



Anticipate changes, increase attractiveness, build skills and inclusiveness in the Woodworking Industries in times of crisis

PRESS RELEASE

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RESILIENTWOOD Mid-term conference: Outlook of the Woodworking Industry and adaptation needs to make it future-proof

The highly anticipated mid-term conference of the two-year European Woodworking social partners' RESILIENTWOOD project took place both in person, in Zagreb, Croatia and online on the 7th of September 2023.

The RESILIENTWOOD project, co-funded by the European Union, has embarked on a journey to address some of the most pressing challenges facing the woodworking sector in Europe. The conference showcased initial findings of the project aimed at providing social partners with an overview of the latest developments of the woodworking sector in Europe. Woodworking companies have undergone significant transformations, driven by technological advancements and evolving organizational structures. Attendees had the opportunity to delve into the latest developments and trends shaping the future of the sector.

The mid-term conference also shed light on innovative approaches and best practices employed by the industry to bolster resilience and adaptability in the face of the twin and digital transitions and to address the need for training, and skills development of the existing and future workforce.

The conference was opened by Mr. Ivan Vidiš, State Secretary at the Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family, and Social Policy of the Croatian government. His opening remarks emphasized the vital importance of the RESILIENTWOOD project and its potential to drive positive change within the woodworking sector, not only in Croatia but throughout Europe. He stressed the need of having sector specific actions in place in order to maintain the high-quality work and long lasting competitiveness of the woodworking sector.

He was followed by a keynote from Mrs. Kristine Krivmane, Team Leader – European Year of Skills, DG EMPL, European Commission, who welcomed the initiative and stressed the important role of the European sector social dialogue partners in bringing about knowledge and spreading awareness through joint actions on key issues such as those addressed in the project.

The RESILIENTWOOD project remains steadfast in its commitment to shaping a more resilient, adaptive, and equitable future for the woodworking sector in Europe. The mid-term conference was a resounding success, offering a glimpse into the project's remarkable journey towards achieving these objectives.

A dedicated brochure is available [HERE](#).

About the project:



The project RESILIENTWOOD 101051974 is funded by the European Union and is granted under the Social Prerogative and Specific Competencies Lines (SOCPL) funding.

The project aims to offer to Social Partners concrete recommendations to tackle specific challenges in the Woodworking Industries (WI) through strengthened social dialogue. The project will focus on the adaptation of the industry and its outlook after the Covid-19 crisis, including the adaptation needs linked to expected technological changes and the need to increase the attractiveness of the sector for skills attraction and retention, with special attention given to gender balance in the WI. Possible solutions to these challenges will be investigated through a cooperation involving social partners and VET providers.

About the partners:

The European Confederation of Woodworking Industries (CEI-Bois) : CEI-Bois represents 21 European and National organisations from 15 countries and is the body backing the interests of the whole industrial European wood sector: more than 180.000 companies generating an annual turnover of 152 billion euros and employing 1 million workers in the EU.

The European Federation of Building and Woodworkers (EFBWW) : The EFBWW is a European trade Union Federation with members in the Building, Building Materials, Wood, Furniture, Forestry and allied sectors. The EFBWW represents blue and white collar workers from 76 national trade unions in 34 countries.

The Institute of Technology Forêt, cellulose, bois-construction, ameublement (FCBA) : As an industrial technical centre, FCBA's mission is to promote technical progress, to participate in the improvement of yield and to guarantee quality in the industry.. Its field of action covers the entire forestry-wood and furniture sectors : forestry, logging, sawmills, pulp and paper, wood-based panels, carpentry, structures, furniture, packaging and various products. It also works with various suppliers in these sectors. As a privileged partner of companies, FCBA is attentive to their technical and economic environment, to help them integrate technological innovations and adapt to the rapid evolution of markets.

Woodwize : Woodwize is the paritary sectoral organisation for wood and furniture sector in Belgium. WOODWIZE knows the Belgian timber and woodworking sector inside-out, and we'd love to pass this knowledge on to employers and workers, teachers and students! Our training courses, information sessions and professional services help to make this sector both sustainable and safe. Looking for someone to show you the ropes? No-one is better able to help than we are! Got any questions about Health & Safety when it comes to woodworking? WOODWIZE is the ideal place to get them answered!

The European Organisation of the Sawmill Industry (EOS) : EOS consists of national sawmilling federations and associates members from 11 European countries, representing 80% of the EU sawnwood production.

The Croatian Wood Cluster (Hrvatski Drvni Klaster, CWC) : Croatian Wood Cluster is the oldest industrial cluster in Croatia, established in 2003 by following the bottom-up approach. CWC acts on the national level as a triple-helix organization, and has about 60 members from all sectors related to the forest-based industries value chain. Main objectives are enhancing sustainability and competitiveness of the sector, by encouraging innovations, investments, research, knowledge and technology transfer.

Federazione Italiana Lavoratori Costruzioni e Affini (FILCA-CISL) : Italian sectoral union representing construction, wood, cement, brick, marble and stone workers. It is affiliated to CISL (Italian Confederation of the Workers' Unions) and represents around 243.000 workers in Italy. It is present in all provinces in Italy.

The Union of Forestry, wood and graphical workers (Facket för skogs-, trä- och grafisk bransch, GS). GS was established in 2009 and organizes workers in the forestry, woodworking and graphic industries in Sweden.