



<u>Activity 4:</u> <u>Online webinar on regulatory</u> <u>aspects of biomass and other</u> <u>sources of energy for ensuring</u> <u>energy supply security and</u> <u>decarbonization</u>

HARVESTING OF PARTICIPANTS' CONTRIBUTIONS

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Agenda

"Webinar on the regulatory aspects of biomass to ensure the security of energy supply and decarbonization"

May 19, 2023

Academy of Economic Studies, Faculty of Business Administration in Foreign Languages (FABIZ)

9:30 - 9:40	Opening remarks. Presentation of the project			
	Dean, Professor, PhD Tănase Stamule			
9:40 - 10:00	The European regulatory framework for biomass			
	PhD, Corina Murafa			
	Q&A			
10:00 - 10:20	National framework and regulatory barriers for biomass used for energy			
	Associate Professor, PhD Simona Guțiu			
	Q&A			
10:20 - 10:40	The main aspects of the timber market in Romania			
	Florin Stoican, Sustainability			
	Q&A			
10:40 - 11:00	Sustainability of biomass used for energy			
	Associate Professor, PhD Raluca Ignat, Lecturer, PhD, Luxița Rîșnoveanu			
	Q&A			
11:00 - 11:30	Conclusions and proposals for ensuring security of energy supply and decarbonisation			

Agriculture biomass

State of art:

- All agricultural crops monitoring system every 6 days Through the Copernicus villager - APIA I have to check the status of the crops and the surfaces - the component of the woody/vegetative mass -
- The amounts that are granted through the agro-environmental packages more tempting than the sale of biomass
- The sum of all the schemes for fruit growing (even more if the fruits will go to processing) 1500 euros/year cheaper than the schemes for pastures the sum of all the schemes in the mountain area 500-600 euros
- Conversion of orchards to organic farming
- Crop codes that farmers could use as viable crops for biomass
- Wooded pastures must be analysed to be included in the forest fund

List of energy crops according to the Order of the Minister of agriculture 83/2023 Single application form on the surface

- ✓ Pastures hayfields
- ✓ Arable land energy rapeseed
- ✓ The information is public on request by email!
- ✓ Permanent crops 100 euros/ha once
- ✓ The other crops plus agro-environment and PNDR packages up to 500 euros/ha

Opportunities for a better governance:

Modification of the current format of Annex no. 4 of the Procedure for issuing certificates of origin for biomass originating from forestry and related industries and used in the production of electricity from renewable energy sources in order to achieve a traceability of the wood material to be exploited. Moreover, it would be important to determine the primary and secondary processing at the level of the previously mentioned procedure, so that certain raw materials resulting from

biomass from the forestry sector are no longer confused with agricultural biomass willy-nilly or by necessity by the competent control authorities.

- Within the Order on the amendment and completion of the Procedure for issuing the certificate of origin for biomass from agriculture and related industries, used as fuel or raw material for the production of electricity, issued by MADR there is no clear delimitation at the level of the vegetation cycle in the function of the energy crop cultivated by the farmer. Practically, poplar and energy willow can be harvested after 4 or 5 years, the maximum production value being approx. 48-52 tons/ha. There should be a column in the annexes where an annual distribution of at least 8 tons/ha can be achieved. We are talking about an agricultural crop, but not one that enjoys the cultivation-harvest process over the course of a maximum of 12 months.
- The importance of creating a legislation dedicated to biomass in order to avoid residues resulting from the processing and full utilization of this resource.
- 2 Sustainability criteria should be carefully redefined

Forest biomass

State of art:

- Romsilva less than half of the forest fund public property of the state
- Forest resource predictable The principle of the continuity of wood mass harvest
- There are 9-9.5 million cubic meters
- ✤ Large scale recovery for industrial recovery
- A part goes to traditional energy recovery 3-3.5 million cubic meters/year
- The rest is directed to industry
- ✤ Forest management is nationally certified for 80% with two standards
- For private property Romsilva has 3.1 million ha in state ownership
- Plus 1 million ha managed by ROMSILVA from private property most of them only look after the rest of the activities on a contract basis
- There are still some areas in the private administration of UAT there are 146 hectares with forest reserves regime (mayors, large owners - they have certified management) - maybe up to 3 million ha

Challenges of the green certificates:

- ✓ For own production biomass it is not a problem
- ✔ For biomass bought from third parties certification requires ensuring traceability it will be difficult to give green certificates there
- ✔ Traceability harvest plus 3-4 deposits plus commercial -
- Technical the mixtures are provided technically and traceability is very difficult to identify
- ✓ The big bottleneck caused by the delay in applying SUMAL
- ✓ Law 5/2023 removes the threshold provided previously now green certificates are obtained for certified biomass
- ✓ When feeding the plants the biomass is weighed, recorded in the software and declared to Transelectrica in order to verify the green certificates The problem is given by the difference in quantity between supply and actual consumption in the plant

✓ There are 32 power plants – 124 Mw, but the boilers must be authorized for biomass consumption

Opportunities for a better governance:

- Biomass from both the forestry and agricultural sectors whose processed trees have a diameter between 12-14 cm must be registered in the application of the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests - SUMAL 2.0. Practically, an APV must be carried out by the Forest Department before each harvest. Thus, in the case of agricultural biomass that is produced in a large amount, but not with an annual regularity, I consider that it represents nothing more than an additional bureaucratic aspect for the farmers' activity. The proposal aims at the possibility of making a report at the plot level in which the volume of the harvest, made by the farmer and entered in SUMAL 2.0, is mentioned.
- 2 Sustainability criteria should be carefully redefined

Biomass from agroforestry curtains

State of art:

- Possibilities fallow with hornbeam
- Benefits: Natural regeneration 85% of the paste regenerates naturally; Long cycle operation
- Pelletizing capacity has increased and goes for export
- From 2023 it is no longer declared in the ZIE (national platform for agroforestry curtains), but there are conditions for planting at least 2 trees/ha in the Eco schemes

Opportunities for a better governance:

- Biomass from both the forestry
- Certificates for agricultural biomass must meet sustainability criteria for which they are not known
- Energy efficiency program
- Wreck Programme for an efficient pellet boiler, since there are 3 thousand household stoves with combustion efficiency 15%, and one stove consumes 5-6 cubic meters of wood/year

Future of biomass

RED 3

- Transition from conventional biofuels to advanced biofuels
- The cascade principle for biomass (1) wood-based products, 2) extending their lifetime, 3) reuse, 4) recycling, 5) bioenergy and 6) disposal)
- Renewable energy target of 45% (tentative), 42.5% mandatory
- Possible limitation of the total amount of biomass in the European mix (at the average of the years 2017 2022)
- Gradual elimination of biomass from the energy mix
- Sustainability criteria applied to smaller installations (7.5 MW)
- Eliminating subsidization of energy produced from saw logs, veneer logs, logs and roots and avoiding the promotion of the use of energy quality roundwood)
- From 2026 support for biomass used exclusively in electricity will be removed

JRC studies

- Biomass to energy is incentivized (or not) by subsidies/regulation
- BAU scenario: biomass will stabilise at 50% of RES in 2030
- Raw material availability higher than demand in all scenarios
- 60% of 1000 respondents in favour of introducing stricter sustainability criteria
- 5 scenarios (sustainability criteria according to REDIII, SFM certification, risk-based operations, efficiency standards, stem wood usage ceiling) and impact analysis on each (demand/supply, emission reductions, investment required, etc.)
- "a wicked problem" "issues are within the realm of the political arena and no amount of scientific research will appease ethical disputes"