Activating private forest owners to increase forest fuel supply

IEE/08/435/SI2.529239 – AFO

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Coordinator: VTT Technical research centre of Finland
Project summary

The AFO project:
- Operates in selected target regions with vast private forest ownership (France, Slovenia, Latvia and UK)
- Activates private forest owners (PFO) to increase forest fuel supply
- Transfers knowledge from Finland and Austria

The AFO project will:
- Identify possibilities to increase forest fuel supply and demand within target regions
- Establish wood supply clusters and match the supply with demand by creating co-operation between fuel suppliers and users
- Increase the wood fuel use in small- and medium-sized heating plants; and in local district heating facilities
- Disseminate the main results within E27

8 partners from 6 European countries
Coordinator: VTT, Finland
Background

- In the EU-27 90 of 152 million hectares of forest area is privately owned
- Most of the European wood energy potential is managed by individual private forest owners (PFOs)
- Area owned by an individual forest owner is usually small and cooperation between owners is weak
- The possibilities and benefits of combining silvicultural operations with forest fuel supply are often poorly known
- Finland and Austria have long tradition in forest fuel utilization and associated business concepts – other could learn from their experience
- This knowledge and developed practices should be transferred to less experienced countries
- By activating forest owners and wood fuel users – creating supply clusters and co-operation between clusters and users – new sustainable energy businesses can be created
- This will open ways for job creation and diminish dependency of fossil fuels
Objective and main steps

- The main objective of AFO is to activate and increase wood fuel supply and use at regional and local levels
  - Identification of PFOs interested in forest fuel supply, survey of the supply barriers and study on the current and future fuel supply potential in the target regions
  - Analysis on the current and future fuel wood consumption in the target regions
  - Establishment and activation of sub-regional supply clusters through workshops, study tours and face-to-face meetings
  - Development and implementation of business relationships between woodfuel supply clusters and users through training and workshop sessions
  - Dissemination of the results - promotion of developed solutions for formation of supply clusters and co-operation with woodfuel users
Main results

- **Specific**
  - Over 1,400 regional PFO’s identified – profiles, needs, desires
  - Suppliers and users of wood fuel in target regions identified and activated – potentials, barriers, capacity building
  - 23 supply clusters were established, 15 more in the pipeline – corresponding to ca. 27,000ha of woodland brought into active management
  - 26 MW (0.1-5 MW) of new heating capacity installed – 19 MW in the pipeline

- **Strategic**
  - Proven and applicable promotion methods and materials for EU-27 dissemination
  - Best practice woodfuel supply and cluster models created and adopted in another 10 countries by 2015
Partners & contact

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- South Yorkshire Forest Partnership, UK
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