

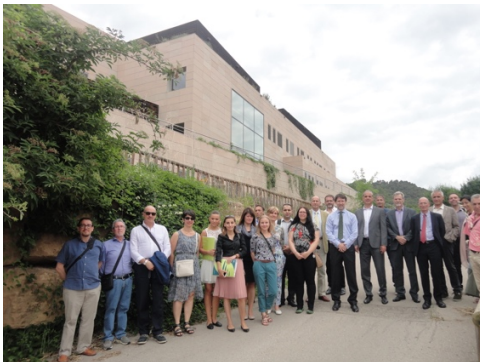
Sustainable regional bioenergy policies: a game changer

November 2016

EIGHT REGIONS AND EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WANT TO ENHANCE THE ROLE OF THE AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY SECTOR IN THE BIOECONOMY

The project, led from Catalonia by CTFC, aims to improve processes and regional and national policies to address the transition to a low carbon economy increasing the use of renewable energy (especially forestry and agricultural biomass) and energy efficiency of buildings. The project was in line with the development and implementation of the Catalan strategy to promote the energy use of forest and agricultural biomass promoted by the government, an essential piece in the context of the bio-economy and the reduction of carbon emissions.

Catalonia has great potential in forest biomass, and wants to reach the goal of multiplying by 2.5 the consumption of biomass for energy. Representatives of the governments of Slovenia, Bulgaria, Italy, Romania, Karelia, Latvia, and the municipalities of France present their regional objectives and know the implications of the primary sector in the bioeconomy strategy in the Mediterranean context.



Partners



Generalitat de Catalunya
Departament d'Agricultura,
Ramaderia, Pesca i Alimentació



REGIONAL COUNCIL OF
North Karelia



Zemkopības ministrija



Communes forestières
Federation nationale



MIB
LATVIJAS KOKA PĀRVADEKAS INDUSTRĀJA



ZAVOD ZA GOZDOVE
SLOVENIJE
Slovenia Forest Service



ABRUZZO



BEST PRACTICES ON BIOMASS STRATEGIES

The study visit was organized on 6-7 July 2016, as part of the first meeting of the project BIO4ECO, in the CTFC (Solsona, Spain). The main purpose of the study visit was to show to partners and stakeholders best practices on biomass strategies, by visiting different local uses of biomass in Berguedà and in the industrial area of Barcelona.

Association of Berguedà municipalities promoting biomass investments at local scale – 6th July

The Berguedà is one of the most forestry regions in Catalonia, and the energy from biomass is long projected as one of the opportunities for this region in the future. On the one hand, by the economic benefits that can result from the use of this energy and, secondly, the maintenance of forests that would accompany this development. The Project visited, pioneer in Spain, provides power to various industries in the municipality of Berga, through two biomass boilers with a total installed power of 4.6 MW. It is part of a project tendered by a Consortium of Municipalities in Berguedà. Thermal oil, hot water and steam, will be the services that businesses will enjoy integrated in the new network. This versatility is possible by the use of thermal oil at high temperature, and various exchangers that will serve each of the costumers.

The project involves the installation of two biomass boilers of 2.3 MW each, which heat a synthetic oil capable of reaching 300°C to supply power to the industrial site Valldan through two networks, one with high temperature (thermal oil), and another with hot water.

All chip used as biofuel in the installation comes from a consortium made up of 7 municipalities of the Berguedà, which thus will value their forest resources and create local jobs. Moreover, the consortium will manage directly the power supply network to its customers. The UTE (Temporary Joint Ventures) who won the contract - composed by Montajes Rus and Bover Instal·lacions - and site management - Engineering DosBes- are local companies. Thus a local virtuous circle of resources and demand closes; a true renewable energy project "km 0".

To generate the energy, 2 Eratic boilers of thermal oil have been installed, provided by the Innergy Group.

Biomass CHP at the Marina industrial district in Barcelona – 7th July

Ecoenergies Barcelona is the project company created for the design, construction and operation of the network of heat and cold which supplies thermal energy in Barcelona and L'Hospitalet de Llobregat.



Ecoenergies Barcelona offers its energy services (90°C hot water, 5°C cold water, -10°C industrial cooling) in an area of 15,000,000 m² (the exhibition centre, Europe Square, La

Marina, Gran Via de L'Hospitalet, Zona Franca, etc.) to various types of customers (residential, industrial, commercial, etc.) through a network of pipes that supplies thermal energy to the connected buildings of the customers.

- Heat production: valorisation of plant residues arising from the maintenance of the parks and gardens of Barcelona, with a complement of forest biomass
- Cold production: use of residual cold from the regasification process in the Port plant (up to 30MW)
- The network will use, in addition, the heat generated by thermal solar panels of the connected buildings
- Substantial improvement of energy efficiency and significant reduction of emissions of CO₂, NO_x and PM₁₀

SUSTAINABLE USAGE OF FOREST BIOMASS, IN SOFIA

In Sofia the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food – prof. Georgi Kostov opened on 14.09.2016 working meeting for sustainable usage of forest biomass as renewable energy source. The forum was organized by Executive Forest Agency (EFA) within the INTERREG Europe project BIO4ECO. Within the project will be developed Action plan that will support the most effective and economically viable methods for support of the utilization of forest biomass for production of energy. “The project aims to analyzes the necessities of our forest industry, to develop evaluation and the realistic options for production of heating and electricity energy from wood biomass. This should be done in line with the scientific achievements, meeting all criteria for sustainable utilization of forest biomass, and on the basis of the European and Bulgarian regulations” underlined prof. Kostov.

Over 50 leading experts from the forest sector, state institutions, scientific society, private companies, branch chambers and NGOs, participating in the meeting, are members of the established project Expert Working Group of the Stakeholders. “The correct and rational usage of wood biomass can enhance the interest of the investors to plant new forests” said dipl. eng. Toni Krastev – Executive director of EFA.

All statements, opinions and recommendations will support the process of development and discussion of the Action Plan for Energy from Forest Biomass. The document will include analytical part, strategic framework and system for monitoring of the implementation. On the basis of the conducted analyses will be proposed concrete actions and measures for effective utilization of the biomass as energy source that can be financed by different sources, including Operational Programme “Innovations and Competitiveness”.

SEMINAR EXTRACTION, PROCESSING AND USE OF WOOD FUELS, IN LJUBLJANA

On 29th September the seminar “Extraction, processing and use of wood fuels”, was held in Ljubljana. It was organized with help of Interreg Europe project “Sustainable regional bioenergy policies: a game changer – Bio4Eco”. Within the project will be developed proposal for National Forest Program (NFP). The objectives of this policy which refers to biomass issues are higher share of use of wood in Slovenia’s primary energy balance and increase the scope of activities using wood, in particular in rural areas, where those activities considerably contribute to their development. Over 40 leading experts from the forest, environmental and energy sector, state institutions, scientific society, private companies, branch chambers participating in the seminar and roundtable. Some of them will be members of project Expert Working Group of the Stakeholders.



SUSTAINABLE USE OF FOREST BIOMASS AS A RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCE WAS DISCUSSED ON A THREE-DAY INTERNATIONAL MEETING, IN BANSKO

In November, the forum, organized by Executive Forest Agency / EFA / within the implementation of INTERREG Europe project BIO4ECO, was attended by over fifty experts from Spain, Finland, France, Italy, Latvia, Romania, Slovenia and Bulgaria. Participants in the meeting shared their experience and best practices related to effective and environmental use of forest biomass. The experts were unanimous that the use of forests should be subject to a balanced approach that takes into account not only economic needs, but also environmental and social role of the forests. The potential of biomass in Bulgaria and the role of Bulgarian forests regarding transition to a bioeconomy were discussed during the forum. The needs of our forest industry and the real possibilities of producing heat and electricity from wood biomass were discussed. The analysis showed that Bulgaria is a country in which all forest management indicators had been increasing over the past twenty years. The increase of afforested areas, and the increase of wood stock are good prerequisites for sustainable use of forest biomass in the country.

A plant for the production of heating energy from biomass in Bansko, a factory for production of wood pellets in Razlog and forest sites at Razlog State Forest Enterprise were visited as well.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- February, 23-25: The lead partner of the project, Forest Sciences Centre of Catalonia, and Executive Forest Agency (Bulgaria) will participate with a presentation at the Catalan Biomass Fair 2017
- First week of March 2017: The Rural Development and Fisheries Policies Department of Abruzzo Region will organize one study visit at its region.