

## The European Wood Policy Platform (woodPoP)

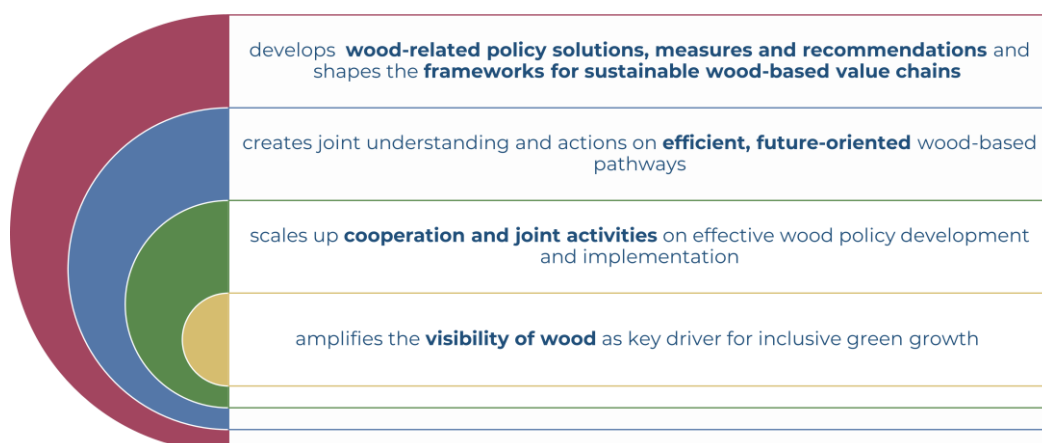
In the context of combating climate change, a growing number of countries, regions, cities and communities in Europe, as well as in other parts of the world, aim to **enhance the sustainable use of wood and other renewable materials by fostering a forest-based bioeconomy**. The renewable resource wood and other wood-based materials play a vital role in enabling the transformation towards a carbon neutral circular economy and climate positive society.

Against this background, the ‘European Wood Policy Platform’ (woodPoP) has been initiated by Finland and Austria. As countries with a long tradition in using wood as a construction material as well as wood-related policy development, they have **joined forces to upscale wood related activities** at the European and global level.

woodPoP provides a dedicated forum for **multilateral policy, knowledge and experience exchange between public and private actors** from the wood sector at developing policy solutions at national and regional level. Building on best practices, it focuses on developing policy solutions to enhance the sustainable production and consumption of wood and its contribution to an innovative, circular bioeconomy.

On 1 December 2022, the first High Level Meeting of the European Wood Policy Platform (HLM) took place in Innsbruck, Austria where the “woodPoP CALL on upscaling wood policy cooperation in Europe” was agreed. As an important reference document, at the Second High Level Meeting in Helsinki/hybrid on 4 October 2023, the over 80 participants from 19 countries agreed on **Guidelines** as a clear and transparent working environment for the platform.

### The European Wood Policy Platform (woodPoP) pursues the following goals:



### Participants of the platform

- Government officials and representatives from the Pan-European region working with wood policy and wood-related matters;
- Representatives of wood-related international, regional, stakeholder and research organisations;
- Experts in the respective field and technical subject matters;
- Interested participants, including from other regions, can join as observers upon expression of interest.

## Chair of the platform

Mr. Georg Rappold, Head of Division Wood-based Value Chain, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management of Austria and

## Meeting formats

**The High Level Meeting (HLM)** is main decision-making body, attended by delegations from Pan-European ministries led by high-level government officials (for instance Ministers, Secretaries of State, Director Generals, Directors) as well as regional and stakeholder organisations and observers.

**The Expert Group Meeting (EGM)** is the main forum for exchange on an operational level, with the participation of national and regional ministries and private sector, representatives from stakeholder, research, as well as regional organizations and networks.

**Technical Working Groups (TWG)** develop recommendations and policy solutions on specific subject matters. Participation is open to representatives from public and private sector, interest groups, research organizations and networks, government officials and invited experts.

### Activities of the Technical Working Groups:

<b>Governance</b> (Co-Lead: AT) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Presentations from national wood policy programs and initiatives on 13 September 2023</li><li>– Special meeting on Wood Governance in Europe and beyond on 29 November 2023</li><li>– <b>2024: Update of the Study on Wood Policy in Europe, Organisation of a Wood Policy Lab ,Developing key messages for policy-makers for Designing and Implementing National Wood Policy Programmes'</b></li></ul>
<b>Building</b> (Co-Leads: FI + DE) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Workshop on fire regulation in wooden building on 3 December 2023</li><li>– <b>2024: Subgroup on public procurement</b></li></ul>
<b>Innovation and Research</b> (Co-Lead: CH) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Questionnaire on national research initiatives</li><li>– <b>2024: Innovation mapping and Workshop on wood research and innovation</b></li></ul>
<b>Education and vocational training</b> (Co-Lead: SI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Country survey on educational program, focus interdisciplinary training and attractiveness</li><li>– <b>2024: Support the development of micro credentials on wood, and its use EQF Timber</b></li></ul>
<b>Communication and information</b> (Co-Lead: CZ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Wood promotion and advocacy</li><li>– <b>2024: Preparatory work for a European wood building contest</b></li></ul>

## How to join woodPoP

**Everybody interested in the European Wood Policy Platform (woodPoP) is warmly welcome to participate!** Depending on your field of profession and expertise there are many opportunities to get actively involved.

**Join our LinkedIn-Page or the Technical Working Groups via the QR code below.** You will also find links to website articles and videos as well as the woodPoP Call and Guidelines.

You can also contact us via [contact@woodpop.eu](mailto:contact@woodpop.eu)

