

WHY IS THE USE OF BIOMASS NEEDED?

The importance of the utilization of biomass for heat and energy production is rapidly growing in Europe. In the context of the EU's policy on renewable energy summarized as the 20/20/20 target (20% renewable energy, 20% greenhouse gas reduction and 20% reduction in energy consumption by the year 2020), the production of heat and energy through biomass constitutes an important pillar.

What are the expected results of the Project?

- 108.500 tons of 'solid biomass' stocked per year.
- 54.200 kWhel/year electric power produced, 82.300 kWhth/year thermal energy produced.
- 170 Nature Park managers, engineers and technicians trained.
- Participation of 100 selected people at an international conference.
- Transferring the project's know-how to 15 nature parks.
- 300 local key actors and stakeholders (public and private) as well as 1.800 citizens directly or indirectly involved in the projects activities.
- Over 7.000 citizens directly reached by local awareness and communication activities.

THE KEY POINTS OF THE PROJECT

To provide a methodology for the setup and management of local biomass supply chains in 5 nature parks, in accordance with four main key principles:

Environmental sustainability

the environmental impact, as well as the influence on the livelihoods and health of locals will be reduced to a minimum.

Sharing with locals

participation of and co-planning with all relevant key actors, as a transparent and democratic method will overcome social conflicts.

Long term perspective

the capability of the system to maintain itself over time under social, economic and environmental aspects will be secured.

Local Income

contribution to the increase of the income of local economies.

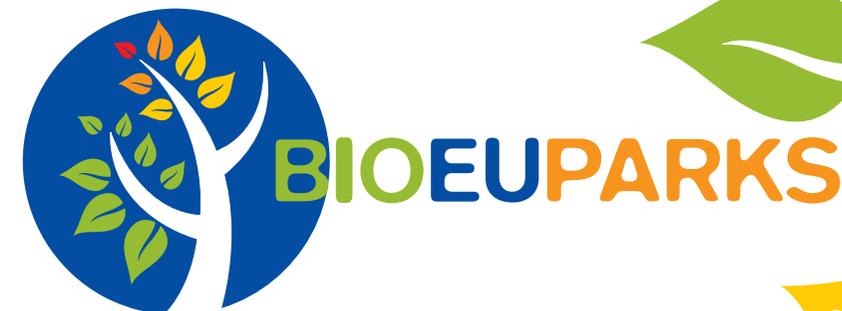
BioEUParks follows the concept of sustainable forest management, as defined by Europe Union: "The stewardship and use of forest lands in a way and at a rate that maintains their productivity, biodiversity productivity, regeneration capacity, vitality and their potential to fulfil now and in the future relevant ecological, economic and social functions at local, national and global levels and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems."

www.bioeuparks.eu



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THE PROJECT

BioEUParks will contribute to the increase of local supply of biomass from sustainably managed forests and agricultural residues. The main aim is to develop an efficient and sustainable biomass supply chain in 5 European nature parks, promoting short chains and small scale installations. This can be realised through an approach that promotes sharing of objectives and co-planning with local key actors. For this reason, the project also aims at developing a methodology of debates and meetings which should overcome social conflict that might arise on the occasion of new structural interventions.

The project will be realized in a period of three years during which, as a first step, the methodology will be designed and tailored to the features of each park, then tested in pilot areas to assess its effectiveness and finally transferred to the European level.

BioEUParks is a project funded under the European Intelligent Energy Europe Programme (IEE), which promotes pilot initiatives aimed at supporting energy efficiency and renewable energy policies, with a view to reaching the EU 2020 targets (20% cut in greenhouse gas emission, 20% improvement in energy efficiency and 20%).

THE PARTNERS

10 partners from 7 European countries contribute to the project.

THE PARKS

Danube - Ipoly National Park (Hungary)

Is the ninth national park of Hungary established on 60.314 hectares in 1997. The diversity and variety of natural values of the area is fascinating: from mountain areas to plains and water bodies, the park is one of the treasures of the Danube River Basin.

Kozjansko Regional Park (Slovenia)

Located at the junction of the Alps and the Pannonian plains, the Park offers a mosaic of flowering meadows, ancient orchards, steep forested slopes and clear streams. The farms and paths between them and the cultural landscape are dotted with castles and churches.

Rodopi National Park (Greece)

The Park, located at the central-west massif of the mountain range of Rodopi, covers an area of 173.150 hectares and includes extended and integrated forest ecosystems. The Park is one of the most ecologically significant regions in Greece.

Sila National Park (Italy)

Enchanting mountains and valleys, astonishing plants and a great variety of animal species are part of this biodiverse heritage in the south of Italy. In its 73.695 hectares several rural villages and cultural features are located.

Solktaler Nature Park (Austria)

The Sölktäler Nature Park GmbH, one of Austria's largest nature parks, is located in the Eastern Alps in Styria. Idyllic mountain villages, blossoming alp life and wild mountain streams characterize the area which is also a valuable refuge for many - among others endangered - species.

OTHER PARTNERS

Legambiente

The most widespread Italian environmental organization is the lead partner of the project. Over the last 30 years, Legambiente has been involved in nature conservation and sustainable development, supporting the use of renewable energy sources.

Democritus University of Thrace

Established in July 1973, the University was named after the ancient Greek philosopher Democritus. The university participates with the Department of Forestry and Management of the Environment and Natural Resources, offering expertise in sustainable forest management, investments in natural resources and regional development.

Agency for Renewable Resources

The Agency for Renewable Resources, FNR (Fachagentur Nachwachsende Rohstoffe e.V.) is the central coordinating institution for research, development and demonstration projects in the field of renewable resources. It coordinates activities throughout Germany according to the guidelines of the R&D Funding programme for Renewable Resources. FNR is also involved in respective activities on European and international level.

Slovenian Forestry Institute

The Slovenian Forestry Institute is a public research institute of national importance, which conducts basic and applied research on forests and forest landscape, forest ecosystems, wildlife ecology, hunting, forest management as well as other uses of the resources and services forests provide.

EUROPARC Federation

Founded in 1973, EUROPARC Federation currently represents 365 members. These include protected areas, governmental departments, NGO's and businesses in 36 countries, who themselves manage the green jewels of Europe's land, sea, mountains, forests, rivers and cultural heritage.