

Contents

- Overview
- Interview with the project coordinator
- About the SIMWOOD regions
- Regional news
- Regional events
- Who to contact for more information

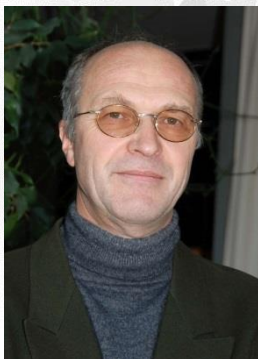
Overview

In November 2013, 28 organisations from 11 countries (Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden and United Kingdom) began the European collaboration FP7 project **SIMWOOD (Sustainable Innovative Mobilisation of Wood)**. This four-year project seeks to provide solutions on how to mobilise forest owners, promote collaborative forest management and ensure sustainable forest functions in order to mobilise the present unlocked wood resources in Europe.



SIMWOOD partners at the project kick-off meeting in Freising, Germany.

Aiming high with SIMWOOD



Roland Schreiber works as a Head of Department Forest Policy, Counselling and Ownership and the Bavarian State Institute of Forestry in Germany.

He has 25 years of working experience in forestry research and project management. His specific interests are forest owners and ownership structure and forest policy.

You are coordinating the SIMWOOD project. What is it about?

The European wood mobilisation problem has been addressed in many studies, projects and initiatives. However the ongoing rather narrow initiatives are not likely to fill the gap between the future timber supply and demand. More than ever we need innovative approaches to overcome the present barriers for wood mobilisation. The main barriers are not only technical, but to a large extent socio-economic, and are dependent on the motivation of a multitude of forest owners and other stakeholders.

So the overall goal of this project is to promote **collaborative wood mobilisation in the context of multifunctional forest management across European forest regions**. We have a novel integrated approach, looking at the five domains in wood mobilisation - governance, ownership, management, harvesting and functions - at the same time. Each of our five domains deals with important topics that influence wood mobilisation or better the mobilisation of forest owners.

We target all types of forest owners, but with a special focus on private owners, who represent a major opportunity to unlock currently unused wood production. We'll also respond to major opportunities in growing wood markets by developing novel integrated wood mobilisation solutions (e.g. harvesting or supply chain) to overcome the socio-economic and technical barriers.

We also focus on multifunctional forest management in order to integrate forest ecosystem functions and to balance the economic, ecological and social impacts of any proposed wood mobilisation measures.



And as wood mobilisation is more likely to be successful when embedded in collaborative regional initiatives within and beyond the forest-based sector, the project specifically targets regional initiatives, participatory processes and governance related to sustainable development of forest dependent regions of Europe.

What work will you be doing in the regions?

In each of our model regions, we've made a detailed analysis of the present situation, and the barriers and challenges for wood mobilisation which currently exist. Now we'll identify objectives, and develop possible tailor-made solutions, and select some to be tested in a series of pilot projects.

In each region, we have a Regional Learning Laboratory (RLL) as an integral part of the research process. This is linked to existing initiatives in the region, and is collaborative: teaming up with regional stakeholders to obtain fresh findings on the region's specific status quo, chances and proposed solutions.

What are your expectations for the project?

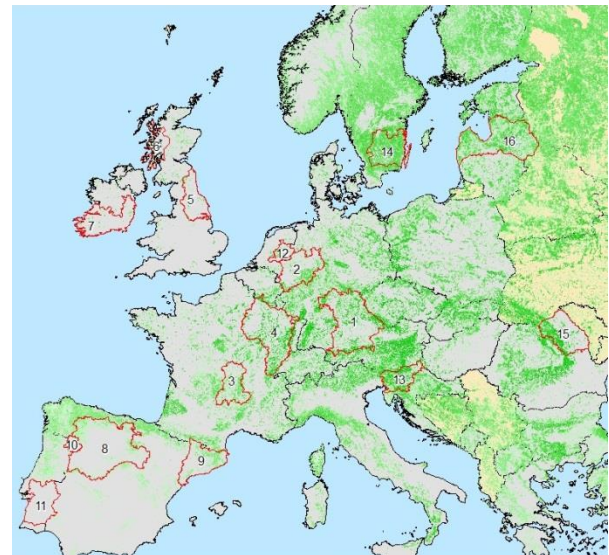
Information from all our regional case studies will be integrated in the SIMWOOD 'MOBILISER', a pan-European monitoring and policy support system, which targets regional and European stakeholders. Forest owners, foresters and SMEs will then be able to have access to information and recommendations for their region (e.g. forest management, harvesting techniques). Decision makers on a European and national level will be able to evaluate the effect of national and EU programmes for wood mobilisation and follow regional developments.

Is there anything else you would like to share?

One of the basic ideas of the project is to solve the wood mobilization issues together with concerned stakeholders in the regions. Their specific experience and opinion will be needed in the foreseen Regional Learning Laboratories (RLL) in order to achieve our goals. Therefore I would

like to encourage invited stakeholders to take the chance getting involved.

About the SIMWOOD regions



1. Bavaria, GER 2. North-Rhine Westphalia, GER 3. Auvergne, FRA 4. Grand-Est, FRA 5. Yorkshire & North East England, UK 6. Lochaber, UK 7. South Eastern Ireland, IRE 8. Castile and León, ESP 9. Catalonia, ESP 10. Nordeste, PRT 11. Alentejo, PRT 12. Overijssel & Gelderland, NLD 13. Slovenia, SVN 14. Småland, SWE 15. North-East Romania, RO 16. Latvia, LV

With additional regions in Latvia (15) and RO-21 North-East Romania (16) we are able to consider the specific situation in Eastern European countries although not all project activities can be extended to both regions.

Why were these regions chosen?

All our regions were selected for their high relevance to Europe's wood mobilisation challenge.

Strong potential and need for wood mobilisation:

The region relates to the key questions in wood supply barriers in Europe and shows pronounced needs and/or opportunities (e.g. forests with a low harvest ratio and with high potential at the operative level). It can serve as a case for the study and further promotion of

successfully implemented models or the testing of novel solutions and policies.

Broad coverage of main European forest types:

The region has suitable forest areas for study that are good representations of the main forest types in Europe and hold significant unlocked wood potentials.

Experience in forest governance and wood mobilisation: We were looking for a balanced selection of regions

- Advanced ‘forerunner regions’ with strong, successful experience in participative forest policy and/or collaborative wood supply chains, and/or a ‘favourable’ starting position for wood mobilisation (e.g. high organizational level of forest owners)
- ‘Follower regions’ with less experience in both domains, and/or a ‘difficult’ starting position (e.g. strong barriers, very low accessibility of wood potentials)

Although our model regions are quite different, when the project partners presented them at the project kick-off meeting in Freising in November 2013, it became apparent that these regions share common characteristics that influence wood mobilisation.

What are the main barriers to wood mobilization?

Many regions show fragmented private forest ownership and unfavorably shaped, inaccessible small sized forest plots, often combined with the lack of professional forest owner associations. The increasing number of new and urban forest owners often have little relation to forestry and limited knowledge of forest management.

Many forest owners in the regions are reluctant towards mechanized forest operations due to the

uncertain economic balance (in deciduous forests) and expected soil damages. There is often a lack of adequate harvest methods and technologies for increased mobilisation of biomass from forest for bioenergy.

Due to the increasing competition between solid and energy use of the forest resource the local supply does not match with the bioenergy demand, so some regions suffer from a weak forest-based industry.

The necessary adaption of the forest stands to climate change is an issue all regions are concerned with.

What are the main opportunities?

There is a general recognition about the importance of forest land. Regional initiatives lead to an increasing awareness about the role of forest and forest functions. Political goals place emphasis on the improvement and increase of use of biomass and the reduction of carbon emissions. Forests are recognized to fulfil an important function as a carbon sink and in the carbon cycle of the earth.

There is a large mobilisation potential in small-scale private forests. Despite the demographic change (population decrease in rural areas, aging) forest management can be maintained by forest owner associations. Measures to reallocate fragmented forest land, development of common forest management models can help to make the management of small scale private forests economically viable.

Further development in forest harvesting technology will enable forest management in less accessible forest areas.

Recent investments in the (local) sawmilling industry will lead to an increasing demand for wood and fuel wood. Improved logistic supply system will bring down costs and facilitate the coordination across the entire biomass-to-energy chain.

Simwood will deal with all these issues and is going to search for tailor-made solutions in order to make use of these arising opportunities in the model regions.

Regional news



- The focus municipality, Uppvidinge, in Småland, Sweden organized a study trip to another region on 5-6 November, 2014. Professor **Thomas Thörnqvist**, Linnaeus University participated and talked about SIMWOOD and learned how to further cooperate with the municipality of Uppvidinge.

The agenda included:

- I. Thinning in spruce forest.
Strength and shape of thinning, damage etc.
- II. Foreign tree species.
Production, maintenance program, damage, reproductive value etc.
- III. Forestry of beech wood
maintenance program, thinning effects etc.
- IV. Thinning in spruce forest.
Thinning Effects, growth patterns, cycle periods etc.

Regional events

- 15 January 2015: RLL, Portugal

Who to contact for more information

If you would like to become involved in our Regional Learning Labs, please contact the coordinator for your region. You can find them on the SIMWOOD website: www.simwood-project.eu/contacts.html

Project coordinator: Roland Schreiber
Bavarian State Institute of Forestry (LWF)
Email: Roland.Schreiber@lwf.bayern.de

Project manager: Astrid Oelsner
Bavarian Research Alliance (BayFOR)
Email: simwood@bayfor.org