



BRANCHES

Boosting RuAI bioeconomy Networks following multi-actors approaCHES

Deliverable D2.1: First summary of BRANCHES WP2 workshops

Robert Prinz, Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke)



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Content

1	GOAL OF WORKSHOPS	3
2	TYPE OF WORKSHOP	3
3	NUMBER OF WORKSHOPS	3
4	PRACTICALITIES	4
5	WORKSHOP REPORTS	4
	<i>A. Annex 1 – Workshop Report “First workshop Spain”</i>	<i>5</i>
	<i>B. Annex 2 – Workshop Report “First workshop Italy”</i>	<i>13</i>
	<i>C. Annex 3 – Workshop Report “First workshop Finland”</i>	<i>18</i>
	<i>D. Annex 4 – Workshop Report “First workshop Poland”</i>	<i>22</i>

Document Control Page	
Title	Deliverable D2.1: First summary of BRANCHES WP2 workshops
Creator	Robert Prinz
Description	The deliverable summarises the first conducted BRANCHES WP2 workshops in WP2 partner countries.
Contributors	All workshop organisers/hosts, WP2 Leader, WP3 Leader
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The sole responsibility for the content of the workshop reports stated in the Workshop Annex (A to D) lies with the authors of the individual workshop reports or the hosts of the events. It does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the author of the deliverable, who is not responsible for images, videos or any use that maybe made of the information contained therein.

1 Goal of Workshops

“Workshops” aim to achieving several goals at one time, and namely:

Workshop is a fundamental tool to stimulate the exchange of knowledge and the cooperation between researchers, advisors, and farmers/foresters. Workshops will be held as multi-actor actions. In this task the current needs and interests of supply chains will be mapped by raw-material (agro- and forest biomass, and short rotation coppice). Experts and practitioners will be invited to specific tailored workshops, and active discussion between researchers and foresters, farmers and entrepreneurs will be promoted. The Technical Partners (TPs) and Sectorial Partners (SPs) will organise the contents, and TPs will prepare and translate the documentation to be presented. To keep the National Thematic Networks (NTN) alive and promote personal contacts, workshops will be regularly held in the framework of relevant sectorial fairs or events.

2 Type of Workshop

Workshops can be held as online, physical or hybrid events; they can take place in combination with other events (fairs, tradeshow etc.) or be stand-alone, depending on the target groups, aim of the workshop etc. Depending on the aims, the focus of each workshop can be regional, National, or international; workshops can have a BRANCHES working package (WP) specific focus or overlapping topics. Workshops are recommended to be conducted in National languages to ensure the BRANCHES bottom-up approach, but they can also be held in English for international events with a wider audience.

3 Number of Workshops

During the BRANCHES project WP2 shall boost the uptake of proposed solutions through continuous interaction with practitioners, including 11 workshops and 4 showcase days (with corresponding, engaging videos). The planned number of workshops and showcase days are divided into partner countries as follows:

- Finland:
 - 3 workshops
 - 1 showcase day
- Poland:
 - 3 workshops
 - 1 showcase day
- Spain:
 - 2 workshops
 - 1 showcase day
- Italy:
 - 3 workshops
 - 1 showcase day

In summary, during the first year (2021) of the BRANCHES project, WP2 has hosted or (co-)organised a total of four workshops and one showcase day.

4 Practicalities

When organizing a Workshop, the following practical guidelines were carefully considered:

- Workshops are referring to the BRANCHES project
- Banners or roll-ups are installed at physical workshop sites to advertise the BRANCHES project.
- Photos or screenshots are taken at each Workshop
- Attendance lists are compiled, indicating: 1) date and place and 2) name, company, and Country of each attendee.

5 Workshop Reports

A Workshop report was compiled for each workshop, providing an overview of the participation, topics discussed during the workshop and compile a summary of the main outcomes of the workshop.

In summary, a total of four workshops were held in BRANCHES WP2 during 2021. Workshops were held in Spain, Italy, Finland, and Poland. Three of the conducted workshops were held as hybrid events, one entirely online.

Altogether, **289 participants** were joining these workshops. Participants represented a wide variety of stakeholders and practitioners, including **companies, public agencies including research and development (R&D), farmers and forest owners, engineering, and other stakeholders (Figure 1).**

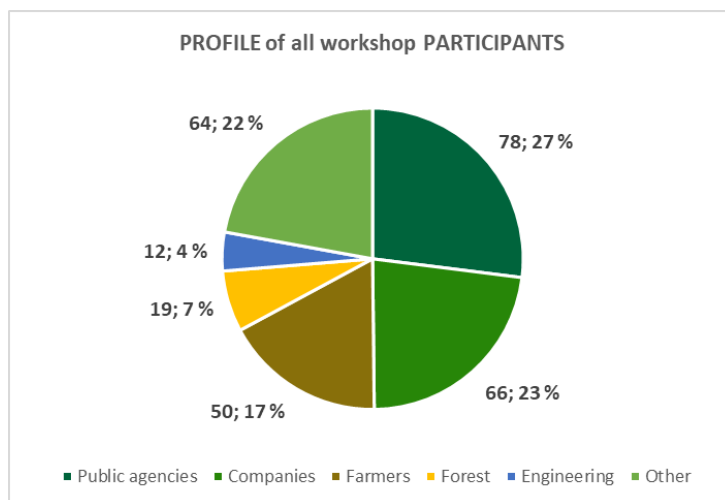


Figure 1. Profile of workshop participants when combining all four conducted workshops.

In addition to the **important networking within each National network (NTNs)**, the project partners presented several Practical Abstracts (PAs) to the participants. In addition, workshops provided valuable insights about practitioners' interest, thus informing WP2 and Task leaders on how to proceed. As important feedback, the importance of **financial sustainability was highlighted** in all workshops.

A Workshop Annex (A to D) is attached to this document, compiling detailed feedback of a total of four workshop summaries with a report for each conducted workshop by BRANCHES WP2 project partners.

A. Annex 1 – Workshop Report “First workshop Spain”

This form is designed to facilitate the reporting of the Workshops conducted within the scope of BRANCHES – WP2&3.

Name of the workshop

Local Language (Spanish): Prácticas inspiradoras para promover el uso de la biomasa

English title: Inspiring practices to promote biomass utilisation

Description of the workshop

BRANCHES organized a joint event of inspiring practices for the promotion of biomass use. The intend was to visualize some practices on biomass supply that include some innovation, and are in pilot stage, or in early market stage. So, the practice is going on and ready for early adoption or for potentially inspiring new initiatives.

The leadership and coordination work were carried out by AVEBIOM, principally focused on WP2 – supply. BRANCHES and INTERCAMBIOM NTN had a 1-hour time slot in the event (total scheduled 3 hours) as BRANCHES was a principal project and the core initiative. The event can be divided into two parts when discerning its fitting into WP2 and BRANCHES strategy:

- Part 1 WP2 BRANCHES regular style: 3 practitioners share their experience with the innovations they have. 2 of them with PAs on WP2 and 1 of them with PA on WP3. They had a short time for exposition (5-8 minutes) followed by time for questions on entrepreneurial elements by persons attending
- Part 2 – Other Project speeches: this part other projects presented their inspiring practices

Workshop type ☐ online ☐ physical ☒ hybrid ☐ other, please specify: _____

Workshop organization ☐ stand-alone
☒ in connection with another event (EXPOBIOMASA biomass fair [LINK](#))
☒ other (with other 5 EU projects [More info](#))

BRANCHES working package: ☐ WP1 ☒ WP2 ☐ WP3 ☐ WP4
☐ other, please specify: some practices had to do with conversion technologies, though the workshop in general was well framed into the resource and treatment

Goal of the workshop

Objective 1: Expand info on innovative practices

At the moment of the event, 6 innovative practices had been documented in Spain. Three were selected for being presented, according to their capacity to raise interest from stakeholders attending Expobiomasa professional Fair.

Objective 2: Visualise the INTERcamBIOM network (Spanish NTN).

As the network had almost started with public website released on early September 2021, and network had not been officially announced, the intend was to instrumentalise the workshop in frame of a relevant fair like Expobiomasa and gather the attention of important amount of potential interested actors.

Objective 3: Connect with other relevant stakeholders and projects

As it was in the initial steps, the intend was to connect with projects which could complement and be source of inspiration for innovative practices. Several were detected and contacted. The event co-organised by 6 EU projects (lead by BRANCHES, who worked as coordinator) was also a mean to reach more actors and raise more interest.

Place & region of workshop

Site: Valladolid Trade Fair Centre. Valladolid, Spain.

Framework: Expobiomasa 2021.

Format: It was an official side event. #CYTED Conference room.

Region: Castilla y León (Spain)

Dates of workshop 22nd September 2021

Organizers

AVEBIOM organized the event. Other EU projects and organisations collaborated as next.

Projects in collaboration:

Another 5 projects collaborated in the presentations of the event. These projects took care of their presentations, and supported the event dissemination:

- GEFRECON: on innovative practices for collaborative forest management and exploitation
- FirePOCTEP: on the fire prevention and biomass extraction in cross-border forest masses
- Life Smart AGROMOBILITY: on pig slurry treatment to obtain biomethane for farm applications
- REPLACE: on the campaigns to trigger consumers to adopt biomass systems
- ADELANTE2 on the triangle cooperation between Latin America and Europe, on biomass initiatives

Screenshot of the principal screen of the event.



After Wp2 workshop an internal lunch meeting was organized to find synergies between projects to look for synergies. Two additional projects joined the networking action:

- AgroBoHeat: on agrobiomass use for heating in rural areas
- GO safe with ESI: on innovative insurance for promoting more energy efficiency investment

Number of attendees

- 102 participants
- 55 physically at the room
- 40 online (through the Expobiomasa fair digital platform <https://live.expobiomasa.com/>)
- 7 online (through IntercamBIOM webpage streaming (facilitated temporary during the event at [LINK](#)))

Audience breakdown: among 95 participants (*)

According to WP1 stakeholder classification		According to the Workshop reporting template stakeholder classification																																								
Public administration	5	Public agencies	5																																							
Enterprises/sectorial	55	Companies	35																																							
R&D	15	Farmers	5																																							
NGO	1	Forest	6																																							
Others	19	Engineering	9																																							
		Other	35																																							
TOTAL 95		TOTAL 95																																								
<p>WP1 - PROFILE OF Workshop PARTICIPANTS</p> <table><thead><tr><th>Category</th><th>Count</th><th>Percentage</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Public administration</td><td>5</td><td>5%</td></tr><tr><td>Enterprises/sectorial</td><td>55</td><td>58%</td></tr><tr><td>R&D</td><td>15</td><td>16%</td></tr><tr><td>NGO</td><td>1</td><td>1%</td></tr><tr><td>Others</td><td>19</td><td>20%</td></tr></tbody></table>		Category	Count	Percentage	Public administration	5	5%	Enterprises/sectorial	55	58%	R&D	15	16%	NGO	1	1%	Others	19	20%	<p>WP5 - PROFILE of Workshop online PARTICIPANTS</p> <table><thead><tr><th>Category</th><th>Count</th><th>Percentage</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Public agencies</td><td>5</td><td>5%</td></tr><tr><td>Companies</td><td>35</td><td>37%</td></tr><tr><td>Farmers</td><td>5</td><td>5%</td></tr><tr><td>Forest</td><td>6</td><td>6%</td></tr><tr><td>Engineering</td><td>9</td><td>10%</td></tr><tr><td>Other</td><td>35</td><td>37%</td></tr></tbody></table>		Category	Count	Percentage	Public agencies	5	5%	Companies	35	37%	Farmers	5	5%	Forest	6	6%	Engineering	9	10%	Other	35	37%
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<p>(*) breakdown of the 95 out of the total 102 participants. It corresponds to the participants attending physically at the room and to those connecting through the digital platform Live.Expobiomasa. The profile of the 7 participants who attended the event through the INTERcamBIOM streaming is unknown (could not be traced)</p>																																										
<p>Note:</p> <p>Classification under the Workshop reporting template breakdown (right column) allows a better identification of part of the actors considered under the general class “companies / associations” by disaggregating into farmers, forest, engineering, and other types of companies.</p> <p>Some facts of the breakdown, referring to the Workshop template (right side column):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Under forest or farmers also includes cooperatives, forestry clusters, forestry companies, etc.• Under engineering companies specialized in engineering, though it is difficult to separate from companies offering turnkey and other services (fall into the generic class “companies” and consultants (under class “other”)• Others include multiple type of relevant actors like Research organisations, NGOs and rural development groups, and other like consultants, investors, etc. <p>Accordingly, both breakdowns (left and right columns) are complementary, as they provide complementary insights, into specific types of involved actors.</p>																																										

Moderator's summary of practitioners' feedback

In respect the participation, the effect was very good, as a successful side event of Expobiomasa.

The 3 hours event consisted in the exposition and discussion of diverse inspiring practices presented from the perspective of several EU projects.

The first part presented BRANCHES and its Spanish NTN called "INtercamBIOM". In order to fit all projects into a single 3-hour session, the BRANCHES workshop with 3 innovative practices was limited to 45 minutes. The speeches by invited practitioners were agile. And short time was given for questions. There was room for 2-3 questions by innovative practice from the audience.

In terms of the perception of the practitioners invited to share their experience, they were very keen to collaborate. They expressed the satisfaction and offered to be available for future workshops.

Recap of issues raised by the audience (rating from 1 to 5 in order of increasing emphasis)

There was little room for interaction was available. And attendants left only very limited number of written answers. Therefore, feedback not direct. But according to moderators' vision)

Technical feasibility	4
Financial sustainability	5
Environmental impact	3
Public Acceptance	3
Government support	4

Resources produced

Extended agenda	LINK HERE
Info site of BRANCHES and PPTs	LINK to webpage at Spanish NTN IntercamBIOM
Video recorded	LINK to youtube video

Summary of workshop dissemination

Webpages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WP2 workshop webpage at Spanish NTN IntercamBIOM site: LINK • Website streaming session: LINK • WP2 workshop webpage at EXPOBIOMASA side events: LINK
Social media - Twitter (AVEBIOM and Expobio-masa)	5 Publications, 3960 impressions, 104 interactions
Social media - Twitter (other EU projects)	6 publications, with 72 interactions
Social media - LinkedIn (AVEBIOM and Expobio-masa)	6 publications, 1868 views
Social media - LinkedIn (other EU projects)	-----
Social media - Facebook (AVEBIOM and Expobio-masa)	2 publications, 251 persons reached, 18 interactions
Social media - Facebook (other EU projects)	-----
Publications in general media	Europapress: LINK Online magazine 20 minutos LINK Avilared: LINK
Publications in specialized magazines	Retema environment magazine LINK
News release by other stakeholders	CARTIF technology centre LINK Castilla y León regional Government: LINK Avila Province Deputation: LINK

Images



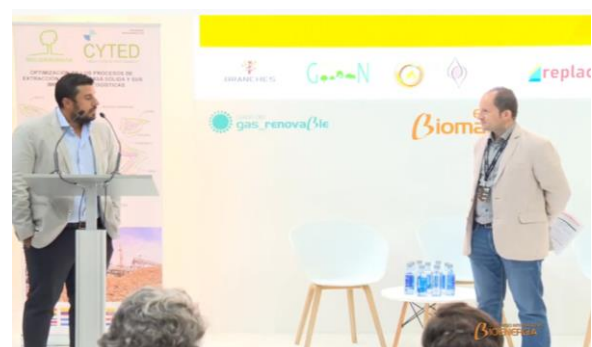
General view of the conference room



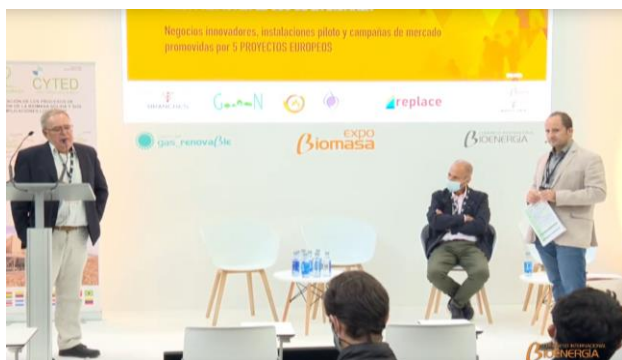
General view of the conference room



Presentation of Athisa Biogeneración, practitioner of the inovative practice on the Cleaning and valorisation of forestry and agricultural woody biomass



Presentation of Premium Pellets Spain, practitioner of the inovative practice on the Mobile straw pelletiser



Presentation of BIOLIZA and Aceites Guadalentin, practitioners of the innovative practice on Olive cake gasification and production of Biochar



Presentation of Smart Agromobility, on pilot plant for biomethane and sustainable mobility in farms



Picture of speakers and some of the project posters



Projects lunch meeting for synergies

B. Annex 2 – Workshop Report “First workshop Italy”

Name of the workshop

Progetto BRANCHES: le biomasse agro-forestali una risorsa green per rilanciare il modo rurale
 “Project BRANCHES: agro-forestry biomass a green resource to strengthen the rural sector”

Description of the workshop

The launch of the Italian component of the Project Branches took place in Bologna on 22 October 2021 during the Energy Exhibition of the EIMA International (19-23 October), one of the most important fairs on agricultural and forestry mechanization in Europe. The context of the fair provided an excellent showcase for a workshop that focused on the development of bioeconomy in the rural area. According to a bottom-up approach, the workshop was organized to bring together the (Italian) National Thematic Network (NTN), which includes representatives of all the main stakeholders of the biomass supply chains, share with them the activities carried out by the project and plan the following ones. The event, organized by the two Italian project partners (ITABIA and CNR IBE), took place in presence, in the “Sala Green” of the fair, but was also followed remotely by other additional attenders through live streaming and digital platforms. This was the first opportunity for the 30 members of the Italian NTN - which includes the most important representatives of the Country's agroforestry sector - to meet and discuss how to activate dialogue between interested parties, as well as sharing good practices and information on sustainable enhancement of agricultural and forestry biomass. After the two-hours workshop, all participants attended a guided tour to a large demo area (2,500 m²) entirely dedicated to the exhibition and demonstration of the functioning of modern and efficient operating machines used in forestry for handling, conditioning, and storing the woody biomass. In addition to all the mentioned activities, several video shoots and interviews were also made that will be used to make interesting informative videos in support of project activities.

Workshop type ☐ online ☐ physical ☒ hybrid ☐ other, please specify: _____

Workshop organization ☐ stand-alone
☒ in connection with another event (Energy Exhibition of the EIMA International, 19-23 October)
☐ other, please specify _____

BRANCHES working package: ☒ WP1 ☒ WP2 ☐ WP3 ☐ WP4
☐ other, please specify: _____

Goal of the workshop

The goal was the launch of the Italian component of the Project Branches, bring together the members of the (Italian) National Thematic Network (NTN), which includes representatives of all the main stakeholders of the biomass supply chains, and share with them the activities carried out by the project and plan the following ones.

Specific network activities

The strongly participated meeting allowed to collect several and valuable insights that will help to guide in the further development of the project. Participants were motivated, provided ideas and showed interested to further collaborate on the following topics:

- Identification of new PAs
- Attending the showcase day
- Activating synergies with other European and National Projects
- Producing position papers for policy makers
- Disseminating information regarding BRANCHES through its own channels.

Place & region of workshop

Bologna (ITA) Energy Exhibition of the EIMA International

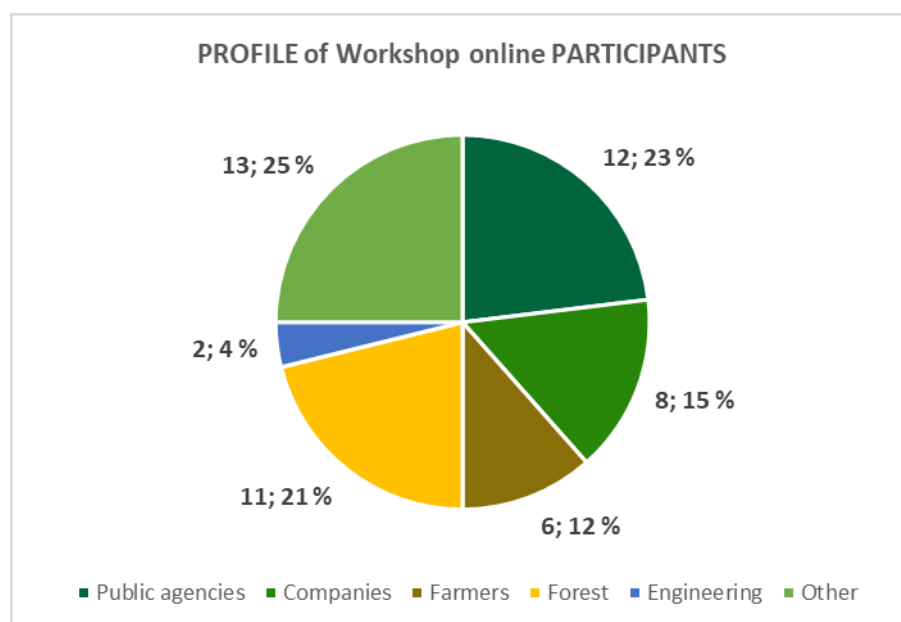
Region: Italy

Dates of workshop Thursday 21.10.2021 (15:00 - 16:45 CET)

Organizers

The online meeting was jointly planned by the Italian project partners: ITABIA and CNR-IBE.

Number of attendees



Number of attendees: 52

Audience breakdown

(n° of attendees)

Companies	8
Public Agencies	12
Farmers	6
Forest owners	11
Engineering	2
Other	13

Moderator's summary of practitioners' feedback

The workshop was opened and moderated by Ms Sofia Mannelli, Chair of Chimica Verde and member of BRANCHES WP5. Ms Sofia Mannelli welcomed all participants and introduced the welcome video message recorded by Ms Johanna Routa, BRANCHES project coordinator. At the end of the video, Ms Mannelli gave the floor to Mr Vito Pignatelli, Chair of ITABIA and member of BRANCHES WP5 who provided an introduction of the BRANCHES project to the participants. Mr Pignatelli was followed by Mr Raffaele Spinelli, research director at CNR-IBE who complemented the information provided by Mr Pignatelli.

Several participants (16), representatives of the private sector, operators, public administrations, NGOs took the floor to provide their contribution on the outcomes and needs of the Network.

Overall, the workshop demonstrated the strong motivation of all the involved stakeholders of the Italian NTN and their winningness to collaborate in the forthcoming years.

The video of the workshop has already been uploaded to the ITABIA website and - once summarized and translated into English - will also be published on the BRANCHES Project website.

The press office of the EIMA international Fair provided extensive media coverage to the BRANCHES Project through television interviews (EIMA TV), press releases and articles in the "Mondo Macchine" magazine.

After the two-hours workshop, all participants attended a guided tour to a large demo area (2,500 m²) entirely dedicated to the exhibition and demonstration of the functioning of modern and efficient operating machines used in forestry for handling, conditioning, and storing the woody biomass. In addition to all the mentioned activities, several video shoots and interviews were also made that will be used to make interesting informative videos in support of project activities.

The video of the workshop recording is available at the following link (available only in Italian, at the moment):

[Progetto BRANCHES: le biomasse agro forestali, una risorsa green per rilanciare il mondo rurale - YouTube](#)

Recap of issues raised by the audience (rating from 1 to 5 in order of increasing emphasis)

Technical feasibility	3
Financial sustainability	5
Environmental impact	4
Public Acceptance	3
Government support	4

Image



Organising team of the workshop in Bologna, Italy

C. Annex 3 – Workshop Report “First workshop Finland”

Name of the workshop

Tutkimuksesta potkua biotalouteen - maa- ja metsäbiotalouden verkoston 1. työpaja
Knowledge from Research - the 1st workshop of the Agricultural and Forestry Bioeconomy Network

Description of the workshop

The first Finnish BRANCHES workshop, and at the same time the Kick-off meeting of Finnish NTN, was held on Thursday 02.12.2021. The online meeting was jointly planned by Finnish partners Luke and MTK and the event was hosted by Luke. There was a total of 27 participants from R&D, companies, practitioners, public administration, and associations.

Workshop type ☒ online ☐ physical ☐ hybrid ☐ other, please specify: _____

Workshop organization ☒ stand-alone
 ☐ in connection with another event, please specify _____.
 ☐ other, please specify _____.

BRANCHES working package: ☒ WP1 ☒ WP2 ☐ WP3 ☐ WP4
 ☐ other, please specify: _____

Goal of the workshop

The goal was to present the first three BRANCHES WP2 Practical Abstracts from Finland and to collect valuable feedback from practitioners/actors in the field. And at the same time the workshop marked the Kick-off meeting of the Finnish NTN.

Place & region of workshop

Online workshop, Teams

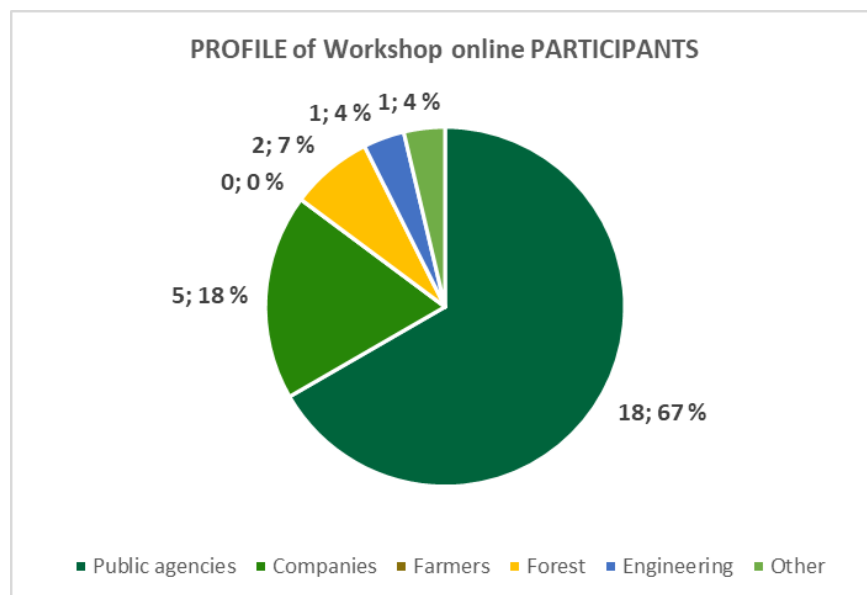
Region: Finland

Dates of workshop Thursday 02.12.2021 (09:00 - 11:30 EET)

Organizers

The online meeting was jointly planned by Finnish partners Luke and MTK, and the event was hosted by Luke.

Number of attendees: 27



Audience breakdown (n° of attendees)	Companies	5
	Public Agencies	18
	Farmers	-
	Forest owners	2
	Engineering	1
	Other	1

Moderator's summary of practitioners' feedback

The workshop was opened by BRANCHES WP2 Leader Robert Prinz (Luke) who welcomed all participants and guided through the program. Principal Scientist Lauri Sikanen from Luke gave the keynote speech on the broader picture and future trends of forest energy utilization in Finland. The BRANCHES project and the general idea of Finnish National Network was presented by BRANCHES coordinator Johanna Routa. Mikko Sirviö from Mikkone Ltd talked about the energy wood purchase from a practitioner's view. Research manager Kalle Karttunen from the Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK) presented outcomes from a survey on the energy wood supply chains organized by forest owners in Finland; the topic of one of the Practical Abstracts (PAs). Other topics of PAs presented were Risupeto – a novel felling head for efficient harvesting of small diameter wood biomass both in forests and edge zones of infrastructure presented by Senior Scientist Juha Laitila, as well as the PA on Boom corridor thinning - a harvester's working method for young dense stands presented by Senior Scientist Yrjö Nuutinen. The workshop included plenty of lively discussions throughout the meeting, including lots of questions. Few questions were also asked from participants to collect valuable practitioners' feedback within the project: participants voted the cost-effectiveness as a most important part of the forest energy supply chain, and small diameter energy wood as a most important raw material. Additional valuable feedback was collected on the presented Practical Abstracts and the suggested focus of BRANCHES WP2 work for the next period.

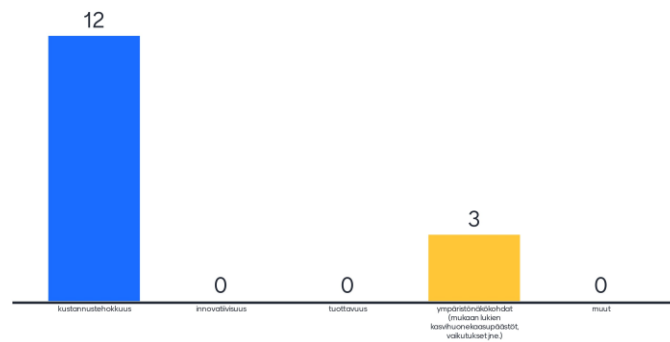
Recap of issues raised by the audience (rating from 1 to 5 in order of increasing emphasis)

Technical feasibility	-
Financial sustainability	5
Environmental impact	4
Public Acceptance	-
Government support	-

Image

Mikä on biomassan toimitusketjujen tärkein osa?

Mentimeter



15

Recap of issues raised by the audience collected using the online tool Mentimeter: the feedback is highlighting the importance of cost-effectiveness of biomass supply chains and environmental concerns (in Finnish)

D. Annex 4 – Workshop Report “First workshop Poland”

Authors of report: Janusz Gołaszewski, Agnieszka Pyzel, Ewelina Olba-Zięty, Maciej Neugebauer, Karolina Babuchowska, Kinga Treder

Title of the workshop

BRANCHES Workshop: Local systems of bioeconomy and renewable energies – technologies, supply-chains, opportunities and bottlenecks of development

Title in Polish: Warsztaty BRANCHES: Lokalne systemy biogospodarki i energii odnawialnej – technologie, łańcuchy dostaw, możliwości rozwojowe i ograniczenia

Language of event: Polish

Description of the workshop

On the 8th December 2021, the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn (UWM) in cooperation with the Warmia and Mazury Agricultural Advisory Center located in Olsztyn (WMODR) held a one-day workshop entitled “Local systems of bioeconomy and renewable energies – technologies, supply chains, opportunities and bottlenecks of development”. The workshop was organized in the framework of WP2 and WP3 of BRANCHES project by combining presentations of the two practices related to WP2 and the two practices related to WP3. Besides, before presentation and discussion on PAs it was presented innovation activities conducted by WMODR, R&D novel solutions in bioenergy technologies and bio-based products by UWM and the activity of Polish National Bioeconomy Network (NTN) was initiated. There were over 100 participants, ca. 50% physically present.

The workshop agenda developed following topics

- A brief presentation of NBN-PL (National Bioeconomy Network Poland that was developed under BRANCHES Project) and invitation addressed to participants to join the network
- Presentation of innovative projects conducted by UWM and WMODR and main results.
- Presentation of PAs of WP2: (1) Municipal system of energy prosumers (Barciany commune), (2) Bioproduct from Perennial Industrial Crops lignocellulosic biomass (ChemProf, Olsztyn).
- Presentation of PAs of WP3: (1) The impact of an agricultural biogas plant on the sustainable development of rural areas (BIOGAL, Boleszyn), (2) Biogas plant: added value of biogas plants in sustainable agricultural production (Kisielice farm).
- Discussion on possibilities and limitations of development of innovative technologies and supply chains and their implementation in rural areas.
- Collecting feedback from the audience, i.e., from practitioners and other stakeholders of bioeconomy and bioenergy market in the course of panel discussion, by recording the stakeholder's opinion on the blackboard and the survey conducted at the end of the workshop.
- The summary of the workshop in the context of “low-hanging fruits” of bioenergy technologies and the drivers and barriers recorded in the real time on the blackboard.

Workshop type ☐ online ☐ physical ☒ **hybrid** ☐ other, please specify: _____

Workshop organization ☒ **stand-alone**
☐ in connection with another event
☐ other (please specify _____.)

BRANCHES working package: ☒ **WP2** ☒ **WP3**
☐ other, please specify: WP1 by presentation of NTN

Goal of the workshop

- Launching NTN and addressing invitation to participants to join the network
- Presentation of innovative projects and their outputs in relation to renewable energy, bio-based products, and development of rural areas
- Presentation of PAs of WP2 (2 PA's) and WP3 (2 PAs) and gathering opinions/suggestions from the audience in the context of a broader implementation of the presented aspect in rural areas.
- Discussion between stakeholders (practitioners, researchers, local and national government representatives, etc.) on possibilities and limitations for implementation of innovative technologies in rural areas (discussion panel – 4 practitioners, lawyer, a representative from Polish Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Areas)
- Collecting feedback from stakeholders related to presented PAs and opinions on drivers and barriers innovations in rural areas (registration on a regular basis the feedback from the panelists and audience on the blackboard and survey on-line and stationary on the paper for physically present at the end of the workshop)

Place & region of workshop

The campus of the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Olsztyn, Poland

Date of workshop: 08.12.2021

Organizers

University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn (Poland)
 The Warmia and Mazury Agricultural Advisory Center Located in Olsztyn (Poland)

Number of attendees: 115 (60 participants in person/at location, 55 participants online)



Audience breakdown (n° of attendees)	Companies	18
	Public Agencies (administration)	4
	Advisory Agencies	29
	Researchers	10
	Farmers	39
	Other	15

Moderator's summary of practitioners' feedback

Feedback was generated during panel discussions and surveys.

Link to survey: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSczK_5FmvEW4e_dA-JWMxRTxCK79nhEYfJMgMZ_ChDIOPJeOCg/viewform?usp=sf_link

The barriers and drivers of the implementation of innovations in rural areas were recorded during the panel discussion on the blackboard (.pdf enclosed) as well as included in the survey (data need analysis)

According to the feedback:

Drivers: profitability (energy self-sufficiency) at the local level, availability of substrate for energy purposes, reducing emissions and enhancing biodiversity (environmental issues), financial assistance and support, innovations at the agenda of decision makers.

Barriers: financial issues (e.g., energy price fluctuations), administrative procedures (inefficient regulations, unclear rules), technical barriers (inadequate infrastructure in rural areas).

Recap of issues raised by the audience (rating from 1 to 5 in order of increasing emphasis)

Technical feasibility	3
Financial stability	5
Environmental impact	2
Public Acceptance	1
Government support	4

Images



General view of the conference room