

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

Nomination of 'Central European Bioenergy Centre' – CEBC

Resulting in a 'Central European Bioenergy Network' - CEBioNet

1 Background

The objective of the project 4Biomass is to foster the sustainable usage of bioenergy sources in Central Europe. It will facilitate the transfer of know-how and successful policies in bioenergy throughout Central European countries. Tasks are aimed to accompany the implementation of national REAPs. The findings of the project are presented at the Central Europe Transnational Forum and the Closing Conference organised by 4Biomass.

2 Mission statement

Strategic objectives

One target of the project 4Biomass is the nomination of Central European Bioenergy Centres (CEBC) resulting in a Central European Bioenergy Network (CEBioNet) promoting the use of energy from renewable sources.

Organisations and institutions active in the field of bioenergy will be nominated as CEBCs according to a set of criteria which are elaborated by the 4Biomass project. They shall work together to promote the sustainable use of bioenergy in all CE countries: Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

CEBCs will support the use of bioenergy from biomass in order to contribute to reaching the sectoral targets set by Member States in the National Renewable Energy Action Plans (nREAPs). These provide detailed roadmaps of how each Member State expects to reach its legally binding 2020 target for the share of renewable energy in the final energy consumption. Because an extensive increase in the use of biomass is needed in most of the Member States, CEBCs will work towards a sustainable exploitation of existing biomass resources and the sustainable mobilisation of new biomass resources for heat, electricity and biofuels.

CEBCs will promote and inform about sustainable bioenergy technologies and available innovative concepts for heating /cooling and electricity generation with biomass.

The CEBCs will serve policy makers, investors and other stakeholders who are concerned with the utilisation of bioenergy in Central Europe as a source of information and advice.

Knowledge on sustainable use of bioenergy will be gathered and spread throughout Central Europe.

The CEBCs will be interconnected with other biomass/bioenergy focused organisations and institutions in national and international networks. A core group for this cooperation are the 4Biomass Project Partners.

Assignment of tasks

The CEBCs will strive for permanent contact and exchange through the 4Biomass website. This website has been established in the frame of the 4Biomass project and will be used to connect CEBCs for networking. The 4Biomass website will be supported beyond the project's duration. It will serve as a source for information and communication for all stakeholders and other interested persons. It will be the contact point and the centre of communication between CEBCs, policy makers, R&D facilities and stakeholders.

Additionally, CEBCs will be integrated in the Joint Management Tool. This site will contain a range of links to, and contacts of, institutions and agencies with concrete contacts of persons for bioenergy responsible for different fields of bioenergy. Stakeholders or other interested persons are able to direct their requests to the persons in charge in the field of their concern. This means that CEBCs have a consulting function for stakeholders needing support for their decisions.

An exchange of relevant research results and innovative technologies is provided by sending national presentations and studies to the 4biomass website.

Notice is given regularly on the ongoing research projects in CE. Requests for presentations on certain subjects of bioenergy or invitations to conferences are possible.

Regularly, evaluations and adaptations and the further development of bioenergy policies will be communicated by CEBCs to the public. CEBCs forward comments and advice on the effects of the measures in accordance to the sectoral targets of the EU until 2020.

Thus, CEBCs, the institutions of 4Biomass Project Partners, and their wide-spread contacts with biomass/bioenergy actors will be connected and merged to an active and vivid Central European Bioenergy Network - CEBioNet. This network supports in turn the work of the CEBCs in their efforts to accelerate utilisation of sustainable bioenergy in CE and as well in neighbouring countries.

Benefit of a CEBioNet

The work and actions of the 4Biomass-project and the Central Europe Bioenergy Centres will result in a Central European Bioenergy Network (CEBioNet). The flow of information at a transnational level is ensured beyond the 4biomass project's duration time. The value lies in connecting national networks via the CEBioNet. The institutionalisation and definition of a mission will contribute to form a long lasting cooperation. This will grant transnational access to information, know-how and R&D progress in bioenergy.

Two transnational forums will be organised by the 4biomass project incorporating the CEBCs and initiating the work of the CEBioNet. At these events, CEBCs will foster the CEBioNet to bring the subject of bioenergy to a transnational stage. The first CEBCs will be nominated at the 4Biomass First Transnational Forum in Warsaw in April 2011.

3 Award criteria

Eligible Institutions/Organisations

- Organisation/institution shall be situated in one of the CE countries
- Well established and experienced in the field of renewables, especially bioenergy and biomass
- Own active national or regional bioenergy network
- Nationally or regionally active or connected to R&D activities desirable but not necessary
- Possibly experiences in EU or national bioenergy projects
- European and International focus desirable
- Prepared to sign a Memorandum of Understanding and support idea of CEBioNet
- Prepared to provide support to stakeholders free of charge for first contacts
- Prepared to appoint a contact person for the CEBioNet

4 Tasks

CEBC exchange relevant national information and knowledge on all bioenergy related issues, always under the aspect of their sustainable utilization by sending following type of information to the 4biomass website: technologies, best practice, workshops, conferences, presentations, policy and policy measures, research results.

- CEBC provide information in national and – if possible - in English language
- CEBC reply to questions from stakeholders or other interested persons, for first contacts free of charge
- CEBC send information from the CEBC network to local networks

5 Terms of Reference

Nomination of CEBC

Project partners of the 4Biomass project suggest organisation and institutions to the CEBC committee. The potential CEBC are to fill in the application form, where they state their compliance with the CEBC Criteria developed by the 4Biomass project. The members of the committee decide about the compliance with the criteria in a consensus decision. The decision about nomination of CEBC is documented by the committee. The CEBC committee informs the 4Biomass project partners about their decision. Applicants are informed by the 4Biomass partners

In case of compliance, the committee hand out a nomination paper and announces the nomination. The newly nominated CEBC receives a nomination document signed by committee members. It gives the right to carry the title 'Central European Bioenergy Centre' together with the institutions name and the CEBC logo at the institutions website. It does not contain any monetary obligations or entitlement for funds.

Nominations of CEBC are to be announced at 4Biomass events. First nominations will take place at the Transnational Forum in Warsaw in spring 2011.

The CEBC committee

Potential members of the committee are appointed by the 4Biomass project partners. Every 4Biomass partner country has the right to appoint one committee member. That will result in 7 committee members. The 4Biomass partners are to firstly consider TAG (Transnational Advisory Group) members as a committee member. Other possible committee members are important stakeholders in the field of Bioenergy (policy, industry, NGO, science and research). The committee members are to sign the CEBC Committee letter of support. They are to be announced to the public.

First nominations of CEBC will be carried out in spring 2011. For further nominations the committee will be contacted by the 4Biomass partners twice a year (Fall 2011 and Spring 2012). New members can be appointed individually.

Members of committee communicate with each other and the 4Biomass partners via email and telephone. All necessary documents are to be sent via email. Committee members receive an invitation to relevant 4Biomass events and are welcome to take part in these events.

The members of the committee act in their own responsibility within their personal capacity based on their professional experience.

With the termination of the 4Biomass project the established CEBC will overtake the tasks of the 4Biomass partner.