

Report on activities held for cross-border cooperation supported by REFORD

Holder of activity:

National Association of Private Forest Owners of Macedonia - NAPFOM

Partners:

National Association of Private Forest Owners of Bulgaria - NAPFOB,

National Association of Private Forests of Kosovo - NAPFOK

The activity took place from 1st to 3th November 2011 in the town of Chepelare in South Central Bulgaria. The activity was planned so that several goals will be achieved. In addition to continuing the cooperation and maintain contact, cross-border activity, aimed at:

- To present and promote the work of REFORD to our colleagues in Bulgaria the National Association of Private Forest Owners of Bulgaria, with the ultimate objective to be, their membership in REFORD;
- To become familiar with the situation in Bulgaria regarding the type, manner and purpose of using biomass, which originates from forests
- To be familiar with the modus operandi of private forestry engineers and technicians in providing service to private forests owners in Bulgaria

Presentation of REFORD

In 2010 with the joint efforts of the SNV Balkans Forestry advisers and the National associations of private forest owners of Macedonia, Albania and Kosovo, REFORD - Regional Centre for Development of forestry and rural areas is formed. The idea was REFORD to become a regional Balkan network in which members will be all the national associations of private forest owners in the Balkans. For this purpose our colleagues from Bulgaria were informed about the experience and realized activities of REFORD from the formation in 2010 until today. NAPFOB officials were pleasantly surprised by such an initiative and with great interest have announced their official membership in REFORD.



Presentation of biomass

National Association of Private Forest Owners of Macedonia (NAPFOM) has always been a subject who is up to date and proposes and accepts positive changes towards use of renewable forest resources in Macedonia. Lately NAPFOM had considering ways of use of the so-called, forest waste

or timber waste in the logging industry. In other words, use of forest biomass for obtaining heat or electricity. At the beginning of this activity a presentation on the use of biomass in the Western Balkans prepared by Dusan Jovic, Senior Advisor at the Ministry of Agriculture, Commerce, Forestry and Water Economy of the Republic of Serbia, was scheduled for which NAPFOM got written approval . In the interest of time the presentation was not presented, but a debate was held in which our hosts had given us their experience concerning the advantages and disadvantages of using various types of wood biomass. As part of this activity we were shown an object that is heated by wood chips boiler, than various details in wood-waste residue manipulation and manipulation and storage of wood chips to the boiler and docking facilities.



Presentation of licenses

The changes in the political order of the region, the transition from a socialist-communist society to a democratic one had made a need to change the way service was delivered to private forest owners. Some countries have introduced private practice in that domain and in some countries that system is working (e.g. Bulgaria), somewhere that process is just beginning (e.g. of Macedonia) and somewhere is planned to be brought (e.g. Kosovo). The idea of this part of the working visit was that each representative of the national associations will be given a time frame of 30 minutes to give a review of the current state on that subject in their countries and to extract positive and negative findings from all speakers.

This part of the activity aroused great interest among the hosts and guests. Besides the discussion, an on-site presentation was held by the licensed engineers and technicians in which the whole process was explained on field. Unfortunately, due to technical difficulties in obtaining visas for entry of Bulgaria, representatives of NAPFOK were not able to participate in this event. Their experience and the plans they have in the future would have contributed greatly to the activity.

From the debate about private licensed entities the following conclusions emerged. In Bulgaria the

right to obtain a license to perform professional activities in the field of forestry have people with completed secondary education in forestry, thus gaining the title licensed technician, as well as persons with a university degree in forestry, thus gaining the title licensed engineer. It is interesting



that, unlike in Macedonia, licenses can be obtained with proper education once completed, but without previous work experience. Furthermore, in the process of "marking", "licensed technicians" can participate, as long as at the end the process is approved by "a licensed engineer." In the process of "marking" of timber, receiving and issuing the transport document, "technicians" and "engineers" have different mark, each with a separate number. Interesting is the fact that the transport document is issued from a special mobile machine, similar to mobile cash registers, which largely helps avoiding various fraud on the one hand and on the other hand helps greatly in the preparation of monthly and annual reports .



At the end when taken into account the volume of information, ideas and experiences that were exchanged, the activity was of great benefit for all involved.



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