



Lessons learned from networking with other EU projects



Abstract

In this report the lessons learned from networking with other EU-projects within the EU Life+ project Small Scale CHP based on biomass in the region of Southeast Sweden (Life13ENV/SE/000113) is described, i.e short: Small Scale CHP from biomass. The project is partly financed by the EU life+ project and the Swedish Energy Agency.

The aim of the report is to present the results and lessons learned from networking with other EU-projects and networks related to other EU-projects. The results in this report are valuable for other EU-projects.

The main results and lessons learned from networking with other EU projects within the Life+ project *Small scale CHP from biomass* are:

- A good way to disseminate different projects is to link each other's project respective project homepage
- Close collaboration between EU-projects are easier to obtain if the EU-projects are managed within the same organisation.
- Networking with other EU-projects may give the possibility to be mentioned at conference presentations of others.
- Networking with other EU-projects may give the opportunity to create and supply project suggestions for new projects, based on results from ongoing project.
- Networking with projects within the same EU programme to learn from others experiences and avoid doing the same mistakes should be an obligatory part of each project start-up.

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Purpose of networking at EU level

The general purpose of networking activities on EU level is:

1. To increase the awareness and knowledge of the technologies demonstrated in Small Scale CHP from biomass in other EU countries
2. Knowledge exchange. Some countries have similar demonstration projects. To be able to share information makes the project, the demonstration as well as the installations, more efficient.
3. To gain project experience. Networking with similar Life+ projects may give valuable input regarding project administrative and financial issues.

Detailed sub-purpose for networking with other EU-projects

Purpose of networking:

- Increase the knowledge of the CHP technologies based on bioenergy
- Information exchange from similar EU-projects that can be useful in our project
- Guidelines on how to gain interest for study visits
- Guidelines on how to successfully network with other Life+ projects
- Joint events (only for active projects)

Objective of networking: Make organisations / companies outside Sweden aware of techniques for small scale CHP from bioenergy. Create an interest to come and visit the demonstration plants. Exchange of information about similar projects and installations to improve the process for investing in small scale CHP. The objective is also to gain an overview of the interest of small scale CHP in Europe and the main pros and cons for small scale CHP from bioenergy in different EU countries.

That these industries consider small scale CHP from bioenergy as a feasible alternative when a new investment is needed. The long-term objective is that this networking leads to more small scale CHP installations.

Create the possibility to arrange joint events, that would be an opportunity to reach more participants.

But also, to gain experience and to find a contact to discuss different management problems during the way.

Objective and Achievement

<i>Objective</i>	<i>Achieved up to June 2018</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify relevant project via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Life+ database ○ FP7 ○ CIP Eco Innovation • Contact with 5 different networks linked to other EU projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of Life+ project to contact – updated in 2017 and 2018 • Life+ project Biogas Expose (LIFE12 ENV/SE/000683) – contact taken • Contact and meetings with the EU project SecureChain at several occasions • Contact and meetings with the EU project Simwood • Networking with the International project Secvalchain • Networking with the Life+ project, Battle CO2 • Networking with the Life+ project Biogas Xpose

- Networking and exchanging information with EU project Bioekonomi – Regioner i samverkan
- Networking by participating at seminar with the project Lokala Energisystem – the project Simris, within Interflex and Horizon2020

Identification of relevant EU project to network with

Identification of relevant EU-projects has been performed by identifying relevant project:

- Via Life+ database
- By contact with communication personal at the Life+ office
- By research at various project portals
- By participating in seminars presenting the project
- By networking with other organisations managing different EU-project
- By internal meetings at Energy Agency for South east Sweden.

In the external monitoring report by Ramböll in January 2016 (Annex 1), Ramböll encourages discussion on how to gain long-term effects from other activities, such as presentations at seminars and conferences. To make the dissemination of the project as efficient as possible, the coordinating beneficiary has followed Rambölls suggestion and discussed internally how to gain long term effects from seminars and conferences. The discussion resulted in a description of the purpose of networking and dissemination in our project. The discussion resulted also in an analysis of the outcome from the different conference and networking activities.

Result from identifying similar Life+ projects

In 2016, the coordinating Beneficiary compiled a list of relevant Life+ projects, the list has later been updated two times, in 2017 and in 2018. Ten other Life+ projects was identified as relevant to contact. All projects identified are listed below:

- Life Zero Store (no information about project duration on homepage)
- RenewPACK- Demonstration of an Innovative Renewable Barrier Material for Sustainable Food Packaging (February 2014 - September 2016)
- Etanolix 2.0- Demonstration of Innovative Method for converting Industrial Waste to Ethanol in oil refinery for LIFE+ (01-JUL-2013 to 01-JUL -2017)
- LIFE+ EfficientShip - Demonstration of an innovative ORC module to improve the efficiency of European fishing vessels (01/06/2014 - 31/12/2016)
- LIFE BIOBALE - DEVELOPMENT OF A COGENERATION DEMONSTRATION PLANT FROM BIOMASS FOREST BALES (01-JUN-2014 to 31-MAY -2017)
- LIFE OxyUp - Biomass gasification for CO2 emissions reduction and valorization of bio-wastes in energy-intensive industrial processes (01-JUN-2014 to 31-OCT -2018)
- BIOGASTIL - Integration of biogas production process into an existing biomethanisation plant (31-JAN-2013 to 29-FEB -2016)



- Smart CHP - Demonstration of a small-scale mobile agricultural residue gasification unit for decentralized combined heat and power production (2010-2012)
- LIFE BIOGAS XPOSE - LIFE BIOGAS XPOSE - Maximized biogaspotential from resource innovation in the Biogas Öst region (01-JUL-2013 to 29-JUN -2018)
- BattleCO₂ (Life project 14 CCM/ES/000404)
- BIOGASSYS (2010-2015)
- PVCfreeBloodBag – Public health and plastic makers demonstration how to remove barriers to PVC-free blood bags in the spirit of REACH (01-SEP-2011 to 31-MAY -2017)

After visiting the homepages of the identified projects, the projects were contacted for closer collaboration based on the following criteria:

- Relevant for exchange of experience i.e. similar subject, similar technologies and similar target groups.
- Swedish projects with possibility to ask for experience regarding project management

Based on the criteria listed above, the projects most relevant and with possible collaboration opportunities were:

- BIOGAS EXPOSE
- BattleCO₂
- Life Zero Store
- RenewPACK
- Etanolix 2.0

Remaining projects were either closed or not relevant for further collaboration after reading the project description.

Results from networking with similar Life+ projects

Out of the identified relevant Life+ projects five projects were contacted via email for possible networking opportunities, based on the criteria listed above. In two cases answers were not received and in one case the project has been cancelled. One of the projects was not relevant to contact but did have valuable information regarding study visits that has been used as inspiration to study visit invitations. The associated beneficiary Emåmejeriet AB has met with the project Biogas Expose working on biogas and found a possible application combining a biogas burner with the gasifier to use at production peaks instead of oil. Further interaction with this project will be pursued.

Only in two cases networking between our Life+ project and similar Life+ project has resulted in relevant and joint exchange. These are:

Networking with the Life+ project BattleCO₂ resulted in dissemination of the project via a link to the project homepage. A link to similar projects has also been created at the homepage of the project Small Scale CHP from biomass, as can be seen in Figure 1.

Networking with one Life+ project, Biogas Xpose, regarding writing amendments and depreciations.

In addition, the Life+ small scale CHP from bioenergy has been networking with two closed Life+ projects with Swedish partners, the projects BIOGASSYS and PVCfreddBloodBag, regarding experiences and lessons learned during and after project period. These networking activates are

also important to maintain good projects and avoid doing the same mistakes in every project. Stock taking of ongoing, closed and new projects as part of start-up meeting each new period would be very useful for new project.

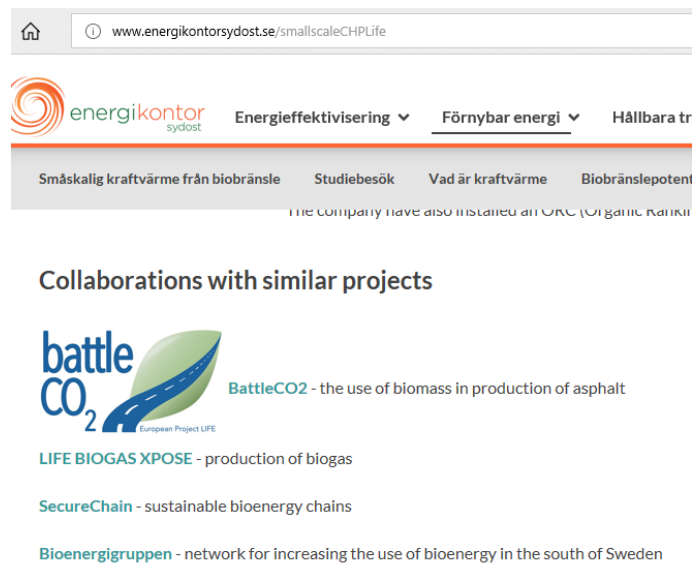


Figure 1. Links to similar ongoing projects are to be found on the homepage of the Life+ project Small Scale CHP.

Result from networking with similar EU projects

The list below shows identified EU projects relevant for the Life+ project Small Scale CHP to network with. The projects are shortly described.

- Simwood (Sustainable innovative mobilisation of wood) - funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration
- SecureChain- Sustainable biomass energy – funded by the research and innovation programme 'Horizon 2020'
- SecvalChain – funded by the Swedish institute
- The project Simris, which is part of the project InterFLex – financed by the research and innovation programme 'Horizon 2020'

The coordinating beneficiary has been joining project meetings at several times in the project SimWood and SecureChain. At these meetings the project has been presented orally and USB



Figure 2. Presentation of the Life+ project Small Scale CHP at an Biomass to power conference in Berling 2015. The EU projects SimWood and SecureChain were also mentioned during the presentation.

sticks with films and the handbook has been distributed. The joint collaboration has resulted in project information and findings from the project Simwood and SecureChain was disseminated in an oral presentation by the project Life+ small scale CHP at the Conference Biomass to Power in Berlin 2015. The collaboration has also resulted in the opportunity to disseminate the project at bioenergy seminars in Växjö in November 2014, November 2015, November 2016 and November 2017. Usually there are 60-

80 participants at the bioenergy seminars, which are regional stakeholders from businesses, university and the public body.

The collaboration with the project SecureChain has also resulted in a joint bioenergy seminar in May 2018.

Networking with the one EU project, Secvalchain, resulting in study visits to both sites in Ronneby.



Figure 3. Study visit at Ronneby Miljö & Teknik. Joint event with the EU project SecvalChain.



Figure 4. Article in Bioenergy International no.82 2015

The collaboration with Secure Chain has led to an invitation to be part of an application within the Horizon 2020 programme.

By participating at a seminars and conferences in EU, the project has been disseminated to participants from other EU countries. It has resulted in several invitations to EU conferences and articles in international newspapers.

Networking with SecureChain has led to an invitation for participating in an application within Horizon 2020. In that project ESS will continue to work on small scale CHP and disseminate the result from the Life+ project within EU as an example for best practise retrofits.

Conclusions

The lessons learned from networking with other EU-projects, within the Life+ programme and outside are:

- It has been hard to find relevant projects within the Life+ project to gain a close collaboration. The Life+ subjects are very wide and covers many issues and topics, which may make it hard to find similar subject and topics. However, even if the subject differs, networking between projects by creating links to each other's project homepages is a great way to disseminate results.
- It is great to network with older Life+ projects or between ongoing Life+ projects to gain experience and tips from managing a Life+ project. This would be an activity on each start-up meeting.
- Collaboration between the project Life+ small scale CHP and other EU-projects managed by the Coordinating Beneficiary has been close. Therefore, an organisation that handle many EU projects at the same time, as in the case of the coordinating Beneficiary of Life+ Small Scale CHP, can get close to other EU-projects and thereby create an opportunity to disseminate different EU-projects for different networks related to different EU-projects. That creates a great opportunity to disseminate projects across Europe.



- Stock taking of ongoing, closed and new projects as part of start-up meeting each new period would be very useful for new project.
- Networking with others create opportunities for future activates. Successful collaborations create new ideas and new opportunities to collaborate in the future.

Future networking activities

The Life+ project Small Scale CHP from bioenergy will continue searching for similar and relevant EU projects to cooperate with.

Update the project homepage with links to similar EU-projects, especially within the Life+ programme.

Appendix

EXTERNAL MONITORING REPORT NO.2