

Project Regional Networks for the development of a Sustainable Market for Bioenergy in Europe (BioRegions)

Sredna gora [Bulgaria]

Context

In the framework of the Action Plan for a new bio-energy region in Bulgaria, the BioRegions Project will enable the target regions to develop the use of biomass to produce heat and electricity thanks to the following work plan:

- Identification of success factors in “best practice” regions;
- Creation of a network of local actors in the target regions;
- Definition of Action Plans for establishing five new bioenergy regions;
- Support for the implementation of action plans in the target regions;
- encourage and support other regions to replicate the project activities.

Description and Main Objectives

The project aims to support the creation of bioenergy regions that will provide at least one third of the heating and electricity requirements through local and sustainable sources of bioenergy, particularly solid biomass.

The project must:

- Support the development of markets for solid biomass in the 5 target regions;
- Stimulate investment in bioenergy projects and in the markets of local actors;
- Inspire rural areas to follow the example of the target regions.

Each region will adopt a formal Action Plan with an agenda and reference milestones to enhance their bio-energy to at least 1/3 of the energy demand for electricity and heating.

- The first steps of the plan were implemented, with at least 2MW of projects in the pipeline by the end of BioRegions;
- 5 specific projects had their funding options analysed and will get support to secure full funding;
- With the completion of the project there is a clear plan, political support and a critical mass of engaged local actors that ensure the continuation of the project activities;
- The European Leader Association for Rural Development (ELARD), that has access to more than 800 regions of Europe has encouraged and supported its members and partners to implement similar activities in their areas.

In order to implement in the project, Bulgaria set up a programme to develop its bio-energy market, by creating a regional network in the SREDNA GORA region, with several partners:

- Negotiators and producers of biomass boilers;
- Energy auditors;
- Biomass Associations and Energy Agencies;
- National Forest Administration;
- Energy service and financing company.



Implementation Strategy

This programme aims to create a regional bioenergy network within SREDNA GORA territory. It targets municipalities, households and citizens, businesses and private partners.

These stakeholders are informed about the program and its mission and invited to participate in its practical application. After phone calls and meetings with the potential stakeholders, the most ambitious proposal will be evaluated and used to set up local projects.

The public is informed about the initiatives and the development of the programme thanks to the web site, the newsletter, presentations during several events, and articles from the local, regional and national press.

The implementation of the programme involved identifying the factors of success and organizing activities to develop a local network of partners. The action plan for a new bioenergy region will provide support for the implementation of other action plans. The other regions were encouraged and supported to replicate these activities in the following areas:

- Develop efficient and reliable markets for biomass;
- Stimulate investments in bio-energy projects;
- Establish a Biomass Logistics Center;
- Promote biomass for the heating of residential buildings;
- Provide one-third of energy demand for electricity and biomass heating;
- Enable the implementation of district heating systems using biomass;
- Ensure the use of biomass in industry;
- Train municipal governments on energy issues.

Each region formally adopted an Action Plan with a timetable and milestones to enhance their bio-energy to at least 1/3 of the energy demand for electricity and heating. The first steps of the plan were implemented. 5 specific projects had their funding options analysed and will get support to secure full funding.

Within the Bioregions Project, the Sredna gora Bioregion achieved the following:

- New biomass heating installations in 7 public and private buildings and 1 factory with a total capacity of 3,580 kW;
- First biofuels quality testing and certification laboratory in Bulgaria established;
- Feasibility study on the establishment of a Biomass Logistics Centre;
- A pilot 0.5 mW biomass heating central to supply 3 public buildings;
- Energy efficiency renovation and installation of biomass boiler.

Time Frame

Starting date: 2010 – End date: 2013

Budget

€ 5 M for 5 years have been allocated.

Contacts & Links

Ivan Baramski

Email: director.global@brezovo.bg

Tel: +359 896 610 364

Website: <http://www.bioregions.eu/>

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. The sole responsibility for the content of this factsheet lies with the authors. It does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the European Union. Neither the EASME nor the European Commission are responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.



This project has received funding from European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 695923