

PROJECT INFORMATION

Potential of regional, decentralised economic structures and supply structures in Podlaskie (Poland)

Updated: February 2016



Locally harvested reed is used to produce reedbriquettes on Podlaskan farms

Source: L. Ribbe (EuroNatur)

Background

The Podlaskie Voivodeship in north-eastern Poland is a structurally weak and predominantly agricultural region. Its low population density, low economic strength and lack of fossil resources are also reflected in its energy supply structures. Podlaskie is almost completely dependent on electricity imported from other regions and is frequently affected by power cuts. The situation is a barrier to the region's economic development. At the same time, local heating systems are primarily based on bituminous coal and adversely affect air quality.

Project details

The project aim was to motivate all relevant societal forces in the Voivodeship to identify, together with the Marshal's Office, the regional economic potential of a decentralised, resource-efficient energy supply based on renewables. Participatory processes were used to define joint targets for innovative regional energy policy and to develop and implement suitable pilot projects.

Principal lines of action were: (1) Development and implementation of PR-work and awareness-raising in cooperation with the Marshal's Office and municipalities with a view to highlighting in a regional economic context the benefits of decentralised, renewable energies and energy savings measures for energy and climate policy, (2) Consultancy on the development of a framework for supporting renewable energies with a focus on the 2014–2020 EU Operational Programme with a view to accessing EU structural funds, and (3) Consultancy on project planning and implementation of selected pilot projects with a focus on electricity and heat generation. In biomass utilisation, the emphasis was on prioritising the use of residues and on effective utilisation of the heat generated.

Target country: Poland

Duration: 04/2013 – 02/2016

Beneficiaries: Marshal's Office and municipalities of Podlaskie Voivodeship, Podlaska Regional Development Foundation, journalists (as multipliers), interested public

Implementing organisations:

EuroNatur Foundation, DBFZ Deutsches Biomasseforschungszentrum gemeinnützige GmbH, Energievision Frankental e.V., Energievision Franken GmbH, Heinrich Böll Foundation, Institute for Renewable Energies (Instytut Energetyki Odnawialnej), Institute for Sustainable Development (Instytut na rzecz Ekorozwoju), Białystok University of Technology

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Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP)

for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and other countries neighbouring the European Union – a programme of the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety

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