



Energy Days

Bioenergy in rural areas

Puglia Region Liaison Office, 62 rue du Trône, 1050 Bruxelles
25th June 2014
9.30 - 17.00

The event will focus on Regional policies for Bioenergy development in Rural Areas, in the perspective of the drafting of the **Regional Rural Development Programmes 2014-2020**.

It will also be the occasion to engage a broad discussion among European Regions and between them and the European Commission about the future policies and funding opportunities in the new programming period.

Rural areas represent 90% of all territory in the EU and 56% of the population. They generate 43% of all economic value and support 55% of all employment. **Renewable energy (RE)** is being championed in many places as a potentially significant new source of jobs and rural growth in the EU, and as a means of addressing environmental and energy security concerns. RE is expected to deliver particularly in three areas: energy security, climate change mitigation and economic development (job creation).

However, without the right policies this is not always the case and there can be significant **trade-offs** among these goals. For instance, large biomass heat and power plants can generate new employment opportunities but may as well increase emissions through land-use change and transportation of feedstock over long distances. A well-designed framework for regional policy could offer a real opportunity to reconcile policy trade-offs and identify potential complementarities among the objectives of energy security, climate change mitigation and job creation.

Bioenergy is probably one of the most profitable RE source to be employed in rural areas. It already provides the majority of renewable energy worldwide and is considered to have the potential to provide a large fraction of world energy demand over the next century. At the same time, if biomass systems are managed properly, bioenergy will contribute to meet the requirement of reducing carbon emissions.

A smart management of biomass produced by farms may be an alternative to the traditional management of crop residues, with reduced environmental impact and saving on energy costs and also an important opportunity for diversification of income through the sale of electricity and gas.



In the EU-27, bioenergy contributes only to 3.7% of the total primary energy supply; however, it plays a considerable role in several European countries such as Finland and Sweden for instance, where its contribution amounts respectively 20% and 16% of the gross inland consumption.

Both the evolution of MS laws and the opportunities offered by innovation policies at European level can provide significant opportunities for a more widespread development of renewable energy in rural areas.

The Rural Development Programs of Regions and MS have already fielded in the current programming period interventions - direct to farms and rural areas - for energy saving and for the integration of income. With the new Rural Development Regulation, these initiatives will be more rewarded and more closely linked to environmental policies.

Goals of the seminar

- Gather **regions** engaged in:
 - the production of biomass and purified biogas;
 - the strategic and financial planning of the above mentioned resources in their rural development plans;
 - innovative projects and initiatives.
- Have an insight of future EU policies related to bioenergy from **European Commission** functionaries in order to better shape the new Regional Rural Development Programmes for 2014-2020.
- Have a follow up on the **OECD** study on “Linking renewable energies to rural development” and a policy vision from the Organisation (<http://www.oecd.org/regional/linkingrenewableenergytoruraldevelopment.htm>).
- Envisage possible cooperation among EU regions in order to access to **EU financial instruments and other initiatives** (eg. Horizon 2020, EARDF, EIP AGRI, INTERREG Europe).
- Showcase **successful projects, best practices** and relevant **initiatives** in the sector.

Partners:



Regione Lombardia



9.00 - 9.30

Registration

MORNING SESSION (9.30 – 12.45)

(I) Policy issues

This session will focus on the latest policy development in the bioenergy field

9.30 - 9.35	Welcome by Mr Fabrizio Nardoni , Puglia Regional Ministry for Agriculture
9.35 - 9.40	Introduction by the moderator (Puglia Region)
9.40 - 9.55	Mr Raffaele Trapasso , OECD
9.55 - 10.10	Ms Josefine Loriz-Hoffmann , Head of Unit, DG AGRI H4 (TBC)
10.10 - 10.20	Puglia Region speaker
10.20 - 10.30	Mr Niels Hedegaard Jørgensen , Development Manager, Region Zealand
10.30 - 10.40	Mr Gabriele Boccasile , Department for Agriculture, Lombardy Region
10.40 - 11.00	Q&A

11.00 - 11.30

Coffee Break

(II) Ongoing projects

During this session some regional best practices will be showcased

11.30 - 11.40	Introduction by the moderator Mr Rob Peters , Head of Unit, DG AGRI H5 (TBC)
11.40 - 11.50	Ms Anne Pesola , Development Manager, Coordinator of the Biovalley initiative, City of Kannus, Central Ostrobothnia
11.50 - 12.00	Ms Anna Säfvestad Albinsson , Project Manager BioFuel Region (North Sweden)
12.00 - 12.10	Mr Federico Correale , Veneto Agricoltura, and Ms Lies Bamelis , DLV Inno Vision, project manager of GR3
12.10 - 12.20	Mr Jose Pablo Delgado , project manager at the Proforbiomed Project, Regional Development Agency of the Region of Murcia
12.20 - 12.30	Mr Claudio Fagarazzi , Researcher at University of Florence
12.30 - 12.45	Open debate

12.45 - 14.30

Lunch break

AFTERNOON SESSION (14h30 – 16h30)

(III) Territorial complementarities and funding synergies

The last session will focus on future cooperation opportunities for regions and regional stakeholders and possible synergies (e.g. in the framework of the Smart Specialisation)*

14.30 - 14.45	Mr Fabio Boscaleri , ERIAFF
14.45 - 15.00	DG RTD, Horizon 2020 (TBC)
15.00 - 15.15	DG ENV, Life+ (TBC)
15.15 - 15.30	Ms Martina Bacova , INTERREG IV C Secretariat
15.30 - 16.00	Open discussion

* This session will be organised in collaboration with and moderated by ERRIN and ERIAFF

16.00 - 17.00

Networking Coffee