

Bioenergy in a Time of Crisis



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 Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche
Istituto per la BioEconomia

BRANCHES

Boosting Rural Bioeconomy Networks

- EU Coordination and Support Action (CSA)
- Duration: 1.1.2021 – 31.12.2023
- Total budget: 2 M€
- Number of partners: 12



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	Participant organisation name	Country
1	LUKE - LUONNONVARAKESKUS	FI
2	CNR IBE - CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE <i>The Institute of BioEconomy of the National Research Council</i>	IT
3	VTT - TEKNOLOGIAN TUTKIMUSKESKUS VTT OY <i>Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd.</i>	FI
4	UWM - UNIWERSYTET WARMINSKO MAZURSKI W OLSZTYNIE <i>University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn</i>	PL
5	DBFZ - DEUTSCHES BIOMASSEFORSCHUNGSZENTRUM GEMEINNUETZIGE <i>German Biomass Research Centre</i>	DE
6	CIRCE - CENTRO DE INVESTIGATION DE RECURSOS Y CONSUMOS ENERGETICOS <i>Research centre for energy resources and consumption</i>	ES
7	ITABIA - ITALIAN BIOMASS ASSOCIATION	IT
8	MTK - MAA- JA METSÄTALOUSTUOTTAJAIN KESKUSLIITTO <i>The Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners</i>	FI
9	AVEBIOM - ASSOCIACION ESPANOLA VALORIZACION ENEGETICA BIOMASA <i>Spanish Bioenergy Association</i>	ES
10	UFZ - HELMHOLTZ CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH	DE
11	WMODR - WARMINSKO-MAZURSKI OSRODEK DORADZTWA ROLNICZEGO SIEDZIBA OLSZTYNIE <i>Warmia and Mazury Agricultural Advisory Center Located in Olsztyn</i>	PL
12	BCM - BIOECONOMY CLUSTER MANAGEMENT	DE



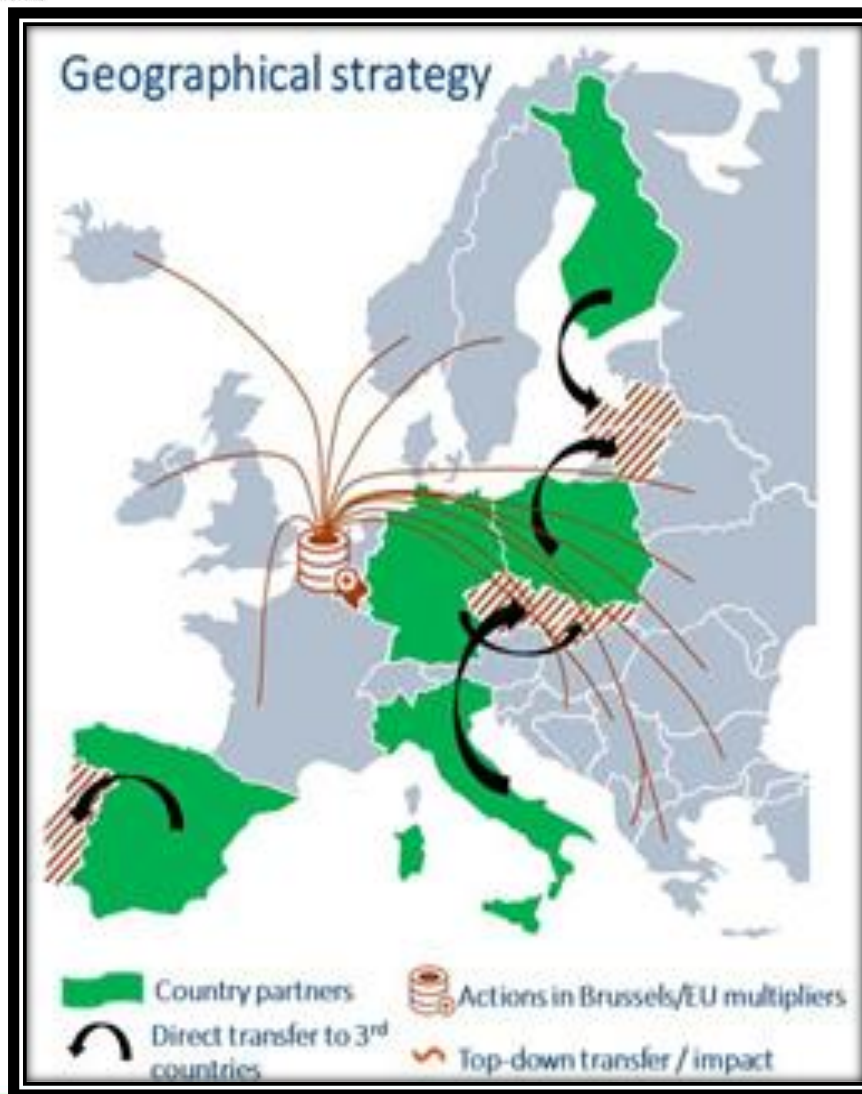
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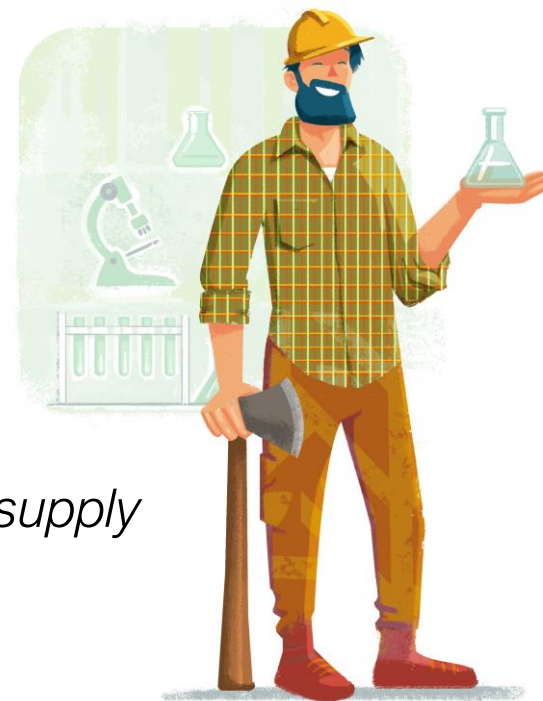


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Mission

- *Knowledge transfer in agriculture & forestry*
- *Improving the competitiveness of biomass supply*
- *Promoting innovative technologies*
- *Supporting rural bioeconomy solutions*



Actions

- Organize 5 National Thematic Networks
- Select and share at least 50 Best Practice
- 28 dedicated workshops
- 5 national seminars
- 10 show case days & videos
- newsletter, social media and project website



Factsheet

- Additional activity prompted by crisis
- Goal: see how bioeconomy fared during the crisis
- Interviews to 16 entrepreneurs from the 50 in the PA
- Finland, Italy, Poland

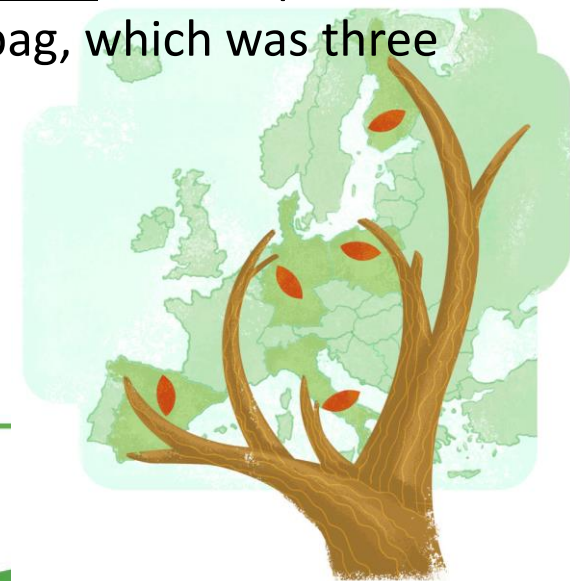




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Results: the users' perspective

- In general, bioenergy users suffered a much smaller energy cost increase than did the users of conventional energy
- In Poland, residents connected to a biomass heating network could keep their houses warm at less than half the cost incurred by conventional energy users.
- In Italy, locally produced pellet was sold at 40% less than imported pellet. The latter was priced at 12 € per 15 kg bag, which was three times the pre-crisis cost.



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Results: the producers' perspective

- Plant management cost increased by 20% to >100%...
- Yet, the revenues from energy sales were much higher
- If power price was constrained by a predetermined fixed rate, revenues increased through the sale of residual heat
- In Italy, wise use of residual heat allowed profits to triple.
- Polish biogas plants could double their revenues, as well.



Results: the environment

- Bioenergy plants had to expand the share of locally sourced material, due to the sudden drying out of all wood import channels.
- Energy wood prices increased by at least 20%, promoting forest tending.
- In Finland, sales of a specific energy wood harvester increased by 20%.
- In Italy, local forestry companies hired additional staff (+25%)



Take-home message

- The key success factor for all respondents was control of the fuel supply
- the dramatic price increase (+300%) of imported pellet is most telling: lower energy density and decentralized availability, makes wood-based fuels more difficult to source and transport compared with fossil fuels.
- Once a dominant import source is shut down, it is very difficult to find a replacement.
- Therefore, wood-based bioenergy chains should stay local: if they are fed through imports they become as vulnerable as fossil fuel chains.





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BROCHURE

The BRANCHES PROJECT

The EU-funded BRANCHES project works to increase the flow of information, new ideas and technologies among European agriculture and forestry professionals, especially in rural areas.

Bringing together 12 partners and over 30 organizations, including companies, associations, government ministries, councils and federations, the BRANCHES project will synthesize, share and present existing best practices and research results from previous and ongoing European and national projects to promote the bioeconomy and rural development through new bio-based initiatives. The project will also showcase success stories regarding forest and agricultural biomass supply chains.



BOOSTING RURAL BIOECONOMY NETWORKS FOLLOWING MULTI-ACTOR APPROACHES



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