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Titolo: ForBioEnergy - Forest Bioenergy in the Protected Mediterranean Areas

Riassunto The ForBioEnergy project, funded within the INTERREG MED Programme 2014-2020, involved a Lead Partner (Regional Department for the Rural and Territorial Development, Sicily Region), 8 project partners from 4 Mediterranean countries (Italy, Spain, Slovenia and Croatia) and 4 Associate Partners from Italy (Ente Parco delle Madonie, AIEL, Enviland, Petralia Sottana) and Croatia. It is an innovative project which bets on the chance to favor the sustainable development of the rural areas through the exploitation of the forest biomass for the production of bioenergy. However, most of the Mediterranean forests are within protected areas, where the current regulatory restrictions and the lack of management plans impede and slow down the possibility to exploit woody biomass. The main objective of the project was to fostering the bioenergy production in the protected areas, providing trans-national solutions for reducing barriers that currently hinder the development of the biomass sector, planning models in order to exploit the potential of biomass, whereas preserving the forest biodiversity. To achieve these goals the project includes an Action Plan for shaping new regulatory framework and permit route aimed at removing the administrative, technical and socio-economic barriers that hinder the use of biomass, a multi-level planning process, a set of sustainability requirements and quality standards of forest biomass. The key actors and stakeholders involved with bioenergy and biodiversity issues were identified, including institutions, and social and productive organization at regional and local level. A permanent technical panel has been established in each involved country to promote the exchange of knowledge and information between private and public key actors. The project provides a three-level approach to the planning process for the use of forest biomass: sub-regional (useful for the connections with the large scale energy planning), local (useful for the development of best practices for sustainable forest management), operating (useful for planning and management of the supply chain). The main results achieved by the project are: GIS applications for implementing the planning activities and for identifying the Biomass Districts; Decision Support Systems (DSS) to guide the competent public authorities in the choice of the best solutions to increase the sustainable production of biomass according with sustainability objectives established for protected areas; a methodology for evaluating threats and benefits deriving from biomass harvesting and extraction; the drawing up of a forest management plan at biomass district scale; the definition of a traceability system and quality standards for woody biomass in order to ensure the respect of the sustainability criteria necessary for the development of the biomass chain in protected areas. A set of specific indicators has been defined to evaluate the positive and negative impacts that the forestry interventions could have on the biotic, abiotic, and socio-economic components, in the short, medium and long period. The transferring activities, as well as the communicative ones, contributed to spread the know-how and the results gained during the project implementation not only at a local level but also at a regional and national level, in order to favor high levels of replicability all over the MED Programme cooperation area.

Parole Chiave: Bioenergy, Protected areas, Forest Management, Woody biomass, wood-energy supply chain

Tipologia Contributo: POSTER

Tematica Congressuale: (8) Valorizzazione dei prodotti legnosi e non legnosi della foresta e dei sistemi agroforestali

Partecipa ai premi SISEF: NO

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