

newsletter #03'2015



International Symposium: Electricity Markets with a High Share of Renewables

On May 29, 2015, the International Symposium on Electricity Markets with a High Share of Renewables took place at the ZHAW School of Management and Law. 100 experts from various countries and stakeholders from a range of different backgrounds gathered to discuss this issue, kicking off the day with keynote speeches that outlined the situation in five key countries. One of them, Dr. Pablo Rodilla (Comillas Pontifical University, Madrid) outlined the changes made to renewable energy support policy in Spain between 1998 and 2011 - a phase he calls the "sunny days" before a transition to "the shadows" starting in 2012.

All speakers highlighted an increasing role of flexibility (both on the supply and the demand side) and

noted that changes need to be made to the technical infrastructure, market design and policy frameworks in order to cope with the integration of an ever larger share of renewables. These key issues with regards to market design, renewable energy policy and network infrastructure were further explored in three expert workshops.

Two panels then discussed current and future challenges for the Swiss electricity industry. Stakeholders from industry, policy making, the network operator, consultancy, and research presented and discussed their views. The day closed with three further workshops on research methods suitable to further investigate these issues. (J. Cludius, ZHAW)

For further information, please contact Johanna Cludius (johanna.cludius@zhaw.ch) and visit <https://update.sml.zhaw.ch/electricity-markets-high-share-renewables/>.

2nd SCCER CREST Conference on the Implementation of the Energy Transition: The Impact of Economic, Environmental and Political Action

*Tuesday, September 8, 2015 -
University of St. Gallen*

The 2nd CREST Conference provided an interdisciplinary platform where researchers presented their insights from CREST research to a wider audience of almost 200 participants. 15 presentations and 22 posters revealed results with covering the action areas of economy, environment, law and behavior.

Using economic modelling, new approaches for promoting energy efficiency and supporting renewables were investigated, as well as the macroeconomic effects of energy policy. With regard to the legal as-



© ZHAW, Dr. Pablo Rodilla (Comillas Pontifical University, Madrid)

Agenda 2015/2016- Upcoming Events - Save the date

CREST Retreat 2016

January 28 - 29, 2016 - Ascona

Program details will be distributed in due time.

If you have any questions, please contact:
management-crest@unibas.ch

SAEE/CREST Conference 2016

February 26, 2016 - EPFL, Lausanne

For more information, click on the following link:
<http://energycenter.epfl.ch/saee-sccer-crest2016-en>

newsletter #03'2015

pects of energy policy, regulatory frameworks were analyzed in order to make recommendations for reducing friction and improving the efficacy and efficiency of law.

In order to deepen the understanding of the current energy consumption patterns, the effectiveness of mechanisms implemented by governments and energy companies on consumers' energy-related behavior were assessed, as well as relevant social and economic factors that impact individual energy use today, including people's risk attitudes and social norms.

Further, governance and corporate processes were analyzed by means of conceptual inquiry and qualitative case studies. In addition, it was illustrated how entrepreneurial initiatives and the strategies of both start-up and incumbent firms effect innovation at the technological and business model levels. Herewith, the focus is laid on identifying the drivers of the adoption of new technologies and on the ways in which different actor-groups are linked to specific technological solutions in a defined regional context.

Last but not least, a session was dedicated to distinguished infra-structure projects on Data Centers on Energy Law and Policy, on a Swiss Household Energy Demand Survey, and on the Simulation Lab, illustrating the current status and future developments.

The conference concluded with a panel discussion that offered to the audience a critical reflection on the impact of CREST research and its relevance to industry, policy-makers, researchers as well as the society at large. (K.Frauentorfer, HSG)



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It's the complexity, stupid! - **Young researchers discuss how to transform the energy system**

13 researchers discussed their work at oikos Young Scholars Energy Academy 2015 in Tel Aviv, Israel, representing a wide range of disciplines, approaches, experiences and methodologies. Political scientists, economists, and development specialists presented their work on renewable energy and energy systems regarding technical, economic, social or political innovations.

The Academy was led by Prof. Wüstenhagen, University of St.Gallen, Prof. Sened/Dr. Blass, Tel Aviv University, and Miranda Schreurs, Freie Universität Berlin. Participants created a wide understanding of complexities in transforming the energy system, learning that analyzing energy transitions means dealing with risks and returns of renewables, as well as social and political factors like public opinion, administrative capacity or conflicts.

Discussions revealed that both quantitative and qualitative approaches are necessary. Also Israel's unique energy setting was focused on, with its potential for producing electricity from solar panels and also

its change towards an energy mix based on recent discoveries of large natural gas reserves. (R. Wüstenhagen, HSG)



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EMPOWERING the Future – **Contours of Tomorrow's Energy System**

The 6th St.Gallen Forum for Management of Renewable Energies (21/22 May, 2015) connected 190 professionals from the energy sector and related industries. International experts like Prof. Andrew J. Hoffman (University of Michigan), Dr. James Watson (CEO European Photovoltaic Industry Association) and Joachim Masur (CEO Zurich Switzerland) provided participants with the latest trends in the energy markets. The presentation of the 5th Consumer Barometer of Renewable Energy by Dr. Anna Ebers (University of St.Gallen, in cooperation with Raiffeisen) involved cutting-edge insights into energy preferences of Swiss customers. In addition, several interactive workshops were dedicated to current "hot topics" like the relevance of negative interest rates for renewable energy investments, smart grid business models, the potentials and barriers of building-integrated photovoltaic, and change management in the energy industry.

newsletter #03'2015

Besides, the St.Gallen Forum once again provided intensive networking opportunities to connect the key stakeholders of the energy system in an informal and personal atmosphere. (www.hsg-energieforum.ch). (R. Wüstenhagen, HSG)



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A level playing field between public and private enterprises: Analysis of competitive conditions and implications for the regulatory framework. Based on the example of the Swiss electricity market

Legal doctrine and jurisprudence largely agree that economic activity of the state in competition with private entities is, in principle, constitutionally permissible, provided it has a statutory basis; furthermore, the economic activity of the state must be in the public interest, comply with the principle of proportionality and not create undue distortions of competition. Notably, these constitutional requirements leave considerable leeway for interpretation. If the state engages in competition with private entities, it may be at an advantage, both in a legal and a factual sense, without this advantage being necessarily unconstitutional. In the light of such state economic activity, which may at least potentially distort competition, the question arises whether

the above-mentioned constitutional barriers are sufficient to guarantee fair competition between the state and private entities. This question is examined using the example of the electricity market and the regulatory instruments provided by the Electricity Supply Act. (R. Wiederkehr/J. Lehne, ZHAW)



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CREST Simulation Lab

The newly created CREST Simulation Lab Webpage is now online. See: <http://simlab.sccer-crest.ch/>.



It is a virtual platform for sharing knowledge about simulation models for socio-economic energy research in Switzerland.

The main activities of the Simulation Lab are:

- (1) Obtaining, developing and maintaining quantitative models & data for socio-economic energy research;
- (2) providing a shared resource and virtual knowledge platform; and
- (3) improving individual simulation models and establishing interfaces to other models.

The Simulation lab is hosted by the Center of Economic Research (CER) at ETH Zurich.

For any further question or information, please contact: Dr. Adriana Marcucci (CER, ETHZ) or Dr. Florian Landis (CER, ETHZ), simlab@ethz.ch.

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Questions / News / Suggestions?

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