

1 Work Plan for WP 4.1: National Biomass Action Plans

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Gülzow, January 2009

4.1. National Biomass Action Plans (nBAPs) (FNR)

In this part of the work package the state of development of BAPs will be inquired. Stakeholders (farmers, foresters, biomass reliant industry, associations etc.) in the partner countries will be identified and their expectations from nBAPs investigated and analysed. The results will be discussed in a transnational workshop and incorporated in a synthesis report with recommendations for design resp. update of nBAPs/NAPs and finally will be handed over to policy makers and implementation bodies at the end of the project.

The new Directive on Renewable Energy, agreed in December 2008 by the European Parliament and the Council, stipulates National Renewables Energy Action Plans for the Member States. "The Commission shall adopt by 30 June 2009 a template for the national action plans. Each Member State must adopt renewable energy action plans and notify their national action plans to the Commission by 30 June 2010 at the latest" (EUBIA from 18.12.2008; www.eubia.org). The nBAPs will form one important part of them.

1.1 Tasks in WP 4.1

1.1.1 Month 8 (Now: Month 5-6)

Stakeholder identification (All partners)

In order to receive a complete picture of the expectations of stakeholders concerning biomass action plans, these stakeholders have to be identified. To identify stakeholders throughout the whole spectrum - vertical and horizontal - a template for contacts will be established by FNR before the Kick-off meeting. The draft shall be presented at the Kick-off meeting. The accepted version will be emailed to all partners to identify and fill in the respective stakeholders into the template. Stakeholders will be divided into groups, i.e. biomass producer, trader, conversion, distribution, end use, environmental associations etc. The template will be a stakeholder map of the CE region and it will be the basis for initiating the dialogue.

1.1.2 Month 11 (Now: Month 7)

Dialogue ToR (FNR; All partners)

In order to question the identified stakeholders, FNR will elaborate Terms of References which will define the frame for questioning stakeholders. FNR will provide a first draft of ToR to be reviewed by all partners before a consolidated version will be distributed. The method of contacting stakeholders depends on the preferences of the stakeholder group or on how project partners assume to receive the most answers. This can be via interviews, email questionnaires, workshops.

AEA: be aware of IEE project BAP-driver, use outcomes of this project and share results.

1.1.3 Month 8-10 (Originally Month 15)

Stakeholder dialogue (All partners)

A dialogue with stakeholders will be conducted to make a qualitative assessment of what stakeholders expect of Biomass Action Plans. All Partners will collect opinions of the identified stakeholders via interviews, questionnaires, workshops.

1.1.4 Month 11 (Originally Month 22)

Findings from stakeholder dialogue (All partners)

All partners will file a brief country report outlining the results of their stakeholder consultation in a qualitative analysis.

1.1.5 Month 12 (Originally Month 24)

Transnational partner workshop (FNR)

A transnational partner workshop will be organized by FNR to exchange results from the different countries and to discuss how to translate these results into recommendations for design/updates of BAPs

1.1.6 Month 14 (Originally Month 26)

Analysis and synthesis report (FNR)

FNR will develop a synthesis report of the country reports including recommendations for the design/update of BAPs. The report will give 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. Results of this task are input to task 4.2.7.

1.1.7 Month 34

Preparation of the Transnational Forum (FNR, BMU)

Results from 4.1.6. and 4.2.9 will be presented to the members of the Transnational Forum. The event will be organized and material will be prepared by FNR in cooperation with BMU

1.1.8 Month 35

Transnational Forum (All partners)

The Transnational Forum will be a meeting of NCCs and representatives of ministries and other BAP implementing actors of CE countries. The meeting held back to back with the final conference. 30 to 50 participants are expected to take part. The meeting is envisaged to be a start of regular occurring forum meetings for exchange on implementation procedure of BAPs. Only the first meeting will be paid by 4BIOMASS but the consortium will make an effort to mobilise finances to organise follow-up meetings.

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Work Plan WP 4.2: Policy - Transnational Biomass Agenda

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Berlin, January 2009

Policy analysis (BMU/FFU)

As we have been learning most recently, high dependency on gas imports, as for example from Russia via Ukraine to European countries, may lead to rather bad experiences and pose questions on energy security guarantees in the future. Reactivating just shut-down nuclear reactors for reason of their age and wrecked status like it is considered now by Bulgaria, Lithuania and Slovakia, or the announcement of constructing new nuclear power plants by the Polish Prime Minister these days, can certainly not be a reasonable and responsible (cost and time efficient) solution of the problem. Relying almost solely on domestic coal is equally problematic because of its CO₂ emissions, since carbon capture and storage (CCS) technologies will not be available in the near future; in any case the deployment of this technology will require a considerable amount of financial means. Furthermore, no one can predict oil prices or gas prices over a 20 years period (oil prices being at the time rather volatile), but it would be imprudent not to start investing to reduce the uncertainties of the energy future in EU Member States. Particularly in CE countries a courageous revision of energy policy towards enforced development and deployment of renewable energies, first of all of the existing biomass potential, will provide supply security under sustainable conditions, and reduce dependency from foreign energy delivery.

The introduction of bioenergy on a larger scale demands a very different institutional approach for both development and implementation as compared to the production of conventional energy. While the latter is very much dependent on large scale production from single sources with single line distribution networks to consumers, production of bioenergy and related conversion technologies depends on many suppliers, many conversion technologies, and consumers in both rural and urban settings. Decentralised generation of heat and electricity in combined heat and power plants will increase energy efficiency to a great amount. At the same time even more positive effects like increasing employment within the region will create added value and keep it there. This enables development of rural areas and may avoid exodus from them. Certainly, managing common grids such as local distribution networks, individual producers and individual consumers may require a new combination of “top-down” as well as “bottom-up” institutions. This leads to the question which kinds of institutions will be able to manage these new forms of energy policy.

Yet the increased use of bioenergy must be balanced against any environmental pressures because it may have also negative effects on the use of agricultural land, soil and water quality, afforestation and deforestation, and biodiversity. The competition of use, i.e. between crops for nourishment and fuel, might create on the one hand shortages by subsistence for humans and animals, on the other hand environmental problems due to long-distance transports. In terms of climate effects, concerns are increasing about the life cycle aspects of bio-fuels and the subsequent need for an efficient transformation and conversion of biomass to use natural resources responsibly.

Objectives and strategy of the project

The overall aim of the project is to stimulate the sustainable production and use of bioenergy in CE through effective policy and regulation in starting a coordinated and coherent transnational approach towards a decisive implementation focusing on biomass for heat, electricity and transportation fuels. General point of reference is the global and EU political framework (Rio Convention 1992, Johannesburg Convention 2002, Proposal

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for RES Directive by EU Commission from January 2008, Common Agricultural Policy 2003, Biofuels Directive 2003) which are binding for all project partner countries; the national, regional, sub-regional and municipal policy programmes and measures should be aligned to achieve a common and joint approach for biomass utilisation.

The project aims at establishing a stable policy partnership in CE region granting good and reliable cooperation of policy-makers/deciders committing themselves to joint action. It is intended to bring policy makers and stakeholders into a permanent dialogue with each other to remove existing barriers in increasing sustainable biomass production, usage and transportation. This means that all involved ministries of the partner countries (environment, energy, economy, agriculture and forestry, regional planning) will be invited to regularly participate in the workshops during the project life time. Thus a stable partnership of policy-makers in the region should be established which ensures their continuous cooperation in the future. National policies must be flexible enough to accommodate local conditions and contexts. Regional and local governments need a decision-making process that allows for sub-national decisions which reflect local circumstances and particularly the local environment. To strengthen horizontal policy on transnational level will give a push to coherent and coordinated political efforts in the whole CE region.

A strategic target of the project is to initiate the establishment of National Competence Centres (NCCs) in all partner countries in the region and connect them in a network enabling permanent contact and exchange of know-how among each other as well as to other networks and institutions. These centres are supposed to promote cross-national, cross-sector and cross-disciplinary approaches to knowledge sharing and transfer. They operate in two directions: They observe new developments in biomass issues, e.g. new global and EU regulation and communicate information about it to ministries as well as to regional and municipal authorities. At the same time they act as focal point for stakeholders dealing with biomass exploitation and utilisation like farmers, foresters, biomass producers and traders, and provide them with information i.a. on policy issues, development of standards and certification systems, technological innovations, and market conditions etc. This means that they have a consulting function for stakeholders needing support for their decisions. A most important task of the national competence centres is to work against the uneven knowledge dissemination in the region by bundling good practice cases and disseminating them among policy-makers on regional and local level to provide them with knowledge on practical issues.

The involved ministries should accompany the project and be committed to stay part of the network of political actors, national competence centres, and stakeholders even after the end of the project, to ensure the joint continuation of finding solutions best suitable for the region. The aim is to win the responsible ministries to sign a "Memorandum of Understanding" on further cooperation to foster sustainable biomass use in CE.

1.2 Tasks in WP 4.2.

1.2.1 Month 6

(BMU/FFU)

In order to receive a comparable picture of the biomass situation in the partner countries, BMU/FFU will elaborate "terms of reference" for assessing the political structure of the countries on all political levels. That means inquiry on national legislative framework on biomass, relevant ordinances and regulation, as well as on county and community level, economic incentives, other support measures, existence of a national bioenergy strategy, etc. Furthermore biomass resources - biomass sorts for heating/cooling, electricity, and transport - should be investigated in regard of availability, possibilities, and constraints. The studies should also assess existing reports and other sources of information with strong emphasis on sustainability criteria (at the time the EU Commission is elaborating sustainability criteria).

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Output: “Terms of Reference”.

1.2.2 Month 12

(All partners)

All project partners are asked to have delivered this background study to BMU/FFU by this date. Since the countries face very different conditions not only in key country data like e.g. population or size indicators, but also in natural resources, climate, tradition in biomass etc., we will have to expect rather differing pictures regarding chances and barriers. The national stakeholder hearings will give more information on this issue and will help to identify best practice cases which can serve as models for dissemination of successful implementation.

Output: 8 brief country papers.

AEA: country paper refer to structure of 4.2.1.

1.2.3 Month 18

(BMU/FFU; All partners)

On the basis of these country studies BMU/FFU will elaborate a transnational synthesis report drawing conclusions on the state-of-the-art in the partner countries including lessons learned. This will allow – in cooperation with all project partners - to develop recommendations for future policy design offering the governments in the CE region to decide on political needs jointly. This should allow to come to corporate and coherent policy strategies and measures for fostering most sustainable biomass sectors (e.g. small-scale district heating, biogas into natural gas grids, second generation biofuels for transport etc.) as well as to suitable strategies for acceleration of planning and permit procedures. And this could lead to diffusion of best suitable policies and dissemination of supporting measures and incentives as well as self-generated activities (like e.g. municipalities and regions having set themselves a 100% target with deployment of RES).

Output: Synthesis report on country studies.

1.2.4 Month 24

(All partners)

By that time all project partners should have collected available studies on trade in their countries. Biomass potential is limited and it is already evident, that some countries have shortages on biomass sources and are forced to import a considerable amount of biomass from other countries. This means that transnational trading is increasing, and it will be of great importance to establish sound and sustainable logistics for biomass transport. For some CE countries this offers good possibilities to build up supply chains and to sell their biomass sorts on the regional market. The EU target of 20% RES by the year 2020 – at the time RES share is only less than 10% in EU - certainly will cause additional trading also with Non-EU countries (e.g. Ukraine might have good opportunities to take part in it if political actors seize their chances).

Output: 8 inventories on biomass trade in the partner countries.

1.2.5 Month 27

(BMU/FFU)

BMU/FFU will elaborate a transnational analysis on the basis of the findings on biomass trade in the partner countries.

Output: Analysis of biomass trade in CE region

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1.2.6 Month 30

(AEA, BMU/FFU)

In cooperation with the Austrian Energy Agency the situation and implications of biomass trade in CE will be discussed on the workshop in Vienna. Marketing issues like e.g. how to bring the biomass to the respective markets like small-scale heating, district heating, fuels for transport in a sustainable way, and how to optimise logistics, are core questions in order to promote a common market in CE.

Output: Workshop on biomass trade in CE.

1.2.7 Month 33

(All partners)

A Transnational Action Plan (TAP) is to be drafted based on findings of outputs 4.1.6, 4.2.3, 4.2.5., 4.2.6. by BMU/FFU and FNR and all project partners. This plan 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 avoiding trade-offs like the competition of use, degradation of soil, threatening biodiversity, stress on water resources as well as land use change having a negative impact on CO2 emissions.

1.2.8 Month 33

(All partners)

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. If this goal could be achieved, political decisions will be transparent, responsible and anticipatory, and they will find acceptance with the public.

1.2.9 Month 34

The final Transnational Action Plan will be ready for discussion on the final conference in Berlin (month 35).