

Interreg
Alpine Space
CaSCo

EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND



Increasing the public usage of local wood

A collection of approaches from selected Alpine regions

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Increasing the public usage of local wood - A collection of approaches from selected Alpine regions
Deliverable DT4.4.1 Show cases of approaches for local low carbon timber in communities and municipalities

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More information about CaSCo is available on www.alpine-space.eu/projects/casco

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Short description: This report presents a collection of different regional approaches that have been implemented by the CaSCo partners to increase the public usage of local wood.

1 INTRODUCTION

Constructing with wood contributes to climate protection. This applies even more when the wood is transported over short distances along the production chain from the forest to the building or other object.

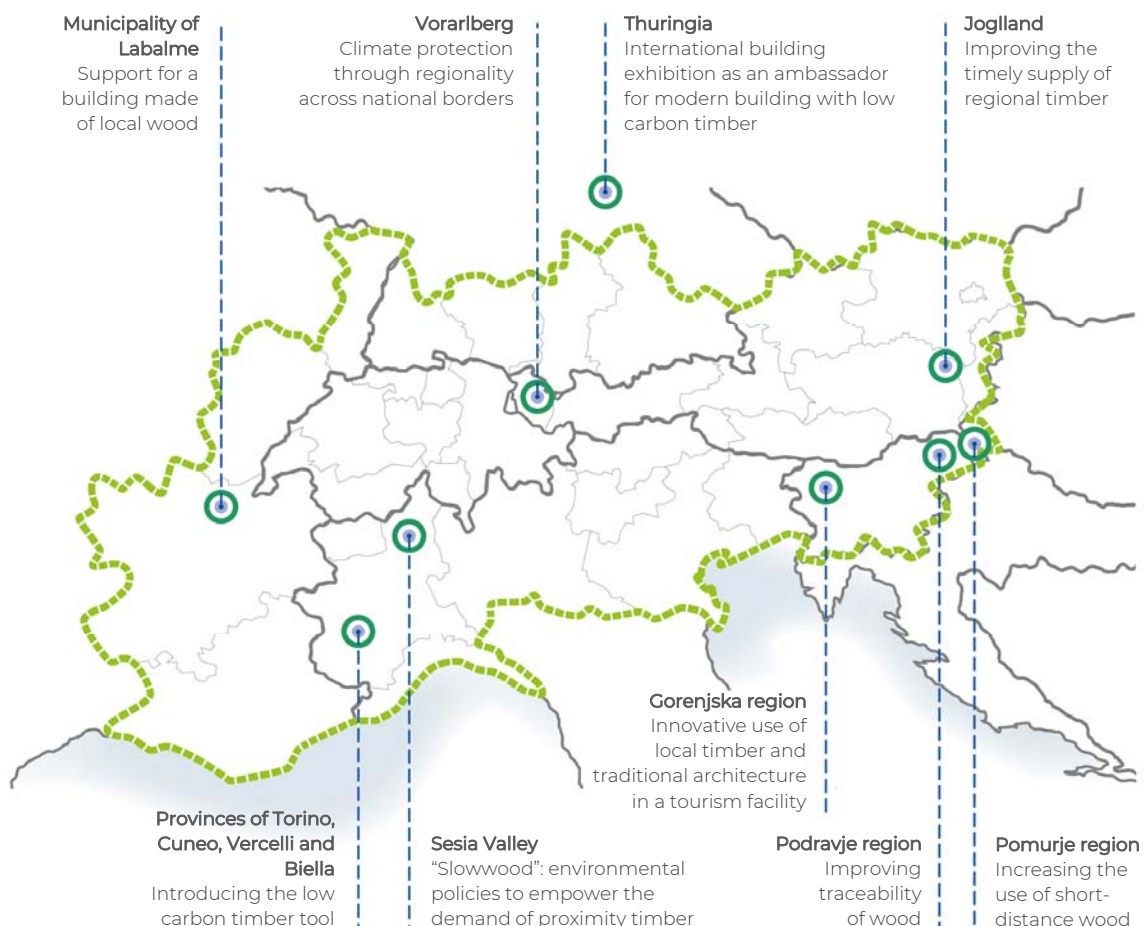
From France to Slovenia the CaSCo partners used the instruments and policy advice documents developed in the project to implement pilot actions that help to increase the public usage of local wood. The focus was in particular on enabling public authorities to actively choose low carbon timber products. Relevant stakeholders were involved in the piloting activities.

The showcases described in this publication are meant to inspire and motivate other actors to get active in a similar way. They make the project results in terms of implementation activities known in the project regions and beyond and support transferability of experiences to other regions. The publication is addressed in particular to public authorities, sectoral agencies, timber companies, planners as well as professional organisations of the timber-producing branch. A second version of this report is available with the presentations of the pilot actions in original language.

All show cases are described according to a common structure by providing information on

- the size of the implementation area
- the topic
- the target groups
- the starting point
- implemented measures
- results
- personal statement of a key actor
- contact

The CaSCo project was implemented from November 2016 to April 2020 by eleven partners from five Alpine countries. The Regional Development Vorarlberg eGen has been leading the work package "Piloting". CaSCo was co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund in the framework of the Alpine Space Program.



2 OUR SOLUTIONS FROM WEST TO EAST: AN OVERVIEW

The present collection focuses on significant actions and implementations that are typical for the respective partners in the CaSCo project or reflect the approach in the project for the region. The report does not describe all project activities of the partners. What is interesting is the different approaches in the regions. This clearly shows the different starting conditions and prerequisites for the implementation of a low carbon timber instrument.

The project partner from the French region Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes strives to strengthen the regional wood value chain by sensitising decision-makers in the municipalities to the implementation of public buildings with regional wood and by supporting them in the implementation. In the end, they succeeded in creating an exemplary and energy-efficient building using wood from their own forests. This is not a simple matter of course, as it requires an overview of the individual production steps along the entire value chain. This also requires compromises in terms of process and quality.

In Piedmont, Italy, the partners ARPA and Envipark focused on strengthening a regional brand organization of 17 PEFC-certified companies. Together with the companies, they worked out ways of extending the value chain from the province to the region. For this purpose, it was necessary to mobilize the companies to cooperate for a system of short distances. This was achieved by certifying specific timber products with the "Low Carbon Timber" label. The partners advocate that public tenders should increasingly limit CO₂ emissions or require proof to be provided.

Another Italian project partner, the Valsesia mountain region, tried to influence demand. They developed a guide for public tenders with regional wood and found a way to prove the sustainable production of wood. They also relied on cooperation with local suppliers. The use of Low Carbon Timber certificates for biomass products is also interesting.

The project partner from Vorarlberg is counting on the widespread use of the "Holz von Hier" low carbon timber label in public tenders and also on increasing demand. The partner was able to adapt the funding system for public and private developers in close cooperation with the political decision-makers. This has boosted the demand for regional timber and the use of the label "Holz von Hier". Within a short period of time, more than 40 companies were persuaded to register

for Holz von Hier. An important finding was that regionality should not be based on national borders, but should be defined according to distance via the CO₂-emitting transport.

The partner from Germany, Holz von Hier, concentrated in the pilot example on the signal effect of a large event to make the importance of the use of wood from the region known. For this purpose, a pavilion was created that conveys modern design and regionalism.

The Slovenian project partner from the Gorenjska region worked on increasing the use of regional timber. They set up a touristic infrastructure that combines regional resources, traditions and innovation. As it is located in a highly frequented touristic area it supports raising awareness on low carbon timber among a wide public. The construction was possible thanks to intensive awareness raising activities among decision makers.

The Austrian partner from Joglland supported the use of wood of short distances for two concrete buildings. This turned out to be an instructive process for many participants. The examples made clear the challenges of the region and showed that more efforts are needed to mobilise the local forestry industry with the small forest owners. CaSCo thus provided important insights for further development work in the region.

The project partner from the Slovenian region of Podravje concentrated in its example on raising awareness of the use of wood from the region. In particular, municipalities and other local authorities that are in the public interest are motivated to implement exemplary objects with regional wood. In order to raise awareness, they focused on the presentation of the carbon footprint of products.

The development agency of the Slovenian region of Pomurje also focuses on good examples and the presentation of the carbon footprint of products and buildings made of wood. In one concrete example, the project partner worked with experts to implement an object made of regional wood that was originally to be constructed using imported wood. This demonstrated that regional wood is suitable for a wide range of applications.

To sum up, we can say that the project partners' approaches are diverse and have the common goal of reducing CO₂ emissions. The CaSCo partners have demonstrated the possibilities for this with concrete examples.

3 PILOT ACTIONS

3.1 SUPPORTING LABALME MUNICIPALITY FOR A BUILDING MADE OF LOCAL WOOD

Partner and location
Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Energie Environnement Municipality of Labalme, department of Ain (France)
Keywords
timber, local, construction, public building, approach
Size of the implementation area
2.000 m ²
Topic (according to the Alpine Space policy cycle)
Strategic policy development: analytical and research activities involving e.g. policy owners
Explorative and piloting activities: development of new tools or methodologies and their testing to find most appropriate means for strategy implementation
Policy implementation: focus on fully developed instruments for the concrete implementation of a policy
Target groups
local and regional public authorities
sectoral agencies (of Environment, Energy as well as agriculture and forestry)
SMEs in the wood sector and business support organisations (chambers of commerce and chambers of crafters)
Other (architects associations as well as professional organisations of the timber producing branch)

3.1.1 Starting point

The department of Ain is a much forested department with a big activity in first transformation of wood since it is an exporter of sawn timber products. However, timber construction and second transformation are not as developed there, both in public buildings and in individual houses. The role of the timber sector association of the Ain department, FIBOIS 01, is to promote wood construction, but also to support project leaders in their efforts. The Ain department also wanted to support local authorities launching local timber construction projects in order to encourage them in this approach and to have a number of showcase buildings to represent the department's timber sector and promote the material. These projects are also strong projects for the structuring of the timber sector.

In 2016, FIBOIS 01 and FIBOIS Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes (AuRA) met the elected representatives of the municipality of Labalme, in particular the deputy Mrs. Allouin-Girod. The municipality of Labalme wanted to build a new communal building and was looking into the different building

3D view of the project during the design phase, ©Mégard Architectes



materials. The FIBOIS network has followed and accompanied the municipality from the beginning of the approach, initially offering to discover the material wood through visits, conferences, and meetings. Following these exchanges and visits, the municipality chose wood construction for energy and environmental performance reasons. In 2017, the town of Labalme decided to use its own wood in its project, based on an idea by the architect and in consultation with the national forestry office ONF. A cut planned for the following year in the communal forests allowed the construction of such a building. It is also thanks to a new aid for local wood construction, supported by the department of Ain through the white book (a subsidy animated among others by FIBOIS 01) that the municipality was able to start a project in local wood.

The FIBOIS network, notably FIBOIS 01, has been supporting the municipality since 2016. The building was delivered in April 2020.



Participation of the municipality of Labalme in the general assembly of Fibois 01, organised on the premises of the Ducret sawmill in Maillat (presentation of the project and the method of recovery of local wood) © Fibois 01

3.1.2 Measures

CaSCo allowed FIBOIS 01 to devote a maximum amount of time to the support of the municipality of Labalme, i.e. regular and frequent monitoring. This made it possible to propose visits and follow-up meetings to the municipality, to help it in the choice of wood but also in the use of communal wood and in coordination with all the project's actors. FIBOIS 01 was also able to liaise with FIBOIS AuRA on all technical issues concerning construction.

Visit of the sawmill ETB
© Charte Forestière du Massif du Bugey



3.1.3 Results

- Promotion of timber construction
- Construction of a building made of local wood, which will be NZEB-certified (positive energy building)
- Coordination between the project actors and follow-up at each stage of the project
- Valuation of this construction through visits and articles

3.1.4 Interview

Pascale Allouin-Girod, assistant at Labalme municipality

What obstacles did you face and what were the main challenges?

The first challenge was financial planning; FIBOIS 01 was present alongside the municipality to help it find subsidies, especially when the loss of funding compromised the project.

Working with a communal and therefore limited lot is quite complex for all actors, including companies. It required special organisation for the builder and logistical solutions, particularly in replacing pieces of wood of insufficient quality.

What did you learn from the implementation activities?

Coordination between actors is essential and must be monitored at all times.

What can you recommend to others that are working on a similar topic?

It is essential to think about each stage and each transformation of the wood when it is communal: sawing, drying, transport, treatment, machining, planning etc. This is to avoid unpleasant surprises for the project owner. It is also important to reread all parts of the tender in order to check them and also to accompany the project owner. On this project, for example, the project owner omitted to mention in the tender that the cladding should be purchased because the communal lot did not have enough wood for this; this information had indeed been given by the national forestry office but had not been included in the tender.



Visit of construction site and round table discussion © Fibois 01

3.1.5 Contact



**Auvergne
Rhône-Alpes**
Énergie Environnement

Roxane Riou-Fougeras, Wood supply chain manager
focused on second transformation and short circuits

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3.2 INTRODUCING THE LOW CARBON TIMBER TOOL IN THE PIEDMONT REGION

Partner and location
Environment Protection Agency for the Piedmont Region, Environment Park S.p.A. Provinces of Torino, Cuneo, Vercelli and Biella (Italy)
Keywords
certification, green public procurement, low carbon timber, awareness
Size of the implementation area
16.727 km ² , corresponding to the provinces of Torino, Cuneo, Vercelli e Biella (66% of the total area of Piedmont Region)
Topic (according to the Alpine Space policy cycle)
Strategic policy development: analytical and research activities involving e.g. policy owners
Explorative and piloting activities: development of new tools or methodologies and their testing to find most appropriate means for strategy implementation
Policy implementation: focus on fully developed instruments for the concrete implementation of a policy
Target groups
local and regional public authorities
sectoral agencies (of Environment, Energy as well as agriculture and forestry)
SMEs in the wood sector and business support organisations (chambers of commerce and chambers of crafters)
Other (architects associations as well as professional organisations of the timber producing branch)

3.2.1 Starting point

In Piedmont Region, the lack of wooden raw material from local forestry still represents the main issue for improving the timber value chain in the region. The lack of infrastructures for harvesting, and a still inefficient forestry management system, brought during the years to a both quantitative and qualitative deficit of timber.

PEFC/FSC certified properties only represent about the 3% of the total regional forestry.

Despite the presence on the territory of a number of qualified operators for wood transformation, only 36% of round wood worked by regional sawmills and 14% of sawn wood commercialized is estimated to come from regional forests. In the short term, such problems require an integrated approach, based on raising awareness of professional and final users and on the introduction of proper tools and procedures for the valorisation of existing innovative and timber products with high environmental performance deriving from short distance value chains.



CaSCo training at Restructura fair, in cooperation with expertise of GQL and accreditation of Turin Foundation of Architects.

3.2.2 Measures

Implementation of the CaSCo “Low Carbon Timber” tool

Our activities were based on the positive experience of the "Wood province of Turin" brand, aimed at enhancing the value of local wood through the application of a traceability protocol. We adapted the Low Carbon Timber (LCT) protocol and tested it on a group of 17 PEFC chain of custody certified companies, extending the existing network from a provincial to a regional scale.

As a pilot action on public procurement, ARPA Piemonte tested the Low Carbon Timber tool (LCT) through the implementation of a call for tender for the procurement of wooden furniture to be installed in their own premises and offices.



LCT certificate of truss in regional chestnut



Centre for the promotion of regional wood, at Segheria Valle Sacra. The building got one of the CaSCo regional timber awards and was identified as one of the nodal points of the CaSCo smart places network.

Re-organization and shortening of local chain of values

Specific training contents about sustainability aspects of the use of short-distance timber were introduced in specific trainings organized in co-operation with groups and associations of architects and engineers, showing in particular the links between LCT product certification and building project certification and the importance to use the proper traceability and environmental certification tools.

In synergy with the measures of adaptation and promotion of the LCT tool, the identified Low Carbon Timber producing companies in the region were supported in the re-organization of their supply chain, establishing relations aimed to generate certified LCT sawn wood, components and final products.

3.2.3 Results

- As a result of the pilot implementation of the LCT tool, 17 companies entered into the regional network of SMEs providing LCT products. This group includes some of the main sawmills in the region actually processing regional wood which will ensure the possibility to establish stable short supply Low Carbon Timber value chains.
- Four products were certified with the Low Carbon Timber scheme: two productions of wooden windows, 1 production of interior furniture and one wooden truss for construction. They represent different examples of innovative products with high environmental and aesthetic quality which can be taken for example.
- A good level of cooperation with training centres, professional associations and groups of experts was established, including the main

protocols for building certification (LEED; CasaClima), setting the preconditions for a future increase of the regional timber demand. Almost 200 professionals were trained in the initiatives organized during the project, promoted and accredited by the Turin Foundation of Architects.

- In order to facilitate the meeting between supply and demand for Low Carbon Timber, the project developed a first model at regional level for the sale of timber according to criteria aimed at maintaining a processing chain characterized by reduced distances between operators, in addition to environmental aspects. The model was tested by the Consorzio Forestale del Canavese.
- ARPA Piemonte performed a call for tenders to buy low carbon timber furniture (chairs, benches, tables and notice boards). According to the Low Carbon Timber certificate, the total distance from the forest of origin was 99 km, with a carbon footprint of 5.3 kg of CO₂ equivalent. The furniture was equipped with a QR code plaque that allows access to the Smart Place Network of the CaSCo project.

3.2.4 Interview



Luca Galeasso
(project manager at
Environment Park) and
Luana Scaccianoce
(ARPA Piemonte)

What obstacles did you face and what were the main challenges?

Galeasso: Many regional woodworking companies still use a territorial and geographical approach to the issue of short supply chains. There is resistance to raising awareness about the environmental value associated with local supply chains.

Scaccianoce: The current procurement regulations do not allow the indication of a geographical origin or a maximum distance for product supply as a mandatory criterion, but only give the possibility of including in the procurement procedure some awarding criteria evaluating the shortest supply distance. The distance of supply criterion is still too often considered as optional.

What did you learn from the implementation activities?

Galeasso: It is very important to show to the final user, and in particular to the professionals engaged in the realization and certification of con-

struction projects, that the use of regional wood is possible and that on the market there is a growing demand for environmental good practices.

Scaccianoce: Carrying out a preliminary market survey to verify the availability of material from sustainably managed forests and the presence of suppliers on the regional territory can facilitate the procurement process and the identification of the most suitable environmental criteria and reference supply distances.

What can you recommend to others that are working on a similar topic?

Galeasso: Do not forget to promote Low Carbon Timber as a sustainability driver, not only from an environmental point of view, but also in terms of local development and economic growth of regional operators.

Scaccianoce: Environmental criteria should always be included in public procurement. If a maximum distance criterion in the procurement is not applicable, depending on the type of tender, try to set a limit value of CO₂ emissions associated with transport along the entire production chain. Suppliers will need to be provided with a tool to calculate their CO₂ emissions.



Prize realized with regional timber for the CaSCo video award

3.2.5 Contact



Luca Galeasso, Environment Park, Torino (ITALY)
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3.3 “SLOWWOOD”: ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES TO EMPOWER THE DEMAND OF PROXIMITY TIMBER IN THE SESIA VALLEY

Partner and location
Mountain Union of the Municipalities of the Sesia valley (Piedmont, Italy)
Keywords
affecting demand, proximity, environmental performances, green public procurement, traditional techniques, biomass
Size of the implementation area
1.000 km ²
Topic (according to the Alpine Space policy cycle)
Strategic policy development: analytical and research activities involving e.g. policy owners
Explorative and piloting activities: development of new tools or methodologies and their testing to find most appropriate means for strategy implementation
Policy implementation: focus on fully developed instruments for the concrete implementation of a policy
Target groups
local and regional public authorities
sectoral agencies (of Environment, Energy as well as agriculture and forestry)
SMEs in the wood sector and business support organisations (chambers of commerce and chambers of crafters)
Other (architects associations as well as professional organisations of the timber producing branch)

(3) In the Po Valley biomass heating is heavily discussed due to air pollution. In Valsesia, biomass heating is ensured from a very short distance supply chain. This should be certified to demonstrate that its environmental performances are globally good.



Timber logging in Valsesia (Varallo, VC)



The headquarters of Tecno Verde Srl, main biomass heating provider in Valsesia

3.3.1 Starting point

(1) In Italy, the first and second processing timber industries rely largely on imports of raw materials, while the trade balance of the wood sector is in surplus thanks to exports. Local roundwood production in the Sesia valley is low and discontinuous. The strong demand can hardly be met by the local supply and this leads to massive recourse to road transport.

(2) Regarding green public procurement, the Italian Public Contracts Code (D.Lgs. 50/2016 art. 34 and 71) introduced mandatory environmental criteria (“Minimum Environmental Criteria,” abbr. CAM in Italian) for main classes of products. According to the CAMs, all timber should come from sustainably managed forests and chain of custody (CoC), and timber from less than 150 km origin should be rewarded. In Piedmont though, only 4% of forests have a certification for sustainable forest management (SFM) and few companies have the CoC. Therefore, using SFM timber prevents compliance with sustainability criteria for emissions during transport.

3.3.2 Measures

We focused on testing different policies which were developed for different categories of stakeholders able to affect demand.

For Mountain Union of the Municipalities of the Sesia valley the main public contracting authority in the area, a document has been drawn up which includes a declaration of intent and a technical annex. The declaration is a commitment by the public body to prefer wood to other alternatives, and to adopt in tenders mandatory sustainability and legality requirements and rewarding criteria that favour traceable and short supply chain timber. The annex is a practical guide for the drafting of tenders and specifications. The most original aspect is to identify indirect sustainability verification requirements to be used in the absence of raw material from certified forests. This allows to effectively use proximity wood respecting CAMs. Methodologies were also identified to verify the distance covered within the production process and promoting the Low Carbon Timber protocol by Holz von Hier.

For the LAG Terre del Sesia, a similar document has been specifically developed.

A private contractor, Oasi Zegna, linked to the international fashion house Ermenegildo Zegna, and owner of a 1200 ha nature reserve, was also involved. A declaration of intent for the use of local wood has been developed with this contractor. Oasi Zegna will adopt the Holz von Hier protocol for its forthcoming wood creations.

Finally, for the biomass supply chain the objective was to adapt the Holz von Hier protocol to heat supplies, providing for the periodic issue of a certificate and an annual report on the environmental performance of the service.

3.3.3 Results

The Mountain Union launched the first experimental tender based on the new policy, starting from the design phase, which must define the technical specifications. It also conducted information activities aimed at both public contracting authorities and companies.

In collaboration with the other Italian project partners, the Holz von Hier protocol was adapted to the regional context, in particular by modifying the benchmarks (km distances) and overcoming the problem of the lack of certified forests with objective verification systems of sustainability. The new protocol is called Low Carbon Timber (LCT).



Newly built traditional „Walser“ houses
(Pra di Riva Village - Riva Valdobbia (VC))

Oasi Zegna has started the design of an information point made entirely of local wood and using the LCT protocol. Its regular suppliers of timber and woodwork have been involved in tutoring activities to adapt to their client's requirements.

The only sawmill in the Sesia valley also adhered to the protocol and was supported by the project in promotional activities, so that customers' interest in the issue of sustainability grew. Traditional-style houses seem to be the most promising sector for the use of local wood.

Globally, six local companies so far adhered to the LCT protocol, but others are taking an interest.

The Terre del Sesia LAG will propose the adoption of the policy implemented in the CaSCo project to the other Piedmontese LAGs, to make it a standard at regional level.

The two suppliers of biomass heat are producing the first LCT certificates.

3.3.4 Interview



Pier Luigi Prino,
President of the Mountain Union of the
Municipalities of the Sesia Valley

What obstacles did you face and what were the main challenges?

The first issue was the lack of data. In the past, wood and the extraction of metals were the main resources of Valsesia. Over the years, the economic value of forests has been reduced and they have been neglected. When we started working on the project we had information about the wood surface but no specific data about the supply chain; only a general perception. Secondly, we have difficulties in applying the environmental requirements stated by the public procurement regulations, due to a lack of certified forests and companies in the region.

What did you learn from the implementation activities?

We discovered previously unknown resources and strengths of the territory. Local construction wood is being used, but it is not visible and not valued and therefore stifled by international competition. We have also found out that the vast majority of regional timber is objectively obtained by sustainable management, but lacks certification.

What can you recommend to others that are working on a similar topic?

If we want to reduce the environmental impact of transport, we must focus on local production. At the same time this means promoting traditional types of construction and small-scale, highly skilled craft productions. Hence we chose the nickname "slowwood" that we use to describe the actions we have started and want to continue after the project. Moreover, it is necessary that public bodies as well as private contractors adopt responsible policies to promote the use of "proximity wood", even if this could result a bit more expensive. The Valsesia Mountain Union, the main contracting authority for this area, is going to lead by example.

3.3.5 Contact



**UNIONE MONTANA
DEI COMUNI DELLA VALSESIA**

Pier Luigi Prino,

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3.4 CLIMATE PROTECTION THROUGH REGIONALITY ACROSS NATIONAL BORDERS

Partner and location
Regional Development Vorarlberg eGen (Regio-V) Vorarlberg (Austria)
Keywords
CO ₂ reduction, regionality, added value, natural building material, living quality
Size of the implementation area
2.601 km ² , forest area 974 km ² = 37 %, inhabitants: 394.297 (2019)
Topic (according to the Alpine Space policy cycle)
Strategic policy development: analytical and research activities involving e.g. policy owners
Explorative and piloting activities: development of new tools or methodologies and their testing to find most appropriate means for strategy implementation
Policy implementation: focus on fully developed instruments for the concrete implementation of a policy
Target groups
local and regional public authorities
sectoral agencies (of Environment, Energy as well as agriculture and forestry)
SMEs in the wood sector and business support organisations (chambers of commerce and chambers of crafters)
Other (architects associations as well as professional organisations of the timber producing branch)

3.4.1 Starting point

In Vorarlberg there is sufficient regional wood. Nevertheless, the timber market is becoming increasingly globalised and the intensity of transport is increasing exponentially. The argument "climate-friendly building with wood" is beginning to falter. In order to survive in the face of competition, the sawmills in Vorarlberg are increasingly forced to purchase round timber abroad. Timber constructors are often under time and price pressure and are obliged to purchase timber or timber construction components from distant regions.

Incentives for investors to build with wood in a climate-friendly manner are lacking. For example, when public buildings are put out to tender the possibility of reducing the transport route and thus the CO₂ pollution is missing. As the use of wood from remote areas increases, the management of local forests decreases. This increases the risk of a lack of regeneration, which has fatal consequences especially for the protection forests. Even if forestry is more difficult in steep and mountainous terrain with many small forest

owners, it is still important that the forest is managed.

3.4.2 Measures

Based on the findings of the interviews and workshops conducted with numerous experts from the various companies in the value chain (forestry operations, sawmills and planning mills, timber trade, carpentry, window manufacturers, timber construction), three approaches were defined for Vorarlberg:

1. check the applicability of the label "Holz von Hier" for public and private buildings and the relevant handling in the wood-processing companies
2. improve the availability and supply of regional timber
3. allow more regional wood in the industrial prefabrication of timber construction components

Application of the "Holz von Hier" label:

Lawyers assessed the situation in Vorarlberg in terms of public procurement law and drew up a corresponding recommendation. At the same time, the possibilities for shaping the public funding and incentive systems when using the label "Holz von Hier" were examined. Thirdly, the acceptance by the wood-processing companies was examined. An important question was: Is regionality defined in terms of administrative borders or differently? "Holz von Hier" conveys regionality in the product conceptually, but certifies transport distances for a quantity of timber and thus demonstrates the careful handling of CO₂ emissions in the timber supply chain. This is a certain challenge in communication.



Woodyard of Erhart Holz



CaSCo at construction fair.com.bau

Availability of regional timber

In compliance with the specified project structure, Vorarlberg developed an online round timber marketplace, which should facilitate the submission of round timber. In addition, the feasibility of an inter-company physical or virtual sawn timber warehouse was examined.

More regional timber in industrial prefabrication

Through discussions with entrepreneurs the question was investigated to what extent more local wood can be used in the production of timber construction components (e.g. cross-laminated timber). All measures were supported by public relations work.



Leaflet – Building with local wood

3.4.3 Results

Application of the label "Holz von Hier"

According to the environmental association's assessment in terms of public procurement law, the label "Holz von Hier" (or comparable) can be used in tenders for public buildings. This was the key to further implementations. It was thus possible to achieve that municipalities receive higher subsidies from the province of Vorarlberg when using the label "Holz von Hier". It was also possible to have the provincial government adjust its housing subsidies in favour of the label and to

have private developers receive higher subsidies. These incentives have led to a noticeable demand for "Holz von Hier" certificates and prompted more than 40 companies to register in the "Holz von Hier" brand association.

Availability of regional timber

The round wood portal for submissions was programmed and made available to the Association of forest owners for use. Setting up a physical inter-company wood ripening warehouse could be effective, but is too ambitious at the present time. First approaches towards a virtual warehouse have been implemented. At a sawmill (Welte GmbH), an automated data interface was set up on the calibrated log measuring system. A data model for the warehouse management was created and thus a good basis for further projects for the digitalization of the value chain wood was created.

More regional timber in industrial prefabrication

Individual discussions and a workshop with entrepreneurs have shown that the construction of a production plant for cross-laminated timber from regional wood is too ambitious a project. Rather, the aim is to examine the extent to which existing producers are able to use local wood in production. It turned out that there are possibilities for individual wood products, and so, for example, the Mayr-Melnhof timber construction plant in Reuthe has agreed to become a "Holz von Hier" operation. Other companies are located in the area covered by the label.

3.4.4 Interview



Franz Ruff, Telesis GmbH,
project manager on behalf of Regio-V

What obstacles did you face and what were the main challenges?

Vorarlberg has launched a number of initiatives in the past to increase the use of regional wood, e.g. the silver fir initiative, promotion of timber construction (association of woodworking companies), development of a Vorarlbergholz certificate etc. All projects had the aim of strengthening the wood value chain and promoting the use of wood from the region. The projects had the positive effect of increasing public demand for timber construction and of making Vorarlberg a model state for timber construction. Despite the positive development, sales of wood from local forests have not improved adequately. The import of the raw material from more distant areas

was the consequence. This is not in the interest of the local forestry and environmental efforts. Our challenge is therefore: How can we manage to increase the use of wood as a regional building material?



Presentation Wooden Pillars
as part of the Smart Places Network

What did you learn from the implementation activities?

Regionality must not be based on national borders: All too often, politically driven efforts take a patriotic view of the region. This is not compatible with the mechanisms of the globalising economy. The economy needs incentives, services and a changed demand to reduce the transport of goods. "Holz von Hier" provides a good approach to this and focuses purely on distance. Depending on availability, other distances are "tolerable". Regionality must be thought of as variable and without country or even valley borders.

What can you recommend to others that are working on a similar topic?

We can report a positive conclusion to the CaSCo project. This success can be attributed to the personal contacts and the large participation of public and private institutions. Our recommendation is: Make those affected into participants by addressing them personally and arouse their interest with concrete proposals for solutions.

3.4.5 Contact



**Regionalentwicklung
Vorarlberg** eGen

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3.5 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING EXHIBITION AS AN AMBASSADOR FOR MODERN BUILDING WITH LOW CARBON TIMBER

Partner and location
Holz von Hier Thuringia, Germany
Keywords
timber construction, international construction exhibition
Size of the implementation area
-
Topic (according to the Alpine Space policy cycle)
Strategic policy development: analytical and research activities involving e.g. policy owners
Explorative and piloting activities: development of new tools or methodologies and their testing to find most appropriate means for strategy implementation
Policy implementation: focus on fully developed instruments for the concrete implementation of a policy
Target groups
local and regional public authorities
sectoral agencies (of Environment, Energy as well as agriculture and forestry)
SMEs in the wood sector and business support organisations (chambers of commerce and chambers of crafters)
Other (architects associations as well as professional organisations of the timber producing branch)

3.5.1 Starting point

The flow of goods in the timber industry is becoming increasingly global and the transport routes longer. This puts a strain on the climate. Often, however, regional structures would also be available to supply the procurement chain.

In many cases, public decision-makers and players in the industry believe that if the use of wood is increased, the regional companies along the value chain automatically benefit. But this is a misconception. Paradoxically, there is also the opinion that modern timber construction and a regional process chain contradict each other, because the materials needed cannot be obtained regionally.

It is therefore of great importance that decision makers, public authorities, consumers and companies understand that modern timber construction and climate-friendly short distances complement each other well and are the order of the day. To bring about a change in awareness in this context usually requires a great and long-lasting effort.

Newly set up pavilion



3.5.2 Measures

Within the framework of CaSCo, Holz von Hier has used the International Building Exhibition (IBA), which is based in Germany in Thuringia as a multiplier. The IBA is the leading exhibition and platform for building in the present and the future and is respected throughout Germany and beyond. By 2023, the IBA Thuringia will be developing resource-conscious, innovative and exemplary projects with values oriented towards the common good. Milestones are the presentation years 2019 and 2023. The IBA management was convinced of the importance of climate-optimised short process chains and the topic "Wood from short distances" became an implementation tool for key IBA themes.

It is planned that low carbon timber will be used in various wooden buildings within the IBA framework to implement climate-optimised process chains. A touring pavilion in innovative timber construction was developed and built as a central communication instrument and ambassador of the IBA. The pavilion is designed in a technically sophisticated construction method.

Due to the completely new concept, many of the players had serious doubts about its feasibility in regional process chains. Thanks to the active participation of Holz von Hier, regional companies were found which were able to implement the concept technically.

This is an impressive demonstration that innovative and ultra-modern timber construction concepts can also be implemented with Holz von Hier.

3.5.3 Results

The pavilion was built and presented to the public in the IBA's presentation year 2019. The touring pavilion serves as an event platform and is a magnet for visitors. This sent a signal to the industry and to planners and architects and was an important step towards a change in awareness.

3.5.4 Statements

(Extract exhibition press folder)

Dr. Marta Doehler-Behzadi: (CEO IBA Thüringen):

»For an international building exhibition in Thuringia, it is obvious to deal with the still far from exhausted possibilities of the regional building material wood. After all, 34 percent of Thuringia is forested. The "Timber Prototype House" pavilion is a small but important project. It stands for innovative construction methods that get the best out of the material thanks to digital production methods. This future-oriented potential could grow out of the symbiosis of national research and regional economy.«



Gabriele Bruckner (Holz von Hier GmbH, Öko- und Umweltlabel)

»The new IBA pavilion was awarded a project-related certificate of the climate and environment label HOLZ VON HIER. Innovative wood technology and modern wood building materials made an unusual construction principle possible. The proof of short distances makes the object optimally climate-friendly.«

3.5.5 Contact



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3.6 INNOVATIVE USE OF LOCAL TIMBER AND TRADITIONAL ARCHITECTURE IN A TOURISM FACILITY OF THE BOHINJ AREA

Partner and location
BSC Kranj, Regional Development Agency of Gorenjska Gorenjska region (Slovenia)
Keywords
timber, local, construction, tourism, identity, innovative sustainable development
Size of the implementation area
600 km ²
Topic (according to the Alpine Space policy cycle)
Strategic policy development: analytical and research activities involving e.g. policy owners
Explorative and piloting activities: development of new tools or methodologies and their testing to find most appropriate means for strategy implementation
Policy implementation: focus on fully developed instruments for the concrete implementation of a policy
Target groups
local and regional public authorities
sectoral agencies (of Environment, Energy as well as agriculture and forestry)
SMEs in the wood sector and business support organisations (chambers of commerce and chambers of crafters)
Other (architects associations as well as professional organisations of the timber producing branch)

Timber cottages preserving local identity
© Mitja Sodja for Tourism Bohinj



National Park visit Bohinj. Other important elements of tourism and major pillars of Bohinj's economy are the well preserved Alpine landscape based on the traditional extensive use of timber for construction and the wooden cultural heritage in general. Taking into account the relatively remote location of the Bohinj area, it is obvious that timber industry and craft, sustainable tourism, well preserved nature, environment and traditional landscapes and cultural heritage with traditional wooden architectural patterns have been key development policies of all important stakeholders. To enhance the potentials of such sustainable development, traditions have been upgraded by innovations in the use of timber and by tourism based on nature and cultural experiences. As a part of this development, a successful market brand for local products and services has been developed under the name "Bohinjsko" (from Bohinj).

3.6.1 Starting point

In the Gorenjska region, Slovenia, forests cover 140.000 hectares, which means over 60% of the territory. 85% are private forests and 15% public. Due to the sharp decline in wood processing industry after 1991, many of these potentials have been left unused. Between the years 2000 and 2010, with 3,8 million m³ only 58% of the planned amount of timber was cut. From 2011 to 2020 plans were to harvest 7,8 million m³. Although the cutting level has significantly increased in this period, unused potentials were still significant. In addition, a large share of timber is exported unprocessed, mostly to Austria.

The area of Bohinj is situated in the heart of the Julian Alps, mostly inside the Triglav National Park and in a Natura 2000 protected area. It has more than 20.000 hectares of forests which cover almost 65% of this area. Forestry and wood processing have been a traditional economic activity and employment for centuries, since timber was the traditional local material for construction. Nature activities are the main reason for the rapidly increasing tourism in Slovenia and half of 2,5 millions of visitors coming every year to Triglav

3.6.2 Measures

BSC Kranj, the Regional Development Agency of the Gorenjska region, as a CaSCo project partner carried out a set of activities aimed to promote short timber processing chains and the use of low carbon timber as successful development goals that help to empower local and regional stakeholders: public authorities, local SMEs (including forest owners), designers, architects, visitors and tourism organisations. The Bohinj area was chosen as a driving force for the promotion of low carbon timber in the Gorenjska region. The following activities were implemented:

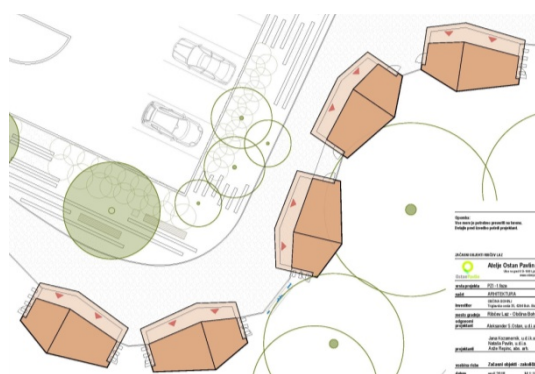
Setting up a "Smart Place" for low carbon timber in the Gorenjska region in the municipality of Bohinj, as part of the CaSCo Smart Places Network. This info point consists of a computer and display to show the CaSCo low carbon timber tools and some sample products made from low carbon timber and by local timber companies;

Rewarding the Alpine Space Regional Timber Award to a low carbon timber construction from

Bohinj, while two others were among the regional finalists;

Promoting low carbon timber products and constructions from Bohinj, especially through a regional exhibition in Radovljica Manor in August 2019 with around 1.000 visitors (Čar lesa, Charm of Wood);

Timber cottages preserving local identity
© Mitja Sodja for Tourism Bohinj



Meetings and education activities with or for local stakeholders to promote and transfer the low carbon timber tools, with a special focus on including low carbon timber criteria into public procurements.

3.6.3 Results

Based on the need for further developing the tourist offer in the Bohinj area, the municipality of Bohinj decided to develop several locations close to the Bohinj lake. These measures also support local producers, improve the quality of life and foster local cultural identity. In this context, the centre of the Ribčev Laz village as a major tourism centre in the area has been further developed. The choice of materials and shape has been made based on the above mentioned CaSCo activities and in order to respect local identity which includes local timber and Alpine architectural traditions.

A square was created which is used for meetings and as a market place for local craftsmen, farmers, etc., mainly under the "Bohinjsko" brand. Five seasonal and mobile timber cottages have been set up. They are accompanied by green arrangements and urban equipment, forming the streets of the Alpine "village". The cottages are in the size of 6,5 x 3,3 meters, with an external timber platform of ca. 6m². They are almost entirely made of (local) timber and by local timber companies. The most appealing aesthetic feature is their architecture which follows the alpine cultural identity of Bohinj (e.g. the roof covered by wooden shingles). The traditional patterns are partly modernized in a sensitive and innovative way to improve their usefulness and give them a modern architectural expression.

The use of traditional architecture together with the message of low carbon timber gives to the cottages and the entire location additional attractiveness and comprehensively supports sustainable local development.

3.6.4 Interview



Nataša Pavlin and Aleksander Ostan
Ostan Pavlin Architectural Atelier (authors of the project)

What obstacles did you face and what were the main challenges?

We were facing the challenge of uniting local architectural patterns with recent ones to create an idea of identity which is traditional and modern at the same time. In parallel, we were dealing with the smart use of local timber for all the elements of the houses, the open space and urban furniture design. All these considerations were possible because there is a high level of understanding among local decision makers.

What did you learn from the implementation activities?

When creating a new product, all participants must have a high level of understanding and knowledge on sustainable development, ranging from global to local awareness, from top-down to bottom-up initiatives. Only high quality products, done mainly with local materials, local labour and skills offer us added value in the long-term.

What can you recommend to others that are working on a similar topic?

Be aware of the planetary problems such as global warming, pollution, water etc. and reduce your footprint in everything you do. But be rooted in the local environment and culture at the same time! Follow a clear vision, share it in synergy with other stakeholders, be convincing and persistent, educate and be open to learn as well!

3.6.5 Contacts



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3.7 IMPROVING THE TIMELY SUPPLY OF REGIONAL TIMBER IN JOGGLAND

Partner and location
IG Kraftspendedörfer Joglland Joglland, Styria (Austria)
Keywords
small forest owners, improve availability, reduce imports, awareness raising
Size of the implementation area
582 km ²
Topic (according to the Alpine Space policy cycle)
Strategic policy development: analytical and research activities involving e.g. policy owners
Explorative and piloting activities: development of new tools or methodologies and their testing to find most appropriate means for strategy implementation
Policy implementation: focus on fully developed instruments for the concrete implementation of a policy
Target groups
local and regional public authorities
sectoral agencies (of Environment, Energy as well as agriculture and forestry)
SMEs in the wood sector and business support organisations (chambers of commerce and chambers of crafters)
Other (architects associations as well as professional organisations of the timber producing branch)

3.7.1 Starting point

With a share of forests of 61.4% Joglland is known as a region with a very high proportion of forest. The growth of wood is higher than the consumption and the forest share is increasing every year. The big problem in Joglland is that about 80 percent of the wood is imported and only little regional wood is used.

In Joglland, as in the rest of Austria, 81 percent of the forest is privately owned. Most of this area is managed by small forest owners. Problems arise from the fact that small forest owners are hardly flexible. They harvest their timber either when high prices can be achieved or when they have time. The supply of regional timber is therefore very unstable. However, the timber construction and furniture industry in Austria needs reliable quantities in a relatively short time. These circumstances make it very difficult to use regional timber.

Bratlm Wenigzell – Excursion destination built from regional fir wood (best practice example)



3.7.2 Measures

Within the CaSCo project, numerous interviews and discussions with regional decision makers were conducted in Joglland. The focus was on interviews and discussions with architects, local forest associations and public decision makers. Key figures on regional wood resources were also collected. From these, some interesting insights could be gained. These data formed the basis for our further work.

In addition, national legislation in the area of "public building contracts" was worked through. It was examined whether the implementation of guidelines for the consideration of regional timber is possible. In addition, trainings with regional stakeholders were conducted.

Furthermore, best practice examples were collected with a focus on the processing of regional timber.

Bratlm Wenigzell – Interior



The new secondary school Waldbach and the Hold restaurant in Mönichwald were supported in the implementation of renovation work.

3.7.3 Results

The activities led to many new insights. Especially the interviews revealed that there is a great demand for regional timber in the Joglland region but that there is not enough supply. Due to the small-scale forest ownership structure, the supply at the required time is the big problem. In addition, the felling of forest resources is very dependent on the strongly fluctuating price of wood: If the price is high, certain quantities can be provided more easily.

The appreciation for regional wood and environmentally friendly procurement is deeply rooted in the region. Great importance has been attached to these issues for a long time. This could be seen particularly well in the two renovation projects, whose implementation we accompanied. The provision of large quantities of domestic wood is one of the greatest challenges. This is why it is also difficult to implement it in public procurement law. In the two renovation projects that we accompanied, we were able to incorporate the findings of this project. Thus it was possible to implement these projects with regional wood and regional companies despite some challenges. Thus both projects are "best practice" examples, which should be trend-setting for the region in the future.

direct contact with local carpenters, sawmills and farmers, we were able to find solutions in the projects New Secondary School and Gastwirtschaft Hold in Mönichwald. The results show the existing possibilities.

Elementary school Mönichwald



Outdoor class secondary school Waldbach



3.7.4 Interview



Stefan Hold,
 mayor of Waldbach-Mönichwald and
 president of the Joglland region

What obstacles did you face and what were the biggest challenges?

The biggest challenge is to provide the necessary building materials: constructing a building with regional wood is not such a big challenge. The challenge is to get the right wood from the region in the required quantity at the required time.

What did you learn from the implementation activities?

The will to build in a climate-friendly manner is certainly present everywhere and this attitude is being carried forward more and more. The problem lies in its implementation. I am convinced that there are different challenges from region to region. We certainly have the problem of timely and appropriate provision. With great effort and

What can you recommend to others who work on a similar topic?

Continue to work on these very important issues. Above all, to regularly confront the population and stakeholders with these issues so that awareness raising can continue.

3.7.5 Contact



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3.8 IMPROVING TRACEABILITY OF WOOD IN PODRAVJE REGION

Partner and location
E-Institute Podravje region (Slovenia)
Keywords
wood sourcing, local wood certification, carbon footprint, local wood, traceability digitization
Size of the implementation area
2.170 km ²
Topic (according to the Alpine Space policy cycle)
Strategic policy development: analytical and research activities involving e.g. policy owners
Explorative and piloting activities: development of new tools or methodologies and their testing to find most appropriate means for strategy implementation
Policy implementation: focus on fully developed instruments for the concrete implementation of a policy
Target groups
local and regional public authorities
sectoral agencies (of Environment, Energy as well as agriculture and forestry)
SMEs in the wood sector and business support organisations (chambers of commerce and chambers of crafters)
Other (architects associations as well as professional organisations of the timber producing branch)

3.8.1 Starting point

In Podravje region, a region in North-Eastern Slovenia around the city of Maribor, forest covers more than 34.000 hectares (approx. 26% of the territory) and forests are held by almost 10.000 farmers. The best forests are in the hilly Pohorje area, providing income to many people. Multi-functional commercial forests dominate there. More than half of the forest holders in the Podravje region own small forests with less than 3 hectares, 30% own from 3 to 10 hectares, and only 7% have a forest area of more than 15 hectares.

The use of local timber is still relatively low. This is primarily due to price developments in the forest - wood assortment market as for example wood is purchased from neighbouring Austria where prices are lower than in Slovenia. In addition, there is a lack of sawmills in Slovenia and therefore primary wood processing partly has to happen outside the country.

The fact is that the public/local communities in the area are not yet in a stage to fully understand the importance of using local wood. Often, when a public building such as kindergarten, school, tourism facility is built of wood, the carbon footprint of the building is not considered. Wood thus comes from countries like Russia, Scandinavia,

Romania, ... There are very few cases where wooden buildings are made of locally sourced wood.

Traceability of the timber starts on the truck road from the site where the timber was cut. The timber is measured and the amount entered in the appropriate forms.



The challenge of using local wood in timber construction is multifaceted. Despite the potential policy incentives and the inclusion of timber construction in the public procurement system it is hard to proof the local origin of timber in the framework of the Slovenian way of forest management. In order to ensure the cutting of only those trees that have been selected, the Slovenian Forest Service must mark the trees for possible felling, in accordance with forest management plans that ensure lasting yields of wood from the forest.

Trees selected for felling must be recorded in order to monitor the development of forests according to logging type, tree species, breast diameter and number. After the tree has been designated for felling, the owner of the forest is issued a decision authorizing him to cut down the marked trees for harvesting. The decision states the quantity (volume and number of trees) by species of tree. The decision contains the personal data of the owner of the forest (name, surname, address) and the cadastral municipality and the parcel number from which the wood (trees) will be obtained. This is also the only and the last

piece of information we get about the origin of wood in the entire wood processing chain. From here on, the traceability of timber from private forests is completely lost.

3.8.2 Measures

In general, the number of newly built wooden buildings in Slovenia is increasing. Through the CaSCo project, we discovered the problems related to the little use of local wood and tried to find possible solutions.

We considered increasing the awareness of the importance of using local wood among the general public as an important objective. Our main purpose was to present the carbon footprint of products, with an emphasis on wood, to present ways of using local wood. Policy makers should promote the use of local wood (very much like local food procurements in public establishments) through their actions.

In the frame of the project, guidelines and possible measures have been prepared to increase the use of local wood among the public authorities. We will have several CaSCo presentations and interviews with local communities in Podravje region. We will involve them into the CaSCo smart places network and inform them about the project results and recommendations on how to include local wood criteria in their public procurements. The Secondary Wood and Forestry School in Maribor and the municipality of Maribor have already been actively involved (see below).

3.8.3 Results

The Secondary Wood and Forestry School in Maribor is a good practice example of a short forest-timber chain. They systematically followed the idea of the CaSCo project focusing on the traceability of local wood from the forest to the finished product. The short chain of custody is anyway part of the school's curriculum, but with the involvement in the CaSCo project the school got an additional confirmation of their programs. The school is a nodal point for the CaSCo Smart Places Network.

Students make an urban bench



Secondary Wood and Forestry School Maribor, local wood products



As a local public authority, the Municipality of Maribor must consider the green public procurement in the construction of the public buildings and other works. But the municipality is not obliged to use local wood because the green public procurement law does not prescribe the mandatory use of local timber in construction. Therefore, we presented the CaSCo project and made the interview with the representative of Inter-municipal office for environmental protection and nature conservation. We also involved the municipality in the CaSCo Regional Timber Award. After those activities the municipality will try to include local timber mainly in lower value municipal contracts. The municipality is a nodal point for the Smart Places Network, too.

3.8.4 Interview



Mateja Kišek, professor of forestry at the Secondary Wood and Forestry School, Maribor

What obstacles did you face and what were the main challenges?

There is no specific criterion in the calls for tenders requiring a local source of wood. As a result, local wood processors (sawmills) have no advantage over other traders who sell cheaper wood from abroad. The carbon footprint would have to be paid by the polluter (carbon footprint tax), which is not yet in force.

What did you learn from the implementation activities?

There is a problem with the traceability of the timber in the warehouse. To properly trace the sawn wood, this requires a great deal of care and

good organization of work in the warehouse and in the woodworking workshops.

More administration is needed to ensure traceability of wood. The procedures could be simplified by digitization - an example of good practice is the Slovenian State Forests (company SiDG d.o.o.), which traces the origin of the wood to the primary processing. Later, the information is lost there as well. SiDG uses state-of-the-art technologies to facilitate traceability (iPads, ICT technology).

What can you recommend to others that are working on a similar topic?

Continue to raise awareness among all stakeholders of the importance of using local wood and a low carbon footprint to reduce the impact of climate change. Influence policy makers to incorporate local wood criteria into legislation.

3.8.5 Contact



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3.9 INCREASING THE USE OF SHORT-DISTANCE WOOD IN POMURJE REGION

Partner and location
Development agency Sinergija Pomurje region (Slovenia)
Keywords
project »Goričko pod zvezdami«, local wood, wood of Goričko
Size of the implementation area
394,7 km ²
Topic (according to the Alpine Space policy cycle)
Strategic policy development: analytical and research activities involving e.g. policy owners
Explorative and piloting activities: development of new tools or methodologies and their testing to find most appropriate means for strategy implementation
Policy implementation: focus on fully developed instruments for the concrete implementation of a policy
Target groups
local and regional public authorities
sectoral agencies (of Environment, Energy as well as agriculture and forestry)
SMEs in the wood sector and business support organisations (chambers of commerce and chambers of crafters)
Other (architects associations as well as professional organisations of the timber producing branch)

by the independence of the state of Slovenia and the cessation of intensive operations in the aforementioned markets and privatization. Unfortunately, this took place without strategic plans of individual new owners or branches of the timber industry.

A major reason for using wood in construction is the lower price compared to other construction materials. In Pomurje many builders and carpenters choose the cheapest wood, independently from its origin. There are no local timber markets but a 'regional timber market' with an economical reach of over 500 kilometres (for more valuable timber species). The use of wood (volume, types of wood) does not depend on the volume of regional forest production but on the market demand (fashion trends, energy crisis).



Harvested wood - Graden oak (sawn)
bought at the local supplier of Goričko

3.9.1 Starting point

There are about 40.000 hectares of forest in Pomurje and the forest is very unevenly distributed. Due to the spread of arable land for agriculture in the plains, forests are scarce. While in the Goričko region, which is less suitable for cultivation, in recent decades it has been cleared and consequently overgrown with forest.

Slovenian private forests face the problem of large fragmentation of parcels. The supply of wood from Pomurje forest owners is small. Due to the law of inheritance, many forest parcels have several owners who do not know where the parcels are located, nor can they properly manage the forest. Private forests are much more neglected, the yield of timber and other forest products is lower and their quality is lower. State-owned forests tend to be better managed than most privately owned forests.

Another problem is that the timber industry in Slovenia is losing contact with the most competitive timber industries in other European countries. New manufacturers from Europe were coming to the global markets which are providing significantly cheaper products due to lower labour and raw material prices. This was followed

3.9.2 Measures

The CaSCo project changed our mind-set as it has brought us to think about using short-distance wood from our region. We have produced a document of good practices showing many products of local wood, including buildings. The main purpose was to present the carbon footprint of wooden products to the public and to encourage them to make greater use of wooden structures and accessories made from short-distance wood. We disseminated the best practice examples through a workshop that was organized in the CaSCo project. Target groups were mostly architects and general public which got aware of what can be produced with local wood.

We implemented the project "Goričko under the stars" which was realised through the public call of LAS Goričko. It offers an unforgettable experience of the starry night sky, sleeping in unique stellar bedrooms made of wood and an educational path on astronomy. It was a challenge to

decide where to set up the amphitheatre and the wooden bedroom and what kind of wood to use. These questions were solved together with experts on sustainable natural construction (Stojan Habjanič) and the use of foreign wood could be avoided by using wood from the surrounding forests of Goričko.

3.9.4 Interview



Dr. Bernard Goršak,
Director of the Public Institution of the
Institute for Tourism, Sport and Culture
Šalovci, participant in the project "Goričko
under the Stars"

What obstacles did you face and what were the main challenges?

Within the project "Goričko under the stars" we faced the challenge of the functionality of the wood: What kind of wood from our environment would be best suited for the construction of the amphitheatre and a bench? Initially, we planned to use foreign wood. Together with the experts we then decided to use the autochthonous hardwood species "Graden Oak" from the Goričko region.

What did you learn from the implementation activities?

We learned that the selection of timber is very important. We need to be aware of the environmental impact of foreign wood and use regional wood instead that is suitable and serves the intended purpose. In the Goričko area in which we operate another autochthonous species is appreciated: "Goricki Bor", it is very durable and could be much better used. Therefore, it is being introduced as a new brand. To increase the availability of this tree species, plantations will be implemented in forest areas that now are not being properly managed.

What can you recommend to others that are working on a similar topic?

Once you decided what kind of implementation activity is intended, you should work with experts to determine which wood from the environment is most appropriate. Indigenous varieties should be used in order to ensure or maintain the sustainability of forests. Certificates are important and make the choice easier, but in our area only the PEFC certificate is used.

3.9.5 Contact



RAZVOJNA AGENCIJA
SINERGIJA
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Implementation of amphitheatre
(bench and wooden fence)

3.9.3 Results

The "Goričko under the stars" project is a model of a short forest-timber chain. Initially, it was foreseen to use foreign wood. Together with experts we decided to use Slovenian timber for the amphitheatre and the »star bed«. The amphitheatre is made of oak which does not crack when it dries, as this seemed an important feature of this structure.

Interreg

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EUROPEAN REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUND



EUROPEAN UNION