



bioregions.eu

Regional Networks for the development of a Sustainable Market for  
Bioenergy in Europe



## Presenting the Bioregions Project

“Fact Sheet on Bioenergy and Rural Development”

## **An overview of 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 the best practices 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), Slavicin and Brumov-Bylnice (Czech Republic), Trieves (France), County Westmeath (Ireland) and Limbazi (Latvia).

The project also aims at inspiring other rural areas of Europe to follow the example of our target regions.

The BioRegions project was set in motion in May 2010 and its consortium is made up of 13 partners from 10 European countries.

## **Some basic facts on bioenergy**

- Bioenergy is one form of renewable energy among many from other sources (wind, solar, hydraulic, etc.)
- Bioenergy, when produced sustainably, saves greenhouse gas emissions.
- Bioenergy accounts for more than two thirds of total renewable energy in the EU.
- Biomass for energy is mainly provided by forestry, agriculture and organic waste.
- Feedstocks for bioenergy are storable; bioenergy can thus be produced constantly and is a very reliable source of energy.
- Biomass is amply available in most parts of Europe.
- Biomass can be either in solid, liquid or gaseous form and can be used to produce electricity, direct heating, or transport fuels.

## **Why go for bioenergy...? Bioenergy & Rural Development**

Biomass is the most used source of renewable energy in Europe and 80% of it comes from wood. Production of bioenergy is therefore another important function of European forests, and a **growing economic sector** with much potential for boosting **economic development** and **employment in rural areas**. Bioenergy from wood is not only renewable but it is also largely considered as carbon neutral, so production of wood-based energy supports EU strategic goals for 2020 of achieving 20% use of renewable sources in energy production, as well as a 20% reduction in carbon emissions.

Bioenergy **brings new investment** into the agricultural sector which over the last decades has had to sustain productivity improvements in the face of declining real prices for food and agricultural commodities. New investment can provide **market and employment opportunities**. Bioenergy growth, if managed appropriately, can also contribute to **improving infrastructure and market access in rural areas**. Modern bioenergy can also be a clean source of energy in rural areas that can provide new opportunities for modernisation of agriculture and the rural economy and improve access to modern energy services for households. Reducing indoor pollution by switching to cleaner biofuels can **improve health and livelihoods**.

**There are many more good reasons to use biomass:**

- Biomass is solar energy stored in organic matter
- Biomass is a renewable energy source
- Biomass for provision of heat, electricity and fuel is expected to contribute considerably to the future energy supply for Europe
- Biomass is suitable for base load needs
- The use of biomass instead of fossil fuels will limit the dependence on oil
- The use of biomass instead of fossil fuels will reduce the greenhouse gas emissions
- Biomass and bioenergy will provide an additional income for farmers and will contribute to rural areas development

### **Are you interested?**

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](http://www.bioregions.eu)

Contact us to find out more on bioenergy and its benefits for rural areas: [info@bioregions.eu](mailto:info@bioregions.eu) or [elard@elard.eu](mailto:elard@elard.eu)