

INVOLVEMENT OF BEST PRACTICE KEY ACTORS IN THE BIOVILL PROJECT

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Further information about the BioVill project on: www.biovill.eu



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1. Introduction

1.1 The BioVill project

BioVill is a three years project supported by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme with a budget of around 1.99 Mio EUR. The project started in March 2016 and is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in collaboration with 8 partners from the BioVill target partner countries Croatia, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia, as well as from Germany and Austria.

Many South East European countries have high biomass potentials, but they are often not or only inefficiently used for local energy supply and regional economic development. Thus, the overall objective of the BioVill project is to support the development of regional bioenergy concepts and the establishment of bioenergy villages in Croatia, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia. This will be achieved by identifying suitable biomass value chains according to local and regional needs and transferring existing experiences in Austria, Germany and other European countries to the South-Eastern European partners. Thereby the market uptake of domestic bioenergy supply chains will be increased and the role of locally produced biomass as a main source of energy supply and added value for the local and regional economy will be strengthened.

Core activities of the BioVill project include national and local framework analyses, technological and economic assessments of local bioenergy value chains, development of the institutional set-up and energy management concepts for the potential Bioenergy villages as well as capacity building on financing schemes and business models. As a key factor of success, the BioVill project uses a multi stakeholder approach fostering the involvement and active participation of the citizens and all relevant stakeholders in the planning and implementation process.

Major results of the BioVill project will be the initiation of at least five bioenergy villages in the target partner countries up to the investment stage for physical infrastructure, the raise of public acceptance and awareness of a sustainable bioenergy production and its commercial opportunities as well as increased capacities of users and key actors in business and legislation to sustainably manage bioenergy villages and to enact national and EU legislation. Altogether the BioVill project will contribute to the expansion and sustainability of the bioenergy markets in the European Union.

1.2 Scope of the task/deliverable

In the framework of the BioVill project, Best Practice examples (BPE) of bioenergy villages in Austria, Croatia, and Germany were identified and described. The report (D2.1) is available at the BioVill website. In order to use the experience and knowledge of the key actors of these villages, who initiated and established the bioenergy concepts, they were invited to several events in the target countries, such as training courses, citizens information days and working group meetings. The main idea was to bring the stakeholders from the target villages in the partner countries in direct contact with key actors from the identified Best Practice examples who have already implemented bioenergy villages. Therefore, the BioVill project has foreseen a travel budget for 15 key experts to travel to the target countries.

The present report summarizes the cooperation with the key actors and includes information on the scope of the key actor travel mission, destinations visited, key stakeholders met, main information shared, and conclusions and recommendations given by the best practice experts, if relevant. Until February 2018, 7 key actors were invited and travelled in order to support 10 one- or two-day events (mainly training courses) with their knowledge and experience. Challenges about the key actors cooperation included language barriers which were overcome by translation efforts as well as availability of the key actors. Overall, the implemented activities were very successful and acknowledged by the participants of the events. As an outstanding outcome of the BioVill study tour in Austria, an official municipality partnership between the Romanian target villages and Mureck/Austria, was set-up. Within the key actor cooperation, Mr Totter from Mureck/Austria travelled to Romania to deepen this partnership, as well as to Croatia.

As presented in each chapter below, further key actor cooperation actions are planned until the end of the project.

2. Involvement of best practice key actors in Croatia

Mr Karl Totter and Mr. Jan W. Bleyl were invited to the BioVill training course on financing, contracts and business models of bioenergy projects for local stakeholders in Croatia.

Furthermore, REGEA plans to invite another expert to the national conference. The foreseen key actor is the manager of climate and energy model region “Römerland Carnuntum” Mr. Norbert Koller. He is the person in charge for energy projects in a large area south east of Vienna. Currently, he consults 28 municipalities with around 28,000 citizens.

BPE - Key actor name	Mr. Karl Totter
BPE - Key actor country	Austria
BPE - Key actor organisation	The Bioenergy Mureck GmbH represents the local holding of a high variety of bioenergy production facilities and is mainly owned by local farmers and foresters. Mr. Karl Totter is the manager of bioenergy facilities in Mureck Austria, and one of the initiators of the Bioenergy Mureck.
Date(s) of event(s)	07 - 08.06.2017
Title of the event	BioVill training course on financing, contracts and business models of bioenergy projects for local stakeholders in Croatia
Title of the presentation	Overview of best global bioenergy practices from Austria - Mr. Totter held 3 presentations as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Anlagekosten und Finanzierung; Kreislaufwirtschaft in der Praxis; 2. Energie, Versorgung, Sicherheit - Standort Bioenergie Mureck; 3. Wirtschaftlichkeitsrechnung – Murecker – Energiepark, Klimaschutz, Sicherheit, Arbeitsplätze in der Region, Lebensqualität, Sicherung des sozialen Friedens
Key stakeholders met in target village	Two-day training was attended by 80 participants, including all 22 speakers, from different sectors: decision makers and governmental representatives from villages Perušić and Lekenik, regional energy agencies, local regional public utility, representatives from the private sector – forest owners, producers of pellets and equipment for heating plants and potential investors in biomass exploitation.
Scope of the mission	Overview of best global bioenergy practices from Austria - exchange of knowledge
Main results of the mission, conclusions and recommendations, if applicable	The general discussions were very fruitful, with participants sharing their experiences and ideas for the future development of regional biomass supply chains. Participants also discussed current limits and difficulties at a policy level and agreed on specific recommendations for policy makers, to enable the future development of bioenergy villages or local supply chains. Participants highlighted the importance of bringing together the different actors and mapped opportunities that are still to be developed in the field of sustainable biomass. Lead by examples, participants together with speakers confirmed that local small-scale chains and small district heating network on biomass can bring economic benefits to the society, whilst granting nature protecting, if the different actors/stakeholders are willing to cooperate and work together.

BPE - Key actor name	Mr. Jan W. Bleyl
BPE - Key actor country	Germany
BPE - Key actor organisation	KEA/
Date(s) of event(s)	07 - 08.06.2017
Title of the event	BioVill training course on financing, contracts and business models of bioenergy projects for local stakeholders in Croatia
Title of the presentation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training on financing, contracts and business models - Business models and contractual agreements 2. Training on bioenergy projects for the financial sector- Financing models, risks and opportunities for bioenergy villages
Key stakeholders met in target village	The two-day training was attended by 80 participants, including all 22 speakers, from different sectors: decision makers and governmental representatives from villages Perušić and Lekenik, regional energy agencies, local regional public utility, representatives from the private sector – forest owners, producers of pellets and equipment for heating plants and potential investors in biomass exploitation.
Scope of the mission	Presentation of relevant business models and tested financing models, experience on de-risking instruments
Main results of the mission, conclusions and recommendations, if applicable	<p>It can be concluded that the training has covered the main topics regarding risks and opportunities of financing bioenergy projects. Participants were very interested in tools how to calculate life cycle cost and concrete examples on how to implement various business models in order to establish a favourable financial framework for the implementation of a bioenergy village.</p> <p>The training course was very well received among the participants who have provided positive feedback collected in questionnaires, as well as provided during the discussions and to the speakers after the training course. The participant's feedback can be summarized as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • participants expressing interest in more information about the implementation of bioenergy villages • participants understanding better how the business models works; • participants have already concrete ideas of how to apply what they have learnt what confirms they have learned something new in the training course.

3. Involvement of best practice key actors in Macedonia

Two experts from Germany and Austria travelled to Macedonia in order to support the BioVill activities. A third key actor from the best practice examples will be invited to the Macedonian target village Kichevo in due course of the project, within future events organized by SDEWES-Skopje, e.g. a local information day, working group meeting, national conference, etc.

BPE - Key actor name	Mr Ralf Roggenbauer
BPE - Key actor country	Austria
BPE - Key actor organisation	Energiepark Bruck an der Leitha GmbH
Date(s) of event(s)	30.5.-1.6.2017
Title of the event	Training on bioenergy projects for the financial sector (31.5.2017, Skopje); Training on financing, contracts and business models (1.6.2017, Kichevo)
Title of the presentation	“Energy is our future”
Key stakeholders met in target village	Representatives of the Municipality of Kichevo, public institutions (schools, kindergarten), Regional Forest Service “Lopushnik”, forest concessionaire “Grande Tini”, Regional Office of the Economic Chamber of the Republic of Macedonia in Kichevo (BioVill’s local information point), NGOs, SMEs, local media and citizens
Scope of the mission	Transferring best practice examples from Austria to Macedonia and Kichevo with focus on the financing and business models and diversification of renewable energy sources
Main results of the mission, conclusions and recommendations, if applicable	Stakeholders and citizens were able to perceive the benefits of projects related to renewable energy sources in small communities in Austria being implemented by Energiepark Bruck an der Leitha GmbH and were convinced that the implementation of the BioVill project in Kichevo would be also beneficial to themselves and their local community.

BPE - Key actor name	Ms Renate Glaser
BPE - Key actor country	Germany
BPE - Key actor organisation	Aktionskreis Energiewende Glonn 2020 e.V.
Date(s) of event(s)	16.1.-18.1.2018
Title of the event	Third information day for citizens in Kichevo: The BioVill Project in Kichevo and importance of stakeholder engagement (17.1.2018, Kichevo)
Title of the presentation	“Our way to energy transition”
Key stakeholders met in target village	Mr Fatmir Dehari - Mayor of the Municipality of Kichevo and other representatives of the Municipality of Kichevo; representatives of public institutions (schools and kindergarten), the Regional Office of the Economic Chamber of the Republic of Macedonia in Kichevo (BioVill’s local information point), Regional Forest Service “Lopushnik”, forest concessionaire “Grande Tini”, NGOs, SMEs, local media and citizens
Scope of the mission	Transferring best practice examples from Germany to Kichevo with focus on the stakeholders’ and citizens’ engagement
Main results of the mission, conclusions and recommendations, if applicable	Stakeholders and citizens were able to learn more about realized and future bioenergy and other renewable energy sources projects being implemented in small communities in Germany by the Action Group “Glonn” and their way to energy transition. The main recommendation to the participants was to take

	the case of Glonn as a lighthouse example, and to find their own way to energy transition in Kichevo.
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4. Involvement of best practice key actors in Romania

GEA has invited Mr. Karl Totter from Bioenergy village Mureck (Austria), based on the request of the local decision makers (working group members) from the two selected villages from Romania. The request came as a positive outcome of the 2nd Study Tour organized in Austria in January 2017, where stakeholders from Ghelinta and Estelnic have seen the positive examples in Mureck, which increased their motivation and enthusiasm to learn more about the bioenergy villages and to transfer and adopt the best practice models.

BPE - Key actor name	Mr. ÖkR Karl Totter
BPE - Key actor country	Austria
BPE - Key actor organisation	SEBA Mureck GmbH & Co KG - Murecker Energiepark - the local holding of a high variety of bioenergy production facilities and is mainly owned by local farmers and foresters. Mr. Karl Totter is the manager of bioenergy facilities in Mureck Austria, and one of the initiators of the Bioenergy Mureck.
Date(s) of event(s)	1 th and 2 nd of June 2016.
Title of the event	Training on bioenergy projects for the financial sector in Romania (1 th June 2017, Sfantu Gheorghe) Training course on financing, contracts and business models for local stakeholders in Romania (2 nd June 2017, Ghelinta)
Title of the presentation	Mr. Totter held presentations as follows: On 1 th of June 2017 in Sfantu Gheorghe: Best practice on economic calculation as essential basis for the risk assessment from Austria - Anlagekosten und Finanzierung; Wirtschaftlichkeitsrechnung, Murecker Energiepark; Klimaschutz, Sicherheit, Arbeitsplätze in der Region On 2 nd of June 2017 in Ghelinta: Best practice on business models and financing a bioenergy village from Austria - Energie, Versorgung, Sicherheit, Standort Bioenergie Mureck; - Wirtschaftlichkeitsrechnung, Murecker Energiepark, Klimaschutz, Sicherheit, Arbeitsplätze in der Region
Key stakeholders met in target village	Local working group members, the mayor, entrepreneurs, representatives of forest owners associations, local decision makers, farmers, representatives of local and national financial institutions
Scope of the mission	Overview of best global bioenergy practices from Austria - exchange of knowledge
Main results of the mission, conclusions and recommendations, if applicable	An important aspect of the training sessions held on 1 th and 2 th of June in Sfantu Gheorghe and in Ghelinta, was the presence of Mr. Karl Totter, and the success story of municipality Mureck presented during the training sessions. The working group members, and all other stakeholders highly appreciated the presentation about Mureck, the bioenergy village, and they had many questions concerning the investments made and goals achieved. The presentation turned into a very valuable exchange of ideas. In August the representatives of Mureck have launched an invitation to stakeholders from Ghelinta to participate in the Murecker Stadtfest, between 15-18 September, and the Mayor of Mureck launched a twinning relation initiative with Ghelinta village. The working group members have decided to participate at the event, because they have the possibility to see again in reality the positive examples in Mureck, which will give them motivation and enthusiasm to learn more about the bioenergy villages and to transfer and adopt the best practice models, to develop future plans for Ghelinta in the field of renewable energies. Now both, the target village Ghelinta as well as the best practice example bioenergy village Mureck continue to work together to implement the

	<p>bioenergy village concept in Ghelinta. The establishment of a bilateral municipal collaboration between Ghelinta and Mureck can be considered as an added-value of the project, and it will contribute to secure and speed-up the implementation process in Ghelinta and thus will increase the sustainability of the BioVill project results after its ending).</p>
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5. Involvement of best practice key actors in Serbia

A key expert from Company Solarcomplex was invited through KEA to participate at BioVill training events in Serbia. Ms Gaukler on a behalf of Solarcomplex was one of the hosts during the first study visit to Baden-Württemberg in autumn 2016. Ms Gaukler as a key expert participated at two major training events. One for the Working Group in the target bio-energy village and another for financial and other relevant institutions (ministries, international partners, and civic society organizations) in Belgrade.

SKGO is considering using support of additional key experts for the planned events during 2018 like outreach and knowledge sharing to other villages event or National Conference. SKGO will communicate and discuss this possibility with partners from Germany and Austria.

BPE - Key actor name	Ms. Jutta Gaukler, representative of the Bioenergy Village Buesingen
BPE - Key actor country	Germany
BPE - Key actor organisation	Solarcomplex
Date(s) of event(s)	23-24 May 2017
Title of the event	Training on financing, contracts and business models (23.05.2017, Bajina Basta) Training on bioenergy projects for the financial sector (24.05.2017, Belgrade)
Title of the presentation	Road to Bio-energy Village, Experiences of Solarcomplex Company
Key stakeholders met in target village	Ms. Jutta Gaukler met with the Working Group of the target bio-energy village Kostojevici including: Technical Director of PUC BB Term which operates district heating system in the village, representatives of Municipality of Bajina Basta (members of the Municipal Council and Environmental Department), Head of the Local Community Kostojevici, entrepreneurs from the village, representative from Regional Development Agency of Zlatibor. Representatives of National Park Tara and Power Distribution Company Bajina Basta.
Scope of the mission	Transferring best practice examples from Germany to Bajina Basta and knowledge and experiences about success factors of transition to bio-energy village.
Main results of the mission, conclusions and recommendations, if applicable	Stakeholders were exposed to the example of successful cooperation between Bioenergy Village Büsingen and Company Solarcomplex AG how to switch from fossil based to renewable based local economy. They were able to learn about the most important triggers, success factors but also obstacles that the partner faced. Stakeholders also learned about the business model and organizational set-up. Since Solarcomplex is working with other villages in Germany examples of other 11 villages were briefly discussed.

6. Involvement of best practice key actors in Slovenia

Mr. Markus Bohnert from Germany held presentation at BioVill training course for local stakeholders and for financial sector. Two more experts will be invited to the national conference on bioenergy villages in Slovenia.

BPE - Key actor name	Mr. Markus Bohnert
BPE - Key actor country	Germany
BPE - Key actor organisation	Bürger Energie St. Peter e.G.
Date(s) of event(s)	11.5.-12.5.2017
Title of the event	Training seminar for local stakeholders (11.5.2017, Dole pri Litiji) Training seminar for financial sector (12.5.2017, Ljubljana)
Title of the presentation	Presentation of the bioenergy village St. Peter im Schwarzwald
Key stakeholders met in target village	The event in Dole was visited by 36 participants. Present were mayor and deputy mayor of the municipality Litija, mayor of the municipality Loški potok, representatives of the Slovenian forestry institute, representatives of firefighters, charcoal association, sports association, committee for the local development, local foresters from Slovenia forest service, representatives of local SMEs and local residents. In Ljubljana, 40 participants attended the event. Present were representatives of local governments, local or regional agencies, national financing institutions, private company representatives (wood chips producer, wood biomass heating provider, etc.) and research institution.
Scope of the mission	Presentation of best practice example from Germany with the aim to strengthen social cohesion among the citizens and to further develop the village. The main focus was to encourage the local stakeholders and residents to keep making small, but important steps towards energy self-sufficiency.
Main results of the mission, conclusions and recommendations, if applicable	The participants expressed their great satisfaction with the quality of the training course and the performance of the experts. They also expressed their willingness to further support the implementation of the BioVill project, to establish an energy self-sufficient village in Dole. Questions were mainly about the obstacles which the operators encountered on their way of establishing a bioenergy village, price of the heat and about the investors.

7. Attachments

- ANNEX 1 Presentation of Mr Totter: “Kreislaufwirtschaft in der Praxis- Energie.Versorgung.Sicherheit”
- ANNEX 2 Presentation of Mr Totter: “Kreislaufwirtschaft in der Praxis- Wirtschaftlichkeitsrechnung”
- ANNEX 3 Presentation of Mr Totter “Kreislaufwirtschaft in der Praxis- Anlagekosten und Finanzierung”
- ANNEX 4 Presentation of Mr Bleyl: “Training on Training on Training on Training on financing, contracts contracts and business business models”
- ANNEX 5 Presentation of Mr Bleyl: “Training on bioenergy projects for the financial sector – sector Financing models, risks and opportunities for bioenergy villages”
- ANNEX 6 Presentation of Mr Bleyl: “Training on bioenergy projects for the financial sector Financing models, risks and opportunities for bioenergy villages”
- ANNEX 7 Presentation of Mr Roggenbauer: “Energy is our Future”
- ANNEX 8 Presentation of Ms Glaser: “Our way to Energy Transition”
- ANNEX 9 Presentation of Ms Gaukler: “Bajina Basta auf dem Weg zum Bioenergiedorf”
- ANNEX 10 Presentation of Mr Bohnert: “Energieversorgung in Bürgerhand - Bioenergiedorf St. Peter im Schwarzwald”