

ECONOMY EFFICIENCY FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES IN GREECE

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ABSTRACT

Energy is one of the most valuable social goods. A very important of the social economy is the search and discovering of new energy sources, the most efficient management and saving of existent energy resources, as well as environment protection. In this paper the contribution of public funding energy projects for producing electricity from RES sectors, to investment efficiency, will be examined. The Renewable Energy Sources under investigation in this paper are: Wind Energy, Solar Energy and Hydro Energy. There will be established for the numerical indices for measuring and comparing financial efficiency of different energy investments (eg IRR – Internal rate of return and NPV – Net Present Value)

1. Introduction:

The Energy Economy Division is responsible for the development of a new organisation for the electricity markets. Its main focus is on public services and supply security, and on the creation of favourable conditions for increasing the renewable energy contribution as well as the provision of the necessary instruments.

Over the past years, the countries of the E.U. has continued its process of liberalising its energy industries. In Greece, directive 2001/77/EC *on the promotion of electricity produced from renewable energy sources in the internal electricity market* (OJ L283/27.10.2001) in its annex sets an indicative target for Greece to cover a part of its gross national electricity consumption by 2010 from renewable energy sources (RES) equal to 20,1 percent, with the contribution of large-scale hydroelectric plants included.

According to the most recent estimates, the gross consumption of electric power in 2010, amounts to 68 TWh.

Subsequently, production of electric power from RES in the order of 13,7 TWh (including large-scale hydro-electric plants) is the goal for 2010. Electricity consumption in 2005 is estimated to reach 57,8 TWh, with an installed capacity of

12.500 MW of PPC-operated plants and 1400 MW of auto-producers, conventional power and renewable energy sources generators.

The transmission lines in the interconnected system have a length that exceeds 12.000 km whereas the distribution lines exceed 200.000 km. The number of customers served in Greece is some 7 million [1].

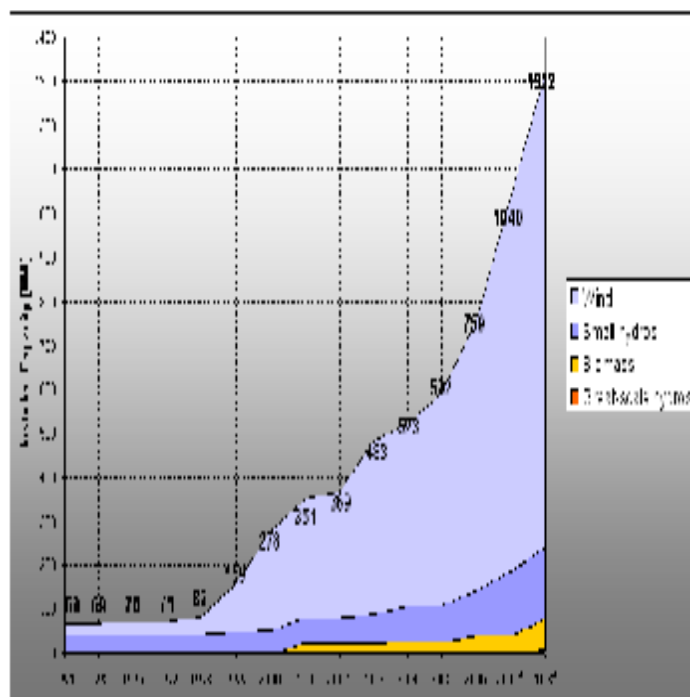


Fig. 1: Evolution of RES installed capacity

According to the above, the installed RES capacity required for 2010 in order for the target to be achieved, are presented in table 1:

	Requirements in installed capacity by 2010, in MW	Energy gene-rated in 2010 in Twh	Percentage share of every renewable energy source in 2010
Wind parks	3,372	7.09	10.42
Small-scale hydro	364	1.09	1.60
Large-scale hydro	3,325	4.58	6.74
Biomass	103	0.81	1.19
Geothermal	12	0.09	0.13
Photovoltaics	18	0.02	0.03
Total	7,193	13.67	20.10

Table1. RES installation requirements to meet the 2010 target [1].

2. General description of under investigation RES

The Renewable Energy Sources under investigation in this paper are: Wind Energy, Solar Energy and Hydro Energy. In general, for the cost calculation of the renewable energy sources, we have two main costs:

- the capital costs** (as the preparation, building, integration, support investment, insurance, project management),
- the running costs such as variable and fixed costs** (operation, maintenance, overheads).

Generally the shape of the cash flow profile is important, because of the effect that discounting has in devaluing future costs and income.

It's also necessary to measure the value of the renewable energy being produced and the value of an alternative source of energy.

ENERGY TYPE	SALES €/ KWh
WIND ENERGY	0,073
SOLAR ENERGY	0,45 (<100 Kw) or 0,4 (>100 kw)
HYDRO ENERGY	0,073

Table 2. Typical Values of R.E.S. in Greece.

Generation of electricity from:	Price of energy (Euro/MWh)	
	Interconnected System	Non-interconnected islands
Wind energy, hydraulic energy exploited in small-scale hydroelectric plants with an installed capacity up to 15 MW, Geothermal energy, biomass, gases released from sanitary landfills and biological treatment plants and biogases, miscellaneous RES, High-efficiency cogeneration of heat and electricity	75.82	87.42
Wind energy from sea wind farms	92.82	
Solar energy utilised in photovoltaic units with an installed capacity less than, or equal to 100 kW, and which will be installed in a lawfully owned or possessed property or in adjacent properties of the same owner or lawful possessor	452.82	502.82
Solar energy exploited in photovoltaic units with an installed capacity of over 100 kW	402.82	452.82
Solar energy exploited in units employing a technology other than that of photovoltaics with an installed capacity up to 5 MW	252.82	272.82
Solar energy exploited in units employing a technology other than that of photovoltaics with an installed capacity of over 5 MW	232.82	252.82

Table 2a: Renewable energy feed-in tariffs in the year 2007 [1]

In general for all the under investigation renewable energy sources in this paper, has high capital costs. On the other hand, the operating costs are low because there are no fuel costs, and operational repair and maintenance costs.

Financial results of the investment plan

Net present value (NPV) is a standard method for financial evaluation of long-term projects.

Used for capital budgeting, and widely throughout economics, it measures the excess or shortfall of cash flows, in present value (PV) terms, once financing charges are met. All projects with a positive NPV are profitable, however this does not necessarily mean that they should be undertaken since NPV does not account for opportunity cost.

Assuming a firm aims to maximise profit, projects should only be undertaken if their NPV is greater than the opportunity cost. To do this, the firm would simply recalculate the NPV equation, this time setting the NPV factor to zero, and solve for the now unknown discount rate. The rate that is produced by the solution is the project's internal rate of return (I.R.R.). The project's I.R.R. could, depending on the timing and proportions of cash flow distributions.

Thus, we can see that the usefulness of the IRR measurement lies in its ability to represent any investment opportunity's return and to compare it with other possible investments.

Both of these measurements are primarily used in capital budgeting, the process by which companies determine whether a new investment or expansion opportunity is worthwhile.

Given an investment opportunity, a firm needs to decide whether undertaking the investment will generate net economic profits or losses for the

COST OF INVESTMENT FINANCING	TH. EURO / MW nominal power
WIND ENERGY	1000
SOLAR ENERGY	6300
HYDRO ENERGY	1200

energy industry. To do this, the firm estimates the future cash flows of the project and discounts them into present value amounts using a discount rate that represents the project's cost of capital and its risk. Next, all of the investment's future positive cash flows are reduced into one present value number. Subtracting this number from the initial cash outlay required for the investment provides the net present value (NPV) of the investment. The following analysis does not take into consideration the current financial results, which are really positive regarding not only the increase of its sales but also of its profitability.

Because of this there will only be an analysis of the expected results that will arise from the materialisation of the suggested investment plan. It is outlined that this form of analysis regarding investment efficiency has minimised the risk because these results will help in the improvement of the efficiency of the suggested investment plan.

Possible scenarios are the existence of long-term borrowings with an interest rate of 5% and for a 15 year duration and in the 2nd year after the materialisation of the investment for the sales of the new investment plan (2,5% respectively for the next years until the end of the first 5 years and 1% the following years.

The following analysis takes into account the scenarios below, which show the viability of the suggested investment plan.

INVESTEMENT	WIND ENERGY	SOLAR ENERGY	HYDRO ENERGY	PERCENTAGE
TOTAL / MW	1.000,000	6.300,000	1.200,000	100%
EQUITY CAPITAL	250,000	1.575,000	300,000	25,00%
SUBSIDY FROM THE STATE	550,000	3.465,000	660,000	55,00%
BORROWING	200,000	1.260,000	240,000	20,00%

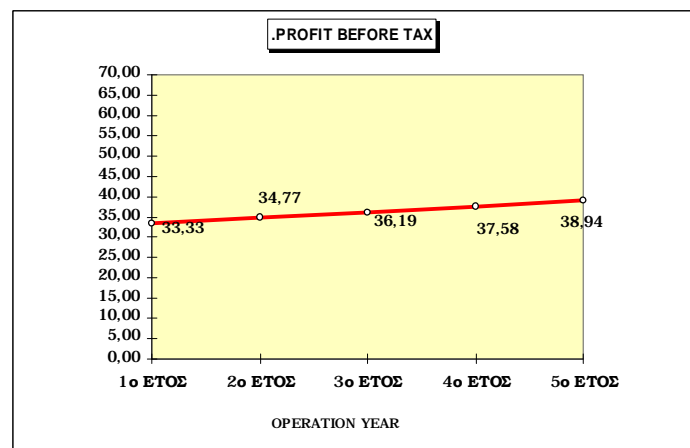
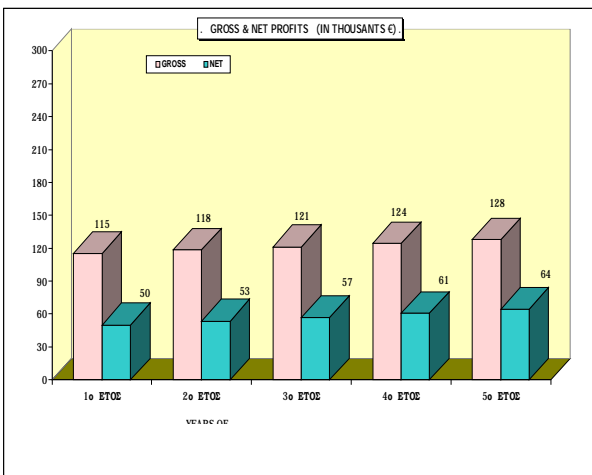
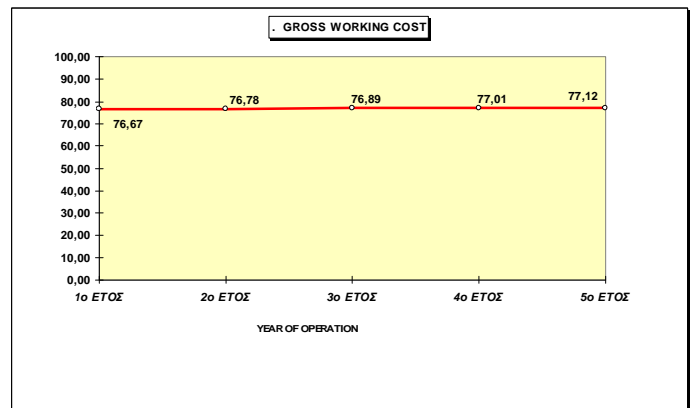
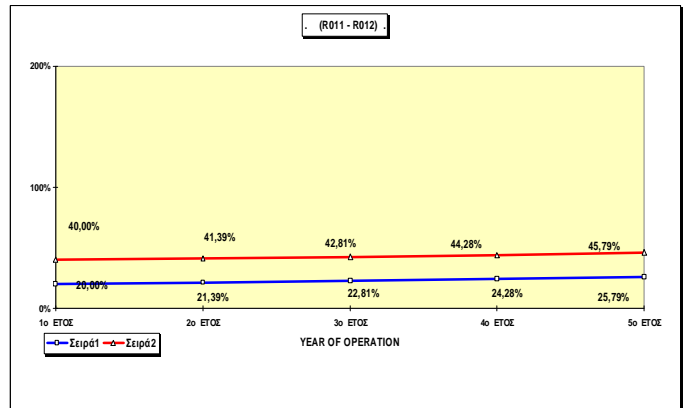
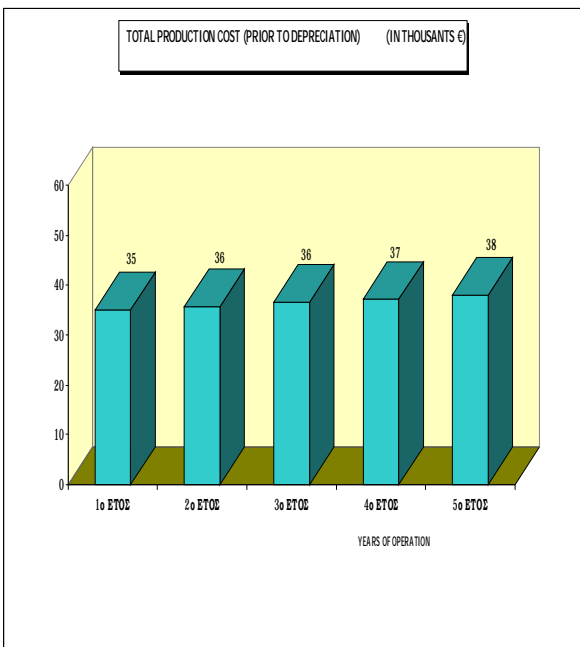
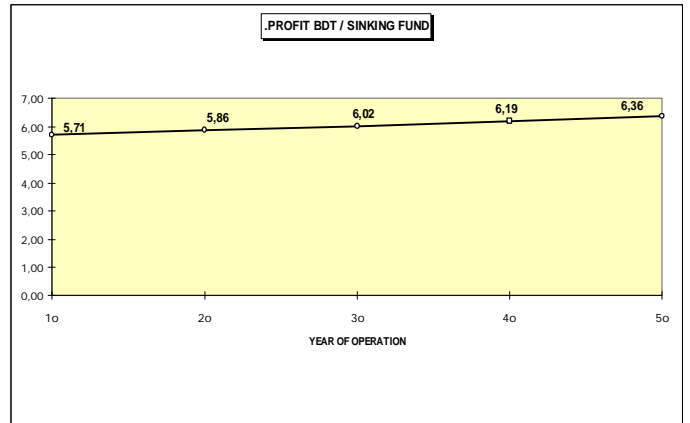
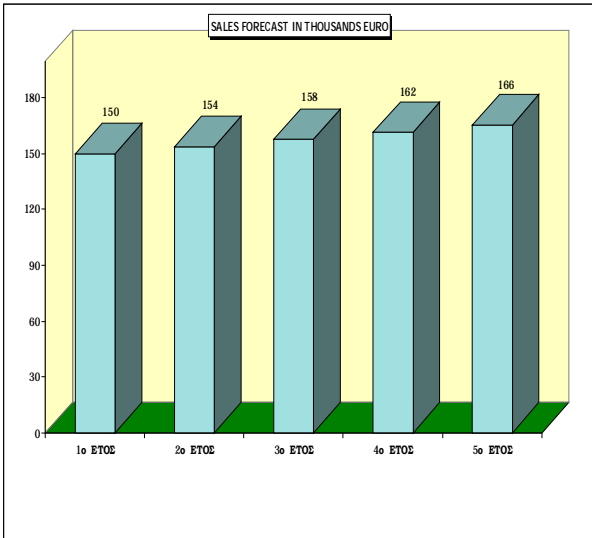
ANNEX OF RESULTS OF THE SUGGESTED INVESTMENT PLAN

(amount in thousands Euros)

A) BASIC ECONOMY OF A WIND ENERGY PLANT (1 MW)

FORECASTED PROFIT & LOSS ACCOUNT (IN THOUSANTS €)						
	PERIOD OF CONSTRUCTION DESIGN	1st YEAR	2nd YEAR	3rd YEAR	4th YEAR	5th YEAR
TOTAL SALES		50,000	60,750	67,500	61,500	166,670
% of Cost		25.00%	25.25%	25.10%	22.60%	25.40%
Minus: Cost of Goods sold		35,000	36,750	35,110	37,110	87,985
GROSS WORKING COST		15,000	12,050	14,130	14,500	127,687
Minus: Administration Expenses		5,000	5,050	5,100	5,150	5,200
# Operation & Disposal Expenses						
OPERATION OUTCOME (a)		10,000	13,650	18,260	19,250	100,460
Export Subsidies						
Credit Interest Rates						
Other Incomes						
TOTAL						
Minus: Exchange						
Other Expenses						
TOTAL						
PROFIT BEFORE INTEREST, TAX & DEPRECIATION						
RATES (a+b)		110	12	116	119	32
Minus:						
- Leasing						
- Long-term Interest Rates		10	10	9	9	8
PROFIT BEFORE DEPRECIATION & TAX		100	22	107	110	24
Depreciation (total)		50	50	50	50	50
PROFIT BEFORE TAX		50	53	57	61	64
GROSS PROFIT		76.7%	76.8%	76.9%	77.0%	77.1%
NET PROFIT		33.3%	34.8%	38.2%	37.6%	38.9%

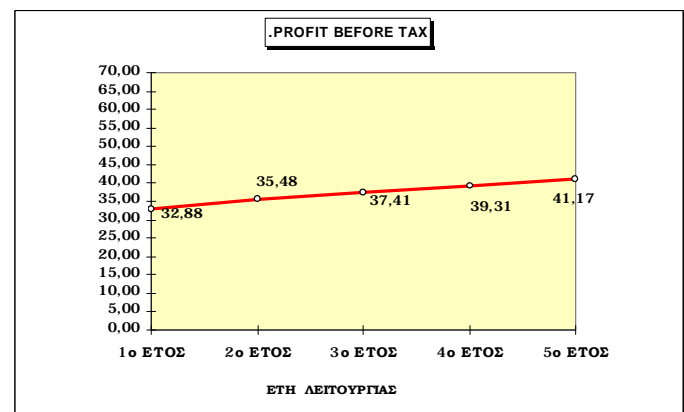
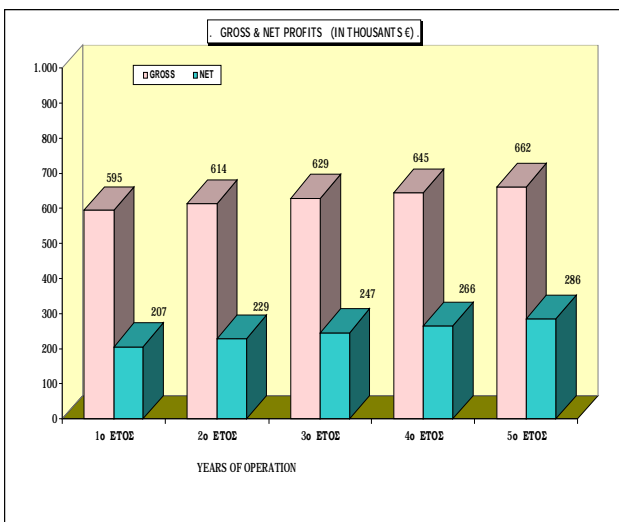
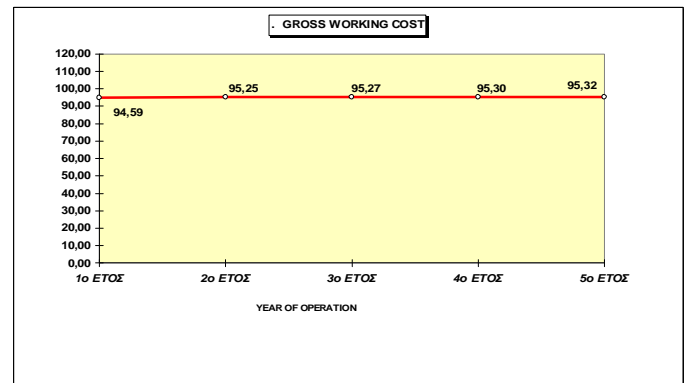
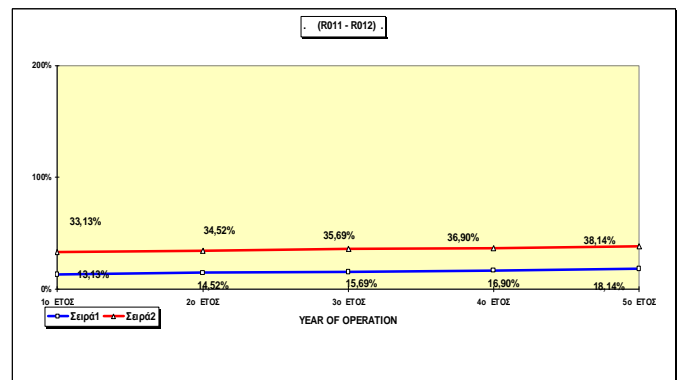
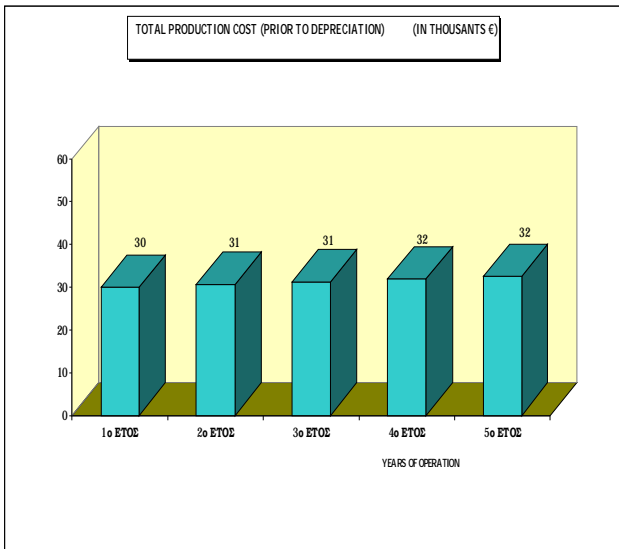
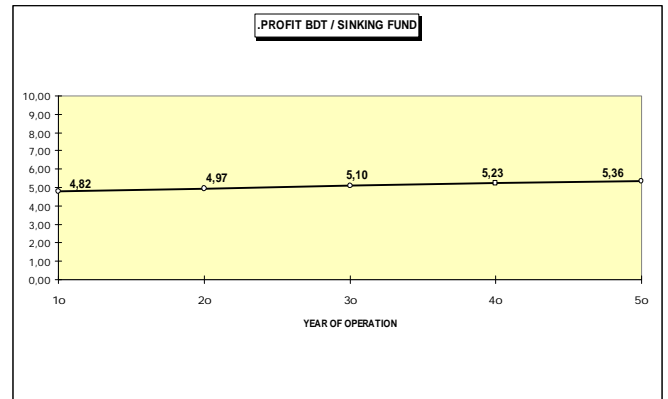
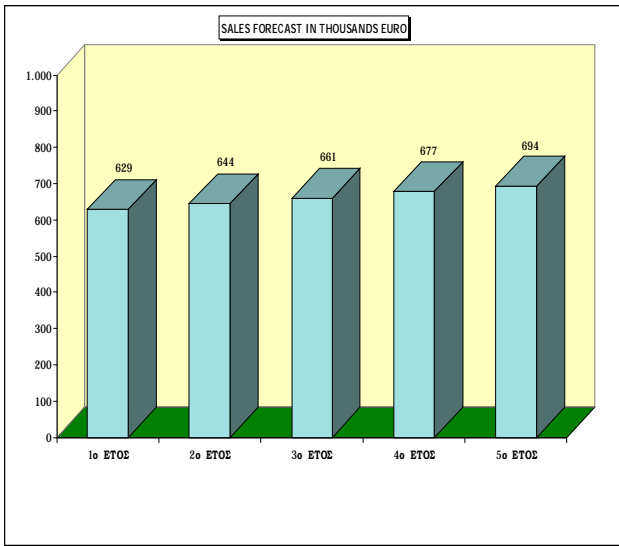
FORECASTED CAPITAL FLOWS (IN THOUSANTS €)						
	PERIOD OF CONSTRUCTION DESIGN	1st YEAR	2nd YEAR	3rd YEAR	4th YEAR	5th YEAR
A. INFLOWS						
1. Profit before depreciation		100,000	103,443	107,029	110,701	114,481
2. Company Capital Contribution	200,000					
3. Long-term Investment Loans	200,000					
4. Suppliers Credits (fixed assets)						
5. State Assistance	600,000					
6. Sales of fixed						
7. Other Sources						
TOTAL A	1,000,000	100,000	103,443	107,029	110,701	114,481
B. OUTFLOWS						
1. Investment expenses	1,000,000					
2. Before Operation Expenses						
3. Interest Rates of Construction Period						
4. Annual Investments						
5. Debt Installments of New Investment Loans		9,268	9,752	10,218	10,729	11,206
6. Suppliers credit service						
7. Income Tax		20,000	21,365	22,612	24,260	25,792
8. Shares		24,000	25,812	27,574	29,136	30,951
9. Other Outflows						
TOTAL B	1,000,000	53,268	45,780	50,404	54,146	58,009
WORKING CAPITAL						
VARIOUS (A-B)		46,732	57,663	56,625	56,555	56,472



B) BASIC ECONOMY OF A SOLAR ENERGY PLANT (1 MW)

FORECASTED PROFIT & LOSS ACCOUNT (IN THOUSANTS €)						
	PERIOD OF CONSTRUCTION DESIGN	1st YEAR	2nd YEAR	3rd YEAR	4th YEAR	5th YEAR
TOTAL SALES		630,740	643,678	652,142	661,148	670,716
% of Cost		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Minus: Cost of Goods sold		40,000	33,600	31,100	29,800	28,400
GROSS WORKING COST		590,740	610,078	621,042	631,348	642,316
Minus: Administration Expenses		10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
// Operation & Disposal Expenses						
OPERATION OUTCOME (a)		580,740	600,078	611,042	621,348	630,716
Export Subsidies						
Credit Interest Rates						
Other Incomes						
TOTAL						
Minus: Exchange						
Other Expenses						
TOTAL						
PROFIT BEFORE INTEREST, TAX & DEPRECIATION						
RATES (a+b)		201	229	247	266	286
Minus:						
- Leasing						
- Long-term Interest Rates		10	30	50	70	90
PROFIT BEFORE DEPRECIATION & TAX		191	199	197	196	196
Depreciation (total)		40	30	40	30	30
PROFIT BEFORE TAX		201	229	247	266	266
PROFIT AFTER TAX		151	174	185	199	200
RETURN ON INVESTMENT		94,6%	95,3%	95,3%	95,3%	95,3%
NET PROFIT		32,9%	35,5%	37,4%	39,3%	41,2%

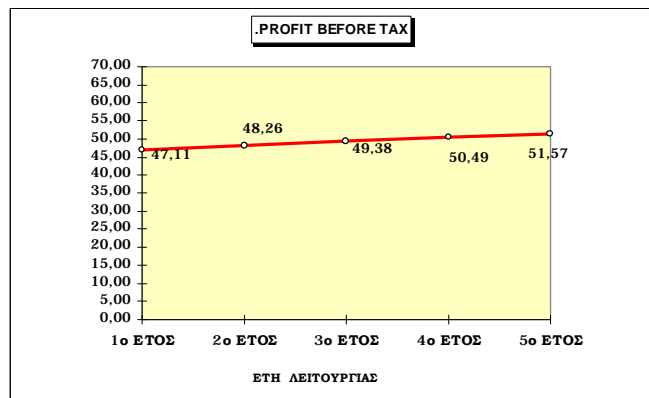
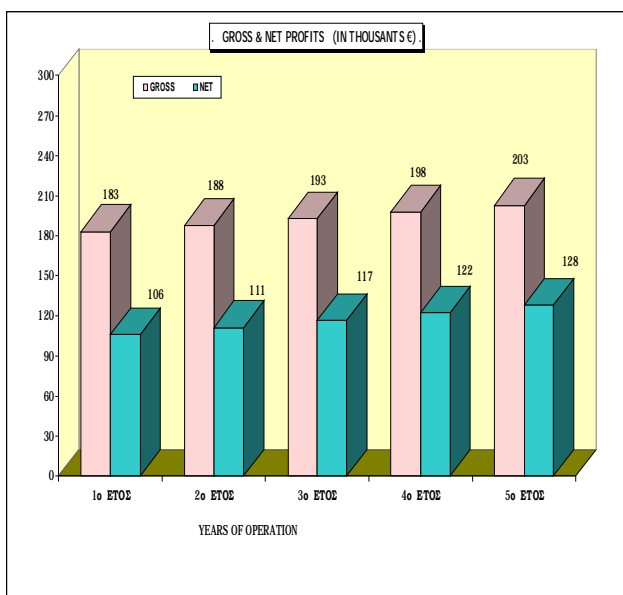
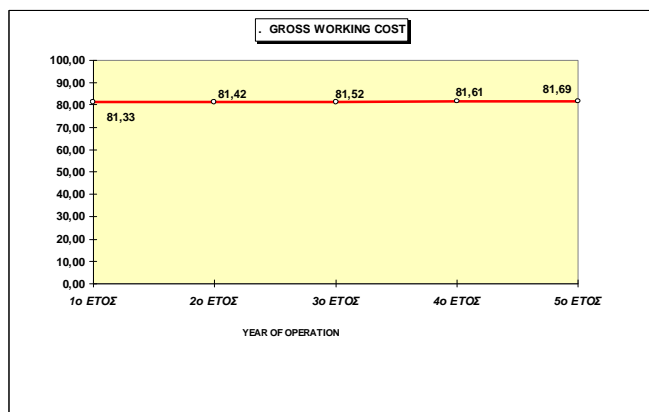
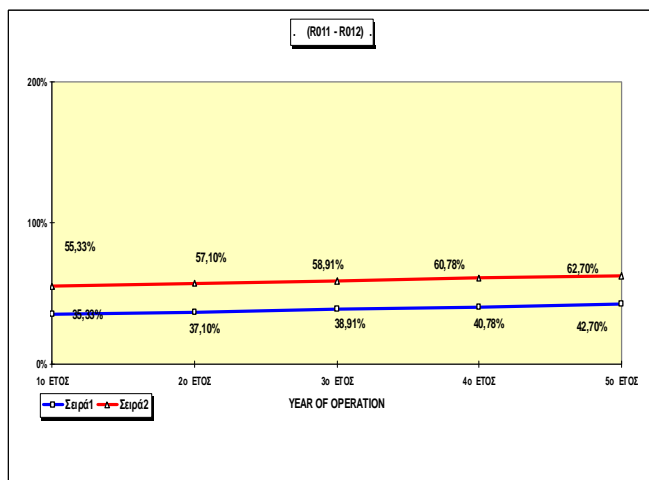
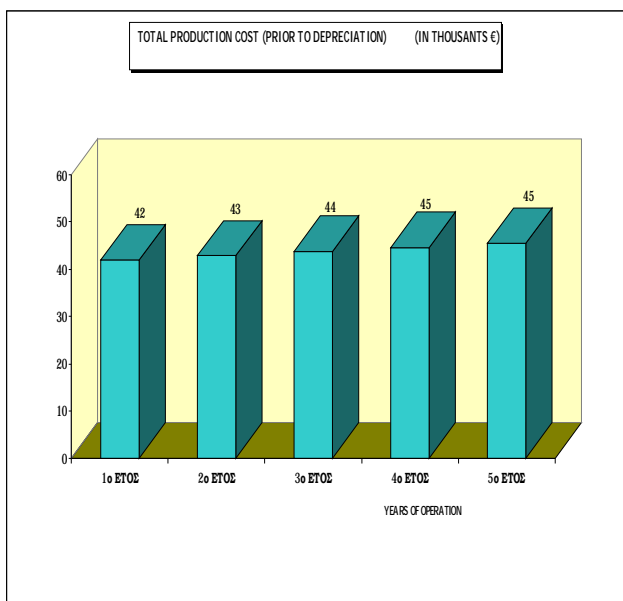
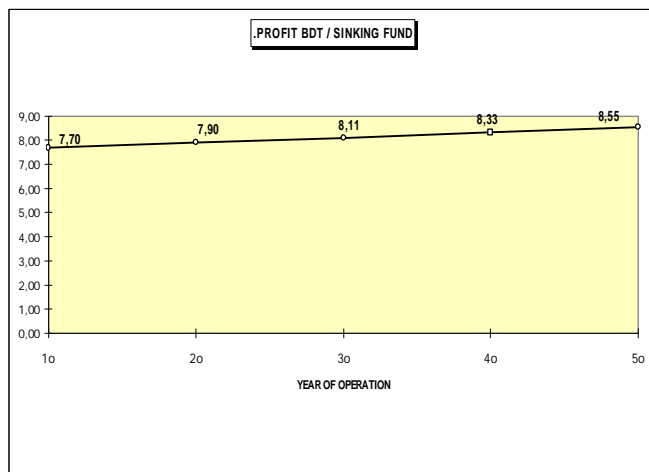
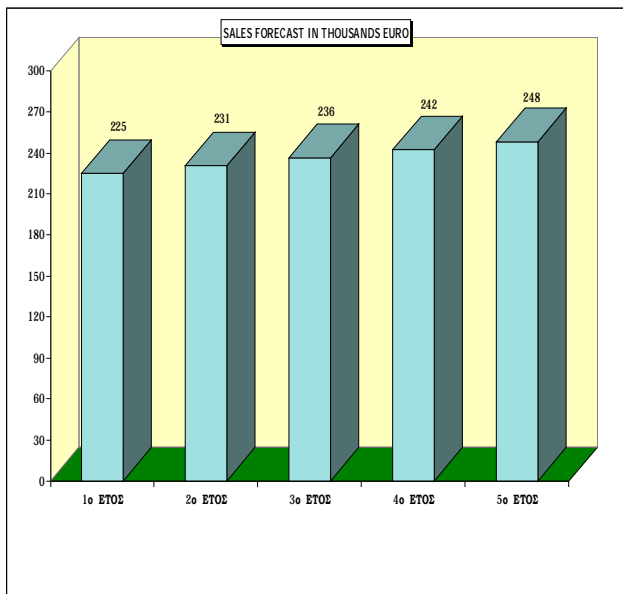
FORECASTED CAPITAL FLOWS (IN THOUSANTS €)						
	PERIOD OF CONSTRUCTION DESIGN	1st YEAR	2nd YEAR	3rd YEAR	4th YEAR	5th YEAR
A. INFLOWS						
1. Profit before depreciation		201,740	643,678	652,142	661,148	670,716
2. Company Capital Contribution	1.676,000					
3. Long-term Investment Loans	1.260,000					
4. Suppliers Credits (fixed assets)						
5. State Assistance	3.465,000					
6. Sales of fixed						
7. Other Sources						
TOTAL A	6.300,000	201,740	643,678	652,142	661,148	670,716
B. OUTFLOWS						
1. Investment expenses	6.300,000					
2. Before Operation Expenses						
3. Interest Rates of Construction Period						
4. Annual Investments						
5. Debt Installments of New Investment Loans		58,281	61,311	64,371	67,585	70,875
6. Suppliers credit service						
7. Income Tax		62,891	91,471	88,857	101,480	114,288
8. Shares		88,235	109,715	118,828	127,751	137,144
9. Other Outflows						
TOTAL B	6.300,000	201,322	262,048	261,851	301,806	322,400
WORKING CAPITAL						
VARIOUS (A-B)		281,418	281,131	280,291	279,343	278,311



C) BASIC ECONOMY OF A HYDRO ENERGY PLANT (1 MW)

FORECASTED PROFIT & LOSS ACCOUNT (IN THOUSANTS €)						
	PERIOD OF CONSTRUCTION DESIGN	1st YEAR	2nd YEAR	3rd YEAR	4th YEAR	5th YEAR
TOTAL SALES		230,000	230,000	230,000	230,000	230,000
% of Cost		20,00%	19,70%	20,00%	19,80%	19,70%
Minus: Cost of Goods sold		40,000	41,840	40,000	40,200	40,400
GROSS WORKING COST		30,000	30,700	30,000	30,000	30,000
Minus: Administration Expenses		5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
// Operation & Disposal Expenses						
OPERATION OUTCOME (a)		100,000	101,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Export Subsidies						
Credit Interest Rates						
Other Incomes						
TOTAL						
Minus: Exchange						
Other Expenses						
TOTAL						
PROFIT BEFORE INTEREST, TAX & DEPRECIATION						
RATES (a+b)		1,00	30	100	30	30
Minus:						
- Leasing						
- Long-term Interest Rates			1	1	10	10
PROFIT BEFORE DEPRECIATION & TAX		100	29	100	20	20
Depreciation (total)		100	30	100	30	30
PROFIT BEFORE TAX		100	111	117	122	120
PROFIT AFTER TAX		81,3%	81,4%	81,5%	81,6%	81,7%
NET PROFIT		47,1%	48,3%	49,4%	50,5%	51,6%

FORECASTED CAPITAL FLOWS (IN THOUSANTS €)						
	PERIOD OF CONSTRUCTION DESIGN	1st YEAR	2nd YEAR	3rd YEAR	4th YEAR	5th YEAR
A. INFLOWS						
1. Profit before depreciation		100,000	171,291	176,733	182,331	188,090
2. Company Capital Contribution	300,000					
3. Long-term Investment Loans	240,000					
4. Suppliers Credits (fixed assets)						
5. State Assistance	160,000					
6. Sales of fixed						
7. Other Sources						
TOTAL A	1,200,000	100,000	171,291	176,733	182,331	188,090
B. OUTFLOWS						
1. Investment expenses	1,200,000					
2. Before Operation Expenses						
3. Interest Rates of Construction Period						
4. Annual Investments						
5. Debt Installments of New Investment Loans		11,122	11,678	12,262	12,870	13,019
6. Suppliers credit service						
7. Income Tax		42,400	44,016	46,193	48,333	50,236
8. Dividends		60,880	63,420	66,032	68,719	71,483
9. Other Outflows						
TOTAL B	1,200,000	104,402	109,814	114,888	120,522	121,238
WORKING CAPITAL						
VARIATION (A-B)		11,898	61,677	61,746	61,809	66,852



After the economical basic analysis, we have for the more various type of renewable energy plant, the following basic results, for the Internal Rate of Return (I.R.R.) and the Net Present Value (N.P.V.):

TYPE OF ENERGY PLANT	IRR	NPV (TH. €)
WIND ENERGY	7,7%	-112
SOLAR ENERGY	5,7%	-1302
SOLAR ENERGY (when sales value was same with the wind or hydro energy)	-5,8%	-4493
HYDRO ENERGY	11,9%	+108

In the following table we can see the contribution of public funding energy projects in either saving energy or producing electricity from RES sectors, to investment efficiency, will be examined, in Greece.

	Reduction/kg/ Cost of investment financing					
	CO ₂	SO ₂	CO	NO _x	HC	particles
Energy saving	1190	027	003	007	001	001
gas	2206	045	003	004	001	001
Hydroenergy	300	005	001	004	000	003
Windenergy	285	001	001	004	000	003

Table : Environmental efficiency of energy investments in Greece [5]

4. CONCLUSIONS

PV' s project has a negative NPV (= -1302 th. E), but from a business perspective, the firm should also know what rate of return will be generated by this investment. The project's IRR could, depending on the timing and proportions of cash flow distributions, be equal to 5,7%.

WECS' s project has a negative NPV (= -112 th. E) and the project's IRR could, depending on the

timing and proportions of cash flow distributions, be equal to 7,7%.

At the end, Hydro' s project has a positive NPV (= 108 th. E) and the project's IRR could, depending on the timing and proportions of cash flow distributions, be equal to 11,9%.

In general, we can see that this energy projects for which the initial capital costs are very large, and annual costs are low, will be less attractive financially than one with a more even cash flow profile.

Via these results, from the same nominal power of different type energy plant of RES, which was investigated in this study, we can take the following classification, via the comparison of I.R.R. and N.P.V. for all the above cases:

- a) Hydro energy
- b) Wind energy
- c) Solar energy

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