



Heliosthana 2020 – Game

Practicing the Energy Revolution in a Mediterranean Country

Barcelona, 27 June 2011

Report

Can a growing economy country meet its rising energy demand and at the same time reduce its energy intensity and emit less CO₂? ‘Yes, it can!’, That was the conclusion at a special event that took place on 27 June 2011 in Barcelona. 22 participants from different countries of the Mediterranean region played out an energy revolution in a fictional island state called Heliosthana.

The scenario:

The government of Heliosthana has decided to put its country on a path towards more sustainable energy production and use. It has called all interested stakeholders to convene in the ‘Heliosthana 2020 Forum’ in order to develop an Action Plan together. The aim is to increase energy security and independence of Heliosthana while reducing waste of energy and emissions.

The simulation game:

Every participant received the role of a stakeholder. For instance, the powerful producers of conventional energy, the ‘Friends of Helios’, an environmental NGO, the government or the ‘Energy Forum Heliosthana’ were all represented. In three thematic negotiation groups, they discussed different options to reach concrete objectives. The guiding questions were: What are the advantages and disadvantages of each option? Which stakeholders can agree, which cannot agree and why? Can we find ways of bringing all or many stakeholders on board? What do compromises look like?

The outcome:

The participants managed to draft a comprehensive action plan as a road map for the energy revolution in fictional Heliosthana. This action plan can serve as a collection of ideas for an energy turnaround in the participants’ own, real countries. During the negotiations, the participants got to know not only different policy options but, crucially, the attitudes of important stakeholders towards these options. They learned to negotiate around resistance and instead find mutually acceptable solutions. Last but not least, they were able to establish links to other like-minded NGOs in the region.

The context:

The simulation game took place in the context of an NGO workshop on environment and the Mediterranean co-organised by WWF and the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean on 28 and 29 June 2011 in Barcelona (<https://sites.google.com/a/wwf.panda.org/ngo-ufm-workshop-barcelona/>).

The next steps:

The Heliosthana simulation game in Barcelona was the first of its kind. If you are interested in organising a similar activity, please contact Patricia Jimenez at the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung European Union Office in Brussels, email: Jimenez@boell.eu

Organised by Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung

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Links:

- Invitation: Heliosthana 2020 Simulation Game in Barcelona on 27 June 2011
- Heliosthana: The Scenario
- Simulation Game : The Heliosthana 2020 Action Plan
- Photos: The Heliosthana 2020 Forum
- Publication: Heliosthana – A Mediterranean Sustainable Energy Country



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