

SUMMER SCHOOL

Renewable Energy Systems: role and use of Parliamentary Technology Assessment.

25-26-27-28 June 2012 in Liège, Belgium (Château de Colonster, University of Liège)

The European project «PACITA» (*Parliaments and Civil Society in Technology Assessment*, FP7, Science in Society) is happy to announce the **first European summer school on Parliamentary Technology Assessment** addressed at its users and potential users. The three and half days of lectures and combined workshops by professional TA experts from all over Europe will focus on the theme of renewable energy systems and the role PTA can play in such a highly relevant social, political, economic and environmental topic.

PTA and Renewable energy systems

Parliamentary Technology Assessment (PTA) supports the processes of democratic policy-making on issues involving science, technology and innovation, by **providing comprehensive insight** into knowledge on opportunities and consequences, by **facilitating democratic processes** of debate and clarification, and by formulating policy options. TA can provide some meaningful insight and increase the learning process for different groups involved in the energy domain. It aims at proposing **original and innovative research designs and tools** that not only inform decision-makers in a timely, objective and relevant manner but also foster **public debate** and interactions. TA provides its users with a large array of interdisciplinary methods to address science and technology in society issues but also to engage with experts, stakeholders, policy-makers and the general public.

Target groups

There is a whole body of societal actors likely to engage with or be affected by TA practices or outcomes. Target groups include policy-makers, academics in relevant fields, PhD students, research fund secretaries, R&D professionals, science policy officers, civil society organizations involved in policymaking, leading members of relevant NGOs, industrialists, social partners, customer organizations and science writers or journalists. Each of them will find out its own interest in the TA process and its products. The summer school definitely wants to build on this diversity of TA users' expertise and professional backgrounds.

Rationale and content of the Summer School

The summer school wants to provide theoretical and practical insights on the role and the uses of TA. With a focus on TA users, there will be distributing knowledge and creating awareness activities on TA's potential, mandate, methodologies and institutionalization, especially for participants from countries with no formalized PTA bodies.

Lectures will comprise: Basic insight into the field of TA and renewable energies; problem definition and research design in TA; The method toolbox for Technology Assessment; Communication strategy and the strive for impact; The role of user in PTA.

During **workshops** in smaller groups participants will have an active role. Facilitated by professionals in the domain, they will be encouraged to rely on their own disciplinary expertise and professional experience.

Furthermore the summer school understands itself as a **meeting and exchange place** for participants. A number of **social activities** will be organized in the atmosphere of the prestigious Castle of Colonster (which history goes back to the IX century).

Enquiries and registration

There are **no registration costs** and the PACITA organizers cover catering costs for all participants. A limited number of **scholarships** will be available for some participants based on a motivation letter. The other participants will cover their own expenses for travel and accommodation. All participants will receive materials in advance, including a reference book and a CD-ROM with an introduction to the topic of the summer school and a portfolio with TA handbooks and previous projects. They will also get a **formal certificate of attendance** to the summer school.

If you are interested, you can send your CV and your motivation letter (stating your professional background and motivation to take part) to benedikt.rosskamp@ulg.ac.be before the 15th of May 2012.

Notification of acceptance and attribution of scholarships will be communicated 24th of May 2012.

For more information, please visit the website: <http://www.pacitaproject.eu> or contact the research centre SPIRAL (Université de Liège) by writing to benedikt.rosskamp@ulg.ac.be