

# ENERGY BARGE

## Newsletter #23



Source: Hafen Straubing-Sand

Welcome to the 23<sup>rd</sup> newsletter of the ENERGY BARGE project!

In this issue, we take a look back on the fifth and final ENERGY BARGE business-to-business meeting that was conducted in the SENNEBOGEN Academy in the Port of Straubing. International participants from the Danube logistics and cargo owner sectors met to inform themselves about the latest trends in growing markets such as biobased cargo and to discuss business opportunities in 15-minute speed datings.

Furthermore, we would like to kindly invite you to attend the final ENERGY BARGE conference on 23 May 2019 in Budapest. External participants are highly welcome to discuss development plans and investments needs to strengthen Danube ports as logistics hubs for the bioenergy sector.

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).



## Workshop and site visit to good practice region Straubing

On 19 March 2019, the ENERGY BARGE project partner BioCampus Straubing GmbH organised a workshop on the biobased economy in the Danube region in combination with three site visits to Straubing, the “Region of Renewable Raw Materials”. The event took place within the framework of the so-called bioenergy site delegation exchange programme, which aims to facilitate learning interactions with good practice locations in the Danube region – like Straubing – and actors from the biomass and Danube logistics sectors.

Benjamin Nummert from the Bioeconomy Council Bavaria outlined in his keynote speech that political support is essential for an expansion of the biobased economy as it offers, among other things, the possibility to increase the added value of renewable resources in rural areas and provides several ecological benefits, yet biobased solutions often still face economical challenges. Rosina Lohmeyer (Bavarian Research Alliance (BayFOR) GmbH) depicted in her presentation about the DTP project [MOVECO](#) that bioenergy and its products should be part of a bigger picture to make its use sustainable. The concept of a circular economy aims to enhance the environmental and economic performance of processes and products. The platform “[Danube goes Circular](#)” of the MOVECO project informs about circular economy in the Danube region and has designed a market place for residues which could be a “treasure” for other actors.

The thematic workshop was closed with a presentation of the ENERGY BARGE [modal shift platform](#), followed by a discussion to gather feedback to further enhance the platform. Among other things, it was mentioned that the illustration of available biomass potentials in the Danube region would be useful in addition to the current data base of overall amounts of biomass. The use of the platform to search for suppliers of residue and waste materials as well as for biogas plants to utilise such products were deemed as a valuable enhancement of the online tool, too.



During the afternoon session, participants were invited to join the site visits to the Clariant sunliquid demonstration plant, a bus tour to the Port of Straubing and the KoNaRo Center of Excellence for Renewable Raw Materials. The demonstration plant of Clariant in Straubing was put into operation in 2012. Lignocellulosic agricultural residues, e.g. cereal straw, are converted into cellulosic ethanol and other biobased chemicals. The annual capacity of the demonstration plant in Straubing amounts to 1,000 tonnes of ethanol.



Through the establishment of the KoNaRo – Centre of Excellence for Renewable Resources, the Bavarian State Government bundled all activities related to renewable raw materials in Straubing since 2001: basic research, applied research, marketing and funding. Three independent institutions closely cooperate: the Campus Straubing for Biotechnology and Sustainability, the Technology and Support Centre (TFZ) and the Central Agricultural Raw Material Marketing and Energy Network (C.A.R.M.E.N. e.V.). The KoNaRo and BioCampus Straubing GmbH work together within the network “Straubing – Region of Renewable Resources” to inform society, politics and the economy regarding the possibilities of renewable raw materials and to strengthen Straubing as a Bavarian model region.

## International Forum on Danube Logistics

On 20 March 2019, 70 international experts in multimodal logistics met at the Sennebogen Academy in the Port of Straubing-Sand under the title "Danube logistics meets growing markets: B2B Forum for biobased and high & heavy cargo". The focus of the event, which was organised by BioCampus Straubing GmbH in the frame of the ENERGY BARGE project, was laid on current topics of inland navigation and their offers for cargo from the biomass and heavy load sectors. In the form of a business speed dating, the participants had the opportunity to exchange ideas with new and well-known business customers.

"The Danube is of paramount importance for Lower Bavaria. That is why we are constantly working to adapt our port services to market demand. The freight goods biomass and heavy load play a central role“, said the managing director of the port Andreas Löffert during his welcome speech. He was pleased that so many business representatives from both the logistics and the customers and shippers had accepted the invitation. In addition to representatives from Germany, guests from Austria, Croatia, Slovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Switzerland, Serbia and the Netherlands attended the meeting in Straubing.



Source: Port Authority Vukovar



Source: BioCampus Straubing GmbH

In his keynote address, Peter Sonnleitner, Head of International Affairs at the Chamber of Industry and Commerce Niederbayern, spoke about the importance of the transport mode inland waterways for the Lower Bavarian economy and warned not to miss the connection to logistics megatrends like the new Silk Road. In two thematic sessions with a total of nine presentations, representatives of shipping companies, the sea and inland ports of Rotterdam, Straubing and the Bayernhafen Group, as well as users of inland navigation such as Sennebogen and ADM Spyck discussed current challenges and opportunities of inland navigation. The great untapped potential for transferring heavy load transports from the already congested roads to the water was highlighted. Users and providers of inland



waterway logistics must work together on innovative, multimodal solutions and speak with one voice when it comes to improving the infrastructural prerequisites. In addition, it will be important to make the logistics sector more attractive for young professionals.



Source: Port Authority Vukovar



Source: Port Authority Vukovar

The presentations were followed by a business speed dating. In the run-up of the conference, the participants were asked to invite discussion partners to a business discussion via an online platform. In total, 45 bilateral meetings took place to establish new business relationships or to deepen existing contacts. "Through the talks, the participants should take extra value for their business compared to conventional lecture events," explained the organiser of the event Ann-Kathrin Kaufmann. She received positive feedback from Piet Hendrix of Dutch Anglo Superior Shipping from the Netherlands: "I have learned many interesting things and made new contacts – a great format!"

After the official part, a factory tour provided impressions to the participants of the Sennebogen cranes and the unloading of a rapeseed ship on a bus tour to the Port of Straubing-Sand. The forum was supported by the Port of Rotterdam, Sennebogen and the Chamber of Industry and Commerce Niederbayern.

## ENERGY BARGE at the conference Agrárium 2019

The Agrárium 2019 professional conference was held on 7 March 2019 in Kecskemét, Hungary. The conference is one of the most important events of the spring season in Hungary. It provided information on the use of agricultural and rural development grants and informed the industry about the most important legislative changes and key market trends.



Source: NARIC



Source: NARIC

The event comprised the latest important information about animal husbandry, crop production, feeding and agricultural machinery purchases. The ENERGY BARGE project partners from the National Agricultural Research and Innovation Center (NARIC) participated in the professional programme with a poster presentation about the ENERGY BARGE [modal shift platform](#).



## Save the date – ENERGY BARGE final conference

On behalf of the ENERGY BARGE project consortium, we would like to cordially invite you to attend the final conference on **23 May 2019 in Budapest**, Hungary.

During the conference, strategies and recommendations to improve energy security through biomass logistics in the Danube region will be presented and discussed with the audience. The project partners from the logistics sector will outline the results of their pre-feasibility studies to define development plans and investments needs to strengthen Danube ports as logistics hubs for the bioenergy sector.

The final agenda will be available on the ENERGY BARGE website shortly. Participation is free of charge, but registration is obligatory. Please register by 17 May 2019 via e-mail: [szanto.krisztina@mahart.hu](mailto:szanto.krisztina@mahart.hu). The event will take place at the A38 Ship Budapest, Petőfi bridge, Buda side.

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