Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Swiss Confederation

Federal Department of the Environment,
Transport, Energy and Communications DETEC

Swiss Federal Office of Energy SFOE
Energy Economy Division
Energy Policy Section

SFOE, man, CH-3003 Bern

Any researcher interested in energy issues

Bern, 21.9.2009

Call for proposals
Energy policy fundamentals research program (EWG)

Dear Researcher,

We would like to invite you to submit socio-economic research proposals that start at the beginning of 2010, last for about 1-3 years and might involve doctoral students. The projects should address one of the following five questions:

- **Rebound Effect**: how important is this effect in Switzerland and how could we keep it small, when using energy policy instruments? (See previous work by de Haan, a summary in German is in Appendix B.)
- **Innovation/diffusion**: how do new technologies spread across Switzerland, both for firms and households? (Applications should *not* propose case studies.)
- **Technological succession**: how do structural changes in the economy and in energy supply occur? (Empirical or simulation modelling applied to energy issues in Switzerland.)
- **Dynamic energy policy**: are current energy policy instruments (and those that are in discussion) designed such that they lead to the best achievable outcome in a dynamic setting where agents are heterogeneous and/or uncertainty and/or asymmetric information exists? (Modelling with Swiss data.)
- **Substitution elasticities**: how large are substitution elasticities between capital, labour and energy in Swiss manufacturing sectors? (These estimates could later on be used in simulation/optimisation modeling.)

The deadline for submission (by e-mail or mail) is **November 22, 2009**. Working-groups including specialists from different fields are also welcome (one contact person should be indicated).The proposal should not be longer than **5 pages** and contain the following sections:

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- main idea;
- policy relevance:
- methodology;
- academic value added;
- working-group, project team;
- time plan and budget (please, use to the SFOE guidelines for standard salaries and the SNSF guidelines for doctoral students, research projects are without VAT and large overhead costs will not be accepted).

Projects involving PhD students and/or young researchers are encouraged. If you do have any question regarding the call, I would be happy to discuss your project ideas with you.

We will evaluate the projects (see criteria in Appendix A) with a group of experts and will communicate during December 2009 whether we accept/reject your proposal or whether we would like you to hand in a slightly longer and more comprehensive proposal (ca. 10 pages).

We are looking forward to your interesting proposals!

Yours sincerely,

Swiss Federal Office of Energy SFOE

N. Mathys

Dr. Nicole Mathys
Responsible of energy policy fundamentals research program, www.ewg-bfe.ch

Appendix A: Evaluation criteria:

Criteria	Weights
**** Experience of the research team*	*2*
Modeling and/or empirical knowledge	1
Economic knowledge	1
**** Understanding of the research question and quality of the proposal*	*3*
Academic quality of the method	2
Fulfilling of the call's prerequisites, close link to policy issues	1
**** Budget*	*1*
Cost-offer ratio	1
**** Organisation*	*2*
Knowledge creation (especially also for young researchers)	1
Organization, planning, coordination	1

Appendix B: Zusammenfassung (Ausschnitt aus EWG-Programmübersicht 2008.)

Die Bestrebungen für griffige und weitgehende Massnahmen zur Steigerung der Energieeffizienz nehmen stark zu. Effizienzmassnahmen bergen aber unter gewissen Bedingungen die Gefahr so genannter Reboundeffekte in sich: Wenn die Steigerung der Energieeffizienz an sich eine Mehrnachfrage induziert, wird dies als Rebound bezeichnet. Dies kann die errechneten Effizienzgewinne teilweise deutlich reduzieren. Dieser Gefahr wurde bisher wenig Aufmerksamkeit geschenkt. Weder der viel diskutierte Stern-Review-Report, die neuesten IPCC-Berichte noch der Aktionsplan Energieeffizienz des BFE berücksichtigen den Rebound-Effekt. Dies vor allem, weil Auftreten und Ausmass noch als nicht gesichert gelten. Das Forschungsprojekt versucht, potenzielle Politikmassnahmen unter Beachtung des Reboundeffekts auf ihre effektive Effizienz zu prüfen. Mit einem Haushaltmodell basierend auf der Schweizerischen Verbrauchserhebung wurde eine Bandbreite des Rebound-Effektes bei erhöhten Einkommen von 71 – 297 g CO-Equivalent pro Schweizer Franken errechnet.

P. de Haan, Energie-Effizienz und Reboundeffekte: Entstehung, Ausmass und Eindämmung.