

COOPENERGY HAZI-EVE Biomass joint Action

On June 18 2013, EVE and HAZI¹ formalized a cooperation agreement to promote the development and utilization of forest biomass for energy purposes in the Basque countryside. The objective of both organizations is to carry out the support and advice of the councils of the Basque Country who are interested in the development of energy projects using biomass as a resource for the analysis and extraction of this in its natural state until transforming it into heat in facilities designed for that purpose, following a plan and operating model based on the needs of the municipalities, in line with the existing funding mechanisms and funding from different sources.

For successful and effective implementation of these actions, it is necessary to involve the municipalities not only as the recipients of the actions, but as key actors through their knowledge about energetic and social context in their municipalities.

This collaboration is being carried out at different levels: regional government, municipality and energy resources (forest owners, ESCOs, etc ...) , and is a clear example of multilevel governance. Thus, it has been included in the international project COOPENERGY wherein the EVE involved.

COOPENERGY is an EU-funded project of three years (co -funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe programme) in order to help local and regional authorities to develop joint action plans and multi-level governance arrangements. These agreements can range from informal meetings to stronger partnerships and memoranda of understanding (MoU). This will ensure that regional and local authorities are working in coordination to the greatest success with the EU 20/20/20 targets.

The actions listed here are included in stage 4 COOPENERGY project, where we analyze successful cases in Europe in joint or "Joint Action". In the case of EVE, two joint actions being one of them presented HAZI - called EVE Biomass.

The aim of this multi-level collaboration is to achieve the following general objectives: to coordinate the activities of all stakeholders (from the forest resource to the point of consumption of thermal energy), to value indigenous resources, generate local employment and advance the development and deployment of renewable energy.

¹ The HAZI Foundation (public) aims to promote and develop the competitiveness, sustainability and innovation within their scope, comprising the (primary agricultural sector, livestock, fisheries and forestry), rural and coastal environment and industry food, contributing to their recovery and the maintenance of natural and cultural heritage.

As part of this action, on January 28th a meeting took place in Amurrio between EVE, HAZI and municipal managers to advance in the design and implementation of a plan to give the council a sustainable and profitable solution for municipality and its citizens with regard to the energy supply of the various city-owned buildings .

The process will include the development of the necessary studies for the analysis and management of forest resources. In parallel, studies will be conducted to meet the energy needs of the municipality and the realization of the technical solutions adopted and the funding mechanisms will be the same.

It is expected that the process ends with the implementation of sustainable energy measures for the town of Amurrio, which allow for local forest biomass in the facilities and buildings more consumers Hall .

