

Resource Efficiency and Raw Material Use of Woodworking Industries in Eastern Europe (ENP)

The growing demand for timber within the EU has already today major impacts on the partially unexplored forests of neighbouring countries in Eastern Europe, such as Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia. Non sustainable forestry, overexploitation of forests and inefficient local wood processing put this highly important natural resource at risk. RERAM promotes adapted solutions for efficiency management in SMEs of the forest-based sector.



Funded by the European Commission with a contribution of close to 1 million Euro for 2 years, RERAM is one of the few FP7 projects addressing cooperation in the forest-based sector (forestry, woodworking, furniture, paper, bioenergy) between the EU and countries of the European Neighbourhood Policy in Eastern Europe. The consortium joins 11 organisations representing the 4 EU member states Germany, Austria, Poland, Belgium and the 5 ENP Eastern countries Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

4 General Objectives (GOs)

RERAM improves Resource Efficiency and Raw Material consumption of the forest-based sector in ENP Eastern countries by bridging the gaps between research and innovation via effective knowledge support measures for regional SMEs, research and authorities.

- Raise awareness on resource efficiency potentials along the value chain forestry → primary wood processing → secondary wood manufacturing
- Optimize conversion pathways of wood raw material in SMEs by introducing innovative technologies, processes and planning methods
- Promote the competitive research potential of innovation cluster through new business models, cleaner production and collaborative processes
- Enhance regional to international collaboration in knowledge value chains by joint action, knowledge transfer and outreach among R2I actors

Outcomes & Impacts

RERAM raises awareness on the benefits of resource efficiency and demonstrates technical and organisational solutions for companies. With instructive enterprise checks, trainings, coaching and a broad dissemination, the project targets entrepreneurs and intermediaries to propose pathbreaking new pilot projects. To valorise synergies and enhance the outreach in the region, the project links to various actors and on-going initiatives.

A. Outcomes for SMEs

- Regional Baselines in Resources and Raw Material Use
- SME Reality Check and Benchmarking of Efficiency Performance
- Handbook 'Resource Efficiency in Woodworking SMEs' in 5 national languages

B. Outcomes for Intermediaries

- 'Train the Trainers' Programme for Efficiency Managers
- Regional R2I Dialogues engaging stakeholders and policymakers
- Wood Innovation Toolkit

C. Outcomes for More International Collaboration

- Crossregional Twinning of Clusters
- Outreach and R2I Clustering with other projects
- Actions and new joint pilot projects for a resource efficient forest-based sector

Strengthening domestic potentials of woodworking SMEs, RERAM contributes to sustainable growth, vital employment and climate change adaptation in the forest-based sector of the ENP region: the sector will deliver better returns on natural, human and economic capital investments, and at the same time reduce greenhouse gas emissions, extract and export less natural resources, create less waste and mitigate social disparities.

Contacts



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