

## **Regional approaches for the development of bioenergy: an immolation of sustainability for economic prospects?**

**Moritz Albrecht, Jarmo Kortelainen, Jani Lukkarinen Teijo Rytteri**

As a part of the EU transition towards renewable energy systems and a low-carbon economy various member states and affiliated countries may choose their own approaches within the common EU 2020 target framework. Looking at the EU 2020 low-carbon policy documents it is highlighted that security of supply and sustainability of the energy sector are the key policy targets. Nevertheless, when moving from EU nodes of policy design towards materialization we can see how policy programmes are subject to multiple loops of translation and shifting rationalities concerning the aims for their implementation. In that regard, a frequent shift towards economic aims for local bioenergy development can be noticed. The paper discusses regional/local policy approaches in four countries; Finland, Germany, Estonia and Norway with a critical perspective on the underlying rationalities for policy materialization. Based on multiple case studies and expert interviews in the four countries the paper shows that while a shift towards economic rationalities can produce development progress and entail localized economical restructuration processes it carries the risk that the initial goals, particularly those regarding sustainability are lost on the way despite the awareness of local actors. Additionally, as feedback to policy makers becomes more restricted to these economic aspects of local materialization, it appears likely that aspects of sustainability might be marginalized also in the nodes of policy design.