

How policies support wood-based sector

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Wood stores carbon. It is about 250 kg of carbon or 920 kg of CO₂ equivalent stored in 1m³ of wood. Therefore, support for creating conditions for use of wood in long life cycle products like building construction supports climatic goals towards carbon neutrality. Wood-based buildings are seen in policies as an option for energy savings through material substitution and reduction of CO₂ emissions. Wood buildings are finished faster and their construction is 4-5 times less energy demanding compared to brick or concrete buildings. In addition to that, wood is a local and sustainably produced raw material and there is also a high potential in woody material recovery. The construction industry is very important to the EU economy where the sector provides 18 million direct jobs and contributes to about 9% of the EU's GDP (EC, https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/construction_en), thus, support of building from wood has strong potential to support growth of circular bioeconomy.

Wood sector policy tools in Czech Republic

- Policy for wood as a raw material – cross-sectoral policy, supporting use of wood in private and public construction of buildings
- Green to savings – support scheme for low energy consumption buildings, including buildings in wood
- Wood in public procurement – guide
- Action plan of circular economy – support for production and use of wood
- Operating program Entrepreneurship and innovation for competitiveness – support for primary wood processing
- Operational Program Technologies and Applications for Competitiveness – support for primary wood processing
- National Recovery and Resilience Plan – support for primary wood processing, paper industry, furniture production



Wood sector policy tools in Austria

- Through direct and indirect impacts, the entire wood-based value chain contributes to a gross added value by more than 20 billion euros, and the forestry sector accounts for approximately 5.7% of the national economy. In Austria, every euro produced in the wood industry stimulates an additional 90 cents of value added in other sectors (value added multiplier of 1.9).
- Austrian Forest Fund – with federal allocation of 450 mil. Euro supports forestry and wood industry in changing environmental and socio-economic conditions
- Austrian Wood Initiative – within the forest fund – specifically supports wood industry, e.g.:
 - Research priority and research facility for the production of wood gas and biofuels
 - Measures to increase the use of wood as a raw material



Structure of measures to support use of wood in Austrian Wood Initiative:

- Governance – wood policy, rules and standards, networks, woodPoP,
- Wood construction – CO₂ Bonus support for built-in wood, feasibility studies, construction of residential or public buildings and public infrastructure in timber construction with a high proportion of renewable raw materials from sustainable management
- Innovation - research , development and innovation on the use of wood in construction
- Education – primary, secondary, tertiary, continuing education, knowledge transfer and awareness raising on the topic of building with wood
- Communication – events, public relations, social media, measures to promote the use of wood from sustainable forestry

