Support of the use of biomass as a challenging issue of the Slovenian Forest Policy

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General data (2016)

Forest area: 1,182,278 ha
(58.3% of total area of Slovenia)

Growing stock:
350,420,944 m$^3$
→ 54% broadleaves
→ 46% conifers

Increment:
8.6 million m$^3$/year.

Annual cut:
3.9 million m$^3$
2015, 2016 - 6.1 million m$^3$

- On average about 6,000 persons are engaged in the forestry activity.
Forest Area

Forest area has been increasing till 2012 (for a period of 137 years).
Growing stock

Growing stock and increment are constantly increasing for the last 65 years.
Tree structure of forests in Slovenia
(in % of the growing stock in 2016)

- Spruce: 30.8%
- Fir: 7%
- Pine trees: 15.4%
- Larch: 5.4%
- Other conifers: 7.5%
- Beech: 32.2%
- Oak trees: 0.3%
- Other deciduous trees: 1.2%
Ownership

- 76% of private forests with high fragmentation of forest holdings (461,000 owners)
- 21% of state forests
- 3% of municipality forests
Production of forest timber assortments in Slovenia

- Sawlogs and veneer logs
- Firewood
- Pulpwood
- Other industrial roundwood
Slovenian international obligations for renewable energy

DIRECTIVE 2009/28/EC (of 23 April 2009) on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources and amending and subsequently repealing Directives 2001/77/EC and 2003/30/EC

• For Slovenia, it is determined that by the year 2020 at least 25% share of RES in gross final energy consumption.

• *Action plan for renewable energy for the period 2010-2020 for Slovenia* provided that the use of wood biomass for 2020 increases by 2.4% per year.

• To achieve this objective it is necessary to mobilize local resources, biomass and further organize the market of wood fuels.
Renewable resources in Slovenia

• In last decade in Slovenia final energy consumption is increasing.
• Slovenia is a country with a lot of forest and with traditional use of wood for heating.
• **Wood biomass** was and still is an **important source of energy** for rural population, especially for forest owners.
• That is why the **pressure** on the forest is growing.
Renewable resources in Slovenia

- The **biggest share of renewable energy sources** in total energy consumption in Slovenia for 2014 is represented by **wood biomass** (50.6%).
Renewable resources in Slovenia

- In Slovenia firewood is traditionally used for heating, in recent years use of wood chips and pellets has also grown.
- In last years the biggest consumers of wood biomass were households.
- The annual consumption of households for energy use was in 2016 over 1,366,163 tones of wood.

Source: SORS
Incentives in the Republic of Slovenia to increase the use of wood biomass

Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (RDP)

Slovenian Environmental Public Found
RDP – Support for investments in forestry technologies and in processing, mobilisation and marketing of forest products (Sub-measure M8.6)

• **Operation:** Investments in pre-industrial wood processing includes sawing and other activities, such as drying, impregnation and processing of waste wood produced factories into wood-fuels (pellets, wood chips, firewood).

• **Beneficiaries:** companies, cooperatives, sole traders and small farms with a registered subsidiary on farm activity, that are defined as micro or small enterprises.

• **Support:** Non-refundable financial aid. The public support rate amounts up to 40 % of eligible costs. The lowest amount of public financial support is 3.500 € (max. eligible individual financial support in the whole programme period is 500.000 €. )

• For investments in pre-industrial wood processing is available 14 mio €.
RDP 2007 - 2013

• Supported investments into wood - fuels:

  → 13 wood splitters

  → 46 wood chippers

  → 18 saw equipments and wood heating systems

  → 10 centers for wood chips production

FUNDS PAID OUT: 12.15 mio €
Slovenian Environmental Public Found

- Favorable loans for installation of central heating systems on wood biomass
- Loan amount: up to recognized investments costs, but no more than 40,000 €, or at least 1,500 €
- Payment period: max. 10 years
- In degraded urban areas, which have problems with air pollution (Ljubljana, Maribor, Celje...)
Limiting factors for greater use of wood biomass for energy

• Small interest for logging of forest owners, especially owners living in urban areas.

• Pollution with PM 10 and PM 2,5 particles especially in urban areas – in small heating devices, due to incomplete combustion, carbon remains in the form of fine dust (appropriate combustion plant + appropriate fuel etc).

• Our national policy is focused on the priority of using wood biomass in wood processing industry, after that on using wood biomass for energy purposes (Action plan: Wood is beautiful).
What to do in the future for greater use of wood biomass for energy

• Increase interest in forest management, especially for small forest owners.
• Increase use of wood pellets and wood chips (the furnaces for these fuels have greater efficiency).
• Use of wood biomass in larger heating systems (ex. heating plants).

It is necessary to find a compromise between the use of wood in the timber industry and the needs of the population!!!