

The COOL project comes to an end

Technical report, final conference and background paper on emerging forest biomass topics

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The project COOL (“COmpeting uses Of forest Land”, <http://www.cool-project.org>), carried out between 2012 and 2014, is coming to an end. COOL, a European research project within the two ERA-Nets WoodWisdom-Net 2 and ERA-NET Bioenergy, has analyzed current and likely future forest management and policy strategies characterizing the responses of five European countries (Germany, Spain, Finland, Norway and Slovenia) to an increasing demand of wood for bioenergy. Moreover, it performed an analysis at European level on existing policies and guidelines for the provision of energy wood without adversely affecting other forest ecosystem services. The project has produced the following main outputs:

- EFICIENT, one of seven project partners, published a **state of the art review** as EFI Technical Report in August 2014 available at http://www.efi.int/files/attachments/publications/efi_tr_95_ferranti_2014.pdf.

The report addresses energy wood related topics relevant for the scientific, forest management and policy making arenas. In particular, the report presents a critical overview of existing studies on energy wood potential; it analyzes trade-offs and synergies between energy wood production and use and other forest ecosystem services; it identifies and describes European Union policies affecting the energy wood context and it addresses the integration between energy wood and biodiversity related goals in these policies

- In September 2014, the COOL researchers presented and discussed project results in the **COOL session** “More fodder for the oven? Dealing with forest related conflicts arising from the use of energy wood in Europe” at the international “Bioenergy from Forest Conference”

(<http://www.bioenergyevents.fi/Conference>) in Helsinki. In the COOL **panel discussion** experts from whole Europe representing diverse stakeholder groups (e.g. forest owner, environmentalists, scientists, and biomass associations) discussed future options on forest biomass in Europe.

- The panel discussion was based on a **background paper** which summarized the results for political decision-makers. Within this paper, the researchers listed six main challenges European countries are faced with in order to meet the EU 2020 energy target but at the same time integrating other forest ecosystem services. They particularly underlined the need for improving the respective political framework, but addressed as well options for mobilizing wood resources for energy.

In the remaining months till the end of the project (31 Dec 2014), the researchers will be completing the final report, four scientific paper drafts on different project work packages and transfer the background paper into a policy brief format.

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COOL Team. Upper row, from left to right: Mikko Kurttila (METLA), Dörte Marie Peters (IFP), Kristina Wirth (FVA), Berit H. Lindstad (NMBU), Verena Quadt (EFICIENT), Lidija Zadnik Stirn (ULJ); bottom row, from left to right: Elena Gòrriz (CTFC), Vasja Leban (ULJ), Regina Rhodius (IFP)