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DENMARK

Aalborg Universitet

R&D programmes - making environment a concern

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Publication date:
2012

Document Version
Early version, also known as pre-print

[Link to publication from Aalborg University](#)

Citation for published version (APA):
Lyhne, I. (2012). *R&D programmes - making environment a concern.*

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R&D programmes - making environment a concern!

Integration of environmental concerns in strategic decision-making on R&D

Huge investments in R&D

Research and development (R&D) programmes play an important role in determining the technologies of the future. Hundreds of millions of kroner and euros are allocated to certain projects that are seen to be important in the future. R&D programmes therefore can be seen as a crucial entry point in efforts of creating a more sustainable development.

Flawed integration of environment

The current practice on R&D programmes rarely include explicit systematic environmental considerations.

In worst case, the R&D programmes risk developing technologies that are directly harmful to the environment. Integration of environmental concerns is, however, a challenging process, due to

- Limited information about consequences
- Uncertainty about the development of research projects
- Comparison between very different projects is problematic

A new agenda

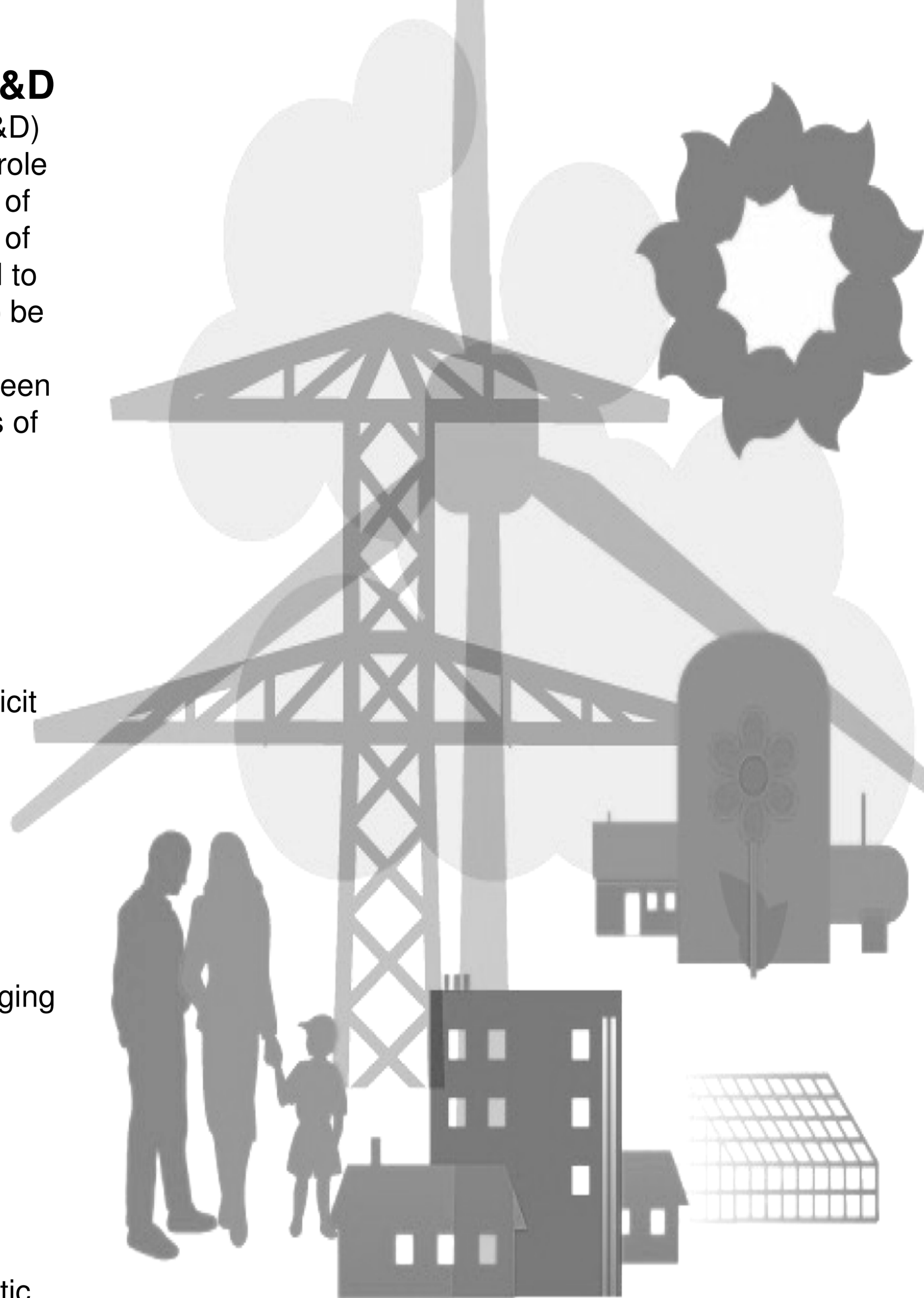
This poster reports on a project that has as its main purpose to set a new agenda on environmental concerns in R&D programmes. The project focuses on the Danish ForskEL R&D programme and reviews the current environmental integration in this programme in order to propose concrete measures for environmental integration throughout the decision-making process.

The ForskEL programme is a public service obligation administered by the Danish transmission system operator, Energinet.dk. It has an annual financial frame of DKK 130 million (compares to 17.5 million euros) which is financed through the electricity tariffs. The ForskEL programme funds projects within environmental friendly electricity production.

Read more about the project at <http://goo.gl/e7xjc>

Interested?

Leave your email/business card to be updated on project news - or a question/comment to discuss at this conference!



Integration of environmental concerns the Danish ForskEL R&D programme

A review of ForskEL R&D applications

Project proposals from '10, '11 and '12 indicates that

- Negative environmental impacts are rarely mentioned
- Environmental potentials mentioned concerns the technology rather than the project
- Environmental issues described are most often about reduction in emissions

A later environmental assessment showed that after being selected for support, the R&D projects were able to identify more impacts.

Decision arenas and integration initiatives in ForskEL

Programme formation.
Selection of focus areas.

Environment is inherent due to the aim of ForskEL of promoting environmental friendly technologies

Tender period with
application form

2012: Environment is integrated in the application form with questions related to impacts and potentials

Evaluation and selection of
applications

2012: Capacity on environment among project evaluators is enhanced

Contract negotiation

2010-12: An EA make environmental performance part of the negotiation

Interim and final reports

Serves as monitoring on environmental issues. Provides opportunity to demand changes

