
About the SRCplus project



Short rotation crops (SRCs) such as willow, poplar, robinia and others are woody, perennial fast growing tree species that can either re-grow (coppice) or be replanted after harvest. They are an excellent alternative to annual energy crops and can be complementary to the existing agricultural system. Aside from being used for energy production, the cultivation of SRC has many benefits compared to annual crops.

The countries that have the largest areas of SRC for energy are Sweden, UK and Poland. Due to the lack of targeted information and capacity buildings on sustainable SRC production, the potential in other European countries remains largely untapped. However, there is an increasing demand for wood chips supported by the targets of national and European energy policies.

Picture 1: SRCplus regions

This created a gap between the rising demand and supply in Europe in several countries. Increasing demand for wood as energy source requires sustainable local supply chains, including SRC production. The SRCplus project was launched to respond to this demand and to implement actions tackling the market barriers.

The SRCplus project is implemented in 7 target regions in Germany, Croatia, Latvia, France, Czech Republic, Greece, and Macedonia. A partner from Sweden is involved in the project actions due to the long-time experience with SRC in Sweden.



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Save the Date! International Study Tour in Sweden

The SRCplus project is organizing an International Study Tour on 20-23 January 2015 in Uppsala, Sweden. The study tour will help to exchange experience on SRC production and utilization among farmers, public land owners and users of woodchips. Participants will visit several SRC plantations and the farmer's cooperative "Salixodlarna".

[More information on the International Study Tour](#)

[Register to attend the International Study Tour](#)

Study tour to Achenal region



Picture 2: SRCplus study tour, Achenal region

The SRCplus project organised a study tour to Upper Bavaria, Achenal region in March 2014. The goal of the study tour was to visit two SRC plantations and the Biomass Trading Centre Achenal. Upper Bavaria is in the south-east of Germany, bordering Austria and Czech Republic. Agriculture is a dominant sector in this region. Within Upper Bavaria, Achenal is a valley with many bioenergy activities. Despite the general lag of SRC development in Upper Bavaria, there are already some established local supply chains and service companies for SRC cultivation. Nonetheless, these positive examples are often unknown to farmers, public land owners or biomass traders and eventually hinder the plantation of further SRCs.

For more information please contact: WIP Renewable Energies, Rita Mergner (Rita.Mergner@wip-munich.de), Dominik Rutz (Dominik.Rutz@wip-munich.de).

Regional meeting with stakeholders on new SRC plantations in Achenal



Picture 3: Participants of the regional meeting (Birgit Seeholzer, Christian Thaler, Stefan Hinterreiter, Manfred Mertl und Randolf Schirmer)

The Biomass Trading Centre Achenal (Biomassehof Achenal) aims to increase SRC plantations in the Achenal and Upper Bavaria region. Therefore, the first regional SRCplus meeting was organized in May 2014 in Teisendorf. An important goal of the meeting was introduce all regional key actors to each other. Moreover, the stakeholders could discuss new research results and current problems about SRC plantations. The stakeholders also visited the SRC plantation of the Bavarian Office for Forest Seeding and Planting. Further meetings are planned due to positive outcomes of the discussion.

For more information please contact: Biomassehof Achenal, Stefan Hinterreiter, (s.hinterreiter@biomassehof-achental.de).

Visit of the Secondary School of Agriculture in Otesevo, Macedonia

The first progress meeting of the SRCplus project took place in Otesevo, Macedonia, on 16-17 September 2014. The project partners visited the Secondary School of Agriculture Car Samoil - Resen (SSA-Resen) which is participating in the SRCplus project. In addition, the project partners visited the apple orchard of the school and the potential area for the SRC plantation.

The school owns land of 13.5 ha, 6 ha thereof are planted with apples, pears, plums, and cherries. 2 ha are planted with wheat, and the rest of the land is not planted yet. This land could

be used to grow SRCs for combusting the woodchips in heating system of the school. Until woodchips from the first SRC plantation can be harvested, the school is considering using the wood from pruning of apple trees.

For more information please contact: Secondary School of Agriculture Car Samoil - Resen (SSA-Resen), Gordana Toskovska (gtoskovska@gmail.com).



Picture 4: The apple orchard of SSA-Resen (left) and the potential area for the SRC plantation (right)

The Farmers Parliament of Latvia organised a study tour to SRC plantations



Picture 5: Study tour in Skriversi

The Farmers Parliament of Latvia organized a study tour to the research fields of the Institute of Agriculture on 2nd July 2014 in Skriversi. Experts of Latvian State Forest Research Institute Silava (LSFRI Silava) were invited to inform participants about latest findings in the joint project of LSFRI Silava and Institute of Agriculture about plantations of energy crops. The study tour was organized in order to understand the needs of science and to introduce latest news from different research projects.

For more information please contact: Latvian State Forest Research Institute Silava, Dagnija Lazdina (dagnija.lazdina@silava.lv).

Zlín Region - the initial survey of potential SRC plantations completed

Based on the research in the framework of the SRCplus project which was undertaken in the Zlín region in past months, six areas of the Zlín region are considered for the SRC cultivation within the region. The considered areas are: Uherský Brod - Bánov, Bojkovice, Holešov, Hostětín, Jarcová, Slavičín and Brumov- Bylnice. The survey revealed that the largest potential area of several hundred hectares is located in the area of Bánov municipality in the Uherský Brod district. Depending on the situation on the local biomass market and other circumstances, there is a huge potential for SRC plantations in this area. The Energy Agency of the Zlín Region will focus to promote and initiate this development in next months and years.

For more information please contact: Energy Agency of the Zlín Region (EAZK), Tomáš Perutka (Tomas.Perutka@eazk.cz).

Trièves Region – presentation of the SRCplus program to local mayors



Picture 6: Visiting a wood chip heating system (heating municipal buildings, the library and 3 council flats) in Le Percy

The Community of Towns of Trièves organized a training day on collective heat systems for the newly elected mayors on the 19th of September 2014. There are 18 heating systems using wood chips in Trièves, both owned by private and public entities. These heating systems all have contracts with the local supplier of wood chips. The Regional Organization of Forest Villages (Communes Forestières) was invited to present the wood fuel markets in the area as well as stakeholders involved in the supply chains. The AGEDEN (local public energy body) delivered information on the technical and legal information on how to set up wood chip heating systems in villages.

A presentation was then offered on the different projects of the Community of Towns of Trièves, as part of the 2nd Forest Charter, to develop local wood chip supply chains. A special focus was done on the SRCplus project in order to transfer know-how on short rotation coppice to the mayors and see how they can, as public land owners, be a part of the project.

For more information please contact: Community of Towns of Trièves, Laurie Scrimgeour (l.scrimgeour@cdctrieves.fr).

SRCplus consortium



WIP Renewable Energies, Germany



Biomassehof Achental, Germany



Secondary School Car Samoil - Resen, Macedonia



Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden



Latvian State Forest Research Institute Silava, Latvia



Community of Communes of Trièves, France



EIHP, Croatia



EKODOMA, Latvia



KAFIE CRES, Greece



Energy Agency of the Zlin region, Czech Republic