

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR: FOREST AND WOOD BIOMASS IN CROATIA



December 1st and 2nd, 2008
Hotel Lav, Vukovar - Croatia

The conclusions of seminar participants:

- 1 Legislation, executive institutions and banks insufficiently or not at all back entrepreneurs in realizing projects of forest and wood biomass exploitation. The huge problem is the bureaucracy and time required for obtaining the necessary documentation.
- 2 Initiating projects of forest and biomass exploitation can create new jobs, in rural areas which are still underdeveloped.
- 3 Forest and wood biomass are not sufficiently included in the Energy Strategy concerning their potential.
- 4 Even though the Croatian Forests have undertaken all required preconditions in order to obtain wood chaff (having determined quantities of wood material in the territory of the Republic of Croatia, mastered the technology of obtaining wood chaff, contracted services of attracting and processing wood material, created price lists), the domestic market has not so far witnessed sales of a single ton.
- 5 Wider public are not sufficiently aware of the potential, advantages and possibilities of utilizing forest and wood biomass.
- 6 Journalists are not sensitive enough for covering issues of forest and wood biomass exploitation.
- 7 The amount of current state non-refundable incentives is not satisfactory, because investments in forest and wood biomass exploitation are quite expensive, while the institutions in authority are deaf to partial incentives for procuring equipment for individual beneficiaries.
- 8 The metal-working industry, which produces equipment for the processing of wood biomass into energy sources, is not supported enough.

The recommendations of seminar participants:

- 1 The procedure of obtaining documentation should be simplified and its duration shortened, in the manner that as many documents can be obtained in a single or three locations maximum.
- 2 The Work Group authorized for biomass in the Ministry of Regional Development, Forestry and Water Management i.e. the Ministry of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship should unify constructive criticism and suggestions from all interested parties in order to exploit forest and wood biomass more than the current Energy Strategy envisions, and submit these suggestions to the work team in order to be included in the final document version.
- 3 The Croatian Forests d.o.o. / Forest Biomass d.o.o. should be empowered to sign the sales contracts for wood chaff for the duration of 2 + 12 years minimum.
- 4 A campaign should be created, which would be directed at wider public and media, in order to drive home the potential, advantages and possibilities of exploiting forest and wood biomass, while emphasizing the ecological, social and economic advantages.
- 5 A special system of state incentives should be envisioned for projects of exploiting forest and wood biomass, the support system for citizens using wood biomass should be elaborated for the areas where there are no other forms of alternative energy and the auxiliary industries manufacturing equipment for processing biomass into energy should be actively supported.

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