

Transfer actions and results in the region of Grodno (Belarus)

The Grodno Region Forestry Board (PLHO) participated in the Main stage of the project as a project partner and continued to co-operate as an associate partner during the Extension stage. Although the Board had the official status of an observer, it actively took part in project meetings and conferences, and is highly committed to transfer the gained knowledge and expertise to the 11 forestry units which are part of the association.

Belarus offers ideal conditions for the development of bioenergy, due to the large volumes of industrial wood production, flat landscape, a well-developed infrastructure including, electric power and district heating grids, modern enterprises in the field of energy and general engineering, as well as a high level of technical education of the population. In Belarus, bioenergy systems have been intensively developed over the last five years in order to improve the energy security of the country.

The development of bioenergy systems in Grodno region is based on the following types of wood resources: firewood, waste timber, wood processing waste, wood from energy plantations. The main bioenergy products include firewood, spitted firewood, wood chips, wood briquettes, sawdust and wood waste.

Further development of bioenergy systems in the forest sector of the Grodno region will focus on achieving the following objectives:

- Increasing the volume of biomass and bioenergy carriers
- Increasing the production of wood chips
- Diversification of the raw material sources
- Mobilization of unused resources (forest harvesting residues, stumps).

To realize these objectives it is necessary to transfer the experience of EU countries, particularly with regard to logging technologies, transportation, use under the specific conditions of Belarus, sustainable utilization of forest harvesting residues. The Forestry Board is also interested in attracting investments for the production of bioenergy products from forest resources.

In addition to these transnational transfer activities, several partner organizations performed smaller scale transfer activities between their demo regions and neighbouring regions or other regions within their own country (e.g. Finland, Rotenburg).