BioEnerGIS in brief:

BioEnerGIS was aimed at providing an intelligent tool supporting decision makers to plan, on a regional scale, the sustainable energy exploitation of biomass.

Four regions have been investigated: Lombardy (IT), Northern Ireland (UK), Slovenia, Wallonia (BE).

Background

By 2020, the European Union (Directive 2009/28/EC) is committed to 20% less greenhouse gas emissions, 20% better energy efficiency and 20% energy consumption from renewable resources.

Therefore main aims of the bio-business Project BioEnerGIS, funded within the IEE Program, are:

• to bridge the gap between EU policies and the market;
• to widespread the knowledge at regional level of the biomass availability and of its energy uses;
• to increase the awareness of public and private actors about biomass potential and bio-business opportunities;
• to improve planning of the increased exploitation of bioenergy preventing both the risk of additional environmental pressures on biodiversity and soil and water resources and negative public opinion on biomass plants;
• to strongly increase the use of biomass in EU regions.

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GIS-based Decision Support System aimed at a sustainable energetic exploitation of biomass at regional level

Contract number: IEE/07/638/ SI2.499702

Supported by the European Commission - Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI)
The GIS-based Decision Support System BIOPOLE helps to identify the optimal location for new biomass plants, through:

- the characterization of each 500 m x 500 m cell in terms


BIOPOLE - conceived mainly for public decision makers, at regional, provincial or smaller scale - has been designed to answer to two topic questions:

- how many and what kind of bioenergy plants could be sustainably built in the region? (regional approach)
- could the energy use of biomass be an opportunity for the municipality/ province? (local approach)

BIOPOLE is accessible through the web.

BioEnerGIS explored the public and private interest in realizing biomass plants, analysing through facilitation methods the different stakeholders’ needs.

Starting with the creation of regional networks, specific actions were set up to support the involvement of private and public stakeholders.

Signing a Local Agreement the stakeholders confirmed their availability to collaborate in order to conduct more detailed pre-feasibility studies around new biomass plants placed in their territory. They also committed themselves to create and develop local chains in order to better utilize - through sustainable socio-economic and environmental management plans - the biomass locally available.

Successful histories are:

- in Lombardy three Local Agreements were signed in the municipalities of Albairate, Dongo and Foppolo, signed by municipalities, mountain communities and biomass producers.
- in Northern Ireland 1 L.A. was signed by South West College Dungannon HEFE, Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council and Western Education and Library Board.
- in Slovenia private industrial stakeholders, Keter Organica and Biomasa d.o.o., signed 2 L.A. with the participation of the Slovenian Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry.