

## POLICY BRIEF 3<sup>RD</sup> SEMESTRE – CATALONIA

31<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2017

### Executive Summary

The work done by the BIO4ECO Interreg Project fits and drives the same objectives pursued by political decision makers in the framework of the new **Law on climate change** approved by the Catalan Government this summer, considered the most powerful in southern Europe.

### Process

The new Law on climate change aims to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions** and vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, as well as favour **the transition towards a neutral economy in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions**, competitive, innovative and efficient in the use of resources. It adopts the bases derived from the community legislation and configures the essential elements for the regulation of this instrument in our country.

In this regard, in Catalonia, the BIO4ECO Project is developing its **Action Plan** based on its current and expected **policy challenges**, integrating lessons learned throughout the project with exchange activities. The policy instruments the project addresses are focused on **increasing the production and distribution of renewable energy**, and it is currently working on the **Biomass Strategy** of Catalonia.

This fits very well with the Law, which has among its basic purposes the transition to a low carbon economy and at the same time transforming **the production model** and **the access to natural and energetic resources**.

### Activities and outputs of the project

BIO4ECO Project is based on **exchange activities** which will allow the integration of lessons learned into the Action Plans elaborated by each partner.

- **Partnership agreements:** The Local Stakeholder Group of Catalonia is strengthening their work. They met on May in Argençola (Barcelona) to debate about how to achieve the objectives set by the Strategy to promote the energy

use of forest and agricultural biomass (increasing the share of renewable energies up to 600,000 tons of biomass by 2020).

- **Thematic Workshop and Study visits:** The BIO4ECO Project aims at integrating lessons learned throughout different study visits. On June, a thematic workshop took place in Latvia to discuss about the development of sustainable biomass production and usage through functional land management and climate smart forestry. On September, in the study visit carried out in Slovenia, partners had a first-hand experience on integral solutions for bioenergy policies and strategies.
- **Attendance and presence to seminars and congresses:** During the 3rd semester of the project, Catalan partners of the BIO4ECO project have been present in several seminars and congresses, as the Bioenergy Conference in Jyväskylä.

## Conclusion

The Catalan delegation of the BIO4ECO Project is in charge to improve its own political instrument. All the exchange activities carried out so far have highlighted the following topics:

- The capitalization of the technological knowledge available
- The importance of the rules which may be a bottleneck
- The coordination of industry players providing support and advice
- The request for positive discrimination for those small realities that despite their interest, do not have sufficient capacity to carry out installations of biomass complying with the criteria of the competitive competition
- The challenge of adapting forest planning dynamism and contingencies associated with a dynamic market such as biomass