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DANUBENERGY - Improving eco-efficiency of bio-energy production and supply
in riparian areas of the Danube river basin and other floodplains in Central Europe:
www.danubenergy.eu/

Transnational newsletter / July 2014

Dear friends of renewable energy production in line with landscape conservation,
...we keep you informed about our Central Europe project DanubEnergy

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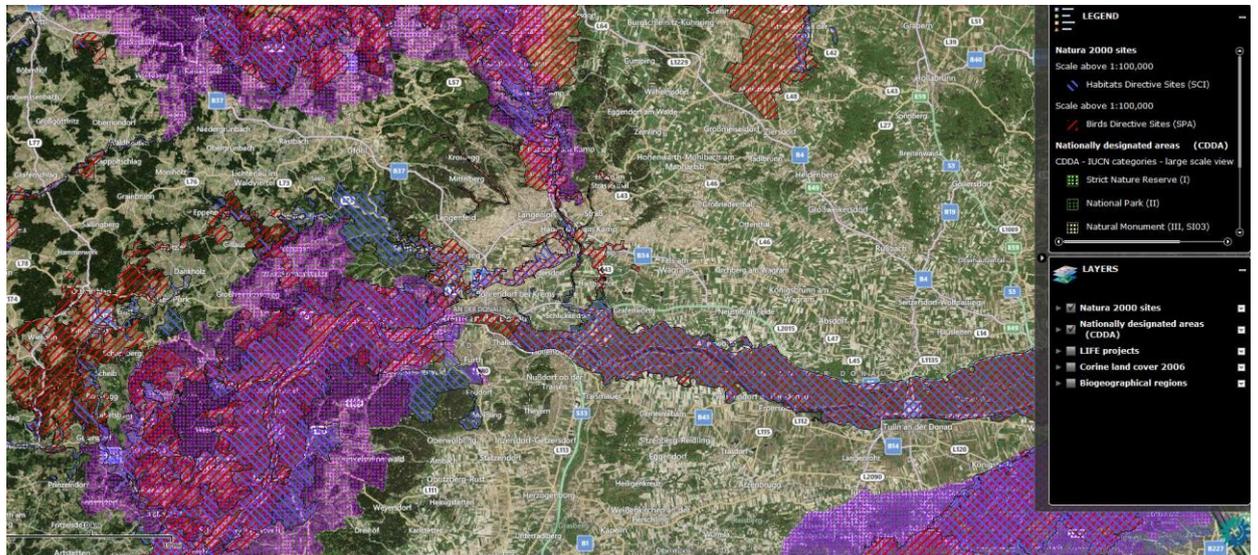
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How to find protected areas in your region at one glance

At the official website <http://natura2000.eea.europa.eu/#>, you can create maps showing **Natura 2000**-, **FFH**-, **Bird directive**-, and **national protected areas** and when you use the satellite view you have information on land coverage. Where the light green colour overlaps with the striped highlighting of protected areas you have potentially interesting PROGRASS-area which deserves a closer look.

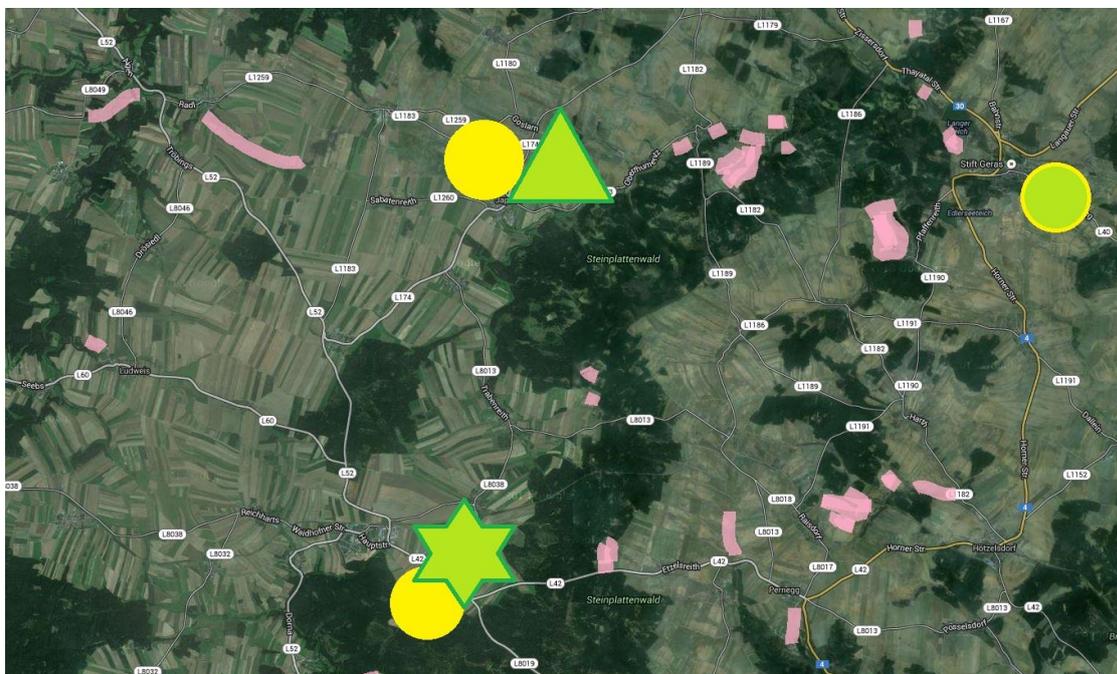


Registered Google users can use a feature which allows the creation of own maps within Google Maps. Although still a beta-version, the tool works well and of course allows also correction and saving. Bernhard Schneider has used this tool for the mapping of potential PROGRASS locations in Lower Austria using symbols as you can see below.

How to identify regions suitable for the PROGRASS approach

Grassland marked in pink shows extensive grass-land sides suitable for bio-energy harvest. In the case of Lower Austria, satellite pictures from late summer were available which allow to clearly distinguish grassland with late harvest dates (including set a side-grassland) because of its different colour. Before mapping an area it is strongly recommended to check the correctness of the way to map extensive grassland by visiting the site (late July is the right time to do so).

Suggestion for the mapping of potentially interesting areas:



One more tip: Start with an area which you know very well.

Legend:

Pink: extensive grass-land potentially available for a PROGRASS project
green triangle: biogas-plant
yellow circle: biomass heating plant
green circle: biomass-plant with high percentage of bark
green star: biowaste collection centre

Such maps can be valuable for the identification of suitable investment locations and of the best logistical solution including decentralized silage storage and mobile extrusion/pressing.

Conference: New Ways of Biomass Treatment Using Potentials From Forestry-Agricultural & Waste Recycling Sources in Hungary

**First DANUBENERGY Experts panel:
“Set-up of the Biomass Value Chain” for “Green Briquettes” production focused on regional level in Hungary**



30th July 2014, 10:00 – 13:00, UFA Vulkan Thermen Resort **, 9500 Celldömölk, Sport utca 8**

Phone: +3695421180

Part 1: DANUBENERGY - Project introduction

Part 2: “Green Briquettes” - Product definition by Szie-MKK Szent István Egyetem Mezőgazdaság - Web link: www.mkk.szie.hu/en, www.naik.hu www.gmgi.hu

Part 3: BioEnergy Business Modell: project development opportunities, by Cothec Ltd.

Part 4 - Next steps – panel discussion, set up of a “**regional Biomass Value Chain**” and the **Biomass Alliance Hungary** by AGROTECHFOOD & Sárvári HUKÉ Ltd

Based on its waste management activities, Sárvári HUKÉ Waste Treatment Ltd., has been developing a "BioEnergy business model."

Bioenergy for Green Regions in Europe

1st interregional conferences of the PROGRASS network in Karlsruhe and Radolfzell/Lake Constance, Germany, in October 7-10, 2014.

The PROGRASS® concept is a European regional development approach for the recovery of regional biomasses for decentralised production of climate friendly, storable biofuels. It builds on the use of a technology called "Integrated Generation of Solid Fuel and Biogas from Biomass (IFBB)". The two INTERREG projects COMBINE (INTERREG North-West Europe) and DANUBENERGY (INTERREG Central Europe) have further developed the concept and have demonstrated its feasibility with biomass from roadside verges and riparian areas. The PROGRASS® network is part of the CLIMATE KIC of the European Institute of Technology.

The first two European Conferences of the PROGRASS network is organised by the two projects [DANUBENERGY](#) and [COMBINE](#).

Its main goal is to gather stakeholders at local, regional, national and EU-wide levels that wish to enlarge and exchange their knowledge about the IFBB technical approach and about its potential socio-economic impacts on their specific regions.

The event "**Bioenergy for Green Regions in Europe**" is a combined conference and workshop and will address the following topics:

- **Day 1: State of the art:** the PROGRASS concept and the IFBB technology as implemented in the European partner regions;
- **Day 2: Perspectives:** new developments regarding input materials, biomass recovery areas and socio-innovations;
- **Day 3: Networking** and joint project development

Each day can be booked separately! Please use the [online registration form](#).

Target audience: experts from science and practice, environmental associations, operators of central heating systems (e.g. municipalities, private energy suppliers), investors, energy advisors, farmers, farmers' cooperatives, NGOs, political and administrative stakeholders at local, regional, national or European level, etc.

Registration deadline: August 31st, 2014 – No conference fee – travel and hotel costs as well as the social event are not included (coffee breaks/lunch throughout the conference provided).

Please note the limited number of participants for the event. Places are allocated on a first come, first served basis according to the chronological order of registration.

If you want to know more about PROGRASS and the two projects:
Please visit our websites

Visit also the website of our partner project:

COMBINE - Converting Organic Matters from European urban and natural areas into storable bio-Energy: www.combine-nwe.eu/

Presence at CE Annual Conference

DanubEnergy joined the 3rd Annual Conference of the Central Europe Program in Vienna. We learnt that there will be a **follow-up program** including also Croatia which will further have a focus on bio-energy and on climate protection and that a first call can be expected for the **beginning of 2015**. As finally considerable **streamlining of bureaucratic procedures** was announced, there are deliberations of preparing a proposal for the next call.

New project ideas

Currently there are efforts to have further projects funded in the innovation-related EU program **Horizon 2020** (with a focus on demo-project preparation including experience of both DanubEnergy and COMINBE), **Life+** (related to a large Natura 2000 area used for military purposes in Austria), **Erasmus+** (inclusion of learning management system for PROGRASS into curricula of European schools) and **INTERREG** (see below). In case of interest or if you want to recommend and interested institution, please contact **Bernhard Schneider**, tel. +43 676 76 14 000, bernhard.schneider@danubenergy.eu.

Wet2win - idea for a new Central Europe Project

At the Annual Conference we presented an idea for a project which should focus on logistical and entrepreneurial PROGRASS© solutions for wetland regions. A Germany, a Slovene, a Ukrainian and a Czech institution declared interest, thus we intend to actively prepare a proposal during autumn.

PROGRASS info-day for public servants on July 1 at Steinach, Bavaria



Among the participants were representatives of the agricultural administration, of the association for landscape management and of research and funding institutions. Dr. Lutz Bühle presented the IFFB-technology to this audience, and together they paid a visit to a mobile demo-plant of this technology currently located at Steinach.

Issues discussed:

1. **Availability of grass from extensively used areas:** The head of the office for nutrition, agriculture and forestry Dr. Niedermaier estimated that within the boundaries of the Landkreis Deggendorf alone a potential of **approx. 10.000 ha** are protected by the Flora-

Fauna-Habitat respectively Birds directive in which there is no long term solution which would secure regular grass harvest.

2. **Technology:** It was made clear that there was a priority for investment locations with a **near-by biogas-plant** with free capacities.

3. **Demand-side:** The experts agreed that there is no market yet for pellets from extensive grassland, as woody biomass is available. This might change in the future.

4. **Open questions:** Calculation and technology still comprise some risk because of the early stage of maturity. It also needs to be clarified whether there can be a state-subsidized electricity feed-in tariff.

There is a need for regional early adopters. A quick solution is not in sight. Nevertheless, the forum agrees that a **working group made up of experts** for nature conservation, agriculture and bio-waste should be set up in order to **include grass into regional bio-energy cycles**.

Grassland Day at Steinach, Bavaria at 02.07.2014

During the 42. Grassland Day at Steinach Dr. Lutz Bühle (UNI Kassel, PP11) presented the PROGRAS concept under the title „integrated production of solid fuel and biogas out of grass from extensive grassland“. He found very **positive response** among 60-70 participants. He also informed about the project „DanubEnergy“. After the presentation, he showed the participants around the mobile demo plant (see photo). On this occasion participants could discuss technical issues in more detail.

Danubenergy and the Danube Region Strategy

Lead partner EAR's Bernhard Schneider took part at the Scientific Conference of the European Danube Region Strategy (EDRS) joining a working group on air pollution and bio-energy. Find minutes of this interesting event at the PRIOGRASS hub and feel free to use them for own project activities. The website www.danube-energie.eu, which should give access to an energy project data-base to the European region is currently unavailable but when relaunched will inform also on DANUBENERGY.

DANUBENERGY road-show coming closer to its end

With DanubEnergy ending by the end of 2014, after the stay in Wielkopolskie region our series of test-runs in Central European region will terminate soon. The roadshow has been a **success story**, and this was possible mainly thanks to the two experts of our project partner Uni Kassel, Mr. Bühle and Mr. Hensgen, who **did a great job** preparing, mounting, operating and dismantling the mobile unit at each demo location. Whilst in Mantova (Italy) and Donnerskirchen (Austria), a protected wetland site was selected to show the technology, in Gödöllő (Hungary) and Poznan (Poland), a universitarian environment was chosen. In Gornja Radgona (Slovenia), a trade fair was the background of the stop-over, in Bavaria it was an expert conference on grassland, and in Irnfritz (Austria), Zlín (Czechia) and Kysucky Lieskovec (Slovakia), small- and medium-sized enterprises showed the plant.

Wherever the blue containers stopped over, farmers, experts and public servants agreed there is a **necessity to secure good use of harvested grass**, and so thanks to this roadshow, in a couple of regions some people now are busy calculating and preparing grass-to-energy projects.

During all these info-stays, there **was not one single case of malfunction**. In each region, the target-group of potential investors could be reached, and their seeing, touching and smelling firelogs from grass paved the ground for further consultation.

To the more, we expect the **results of combustion and digestion tests** of grass and reed from 9 Central European regions to be available until mid-August. These figures shall allow interested early adopters to work out feasibility studies.

Responsible for content of the newsletter: Bernhard Schneider, Energieagentur der Regionen, Hans Kudlich-Str. 2, A-3830 Waidhofen an der Thaya, www.energieagentur.co.at