

ASTWOOD Project

“A strategy for the sustainable use of wood and its implementation as base for legislative measures on regional level”

Grant agreement number EIE/06/191/SI2.448381

Deliverable D.5.3.

Report on workshops results and next steps for after the project

November 2008

Project ASTWOOD.–“A strategy for the sustainable use of wood and its implementation as base for legislative measures on regional level”

WP5.- Concept Development

D5.3.- *Report on workshops results and next steps for after the project*

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1 PURPOSE

An important aspect of the ASTWOOD project is the promotion and dissemination of the project among key actors either at the municipal level or at regional level and with a few business representatives.

With this objective, three workshops at the three involved regions were performed;

PORTUGAL:

1st Workshop - May 27, 2007 in Manteigas

2nd Workshop - March 4, 2008 in Guarda

3rd Workshop - 10 October 2008 in Covilhã

BULGARIA:

1st Workshop - May 22, 2007 in Pazardjik

2nd Workshop – April 3, 2008 in Belovo

3rd Workshop – October 30, Belovo

SPAIN

1st Workshop - May 4, 2007 in Hoyos

2nd Workshop – November 29, 2007 in Valverde del Fresno

3rd Workshop – October 28, 2008 in Perales del Puerto

These workshops were organised with the aim to disseminate ASTWOOD objectives and results. To inform the technicians of local municipal authorities and the technician of some municipal companies that are working in the same questions about biomass was other objective. To show them the recent technological advances concerning local energy management, in order to improve local energy accountancy, planning and optimisation of local resources namely about biomass resource.

As specific objectives, the workshop aimed at;

Demonstrate potential uses of renewable energy sources in the region, namely the biomass resource,

Providing technical guidance and useful information on energy themes for local administrations,

Establish collaboration links in the region among local authorities and regional government through the action of the Association in these issues,

Promote the use of RES at local level, through direct public investment or energy planning activities,

Promote the activities carried out by the ASTWOOD project.

During final workshop it was presenting the project and its results, animating potential interested parties to use the tool and to enhance the use of regional available wood as pellets and wood chips.

More than 50 participants attended to the last seminars. The final results were presented including the strategy for the sustainable use of biomass as well as economic feasibility of installing a biomass system in the region.

A complete set of documents and related information were distributed on CDs as well as the software tool, as one of the outputs of ASTWOOD project.

The software tool was presented and tested during meetings.

50 CD's with Software tool

50 CD's with Potential of biomass study; Economic feasibility for the implementation of Production Unit of pellets and briquettes; Concept for raw material collection and processing; Strategy for the sustainable use of timber and its implementation as the basis of legislative measures at regional level; Other biomass reports

2 PROJECT IMPACT

After presenting the project results, the workshops conclusion could be summarised as follows:

1. Thanks to ASTWOOD project results, the optimum utilization of renewable resources, including biomass, waste resulting from pruning or cleaning forest areas in public and private sector, industrial waste wood, agricultural waste and energy crops (for example, it was created

municipal teams of technical / vigilant with the purpose of performing cleaning of woods and forests and monitoring of them) has been promoted.

2. Forest owners and farmers realise about the high biomass potential in the area. New initiatives for the valorisation of residues and biomass were highlighted.

3. The biomass technologies, cleaning process, and forest management as well as the know-how transferred from Austria were very appreciated by municipalities and forest technicians. Opportunities and possible future projects were discussed. New companies for the development of biomass projects were presented.

4. Political agreements for the promotion of biomass uses were performed. Letter of commitment for the enhancement of Biomass projects were signed by municipalities and political representatives. Political participants agreed to develop legislative measures for the use of biomass as heating system.

5. Agreements for supporting the biomass sector in the Energy plans to be developed in the area. Also the commitment of supporting this sector in meeting with other administrations at local, regional or national level was done.

3 NEXT STEPS

We should note that the project was welcomed by the community in general and results were very appreciated by stakeholders and general public. It appeared that there were some changes in the issue of biomass after the implementation of this project, including the issue of awareness, the exposure of the advantage of biomass and how we can use it in our homes or companies and industries.

Future actions promoted by AMCB, MMSG and MB for implementing real projects are just started. A valorisation centre as semi-private initiative supported by AMCB, is already in construction. CIRVA – Environmental Center for Collection and Valorisation, to collect and recycle waste and agricultural biomass for processing into pellets and briquettes, is sited in Sabugal.

There are also projected three more centres that are expected to be constructed during the year 2009. These 4 centres are part of a network of forest biomass Collection managed by AMCB.

Forest stations for the forest management are planned in Sierra de Gata. The correct forest management is the first step for the valorisation of the biomass. In this way the MMSG has promoted this future project for the construction of these units with the aim to clean forest and process the biomass into pellets and chips.

It is intended in the near future and with the support of municipalities and government instances in each municipality develop several pilot projects of installing biomass boilers on public places (of the municipality building, sports halls, swimming pools or schools) so at raising the population and the leaders of the municipalities about benefits of use the boilers that are feed by pellets and briquettes.

We will continue with the promotion of Decision tool that were developed during the project, available at the Web site www.astwood.info and in www.amcb.pt, www.sierradegata.es and <http://belovo.eu/>.

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