

Promoting sustainable use of underutilized lands for bioenergy production through a web-based Platform for Europe



# **BIOPLAT-EU OBJECTIVES**

The overall objective of the project is to promote the market uptake of sustainable bioenergy in Europe using marginal, underutilized, and contaminated lands for non-food biomass production through the provision of a web-based platform that serves as decision support tool.

# **PROJECT SUMMARY**

The BIOPLAT-EU project will promote and support the uptake of sustainable bioenergy projects on marginal, underutilized and contaminated lands (MUC lands). These lands cannot be used for food production or for recreational and conservation purposes, but in some cases, they still retain the potential to produce biomass for non-food and non-feed purposes. Moreover such use of these lands is not known to stakeholders, therefore the project will promote and inform about such opportunities through a web-based platform which will include a public user friendly tool using global information system that will assess the environmental, social and techno-economic sustainability aspects of defined value chains for bioenergy production on MUC lands and through stakeholder engagement activities. In order to achieve the overall goals, the work has been structured for achieving the following specific objectives:

### **OBJECTIVE 1**

Creation of a database of maps of MUC in Europe that will be generated based on high resolution data (Copernicus high resolution layers (HRLs), time series data from Sentinels and other satellites) and their attributes. The database will be a compilation of results from other EU and international projects which have produced valuable maps, tools and information addressing sustainable bioenergy production on MUC lands and data compiled by the consortium from governments.

## **OBJECTIVE 4**

Mobilisation and involvement of stakeholders. In order to support the establishment of bioenergy value chains, it is important to inform stakeholders (farmers, public and private landowners, bioenergy industries, local authorities, investorsetc.) about the opportunity of using MUC lands for sustainable energy production and to gather all actors to discuss the actual needs for the development of sustainable bioenergy projects on these lands.

#### **OBJECTIVE 2**

Development of a public user-friendly tool (STEN: Sustainability Tool for Europe and Neighbouring countries) that will assess the environmental, social and techno-economic sustainability aspects of scenarios and value chains with respect to specific economic and noneconomic conditions (technical feasibility of RES project) for bioenergy production on MUC land. The tool will allow any stakeholder to search for MUC lands in Europe at a sub-national level.

#### **OBJECTIVE 5**

Communication with authorities on how to remove legal or political market uptake barriers. In addition to taking part in the activities with the other stakeholders, an important objective is to communicate directly with local and regional authorities as they are responsible for the decisionmaking process which is often crucial for the further development of bioenergy value chains.

#### **OBJECTIVE 3**

Development of a web-based platform that will include mainly, a webGIS tool which will be composed of the STEN tool and the GIS maps in addition to the project website where information about the project will be included. The platform will be a core source of information and utility related to this topic for stakeholders as all the existing data will be downloadable for free.

#### **OBJECTIVE 6**

Provision of technical support to stakeholders on aspects linked to biomass production and processing, market access, management and access to finance, etc. Other important barriers which could hinder the uptake of bioenergy projects include on one hand, the demand for bioenergy feedstock (i.e. the availability of market or industries that purchase the biomass to transform it to bioenergy), and on the other hand, such projects need investments to be realised. Therefore, one objective of the project will be to link biomass producers and processors with investors and to guide them on how to make their projects bankable.



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