

6th Newsletter

BIO4ECO aims to improve regional and national **policy processes and policy implementation** and delivery addressing the **transition to a low carbón economy**, in relation with renewable energy use“ energy efficiency of building“ and forest and agricultural biomass.

Find in this Newsletter different activities the BIO4ECO Project has carried out!

On line event: Learned lessons from wood-based energy sector as a result of CoViD crisis impact

On 15th November 2021, we celebrated online event, about experiences from projects partners, with 30 attendees.

The event started with Experiences from Catalonia, presented by Adriano Raddi, Head of logging, forest mechanization and woody biomass group, Forest Science & Technology Centre of Catalonia. Blas Mola, associate professor in Biomass production & plantation forestry (University on Eastern Finland, School of Forest Sciences), and Paolo Mori & Luigi Torregiani, Compagnia delle Foreste, Communication and innovation for forests and environment) imparted open conferences.

After that, some of the project partners presented their experiences:

- Sari Pitkänen, forest and climate expert, Regional Council of North Karelia
- Ilze Silamiķele, deputy head of Forest strategies and support unit, Ministry of Agriculture of Latvia.
- Silvère Gabet, director of technical programs, French Federation of Forest Municipalities.
- Ana Rep, project advisor, Slovenia Forest Service
- Ovidia Caba, director of the Regional Policies and Programming Unit, Regional Development Agency Centru.

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Mauro Masiero, associate professor at the Dept. of Land, Environment, Agriculture and Forestry, University of Padua, closed the event.

On line event: Forest sector as driver of circular bioeconomy and Covid-19 pandemia recovery

On 22nd November 2021 we celebrated online event, about forest sector as driver of circular bioeconomy and Covid-19 pandemia recovery.

The event started with a welcome and opening presented by Ilze Silamiķele – Ministry of Agriculture of Latvia.

After the presentation, a round table with experiences from Latvia and a panel with project partners (Forest Science & Technology Centre of Catalonia, Spain; French Federation of Forest Municipalities, France; Slovenia Forest Services, Slovenia; Regional Council of North Karelia, Finland; Latvian Forest Owners's Association, Latvia; Regional Development Agency Centru, Romania) completed the session, with 30 attendees online following the session.

New app: ForestHEAT

Bioenergy boilers are usually located in small municipalities with a little technical expertise about the technical management and no data and information are available to justify and communicate the decision to switch to bioenergy. Contracts are no clear and the Catalan wood chip market is not transparent about the offered product (moisture, ashes; chip size, units of measurement, ...). ForestHEAT supports the biomass system management and provides, in a very clear and easy way, data related to consumption, supplies, CO2 avoided emissions, forest area managed using bioenergy, graphs, reports.

ForestHEAT creates synergies in the forest biomass sector, as the wood-based energy makes sense almost in the 65% of Catalonia, where the forest management is essential for fire prevention and the preservation of forests and biodiversity. At the same time, bioenergy supports the mitigation and adaptation to climatic change, as it is a renewable and local energy source with a high thermal capacity and a stable price that contributes to the creation of local jobs.

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This tool is a cross-platform application suitable for querying and editing data from any device with a data connection, whether from a desktop, tablet, or mobile device. Potential users are municipalities, bioenergy producers, energy service companies.

ForestHEAT was funded (around 20.000 €) by the county council of Girona (Diputació de Girona). Technical assistance and maintenance oversee Forest Sciences and Technology Center of Catalonia (one technical engineer).

Study visits in Slovenia

On 31st of March 2022, we travel to Slovenia and visit Slovenia Forest Service (SFS Regional Unit Kočevje), and different companies.

First one, Melamin was established in 1954 and currently employs a staff of nearly 200. It is a joint-stock company, subdivided into three manufacturing divisions: Chemical Industry Division, Wood Industry Division and Footwear Industry Division.

In the field of energy, Komunala Kočevje has a 30-year tradition. In 1985, she began managing most of the then social boiler rooms and the then hot water network. Intensive development in this area began with the adoption of the Energy Concept of the City of Kočevje in the late 1990s. Due to the richness of wood in Kočevje, in 2002 the decision to build a boiler on wood biomass was dropped as the main source of heat supply for the city of Kočevje. The boiler room was built together with a single hot water system in 2005. According to experts, this is the most successful wood biomass heating project in Slovenia.

Kočevski les works to implement all activities of the Strategic Plan to promote the competitiveness of the forest-wood chain in Kočevsko, which can be read in full les-Strategic dokument. Among the objectives of the company is to promote participation in forestry and wood processing activities in such a way that wood as a kočevska strategic raw material and owned by the Municipality of Kočevje is also processed as much as possible in Kočevje – into semi-finished products and finished products with the highest added value.

Visit to the primary forest

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The Rajhenav virgin forest in Kočevski Rog is approximately 50 ha large virgin forest which has been over a century excluded from the management operations. The prevailing community of fir and beech tree (*Abieti-Fagetum dinaricum*) is present in mosaic patterns in several sub-communities and in different development phases. The special features of the virgin forest include the growing stock, mighty trees, many dead and fallen trees, some rare bird species and finally a variegated community of fungi and small animals decomposing dead wood.

Not far from the Rajhenav virgin forest there stands a fir tree called the Queen of Rog which is with its 51 meters in height considered as one of the most magnificent firs in Slovenia. There are several similarly striking giants growing nearby. A fir can live even for five hundred years in this kind of conditions. The Kočevje forests are a part of the largest single complex of forests in Europe, extending from the Trnovo forest to Gorski Kotar in Croatia. The virgin forest can be admired by following: The Roška pešpot hiking trail and hiking trails through Kočevski Rog.

Good practices and action plans

You can consult all these documents in [BIO4ECO library](#)

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