

Austrian activities on forest-based bioeconomy in the international context – COLI and woodPoP

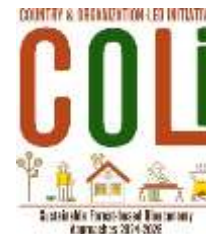
EBSF, Joensuu, 11 June 2025

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COLI Focal Point

Department Wood Policy, Bioeconomy and Innovation

Federal Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental
Protection, Regions and Water Management, Republic of Austria



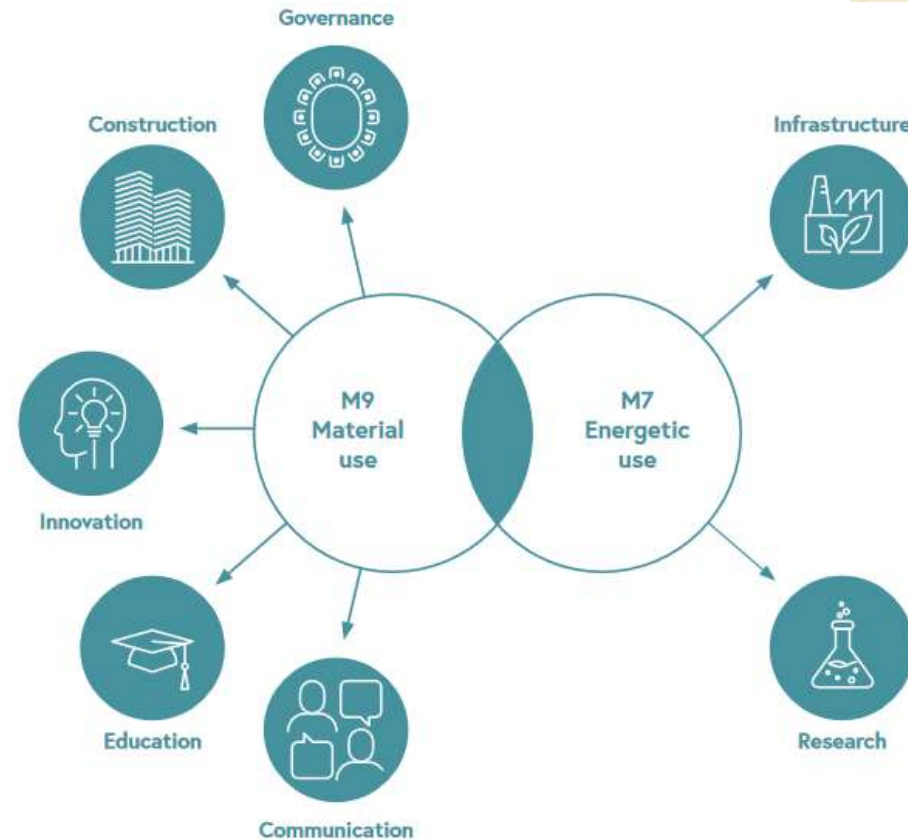
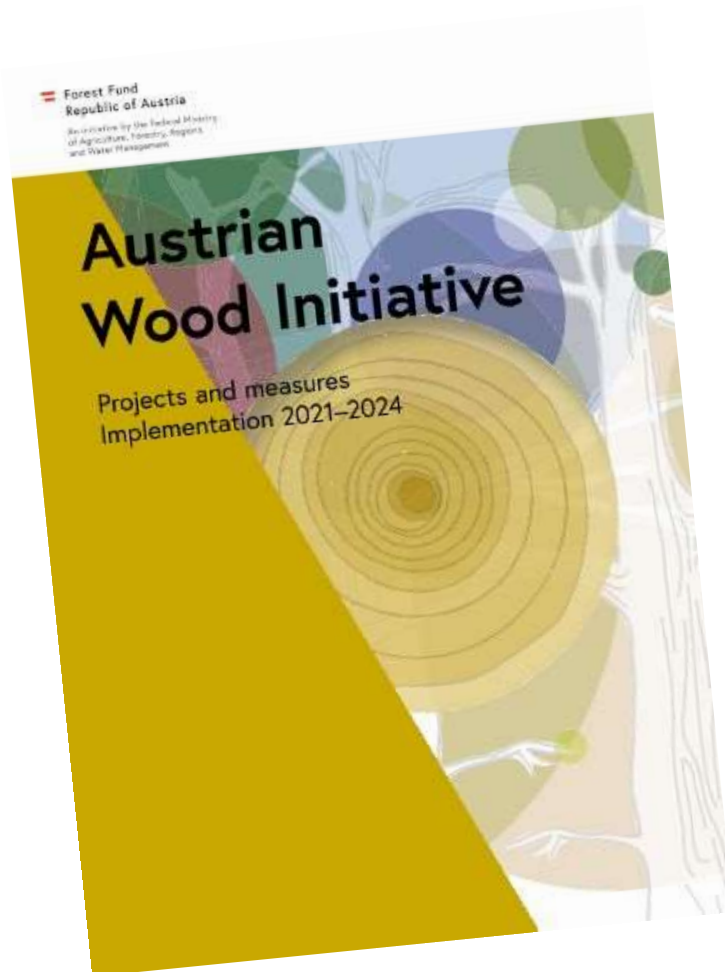
WE HAVE TO RECALIBRATE OURSELVES WITH NATURE.

**IT IS NOT ONLY ABOUT OUR NEEDS,
IT IS ALSO ABOUT OUR PLANET'S NEEDS.**

**TO RESTORE BALANCE WITH NATURE, WE MUST TRANSITION FROM
A FOSSIL-BASED ECONOMY TO A BIO-BASED ECONOMY.**

**WHAT CAN THE FOREST AND WOOD SECTOR CONTRIBUTE TO ESTABLISHING A
„NEW ART“ OF ECONOMY, AND HOW CAN THIS BE ACHIEVED?**

Austrian Wood Initiative: Fostering bioeconomy at different levels



Measures within Wood Initiative & Forest Fund

National Level:

- *Bioeconomy Austria*

Pan-European Level:

- *woodPoP*

Global Level:

- *COLI, wood4globe*

Further highlights:

- *CO2 Bonus*
- *Endowed Professors (4)*
- *Advanced Bioenergy Lab*
- *many more...*

Pan-European Wood Policy Platform (WoodPoP)



Secretariat hosted
by IUFRO



- initiated by **Austria** and **Finland** in 2021
- facilitates the **exchange and collaboration** between administration, industry and research
- strengthen the **role of wood** as a renewable resource



WoodPoP – Structure

High Level Meeting
(HLM)

Expert Group Meeting
(EGM)

Technical Working
Groups (TWGs)

Informal Steering
Group (ISG)

Main **decision-making** body
political level

Main **forum of exchange**
operational level

Governance (AT)

Building (D&FI)

Innovation and Research
(CH&LU)

**Education and Vocational
Training** (SI)

Communication (CZ&IE)

Austria, Finland,
Germany,
Switzerland,
Slovenia, Czech
Republic, Norway
and Estonia

Call for action

Would you like to get involved with WoodPoP?

→ Contact us: contact@woodpop.eu

First High Level Meeting 1 December 2022 Innsbruck, Austria/hybrid



Official kick-off for the platform and strategic exchange



woodPoP CALL on upscaling wood policy cooperation in Europe



[Video Clip](#)

Second High Level Meeting 4 October 2023 Helsinki, Finland/hybrid



Exchange of views on the **priorities of the initiative**

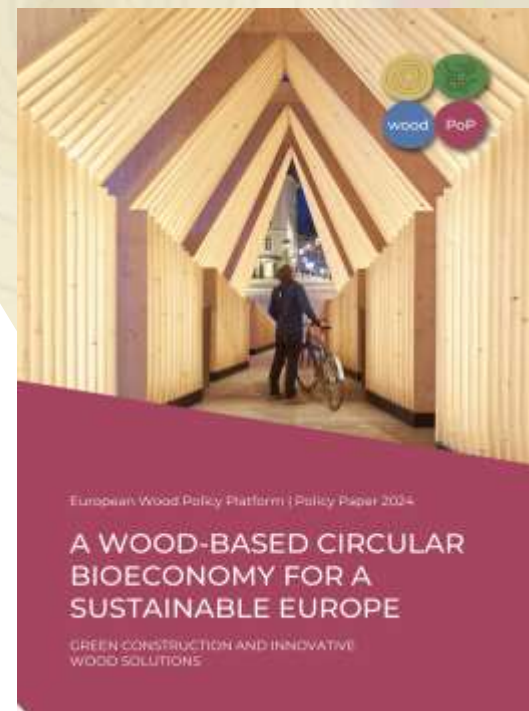


woodPoP GUIDELINES (goals, structure, and working methods)

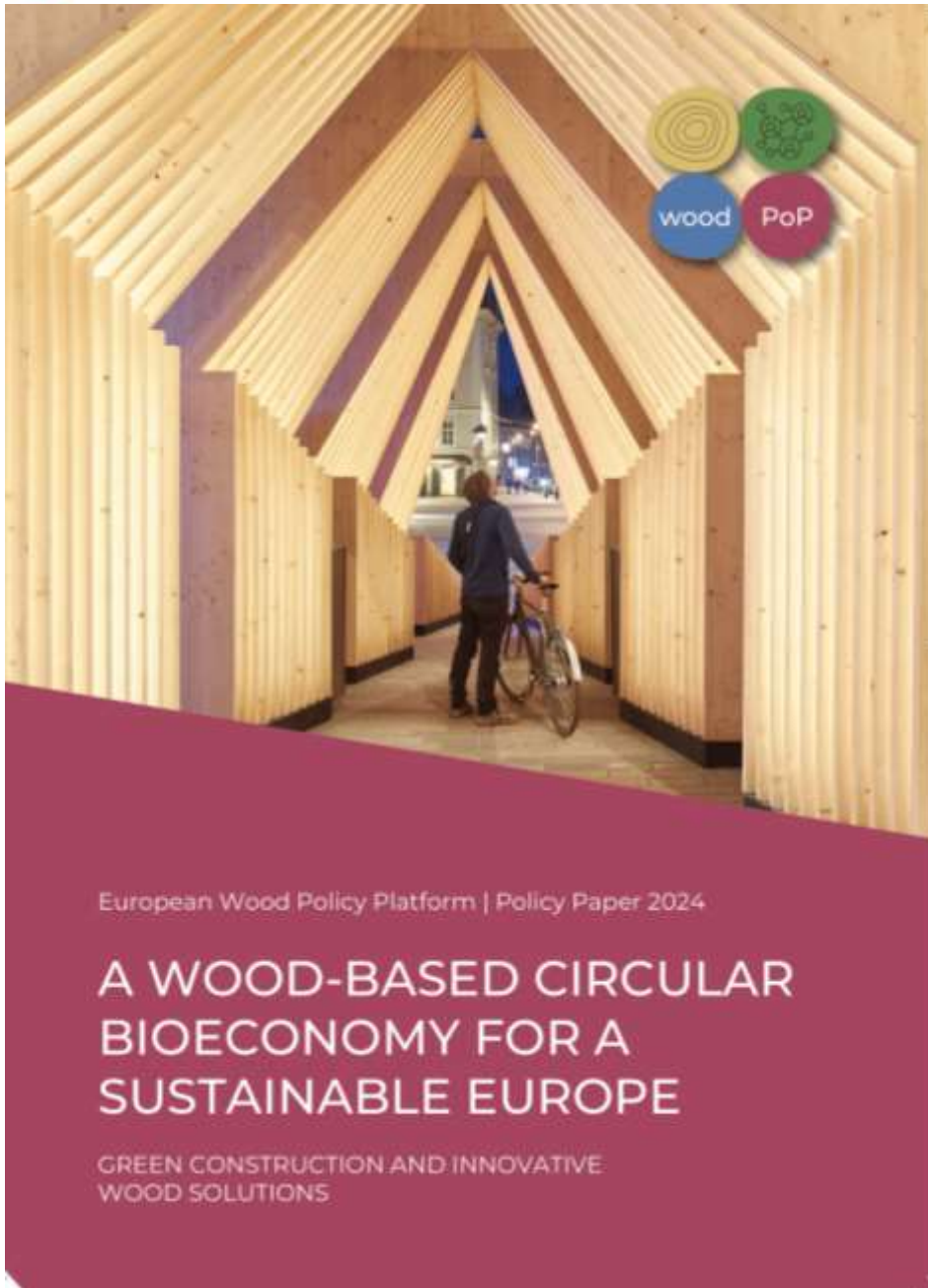


[Video Clip](#)

Third High Level Meeting 6 November 2024 Brussels, Belgium/hybrid



POLICY PAPER A wood-based circular bioeconomy for a sustainable Europe



- 1 **Wood Sourcing and Supply Chain Management**
- 2 **Circular Utilization**
- 3 **Wood Processing and Manufacturing**
- 4 **Construction and Buildings**
- 5 **Develop Smart and Novel Wood Uses**
- 6 **Skills and Education**
- 7 **Communication and Awareness**
- 8 **Governance: Regulatory Compliance, Harmonisation**



Austria's initiatives at the international level

- **Ministerial Call on Sustainable Wood (2022)** signed by Austria, Cameroon, Gabon, Republic of Korea, Japan, and Peru during the FAO World Forestry Congress in Seoul, Republic of Korea
- **Wood for Globe Project (2023-2024):** Leading Pathways to Carbon Neutrality and Resilience”, COFO 27, World Forest Week 2024, Rome





COLI – Steering group

Australia, Austria (chair),
Finland, Japan, Sweden,
Türkiye, FAO, IUFRO

Country & Organization-Led Initiative on Sustainable forest-based Bioeconomy Approaches (COLI)

Joint leadership of process - COLI Steering Group



FAO

- Global webinar series (Webinar series report)
- Outreach to potential partner countries (regional balance)
- 28th session of the Committee on Forestry (COFO28), 2026



Multilateral process and scientific input

- Bi- and multilateral conferences
- Contribution to other events
- Science-led Think Tank on future scenarios and related policy implementation



UNFF

- Side-event at UNFF20
- Country-led initiative in support of UNFF's work (CLI-SFBA)
- 21st session of UNFF (UNFF21), 2026

COLI Summit “Advancing Sustainable forest-based Bioeconomy Approaches”
from 23rd to 25th February 2026 in Vienna, Austria



COLI Global webinar series in 2025

- Supported by Austria and Finland, implemented by FAO in collaboration with IUFRO
- Contributing to the preparation of the COLI Summit in Vienna in February 2026
- Recordings of past sessions are available online

Dates	Webinar titles
11 March 2025, 12:00 pm CET	From policy to practice: scaling up sustainable forest-based bioeconomy approaches
29 April 2025, 15:00 CET	Financing the future: unlocking investments for a thriving forest-based bioeconomy
26 June 2025, 08:00 CET	From forest to market: advancing forest-based bioeconomy solutions to ensure resource supply meets growing demand
30 September 2025	Accelerating inclusive agrifood systems: transformation with forests, trees and wild species
20 October 2025	Building the future: innovative wood solutions for carbon neutrality and sustainable bioeconomy
10 December 2025	Bioeconomy cooperation: next steps to upscale forest-based bioeconomy

UNFF20 COLI Side Event



Agenda

13:15 – 13:20 | Welcome

Stefan Pretterhofer, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Austria to the UN

Tiina Rytälä, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland (Moderator)

13:20 – 13:25 | Opening remarks

İsmail Belen, Chair of the UNFF 20/21 Bureau

13:25 – 13:30 | Setting the Scene

Georg Rappold, Chair of COLI, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management, Austria

13:30 – 14:10 | Panel: Regional Bioeconomy Approaches and Views from Stakeholders

Marco Tulio Scarpelli, Head of the Forests Unit for COP30, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brazil

Joseph Morrall, Director of International Policy – Forests and Agvet Chemicals, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Australia

William Nambiza, Forest Program Coordinator, Embassy of Finland in Tanzania

Ross Hampton, Ex. Director, International Sustainable Forestry Coalition (ISFC)

Maria Pohjala, Board Member, International Family Forest Alliance (IFFA)

14:10 – 14:25 | Q&A

14:25 – 14:30 | Closing remarks

H.E. Ambassador Suleiman Haji Suleiman, Chargé d'affaires, Permanent Mission of the United Republic of Tanzania to the UN



COLI Summit

- **Advancing Sustainable Forest-based Bioeconomy Approaches**
- **23-25 February 2026 in Vienna, Austria**
- Will be convened as UNFF Country-Led Initiative (CLI)
- Co-Chair summary will be feed into the political session:
UNFF21 and COFO28

Call for action

Interested in presenting a project, an innovation or initiative?

Or actively participating in gallery walk, speakers corner, or side event?

→ Contact us: office@coli-bioeconomy.org



Thank you for your attention.

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