

POLICY BRIEF - V SEMESTER - NORTH KARELIA

Executive Summary

A new regional smart forest bioeconomy strategy has been prepared in the Bio4Eco project. The strategy combines the lessons learnt from all project activities including project meetings, analysis of the current situation of forest bioeconomy and the policy instruments on the background of Bio4Eco –project.

Process

The analysis of the current situation of forest bioeconomy was finalised and a scenario analysis about on how the increasing harvesting volumes affect biodiversity and the carbon stocks of the forests was made. The Natural Resources Institute Luke was selected to implement the scenario study. As a result of all meetings, workshops, studies, background strategies and scenario analysis, a **“North Karelian Smart Forest Bioeconomy strategy”** was finalised.

Activities and outputs of the project

BIO4ECO aims to improve the regional and national policy processes and policy implementation by addressing the transition to a low carbon economy, in relation with renewable energy use, energy efficiency of building, and forest and agricultural biomass. In order to achieve this objective, the project’s activities are based on exchange of experiences and good practices transfer.

The last semester of the first phase of Bio4Eco project has been very active in North Karelia both in exchange of experiences and in strategy work. In June we organised international project meeting **“Integral solutions for bioenergy policies and strategies”** and in September we participated in the last thematic workshop **“Prioritization of bioenergy production at different geographical scales”** in Paris.

The aim of the **“North Karelian Smart Forest Bioeconomy Strategy”** is to bind the regional Climate and Energy Programme and the Forest Bioeconomy Foci of the RIS3 strategy with the experiences gained in this project into a regional bioeconomy strategy that combines the aspects of environmental sustainability and increases region’s competitiveness concentrating on its strengths by 2025.

Conclusion

The new strategy improves the climate and energy programme and our smart specialisation strategy implementation in North Karelia. It works also as a background of the action plan produced in the project.