



Towards an integrated European innovation, research and skills area for the forest, wood and furniture industries

New Member Information

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President's letter

Dear prospective New Member,

On behalf of the InnovaWood Executive Board and the members, I welcome your interest in becoming a member of our European InnovaWood Network. InnovaWood membership provides you with an opportunity to network with other institutions and organisations in the areas of innovation, research and skills development. Collectively we aspire to contributing to competitiveness and profitability of our sector industries, aligned with the European Union aim of increasing economic growth and prosperity.

We aim to provide you and your organisation with opportunities to publicise your capability, capacity and activities. Through our web based portal at <http://www.innovawood.com> you can avail of all our facilities such as the research and skills databases, new project opportunities and events calendar. Through our dedicated workshops and division-based programmes, you will be given the opportunity to participate and benefit from the interaction with peer expertise and experiences. It is our aim to encourage new initiatives through these interaction platforms and to optimise opportunities for our members within the European Union policy framework.

I look forward to receiving your application and meeting you in the near future at one of our activities.

Yours sincerely,

Joris Van Acker
InnovaWood President

InnovaWood Mission Statement

The InnovaWood mission statement is “**towards an integrated European innovation, research and skills area for the forest, wood and furniture industries**”.

InnovaWood– The History

Sustainability is a key issue for industry and society in the European Union. The forest and wood- based industries provide an essential contribution to the ideals of sustainable development through:

- husbandry of the natural forest and woodland resources,
- employment of millions of people,
- support for regional and isolated rural communities and
- provision of natural, renewable materials and products with many beneficial applications for the European economy and society.

On the 16th of May 2001, the Networks of Eurifi, Eurofortech, Eurologna and Eurowood launched the **InnovaWood Initiative**. The objective was to create a co-ordinated supporting network infrastructure for innovation and skills development for stakeholders in the Forest, the Woodworking and the Furniture industries.

On 1st January 2003, these four Networks formally amalgamated and created the **InnovaWood network**. The network has more than 70 member institutions, drawn from all European countries, representing a complete spectrum of research, technology transfer and training services to the extended forest, wood and furniture industry chain.

InnovaWood– The Founding Networks

InnovaWood is the umbrella organisation that integrates the four former networks in the Forest, Woodworking and Furniture industries into a more effective mechanism to support innovation, research, skills development and knowledge transfer in these sectors.

Eurifi: the European Association of Research Institutes for Furniture, promoting research and technical assistance to the furniture sector.

Eurofortech: the European network for education, training and technology transfer in the wood and forestry sector.

Eurologna: the European network for advanced wood processing and engineering education and technology transfer.

Eurowood: the network of European timber technical centres and wood research organisations providing technical advice to industry and formulating proposals for European research projects.

InnovaWood– The Objectives

The overall aim of InnovaWood is to bring business benefit to the forestry, wood and furniture chain by providing a forum for its member organisations to contribute more effectively to the development of the FWC.

In particular we seek to support the use of innovation, research, training and education as tools for increasing the competitiveness of European industries in line with the general policies of the European Union.

The main objectives of InnovaWood are:

- To assist, maintain and consolidate linkages between its members;
- To promote innovation in the different sectors it represents;
- To create a supporting Network in the areas of R&D, education and training and technology transfer;
- To implement a communication system between all members of the network as well as with the European Commission and partners in industry;
- To develop a co-ordination mechanism between research and training providers, adequate to the scale of the sector; and
- To support the actions of the European Commission in key areas of policy, and to support the effectiveness of European activities.

InnovaWood - Who can join?

InnovaWood can incorporate Institutions and Organisations with interests throughout the forestry-wood and furniture chain from **all European countries** at the discretion of the General Assembly.

To qualify for membership, candidates must be able **to demonstrate established competency and practice** in one or more of: research, education, training, technology transfer or skills development in the **forestry, wood chain sectors**.

Some of the benefits of joining

- Development of new contacts and partnering opportunities at the EU level
- Access to focused information for the forestry wood chain
- Participation in centrally organised events, including Workshops, Seminars and The General Assembly
- Access to On-line database and virtual information systems
- Promotion of capabilities and services for individual members
- Dissemination of project progress and results
- Advice and partner search within the network during proposal preparation
- Representation of collective interests or problems of the network members to the European Commission or Industry federations and other networks

InnovaWood Structure

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Executive Board

- Joris Van Acker, Belgium (President)
- Mark Irle, France (Vice-President)
- Johannes Welling, Germany
- Leena Paavilainen, Finland
- Erik Larnoy, Norway
- Ivica Grbac, Croatia

Divisions

The InnovaWood network is organised into Divisions to provide foci in different thematic areas, each with a Co-ordinator and organisational 'Core Group' as follows:

- DIVISION - Research, Technology Development & Innovation
 - Coordinator – Dr. Frédéric Rouger
- DIVISION - Knowledge Transfer
 - Coordinator – Mr. Francesco Balducci
- DIVISION - Education & Training
 - Coordinator – Mr. Manolo Boronat
- DIVISION – Integrated Wood Chain & Environment
 - Coordinator – Dr. Alfred Teischinger

InnovaWood Development

Our key objective is to grow the InnovaWood network in terms of member organisations and European scope. We exist to support our stakeholders so we welcome comments and suggestions, particularly in relation to new contacts in organisations that are not already members of InnovaWood. This is especially true in respect of potential members from the new EU member states and those from within our industry sectors.

Products and Services

- Network Membership for collaboration with all stakeholders associated with the European forest-based industries
- Development of new partnerships and collaborations
- Access to web-based information and research results for the forestry-wood and furniture chain
- Sources of authoritative, specialist advice, consultancy and technical support services
- Seminars, conferences and workshops supporting and promoting innovation, training and education in the forestry –wood and furniture chain
- Promotion of members capabilities, facilities, products and services
- A co-coordinated, representative voice on behalf of members to key decision makers in the EU and forest-based industries

InnovaWood – Delivery Tools

InnovaWood has created a web based portal mechanism to provide end-user access to research, training and member's capability information, providing Virtual Information Centres for the management and implementation of research and training development projects.

Building on this platform, InnovaWood has developed the first phase of a Research Database, which was initiated with the support of the EU. Its objective is to make the results of European Research and Technology Development more accessible to the forest and wood based industries, and to develop an IT tool (website) on European RTD results in a multi-lingual electronic database.

Access to these facilities has 'Open' and 'Members only' categories and includes information on the scope and scale of RTD and Training and Education services which are available from its members.

New Member Application Pack available from:

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