Feeding results into the new European funding programmes 2014-2020

Bioenergy production and use is among the priorities of several key EU funding programmes, including the national and regional Operational Programmes under the Cohesion Fund and the European Regional Development Fund, and the rural development programmes under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. However, in many of these national and regional programmes, sustainability principles and criteria for bioenergy have been included only to a very limited extent, if not marginally so far. This is in contrast to international, EU and national policy and business initiatives targeting the sustainable production and use of biomass for energy production, and the ongoing debate at the EU and member state level about the sustainability risks and opportunities of increased bioenergy use.

Biomass storage for the new Garliava biomass boiler (6.5 MW$_{th}$ incl. condensing economizer)

One of the objectives of the Extension stage of the project Bioenergy Promotion 2 was to feed Main stage and Extension stage project results into key EU funding programmes of strategic importance for the demo regions, but also for the partner countries and for Baltic Sea Region as well. This includes operational programmes under the European Regional Development Fund, transnational co-operation programmes under the European Territorial Co-operation Objective (particularly the Baltic Sea Region and Central Europe Programme) and programmes under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).
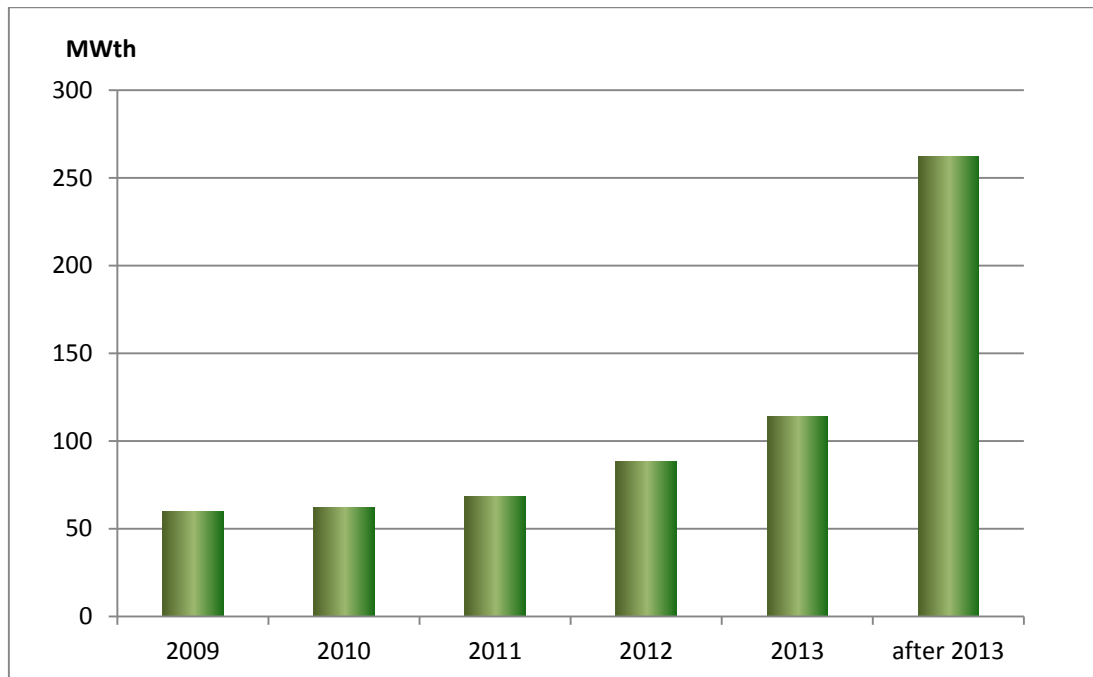

GECO investment biomass boiler-house in Kaunas City (20 MW$_{th}$ incl. condensing economizer)

In order to accomplish this complex task, the project partners followed a three-step approach. Firstly, a number of good practice projects supported under the various programmes were assessed and relevant success factors identified. This was followed by an in-depth assessment of several operational programmes relevant for the demo regions. The results of those first two steps have been compiled in two documents: a Project Assessment Report and a report entitled Assessment of selected Operational Programmes under

the ERDF, co-operation programmes under the European Territorial Co-operation objective and under the EAFRD.

Installed thermal biomass capacities in Kaunas Region during period 2010-2013 and future projections

Based on those assessments, the partners prepared three **input papers** providing recommendations for the formulation of the new Operational Programmes for the next funding period 2014-2020:

- Input paper for national policy makers in Lithuania targeting the new funding period 2014-2020. The input paper was presented to the main organizations in Lithuania responsible for administration and management of financial support from EU Common Strategic Framework Funds.

- The second paper "Input to the programming of the EU Baltic Sea Region Programme 2014-2020" was prepared under the leadership of the Environmental Policy Research Centre and the Swedish Energy Agency. The document highlighted the need of a "sustainable use of renewable energy sources". This is in line with the Council of Europe's 2012 conclusions on renewable energy, which stipulate that "the challenge in developing RES not only needs to focus on making the relevant technologies more attractive and cost-efficient, but also to ensure that their entire lifecycle remains sustainable". The paper argues that further consideration should be given to the economic, environmental and social aspects of production and use of renewable energy and to broaden the thematic focus of the programme towards sustainable, integrated and resource efficient (bio-) energy solutions.

- A third input paper provided recommendations to the programming of the CENTRAL EUROPE Programme 2014-2020, and was prepared under the leadership of Environmental

Policy Research Centre and Institute of Fluid-Flow Machinery. The paper is closely oriented towards the paper addressing the Baltic Sea Region Programme.