ENERGY BARGE Newsletter #11

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Welcome to the 11th newsletter of the ENERGY BARGE project!

In this issue we look back to the 3rd National Workshop, which took place in Bucharest on 7th June 2018. Further, ENERGY BARGE participated at the workshop of ETIP Bioenergy in Novi Sad in the framework of the 3rd South East European Conference on Sustainable Development of Energy, Water and Environment Systems on 3 July 2018.

Both workshops demonstrated that potentials of untapped biomass potentials are available in the regions, but also that there are already competitions between different end users and users regarding the use of biomass as feedstock for material or energetic use that need to be respected in order to avoid conflicts of interest.

We hope you enjoy reading!
The team of ENERGY BARGE

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Danube Transnational Programme
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The partners

There are 15 partners involved in the project from 7 countries:

7 partners from the biomass/bioenergy sector

6 partners from the logistics sector including 5 ports

3 partners from the field of research that provide either special knowledge needed for the implementation of the project (spatial modelling) or who have special knowledge and networks in their regions (biofuels and biomass).

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3rd ENERGY BARGE workshop in Bucharest

On 7 June, the ENERGY BARGE project organised its 3rd national workshop in Bucharest, Romania. The workshop gathered 50 experts from the field of biomass/bioenergy and inland waterway logistics. Initially, Thies Fellenberg from the Agency for Renewable Resources (FNR) outlined the envisaged main outputs of the ENERGY BARGE project, which comprise the set up of a modal shift platform to enable a better connected and interoperable transport system for bioenergy products along the Danube or pilot investments in the Port of Vienna and MAHART-Freeport in Budapest. Business-to-Business meetings, starting from 10-11 October in the frame of the Danube Business Talks 2018 in Vienna, will bring market actors from the Danube logistics and the bioenergy sectors together in order to develop new logistics solutions.

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Mr. Ilias Papageorgiadis gave an introduction to the Romanian Association of Biomass and Biogas (ARBIO). ARBIO was founded in 2014 to support the establishment of a legislative frame for the support of utilising bioenergy. An important issue on this regard is the aim to increase the use of waste materials and thereby reduce the share of waste that is send to landfills, which is still the common practice in Romania. However, the biomass and bioenergy sector in Romania still faces challenges due to unstable political conditions.

Mr. Catalin Tobescu (Nostra Silva, Federation of forest owners in Romania, founded in 2013 in order to implement PEFC standards in Romania) depicted current challenges of the Romania forest sector, which mainly comprise required investments in infrastructure and forest management, land use changes and the need for new support schemes.

Further, Mr. Tobescu presented data of the Romanian forest inventory from 2013. The Romanian forest area amounts to approx. 7 Mio ha. compared to the forest inventory 30 years ago, the forest area increased and the forests are supposed to be in a good condition. Due to large amounts of firewood that are used in the residential heating sector, bioenergy constitutes the main share of all renewable energy sources in Romania. Ms. Adriana Milandru (Institute for Studies and Power Engineering) countered that the description of the current forest condition is based on incorrect conclusions, since deforestation could be observed in recent years. Furthermore, the inventory methodology has changed. Hence, the data of the two inventories cannot be compared easily. In view of the high quantities of firewood that are used in private households for heating purposes, Mr. Catalin Dragostin (Association of Energy Companies in Romania) pointed out the importance to substitute inefficient biomass stoves with district heating plants and micro CHPs.

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The company Clariant intends to build a full-scale commercial plant for the production of cellulosic ethanol from agricultural residues (straw) by applying the sunliquid® technology in Craiova in the Southwest of Romania. The required amounts of straw will be supplied from a radius between 60 to 100 km. According to Mr. Markus Walsberger, the new plant will have an annual bioethanol production capacity of 50,000 t. As a by-product of the process, around 30,000 t of vinasse are expected to accrue annually. Vinasse could be used as fertilizer or substrate for biogas plants. Therefore, Clariant is currently looking for possibilities to utilise the vinasse in the region around Craiova in order to increase the added value.

Mr. Razvan Banica highlighted the business activities of the privately owned Romanian cargo forwarding company TTS S.A. (Transport Trade Services). TTS S.A. has seven locations in Romania and operates a regular route between Serbia and the Netherlands (ARA ports). Mr. Banica pointed out the advantages of inland waterway shipping, e.g. that larger quantities of cargo can be transported faster than using trucks and longterm savings by using the Danube. One of the main obstacles is seen in terms of the navigability in times of low water.

A site visit to HortiFruct S.R.L. in Bucharest, specifically to the biomass boilers of the company, concluded the workshop. Mr. Cristian Vasile presented the business concept of HortiFruct S.R.L., which manages 130 ha greenhouses and 700 ha field crops. The required heat for 11 ha of the greenhouses is produced by biomass boilers (33 MW installed capacity in total – 11 boilers á 3 MW). A mixture of sunflower husk pellets and sunflower husks are used as fuel. Currently, the company is not using inland waterway transport for the supply of the fuel. Clariant and HortiFruct S.R.L. announced to discuss whether the vinasse of Clariant's ethanol plant could be used as fertiliser by HortiFruct S.R.L.

Please see the presentations of the workshop for further information.

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ENERGY BARGE joins the ETIP Bioenergy workshop in Novi Sad

On 3 July 2018, ENERGY BARGE was presented at the ETIP (European Technology and Innovation Platform) Bioenergy workshop in Novi Sad, Serbia, on the subject *Perspectives of biomass trade in the Danube region*. The workshop was organised by the Central European Initiative in cooperation with SERBIO, the Serbian Biomass Association, in the framework of the 3rd South East European Conference on Sustainable Development of ENERGY, Water and Environment Systems.

The ETIP Bioenergy workshop was attended by 20 stakeholders from various fields of expertise, comprising academia (University of Novi Sad, University of Belgrade, University of Zagreb), associations (SERBIO, SDEWES Centre), institutions (Provincial Secretariat for Energy of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina) and businesses (NIS). In total, the conference has brought together 190 researchers, scientists and experts from the field of sustainable development from around 30 countries.

The focus of the workshop was on the activities of ETIP Bioenergy as well as about the potentials biomass value chains in the Danube region, Serbia and Vojvodina. Vojvodina is a highly developed agricultural region in Serbia with additional untapped biomass potentials. The region is trying to attract foreign investors, also through the Vojvodina Investment Promotion Agency. There is a growing interest for opportunities deriving from valorisation of sustainable biomass, particularly at policy level.

Thies Fellenberg from the Agency for Renewable Resources (FNR) outlined the envisaged main outputs of the ENERGY BARGE project, which aim to foster collaborations of market actors from the logistics and biomass/bioenergy sectors within the region and to support sustainable biomass mobilisation via the Danube.

Please see the ETIP Bioenergy website for further information and the presentations of the workshop.

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Get to know the ENERGY BARGE partners!

HAFEN WIEN
Ein Unternehmen der Wien Holding

Hafen Wien (Port of Vienna) is part of the Wien Holding group and with its subsidiaries it operates three large cargo terminals including the corresponding infrastructure: Freudenau harbour, Albern harbour and Lobau oil terminal. These three harbours handle around 1,000 cargo vessels a year. The Danube is used for the transport in particular of oil products, road salt, building materials such as cement, sand or steel products, and agricultural products such as grain and fertilisers. The passenger terminal close to the Reichsbrücke and Marina Wien are also part of the Wiener Hafen group.

Please follow the link to find more information's about the port of Vienna: http://www.hafen-wien.com/en.

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Contact Persons:

Thies Fellenberg
T.Fellenberg@fnr.de
(Project Coordinator)

Franziska Nych
F.Nych@fnr.de

www.interreg-danube.eu/energy-barge

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