



## **Project 4Biomass**

### **Internal Sustainability Guideline**

To promote sustainability concerning the use of biomass is a major idea of the project 4Biomass. Thus, 3 dimensions of sustainability – economic, social and environmental – will be addressed by the project.

Sustainability is as well a key objective in many of the outcomes of the project. In this way we address not only the general sustainability criteria, but as well those that are internal for the project.

The internal Sustainability Policy of the project 4Biomass formalizes the efficient usage of resources during the project and for the necessary time after the end of the project.

### **1 General Statement on sustainability**

#### **1.1 Economic sustainability**

- Economic sustainability will be addressed. Even though 4Biomass stresses environmental aspects, consideration of economic sustainability is a key precondition to ensure the applicability of results derived from 4Biomass and to maximize the expected impact.
- Promotion of sustainable production of bioenergy will create jobs and especially offer chances for rural areas to increase employment and to keep value added in their respective rural communities, especially when regions start to establish bioenergy systems supplying themselves with energy via district heating and electricity production. However, research, development and the manufacturing industry, often SMEs, will also profit from increasing bioenergy usage. Additionally, if know-how is generated in CE, this will add to increased competitiveness vis-à-vis of other regions.

#### **1.2 Social sustainability**

- Social sustainability will be addressed within 4Biomass in so far as all scales of production will be considered. Outward migration from rural areas is a key issue in many CE countries. Especially exchange of experience and best practice/lessons learned in the field of small scale production of energy in rural areas will contribute to increasing employment, which will in turn lead to a greater attractiveness of rural areas for young people who would

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otherwise move to urban areas. Disseminating best practice and lessons learned will also contribute to keep a certain level of value added in rural areas.

### **1.3 Environmental sustainability**

- 4Biomass is strongly focusing on environmental sustainability combined with the goal to foster bioenergy use. Energy from biomass is generally said to be environmentally friendly. This is however not always true. Depending on the biomass used, on the method of production, on the distance over which biomass is traded etc., Life Cycle Assessment for some bioenergy production chains may even turn out to increase CO<sub>2</sub> emission and to menace the environment through intensified agricultural production.
- However, if biomass is produced environmentally friendly, if it's exploitation is conducted under considerations of using technology increasing energy efficiency, e. g. by combined heat and power production, and if locally available biomass is used, bioenergy can contribute greatly to the goal of environmentally friendly energy production and the mitigation of climate change through reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

## **2 Contribution of 4Biomass Outcomes to Sustainability**

### **2.1 Transnational network**

The transnational network of Central European institutions, formalized by a Networking Agreement among all partners of 4Biomass, contributes to sustainable use of biomass for energy in the following ways:

- The network enhances information exchange and increased quality of transnational interactions/ support from partners to stakeholders
- Connection of institutions regarding biomass use (Synergy effects under the "umbrella" of 4Biomass)
- 4Biomass Partner Institutions intend to continue cooperation in the biomass/bioenergy sector after project termination (11/2011)
- Partner institutions aim to have a designated contact person for the network in their institution after the termination of the project and aim at informing the network of changes of contact persons.

The aim of the project is not only to create a transnational network on the project partner level, but as well to develop a transnational network of stakeholders. This second level will contribute even greatly to the sustainability of the whole project. The network will not be established only for the project duration, but will remain as a self carrying body as well after the project termination. The central point of this network will remain the structures created by 4Biomass project partners.

### **2.2 Central European Biomass Centres**

At least three "Central European Biomass Centres" (working name) (CEBC) will be nominated by national governments to address transnational issues of sustainable use of biomass. These centres will have an important role in gathering information on renewable energy use and on environmental issues in general. This will help to promote sustainability and will as well act in a sustainable way by making dissemination more efficient. CEBC will have a crucial role for supporting national and international stakeholders and general public by providing information which will help them to act in an environmentally friendly way with an effect on the environmental, economical and social sustainability.

### **2.3 Database/ Joint management tool/ Info pool**

A database will present a central Info pool with collected information on relevant studies, materials and developments in the bioenergy sector of Central Europe. A Joint Management

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Tool will as well present advice and recommendations for stakeholders (general information in English + country specific materials).

This will be the main tool for project partners and stakeholders including national decision makers and eventually the general public to take the right decisions with respect to the BAPs/NREAPs in the coming years.

Another advantage is that the 4Biomass Network will be able to deal with requests from stakeholders that need up-to date information and advice on the current status of BAPs/NREAPs to make the right decisions for their respective business or actions.

It is the aim of the project 4Biomass to continue to present these tools after project termination as well. The way to reach this will be by incorporating the database and the website 4biomass.eu in the project partner sites. This will secure that the information on the sites and the database will remain up-to-date.

## **2.4 Investments**

One outcome of the project is the preparation of three investments in the field of sustainable use of bioenergy.

## **2.5 Transnational synthesis report**

Reasonable and clear recommendations on how to design integrated BAPs considering all issues related to ecological, economical and social sustainability based on the results of the stakeholder dialogue will contribute to the sustainable Implementation of nBAPs/NREAPs.

## **2.6 Transnational Action Plan (TAP) / 7-Step Framework (aimed at national level)**

Based on elaborated country papers the TAP aims at helping governments to adopt effective policies based on key design principles to accelerate the exploitation of the large potential of bioenergy in CE in a sustainable manner.

A „Memorandum of Understanding“ ensuring the commitment of the national Ministries to consider the suggestions and conclusions of the TAP will be elaborated and hopefully signed by representatives of national ministries.

As resource utilization is not only a regional or national topic, for an efficient use of resources it is crucial that there is an initiative created on t

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All the venues which will be organized within the project 4Biomass will be planned to group if possible with other tasks of the project or with venues planned by other organizations. This will be on one side done to save travel and other costs and on the other side to benefit from the joint effect by reaching bigger audience.

Project partners will as well always try to use the resources in the most sustainable way. This includes choosing products and services with best price-performance ratio.

The last point for sustainable actions within the project will be to choose in preference such products, which are environmentally friendly or have positive impact on the environmental, economical or social sustainability. This includes printing on recycled paper and using if possible recycled materials for all giveaways and other promotion materials.