

## RENet: Renewable Energies Education Network

The objective is to improve graduate and postgraduate academic capacity of partner universities in energy access and efficiency and to create new academic and technological tools that respond to society and the labour market. The project will aim to foster south-south networks of co-operation in the Renewable Energy area by creating academic and institutional links among project partners, associates and entities from other countries. The main activities foreseen are to design and implement a new postgraduate degree in energy that bridges the gap between Haiti and its regional context and to strengthen the pre-existing academic degrees of Cuban and Haitian partner universities through the improvement of content and curricula.

**Contract**  
FED/2013/320-289

**Co-ordinator**  
Universidad Carlos III  
de Madrid

**Partners**  
Université d'Etat Haïti  
Universidad de Oriente  
Instituto Superior Minero  
Metalúrgico de Moa

**Project duration**  
42 months

**EU grant**  
EUR 499,714.04

**ACP regions and  
countries involved**  
Cuba  
Haiti

**Technical  
Assistance Unit**

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### Challenge

The lack of access to energy, especially in rural areas, and the dependency on imported resources, are distinctive elements in the Cuban and Haitian energy outlook. Although the energy access in Cuba has reached values higher than 95% of the population, the level of rural electrification falls to 81%. In Haiti, the electricity coverage is the lowest in the Latin American-Caribbean region: about 6 million people do not have access to the electricity grid. Moreover, after the earthquake of January 2010, the lack of energy access has emerged as a critical bottleneck in Haiti.

The availability of energy sources for electricity should be accompanied by technologies that make possible a sustainable development. Renewable energies contribute to eradicate the dependency on imported resources in Cuba and Haiti, as well as to the reduction of greenhouse gases emissions.

### Focus

The REnet project will contribute to strengthen Higher Education of quality in the area of energy access and efficiency, with special focus on Renewable Energies (RE), by enhancing the partners academic capacities and by fostering south-south academic and institutional networking, as the access to affordable and reliable energy services is a critical element to reduce poverty and improve health, increase productivity and promote economic growth.

### Rationale

The energy context in Cuba and Haiti requires a planned action to avoid the vulnerability of the population as a consequence of, among others, the lack of energy access.

Increasing the percentage of energy access is correlated to acquiring knowledge in RE. Therefore the lack of specific programs and courses in RE in tertiary education is significant. From the point of view of society, RE knowledge can contribute to the diminution of the unemployment rate and give support to this labour-intensive sector. Furthermore, an adequate grant policy could increase the access to university studies for rural population and to the reduction of rural poverty.

### Method

RENet is focused on increasing the access to energy and reducing the foreign dependency on fuels through RE development. To achieve this goal, the REnet project will work to strengthen academic capacities of Cuban and Haitian Universities. The project will identify weak points and training needs to enhance tertiary education in the partner universities, subsequently a training of trainers programme will be implemented and research in the



Portable photovoltaic system for teaching purposes.



Implemented by the ACP Secretariat



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### Programme theme(s)

Energy access and efficiency

### Sector

Education policy and administrative management  
Education facilities and training  
Teacher training  
Educational research  
Higher education  
Advanced technical and managerial training  
Power generation/renewable sources  
Energy education/training  
Energy research

### Keywords

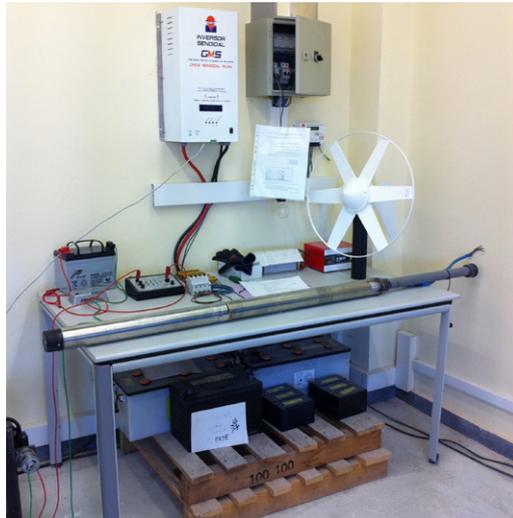
Renewable energies  
Education  
Training of trainers  
South-south cooperation network

### Contact the project

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### Project website

[www.renetedulink.net](http://www.renetedulink.net)



Hybrid renewable energy system in the laboratory facility.



Experimental bicycle system for charging batteries.

field of RE will be reinforced. This process will focus on sharing knowledge in a participative process that will promote the ownership of the adopted solutions.

A transversal and co-operative element of the project will focus on the creation of south-south networks and the establishment of a triangular co-operation. Regional energy networks will be also fostered by strengthening the previous academic south-south exchange programs and by extending this cooperation to the research/teaching area. Several workshops will take place in order to create academic and institutional links between the associates (APRE-Eucarinet, Cuba Solar, ESF) and the project partners. The Associate members have the mission of linking society and universities and providing their expertise and knowledge on RE, development cooperation, network fostering and labour market. Their participation will improve effectiveness and visibility and create greater impact of the RENet action.

RENet also tries to tackle some social cross-cutting issues. On the one hand, the fall of the unemployment rate, by providing training in a highly demanded work sector. On the other hand, the inclusion of coordination and dissemination activities will promote RENet programs, including campaigns designed for the government and universities that seek to improve the status and social perception of the professions related to RE area

### Results

The academic capacities of Haitian and Cuban universities will be reinforced by the design of a new postgraduate degree in Energy that bridges the gap between Haiti and its regional context, together with the strengthening of the pre-existing academic degrees in Cuban partner universities through the improvement of contents and curricula. To get this, a training of trainers programme will be designed and imparted in the RENet framework, which will increase the capacity of teaching in RE and energy efficiency. On the other hand, professional training courses will be implemented to improve the access to the labour market and tackle the problems of access and inefficient use of energy.

The research capacities of the partner universities will be strengthened through the design and equipping of a RE Laboratories in each partner university. The improvement in education access will be addressed by the creation of an on-line platform for UEH, which will include open access courses that will be available to the Caribbean population.