founding member of EREC (European Renewable Energy Council) and a member of EUFORES (European Forum for Renewable Energy Sources).

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MHyLab is a skill center developing turbines fitted to small hydropower, supplying hydraulic design and specialized engineering services. It is a non-profit foundation, independent of any manufacturers or company, established in Montcherand, Switzerland, www.mhylab.ch

MHyLab

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