

Project: BiG>East

(EIE/07/214)

Report on the 1st Mobilisation Campaign in Croatia

Contribution to Deliverable D-7.2



Biljana Kulisic, EIHP

Dominik Rutz, WIP Renewable Energies

EIHP - Energy Institute Hrvoje Pozar

Savska cesta 163

PP 141

HR-10000 Zagreb

CROATIA

3 March 2008

With the support of:



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Introduction

The 1st mobilisation campaign (WP 7) took place at the premises of the Energy Institute Hrvoje Pozar in Zagreb, Croatia (national BiG>East project partner for Croatia) on 26th February 2008 between 8.45 and 12.00. 46 stakeholders participated in the Breakfast discussion. The idea of the 1st mobilisation campaign was to combine the event with the internal BiG>East project meeting from 25 to 26 February 2008.

The 1st mobilisation campaign

At the 1st mobilisation campaign which was announced as “Breakfast Discussion”, the objectives of the BiG>East project were presented. Participants also had the opportunity to receive information about biogas developments in the EU and to share their views with other Croatian biogas stakeholders on possibilities to develop a Croatian biogas market

The event was opened by Damir Pesut, the Deputy Director of EIHP. Biljana Kulisic, EIHP gave a presentation about the BiG>East project and Michael Koettner, GERBIO presented the current biogas sector in Europe. The second part of the Campaign included examples of biogas production (MT Energie by Darko Juric, Gerhard Agrinz GmbH by Heinz Prassl, FinsterwalderUmwelttechnik by Tobias Finsterwalder and NawaRo AG by Carsten Herbes). Finally, a discussion was lead by Biljana Kulisic, EIHP and potential biogas producers from Croatia had the opportunity to ask questions to the experts and BiG>East partners.

Discussion

The main discussion was about the Croatian legislation. The support of renewable energies for electricity generation was described and it was claimed by some participants that it is unfair towards biogas production since it has included a “correction factor according to the share of domestic component in the project”. Since there is no domestic producer of biogas technology or equipment, it is difficult to achieve a full feed-in tariff.

Thus, other participants suggested to policy makers to open the biogas market to foreign producers of biogas equipment. However, the maximum correction factor is decreasing the full amount of support by 7%. The procedure to change the law takes at least a year.

Mr. Finsterwalder explained the system of collecting organic waste in Germany which is different to the waste collecting system in Croatia. The usual income from waste biogas plant operators in Germany comes from both waste treatment fee (e.g. restaurants have to pay for waste treatment of their organic waste) and from electricity production (using the German electricity feed-in tariff).

A representative from Ekonerg, a consultant company for waste management plans and strategies, stated that biogas has the high potential to mitigate GHG emissions, improve negative impacts on the environment, and to optimise waste management techniques.

Participants

The invitation to the breakfast discussion was published on the official websites of BiG>East, Regional Energy Agency and EIHP. It was also sent to 17 targeted stakeholders from the agro-food industries and from institutions. However, the interest was higher than expected and more than 40 stakeholders registered. In total 46 stakeholders (29 external stakeholders, 17 BiG>East partners) attended the Breakfast discussion.

The stakeholders represented the following organisations:

Institutional support organisations

- Ministry of Agriculture and Regional Development
- Environmental Protection and Energy Efficiency Fund
- Regional developing agencies (Zagorska razvojna agencija, Razvojna agencija Dan)
- Agency for European projects and consulting (Europski projekti i Savjetovanja d.o.o.)

Scientific organisations

- Faculty of Chemical Engineering and Technology, University of Zagreb (FKIT)
- Faculty of Agriculture, University of Osijek (Poljoprivredni fakultet Osijek)
- Ekonerg, Eco-Tehproject d.o.o.
- Energy Institute Hrvoje Požar

Industry

- Vogens Ltd, Agroproteinka d.d., PIK Vrbovec, PTMG d.o.o., Vrana d.o.o., TPK-Orometal, Perutnina Ptuj-Pipo d.o.o., Dona trgovina d.o.o.

Farmers and cooperatives

- Dobrin Ltd, Agro-ekološka zadruga Giki, O.P.G. Papac

Waste management companies

- ZGOS

NGO

- NGO Zeleni Osijek

Biogas equipment producers

- Bionardo Repower d.o.o., NawaRo GmbH, MT Energie

Main Croatian national electricity provider

- HEP (Development and Research Department)

Press releases

The Mobilisation Campaign was promoted via several media. Thus, a dedicated special issue on BiG>East of the Croatian weekly business magazine “Lider” was published and a radio report “Pisele piše – a show mostly on environmental protection” was sent by Radio 101 on its Monday’s 19:00 radio show. Furthermore, a report was published in the daily national newspapers “Vjesnik” upon a contact from the journalist.

Stakeholder feedback

As response to the good press releases, stakeholders started to provide feedback on the BiG>East project. From Thursday, 28th February, to Wednesday, 5th of March, EIHP has received 6 project proposals related to biogas plants. Many stakeholders who registered for the campaign but did not attend it apologised and registered for the BiG>East mailing list.

Evaluation

A questionnaire was distributed among the participants in order to assess the barriers for the development of a biogas sector in Croatia. Data and results from 23 submitted questionnaires will be presented under WP3 of the BiG>East project.

Agenda

8.45	9.00	Reception – Welcome by EIHP and WIP	Damir Pesut, Deputy Director EIHP, Biljana Kulisic, EIHP
9.00	9.30	The BiG>East Project	Biljana Kulisic, EIHP
9:30	9:45	Biogas in Europe – An Overview	Michael Köttner, GERBIO
9.45	10.00	Coffee break	
10.00	10.15	MT Energie	Darko Juric
10.15	10.30	Finsterwalder Umwelttechnik	Tobias Finsterwalder
10.30	10.45	NAWARO AG	Carsten Herbes
10.45	11.00	Gerhard Agrinz GmbH	Heinz Prassl
11.00	11.30	Discussion	Biljana Kulisic