



BIOREGIONS: REGIONAL NETWORKS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SUSTAINABLE MARKET FOR BIOENERGY IN EUROPE

About the project

The Bioregions project supports the creation of “bioenergy regions” in rural areas of Europe. Such regions aim to get at least 1/3 of their heating and electricity needs from local and sustainable bioenergy sources, with a focus on solid biomass.

Building on best practice developed in the most advanced bioenergy regions in Europe, the project is currently supporting the creation of five new bioenergy regions in Sredna Gora (Bulgaria), Slavcin and Brumov-Bylnice (Czech Republic), Trieves (France), County Westmeath (Ireland) and Limbazi and Salacgriva (Latvia).

The project also aims at inspiring other rural areas of Europe to follow the example of our target regions informing them about the perspectives and available tools.

Activities in the Target Regions

The BioRegions project was set in motion in May 2010 and its consortium is made up of 12 partners from 9 European countries.

Study tours were undertaken to two project partner ‘Best Practice’ regions. Stakeholders from the different target countries joined an international delegation on a two day study tour of the Achenal Bioenergy ‘Best Practice Region’ in Bavaria, Germany, including the Achenal Biomass Trading Centre, which was a key factor in the development of their local biomass supply chain. The second study tour took place in Jönköping, Sweden, the key findings from the study tour were the significant roles played by energy agencies and the local municipality who not only supported bioenergy projects but in many cases were the key promoter and funders of some.

Engagement with various stakeholders on the project has been ongoing over late 2011 and early 2012 on the development of an Action Plan for each of the target regions, the purpose of which was to define a co-ordinated and multi stakeholder strategy to support the development of a regional bioenergy market with agreed overall targets and concerted specific actions to be carried out by the various engaged stakeholders in each region.

A final and formal consultation meeting gave the opportunity for stakeholders to input to the draft Action Plans, notably on the establishment of a strategy, setting targets, and commitment to actions.

All 5 Action Plans were approved and endorsed by the relevant public authorities between April and September 2012 and were formally published and launched on local communication media right after their adoption.

The project is now moving to implementation stage of the stakeholders short term actions.

Expected Project Results

- The first steps of the plans will be implemented, with at least 2MW of projects in the pipeline by the end of BioRegions
- 5 specific projects will have their funding options analysed and will get support to secure full funding
- After the end of the project there will be a clear plan, political support and a critical mass of engaged local actors that will ensure the continuation of the project activities.
- The network of ELARD that has access to more than 700 regions of Europe will be encouraged and supported to implement similar activities in their area.

Project partners



We will be happy to provide you with assistance in starting up a bioregion in your area! For more information visit our website on: www.bioregions.eu. Contact us to find out more information about bioenergy and its benefits for your area: info@bioregions.eu.

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