

## THE PELLETS@LAS PROJECT

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**ABSTRACT:** The project pellets@las will contribute to the development of a transparent European pellets market through the creation of a European Pellets Atlas. This will be achieved by the direct involvement of major stakeholder such as pellets associations as well as pellets producers, traders and consumers.

The core of the proposed action is a data and information collection in all EU 27+2 countries for wood and mixed biomass pellets (MBP) and the identification of international pellets trade opportunities. The data are updated quarterly and will include regional prices, available qualities and quantities, the locations of stakeholders as well as a detailed description of logistics systems.

The permanent provision of reliable pellet market data to all pellet actors in Europe will contribute largely to overcome current market barriers. Moreover, it will contribute to the implementation of future European legislation in the heat sector which according to the Commission's Biomass Action Plan is currently hindered by lack of market confidence and transparency rather than costs).

Keywords: wood pellets, mixed biomass pellets, query, market transparency)

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Pellets from biomass resources have the potential for a major to several European energy policy tasks, such as security of supply and CO2 mitigation. The markets for fuel pellets are currently in a **crisis** due to a high volatility in the last year. Because of the new price record for oil this year, the markets are going to boom again. The pellets markets across Europe are characterized by heterogeneous development stages. In parallel, inconsistencies occur regarding the available pellet qualities. Still, the main barrier for market expansions is the lack of information which affects all market sectors.

## 2 THE PELLETS@LAS PROJECT

2.1 The Pellets@las project ([www.pelletsatlas.info](http://www.pelletsatlas.info); EIE/06/020), coordinated by WIP Renewable Energies (Germany), is supported by the European Commission and the Intelligent Energy – Europe programme. The project contributes to the development of a transparent European pellets market through the creation of a European Pellet Atlas. The following figure shows the logo of the project consortium



**Figure 1:** Pellets@las logo developed for the project

### 2.2 Pellets@las objectives

The provision of detailed pellet market data, such as current prices, available quantities and qualities to all

pellet actors in Europe will contribute largely to overcome market barriers. The permanent availability of such information within a Pellets atlas will lower trade obstacles, support market participation and finally increase the energetic utilization of pellets.

### 2.3 Pellets@las Work programme

The core of the action is a data and information collection in all EU 27+2 countries (plus Norway and Switzerland) countries from wood and mixed biomass pellet (MBP) producers, traders and consumers. For the data collection a consistent methodology was elaborated. The data are updated quarterly. Moreover the pellet imports from outside the EU are assessed. In order to support the utilization of MBP pre-feasibility studies on MBP production, logistics and consumption will be elaborated in four European countries (Poland, Slovak Republic, Greece and Germany). The gained data will mainly be disseminated via the internet platform containing graphic interfaces and thus functioning as a pellets atlas. Further dissemination tool will be regular newsletters, a final seminar and brochure, several telephone hotlines, conferences and press work.

### 2.4 Results

One result of the project is a comprehensive web-based information platform on important fuel pellet market data in EU 27+2, such as produced and available quantities and qualities and regularly updated regional sales prices. **In the price curve there one can see the big volatility, which was responsible for the pellet crisis.** The figure of the amount of the sold pellets heating systems can verify this argument. The different market situations in the EU show, that more and more countries find to this relatively new technology, while prices get back to the former level again.

### 3 CONCLUSION

The development stages of wood pellets markets in Europe differ largely. While for some countries the development of a market structure is still required, in countries with more sophisticated markets effective international trade mechanisms shall be promoted. For both cases transparent market structures will contribute to trade security and will facilitate the acceptance and dissemination of pellet combustion technology. Regardless of various market development stages concrete information about pellet qualities, quantities and prices within the supply chain is essential in order to create a transparent pellet market in Europe and help to avoid a new crisis for the pellets sector. Therefore detailed data from producers, traders and consumers about their locations, about produced, traded and consumed pellet amounts, about produced and required qualities and about prices as a function of quality, season, purchase quantity and delivery distance is a great help, which is shown by the acceptance by the project web page [www.pelletsatlas.info](http://www.pelletsatlas.info).