

Policy lessons gained in selected demo regions

Several of the partner organizations decided to translate the lessons from the demonstration, awareness raising, mobilization and training activities in the demo regions (cf. chapter 4) and partly from the transfer and testing activities (cf. chapters 5 and 6) into practical policy recommendations. To this end they prepared monitoring reports and organized policy lesson workshops with policy makers, support scheme managers and policy advisory bodies.

In the demo region of Rotenburg (Germany) a key challenge to be addressed is to integrate the biomass estimation equations into the forest inventory system, which, as a consequence, has to be kept updated, - the future financing of this measure represents a political challenge. Parallel to this, an interface must be developed by researchers, which allows nutrient extraction parameters to be applied to the forest soil mapping system. A major challenge here is the need for a full site inventory in Rotenburg county, which again depends on the willingness of the political authorities to finance this measure.

The Lithuanian Energy Institute highlighted the need to enter into a dialogue with the National Control Commission for Prices and Energy in order to improve the current methodology for calculating heat prices, with the aim of significantly reducing the heat tariffs for households via the modernization of existing and construction of new boiler-houses, in which significantly cheaper local biomass fuel will be used. Furthermore, the partners pointed out that funding eligibility assessments for new bioenergy projects need to integrate principles and criteria for sustainable development. Also when monitoring already implemented projects, special attention should be paid to the implementation of principles and criteria for sustainable development.

Based on the sustainability principles and criteria developed in Bioenergy Promotion and the corresponding testing activities (cf. chapter 6), the Latvian Environmental Investment Fund has proposed the introduction of biomass sustainability principles and criteria into public procurement in Latvia and the new renewable energy support systems which will be amended in the near future.