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Abstract

The role of SMEs and user-involvement in enhancing innovation in the renewable energies sector

The analysis focuses on the effective and efficient modes of user-involvement, interactive value creation and SMEs collaboration related to Living Labs in order to increase the utilization of renewable energy technologies. Living Labs, by involving end-users even at early stages of the development process of new technologies are a breakthrough opportunity to promote the usage of renewable energy. The analysis has the goals to map possible and pilot LL activities in Austria realizing user-involvement and interactive value production in the domain of renewable energy; identify effective and efficient methods of user-involvement and interactive value production, and its effects on the society and barriers to overcome. Additionally the research aims to identify methods of integrating user-feedbacks, and channelize outside knowledge into the innovation process, identify barriers and related possibilities to overcome in order to make feedback integration process more effective.