

## **Financing of the Energy Transition and Property Rights – ‘SCORE’ “Supporting Consumer co-Ownership in Renewable Energy”**

- Energy Transition: The transition from fossil to renewable energy sources;
- Facilitating consumers to become co-owners of renewables
- Addressing the problem of “energy poverty”
- Behavioural changes through co-ownership and the problem of rebound effects

Compact course / Blockseminar:

5/6/9 ECTS / MES modules: ZB Wirtschaft, ZB Politik, ZB Recht, WPM 1, WPM 6 // IBA modules: S-Module (old SPO also E-Module); Faculty of Law: Master of German and Polish Law (Module 3); SPB 5 (European Law) (without ECTS)

*Dates / Termine:*

Introduction Wednesday 12 October, 14h-15h, HG 104;

1<sup>st</sup> part Fri./Sat. 28 & 29 October, 10-13h & 14-17h, Room PG 271;

2<sup>nd</sup> part Fri./Sat. 11 & 12 November, 10-13h & 14-17h, Room PG 271.

3<sup>rd</sup> part (Presentation of results) Sat. 10 December 10-13h & 14-17h, Room PG 271.

This course is a continuation of the seminar from the previous semester; an introductory session at the beginning of the semester will give an overview to the topic. The course is held in English language.

## **Reorganisation of energy production – The transition from fossil to renewable energy sources**

The reorganisation of energy production, esp. the transition from fossil to renewable energy sources (“Energy Transition”) is currently acknowledged as a permanent and evolving process. Recognized as one of the main problems in this transition is enabling finance mechanisms that would cover these renewable energy projects in an uncertain and oligopolistic market. This raises the question of whether citizen’s co-ownership in RES that emerged over the past 25 years in some countries is a transitory phenomenon or a condition for the “Energy Transition” and if the latter is the case, how to further develop financial participation mechanisms in the RES sector.

## **The European Commission: Policy shift toward an inclusion of the so-called “Prosumer”**

In a recent staff paper and a HORIZON call the **European Commission** postulates that „Consumers should be considered at the heart of the energy system and become active market players“. In this context the following challenges are put forward:

- The future private consumer should be more aware, active, energy sufficient, as well as being a prosumer producing energy for their own consumption, where this is possible.
- Energy efficiency, energy savings and increased use of locally produced, including own produced, renewable energy are key tools in addressing fuel poverty.
- In this context, engagement actions are needed across Europe in order to achieve behavioural change towards more sustainable choices and decisions for energy.
- Although awareness on the benefits of collective consumer action in the field of EE and RES has increased in past years, such action is still hampered by a number of barriers, including financial and regulatory barriers and inconsistencies in grid integration practice.

The seminar analyses and develops further a proposal responding to the HORIZON call “*EE-06-2016-2017: Engaging private consumers towards sustainable energy*” how to facilitate consumers to become co-owners of renewable energy sources (RES).

## Literature

Commission staff working document „Best practices on Renewable Energy Self-consumption“ Accompanying the Commission Communication „Delivering a New Deal for Energy Consumers“ {COM(2015) 339 final}

Horizon Call EE-06-2016-2017: Engaging private consumers towards sustainable energy.

RAP (2014): „Power Market Operations and System Reliability: A contribution to the market design debate in the Pentalateral Energy Forum“. Study on behalf of Agora Energiewende.

Lowitzsch, J. (2015) “Property rights and the financing of renewable energy technologies – How Consumer Stock Ownership Plans contribute to the Energy Transition”, WINIR Working paper

Lowitzsch, J. / Goebel, K. (2013) „Vom Verbraucher zum Energieproduzenten. Finanzierung dezentraler Energieproduktion unter Beteiligung von Bürgern als Konsumenten mittels Consumer Stock Ownership Plans (CSOPs)“, ZNER 3/2013

**Registration until 17 October 2016** at [kelso-professorship@europa-uni.de](mailto:kelso-professorship@europa-uni.de).

**Performance test and credits:** ECTS: 6/9. Regular attendance; term paper; oral presentation; first draft of the term paper by 5 December 2016, finalized term paper by the end of the semester.