

## RECIPE-meeting in Scheyern, 17/05 – 20/05/05

### **Minutes of socio-economy group discussion**

Participants: Amandine Fantoni, Viviane Froidevaux, Andreas Gattinger, Daniel Gilbert, Philippe Grosvernier, Walter Rosselli, Gerald Schwarz, Harri Vasander

In the breakout group three main issues have been discussed: Firstly, the availability of (additional) staff and the responsibilities for the work in the partner countries for the next tasks in WP7; secondly, Amandine presented the status quo of her work in France, and finally, the outline and main aspects for the common paper.

With respect to the availability of staff, it was noted that in Finland a student will be employed to do some further work, and in France, depending on the availability of money, Amandine might work another month in WP7. For Germany, at the time of the break-out group it was stated that no further staff will be employed to contribute to the socio-economic analysis, but at a later stage it was announced that one person will join the team to help Andreas. In Scotland and Switzerland no further student will be employed. Responsibilities for the socio-economic country reports have been discussed and defined as stated in the minutes of the Scheyern meeting.

Amandine presented a first overview of her work so far, entitled “French’s peatlands, uses and its socio-economic consequences”. Her presentation included aspects of peatland definitions, peatland distribution, wetland policy, peat markets, management of peatland conservation, and agricultural uses of peatland. She also gave a useful overview of some important socio-economic figures related to peat extraction such as employment, number of extraction sites, peat production and peat consumption divided into domestic and imported peat, whereby consumption figures summarized the developed for the last 30 years. The presentation was well received by the group and has been a useful update of her work.

Most of the time in the break-out group sessions has been spent on discussing the common paper which is entitled “Towards sustainable re-use options of rehabilitated peatlands in Europe - a comparative analysis of socio-economic implications and the impacts on the C balance”. 5 paper sections have been defined. Following the introduction, section 2 will describe the socio-economic importance of peat extraction in Europe and section 3 will then discuss sustainable utilisation of peatland: benefits and costs of extraction, rehabilitation and protection of peatland. Section 4 will identify and compare socio-economic benefits of different re-use options of peatland and their impacts on the C balance and other environmental aspects and finally section 5 will provide conclusions. In terms of the next steps of the paper preparation, it has been agreed that GS will circulate a draft for a template for section 4 which will then be revised by the group and filled in by the country teams. GS will also provide a draft for section 2 (based on last year’s conference paper), while PG will provide further information, or a draft for, on section 3 based on his discussion outline prepared for the Scheyern meeting.

To facilitate the progress of the common paper a socio-economic group meeting in Frick, Switzerland, from 28/09 – 29/09 will be organized bringing together members of the different country teams.

GS, 10/09/2005