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NEWSLETTER

SOUTH BALTIC FARMS
AN ESSENTIAL PART OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS

Interreg South Baltic

Co-funded by the European Union

www.biosolfarm.eu

Study Visit and Sustainable Energy Day

On June 19th and 20th 2024, project partners participated in study visits at farms around Mecklenburg-Vorpommern region in Germany. On June 21st, 2024 project partners met in Rostock, Germany to participate in Sustainable Energy Day at University of Rostock

Interreg Annual event

On September 24-25, 2024, project partners participated in The Annual Event 2024 of the Interreg South Baltic Programme 2021-2027 in the beautiful historic city of Stralsund in Germany.

WELCOME TO THE BIOSOLFARM PROJECT UPDATE!

We are pleased to share the latest developments and insights from the BIOSOLFarm project, a forward-looking initiative transforming agriculture across the South Baltic region through innovative renewable energy solutions.

BIOSOLFarm is dedicated to integrating renewable energy systems into agricultural practices. Running from September 2023 to August 2026, the project is co-financed by the Interreg South Baltic Programme, with a total budget of €1.72 million, €1.38 million of which is funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

The BIOSOLFarm project aims to create a greener, more resilient future by empowering small farmers and farm associations, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and strengthening energy and food security for local communities throughout the South Baltic Sea region. Recently, project partners participated in a study visit around the Mecklenburg-Vorpommern region and attended the annual Interreg event in Stralsund, where they shared insights and explored new collaboration opportunities.

STUDY VISIT AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY DAY

STUDY TOUR AT HOF POSTMA

This family-run dairy farm, located in Lambrechtshagen near Rostock, spans around 500 hectares of arable and grassland, and has around 10000 cows. The Postma farm leases a rooftop solar system on its stables and operates another system for its own consumption, which is fed into the grid. Cattle manure and food leftovers are utilized in a biogas plant with 350 kWp of electricity and 600 kWp heat. Run by Mr. Nils Postma, the farm exemplifies the progressive approach to renewable energies necessary for today's energy transition.

STUDY TOUR AT BGA KALSOW

The study tour continued to Kalsow, where the partners observed a highly professional farming operation featuring two rooftop solar systems with a total output of approx. 200 kW, alon with a biogas plant producing 250 kW of electrical and thermal energy. This sytem is supported by a local heating network of approx. 2000 meters with 17 transfer stations and a large thermal buffer storage tank. Additionally, Ostseebuernhof Hocke in Kalsow operates three wind turbines, each generating 2.3 MW. With this strong focus on renewable energies, several surrounding villages are supplied with electricity and heat from this farm.

STUDY TOUR AT SÖHNHOLZ – SCHWEINEZUCHT KG

The tour concluded with a visit to Schweinezucht KG, a farm specializing in piglet production, fattening, and arable farming, with a total agricultural area of approximately 550 hectares.

Given that pig production is highly energy-intensive, especially for piglet rearing, the farm is considering installing a solar system to reduce its reliance on woodchips.

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY DAY

On Friday, June 21, the BIOSOLFarm Conference was held as a Sustainable Energy Day at the University of Rostock. This inaugural project conference focused on biomass and highlighted the potential of biogas production. It provided a platform to discuss biomass utilization methods and heat utilization prospects, presented by Dr. Lenz from the German Biomass Research Centre. Dr. Narra from the University of Rostock presented the advantages and challenges of hybridizing energy systems, explaining that hybrid systems combining different energy sources offer benefits such as ensuring a stable energy supply for both electricity and heat. Other topics included the status of renewable energies in agriculture in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, heat transition with biogas, renewable heat in agriculture, and current developments in biogas production in Poland, Germany, and Lithuania.

THE ANNUAL EVENT 2024 OF THE INTERREG SOUTH BALTIC PROGRAMME 2021-2027

The Annual Event opened with a welcoming speech, followed by an insightful keynote from Mrs. Egija Stapkevica, Deputy Head of the VASAB Secretariat. Her address, "State of Territorial Development of the Baltic Sea Region – Background Synthesis Report to the VASAB Vision 2024," shared valuable perspectives on developments, emerging trends, and future challenges facing the Baltic Sea Region.
Following the opening session, participants explored project stands, creating an ideal space for networking and sharing recent achievements across ongoing projects. BIOSOLFarm project stand was visited by many distinguished guests.

After lunch, parallel workshops provided engaging sessions for all attendees, including:

1. Shaping Tomorrow: Future of the Interreg South Baltic Programme 2027+
2. Keep Calm and Implement Your Project: Practical Insights and Collaborative Strategies
3. Boosting Project Communication with AI: Tools for Enhanced Productivity

The workshops were followed by guided tours, giving participants the option to visit the Oceanarium or enjoy sightseeing around Stralsund. The evening concluded with a lively dinner accompanied by live music and DJ performances.

Day 2 focused on networking opportunities, including project idea pitches, interactive workshop reviews, and a celebration of Interreg Cooperation Day. The event wrapped up with a final lunch, leaving participants inspired and connected.

PROGRESS REVIEW AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

After the conference project partners shared information about project progress and had a knowledge exchange session about sustainable energy good practices in Rostock, Germany

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