



RESULTS FROM ROSEWOOD KEY - RECOMMENDATIONS TO POLICY MAKERS

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AGENDA OF THE RECOMMENDATION PHASE

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- 2 NATIONAL POLICIES (INCLUDING Forest Property and Management)
 - 2.1 BARRIERS & CHALLENGES
 - 2.2 GOOD PRACTICES
- 3 EDUCATION AND TRAINING
 - 3.1 BARRIERS & CHALLENGES
 - 3.2 GOOD PRACTICES
- 4 ROADMAP AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS



1 – EUROPEAN POLITICAL FRAMEWORK PROGRAMMES

The European Structural and Investment Funds (ESI Funds), especially

- **the European regional development fund (ERDF),**
- **the Cohesion fund (CF) and**
- **the European agricultural fund for rural development (EAFRD), play an important role in terms of financial supporting in different countries.**

EU Cohesion Policy plays an important role in encouraging economic development and reducing regional disparities in the countries. Sustainable growth, fostering of research and development, boosting the innovation potentials of small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), promotion of resource efficiency and reduction of environmental pressures are further targets.

Additionally, the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region (EUSALP) plays an important role within the Alpine countries, especially mentioned by Austria and Slovenia.



1 – EUROPEAN POLITICAL FRAMEWORK PROGRAMMES

Rural development programme (EAFRD 2014-2020):

Important role in Europe, especially in agriculture.

Forestry related funds are foreseen:

- Ensuring sustainable forest management
- forest regeneration, forest roads, forest recovery after catastrophes and wood mobilisation.
- Strengthening rural areas (e.g. improvement of infrastructure, jobs, tourism, added value).
- Advisory systems of the State Chambers of Agriculture and Forestry

Question for the coming period (RD 2021+): How much money will be available for forestry issues, as the bulk of the funds will be allocated to agriculture?

To promote a European programme on forest structures, that tackles the question of ownership structures, dimensioning forest holdings of adequate size for sustainable management, with adequate access should be highly considered.



2 - NATIONAL POLITICS (INCLUDING PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT)

Barriers and challenges

- **More than 60% of European forests are privately owned and mostly small structured** (the average size < 10 ha).
- Forest **owners far away from their property** are increasing, so that the motivation for the management is often very difficult.
- Forest policy: Focus on **climate change adaptation strategies** for small private forest owners
- **Increase in damaging events:** very high quantities of damaged timber due to bark beetle infestations and forest fires (caused by increasing drought) and windthrows, as a result of which the **timber market has collapsed internationally.**



2 - NATIONAL POLITICS (INCLUDING PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT)

Recommendations

- **Motivation for management, mobilisation of forest owners:**
 - Training opportunities (basic information about adequate forest management: tree species, thinning and tending measures....), information campaigns, events
 - “Günther has inherited a forest” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vcTqTUQpDGo>
- **Establishment and promotion of Forest Association/Cooperation structures**

structures for harvesting (e.g. machinery rings), for silvicultural treatments and other improvements (e.g. joint merchandising) or for forestry consultancy (planning, management and advisory); since they maintain the contact with forest owners these structures are considered as key factor for wood mobilisation.



2 - NATIONAL POLITICS (INCLUDING PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT)

Recommendations

- **Land consolidation of small parcels and eventually also joint leasing of land**
- **Foundation of joint-stock-companies on local level:**

Forest owners from neighbored forest corridors unite and establish a stock cooperation. Each member receives the amount of shares in the company according to the size of his forest brought in. They then jointly take care of the big forest and profit from the scale effect.

- **Identification and quantification of forest owners:**

National authorities should improve and revise the cadastral system that in many countries does not cover forest areas or is not properly maintained. The creation of national or regional forest holdings registers should be considered.



2 - NATIONAL POLITICS (INCLUDING PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT)

Forest Management

- Fostering **active and climate fitting forest management** and wood processing & research activities, **approved by certificates** for an economically, ecologically and socially sustainable operation of forest enterprises
- Fostering **flagship wooden projects** as like the wooden sky scraper in Vienna
- Improvement of **communication between different stakeholders** (forestry and wood industry) along the value chain of the wood (e.g. digital solutions like forest data combined in one joint operational system)
- **Balanced forest and game conditions** (especially in the Central Hub) → information campaigns and seminars for hunters + forest owners



2 - NATIONAL POLITICS (INCLUDING PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT)

Forest Management

- flagship wooden projects as like the wooden sky scraper in Vienna



- Wooden sky scraper in Hamburg

2 - NATIONAL POLITICS (INCLUDING PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT)

Forest Management

- Fostering the establishment and funding of **forest advisory systems**, but more efforts are needed **to compare the different forest advisory systems** across Europe and to **provide recommendations** to Member States and regions.
- Fostering the **construction and maintenance of forest owners associations, cooperatives and other organizations** *The constitution of these organizations should be progressive, step by step*, like happened in the constitution of [Alliance Forêt Bois](#), the largest French forest cooperative, and others, with more than 50 years of history.
- The **small and medium forest enterprises** established as forestry contractors for harvesting, for silvicultural treatments are fundamental to maintain the **economic pillar of forestry in Europe**.



3 – EDUCATION & TRAINING

Barriers and challenges

- **Urban forest owners:** basic information courses for heirs and buyers outside the forest (as planned in Upper Austria)
- **Forest owners** far away from their forest ownership should be introduced to the wide range of training opportunities.
- **Forest advisors** (and employees of forest associations and other institutions) serving forest owners: staff shortages in forest personnel, especially in crisis regions (e.g. after bark beetle infestation).



3 – EDUCATION & TRAINING

Best Practices in Central Europe

- In Austria, working techniques are important for the safe realisation of **timber harvesting in mountainous regions.**
- A **wide range of courses** is offered for the different needs of owners of small forest enterprises up to professional forest workers of large and state-owned enterprises.
- The forestry interest groups, such as the Austrian Chamber of Agriculture, offer comprehensive advisory services for small and very small, but also medium-sized forestry enterprises for economically viable management (financed by the Rural Development Programme since 2007-2013, extended in the current period).
- The **Austrian Forest Campus Traunkirchen** (Upper Austria) is a **clearing house for chainsaw driving licences** or forestry worker training (4 levels) for the **whole of Europe.**



VENUE OF THE WOODCLUSTER AUSTRIA



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4 – ROADMAP AND POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

Barriers and challenges

- The term “**wood mobilization**” is seen quite critically and after several discussion processes within cooperation platforms (e.g. “Forest-Timber-Paper” FHP in Austria) a better expression was created: “**Continuous timber flow from the small scale forest**” as the focus should be laid on the “mobilization of forest owners”.
- A crucial question is: **How to generate a higher added value through the forest** – for example by means of tourism.
- But also adequate merchandising is very important and in this context the relevance of **flagship wooden projects** (e.g. Forest Campus Traunkirchen) was highlighted, whereby the usage of silver fir should also be fostered instead of Norway spruce.



4 – ROADMAP AND POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

Barriers and challenges

- An **active lobbying for wooden products** and projects and the sensitization for wooden products of the general public should be boosted (e.g. via social media).
- Also **alternative usage** in the form of for example **fibres, pulp or packaging is envisaged** (see “Bioeconomy Strategy for Austria”, 2019) and related research activities. The solidarity between forest industries, sawmills and forest owners is lacking behind and therefore this issue has to be improved in the future.
- Furthermore **hunting has to be conducted ecological** sensibly that means: balanced forest and game conditions have to be achieved and not only the hunters but also the **forest owners have to be informed** adequately.





**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!**

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