



How FOROPA was initiated and who's behind

FOROPA was initiated by Austrian organisations Wood Cluster Styria (Holzcluster Steiermark GmbH) and the private forest owner association Waldverband Steiermark in order to develop an international framework for the improved utilization of biomass. Holzcluster Steiermark GmbH is the lead partner in FOROPA and acts as interface between research institutions and SMEs. The following institutions are partners in the project.

Country/**Partner Organization:**

Austria

Wood Cluster Styria (HCS)

Forest Association Styria (WVS)

University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU)

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Association of Private Forest Owners Čelinak (NASA)

Greece

Centre for Research & Technology Hellas (CERTH)

Italy

Techno Innovation South Tyrol (TIS)

Romania

Transylvania University of Braşov (UNITBV)

Serbia

State Enterprise for Forest Management Srbijašume (JPSR)

Slovenia

Slovenian Forestry Institute (SFI)

Slovakia

National Forest Centre Slovakia (NFC)

Ukraine

Agency for Sustainable Development of the Carpathian Region (FORZA)

Observers:

Switzerland

Graubünden HOLZ (GRAU)

Biomass Energy Graubünden (HEGR)

The collaboration of universities, forest owner associations, cluster organizations, state forests and research institutions, together with the direct involvement of SMEs on local and regional level is a distinctive feature of FOROPA which is unique in the biomass sector.

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<http://www.foropa.eu/index.php/contact/partners>



FOROPA – Sustainable Networks for the Energetic Use of Lignocellulosic Biomass in South East Europe

Besides water, wind and solar power, forest biomass is one of the most important sources of renewable energy in Central and South East Europe.

While several well-established research and innovation networks exist in the area of solar and wind energy, the use of forest biomass is limited to local or regional initiatives with low international integration. The transnational project FOROPA approaches the level of networking in order to introduce standards for a forest biomass-based supply chain management and to improve local biomass supply chains through cross border cooperation.

The international project, which involves 13 partners from 10 South East European countries aims at creating and promoting a joint research and innovation network to strengthen the competitiveness of forest biomass in the energy market in South East Europe and beyond. Further objectives are the identification and closing of innovation gaps as well as the joint development of improved reference supply chains for biomass products such as fire wood, wood chips or pellets.

In 2014 several pilot applications involving local SMEs will provide a “proof of concept” for the introduction of innovations and the improvement of biomass supply chains through ICT integration.

FOROPA analyses the innovation needs of enterprises and commercial end users in the forest biomass supply chain, sets up transnational reference processes and demonstrates the transferability of these reference processes to push forward the ability of intermediaries

and entrepreneurs to innovate their businesses. Relevant existing national and regional entities will be coordinated in order to encourage and foster innovation of all actors along the biomass utilization chain (private forest owners, state forests, logging and transport enterprises, biomass converters and traders, and primary wood processors). Further, the political support for an increased substitution of fossil fuels with renewable energy from forest resources will be spurred.

FOROPA Facts

Project Coordinator: Wood Cluster Styria (Holzcluster Steiermark GmbH)

Project Partners: Cluster organisations, research institutions, forest associations and state forests from Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, Italy, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Switzerland and Ukraine

Program: ETC SEE Transnational Cooperation Program

Budget: 1,72 mio.€

Project start: 12/2012

Duration: 2 years



How does FOROPA work and which results can be expected?

In five defined work packages (WPs) existing biomass supply chains are analyzed and evaluated in detail.

In the first step the status quo of biomass supply chains is captured by guided interviews in each partner country. Each partner defines own supply chains to be analyzed in the respective country and conducts interviews with all actors involved in the selected chain, e.g. forest owners, freight carriers, logging companies, foresters etc.

Based on the results of these interviews the supply chains are mapped out to identify possible problems and optimization potentials as well as good practice examples.

In the next step, good practice examples are selected and evaluated by each partner. Results are then presented to involved companies and stakeholders at regional workshops. Besides regional workshops, international stakeholder workshops are held to broaden the consortium's knowledge base and to receive external feedback on the project results.

Finally, up to seven pilot applications based on the analysis and planning phase are developed and implemented with the integration of SMEs in order to improve biomass supply chains.

During the whole project, a steady exchange of results and findings takes place between partnering countries: supply chains and good practice examples from different countries are discussed and compared to find differences and similarities, and to jointly improve supply chains by closing innovation gaps.

Main Outputs

- Transferable framework and guideline for the improvement of logistics chains
- Research agenda for biomass supply chain management
- International collaboration platform with expert pool and knowledge repository
- Training and qualification strategies for entrepreneurs and educational institutes
- Demonstration of pilot applications to decision makers and entrepreneurs



FOROPA Project Implementation



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