

European wood Policy Platform (woodPoP)

Upscaling wood policy cooperation in Europe: rationale and achievements

Technical Working Group (TWG)
Innovation & Research

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The rationale

- The potential of the renewable resource wood, wood-based products and the wood-based value chain is increasingly recognized:
 - Contributions to climate change mitigation and sustainable economies and societies
 - key factor in the transition towards a CO₂-neutral and circular bioeconomy
- Exchange on best practices, expertise and coordination among administration, industry and research to strengthen the essential role of wood is lacking.
- In 2021, Austria and Finland join forces to upscale activities at the bilateral, European and global level.

Goals of the platform

Develop wood-related policy solutions, measures and recommendations

- create a joint understanding on **efficient, future-oriented** wood-based pathways
- support the **harmonization of regulations and standardization**

Shape the frameworks for sustainable wood-based value chains

- support the **implementation of wood promotion programs**
- scale up **cooperation** on **effective wood policy development and implementation**

Stimulate innovation and exchange

- encourage **policy dialogue** on the **sustainable production and consumption of wood**
- bring together **policy, science and practice**

Increase visibility of the added value of enhanced wood use

- position the **wood building sector** as a key **driver for inclusive green growth**
- nourish **existing initiatives** and **networks**

Technical Working Group (TWG) Innovation & Research

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Meetings in 2024 - 2025

Completed:

- **31 January 2024:**
 - Discussions on public and private programs to promote wood in construction.
 - Assessment of innovation project funding and their TRL-level.
 - Exploration of bi- and multilateral cooperation financing.
- **In November and December 2024: online meetings – Overview of ongoing research and innovation projects; feedback on report**

Upcoming **physical meeting**:

- **Beginning 2025:**
 - Workshop on the European forestry-wood RTDI capacity report
 - Analysis of financing opportunities for commercialising innovations
 - Formulation of policy recommendations.

Objectives & outcomes

Objectives:

- Identify and showcase exemplary practices and challenges in wood research and innovation transfer to businesses
- Develop a European map illustrating the commercialisation and market adoption of wood innovations

Outcomes:

- Comprehensive list of priority policy recommendations
- Curated catalogue of public and private programs supporting wood innovations
- Action plan for 2025 and onwards.



Objectives & outcomes

Key Outcomes Expected:

- Support for the wood industry (particularly SMEs)
- Collaboration with European Investment Bank (EIB), which will invest in the bioeconomy €1 trillion until 2030
- Growth and development through mobilised resources

Focus Areas:

1. Research Coordination (Pan-European Level)
2. Financial Instruments for Innovation
Develop tools specifically for business innovations (non-research programs).

Special Focus:

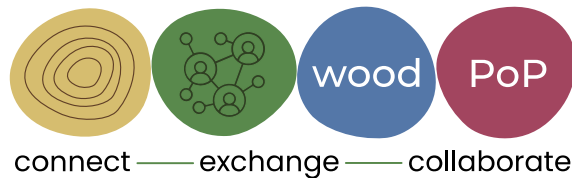
- **Commercialising Research and Innovation:** In-depth case studies from Switzerland, Austria, France, Finland, Denmark, Germany, Sweden, and Luxembourg to be detailed.
- **European R&D Capacity Map:** A visual tool to enhance research visibility and bridge innovations with market demands.
- **Funding Program Analysis:** A comprehensive review of public and private financing mechanisms for SMEs in the wood sector, with a particular focus on **hardwood** utilisation.


Upcoming meetings:

- **Tuesday 12.11.2024, 9:00-12:00 CET:**
 - A) Funds and foundations for innovation: We kindly request your feedback regarding innovation funds and foundations in your country/region. A link to provide this information will be sent in a separate email.
 - B) Overview of ongoing research and innovation projects on a Pan European scale: Your expertise will be invaluable in helping us discuss and map these efforts.
- **Tuesday, 10.12.2024, 9:00-12:00 CET:**
 - Review of the 2024 report of activities
 - Development of the 2025 action plan for the working group and beyond.
 - An executive summary of the report and draft action plan will be shared ahead of the meeting.

 **Forest Fund**
Republic of Austria

An initiative by the Federal Ministry
of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions
and Water Management



 **Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft**
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications DETEC
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Thank you for your attention

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