

European Wood Policy Platform (WoodPoP)

3rd High Level Meeting

6 November 2024

Austrian Permanent Representation to the EU

Avenue de Cortenbergh 30, 1040 Brussels

Opening of the Meeting

H.E. Franz Wirtenberger

Deputy Permanent Representative of Austria to the EU

Video Message

Minister Norbert Totschnig

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management,
Austria

Key Note Speech

Mr. Alexander Bernhuber

Member of the European Parliament

Key Note Speech

Mr. İsmail Belen

Chair of the UNFF Bureau

Item 1

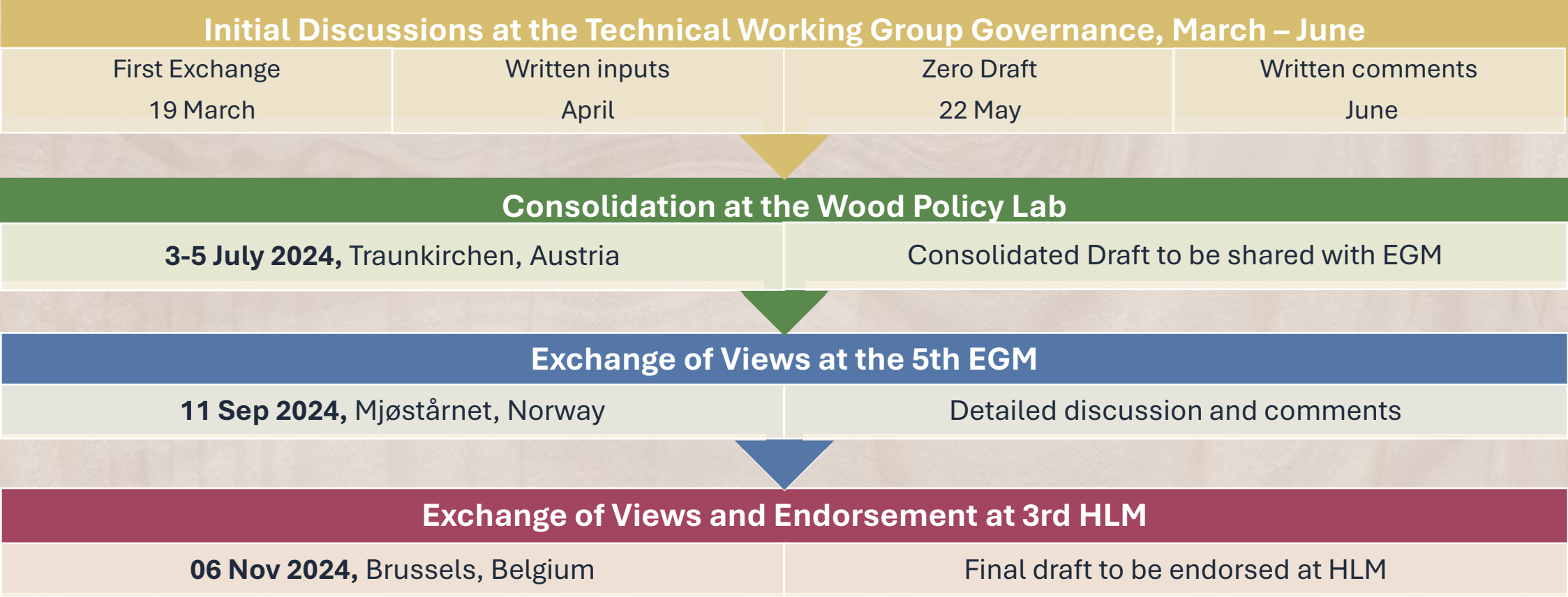
Exchange of views on the Policy Paper

Item 1.1

Introduction of the Wood Policy Paper

An exploration of the development process and framework of the Wood Policy Paper

WoodPoP Policy Paper Process



Video from the Wood Policy Lab

Traunkirchen, Austria | 03 – 05 July 2024

A wood-based circular bioeconomy for a sustainable Europe

Green construction and innovative wood solutions



Rationale

- **Joint understanding of public and private actors** along the value chain for **strengthening the wood-based circular bioeconomy in Europe** with a special focus on the construction sector
- Identification of **critical fields of action**
- Identification of **necessary structural short to long-term framework conditions**, as well as suitable instruments and resources

Definition

For the purpose of this Policy Paper, sustainable wood policy is understood as the following:

- A **sustainable wood policy** integrates the principles of **Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)** into the **wood-based value chain**, ensuring a **holistic approach from sustainable forest management to the end-product** meeting both present-day and future needs.
- It encompasses **environmentally sound practices, social responsibility,** and **economic viability** throughout **the entire process of timber production, processing, and distribution.**

A wood-based circular bioeconomy for a sustainable Europe



- 1 **Wood Sourcing and Supply Chain Management**
- 2 **Circular Utilization**
- 3 **Wood Processing and Manufacturing**
- 4 **Construction and Buildings**
- 5 **Develop Smart and Novel Wood Uses**
- 6 **Skills and Education**
- 7 **Communication and Awareness**
- 8 **Governance: Regulatory Compliance, Harmonisation, and Circularity**

1 WOOD SOURCING AND SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

- **Strengthen sustainable forest management**, including reforestation, climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation, and ecosystem resilience
- Ensure **availability of wood resources** for all wood-based industries

2 CIRCULAR UTILIZATION

- Support **circular thinking, eco-design and action in all stages of processing and service life**, allowing reuse of the relevant product system and its materials
- Create favorable conditions for **reuse and recycling** of wood
- Encourage **sequential use of biomass as a material** maximising economic, environmental, and social benefits with a final use as an energy source

3 WOOD PROCESSING AND MANUFACTURING

- Incentivise **investments in modernisation, enhanced efficiency and productivity, better resource management** as well as innovation and new business models

4 CONSTRUCTION AND BUILDINGS

- **Review and remove obstacles for wood construction** (i.e. height and floor area allowances)
- Apply scientifically-based **Life Cycle Analysis (LCA) accounting rules** (quantifying long-term biogenic carbon storage of wood)

5 SMART AND NOVEL WOOD USES

- Encourage **pan-European and transnational programmes** to foster innovation, research and development
- Support **novel uses for wood** (including processing residues and post-consumer wood)

6 SKILLS AND EDUCATION

- Foster **advanced, modern, and interdisciplinary education and vocational training courses**
- Promote **mutual recognition of diplomas and training including micro-credentials**

7

COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS

- Highlight the **contribution of sustainably managed forests and wood products to tackling climate change** and advancing opportunities within a circular bioeconomy
- Urge government entities to embrace the **multiple benefits of wood in planning and development endeavors** (including green procurement)

8

GOVERNANCE: REGULATORY COMPLIANCE, HARMONISATION, & CIRCULARITY

- Encourage **pan-European, national and regional wood programmes and initiatives** integrating best practices
- Foster **cooperation between public and private actors**
- Foster **meaningful engagement and participatory processes** to consult stakeholders

Item 1.2

Exchange of Views and Endorsement of the Wood Policy Paper

Item 1.3

Group Photo



**Scan to access the Policy
Paper and Association Form**

The cover features a photograph of a person with a bicycle walking through a long, narrow tunnel made of vertical wooden slats. The slats are illuminated from within, creating a warm, golden glow. In the background, a city street at night is visible through the end of the tunnel. In the top right corner, there are three circular icons: a yellow one with a tree ring pattern, a green one with a molecular structure, and a purple one with a person icon. Below these icons are two overlapping circles, one blue labeled 'wood' and one purple labeled 'PoP'.

European Wood Policy Platform | Policy Paper 2024

A WOOD-BASED CIRCULAR BIOECONOMY FOR A SUSTAINABLE EUROPE

GREEN CONSTRUCTION AND INNOVATIVE
WOOD SOLUTIONS

Item 2

Updates and WoodPoP Status Quo

Item 2.1

Update from the Chair

Item 2.2

**Reports from the Technical Working
Groups co-leads**

Technical Working Groups

Governance (Lead: AT)

Wood policy formulation and implementation, wood-related policy recommendations

Building (Lead: DE)

Use of wood in construction and green public procurement

Innovation and Research (Lead: CH)

Innovation and research initiatives and programmes, financing

Education and vocational training (Lead: SI)

Qualification along the wood-based value chain

Communication and information (Lead: CZ)

Preparatory work for a European wood building contest

Item 2.2.1

Technical Working Group Governance

WoodPoP Policy Paper Process

Focus of work: woodPoP Policy Paper

Online Meetings on 19 March and 22 May, written procedures

Initial Discussions at the Technical Working Group Governance, March – June

First Exchange
19 March

Written inputs
April

Zero Draft
22 May

Written comments
June

Consolidation at the Wood Policy Lab

3-5 July 2024, Traunkirchen, Austria

Consolidated Draft to be shared with EGM

Exchange of Views at the 5th EGM

11 Sep 2024, Mjøstårnet, Norway

Detailed discussion and comments

Exchange of Views and Endorsement at 3rd HLM

06 Nov 2024, Brussels, Belgium

Final draft to be endorsed at HLM

Wood Policy Lab, 3-5 July 2024, Traunkirchen (AT)

Developing key messages for policy formulation and implementation processes at all levels



Planned activities

- Study Update, **Wood Policy in Europe**, European Forest Institute, Fall 2024
- Extract **key messages** out of the WoodPoP Policy Paper and plan other **outreach activities** in 2025 (together with TWG Communication)
- Collaboration with Countries & global Organisations on **‘Sustainable forest-based bioeconomy approaches’**
 - Led by **Austria, Japan, other countries**, in cooperation with **FAO and IUFRO**
 - Aims to promote **sustainable wood use** and foster a **global dialogue** on forest-based bioeconomy in response to climate change, including global webinars and high-level conferences

Item 2.2.2

Technical Working Group Building

Meetings and activities in 2024

Meeting N°5, 1 March 2024/online, 16 participants

- Topical focus: **Carbon Accounting and Storage in and on Timber Buildings**
- Sub-group Public Procurement: Presentation of concept for a mapping study on support measures to foster public procurement of timber buildings and related services

Meeting N° 6, 23 May 2024/online, 19 participants

- Topical Focus: **Health & Wellbeing** and Timber Buildings.
 - Expert presentations: latest VOC-research and wood, psychophysiological effects of wood, Wood & Health EU-project.
- Update on mapping study on public procurement of timber buildings and related services
- Increased visibility on flagship buildings in European countries through new sub-page: <https://woodpop.eu/resources/buildings/>

Meetings and activities in 2024

Meeting N° 7, 4 November 2024/online

- Topical Focus: **insuring wooden buildings**
 - Expert presentations: Allianz company's Risk Publication, updates on Swedish and European developments on the topic
- Annual plan for 2025

Focus: Study to collect and analyse relevant examples of existing programs supporting the procurement of timber construction

Phase 1: Collection of qualitative and quantitative data on existing programs and support measures on national level of a selected number of countries (started in spring 2024).

- Survey distributed to key informants from Slovenia, Czech Republic, Spain, Germany, Sweden, Austria and Finland until end September

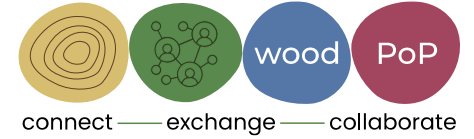
Phase 2: Conducting follow-up interviews with public procurers to assess awareness and effectiveness of existing support measures in best practice countries (Starts end of 2024).

Expected Outcomes: Conclusions and policy recommendations on support measures for public buildings of timber buildings



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications DETEC
Federal Office for the Environment FOEN
Forest Division
Section Timber Industry & Forest Management



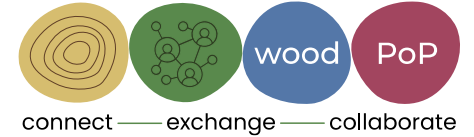
Item 2.2.3

Technical Working Group Innovation and Research



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications DETEC
Federal Office for the Environment FOEN
Forest Division
Section Timber Industry & Forest Management



Technical Working Group Innovation & Research

Lead:

FOEN Switzerland:

supported by

Swiss Wood Innovation Network S-WIN:

Homo Silvestris Europae:

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Thomas Näher

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Andreas Nikolaus Kleinschmit von Lengefeld

kvl@homo-silvestris-europae.com



Meetings in 2024 - 2025

- **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.

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.



Upcoming meetings:

Tuesday 12.11.2024, 9:00-12:00 CET:

- Overview of ongoing research and innovation projects on European scale:
Presentations from FTP and InnovaWood
- Non-public funds for innovations

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.



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
- 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 (public and private)



Outcomes:

Comprehensive list of priority policy recommendations

Curated catalogue of public and private programs supporting wood innovations

Focus Areas:

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



Special Focus:

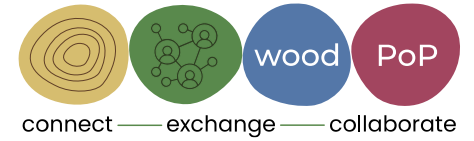
Commercialising Research and Innovation: In-depth case studies from Switzerland, Austria, France, Finland, Denmark, Germany, Sweden, and Luxembourg to be detailed.

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.



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF THE ECONOMY,
TOURISM AND SPORT



Item 2.2.4

Technical Working Group Education and Vocational Training



Meetings and activities in 2024

Meetings held:

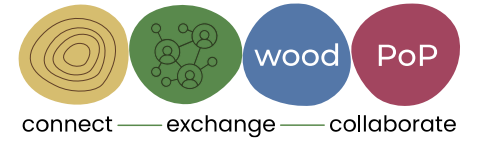
- 18/01/2024 Actions to increase the attractiveness of the industry for the highest quality personnel (MSTeams)
- 07/02/2024 Micro-credentials for the wood sector (MS Teams)
- 17/04/2024 New European Bauhaus Academy (MS Teams)
- 01/07/2024 Agenda of the session of the TWG Education and vocational training at Holzbauforum Innsbruck (Portorož, Slovenia & MSTeams)
- 17/09/2024 *Overview of activities – 5th Expert Group meeting, event in Brussels, etc. (MSTeams)*
- 23/10/2024 *Promotion of the TWG event at the Holzbauforum*



Meetings and activities in 2024

Planned activities/Focus of work

- *07/11/2024 Active participation at the **Wood Policy and Innovation Workshop 2024**, November 7, 2024, in Brussels*
- *04/12/2024 **28th International Wood Construction Conference**, Innsbruck, Austria: Perspectives from the New European Bauhaus Academy on upskilling and reskilling the wood construction sector*



Focus:

- Action plan
- Life long learning & micro-credentials
- New European Bauhaus Academy

Item 2.2.5

Technical Working Group Communication and Information

Meetings and activities in 2024

Meetings held:

- ❖ TWG 4: 9 February 2024
 - *Sharing experiences on existing national and international wood competitions / awards*
- ❖ Subgroup of the TWG : 28 August 2024
 - *Discussion in a smaller group about the details of the WoodPoP Award*
- ❖ TWG 5: 7 October 2024
 - *Discussion about WoodPoP Award and leaflets*
- ❖ Consultation with TWG Education and Vocational Training about WoodPoP Award: 22 October 2024

Upcoming meeting:

- ❖ TWG 6: 8 November 2024

Focus of work:

❖ Informational materials / leaflets

- *Preparation of informational material / leaflet on each WoodPoP country based on agreed template*
- *The goal is to promote WoodPoP as a whole and at the same time the sustainable wood utilization*
- *The material will provide information about each country on forests, wood utilization, circular economy, etc.*

Focus of work:

❖ WoodPoP Award / Wood Building Prize

- *Based on the winners of the last round of the national competitions*
- *2 categories: residential and public buildings*
- *Participants: architects (realized buildings), students (project proposals)*
- *Voting: combination of professional jury and general public via website*
- *Frequency: biennial or every third year*
- *Final ceremony could be part of a WoodPoP High Level Meeting*
- *First edition is planned during the WoodPoP HLM in Q4 2025*

Item 3

WoodPoP: The Way Forward (Points of Information)

Item 3.1

Update from the Secretariat

EUROPEAN WOOD POLICY PLATFORM (WOODPOP)

WoodPoP is an innovative policy dialogue platform which brings together all relevant actors to advance the sustainable use of wood. It develops wood-related policy solutions, measures and recommendations to strengthen wood-based circular bioeconomy.

Contact Us



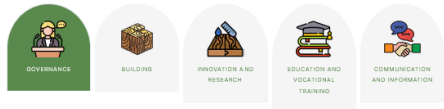
Homepage

What We Do

Focus Areas

Technical Working Groups (TWG) develop joint activities, recommendations and policy solutions on specific matters.

Participation is open to representatives from public and private sector, interest groups, research organizations and networks, government officials and invited experts.



Governance

Wood policy formulation and implementation, wood-related policies

- Presentations from national wood policy programs and initiatives on 13 September 2023
- Special meeting on Wood Governance in Europe and beyond on 29 November 2023
- 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

Technical Co-Leads

Georg Rappold and Lisa Lehner, Division wood-based value chain, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management, Austria.

Join a Technical Working Group

If you would like to participate in a working group, please sign up here.

Your Name	Your Last Name
Position	Organization
Country	Email

I am interested in the following working group

- Governance Building Innovation and Research Education and Vocational Training Communication and Information

Submit

Videos



Second High Level Meeting, 4 October 2023, Helsinki, Finland



Co-Chair

Documents

- The European Wood Policy Platform (woodPoP) Overview
- Guidelines of the European Wood Policy Platform as agreed on 4 October 2023
- woodPoP Call on upscaling wood policy cooperation in Europe
- The Economic Impact of the Forestry and Wood Industry in Europe in terms of the Bioeconomy



22
Oct

BY CARE LINAYAO | UNCATEGORISED

WoodPoP at woodCircle 2024



11
Sep

BY WEBMASTER | MEETINGS

WoodPoP's Study Tour and 5th Expert Group Meeting in Brumunddal, Norway



07
Aug

BY WEBMASTER | EVENTS

WOOD for GLOBE: Leading Pathways To Carbon Neutrality and Resilience



12
Jul

BY WEBMASTER | MEETINGS

woodPoP's First Wood Policy Lab in Traunkirchen, Austria



30
Nov

BY WEBMASTER | MEETINGS

Discussing Wood Governance across Europe and beyond

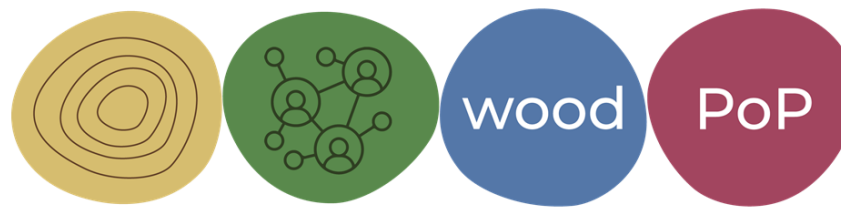


04
Oct

BY WEBMASTER | MEETINGS

woodPoP High Level Meeting boosts the dialogue on the renewable resource wood

Newsletter



woodFlash

woodFlash is the European Wood Policy Platform's (woodPoP) official newsletter bringing news, updates, and recent developments within the platform.

woodPoP TWG Corner



Call for Survey Respondents

Insights on Pan-European innovation funding and financing in the forest-based sector

The Technical Working Group on "Innovation and Research" is inviting experts on the European forest industry, finance sector, and related fields to share their knowledge on funding programs and financing strategies for wood innovations. Your responses will help the TWG develop a robust framework to support future innovations.

[Participate in the survey](#)



Fire Safe Building With Wood

First technical brief by Technical Working Group on "Building"

Newsletter

Subscribe to our newsletter to learn about our activities.























Name

Lastname

Email Address*

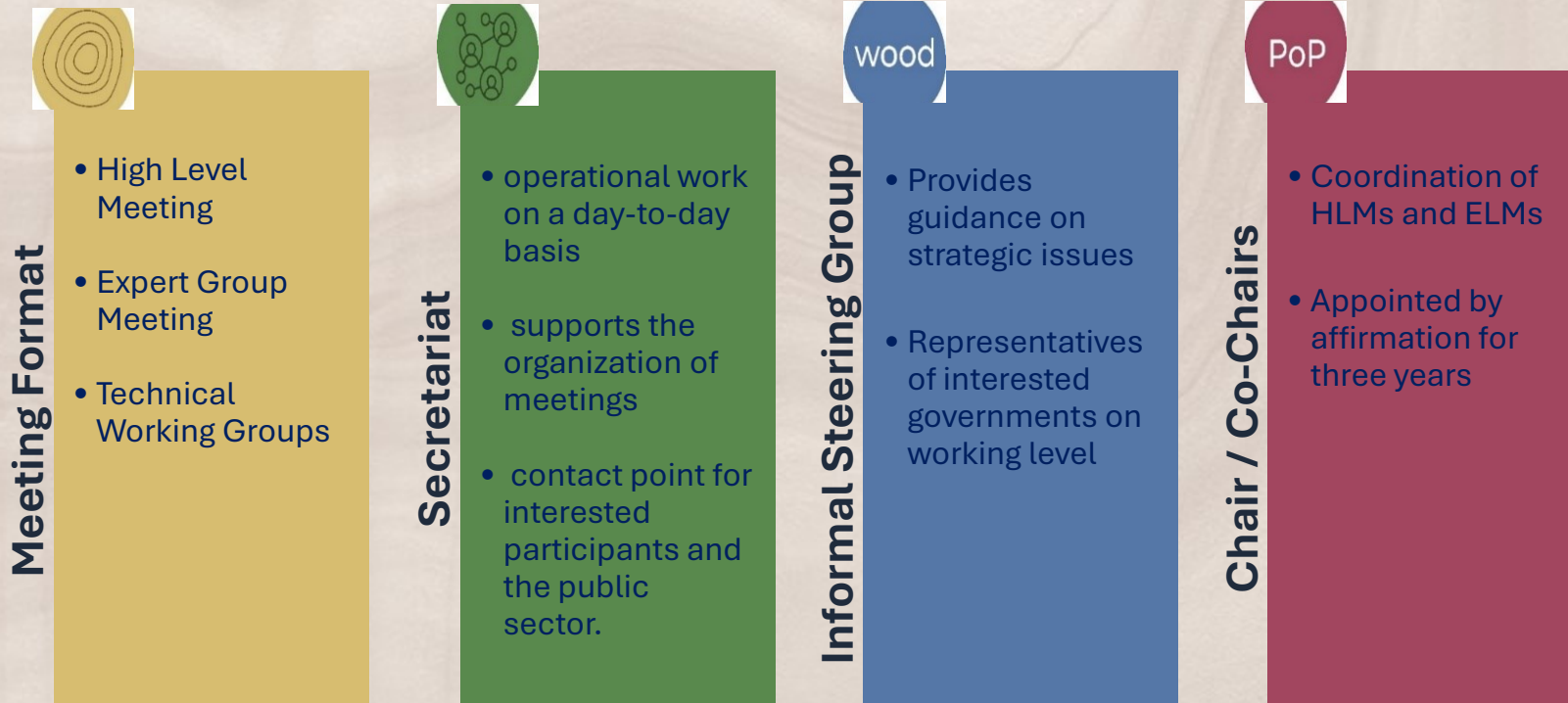
cloud.woodpop.eu



		Access to Technical Working Groups for members			
<input type="checkbox"/>	 TWG 1 Governance				
<input type="checkbox"/>	 TWG 2 Building	Shared		 a few seconds ...	
<input type="checkbox"/>	 TWG 3 Innovation Research	Shared		 a few seconds ...	
<input type="checkbox"/>	 TWG 4 Education VT	Shared		 a few seconds ...	
<input type="checkbox"/>	 TWG 5 Communication	Shared		 a few seconds ...	
<input type="checkbox"/>	 TWG Governance 22 May 2024	Shared		 a few seconds ...	
<input type="checkbox"/>	 Various Powerpoint presentations	Shared		 a few seconds ...	
<input type="checkbox"/>	 Wood Policy Lab, Participants, 3-5 July 2024	Shared		 a few seconds ...	

All meeting documents from the High Level Meetings and Expert Group Meetings available for everybody

Update of the Guidelines



Update of the Guidelines

WoodPoP Call

- Core values and overarching goals

WoodPoP Guidelines

- Rationale and how the platform works together to accomplish shared goals

WoodPoP Position Paper

- Policy commitments in a thematic form

WoodPoP RoadMap 2030

- A strategic planning document

WoodPoP Action Plan

- Overview on planned activities

WoodPoP Technical Briefs

- Detailed analysis, research findings and evidence-based recommendations

Wood Policy and Innovation Conference, 7 November 2024, Brussels

DATE: 7 November, 9.00 – 17.00 CET

Location: Representation of the Free State of Bavaria to the European Union

Main Items:

- Presentations and panels on Europe's innovative wood sector and the built environment
- Key note addresses by leading architects
- Afternoon workshop on wood governance

More information:
[wood4Bauhaus](https://www.wood4bauhaus.com)



28th International Wood Construction Conference, Prologue V

DATE: 4 December 2024, 13.45 – 18.00 CET

Location: Innsbruck, Austria

Main Items:

- Insights on the New European Bauhaus (NEB) and the NEB Alliance
- On-site training on acoustics of timber buildings
- Roundtable discussions to identify fields of action to encourage interdisciplinary learning and lifelong skill development in the wood construction sector

More information:

Events page of the WoodPoP
webpage (woodPoP.eu)

The banner features logos for the Federal Ministry of Austria (Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management), the woodPoP project, and the Republic of Slovenia (Ministry of the Economy, Tourism and Sport). It includes the date 'Wednesday, 4 December 2024' and the location 'Congress Innsbruck, Austria'. The main title is 'IHF-PROLOGUE V 28th International Wood Construction Conference' with a sub-focus on 'Education and vocational training'. The design is decorated with several gear icons, some containing symbols for a person at a computer, a graduation cap, and a brain, representing education and skill development.

Federal Ministry
Republic of Austria
Agriculture, Forestry, Regions
and Water Management

wood PoP

REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF THE ECONOMY,
TOURISM AND SPORT

Wednesday, 4 December 2024

Congress Innsbruck, Austria

IHF-PROLOGUE V
28th International Wood
Construction Conference

Education and
vocational training

Item 4

A.O.B.

Closing Remarks

H.E. Franz Wirtenberger

Deputy Permanent Representative of Austria to the EU

Item 8

Wrap-up and closure of the meeting



**Scan to access the Policy
Paper and Association Form**

The cover features a photograph of a person with a bicycle walking through a long, narrow tunnel made of light-colored wooden slats. The slats are arranged in a series of repeating arches, creating a rhythmic pattern. In the background, a city street with buildings and streetlights is visible. In the top right corner, there are four circular icons: a yellow one with a tree ring pattern, a green one with a molecular structure, a blue one with the word 'wood', and a purple one with 'PoP'. The bottom half of the cover is a solid maroon color with white text.

European Wood Policy Platform | Policy Paper 2024

**A WOOD-BASED CIRCULAR
BIOECONOMY FOR A
SUSTAINABLE EUROPE**

GREEN CONSTRUCTION AND INNOVATIVE
WOOD SOLUTIONS

Thank you very much for your support and participation!

For further information and questions –
contact@woodpop.eu

