



BIOENERGIS



## Press release: **How to manage bioenergy planning in European regions?**

5<sup>th</sup> October 2011: for immediate release - The European Union has agreed to cover 20% of its total energy consumption by 2020 using renewable sources. Biomass (wood and plants) is already doing the most of it, besides solar, wind, hydro and geothermal energy. Biomass and waste cover 68 % of total renewable energy production. Over 52% is coming from wood wastes. Overall, renewable energy in EU27 has a turnover of 30 billion Euros, providing 350.000 jobs, mostly in rural areas<sup>1</sup>.

Today, representatives of the three European bio-business projects **BEn**, **BioEnerGIS** and **MAKE-IT-BE** met together with representatives of the EU institutions, field experts and NGOs to share exciting results of three projects with the broad public. **Brian MEANEY**, Rapporteur on bio-energy at the Committee of the Regions commented: «*It is important to explore integrated bio-energy partnerships for cities and regions - in support of the EU2020 strategy and beyond, but also in support of local sustainable development.*» He was addressing an audience of local and regional policy makers and representatives from EU institutions, together with keynote speakers **Romana JORDAN CIZELJ** - MEP, Member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy, **Giulio VOLPI** – DG Energy, Renewable Energy Policy and **Emilio FONT DE MORA** - Project Officer, Executive Agency for Competitiveness & Innovation (EACI).

Co-financed by the Intelligent Energy Europe programme, managed by the Executive Agency for Competitiveness & Innovation (EACI), the three bio-business projects started from the aims to support development of new sustainable bioenergy plants by analysing the availability and demand of biomass at regional scale. Altogether the projects cover seven European countries embracing several regions and municipalities. Their approach is based on enhancing stakeholders' networks as well as by developing methodologies and tools helping local stakeholders in bioenergy planning. These energy initiatives will lead to reduced emissions, new jobs and will be a first step in the development of the new green economy with bioenergy as a major element. In order to use the synergy effects among the three projects, several common meetings were co-organised to exchange information and achievements.

The project co-ordinator of the **BEn**-project Simone Krause explained: «*The bioenergy use among regions requires not only enhanced cooperation but also reliable and available trans regional tools. Therefore, we have developed a biomass register in the form of a map application incorporating relevant biomass data which is available for the public. The use of the tool has been tested within four project regions: Umbria in Italy, Gostynin Lake District in Poland, North East England in the United Kingdom and Emscher-Lippe Region in Germany. The register is a web-based GIS tool which allows the user to navigate through the biomass sector and can provide a realistic picture of the current bioenergy situation.*

**BioEnerGIS** commented, through the words of the coordinator Alessandro Chiesa (CESTEC): «*Within our project we decided to support sustainable biomass exploitation by developing BIPOLE, a GIS based Decision Support System. Our aim was to map the biomass (from forestry, agricultural residues, wastes and sludge) exploitable for energy purpose, focusing on district heating systems and cogeneration plants. Our tool combining supply and demand-side data, legislation, technological and financial options has been tested in four regions: Lombardy in Italy, Northern Ireland in the United Kingdom, Slovenia and Wallonia in Belgium.*»

«*Biomass has become a significant and reliable renewable energy source. It is inherently a local fuel choice and there are significant supply chain challenges in making this form of energy available to local communities. We are proud to have developed practical guidance to support the role-out of bioenergy partnerships*», concluded **MAKE-IT-BE** project coordinator Maria Grazia Tommasini, CRPV (Centro

<sup>1</sup> (Eurostat 2009).



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Ricerche Produzioni Vegetali).

## Project information

The **MAKE-IT-BE project**, is aimed to deliver agendas for bio-energy promotion in four EU Regions (Austria, Italy, Slovenia and UK) by developing and applying decision-making tools that assist in extensively identifying, evaluating and initiating regional partnerships for bio-energy chains. The strong consortium includes: **CRPV, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, Highland Birchwoods, CTI, the European Centre for Renewable Energy (EEE), European Landowners Association (ELO) ZGS and Centuria RIT**. More details, including the public results and tools, are available on [www.makeitbe.eu](http://www.makeitbe.eu)

**BEn** supported local communities through the development of an easily applicable tool for local energy planning. The core objective of this tool is the development of a regional energy register indicating regional energy sinks as well as biomass potentials for energy production in order to facilitate the discussion between different regional stakeholder groups in the field of energy policy. Project information available on: <http://www.ben-project.eu>

**BioEnerGIS** provided an instrument helping decision makers to plan, on a regional scale, a sustainable exploitation of biomass. A GIS-based Decision Support System (DSS) locates the most suitable sites for biomass plants installation, in terms of energy, environmental and economic sustainability. More details on <http://www.bioenergis.eu>

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