

ITALY

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Position Masiero: President, Responsible for “Forest and supply chains” area
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Field of work ETIFOR is a university spin-off based on the experiences developed at the Land, Environment, Agriculture and Forestry Department (LEAF Dept.) at the University of Padova. It delivers consultancy, project development, research and training services to ensure the sustainable management of natural resources.

ETIFOR works mainly to turn scientific knowledge into practical solutions in four defined areas of intervention:

- forest certification and supply chain (certification, legality, traceability),
- climate change and ecosystem services (i.e. landscape value),
- international cooperation
- rural development.

We operate at an international level: from on-the-ground practical project implementation to policy and legislation support.

Experience

About the feedstock, processing & conversion ETIFOR has worked on the concept of value chain-short supply chain development (filiera corta) in the IEE project *Biomass Trade Centre II* as a technical consultant of AIEL (Italian Agroforestry Energy Association). The initiative aimed at promoting and supporting the development of the energy from wood sector, in particular by improving the logistics, the quality of materials and the general public communication. The partners involved are in total 10, representing 9 different countries (Austria, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Romania, Slovenia and Spain).

ETIFOR is interested in the management of the feedstock until to the plant gate and in the reduction of emissions. Usually we don't deal with the combustion process.

We have experience in assessing the potential of forestry wood production evaluating technical, economic and legal constraints. The sources for this calculation are based on literature and field tests.

Policies, finance tools and legal regulations ETIFOR has experience especially on certification schemes. In the *Biomass Trade Centre II* we supported AIEL in the realization of the following activities:



- formulation of a report on the *State of the art regarding quality certification schemes and labelling* in Italy;
- design, development and testing in the field of Guidelines for Sustainability Assessment of Wood and Energy Supply Chain. This document aims at defining environmental, social, economic and governance criteria for the proper management of short supply chains of biomass for energy purposes.

This work has brought to the establishment of the Biomass SUD Standard which is a further development of the Biomass PLUS certification scheme. The Biomass Plus standard is based on traceability of the raw material, which must have a documented and legal origin under Timber Regulation (European Regulation 995/2010); must guarantee a GHG emission reduction of 70% compared to fossil fuels and must prove the existence and quality of appropriate plants, infrastructures, productive processes, and management systems in the companies organization.

Difficulties & barriers

Definition and placing of LCMW: A clear definition of LCMW as waste or sub-product is still lacking and this surely is a barrier for a sure development of the supply chain.

The position of Timber Regulation towards LCMW biomass is also not very clear and therefore it is difficult to operate in this supply chain. A clearer definition and scope of LCMW could help its definitive collocation and consequently the interest of market operators.

Transparency should be perfectly guaranteed when works of public interest such as LCMW are assigned by public bodies to private contractors, in order to avoid conflicts.

Data: National statistical databases on wood production and especially harvesting are not always reliable, and furthermore woody biomass from out-of-forest were never accounted in national inventories or database, thus they are excluded

Potential drivers & recommendations

Biomass trade centres or logistic platforms can be a useful infrastructure for managing the biomass in terms of storage, treatment and selection. In particular, we refer to the selection of different kind of woody biomass, the identification of the proper destination (from workable timber to firewood), the collection of a sustainable amount of biomass and the supplying of services that enhance the quality of biomass (classification, chipping, moisture analysis, etc.). We can consider that an appropriate range of collection area, in order to have a good tradeoff of economics and environment issues, must not exceed 50 to maximum 70 km.

Public acceptance regarding harvesting, processing & conversion

There are always problems when cutting trees. People don't actually know how and especially "why" wood is harvested so sometimes opposition is found to cutting operations. Biomass combustion is another factor that can generate opposition at local level.

Good practices of

Regarding governance, there are several different business models that can be applied for the management of a trade centre: we have identified

cooperation & participation

Good governance mechanisms

the network contract (contratto di rete), which is an horizontal agreement among different bodies or enterprises that join efforts for a common purposes as the most appropriate. Others can be applied, such as the temporary association for enterprise, which is an agreement with an objective but a more articulated structure, or the consortium which is far more structure and has its own business name.

There are some good practice of “mountain therapy”: it is applied in cases of people in need of rehabilitation of different kinds, who are sent to operate in the biomass harvesting field for the final part of their recovery. This can have bot a social and economic value.

Another interesting instrument for governance is the so-called “administrative barter” with which the local government can apply tax relief to companies which execute certain environmental services, without paying them. This is very practical under the bureaucratic point of view (especially for the stability pact)

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