

InnovaWood's Module Bank

- **Context**
 - *Forestry-wood sector needs access to trained staff*
 - *Wood science courses are expensive to run and budgets are limited*
 - *Forestry and wood science are multi-disciplinary and wide ranging*
- **Solution**
 - *Institutes need access to on-line modules to complement their existing programmes*
- **The Initiative**
 - *Each participating institute provides a module in return they have access to those offered by the other institutes*
 - *InnovaWood members have the skills and resources necessary to create and run such modules*

Benefits

- **One module provides access to many modules**
 - *Cost-effective*
 - *Greater choice for students*
- **Modules provided by leading experts**
 - *Reputation of course*
- **Maximum international collaboration with minimal impacts**
 - *Logistical: students stay at home!*
 - *Administrative: institutes award their diploma*
- **An opportunity to teach in a different way**
 - *Many institutes already preparing on-line courses anyway*

Potential scenarios

1. Professor who is an expert in timber drying has reached retirement age. Due to funding limitations, he will not be replaced when he retires. The solution: Timber Drying Technology will be provided via the InnovaWood Wood Science Module Bank
2. An existing MSc consisting of 8 modules and a dissertation is attracting “just enough” students to remain viable. The department Head wishes to attract more applicants by offering students the possibility to specialise in certain fields of Wood Science, e.g. Timber Trade, Construction, etc. Some or all of the speciality modules could come from the InnovaWood Wood Science Module Bank
3. A Wood Science Department decides to create a Summer School to generate some income, contact with industry and a greater visibility within the university. It uses some of the content offered within the InnovaWood Wood Science Module Bank

Commitments

- **Annual commitment**
 - *Commitment of minimum 10 man/days of **an identified person** and their associated travel costs to provide the manpower needed to develop: the administrative protocols for providing and sharing modules; the various curricula; and templates for typical modules*
 - *Develop one on-line MSc level module, in English, on a Wood Science and Technology topic*
 - *€1000/year to cover administrative, logistics and server hosting costs of InnovaWood*
 - *Host a meeting of the Wood Science Module Bank members as and when necessary*

An example

Available modules

1. **Wood-based panel manufacture**
 - *Ecole Supérieure du Bois, Nantes*
2. **Timber construction**
 - *Bern University of Applied Sciences*
3. **Wood anatomy and identification**
 - *Ghent University*
4. **Biodeterioration of wood**
 - *Ljubljana University*
5. **Wood Aesthetics**
 - *University of Primorska*

Student choices

- **An ESB Engineering student**
 - *Modules*
 - *Physically: 1 + 3 others*
 - *On-line: 2 + 4*
- **A Bern MSc student**
 - *Modules*
 - *Physically: 2 + 4 others*
 - *On-line: 1*
- **Primorska BSc student**
 - *Modules*
 - *Physically: 5 + 4 other*
 - *On-line: part of 3 with local additional content*

To Discuss

- **Timing**
- **Sources of funding for module development**
- **Evaluation of modules**
 - *Are they good enough and at the right level?*
 - *Sanctions if not?*
- **Student assessment**
 - *How?*
 - *Who provides the marks?*
- **Scheduling of modules**
 - *Some may have a physical component*
- **IPR**
 - *Institutes own their modules*
- **Need for a physical component?**
 - *Example: Sawmill workshop*
- **Where to store modules?**
 - *How is access controlled?*

Participants and Topics

- 1. University of Ghent (Belgium)**
- 2. Ecole Supérieure du Bois (France)**
 - 1. The manufacture, properties and uses of wood-based panels*
- 3. University of Ljubljana (Slovenia)**
- 4. University of Primorska (Slovenia)**
- 5. ?**

Next steps

- **Confirm consortium and topics**
- **Physical meeting of participants**
- **Define a template for describing module**
 - *Pre-requisites*
 - *Objectives*
 - *Learning outcomes*
 - *Curricula*
 - *Teaching methods*
 - *Duration*
 - *Assessment methods*
 - *Resources*
- **Time line for developing modules**