

# DiBiCoo Promotes International Cooperation in the Field of Biogas



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**DiBiCoo – Digital Global Biogas Cooperation is an international project supported by the European Union in the context of the Horizon 2020 program for research and innovation. DiBiCoo started in October 2019 and will end in June 2022. The project supports the European biogas industry and also prepares new biogas markets in developing and emerging countries for sustainable biogas/biomethane technologies. This will be achieved by the development and application of innovative digital and non-digital tools and communication platforms by knowledge transfer and capacity building, as well as by the preparation of demonstration projects in potential biogas markets.**

By Marc Reinhard

The project consortium is represented by seven European organizations and companies from Germany, Austria, Latvia and Belgium and six non-European project partners from Argentina,

Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia and South Africa. DiBiCoo contributes to the reduction of GHG emissions caused by the disposal of organic waste and with that, makes an important contribution to climate protection. The share of renewable energy generation is



DiBiCoo Kick-Off Meeting in Brussels in October 2019 with participants from all 13 participating organisations. Sebastian Stolpp from the German Biogas Association was there. The aim was to get together of the consortium and to coordinate the content of the project.

increased by international biogas projects. The project also contributes to energy security and creates sustainable jobs in rural areas.

In this article we will present a selection of the most important products/tools and measures by DiBiCoo. The online **Biogas Matchmaking Platform [www.biogasplatform.eu](http://www.biogasplatform.eu)** facilitates international cooperation and partnerships and provides an additional marketing option for biogas companies from Europe. It acts as a database for those interested in biogas from all over the world. Moreover it offers a matchmaking and exchange platform for interesting new business opportunities in the area of biogas in Europe and in developing and emerging countries.

The biogas platform has three functional areas:

1. The **company profiles** in which biogas market participants can register free of charge. It helps stakeholders all over the world to find appropriate partners. There are filters that sort the offered technologies and services and filters that enable geographical searches. An interactive world map shows companies and their international projects. Registered users can also have their profile searches evaluated and are then informed about important business opportunities.
2. The second area contains the **business opportunities**. This is where those interested in biogas projects get together. It may include, for example, companies outside of Europe searching for European manufacturers. And it may also establish the contact among project partners in Europe. A digital assistant provides step-by-step support in specifying the business opportunities.
3. The third functional area is the **knowledge base**. It includes various surveys, fact sheets, leaflets and other documents that provide interested parties with biogas knowledge. This section also publishes important direct results of the DiBiCoo projects on technologies, biogas markets, general conditions and financing options.

The Ethiopian organization ICEADDIS (<https://www.iceaddis.com/>) held a two-day DiBiCoo capacity building workshop. It was a biogas training course in Addis Abeba. It took place on February 15 and 16, 2021 in hybrid format.

Both the participants and the specialist speakers were partly on site, partly via online meetings. Frank Hofmann from Fachverband Biogas e.V. gave two lectures.



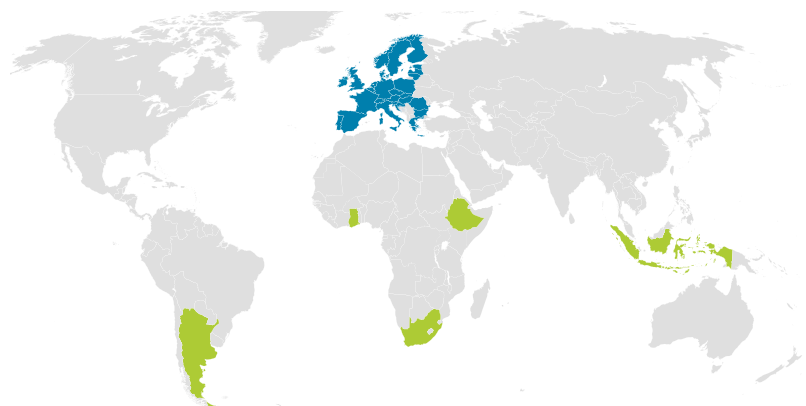
Currently, international biogas projects and tenders are also showing a noticeable trend toward quality assurance, reliability, environmental and sustainability criteria and safety. That is why the German Biogas Association (Fachverband Biogas e.V.) is preparing a working paper with the DiBiCoo partners on biogas standards. It will be published soon on the biogas platform. Registered companies will also be able to enter relevant biogas standards in their profiles on the platform, which could be an additional marketing instrument for them. The platform is currently still closely linked with the DiBiCoo project but will be continued on a sustainable basis by the German Biogas Association after completion of the project.

### Capacity Building and Sharing Knowledge

One of the biggest obstacles for the biogas markets in developing and emerging countries is the lack of qualified personnel for the operation of biogas plants and the lack of biogas know-how by important decision-makers. Another important element of DiBiCoo is therefore sharing biogas knowledge. This is achieved through various measures:

- ▶ Biogas know-how is being disseminated in a series of web seminars. A wide range of topics is covered, starting with basic biogas knowledge, to such as feedstock and the use of digestate, through biomethane and safety. The web seminars are still available online and most of the presentations can be accessed via the DiBiCoo website (<https://dibicoo.org/?p=942>).
- ▶ Specific country information can be found on the DiBiCoo website. For example, there is a “Description of European Legal, Institutional and Political Frameworks” and the “Overview and Categorization of European Biogas

**DiBiCoo project partners: Countries that export biogas/biomethane technology (blue) and potential import countries (green)**



Technologies”. Additionally, there can be found also information about the framework conditions and financing options for biogas in the DiBiCoo partner countries like Argentina, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia and South Africa (<https://dibicoo.org/?cat=8>).

- ▶ There is a series of local capacity building workshops in the partner countries. The contents are designed for local market players. Issues and challenges are presented and discussed that are particularly relevant to those countries. In addition to that, matchmaking events have been organized and further events are currently being planned. The aim of the events is to bring international stakeholders together with European biogas companies. DiBiCoo is also being presented at various national and international conferences, including the Biogas Convention of the German Biogas Association (Fachverband Biogas e.V.).

### Demonstration and Follower Projects

Demonstration projects which receive special support by DiBiCoo have been selected

for each partner country (Argentina, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia and South Africa) Among other things, they include research on the feasibility and economic viability of the projects. Besides that, several follower projects have been supported. There are plans to present the demonstration projects as “business opportunities” on the DiBiCoo platform.

### Dissemination

Various media provide current news about DiBiCoo and its activities. They include company newsletters by Fachverband Biogas and social media like LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter. There is also a video linked to the DiBiCoo page which presents the project [https://dibicoo.org/?page\\_id=1087](https://dibicoo.org/?page_id=1087) ◀

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