

Network of Excellence profile: NoE BIOENERGY

The Bioenergy Network of Excellence (NoE) was launched in January 2004. The NoE's official title is 'Overcoming barriers to bioenergy' and its initial role will be to integrate the activities of its partner organisations to form a deep, durable and coordinated programme of bioenergy research. This coordinated programme will then be extended beyond the partnership to cover a wider range of activities and companies to establish eventually a permanent 'Virtual Centre of Excellence' in the field of bioenergy. This is the key challenge of the project.

Bioenergy chains

The use of bioenergy has to be increased significantly over the next decade or so to accomplish the goals of the EU and the Kyoto Protocol of reduced CO₂ emissions. The NoE will support these goals through technology development and implementation, policy actions and the establishment of market strategies. The research and technology development (RTD) programme of the NoE will cover all processes, components and methods necessary for establishing successful "bioenergy chains" to produce heat, electricity and biofuels for the energy market, including:

- planting and harvesting of biomass;
- solid fuels from agricultural and forestry residues and organic waste components;
- combustion, gasification and synthesis, pyrolysis, anaerobic digestion and fermentation of biomass feed stock;
- production of liquid biofuels and hydrogen;
- heat and power production;
- socio-economic analysis of policies and market and environmental issues, including greenhouse gas balances.

To ensure the far-reaching and long-term impact of know-how within the NoE, a significant feature will be to spread excellence via a programme of dissemination activities to organisations outside the partnership, including industry, commerce, institutions, trade associations, governments and academia.

- The network is made up of eight of the leading European institutes involved in bioenergy-related activities and is coordinated by VTT Processes from Finland.

For further information, see:
<http://www.bioenergy-noe.org>