

Result of the SWOT analyses, internal and external issues characterising biomass supply chain for the utilization of bark in Western Macedonia, Greece

Internal strengths

- S1. Bordering – strategic position, introduction of raw materials from the neighbouring countries
- S2. Quantity of wood, often disposed for free (since it is otherwise not useable)
- S3. Short transport routes

External opportunities

- O1. High regional biomass resource potentials
- O2. Scope for increase and more efficient use of the regional biomass resources
- O3. Integration of innovation tendencies in the production procedure
- O4. Oil and gas suppliers exposed to the insecurity and price fluctuations of international markets

Internal weaknesses

- W1. Low quality of feedstock
- W2. No quality control before combustion
- W3. No systematic support for the production of innovative products
- W4. Biomass in W. Macedonia is mostly used in the production of thermal energy in domestic applications
- W5. Uncertainty of regular biomass yield

External threats

- T1. Development efforts often restricted due to lack of financing instruments
 - T2. Public is neglecting principles of sustainable development
 - T3. Perception that technology is old and unattractive
 - T4. Specific supply chains not well developed for small scale users
 - T5. Economic change and volatility in fossil fuel prices
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