



# Modern and sustainable heat and power from woody biomass in South-Eastern Europe – Project proposal

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UNECE/FAO Timber Section

Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project,  
Twentieth Session, 3-5 June 2009



# Outline

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- I. Idea and objectives
- II. Status quo forestry/energy
- III. Project steps and implementation
- IV. UNECE/FAO Timber Section's activities
- V. Questions for discussion



# The idea

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Enhance cross-sectoral cooperation between the energy and forestry sector ...

... to use the abundant domestic forest resources in the most efficient and sustainable way to create local jobs, save money and reduce fossil carbon emissions.



# The idea...

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... has been developed in response to the EE 21 Steering Committee May 2008



*“Requested the secretariat, in cooperation with the UNECE/FAO Timber Section, to develop a sub-regional project of Energy Efficiency 21 addressing wood energy and other bio-fuels with a geographic focus on the western Balkans;”*



(ECE/ENERGY/WP.4/2008/3 IX 24)



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# The objective

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The goal of the project is to **demonstrate the feasibility** of converting municipal heat and power systems in the western Balkans to woody biomass using local renewable sources.



This should raise awareness at the policy level.



**The output will be detailed project proposals** for one or two municipalities in each of the participating countries.



# The status quo - Forestry in the Western Balkans

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## Forest resources increase in the region of the Western Balkans:

- + 71 000 ha/a (forest area)
- + 27 million m<sup>3</sup>/a (growing stock )

## Low material efficiency in the forest based industry

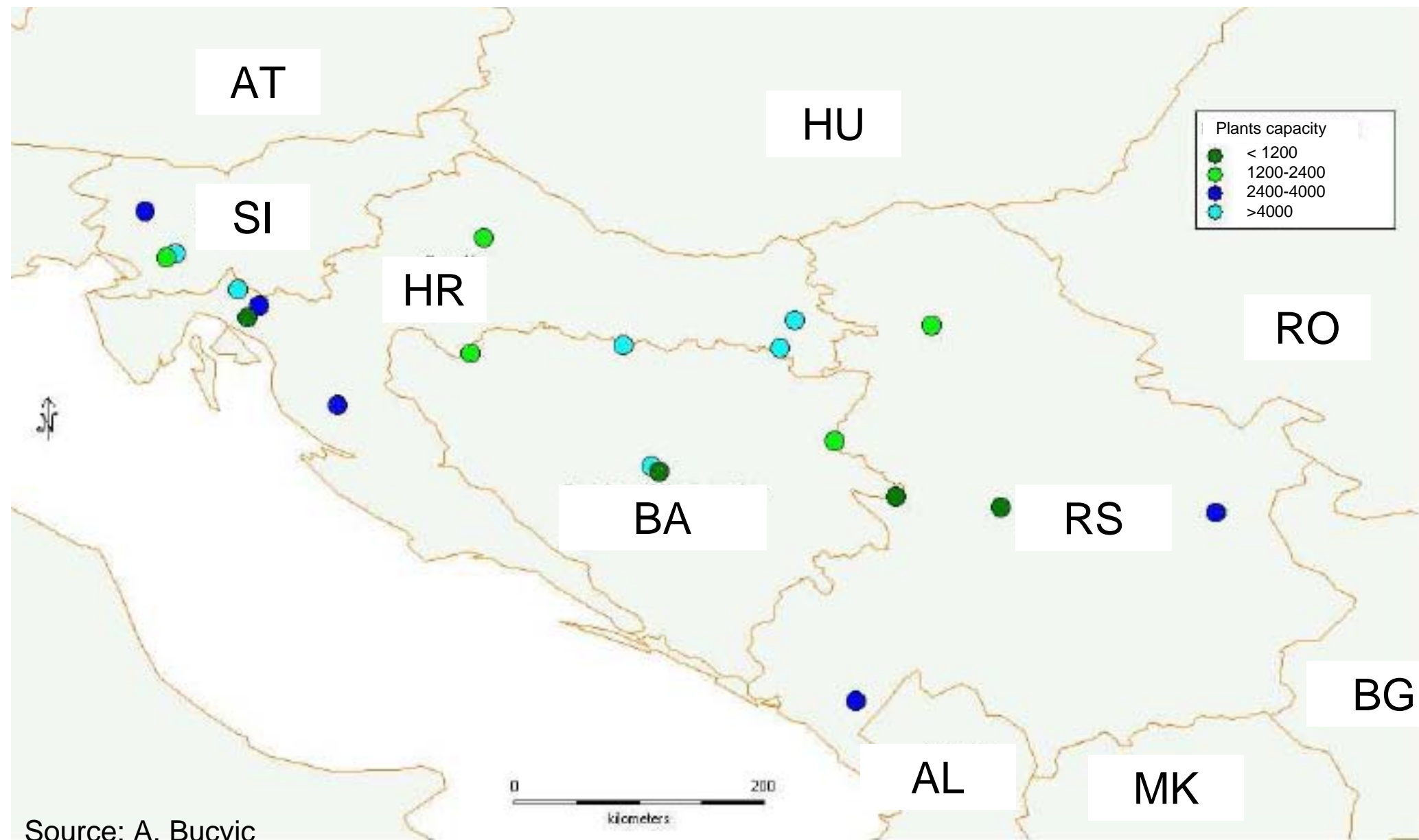
- co-products at very low/no costs

## Rapid development of a wood pellets industry

- No domestic market
- High transportation costs

Wood energy is and will continue to be the most important RES in the UNECE region.

# Some wood pellets plants' capacities



Source: A. Bucvic

# The status quo - Energy in the Western Balkans

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Central district heating plays a significant role in urban areas

Low energy efficiency of furnaces and boilers

Dependency on imported fossil fuels (notably gas and oil)

Negative perception of wood fuel in the target countries



# Proposed project steps ...





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- Set up a network of municipalities interested in switching to woody biomass for heating;
- Expert missions to the pilot areas to assess the market for wood energy;
- Organize a sub-regional workshop for policy-makers representing energy and forestry areas from target countries to raise awareness and to showcase examples;
- Prepare project proposals to convert municipalities (one or two per participating country) from heat and power systems based on fossil fuels to systems based on sustainable woody biomass;
- Organize a final conference to present pilot project proposals and lessons learned to the policy-makers and potential investors.



# Implementation

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	Countries:	All countries in the Western Balkans...
	Coordinator:	UNECE/FAO Timber Section, Geneva
	Possible cooperating Agencies:	UNECE Sustainable Energy Division, FAO, UNIDO, UNDP, UNEP, European Commission, ...
	National Implementing Agencies:	tbd.
	Duration:	2 years
	Starting Date:	Mid 2010 ideally upon availability of funds.
	Budget required:	450 000 €

**Cooperating partners of the EE 21 network are requested to consider funding this project proposal or to advise on potential donors.**



# UNECE/FAO Timber Section's work on wood energy in the region

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## Wood energy workshops

(Belgrade 2007 & 2008; Romania 2008; Latvia 2009)



## Joint Wood Energy Enquiry

Detailed information on amounts, sources and user of woody biomass for energy generation



## Working Party on Forest Economics & Statistics

Intensive and continued effort to improve wood energy statistics in the UNECE region

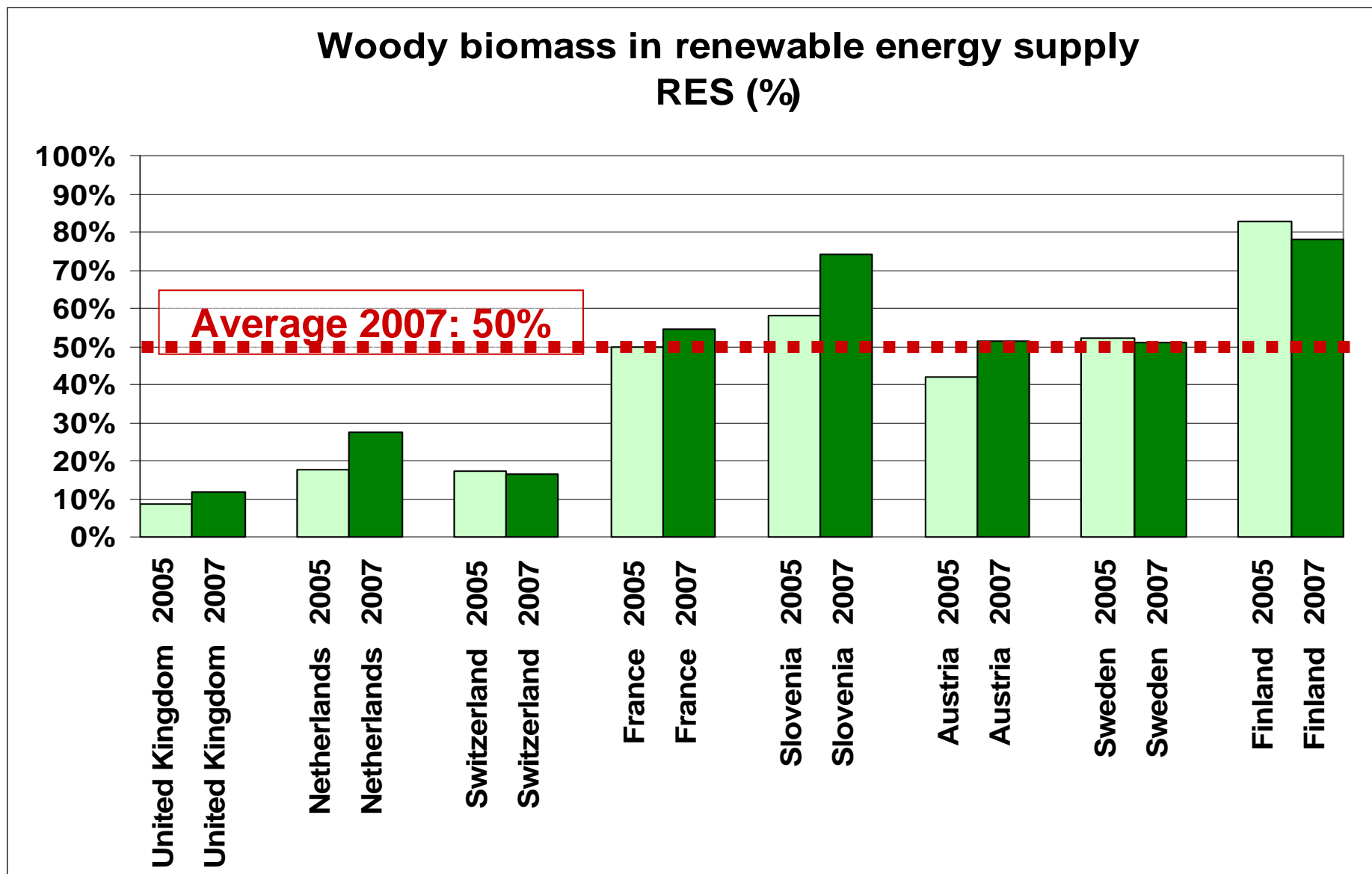


## Forest resource assessment 2010

Latest information on the forest resources



# JWEE - results



# Questions to the delegates

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- Is your country making some efforts to increase energy generation from woody biomass?
- Do you know of similar projects at the municipal / sub-national level?
- How would you evaluate the cooperation / communication between (forest) resource management, energy generating industry, consumer and investors?
- Could you advise on potential donors and partners?



**Thank you for your attention!**

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