



Co-funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe  
Programme of the European Union



## ***Exploiting the potentialities of solid biomasses in EU Parks***

### **D5.6.6 PROPOSITION OF LEGAL MEASURES AT NATIONAL LEVEL Recommendations for Decision Makers**

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February 2016  
HUNGARY

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### 1. Revision of the National Energy Strategy – enhancing the role of renewable energies

Strategies that determinate the future of the country need to be updated over time due to the changes in political environment. This is also true for the National Energy Strategy 2030. Following its construction in 2012 the world market price of the hydrocarbons decreased as well as the price of electricity, while the EU set new climate policy aims giving an important role to the renewable energies in its implementation. Adapting to the changes in environmental conditions in the process of the sooner or later inevitable modernisation of the National Energy Strategy an enhanced role must be given to the renewable energies and among others to the biomass energy.

### 2. Elaboration of agro-energy strategy

There is a multifaceted relationship between the agriculture and the energy sector. Agriculture is not only a consumer of energy, but can be a producer of energy as well. Biomass is a domestic resource the production of which employs labour and intellectual capacity, and helps to retain population in rural areas. The main objectives could be defined by a comprehensive agro-energy strategy which may (among others) quantify the biomass potential and determine the role of national parks. Creating the agro-energy strategy is not an easy task because various and often conflicting aspects of different sectors should be taken into consideration.

### 3. Application of biomass production chains to achieve energy efficiency goals

Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency lays down among others reduction of the volume of energy consumption. One means of reduction is the obligation of energy service providers to decrease the energy demand of their consumers by 1.5% annually using energy efficiency interventions. This means as much as 10% reduction for the remaining time until 2020. Hungarian Government decided to apply alternative policy options allowed in the course of implementation of the directive. It is proposed for the government to induce a reasonable proportion of the final consumers to shift from wired to biomass energy by using alternative policy options mentioned in the directive. The appropriate specific measurements can appear in the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan published every third year. Given that the biomass has to be considered as an energy resource for local consumption, plans for the utilisation of biomass also have to be developed on local (e.g. on district) level.

### 4. Reconciliation of biomass utilisation and environment protection programmes

An important role of policy-making is the horizontal, intersectional harmonization of policies. This is also true for the biomass-based energy production which also affects other sectors than energy sector. Biomass consumption has a positive impact on the greenhouse gas balance of the whole country, but causes air pollution on local level. It is obviously an important objective to replace fossil fuels to biomass, but environment protection issues – just like efforts to control PM10 emission – must be taken into consideration as well<sup>1</sup>.

### 5. Enforcing nature conservation considerations during the biomass utilisation

The increase of biomass utilisation on areas under national protection and on Natura 2000 sites must be based on the biomass generated in the course of nature conservation management interventions.

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<sup>1</sup> See e.g. 1330/2011. (X.12.) government decision on the inter-sectoral programme of measures to reduce fine particulate matter.

Removals of the invasive species can be the primary source of it. On nature protected areas nature conservation interests always have to have priority; production of wood fuel must be conducted only without the detriment of these interests.

#### 6. Taking into account nature conservation interests during the ongoing amendment of the National Forest Law

Amendments of the 37th Law of 2009 about the Forests, Forest Protection and Forest Management should be implemented without lowering the level of the regulation of forest management for nature conservation purposes because only this can ensure that protection function of forests continues unflinchingly to prevail. Today in Hungarian everyday practice only a so called „operational sheet” has to be drawn up about the removal of dead wood, no notification paper is required and so the nature conservation manager receives no official information about this kind of operations. During the ongoing amendment of the National Forest Law nature conservation interests regarding to dead wood removal could get a more prominent role, if the law prescribed requirement of notification about the dead wood removal and a veto right were given to the nature conservation manager. The amount of the dead wood obliged to leave on site should also be increased at least on the protected areas.

#### 7. Improving efficiency as a basic condition

According to the system approach of sustainability the most efficient and economic way to reduce CO<sub>2</sub>-emission is the cutback of actual energy consumption. Improving efficiency should therefore get a priority in the course of supporting developments on renewable energy as well. To this effect using the best technologies and insulation of building simultaneously to the development of heating systems should become a precondition of supporting renewable energy projects. Taking into consideration that the efficiency of the biomass boilers highly depends on the moisture content of the biomass fuel (more than on the species of wood) and that especially the small consumers have no competence to check and no storage capacity to ensure the optimal moisture content, it would be necessary to control the maximum moisture content allowed for the commercial fuel. The overall efficiency can be increased even further in specific situations by combining wood fuel energy production with developments based on other types of renewable energies.

#### 8. Accuracy of the calculation of biomass indicators

Although there are a great number of recommendations and standards for the methodology to calculate the main data connected to the emission of greenhouse gases, the source and the methodology of data reported is often ambiguous and incoherent. Moreover there are often differences between the calculated and real data due to some not traceable factors like illegal felling. The difference between theoretical potential and actual potential (which can be used in practice) is another source of problem. It would be desirable to provide a coherent, simple, and unambiguous calculation method in the invitation to tender, which also takes into consideration the unknown factors at least at the level of estimation.

#### 9. Clarifying land-use regulation

The foundation and transformation of national parks and biosphere reserves is still an ongoing process in Hungary. To prevent the argument caused by the occasional conflicts between nature conservational and socio-economical interests and to secure the nature conservational sustainability of biomass consumption it would be desirable to speed up the finalization process of the zone

systems, to resolve any contradictions, and to fix the specific land use regulation in legislation. This should be performed by a widespread engagement of the target groups concerned.

#### 10. More efficient promotion of cogeneration (CHP)

Currently there is less interest in cogeneration development projects than it would be reasonable. In addition to fixing an appropriate series of criteria for the new grant supports a more efficient stimulation of such investments could be given by simplification of the energy purchases using appropriate regulatory instruments, by organizing the smaller partners into network, and by providing a professional background for project planning, e.g. by employing energetics experts at the county municipalities.