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

REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF THE ECONOMY, TOURISM AND SPORT

4th High Level Meeting of the European Wood Policy Platform (WoodPoP)

When: 15 October 2025 at 09:00-13.00 CEST
Venue: hybrid; InnoRenew CoE, Livade 6a, 6310 Izola, Slovenia/hybrid

Join online:
Meeting Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83224251827?pwd=mebbueTMXQy9xJnWJkysAj9BlZJDmc.1
Meeting ID: 832 2425 1827
Passcode: 421378

Objectives:

- The exchange of views will discuss how transdisciplinary measures can help to strengthen the wood-based sector and its contributions to a competitive, just and green Europe.
- A particular focus will be laid on how training (within the sector) and re-training (within the sector to enhance the existing workers' skills, educating and training sector-specific skills to attract workers from other sectors) can provide urgently needed new skills for the revitalization of the sector.

15 October 2025 – High level meeting (Moderator: Boštjan Romih)

09:00 – 09:30 Welcome coffee and registration

09:30 Opening of the Meeting

- Matjaž Han, Minister of Economy, Tourism and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia (video message)
- Willibald Ehrenhöfer, Minister for Economy, Labour, Finance, Science and Research, Government of Styria, Austria

Welcoming Words by Dr. Aleš Musar in the name of the President of the Republic of Slovenia Dr. Nataša Pirc Musar

Keynote 1 – Lifelong learning and development of microcredentials in Slovenia

- Urban Kodrič, State Secretary at the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation of the Republic of Slovenia

Keynote 2 – Strengthening exchange between relevant actors in policymaking and science

- Prof. Dr. Daniela Kleinschmit, IUFRO President, Chair of Forest and Environmental Policy, University of Freiburg, Germany

Presentation of the Policy Brief 'A skilled workforce in the wood-based sector to propel Europe towards a sustainable future'

- Prof. Dr. Andreja Kutnar, InnoRenew CoE & University of Primorska, Slovenia

Group Photo

10:30 – 11:00 Coffee break* , **

11:00 Presentation of the Draft Outcome Statement 'The role of wood in Europe's clean, just and competitive transformation'

Exchange of views on the Draft Outcome Statement

- Moderated by Georg Rappold, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management, Austria, and
- Darko Sajko, Ministry of Economy, Tourism and Sport, Slovenia

The WoodPoP Dara Award. Celebrating Sustainable Timber Construction

- Presentation by Tomas Krejzar, Ministry of Agriculture, Czech Republic and David Gil-Moreno, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ireland

Updates from the WoodPoP Secretariat (WoodPoP Fund, upcoming meetings)

- Alexander Buck, Executive Director, IUFRO
- Veronika Steinhofer-Juch, WoodPoP Secretariat

Reports of the Technical Working Groups' co-leads

Closing remarks

- Georg Rappold, Austrian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Regions and Water Management, Austria
- Darko Sajko, Ministry of Economy, Tourism and Sport, Slovenia

Handing Over of the IUFRO Distinguished Service Award to Lidija Zadnik-Stirn, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

13:15 – 15:00 Networking Lunch

15 October 2025 – Optional: TWG Education & Vocational Training

15:00 – 16:30 Meeting of the TWG Education & Vocational Training

18:00 Informal Dinner at InnoRenew CoE

16 October 2025 – Informal Steering Group

10:00 – 12:00 Meeting of the Informal Steering Group

12:00 Lunch for Informal Steering Group members

* Bilateral meeting of ministers.
** Statements for the press