



# ACTION PLAN IMPLEMENTATION IN BULGARIA

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BIO4ECO  
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## General Information

- ▶ BIO4ECO project provided unique opportunity to offer new, innovative solutions to achieve the necessary balance between effective use of forest resources and environmental protection, which will support the economic development of our regions
- ▶ The aim of PP8 was to influence Operational Programme "Innovation and Competitiveness" (OPIC) 2014-2020, specifically Axis 3 "Energy and resource efficiency" which is directly engaged in smart and sustainable growth and has also been developed in line with the objectives the 2020 Energy Strategy of the Republic of Bulgaria
- ▶ The expected result from BIO4ECO project was elaboration of Action plan for more effective use of forest biomass as renewable energy recourse in Bulgaria



## Problems to be solved

- ▶ Limiting the dependency on imported fossil fuels and their replacement by renewable energy sources
- ▶ The role of renewable energy for the development of the national economy in Bulgaria continuously increases and a major share in its production take the biomass from forests
- ▶ The use of forest resources must be subject to a balanced approach that takes into account not only economic needs, but also environmental and social role of forests
- ▶ Efficient and rational use of forest biomass must be supported by targeted policy initiatives in order to achieve sustainable development, especially in energy and forest sectors



# Implementation of the Action plan

## **Priority action 1** - *Resource efficiency and sustainable production of biomass as a renewable energy source*

- ▶ state forest enterprises established 8 experimental logistic centers to support the business relations between the sellers of round timber and timber residues and the consumers of processed timber and timber products;
- ▶ informal communication with the National management authority of OPIC to organize expert level meetings to discuss strategies framework of the program and opportunities for SME to participate with projects on resource efficiency;
- ▶ 1 meeting with the national coordinator of OPIC was organized to discuss how the information and requirements for participation with project proposals on effective use of natural resources, incl. forest biomass, in the next program period of OPIC could be made easier for SME with low administrative capacity for projects preparation



# Implementation of the Action plan

## **Priority action 2** - *Promotion of long-term bioenergy production strategy in national policy*

- ▶ Ordinance on the requirement for use of forest biomass for household heating was prepared and published for public consultations
- ▶ Priority actions of NAPEDFWB were included in the draft Integrated plan in the field of energy and climate of Republic of Bulgaria and part of its priority actions were included in this plan
- ▶ 2 meetings with the national coordinator of OPIC to discuss the inclusion of efficient use of forest biomass in the next program period.
- ▶ Participation of Bio4eco team in interinstitutional working group developing elements of the circular bio economy in the Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialization, which will be the basis for definition of priority areas in the next OPIC in Bulgaria.



# Implementation of the Action plan

## **Priority action 2** - *Promotion of long-term bioenergy production strategy in national policy*

- ▶ The Executive Forest Agency developed and submitted Fiche with proposal on possible investments in projects for more effective and circular use of forest biomass under the Priority related to effective use of natural resources in the next OPIC.
- ▶ 1 informal meeting with representatives of state and municipal forest enterprises was organized to present the international good practices learned during the project and discuss the implementation of the NAPEDFWB
- ▶ 2 meetings of the Advisory group were organized but due to COVID 19 only members of the group presented.



# Implementation of the Action plan

## **Priority action 3** - *Knowledge transfer and dissemination of success stories*

- ▶ Presentation of the international experience and learned lessons in the frames of Bio4Eco project was published on the web side of the Executive Forest Agency
- ▶ Distribution of the brochure with the projects results and the NAPEDFWB to target groups –municipalities, institutes, stakeholders. The book of NAPEDFWB was earmarked for state and regional administrations responsible for defining and implementing policies and strategies in the field of RES, environmental protection and sustainable use of natural resources
- ▶ informal meeting with representative of Norwegian mechanism was organized to investigate the possibilities for financing the purchase of machinery for more efficient and nature friendly ways to collect wood residues and close the circle of pellets production at the forest enterprise





# Implementation of the Action plan

## Monitoring

- ▶ The monitoring is performed by 2 working Groups (Expert Group and Advisory Group) established with orders of the Executive director of EFA, with participation of staff from the Forestry Executive Forest Agency and representatives of stakeholders.
- ▶ One meeting of the Expert Group to review to implementation of the Action plan was organized in period in February 2020.



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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