

Energy funding programme
Swiss Competence Centers for Energy Research

Success story

**Energy research
that thinks
outside
the box**



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra
Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of Economic Affairs,
Education and Research EAER
Commission for Technology and Innovation CTI
Innovation Promotion Agency

The Competence Centre for Research in Energy, Society and Transition CREST is the only non-technical energy competence centre, and meets a huge need in its research into political, social, economic and legal issues in the field of energy.

In its Dispatch on the Promotion of Education, Research and Innovation, in 2012 the Federal Council decided also to promote non-technical research in order to achieve the energy revolution. The CTI therefore launched a bid for a non-technical centre of expertise, in addition to the technical Swiss Competence Centres for Energy Research (SCCERs). The University of Basel, the ETH Zurich and the Zurich University of Applied Sciences ZHAW invited non-technical energy researchers to a preparatory workshop to come up with a concept. The result was the CREST SCCER, at which a total of eight higher education institutions and 18 implementation partners are involved.

CREST operates in three areas:

- Research at the meso-level looks at businesses and regions. What new business models lend themselves to the changed environment generated by the energy revolution? Under what circumstances can regions benefit from their development? What makes renewable energies socially acceptable?

- Research at the micro-level addresses household energy consumption. What factors influence this? What makes people decide to buy an efficient appliance?
- Research at the macro-level asks: How can renewable energies and energy efficiency be effectively promoted? Which measures have an impact, and which do not? What can we learn from other countries?

“We have managed to bring together a wide range of experts,” says Frank Krysiak, head of the CREST SCCER and professor of environmental economics and research director at the Faculty of Business and Economics at the University



Simulation of energy scenarios.



Energy funding programme

Swiss Competence Centers for Energy Research



Frank C. Krysiak (Head SCCER CREST) and Andrea Ottolini-Voellmy (Managing Director SCCER CREST).

of Basel. “Researchers in psychology looking at individual decision-making, economists observing the markets and policies, social scientists investigating social structures and impulses, and lawyers dealing in what form energy law and participation procedures should take – they all now have a common framework and can work together on projects.”

“We have managed to bring together a wide range of experts.”

Frank Krysiak, Head of CREST SCCER

The cantons, communes and private sector are very interested in the SCCER’s work. “We have received more funding from them than expected,” says Krysiak. At CREST, for example, work is being done on evaluating energy policy. Simulation models are being developed which use scenarios to calculate what the probable impact of energy policies will be. CREST also tests new approaches directly in the communes.

Pricing decisions

The SCCER may work with its partners on general issues or on more concrete projects. “For example, we have industry partners working with lawyers on building up a database of national and cantonal energy laws, which are then available for commercial use in processed form,” Krysiak explains. Energy companies come to CREST to find out, for example, about the potential impact of pricing decisions.

CREST cooperates with all seven technical SCCERs in a broad range of ways, for example in workshops or joint projects.

Contacts

SCCER CREST

University of Basel (Leading House)

Peter Merian-Weg 6
CH-4002 Basel

Head: Prof. Frank C. Krysiak
+41 (0)61 267 33 60
frank.krysiak@unibas.ch

Managing Director: Andrea Ottolini-Voellmy
+41 (0)61 267 33 26
andrea.ottolini@unibas.ch

Science partners:

Zurich University of Applied Sciences ZHAW (Co-Leading House), University of St. Gallen, ETH Zurich, University of Geneva, University of Neuchâtel, University of Lucerne, Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne EPFL

Commission for Technology and Innovation CTI Innovation Promotion Agency

Dr Karin Ammon
+41 (0)58 464 04 96
sccer@kti.admin.ch



**CTI – Start-up and Entrepreneurship,
R&D Funding, KTT Support**

The CTI is the Confederation’s innovation promotion agency. It provides consultancy and networking services and financial resources to help turn scientific research into economic results. Making the Swiss economy strong.

Commission for Technology and Innovation CTI
Innovation Promotion Agency
Einsteinstrasse 2
CH-3003 Bern

www.kti.admin.ch