

TRAINING PLANS FOR GREEN GROWTH AND JOBS

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As a result of the energy policy promoting renewable energy, a dynamic and continuously developing business sector has sprung up in Spain. Over the last ten years, the number of companies operating in the renewable energy sector has grown from 500 to 1500, working mainly in the areas of solar and wind power. Of these companies more than 80% are SMEs. According to the predictions of the Renewable Energy Plan currently in effect, the 180,000 jobs that existed in Spain in the year 2005 will be augmented by the addition of approximately 100,000 new jobs by 2012. The renewable energy sector usually requires a specialized labour force, especially for work in R&D and industrial innovation. Therefore the sector's development may be influenced by the training system's ability to offer the labour market enough professionals with the profiles that the companies require.. A job in the Renewable Energy industry consists of an employee working in one of the sector that is growing at present in spite of the international crisis. As well as eco-efficiency technologies are offering new jobs, such as an energy service company (ESCO) or the recycling, reuse, and remanufacturing sector are increasing their volume. The article describes the relationship between specific training on renewable energy with respect to the growth of the sector and to the evolution of the professional abilities required. At the same time it offers an analysis of the direct effect that it may have on the development of the training skills in eco-efficiency and the related business structure, on the opening of new markets and on the progress in industrial eco-innovation, referring to Spain as an example. The working method used to achieve the results described is split into 4 stages: definition of indicators, documentation, analysis, field work and appraisal. The team that has made the analysis is interdisciplinary; the data used is original and the property of the group. It's still a developing and changing industry with new technologies being added almost daily. In Countries that have expanded markets and established incentive programs for renewables there will be more of a need for training programs. The analysis of the renewable energy market is extrapolable to the eco-efficiency sector only if there is a corresponding, sustainable workforce and the direct participation of Industries into the training plans is needed and it can be demonstrate its relation with the development and investments of the sector.