



Project Fact Sheet

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A European Tracking System for Electricity – Phase II (E-TRACK II)

Programme area:	ALTENER “RES-Electricity”; and SAVE “Innovative approaches in industry”
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Website:	http://www.e-track-project.org
Benefits:	Improved market transparency about the origin of electricity (disclosure), reduced multiple counting of renewable energy, reduced transaction cost.
Keywords:	Electricity disclosure, Guarantees of Origin, market transparency
Duration:	10/2007 – 09/2009
Budget:	€ 1,160,512 (EU contribution: 50%)
Contract number:	EIE/07/102/SI2.467611

Summary

Phase I of the E TRACK project has investigated the feasibility of a harmonised standard for tracking of electricity generation attributes in Europe. Such tracking is mostly used for electricity disclosure (also called labelling) towards final consumers, but it can also be used for certain support schemes, e.g. for renewable energy. Phase II of the project has continued the process of coordinating the tracking systems across Europe with the objective of reducing the level of double counting and wrong information given to consumers.

The different reports from the project provide an overview and in-depth information about the current national implementations of the Guarantees of Origin for electricity from renewable energy sources and from high-efficient cogeneration as well as the tracking systems used for electricity disclosure. The main finding is that many countries are clearly behind their obligations under European Directives, whereas others are committed to implement higher reliability standards than required. The project also analysed the specific framework conditions for tracking of electricity in the EU12 countries and found that in part of these countries, competition in the electricity sector is still very low and thus tracking hardly has a benefit yet. However, this will probably change once markets will be opened up for competition and the national economies are doing better. The project also assessed the requirements from consumers on tracking and related policies and found that there is a clear demand from consumer organisations that green energy products should deliver environmental additionality. Commercial consumers are becoming more and more interested in the carbon footprint of their electricity consumption.

Based on a vision for the long-term development of energy-related certification schemes, the project has developed a clear set of policy recommendations for the European and national levels. These are condensed in a revision of the “E-TRACK standard”, whose first release was in 2007.

Achieved results

- *A comprehensive inventory of the tracking systems and the implementation of Guarantees of Origin and electricity disclosure in 29 European countries.*
- *In-depth analyses of the status of market conditions and tracking requirements in the twelve New Member States and of the specific challenges in implementing Guarantees of Origin for electricity from cogeneration.*
- *A report outlining the preferences of domestic consumer organisations and of non-domestic consumers regarding tracking of electricity, electricity disclosure and green power markets.*
- *Recommendations for improvements of the tracking systems used in the 29 European countries which are based on intensive stakeholder interaction in consultation workshops.*
- *An overall strategy for the longer-term development and potential integration of energy-related certification schemes in Europe.*
- *A comprehensive set of policy recommendations for the future coordination of electricity tracking systems in Europe, aiming at implementation on national and European levels.*