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EUROPEAN UNION

Danube Transnational Programme

ENERGY BARGE

Building a Green Energy & Logistics Belt

Newsletter #2, September 2017



ENERGY BARGE is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)

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The team of ENERGY BARGE during the second SCOM meeting
In Ruse, Bulgaria (Image: @ ENERGY BARGE)

Welcome to the 2nd newsletter of the ENERGY BARGE project. The newsletter presents the progress of the project as well as the latest news regarding biomass and logistics in the Danube region.

Currently, the ENERGY BARGE team conducted successfully the first National Workshop at the Danube Port of Ruse, Bulgaria. The National Workshop managed to gather the attention of local stakeholders from the fields of biomass and logistics and was covered live on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!

In the meantime the project team has concluded the first two studies regarding the national legal framework for bioenergy within the Danube region, as well as the identification of the potential of biomass in the area.

Our partners from the logistics sector have visited the ports of Aschaffenburg and Bamberg that are considered as best practice examples for the handling of biomass .

The team of ENERGY BARGE

The partners

There are 15 partners
involved in the project
from 7 countries:

7 partners from the biomass/bioenergy sector

6 partners from the logistics sector including 5 ports

3 partners from the field of research that provide either special knowledge needed for the implementation of the project (spatial modelling) or who have special knowledge and networks in their regions (biofuels and biomass).



Bulgarian National Workshop in Ruse



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ENERGY BARGE organized on 28th of June the first National Workshop in Ruse, Bulgaria. The workshop was coordinated by the Bulgarian partner “Technology Center Sofia” and the Lead Partner FNR. The aims and scopes of the project have been presented to the Bulgarian stakeholders, followed by a lively discussion about local barriers and opportunities of the local logistics and biomass market.

The Workshop started with an introduction of Mr. Jurgen Eisele from Technology Center Sofia. Mr. Spas Tumbev from the Forest Agency of Bulgaria presented the current status of the Bulgarian Biomass market and the vision for the forest development of Bulgaria. 37% of the territory is covered by forests (4,222,874 hectares in total).

Ms. Anna Natova, director of the Bulgarian Ports Infrastructure Company presented the Danube River Ports of the country (15 in total) and the plans for their development.

After concluding the first part where the attendants got a first analysis of the market situation in the country, Ms. Ann-Kathrin Kaufmann from Biocampus Straubing and Ms. Milica Gvozdic from Via Donau hosted the user forum, where local stakeholders debated, exchanged proposals and ideas for the development of biomass and logistics in the area.

Following the Workshop the attendants had the chance to visit the company BULMARKET and the Ruse-West Port.

The presentations from the Bulgarian National Workshop are available at the ENERGY BARGE project’s website ([please press here](#)).

The next Workshop of the ENERGY BARGE project will be held in Zagreb on 18th January 2018.



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EUSDR lists ENERGY BARGE as one of the 9 Strategic Projects for the Danube area

On 13 June 2017, the EU Strategy for Danube Region (EUSDR) National Coordinators have conferred the “EUSDR Strategic Project” status on nine projects, showcasing the successful progress, joint efforts and commitment of the Danube Region countries and relevant stakeholders in implementing the Strategy through projects. ENERGY BARGE project is one of the projects that was selected by EUSDR.

This is the result of a collective effort led by the Danube Strategy Point (DSP) -- involving the key implementers of the EUSDR i.e. the Priority Areas Coordinators (PACs) and Steering Group Members, project promoters and ultimately the National Coordinators -- which aimed at identifying projects with high macro-regional impact benefitting the Danube Region and its EU Strategy.

The EUSDR Strategic Projects’ selection and validation process followed a bottom-up approach in line with the methodology and selection criteria set up in the Concept Paper for EUSDR Strategic Projects.

The overall process considered some 31 projects initially identified by five EUSDR Priority Areas which



have decided to pursuing the status of “EUSDR Strategic Project” for selected projects in their respective areas, namely PA1a (Mobility Waterways), PA3 (Culture & Tourism), PA6 (Biodiversity & Landscapes), PA9 (People & Skills), and PA10 (Institutional Capacity). This pre-selection phase was followed by a comprehensive quality review conducted by the DSP which has led to the recommendation that nine projects meet the EUSDR strategic value and attributes defined in the Concept paper.

[For more information please press here.](#)

Site visits at the ports of Aschaffenburg and Bamberg

On Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th of May, the ENERGY BARGE port partners under the lead of the Port of Vienna and Via Donau visited the ports of Aschaffenburg and Bamberg.

Both of the ports located at the river Main are European best practice examples for ports dealing with biomass and bioenergy outside the Danube region.

The ENERGY BARGE group learned about the two ports’ business development strategies, experiences with handling of biomass and settling of biomass and bioenergy companies in their area and visited the two companies Bioenergie Aschaffenburg GmbH that runs a biomass CHP plant in the port of Aschaffenburg and the BayWa Agrar in the port of Bamberg.

Also, the project was presented to these important stakeholders and the consortium invited them to actively participate and benefit from ENERGY BARGE’s outputs. A big thank you for the warm welcome and see you soon at the Danube!

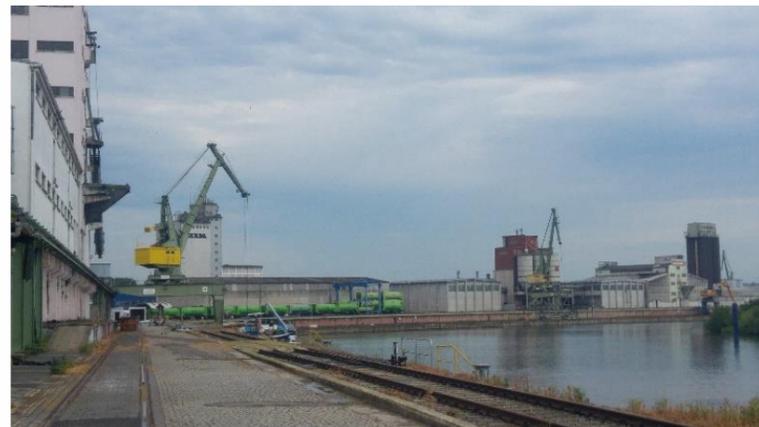


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ENERGY BARGE - National meeting organized by ICARST in Bratislava, Slovakia



The National Meeting was taking place at the Slovak Chemical Library, Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava on 18th August 2017. At the National Meeting 22 participants from 7 institutions and 3 Universities were participating.

The meeting was opened by Prof. Miertuš, Director General of ICARST, who thanked to all participants for their participation and especially to the main organizer Prof. Bakoš (ICARST), who is responsible for the implementation of the ENERGY BARGE project on behalf of ICARST.

Prof. Bakoš presented the topic "Mapping of bioenergetic sector in Danube belt", followed by "Building the green energetic and logistic belt along Danube". A third lecture was presented by Prof. Ondrejovič about the Work Package "Implementation and Policy". Afterwards a round table discussion was organized where a rich discussion developed.

Several experts contributed to the round table discussion, namely Prof. Katuščák, Prof. Chodák, Sr., Dr. Šurina, Mr. Ceben, Prof. Bakoš, Prof. Ondrejovič and Prof. Miertuš. The National Meeting provided a good platform for the coordination of the further implementation of the project, especially for the Work Packages "Mapping bioenergy sector" and "Implementation and Policy". A very interesting

discussion implied several contributions from the audience:

- It was commented that it would be useful to assess in more detail the value of different types of wood which will influence a sustainability of various options for the use of wood (including waste wood). This will affect also sustainability of logistics.
- Centralized option (which include the longer distance transport) vs decentralized option of the transformation of should be critically compared with decentralized options of transformation of biomass to energy
- It was commented that the LCA method could be considered in some particular cases to assess viability of various options.
- Possibilities of a country pilot study have been discussed as well.
- It was also proposed that along with the implementation of the project which is focused mainly on logistic issues, it might be interesting to prepare a follow-up vision (future project proposal) in which the topics of integrated value chains could be considered including also biowaste availability, transformation technology (including biorefinery concept), technology transfer, knowledge transfer, harmonization of methodologies, e learning, etc.

ENERGY BARGE at EUSDR PA1a steering group meeting



ENERGY BARGE was invited by the Steering Group of the EU Strategy for the Danube Region PA1a (Mobility / Waterways) to present an update of progress activities during its 12th meeting in Vienna on 11th May 2017.

This event was an excellent occasion to present currently on-going Danube waterway projects from different programmes with special focus on the initiatives co-funded by the Danube Transnational Programme (DTP). In this respect, the ENERGY BARGE project, with its outstanding cross-sectoral approach bringing together key actors along the entire bioenergy Danube was

presented.

In addition, the status of the implementation of the Fairway Rehabilitation and Maintenance Masterplan together with the updates of the Danube countries on their waterway management works and plans were presented.

All project initiatives have been welcomed by the representatives of DG MOVE, DG Regio and the Danube Strategy Point.

The next Steering Group meeting of PA1a is scheduled for 29th November 2017 in Brussels.

Get to know the ENERGY BARGE partners!



ARBIO is a non-profit organisation founded in 2012, legitimized at both national and international level in its efforts to improve the Biomass (and Biogas) sectors in Romania, through new initiatives and by promoting the importance and advantages of these sectors at the level of Romanian authorities, relevant stakeholders and the society on the whole.

ARBIO represents the Biomass sector before the relevant authorities of Romania and is currently involved in the drafting and adoption of the new Biomass Law, the new Heat Law, and the new Promoting System for biomass projects, which are currently under preparation, for which ARBIO has submitted own proposals.

ARBIO is a member of AEBIOM, the European Biomass Association, and Mr. Ilias Papageorgiadis, the president of the organization, is elected as member of the board, in December 2015. The organization is also a member of EBA, the European Biogas Association.

For more information: www.arbio.ro

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