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European Wood Policy Platform (WoodPoP)

6th Expert Group Meeting (EGM)

2 April 2025

Zurich/Online



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Item 1

Opening of the Meeting

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Item 2

Update on the Wood Policy Paper

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S-WIN
Swiss • Wood • Innovation • Network

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The wood sector has also become
a crucial element

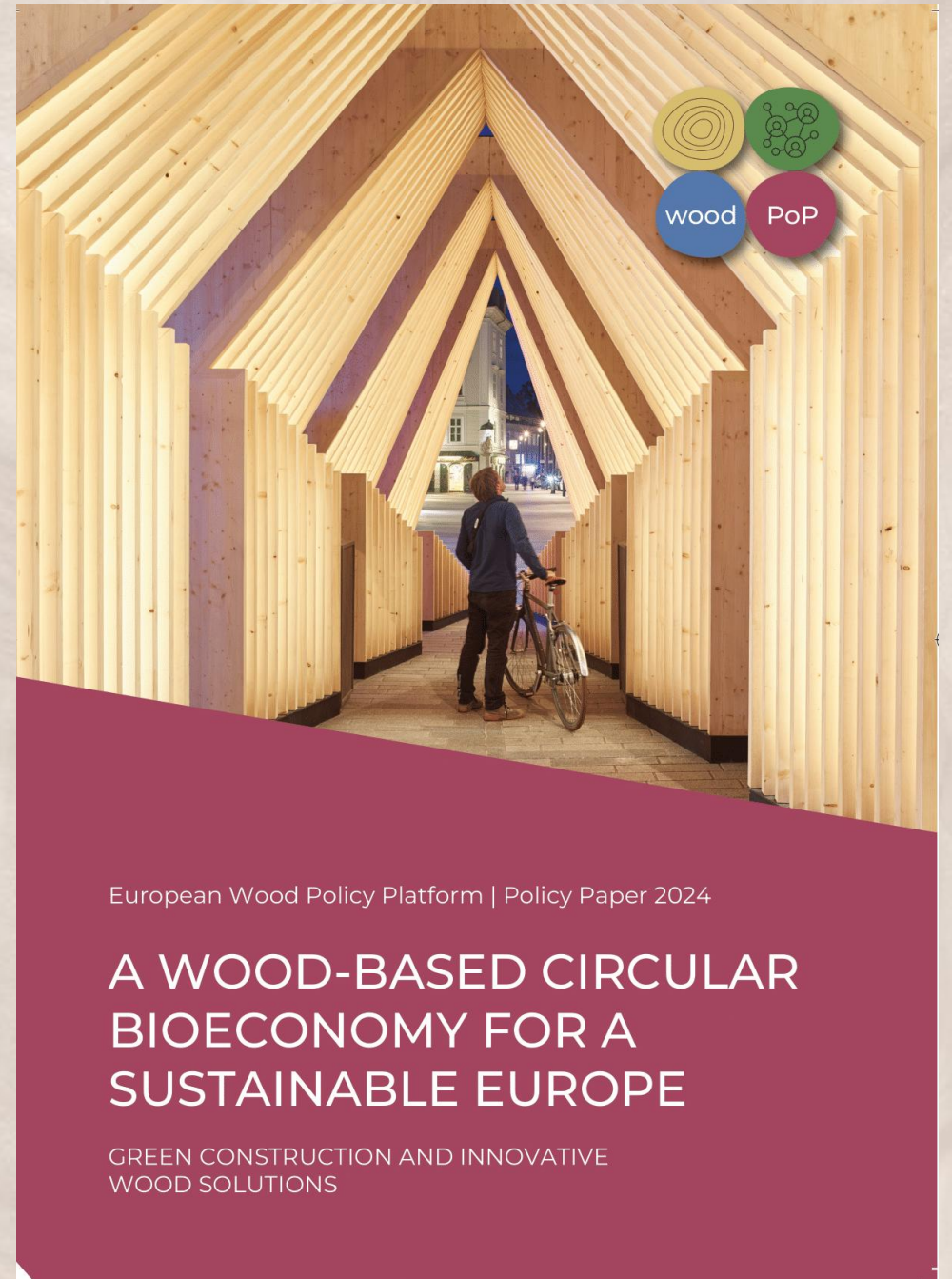
A wood-based circular bioeconomy for a sustainable Europe



- 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**



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



European Wood Policy Platform | Policy Paper 2024

A WOOD-BASED CIRCULAR BIOECONOMY FOR A SUSTAINABLE EUROPE

GREEN CONSTRUCTION AND INNOVATIVE
WOOD SOLUTIONS



Plateforme européenne sur la politique du bois | Policy Paper 2024

UNE BIOÉCONOMIE CIRCULAIRE BASÉE SUR LE BOIS POUR UNE EUROPE DURABLE

LA CONSTRUCTION ÉCOLOGIQUE ET LES
SOLUTIONS INNOVANTES EN MATIÈRE DE BOIS



Evropska platforma za politiko o lesarstvu | Dokument politik 2024

LESNO KROŽNO BIOGOSPODARSTVO ZA TRAJNOSTNO EVROPO

ZELENO GRADBENIŠTVO IN INOVATIVNE LESNE
REŠITVE




Europäische Holzpolitikplattform | Strategiepapier 2024

EINE HOLZBASIERTE ZIRKULÄRE BIOÖKONOMIE FÜR EIN NACHHALTIGES EUROPA

GRÜNES BAUEN UND INNOVATIVE LÖSUNGEN
MIT HOLZ

Scan to access the Wood Policy Paper



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Item 3

Updates and WoodPoP Status Quo

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Item 3.1

Updates from the Technical Working Group Co-Leads

WOODPOP TECHNICAL WORKING GROUPS

SIGN-UP for a TECHNICAL
WORKING GROUP:
<https://woodpop.eu/>



Governance

Wood-related
policy
recommendations,
Policy Paper
outreach

LEAD: AT



Building

Use of wood in
construction, Green
public procurement
and Interlinkages
between wood and
health

LEAD: DE



Innovation & Research

Overcoming the
valley of death for
innovation,
Innovation guide

LEAD: CH & LUX



Education & Vocational Training

Qualification along
the wood-based
value chain,
Development of a
Policy Brief

LEAD: SI



Communication & Information

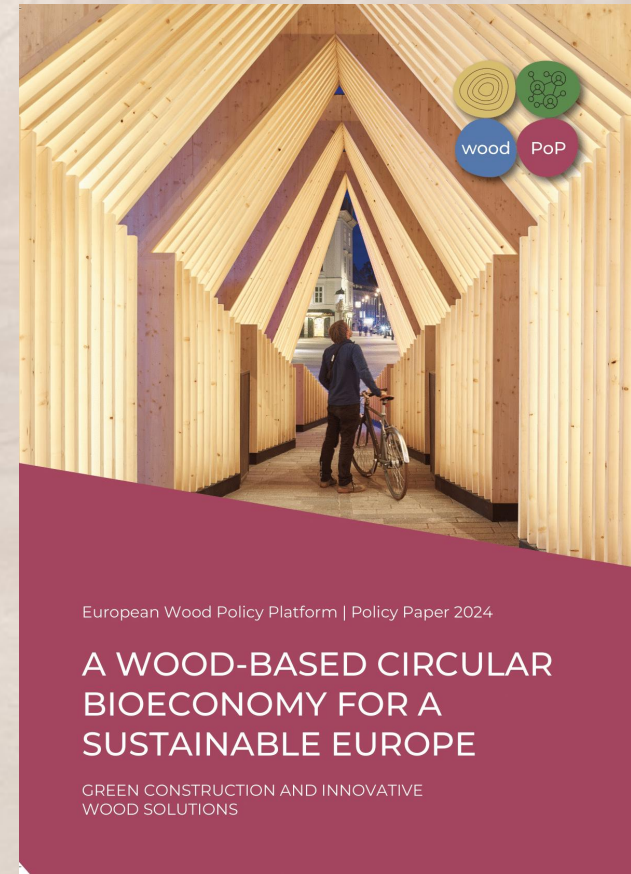
Preparatory work for
a European Wood
Building Prize,
Information leaflet

LEAD: CZ & IE

Item 3.1.1

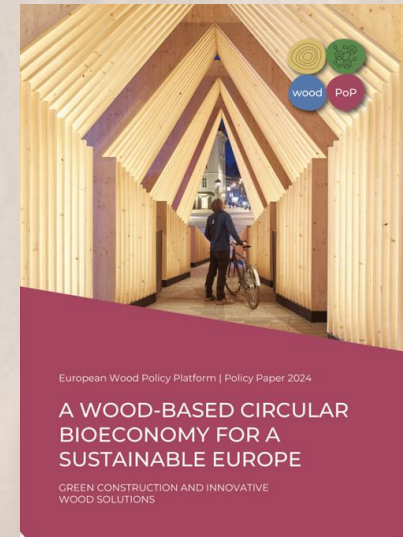
Technical Working Group Governance

Highlights



Activities in 2024 and 2025

- Study Update, **“Taking a bird’s eye view of EU-wood-based policy”**, European Forest Institute, Spring 2025
- **Policy Paper** Dissemination and Outreach
 - Letter to key EU decision-makers
 - Extract key messages out of the WoodPoP Policy Paper
 - References (TWG Innovation and Research)
 - Plan other outreach activities in 2025 (together with TWG Communication)
 - Translations of the Policy Paper
 - Participation in EU Stakeholder Consultations (e.g. Bioeconomy Strategy)



Activities in 2024 and 2025

- Collaboration with Countries & global Organisations on **‘Sustainable forest-based bioeconomy approaches’ (COLI)**
 - 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
- Setting up a **Wood Fund** to support work of WoodPoP e.g. preparation of the WoodPoP Award
- Input for the High Level Meeting on **strengthening transdisciplinary approaches**

Meetings in 2025

- 30 January 2025: Follow-up on the High Level Meeting, dissemination of the Policy Paper
- 11 March, online: COLI webinar ‘From Policy to Practice: scaling up sustainable forest-based bioeconomy approached’
- June, online: Input for the High Level Meeting
- September, online: preparation of High Level Meeting
- December, in person: International Wood Construction Forum, Wood and Human Health (TWG Building)

Item 3.1.2

Technical Working Group Building

Co-Chairs: Martin Behrens (FNR) & Petri Heino

Meetings in 2024 and 2025

2024

3 meetings were organised in 2024, the following topics were covered:

- **Carbon Accounting and Storage** 3/2024
- **Health and Wellbeing** 5/2024
- **Timber Building Insurance** 11/2024

2025

2 meetings were organised in 2025, the following topics were covered:

- **Annual Planning** 1/2025
- **Timber Building Systems** 3/2025

Highlights

2-stage Public Procurement Study: Focus Soft Measures to support the public procurement of timber buildings

- Second study phase: researcher has collected information on policy measures in use in Austria, Czech, Finland, Germany, Slovenia, Spain and France. At the moment, the analysis of interviews is ongoing.
- Results were already discussed within the Sub-Group on Public Procurement on 14 March 2025.
- Some preliminary findings are:
 - Increasing **focus on low-carbon technology** while remaining technology-neutral when it comes to the offered solutions.
 - Increased **focus on renewability and circularity**.
 - **Insufficient skills** in wood construction among procurement professionals. Competence centres also need to build up such knowledge to offer capacity building for procurers.
 - **EU Carbon Removal Certification Framework** might have an (in)direct impact on procurement policies. How this will be implemented on Member State level remains to be seen.
- The study will be handed over to the WoodPoP Secretariat in May and **finalised in June 2025**.

Plans 2025

- Next TWG Meetings:
 - EU Regulations and Policy Initiatives 6/2025
 - TWG BU Meeting (topic TBD) 9/2025
 - TWG BU Workshop at Prolog „Health & Wellbeing in Timber Buildings“ 12/2025
- Open topics to be covered in 2025: circularity, resource availability, timber in LCA



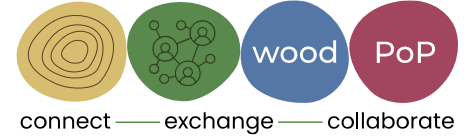
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Item 3.1.3

Technical Working Group Innovation and Research

Co-Chairs: Alfred Kammerhofer & Ralf Koehler

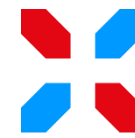


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Lead: Technical Working Group on Innovation & Research

Key Topics in 2025



Research and Innovation

Overview of current research topics and results.

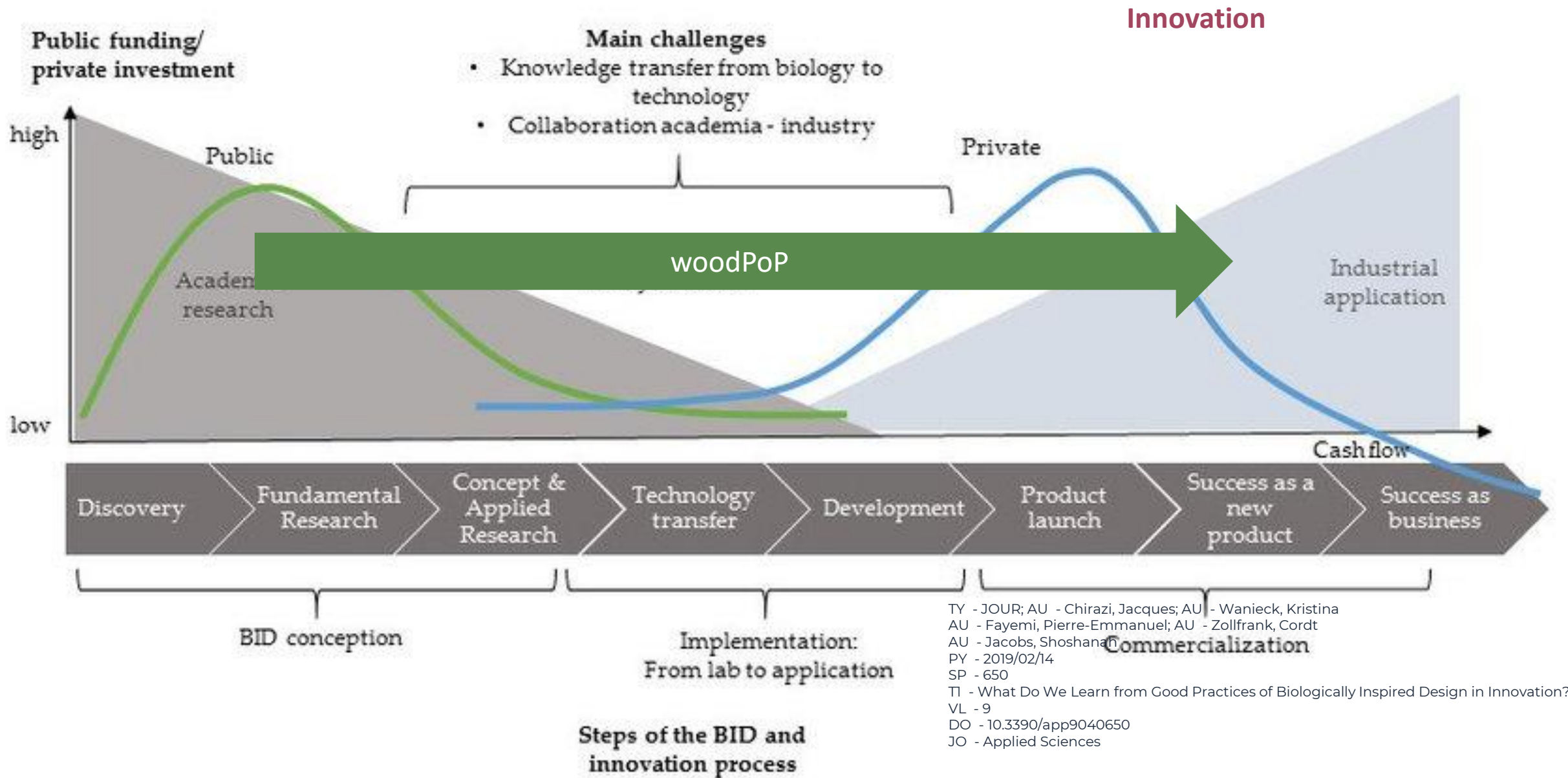
Coordination of stakeholders across Europe.



Private Financing

Expanding funding sources beyond public sector.

Key partners: EIB, Luxembourg' EU Innovation Fund, Timber Finance, etc.



TY - JOUR; AU - Chirazi, Jacques; AU - Wanieck, Kristina
 AU - Fayemi, Pierre-Emmanuel; AU - Zollfrank, Cordt
 AU - Jacobs, Shoshana
 PY - 2019/02/14
 SP - 650
 TI - What Do We Learn from Good Practices of Biologically Inspired Design in Innovation?
 VL - 9
 DO - 10.3390/app9040650
 JO - Applied Sciences

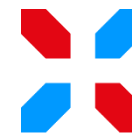


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Lead: Technical Working Group on Innovation & Research

The European Research and Innovation Landscape in the Wood Sector

Enhancing Success in European Programs

- Strategies for improving the success rate of woodworking industries in European programs (Luxinnovation, NCPs, InnovaWood, FTP, and others)

Adapting Applied Research to Industry Needs

- Methods to better align applied research with industry requirements

Supporting Innovations and New Businesses

- Initiatives to foster and enhance innovations and new business ventures (Timber Startup Incubator)

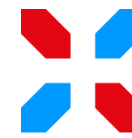


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Lead: Technical Working Group on Innovation & Research

The European Research and Innovation Landscape in the Wood Sector

Financing Innovations

- Overcoming barriers to financing and increasing private investment

Engaging Stakeholders in the Construction Sector

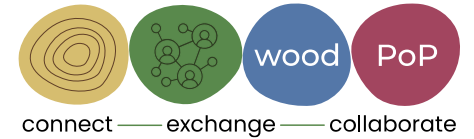
- Approaches to reach out to developers, insurance companies, and other key stakeholders

Developing Tailored Funding Programs

Creating new funding programs and initiatives that are best suited to the needs of the SME-dominated sector



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF THE ECONOMY,
TOURISM AND SPORT



Item 3.1.4

Technical Working Group Education and Vocational Training

Co-Chairs: Andreja Kutnar & Darko Sajko



Meetings in 2024 and 2025

1. 01.07.2024 – Focus: Content of the TWG Education and vocational training at Holzbauforum Innsbruck (Portorož, Slovenia & online)
2. 17.09.2024 – Focus: Agenda of the TWG Education and vocational training at Holzbauforum Innsbruck (online)
3. 23.10.2024 – Focus: campaign to attract as many as possible relevant stakeholders to the TWG's session at Holzbauforum Innsbruck
4. 07.11.2024 – Participation at the HLM and Wood Policy and Innovation Workshop 2024
5. **4.12.2024 – Session at the Wood Construction Forum in Innsbruck (Austria)**
6. 17.01.2025 – Focus: Policy brief of the TWG
7. 28.02.2025 -- Focus: Policy brief of the TWG
8. 28.03.2025 -- Focus: Policy brief of the TWG



Highlights

- ***Successful session at the Wood Construction Forum in Innsbruck (Austria) on 4. 12. 2024***
- ***Policy brief to be shared with relevant ministries prior to the High Level Meeting in October 2025***



Policy Brief: The wood-based sector (WBS)

- 8 million employees
- a key player in the transition towards a more innovative, inclusive, and sustainable society, specifically contributing to rural jobs

The challenge:

- significant **need for skilled labour** that could bring about optimal transformation of the sector.
 - The labour force in wood-based industry is **increasingly leaving** the sector (e.g. retirement), real concern that skills needed are getting lost.
 - wood education and research infrastructure offers a good foundation, but **new skills are urgently** (digitalisation and sustainability, leading to new materials technologies, circular business models, interpersonal and managerial skills, etc.)

→ **Training, upskilling and reskilling** of the labour force is therefore a priority



Policy Brief: How to fulfill the requirements of ever-changing knowledge and skills landscape?

- **Upskilling and reskilling of employees** in the woodworking industry across different profiles and backgrounds,
 - **combining proven traditional with modern IT-supported approaches**
 - modernly designed education programs and **well-equipped** educational facilities at all levels,
 - **stimulate enrolment** in these programs from the primary to the tertiary level
 - **co-finance modern pedagogical research equipment** for the implementation of practical training
 - **Support the acquisition of woodworking skills in other educational and study programmes**
educational partnerships
- **Mutual recognition of diplomas and training** across countries
 - Microcredentials are recognised as one of the tools
- A **well-prepared, coordinated and persisting campaign** on the WBS being a good professional and personal choice

Item 3.1.5

Technical Working Group Communication and Information

Co-Chairs: Tomáš Krejzar, Lada Matoušková Prylová & Des O' Toole

Meetings in 2024 and 2025

Meetings held since the last EGM in Norway:

- ❖ TWG 6: 8 November 2024
- ❖ TWG 7: 13 December 2024
- ❖ TWG 8: 7 February 2025
 - *Discussions about the WoodPoP Award and leaflets*
- ❖ Steering Group for the Award + Subgroup of the TWG: 10 March 2025
 - *Drafting of the Concept Note + strategic discussion*

Upcoming meeting:

- ❖ TWG 9: 4 April 2025

Highlight – WoodPoP Award

- At a productive meeting in Prague on 10 March it was agreed to set up the **Steering Group for the preparations of the Award**, which meets regularly.
- **4 categories:**
 - a) Residential buildings
 - b) Public buildings
 - c) Infrastructure and commercial buildings
 - d) Innovative wood application (applied research)
- Frequency should be **biennial**, professionals with constructed buildings from **2026**, students with proposals from 2027
- **First final ceremony** will be part of the **WoodPoP HLM in Q4 2026**

Highlight – WoodPoP Award


- Name of the award will be selected by online vote (suggestions for names until mid-April to TWG Communication)
- Candidates will be nominated by **WoodPoP member states**
- Winners will be selected by combination of **professional jury** and **general public** via website
- **Awards:**
 - a) **3 awards by professional jury** – for each of 3 categories of buildings and renovations
 - b) **1 public award** for all 3 categories of buildings and renovations together
 - c) **1 special award** for innovative wood application (applied research)

Proposed timeline of the WoodPoP Award

- Call for proposals/projects – October 2025
- Submission of projects – 1 May 2026
- Check of prerequisites by Steering Group/TWG – May/June 2026
- Submission of documents to jury – until end of June 2026
- Jury work completed – until mid-September 2026
- Public vote starts – end of July 2026
- Public vote ends – end of September 2026
- Informing of the winners – end of September 2026
- Ceremony – November or December 2026

Plans for 2025

- Continue **preparations for the Award** within the Steering Group and TWGs
 - TWG Communication will select that **name** for the Award based on public vote and work on other **communication aspects** (Steering Group)
 - Submit your ideas for the name here: [WoodPoP Prize](#)
 - In cooperation with **TWG Building** define prerequisites of proposals for nominations and criteria for the jury evaluation
 - In cooperation with **TWG Education** consider the terms of the Award for students
 - Send an **official letter** to all WoodPoP member states providing information and the call for nominations
- Continue developing informational materials/leaflets

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Item 3.2

Updates from the Secretariat

WoodPoP Cloud: cloud.woodpop.eu



Log in to woodPoP Cloud

Login with username or email


Password

→ Log in

Forgot password?

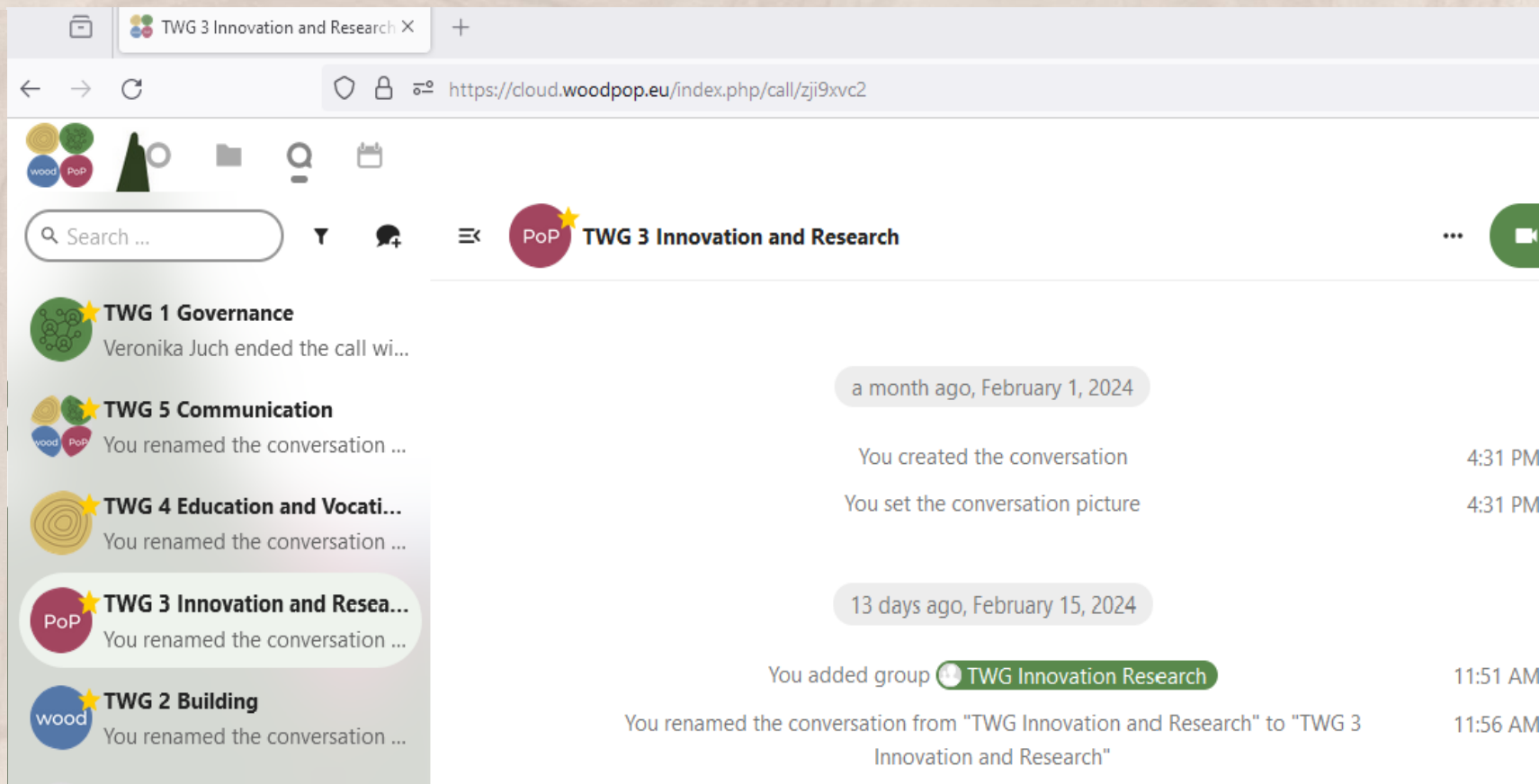
Log in with a device

Register

 Forest Fund
Republic of Austria

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

woodPoP Cloud



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://cloud.woodpop.eu/index.php/call/zji9xvc2>. The page displays a list of conversations on the left and a detailed view of a conversation on the right.

Conversations List:

- TWG 1 Governance**
Veronika Juch ended the call wi...
- TWG 5 Communication**
You renamed the conversation ...
- TWG 4 Education and Vocati...**
You renamed the conversation ...
- TWG 3 Innovation and Resea...**
You renamed the conversation ...
- TWG 2 Building**
You renamed the conversation ...

Conversation Detail View:

- Search bar
- Profile: **PoP TWG 3 Innovation and Research**
- Timeline of actions:
 - a month ago, February 1, 2024
 - You created the conversation 4:31 PM
 - You set the conversation picture 4:31 PM
 - 13 days ago, February 15, 2024
 - You added group **TWG Innovation Research** 11:51 AM
 - You renamed the conversation from "TWG Innovation and Research" to "TWG 3 Innovation and Research" 11:56 AM

WoodPoP Cloud: Guide

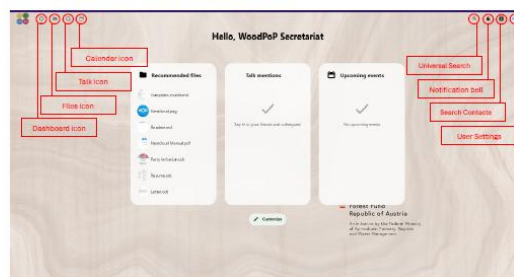


WOODPOP CLOUD

A User Guide

II. Dashboard

A. WoodPoP Cloud Dashboard



B. Glossary/List of Icons in the Dashboard

- Dashboard icon: Clicking this icon will return you to the dashboard
- Files icon: Clicking this icon will direct you to the files within the WoodPoP Cloud. You will find here the Technical Working Group folders, EGM and HLM folders among the other folders that contain files shared within WoodPoP. (More on III. Files)
- Talk icon: Clicking this icon will direct you to the Talk- the chat/messaging feature of the WoodPoP Cloud. You will find chat channels for each Technical Working Group and chat messages here. (More on Chapter IV. Talk)
- Calendar icon: Clicking this icon will direct you to the Calendar feature of the WoodPoP Cloud. This may feature important dates for the Platform. (More on V. Calendar)
- Search icon: Clicking this icon will bring up a 'Unified search' window. You can search the WoodPoP Cloud for files and chat messages visible to you as a user.
- Notification bell icon: Clicking this icon will show you notifications.
- Search Contacts icon: Clicking this icon will show you users that are registered within the platform. Click any of the usernames to view their WoodPoP Cloud profile.
- User settings icon: Clicking this icon will show you a drop-down menu containing different settings to customise your profile, change your password, set the notification behaviour, and more

VI. FAQs and Support

- I am in the WoodPoP Cloud's Folders portion, and I cannot see the Technical Working Group folders.
 - If you cannot see the Technical Working Group folders, your account may not have been assigned to your respective Technical Working Group. Like the account activation, assignment to a Technical Working Group is also a manual process. **Kindly email the WoodPoP Secretariat to assign you to the Technical Working Group folders that you wish to access.**
- I forgot my password. What should I do?
 - There are two ways. The first way is via the "Forgot password?" route on the log-in page of the WoodPoP Cloud. If this does not work, send an email to contact@woodpop.eu for assistance.
- Is it possible for my group to work on Word documents and slide presentations directly/in real time on the WoodPoP Cloud?
 - In theory, working and editing files in real-time in the cloud is part of the abilities of the WoodPoP Cloud. However, upon testing this capability at the Wood Policy Laboratory in Traunkirchen last July 3 – 5, 2024, it was found that working on the Cloud in real-time with a big group slows down the Cloud. This may lead to server crashing or file corruption.
 - It is also not ideal to upload Microsoft Office Files (MS Word/.docx, MS PowerPoint file/.pptx, MS Excel file/.xlsx) to the Cloud and work on it because of system incompatibilities that lead to formatting disruption. Using and uploading files created from another office software suite called "OpenOffice". OpenOffice Files (OpenOffice Text Document/.odt, OpenOffice Presentation/.odp, OpenOffice Spreadsheet/.ods) seem to work best but rarely anyone works using the OpenOffice software.

Homepage: woodpop.eu



Education and training are keys to successful timber construction and a sustainable transformation of the building industry!

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



Wednesday, 4 December 2024

Congress Innsbruck, Austria

**IHF-PROLOGUE V
28th International Wood
Construction Conference**

**Education and
vocational training**



PROLOGUE V: Education and vocational training

Wednesday, 4th December 2024, 13:45 – 18:00 CET
28th International Wood Construction Conference, Innsbruck, Austria

Organised by the Technical Working Group 'Education and Vocational Training' of the European Wood Policy Platform (woodPoP)

Perspectives from the New European Bauhaus Academy on upskilling and reskilling the wood construction sector

Moderation: *Veronika Steinhofner-Juch* (IUFRO) & *Andreja Kutnar* (University of Primorska)

Increasing interest in timber construction, new technologies and applications of wood and wood species pose new challenges for training and education in the wood construction sector. Interdisciplinary training and education programs as well as lifelong learning are becoming increasingly important. Platforms like the New European Bauhaus Academy offer exciting entry points for new forms of knowledge transfer.

REGISTRATION

If you are interested in joining, kindly email your interest at contact@woodpop.eu.

EVENT LANGUAGE

This event will be in English.

PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

This programme is available in English and German. For the German version, please scroll further down.

ENGLISH VERSION

PROGRAMME

Presentations and Video Message from the IHF 2024 Prolog V: Education and Vocational Training

1. Welcome Slides

2. a. New European Bauhaus by Michael Burnard (University of Primorska/InnoRenew CoE (SLO))

2. b. Video Message by *tba*

3. New European Bauhaus Academy Alliance slides presented by:

NEB Hub by Andreja Kutnar, University of Primorska/InnoRenew CoE (SLO)

NEBA North Hub by Matti Kuitinen, Aalto University, Helsinki (FIN)

NEBA Outreach Hub by Uwe Kies, InnovaWood, Brussels (BEL)

4. Innovative education, training and microcredentials presented by:

Stefan Leitner, Holzbau Austria, Vienna (AUT)

Wolfgang Kern, Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, Vienna (AUT)

Guido Wimmers, British Columbia Institute of Technology, Vancouver (CAN)

5. Live Experiment: Acoustics of Timber Buildings (slides) by Rok Prislan, University of Primorska/InnoRenew CoE

Newsletter: WoodFlash



woodFlash

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

WoodFlash

Issue 2, Volume 2025

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



Endorsement of the Wood Policy Paper

November 06, 2024 | Brussels, Belgium

High-level representatives endorsed the Policy Paper 'A Wood-Based Circular Bioeconomy for a Sustainable Europe' at the WoodPoP 3rd High Level Meeting. The **ten countries** and **seven stakeholder organisations**

LinkedIn

 **European wood policy platform (woodPoP)**
847 followers
3w • Edited • 

 **EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT:** The **6th Expert Group Meeting** and the **Technical Working Group "Innovation & Research" Workshop** will take place on **1 – 2 April 2025 in Zurich, Switzerland** ch. ...more



DISCUSSION TOPICS :

- ▶ Importance of Public-Private Funding programs in driving innovation
- ▶ Current information on "Horizon Europe"
- ▶ European research and innovation in the wood sector: How to increase the success rate of the wood sector?
- ▶ 3-minute flash presentation by TWG members on innovation success stories

**TUESDAY, 01 APRIL 2025
ZURICH, SWITZERLAND**

**REGISTRATION LINK IN
THE HOMEPAGE**

 Uwe Kies and 37 others

13 reposts

 **European wood policy platform (woodPoP)**
847 followers
2w • 

(english below)


 **Le document d'orientation sur la politique du bois est désormais** ...more

Show translation





Maintenant disponible en français!


<https://woodpop.eu/resources/wood-policy-paper/>


 You and 44 others


11 reposts

 **European wood policy platform (woodPoP)**
847 followers
1mo • Edited • 


We're excited to share the official post-event video highlights from the 3rd WoodPoP High-Level Meeting in Brussels!


 Relive key moments as 19 government representatives and 18 stakeholder organizations across the Pan-European region came together to endorse the Wood Policy Paper on November 6, 2024, at the [Permanent Representation of Austria to the EU](#).

 From powerful speeches to key discussions on wood-based construction and circular bioeconomy, this video captures the spirit of collaboration that has set the stage for a sustainable wood policy in Europe.


 Watch the full video here (Youtube): <https://lnkd.in/dRWuAp8R>

Let's continue the conversation of shaping a wood-based circular bioeconomy - towards a **#clean**, **#just** and **#competitive** transformation of Europe.

 Access the Wood Policy Paper here: <https://lnkd.in/eQQXbjFZ>


 Read the press release about the event at our website: <https://lnkd.in/dEHVSynj>

#WoodPoP #WoodPolicyPaper #WoodIsGood #HLM #CircularBioeconomy

 **3rd WoodPoP High Level Meeting**
youtube.com

 Andreas Nikolaus KLEINSCHMIT VON LENGEFELD and 20 others

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Item 3.4

Joint reflection on the next steps for WoodPoP

EMG: Food for thought

Petri J. Heino
Andreas N. Kleinschmit von Lengefeld
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Taking into account the strategy for outreach activities towards EU institutions, the following key areas need to be developed within woodPoP in order to build a strong foundation for the future:

- 1. Improving the operational structure:** Clarify roles within woodPoP and establishing close cooperation between Technical Working Groups (TWGs) – transversal & vertical and creating **specialised councils** for enhanced cooperation (e.g. science, industry).
- 2. Communication strategies:** Develop insights on how to engage **EU institutions** and streamline information flow between stakeholders, decision makers and operational groups. The delivery structure will be refined.
- 3. Enhancing participation:** Discuss upcoming meetings, travel plans and the use of conferences to enhance cooperation and outreach.
- 4. Stakeholder engagement:** Ensure active contribution and benefit for all members, including government representatives, agencies and industry leaders. Develop and communicate the structure to avoid frustration.
- 5. Future Roadmap:** Propose clear deliverables and frameworks, including a roadmap, to ensure long-term impact.

Today  Content process

