



SEEMLA Newsletter - July 2017

Dear reader,



The first half of the H2020-funded project SEEMLA has been accomplished and next steps towards the EU's long-term goals for 2050, contributing to a reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, to an EU wide environment protection legislation, taking the compartments soil, air and water into account, to a sustainable bioeconomy and society, and to networking between EU and non-EU partner countries, have been made.

The **1st International Symposium** had been held on the occasion of the General Assembly of the European Geoscientific Union in Vienna, Austria. Two national workshops took place in Berlin, Germany (March 2017) and Lviv, Ukraine (May, 2017). Moreover, SEEMLA was also represented at the 25th EUBCE in Stockholm, 12-15 June, 2017).

SEEMLA partners from Greece, Ukraine and Germany have established their **pilot cases**, growing woody biomass, i.e. poplar, willow, robinia or pine as well as grassy biomass, i.e. miscanthus, giant reed on MagL sites. The web-based GIS application went online in April 2017. By using this tool, MagL can now be identified and assessed following the soil quality rating (SQR) approach.

Also the second half promises to be exciting and will deliver more findings regarding the appropriate and sustainable use of MagL for biomass production for bioenergy purposes. We are looking forward the upcoming months and hope that you will join our activities!

On behalf of the SEEMLA consortium,

Best regards,

Wibke Baumgarten
(FNR, project coordinator)

...you may also visit our website on seemla.eu on which we present the current status in our project, provide event information and project reports...

2nd National SEEMLA Workshop in Berlin, 28 March 2017



NATIONALER WORKSHOP

Marginale Standorte in Deutschland:
Bewertung, Nutzung und Potentiale

28. März 2017 | 9.30 – 15.00 Uhr | BMEL

Nachhaltige Nutzung von Biomasse für Bioenergie von marginalen Standorten in Europa

On 28 March, 2017, the FNR organized and executed the 2nd National Workshop in the H2020 funded project SEEMLA entitled "Marginal lands (MagL) in Germany: Assessment, Utilization and Potentials" in Berlin. A total of 30 participants from the forestry and agriculture sector, nature conservation, research and development, services and energy supply with interest in the topic of short rotation coppice (SRC), elaborated approaches for sustainable biomass production in MagLs. Particularly the economic viability on such MagL, which tends to be rather poor, has been discussed intensively. A participant from the energy wood sector argued that marginal sites could only be profitable with additional support. On the other hand, other participants argued that breeding and selection of trees (salix, poplar) would offer improvement potentials; this should be also taken into account for grassy biomass, i.e. Miscanthus, cup plant, sida. The energy supplier Vattenfall that already operates 2,000 hectares of SRC plantations in Germany and Poland was invited, too. Further input has been also given several presentations by partners from the SEEMLA project as well as by experts of the bioenergy sector.

EGU Vienna – 1st International Symposium in SEEMLA successfully completed!



Participants of the EGU, Vienna, Poster session. © W. Baumgarten, FNR

Approximately 50 international guests attended the 1st International Symposium entitled "Soils of Marginal Lands" on the occasion of the General Assembly of the European Geoscientific Union in Vienna, Austria, on 23 April, 2017. In total ca. 14,500 scientists visited the conference which is the second largest geoscientific conference worldwide. Invited keynote speakers were Dr. Calliope Panoutsou (Imperial College London) and Dr. Saori Miyake (IWAR, University of Darmstadt).

Other presenters, each of them experts in the field of ecology, soil science, forestry or renewable energy, originated from Italy, Greece, Ukraine, Canada, and Germany. SEEMLA was represented by several oral and visual presentations; moreover partner projects FORBIO and greenGain as well as VERAM also contributed. - The importance of marginal sites is steadily growing; so is the impact of SEEMLA.

LIGNA 2017 Hanover, 22 May 2017



SEEMLA at the FNR booth, LIGNA 2017, Hanover. © Wibke Baumgarten, FNR

SEEMLA was also represented at the FNR booth on the LIGNA in Hanover on 22 May, 2017. Approximately 34,000 visitors from abroad and 95,000 experts in total of the wood-based industry visited the fair. This year the main focus was on “Building and Constructing with Wood”; this also included aspects of a sustainable production and use of wood as well as of heating with renewable raw materials, i.e. wood and wood products (pellets, wood chips).

GHG mitigation event in Brussels, 23 May 2017



Ludger Wenzelides, FNR (second from left) and Wibke Baumgarten, SEEMLA, FNR (first from left) hosting the panel discussion on the occasion of the GHG mitigation event in Brussels. © Wibke Baumgarten, FNR

On the occasion of the “GHG Emissions in Renewable Feedstock Production - Accounting and Mitigation” event in Brussels on 23 May, 2017, the FNR was promoting the use of renewable resources to mitigate GHG-emissions and shift away from fossil feedstocks in the energy and material sector.

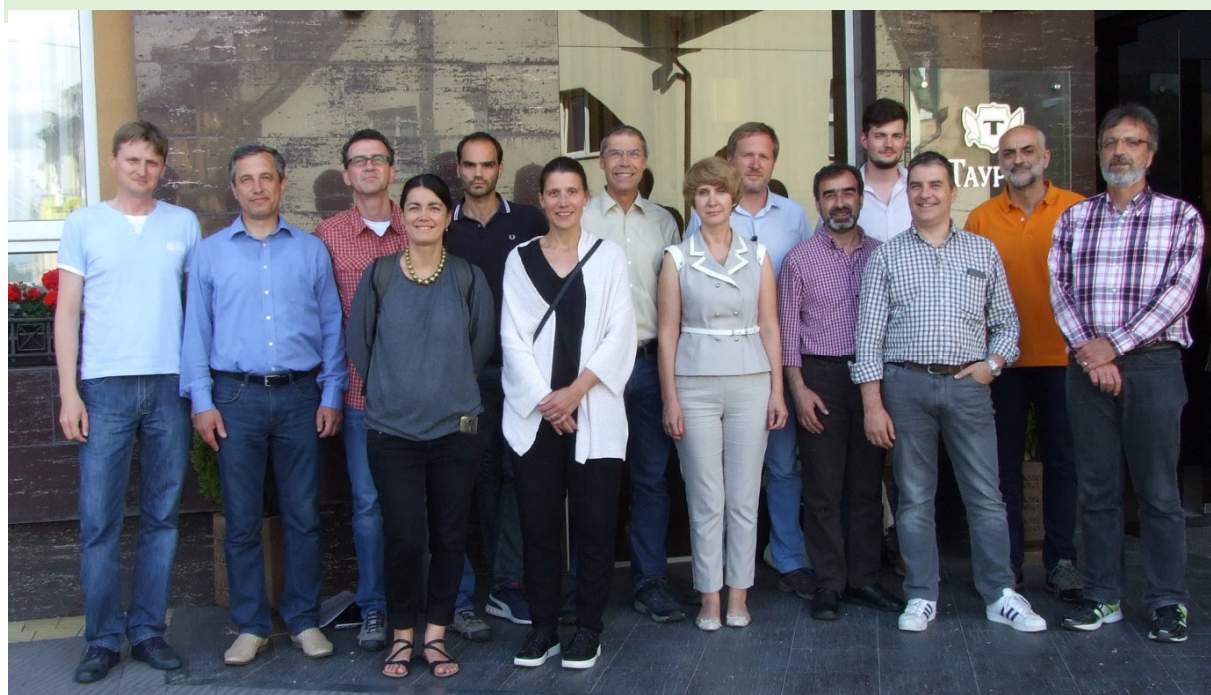
The meeting was hosted by FNR in the name of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), and was taking place at the Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to the EU in Brussels. Experts in the field of agriculture, agroecology and bioenergy, including representatives from BMEL, the European Commission (DG-ENER), Universities and European research institutes, were invited as solicited speakers.

The event was very well received, with nearly 60 participants from different sectors of the biomass value chain, policy makers and stakeholders, representing several European countries (Poland, Denmark, Austria, Belgium, France, and Germany amongst others). During the lively panel discussion at the end of the meeting, numerous aspects of future research needs in the area of GHG-emission accounting and mitigation became obvious, including harmonised and easily manageable accounting options for all GHG-emission, the influence of crop rotation on emission quantities and the general data availability of fertiliser utilisation. This discussion further elaborated future perspectives of a sustainable feedstock production for bioenergy purposes focusing on the Energy and Climate Fund (EKF) of FNR. All presentations are now available at the conference website under the following address:

<https://veranstaltungen.fnr.de/ghgfeedstock2017/programme-and-presentations/>

FNR will follow up on this meeting with a short summary report, which will include the main outcomes of the discussion and a list of future actions needed in research and development. Please don't hesitate to contact Mr Ludger Wenzelides at [l.wenzelides\(at\)fnr.de](mailto:l.wenzelides(at)fnr.de), if you need additional information or have further questions regarding the event.

4th Project Meeting in Lviv, Ukraine



The SEEMLA consortium. © Oleksandr Hanzhenko, IBC&SB

From 31 May to 1 June, 2017 the 4th project meeting in SEEMLA took place in Lviv, Ukraine. Beforehand, the 3rd National Workshop was held in Lutsk. Invited speakers were Sergiy Savchuk – head of the State Agency of the Energy Efficiency, and Oleksandra Tryboi – representative of Ukrainian Bioenergy Association. - The next project meeting and the 4th National Workshop will be hosted by our Greek partners in Thessaloniki, in November, 2017.

Ανυπομονούμε να επισκεφθούμε σύντομα την Ελλάδα!

17 June 2017 - Tack så mycket – 25th EUBCE 2017!

More than 1,500 participants – each of them experts in bioenergy and bioeconomy – from 70 countries attended the 25th European Biomass Conference and Exhibition (EUBCE) in Stockholm, Sweden from 12-15 June 2017.

Lena Ek (Sweden) and Henrik Ehrnrooth (Finland), the two Conference general chairs as well as technical chair Nicolae Scarlat (JRC Italy) brought in an excellent opportunity to benefit from the huge experience of the Nordic countries, in particular from Sweden and Finland, in the production and utilization of biomass.

SEEMLA was represented by the coordinator Wibke Baumgarten, Agency for Renewable Resources (FNR, Germany) by both an oral and a visual presentation; moreover FNR had a booth (photo) at the exhibition area, where SEEMLA was also represented by several media, i.e. leaflets, roll-up besides general information about bioenergy and bioeconomy [in Germany]. The partner projects FORBIO, BioRES, greenGain and MAGIC (starts on 01/07/2017) also contributed to the EUBCE.

Marginal lands move more and more in the centre of attention since land degradation is increasing and the food vs. biofuel debate becomes more relevant, since a healthy diet for the population as well as the energy supply needs to be guaranteed in future or rather in the upcoming 30 years. Therefore exploiting marginal lands for biomass production for bioenergy becomes even more important.

SEEMLA is ready to contribute to this challenge – and is looking forward to the next EUBCE in Denmark in 2018!

27 march 2017 - Conference about “Regional Government – Forests – Environment- Spatial planning (Forest Mapping)”

The Decentralized Administration of Macedonia & Thrace in cooperation with the Regional Union of Municipalities of Macedonia Region organized a Regional Conference that took place on 27 of March at 10.00pm, at the Grand Hotel Palace Conference Center.

The topic of the Regional Conference was " Regional Government - Forests - Environment- Spatial planning (Forest Mapping)".

Emphasis was given to the importance of forest, their productivity and sustainability and the need to establish a fruitful cooperation between the two organizations, the Forestry Departments of the Decentralized Administration of Macedonia & Thrace and the Regional Municipalities that focus on suitable innovative land-use strategies for a sustainable production of plant-based energy on marginal lands.

The SEEMLA project had the chance to present to the Regional Policy makers its main actions and the project's connection to the European establishment of suitable innovative land-use strategies for a sustainable production of plant-based energy on marginal lands while improving general ecosystem services.

4 January 2017 - The SEEMLA project presented to the Deputy Minister of Environment and Energy by DAMT

On 3 January, 2017 the Deputy Minister of Environment and Energy, Sokratis Famellos, visited the head offices of the Decentralized Administration of Macedonia and Thrace (DAMT) in Thessaloniki.

The Minister was welcomed by the General Secretary of DAMT, Nikitas Fragkiskakis and he participated in successive meetings. Initially he met with the General Directors of Forests & Rural Affairs, of Internal Management and of Environmental Planning & Policy, while afterwards, during his appointment with the Director of Coordination & Supervision of Forests and executives of the Forest Services of DAMT, he heard their views and proposals concerning issues about Protection and Management of Forests and Financing of Forest Projects. Amongst other, Deputy Minister was informed about the European Projects in which Forest Services of Decentralized Administration of Macedonia and Thrace are involved:

- LIFE GENMON
- SEEMLA &
- LIFE FORESTMIT

Upcoming events in SEEMLA – Save the date!

12-13 Sept. 2017 – 2nd Bioeconomy Congress, Stuttgart

SEEMLA Partner IFEU will be represented at the 2nd International Bioeconomy Congress Baden-Württemberg, Stuttgart-Hohenheim, Germany, 12–13 September 2017 with a visual presentation entitled: “High hopes for marginal land? A life cycle assessment of bioenergy from lignocellulosic crops”.

4-7 Sept. 2017 – DBG Conference, Göttingen, Germany

On the occasion of the (bi)annual conference of the German Soil Science Society, which will be held in Göttingen, Lower Saxony, Germany, from 4-7 September, 2017, SEEMLA will be represented by contributions from BTU-Cottbus (F. Repmann/W. Gerwin) and FNR; moreover, a solicited talk will be given by Dr. Saori Miyake (IWAR Darmstadt). There will be two sessions that are focusing on marginal lands, an oral and a poster session; both will be chaired by Wibke Baumgarten, FNR, SEEMLA coordinator.

PARTNERS

Project coordinator



Partner



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HELLENIC REPUBLIC
DECENTRALIZED ADMINISTRATION OF MACEDONIA & THRACE
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF FORESTS & RURAL AFFAIRS



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