

IN2WOOD

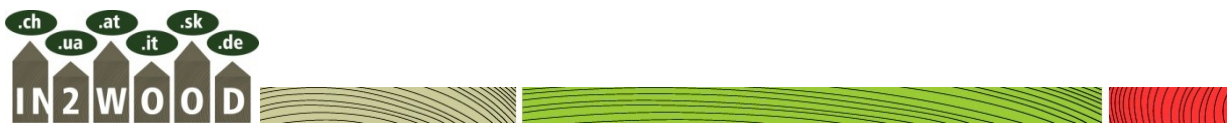
Forest Clusters Development and Implementation Measures of a 6-Region Strategic Joint Action Plan for Knowledge-based Regional Innovation

What and who is IN2WOOD? IN2WOOD is co-funded by the EU with 2.3 million Euro under the FP7 CAPACITIES Programme "Regions of Knowledge" and runs from January 2010 to June 2012. The 13 participating partners represent the wood & forest clusters in Slovakia (Baňská Bystrica), Ukraine (Carpathia), Italy (South Tyrol), Switzerland (Grisons), Germany (North Rhine-Westphalia), Austria (Styria). Watch the video under <http://www.in2wood.eu/index.php/in2wood/general-information> (English and German versions are available)

The European forest-based sector plays an important role for the sustainable society. Shaping the future markets by strategic integration of research and technological development, therefore, is a prime European objective. The European Commission expects substantial effects for the forest-based sector by cross-linking regional clusters. IN2WOOD is co-funded within the 7th Framework Program (Capacities), "Regions of Knowledge" (ROK). Structured by this frame, the IN2WOOD coordination activities are carried out by a "triple helix" of research, regional authority and industry (SMEs) representing the forest-based sector in each partner region. Their overall working program comprises new methods for sustainable forest management, urban timber construction and efficient use of wood energy, logistics, innovation systems and a transregional information system.

The main instrument to realize these objectives is the IN2WOOD 6-region strategic joint action plan which paves the way for the implementation of several pilot concepts in the resp. working areas. A speciality of the ROK work program is the "Mentoring" process, designed to develop a broader cooperation of clusters with different areas of expert knowledge and structural development. The six IN2WOOD regions therefore invite to participate in an open process of strategic cooperation of European Wood Clusters.

What are the main targets of IN2WOOD? The formation of an European network of wood clusters integrating research, administration and business partners is the main issue of the IN2WOOD work plan. The partners exchange their knowledge, best practices and regional contact networks in order to shape strategic joint actions in relevant areas of forestry and wood industry. Actors representing the wood value added chain ranging from forestry to pellet production or multi-storey timber building manufacturers are integrated to develop



effective and sustainable cooperation at all levels. Through the project's mentoring process, the network has already expanded and established a number of new active contacts in South Eastern Europe.

Pilots Concepts – an integral part of IN2WOOD Pilot concepts within Regions of Knowledge are defined as preparatory work for post-project realization: "Specified RTD input from the partnering regions shall lead to clearly focused innovative concepts including feasibility analyses and financing/funding schemes. Pilot concepts prepare joint best practice examples, which are designed to be realized by partners in a regionally well adapted way with regionally differing priorities." The IN2WOOD approach extended the definition of pilot concepts by including mentoring partners from SEE into the network of the consortium partners. Given that matching competences and needs of both IN2WOOD partners and mentoring partners form the pre-conditions for potentially successful partnerships, four criteria, namely transnational importance, high visibility, high impact on existing value chains, and transferability were applied for the selection and prioritization of seven pilot concepts, namely

Pilot Concept: Silvicultural Systems for Storm-Damaged Forest Stands

Pilot Concept: Wood Production Systems for Marginally Productive Sites & Wastelands

Pilot Concept: Cluster Development Measures supporting Innovation and Information Systems

Pilot Concept: Urban Wood Competence Centre

Pilot Concept: Strategic Network Woody Biomass

Pilot Concept: Forest Disaster Management and Emergency Logistics

Pilot Concept: Forest-based Eco-Tourism

Networking – Cooperation – Mentoring The mentoring process is an essential aspect of building European Regions of Knowledge networks. In a joint mentoring process more and more partners were invited to join the IN2WOOD network as mentoring regions. During the run-time of IN2WOOD the mentoring interface was expanded to 70 additional experts from 13 countries in East and Southeast Europe:

- Mentoring partners have become directly involved as external experts into IN2WOOD's objectives to develop regionally adopted strategies and pilot concepts.
- The IN2WOOD network actively supported the matching of bi- to multi-lateral partnerships of institutions in the IN2WOOD and mentoring regions on all levels: research, forest administration and business.
- Several new transborder cooperations between IN2WOOD partners and mentoring partners have been initiated after the first mentoring workshop. Although, these cooperation were linked closely to the IN2WOOD process, they are meanwhile progressing as "spin offs" outside the IN2WOOD project.

Apart from public events like mentoring workshops and conferences on the major International Fairs Klagenfurt 2010, LIGNA Hannover 2011, and DEUBAU Essen, 2012, IN2WOOD partners deepened their strategic partnerships with institutions from East and Southeast Europe through bilateral study trips and focused expert meetings.

For further information have a look at www.in2wood.eu >> [Networking](#), or contact Mr. Roland Oberwimmer, Holzcluster Steiermark GmbH, oberwimmer@holzcluster-steiermark.at, Tel.: +43(0)3577/22 225-316