

Buongiorno a tutti! My name is Edoardo Desiderio and I'm a 24 Italian master's degree student in Economics and Management, curriculum Food System Management! From March to June 2018, thanks also to the contribution of RPLC, I conducted a research period abroad at the University of Missouri-Columbia, where I have gathered data, attended seminars and conferences, visited power plants and feedstock sites useful for the preparation of my master thesis titled "***Policy drivers in the woody biomass market in Emilia Romagna and Missouri***".

The exchange period took place in the city of Columbia, Missouri, at the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, where I have conducted my research at the Department of Forestry. Columbia is a small city in the heart of the American Missouri, where I had the opportunity to spend three months of my life and have a taste of the "*Midwest kindness*". This period in the United States has been helpful to define the problem statement of my thesis and to organize my job following a different research method. Since the thesis evolved around the definition of policy drivers, being on the place gave me the opportunity to visit the rural areas of Missouri, allowing me to speak and discuss issues with professional workers directly involved in the woody biomass field.

After due considerations, Missouri could enhance the utilization of woody biomass improving the grid of infrastructure that connect the most inhabited part of the State, the Northern one, to the southern one, the one where woody feedstock sites are.

Edoardo Desiderio