

**4BIOMASS – Fostering the Sustainable Usage of Renewable Energy Sources
in Central Europe - Putting Biomass into Action!**

Work Plan for WP 5: Networking

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5. Networking

Biomass use for energy purposes is a major issue nowadays and will be in the coming years. The EU has adopted a directive on renewable energy promotion which stipulates that 20% of the final energy consumption in Europe will have to be generated from renewable sources such as wind, solar, geothermal and biomass. Furthermore 10% of transport fuels has to be from renewable sources by 2020. For these goals to be met, biomass as one source for renewable energy will play an important role in the renewable energy mix needed. In how far and to what extent will become more clear when Member States adopt national renewable energy action plans in which they describe how they plan to meet their national targets.

Biomass for energy production has become a much and fiercely debated issues with many experts and environmental organisations challenging the conception that producing energy from biomass is energy efficient and capable of reducing CO² emissions. This has especially been the case in the debate over biofuels for transport and even more so when discussing first generation biofuels (Reference?).

Another hot topic is the "food vs. fuel" debate, with bioenergy being suspected to cause rising food prices. It has also been stated that the competition for land leads to land use changes resulting in deforestation and deterioration of high nature value areas, thus adversely affecting biodiversity and negative CO² balances.

The partner structure of 4BIOMASS consists of well accepted organisations and institutions representing all Central European Countries. Relevant and important knowledge about, biomass production, biomass trade, technical solutions for conversion, business concepts, feasibility of bioenergy production and not at last policy development and framework conditions will be centrally pooled. All these aspects will be assessed regarding their ecological sustainability, which will be the decisive criterion for the promotion of biomass use. The 'how' is described in the work plans of the respective work packages (3,4).

A transnational network of competent organisations and institutions based in the different regions is ideal to supply stakeholders with information relevant to them and adapted to the specific needs of the regional context.

In order to be able to offer quality individual help based on the pooled transnational knowledge, the network needs to be well organised. For these reasons partners will identify stakeholders to be included into a national network. The identified stakeholders will be contacted and asked to join the network, thus, stable national 4BIOMASS networks will be established. 4BIOMASS Partners will formulate a Networking agreement, which will be signed and provide for the institutionalization of the transnational network with a set of rules for its operation (network management). Sustainability of the transnational network is thus strengthened. For even better visibility and efficiency of the transnational network, 4BIOMASS partners will establish a mission statement and a set of criteria for the establishment of government appointed National Competence Centres (NCC). The mission statement and the criteria list will be handed over to the respective ministries in the Central European countries. Ideally, the governments will give mandates to qualified organizations to act as a National Competence Centre on issues of sustainable usage of biomass for energy production. The value added of such mandates will be that stakeholders are assured about the quality of information offered and that,

4BIOMASS – Fostering the Sustainable Usage of Renewable Energy Sources in Central Europe - Putting Biomass into Action!

with appropriate dissemination and promotion, they recognize the transnational character of the network giving an extra value to the information provided.

For easy storage and easy access to the immense amount of information to be collected and distributed, a well categorized and up to date web based Info Pool will be established. A special Info Pool will contain up to date information on the status of BAPs/NAPs of CE countries. The Info Pool will be provided on the internal section of the web page.

1.1 Tasks in WP 5.1

1.1.1 Month 5-6

National Network

(FNR, AEA, CZ Biom, BMU, Energia Központ, ENEA, AGH, SK BIOM, ApE)

Each partner in 4BIOMASS is a well known player in the field of bioenergy in its home country. National networks are well established consisting of personal professional contacts with stakeholders throughout the value chain of bioenergy and the policy level. Under this task, partners of 4BIOMASS will establish an institutionalised national 4BIOMASS network consisting of interested stakeholders.

Deliverable:

In sum for all partner countries, at least 100 institutions are to be gathered in national networks. Partners will propose networking contacts by filling out a template developed by FNR. The filled in templates with contact information will be collected by FNR. Partners will contact the identified stakeholders, explaining the concept of 4BIOMASS and outlining the advantage of joining such a network. Stakeholders interested will sign up as a 4BIOMASS national network contact. This will be reported to FNR as the work package leader. FNR will fill in a database with all signed up networking contacts. The database will be used for later networking. It will also function as a proof that the 4BIOMASS partners have lived up to the contractual obligation to establish national 4BIOMASS networks.

1.1.2 Month 9-11 (Originally Month 10)

National Competence Centres (NCC)

(FNR, AEA, CZ Biom, BMU, Energia Központ, ENEA, AGH, SK BIOM, ApE)

Under this task a set of criteria for giving a (temporary or permanent) mandate to NCCs by national governments to address transnational biomass and sustainability issues are to be elaborated. FNR as WP Leader will work out a first global mission statement for such NCCs and a draft set of criteria for the nomination. The two drafts will be circulated for feedback and comments to all project partners. Feedback and comments will be worked into the drafts. The mission statement and the set of criteria for nomination of NCCs will be presented to representatives of national ministries at the second 4BIOMASS meeting. Feedback and reactions of the representatives concerning feasibility of NCC nomination with under these preconditions will have to be evaluated and the mission statement and set of criteria for NCC nomination will have to be adapted. The final documents are to be delivered month 10.

1.1.3 Month 35

NCC Nomination

(FNR, AEA, CZ Biom, BMU, Energia Központ, ENEA, AGH, SK BIOM, ApE)

Based upon the above elaborated mission statement and set of criteria, 4BIOMASS partners will enter into dialogue with national ministries to bring forward arguments why

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it is expedient to establish a network of NCCs in Central Europe. National governments should nominate at least three NCCs until month 35.

1.1.4 Month 6

Network establishment

(FNR, AEA, CZ Biom, BMU, Energia Központ, ENEA, AGH, SK BIOM, ApE)

Based on the national networks established under task 1, 4BIOMASS partners will establish the transnational network connecting the national networks via signing a networking agreement. The networking agreement will stipulate modes of interaction and describe information flows. The Networking Agreement will be drafted by FNR as the WP Leader. It will be circulated amongst the partners for feedback and comments. Feedback and comments will be worked into the document. The consolidated agreement will be signed on the 2nd 4BIOMASS network meeting which will be held back-to-back with the 2nd Project Committee Meeting. Press releases will communicate the establishment of the Network to the stakeholders and the interested public.

1.1.5 Month 20

Meta-Networking

(FNR, AEA, CZ Biom, BMU, Energia Központ, ENEA, AGH, SK BIOM, ApE)

Partners will participate in national and international conferences and events. They will represent 4BIOMASS, inform other participants about the project and collect relevant information to be fed into national networks. 4BIOMASS Partners have to participate in at least 8 events overall.

1.1.6 Month 10

Info Pool (FNR, AEA, CZ Biom, BMU, Energia Központ, ENEA, AGH, SK BIOM, ApE)

A very important topic for the networking activities is the development concerning Biomass Action Plans or the biomass relevant parts of the National Action Plans to be drafted by Member States until June 2010. And thereafter it is the implementation phase of the plans that is of importance to stakeholders.

It is therefore that 4BIOMASS partners will monitor developments, collect information and formulate advice and recommendations for stakeholders to take the right decisions with respect to the BAPs/NAPs in the coming years. A continuously updated Info Pool on BAPs/NAPs will be created, where Partners store relevant information and recommendations. With these valuable information pooled, the 4BIOMASS Network is able to deal with requests from stakeholders that need up-to date information and advice on the current status of BAPs/NAPs to make the right decisions for their business or actions.

Partners will spread knowledge amongst stakeholders about the possibility of receiving information and encourage them to ask for individual expert advice drawing on knowledge from the transnational 4BIOMASS network.

The Info Pool has to be established as operable until month 10 – preferably earlier. The aim is to deal with at least 500 requests over the whole project duration.

1.1.7 Month 6,12,18,24,30,35

Network meetings

(FNR, AEA, CZ Biom, BMU, Energia Központ, ENEA, AGH, SK BIOM, ApE)

Networking meetings will take place back-to-back with Project Committee meetings. The meetings will be used to discuss issues concerning the operation of the transnational

**4BIOMASS – Fostering the Sustainable Usage of Renewable Energy Sources
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network as well as topical issues concerning information quality and thematic priorities.
Partner meetings will be in the Czech Republic, Austria, Slovakia and Berlin