

ENERGY BARGE

Newsletter #20



Source: Hafen Straubing-Sand

Welcome to the 20th newsletter of the ENERGY BARGE project!

Our project partners are currently compiling a set of recommendations and proposals for EU and national policy makers to contribute to an improved biomass utilisation in the Danube region. In this issue, we would like to present some first recommendations to reduce identified barriers in order to facilitate the development of a well-functioning biomass production and logistics network along the Danube.

Furthermore, we would like to provide you with an update on the ENERGY BARGE modal shift platform.

We hope you enjoy reading!
The team of ENERGY BARGE



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).



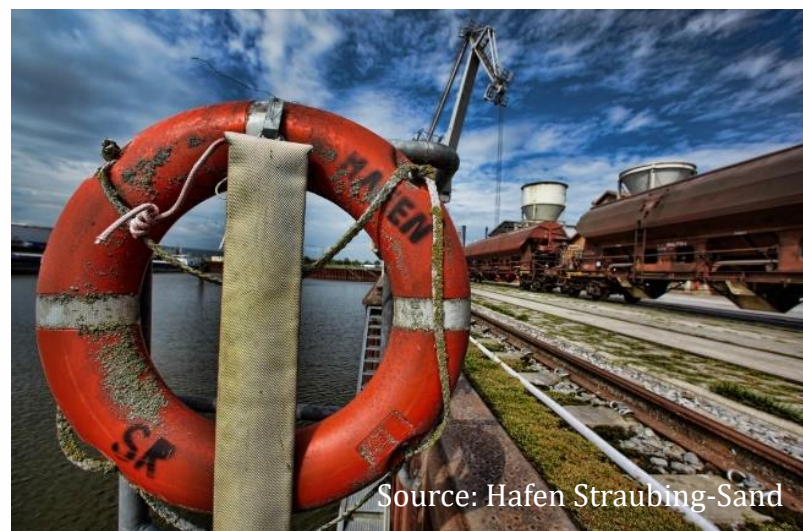
Improving Biomass Production and Logistics in the Danube Region

Currently, the ENERGY BARGE project partners are elaborating guidelines and recommendations on improving biomass production and logistics in the Danube region. A crucial point for many of the business cases that were identified as [good practice examples](#) by the project partners is a close cooperation of public and private actors from the biomass/bioenergy sector on regional and local level in addition to incentives by national and regional governments. The imposition of reliable policy and regulatory framework conditions on local level is of high relevance to gain the confidence of investors. This implies to set up long-term policies from 10 to 15 years to stimulate investments in renewable energy plants.

Local and regional authorities should actively promote the benefits of bioenergy to improve public acceptance and reduce potential reservations. This comprises to point out to the social benefits that an increased use of bioenergy could imply for a region, e.g. by increasing the degree of processing of biomass raw materials and thus create new jobs and keep a higher share of the added value in the region itself. During several ENERGY BARGE workshops, participants expressed their concerns that it needs to be avoided to only transport raw materials to Western European countries, but rather to keep further processing steps in the respective countries. This would also increase the transport worthiness of the respective biomass products to consider inland waterway shipping as a competitive means of transport.



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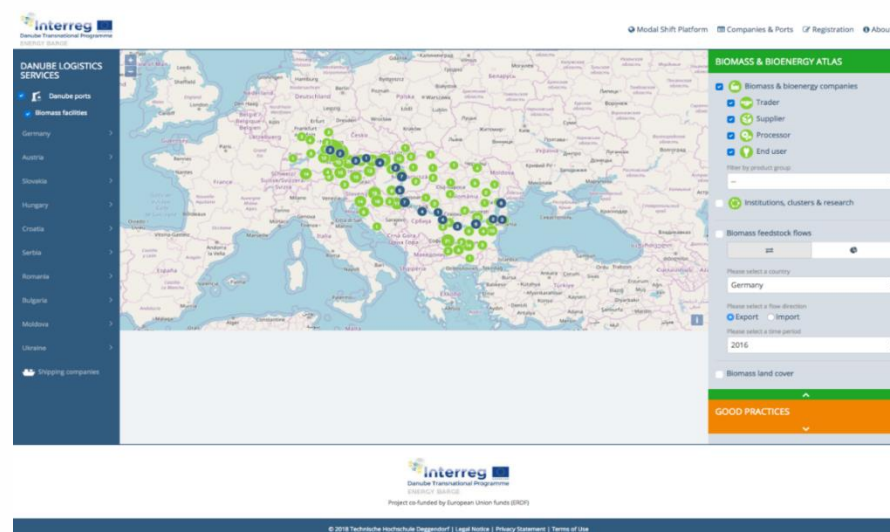
The establishment of regional clusters to promote networking activities among relevant market actors proved to be an efficient measure, e.g. in case of the Croatian Vukovar-Srijem County Development Agency Ltd. HRAST or the German regional cluster Renewable Raw Materials. Operating as a “one stop service centre”, such clusters provide the opportunity for companies to enhance their visibility for potential business partners and make it more attractive for foreign and domestic investors to expand their businesses in the field of bioenergy in the region. Flagship projects can enhance the awareness of the selected regions and the entire Danube area. By integrating ports as biomass logistics hubs into the concept of a cluster, the Danube as a potential environmentally friendly transport axis could come to the fore and receive additional support from the political side.

The results of the work package will culminate in the development of an overall transnational energy security strategy. This strategy will be presented during the final ENERGY BARGE conference on 23 May 2019 in Budapest.

Modal Shift Platform Continues Operation

Since October 2018, the ENERGY BARGE Modal Shift Platform (energy-barge.eu/) provides crucial information on transnational biomass and bioenergy markets. This includes a comprehensive and interactive biomass and bioenergy atlas for the Danube region, as well as a compendium of relevant stakeholders in the region.

Currently, more than 520 biomass and bioenergy companies, including biomass suppliers, traders, processors, and end-users, are included in the platform's databank. Additionally, 66 ports and over 50 shipping companies and ship brokers are listed in a manner that intuitively let the viewer discern their capabilities and services provided. At last, more than 40 institutions, cluster associations, and research organisations are catalogued on the modal shift platform.



Stakeholders from the biomass/bioenergy and Danube logistic sectors are invited to register and look for new business partners. Doing so will contribute to your company's or organisation's sectoral outreach for years to come. The operation of the platform will be ensured by BioCampus Straubing GmbH and viadonau for at least three years after the official end of the ENERGY BARGE project.

ENERGY BARGE at Biomass Trade Summit Europe

On 16 January, Ann-Kathrin Kaufmann from our project partner BioCampus Straubing GmbH presented ENERGY BARGE and the modal shift platform to European biomass experts at the ACI Biomass Trade Summit Europe 2019 in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Among others, the summit provided insights biomass transportation and logistics in the environmental context and long term economy and invest strategy paths.

Participants of the summit were highly interested in the ENERGY BARGE project and eagerly provided positive feedback. Overall, the conference contributions agreed that bioenergy demand is on the rise across the globe. This rise in demand in turn boosts the need for homogeneous and transparent sustainability regulations and a sustainable supply of feedstocks – good news for ENERGY BARGE!

Besides ENERGY BARGE, the Danube region was also represented by Marijan Kavran from the Croatian Wood Cluster and Christoph Pfemeter from the Austrian Biomass Association.

B2B meeting on bioenergy logistics in Vukovar

On 5 February 2019, the fourth ENERGY BARGE business-to-business meeting will be held by our project partner Port Authority Vukovar in Vukovar, Croatia.

The aim of the business-to-business meeting is to provide a platform for know-how exchange and for establishing new business contacts. The event will offer a favourable framework for strengthening the Danube as a logistics axis for biobased cargo. Site visits at the Port of Vukovar and the wood processing company Spačva in Vinkovci will conclude the workshop.

Participation in the business-to-business meeting and the site visits is free of charge, but registration is obligatory. **Please register by 30 January** via e-mail: rsimunovic@drvniklaster.hr. Please see the [agenda](#) for further information. The event will take place at the Hotel Lav Vukovar, J.J. Strossmayera 18, Vukovar.

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Contact Person:

Thies Fellenberg
Agency for Renewable Resources
t.fellenberg@fnr.de
(Project Coordinator)

www.interreg-danube.eu/energy-barge



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