



# SolidStandards

Enhancing the implementation of quality and sustainability standards and certification schemes for solid biofuels (EIE/11/218)



Training over outpellets  
3 June 2013, Utrecht



## Het SolidStandards project

Het SolidStandards-project is gericht op doorlopende en recente ontwikkelingen die betrekking hebben op kwaliteits- en duurzaamheidsaspecten van vaste biobrandstoffen, in het bijzonder de ontwikkeling van daarmee samenhangende normen en certificatieschema's. Het SolidStandards-project is bedoeld om belanghebbenden uit de industrie voor vaste biobrandstoffen informatie en training te bieden op het gebied van normalisatie en certificatie. Hun feedback wordt verzameld en voorgelegd aan de desbetreffende normalisatiecommissies en beleidsmakers.

SolidStandards wordt geïmplementeerd door de projectpartners Holzforschung Austria, VTT (Technisch Onderzoekscentrum van Finland), DBFZ (Duitse Biomassa Onderzoekscentrum), NEN (Nederlands Normalisatie-instituut), Utrecht Universiteit (Nederland), AEBIOM (Associatie voor Europese Biomassa), FORCE Technology (Denemarken), BAPE (Baltische Energie Conservering Agentschap, Polen), ERATO Holding (Bulgarije) en REGEA (Noordwest Kroatië Regionale Energie Agentschap).

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## Over dit document

Dit document maakt deel uit van **Deliverable 3.1** van het SolidStandards-project. Het betreft de trainingsrapportage over houtpellets, die gehouden is op 3 juni 2013. Deze rapportage is geschreven door:

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## Intelligent Energy Europe

Het SolidStandards-project wordt meegefinancierd door de Europese Unie in het kader van het Intelligent Energy Europe Programme (Contract No. EIE/11/218).



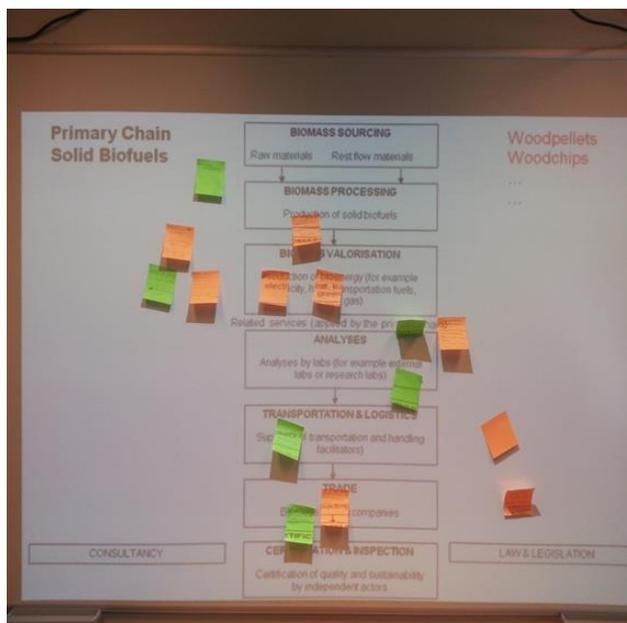
Co-funded by the Intelligent Energy Europe  
Programme of the European Union

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## 1. Event summary

On 3 June 2013 NEN organised the last of two training events (the first training event was organised in 2012). NEN took feedback and suggestions from the first edition into account for improvement of the training programme (the slides were kept unchanged). The training was mainly focussed on 'wood pellets' and 'sustainability', but other types of solid biofuels were also taken into account.

The training event consisted of an interactive session, based on good experience with it during the first training event. The aim was to discuss both the matters that were already well-organized/regulated (written by participants on green sticky notes) and the possible bottlenecks and solutions for the further development of the Dutch solid biofuels market (written by participants on orange sticky notes). The focus of the interactive part was not only on wood pellets and sustainability, but also on other topics, brought up and clarified by participants themselves, followed by a group discussion



Picture 1: Interactive session – discussion with sticky notes

## 2. Participants<sup>12</sup>

The training event was attended by twenty-four participants. The actual target was (an average of) twenty participants. NEN did not want to disappoint persons who showed interest in attending, and therefore extended the number of participants to twenty-four. The table below shows the representation of the participants.

Table 1: Number of participants

Solid biofuel production	Solid biofuel end-use	Trade and logistics	Training	Standardisation or certification	Other	TOTAL
7 (29%)	2 (8%)	8 (33 %)	1 (4%)	4 (17%)	2 (8%)	24

As for the performance indicators, the target of 50% of solid biofuel producer has not been met (result 29%). The target of representation of 15% end-users also has also not been met (result was 8%). The Dutch solid biofuels production market is still small and consumption even decreased a little bit in the past years. Most of the production is aimed at industrial use

<sup>1</sup> REMARK: This report speaks about 'the industry', but that also includes stakeholders like government and industry/trade associations.

<sup>2</sup> REMARK: The (external) trainers were also considered participants.

(e.g., utilities consuming wood pellets for co-firing). Two major power companies, who own such utilities in The Netherlands, were present. On the other hand, an 'over-'representation of 33% trade and logistics companies occurred. The 'Solid biofuels industry' in The Netherlands is a net importing industry. A big part of the Dutch industry consists of trade and logistics companies. This can be an explanation of this composition.

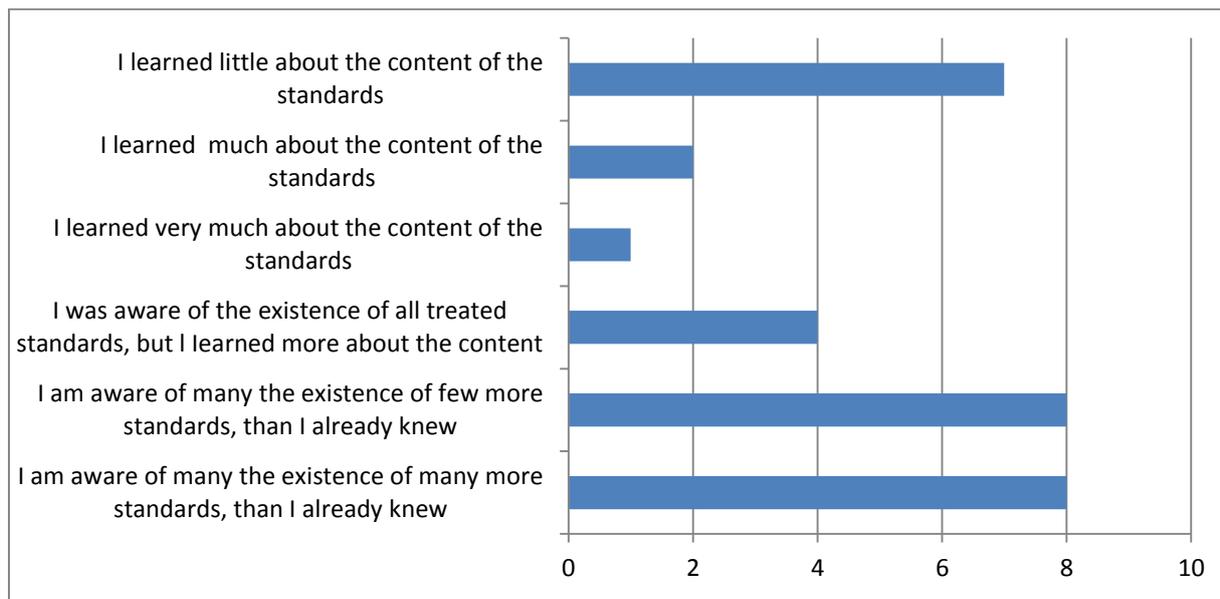
From the participants, three certification bodies were represented (target was one), and two CEN experts were present as well (target was one). One company intended to participate with two persons, but one of them did not show up (due to an unforeseen event). NEN was informed by them the (Fri)day before. This was the only no show. Two other persons showed their interest during the preparation phase as well, but eventually cancelled their participation in the weeks before, otherwise, the total of participants would have been 27. Their seats were taken by participants who also showed interest in the meantime.

### 3. Quality of the training

#### 3.1. Feedback from participants<sup>3</sup>

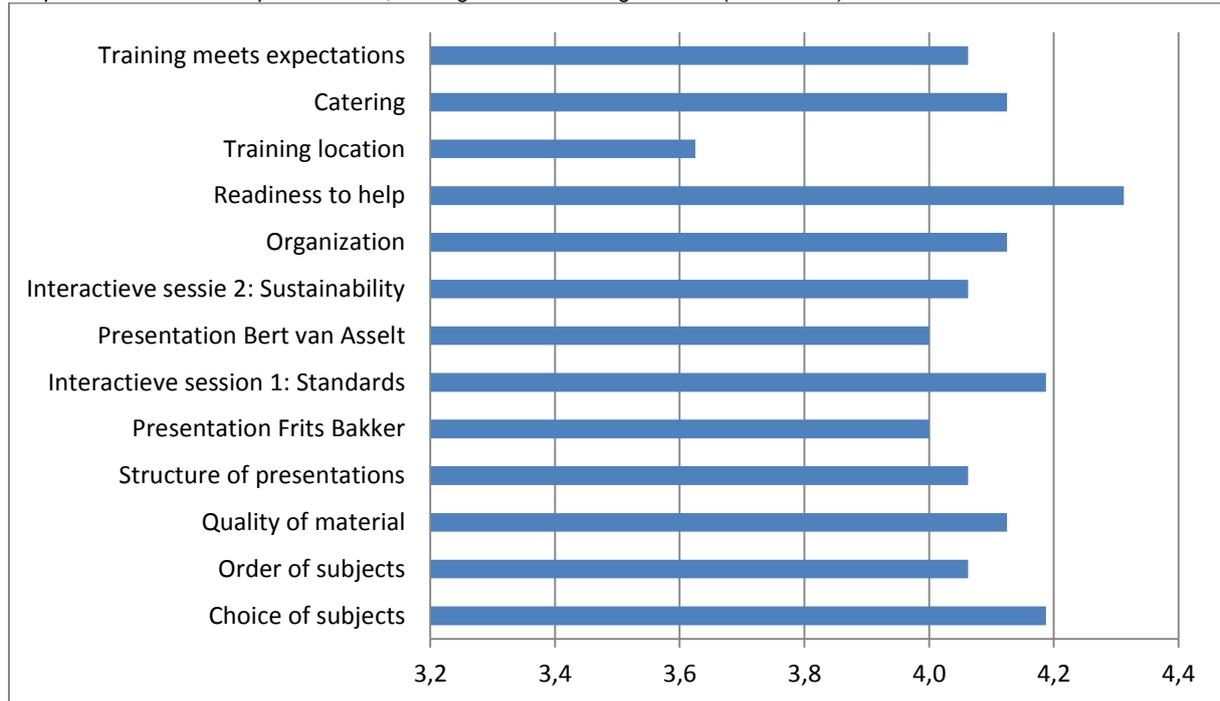
The graphs below summarise the evaluation by the participants.

Graph 1: Feedback about what participants learned and are aware of



<sup>3</sup> Not all participants filled in the questionnaire in (completely). Participants were able to fill in more than one answer for some of the multiple choice questions.

Graph 2: Feedback about presentations, training facilities and organisation (scale is 1-5)



### 3.2. Lessons learned and conclusions

In general, the training materials were satisfactory for the purpose they have been developed. It appeared that there is a lot of interest in solid biofuels in relation to standardisation, and also in such training events. This also appears from the evaluation by the participants. Some participants indicated that training material was quite extensive (both in a positive and negative way) and rather theoretic. Sometimes some slides contained too much text/information.

It was suggested to integrate a practical case in the training (for example a specific company case). This could help to further introduce the standards during the training. The time schedule and duration (one day) met the participants' needs.

Practical exercises (for example sampling or quality testing) were not part of the training session, but were also not missed by the participants (despite the fact that it was suggested in the Zagreb project meeting by HFA).

## 4. Conclusions

Based on the feedback from the second training event, no problems were envisaged to have enough participants for the second training event. The SolidStandards training event and materials were an excellent way to further inform the industry about solid biofuels standards and certification.