



## WOODISM INFO

Information about the European Research in the wood industry – Number 3, 2006

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- **6-13. September 2006, Celije, Slovenia.** 39th International Trade Fair
- **9-13 September 2006, Rovaniemi, Finland.** COST E38 Workshop. Roots, mycorrhizas and their external mycelia in carbon dynamics in forest soil.
- **10-13 October 2006, St. Petersburg, Russia.** VIII International Forestry Forum

#### Success Story

- **WOODISM network: how it can support SMEs and project coordinators**

### **WOODISM preparing for the 7<sup>th</sup> European Framework Programme**

WOODISM has been a successful European initiative under FP6 since September 2004, supporting Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) interested in wood-based research cooperation. The consortium of 17 partners from 12 countries is now both preparing its SME-clients for FP7 as well as supporting SMEs in getting involved in running FP6 research projects.

During the 1<sup>st</sup> project year the WOODISM consortium supported more than 100 researchers and SMEs by helping them to build up project consortium or to gain access to projects. More than 50 research consortia, preparing an FP6 project proposal and looking for SME partners, used the possibility to register their projects into the WOODISM database and the assistance offered by the WOODISM experts in finding appropriate SMEs for their research projects. The project database gives SMEs the opportunity to present their companies' expertise and know-how in order to increase their visibility among Europe's research community and maximise their chance to be identified as potential research partners for EU funded projects. It is currently offering more than 300 SME profiles with expertise in the area of wood-based and related industries.

As from now the consortium is reorienting its tasks and is now also supporting activities towards the 7th European Framework Programme (FP7). A series of workshops and information sessions will be organised Europe-wide in order to prepare researchers and SMEs for FP7 in due time and to give them a competitive advantage for research project submission in FP7. In this context WOODISM will organise two European Information and Partnering Events (for further details go to page 9 or visit the WOODISM website <http://www.tts.fi/woodism>).

Another special focus will be given to the identification of Competitive Calls by running projects and the dissemination of relevant information to suitable SMEs. Relevant Competitive Calls for incorporating further project partners will be published on the project homepage.

WOODISM has become a key platform for supporting SMEs interested in research cooperations within the wood-based and related areas of the EU-Framework Programme.

### **Strategic Research Agenda for the Forest-based Sector Technology Platform (FTP)**

The Forest-based Sector Technology Platform has finalized its Strategic Research Agenda and soon the implementation phase will start. After nearly one year of thinking, writing and current consultation more than 700 proposals for future common research were condensed into the Strategic Research Agenda of the Forest-based Sector Technology Platform, an initiative at European level based on public-private partnership. These proposals coming from all over Europe, encompass the full range of complexity and variety the sector represents, from paper to packaging, from building with wood to bio-energy from wood, from trees to new trends.

Stakeholders from all areas including industry, forest owners, researchers and public bodies, have taken an active part in this process with representatives from the European Commission observing. Sustainability, development and manufacturing of innovative products, resource availability, multiple forest use, biodiversity, the production of bio-energy and energy efficiency.

The Forest-based Sector Technology Platform has identified the following five strategic objectives:

Forest-Based Value Chains					
Strategic Objectives	Forestry	Wood Products	Pulp & Paper Products	Bio-energy	Specialities
1. Development of innovative products for changing markets and customer needs	1-6: Commercialising soft forest values	1-1: <i>A new generation of functional packaging</i> 1-4: Living with wood 1-5: Building with wood 1-10: <i>New generation of composites</i>	1-1: <i>A new generation of functional packaging</i> 1-2: Paper as a partner in communication, education and learning 1-3: Advancing hygiene and health care 1-8: <i>Pulp, energy and chemicals from wood bio-refinery</i> 1-10: <i>New generation of composites</i>	1-7: Moving Europe with the help of bio-fuels 1-8: <i>Pulp, energy and chemicals from wood bio-refinery</i>	1-8: <i>Pulp, energy and chemicals from wood bio-refinery</i> 1-9: <i>"Green" specialty chemicals</i> 1-10: <i>New generation of composites</i>
2. Development of intelligent and efficient manufacturing processes, including reduced energy consumption		2-4: Advanced technologies for primary wood processing 2-5: New manufacturing technologies for wood products	2-1: Reengineering the fibre-based value chain 2-2: More performance from less inputs in paper products 2-3: <i>Reducing energy consumption in pulp and paper mills</i>	2-3: <i>Reducing energy consumption in pulp and paper mills</i> 2-6: Technologies to boost heat and power output	
3. Enhancing availability and use of forest biomass for products and energy	3-1: Trees for the future 3-2: <i>"Tailor-made" wood supply</i>	3-2: <i>"Tailor-made" wood supply</i> 3-4: Recycling wood products - a new material resource	3-2: <i>"Tailor-made" wood supply</i> 3-3: Streamlined paper recycling	3-2: <i>"Tailor-made" wood supply</i>	3-2: <i>"Tailor-made" wood supply</i>
4. Meeting the multifunctional demands on forest resources and their sustainable management	4-1: Forests for multiple needs 4-2: Advancing knowledge on forest ecosystems 4-3: Adapting forestry to climate change				
5. The sector in a societal perspective	5-1: Assessing the overall performance of the sector 5-2: Instruments for good forest-sector governance 5-3: Citizens' perceptions				

*Italic = addressing more than one Value Chain*

Download the whole Strategic Research Agenda here:

[http://www.forestplatform.org/easydata/customers/ftp/files/pdf/SRA\\_FTP\\_Final.pdf](http://www.forestplatform.org/easydata/customers/ftp/files/pdf/SRA_FTP_Final.pdf)

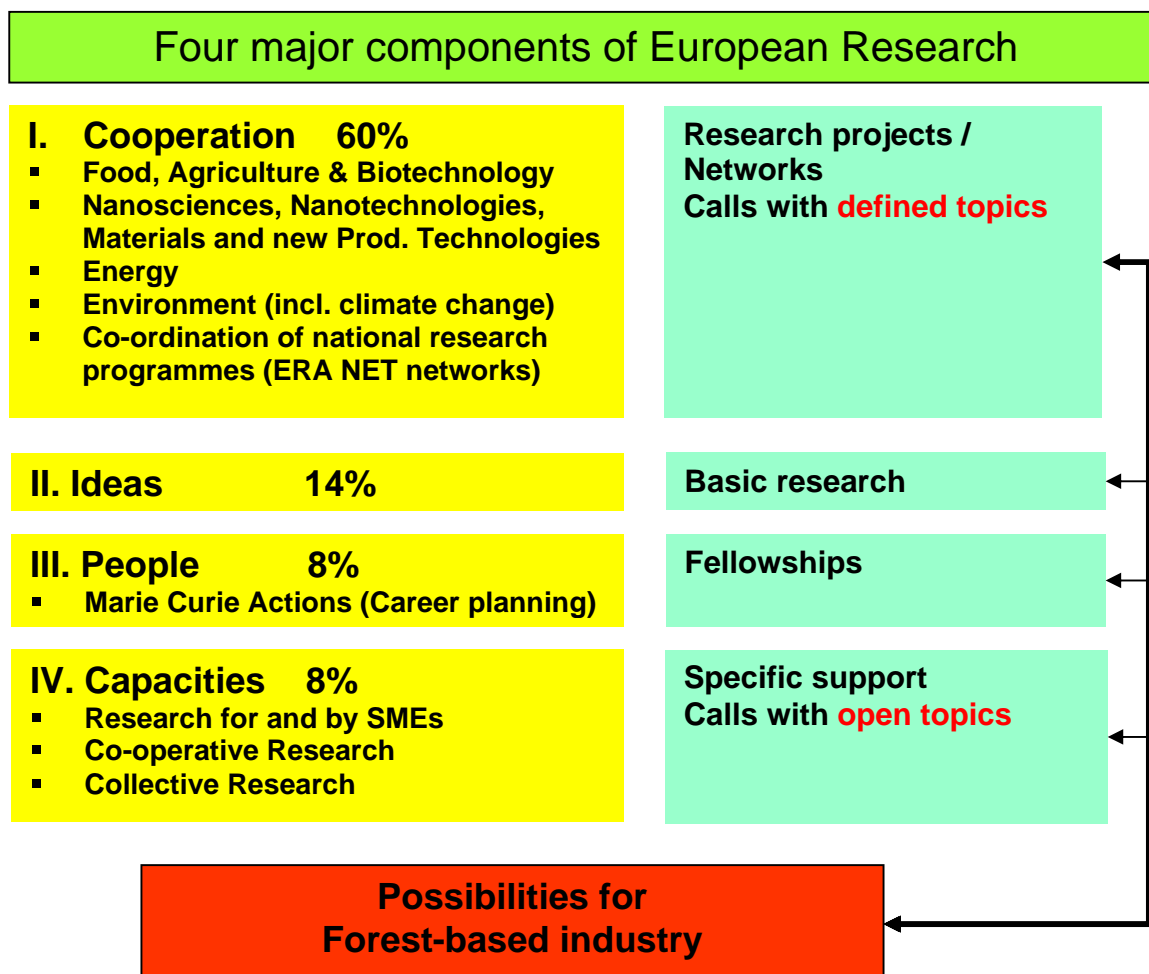
Stakeholders from all areas including industry, forest owners, researchers and public bodies have taken an active part in establishing the FTP. More than 700 proposals for future common research were condensed into the Strategic Research Agenda. Hence, the strategic objectives identified in the FTP will presumably have a strong influence on the 7<sup>th</sup> European Framework Programme. Some of the objective identified can be retrieved in the Specific Programmes (see below). We now have to wait for the first workprogrammes in order to see what concrete possibilities will be offered to the forest-based and related industries.

### The 7<sup>th</sup> European-Framework Programme and its opportunities for the forest-based and related industries – a road map

Thanks to the excellent work carried out by the FTP including all the lobbying by the EC the possibilities for the forest-based and related industries within FP7 are much more promising than they were in FP6.

Below you'll find an overview of the of FP7 topics that offer possibilities for the forest-based and related industries.

## The 7th Framework Programme\*



as presented by the European Commission, Com (2005) 119

## Cooperation

### Specific Programme: Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology

You can download the whole Specific Programme under (pages 34 37)

[ftp://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/fp7/docs/com2005\\_0440en01.pdf](ftp://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/fp7/docs/com2005_0440en01.pdf)

### Activity: Sustainable production and management of biological resources from land, forest, and aquatic environments

- Increased sustainability and competitiveness, while decreasing environmental impacts, in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture through the development of new technologies, equipment, monitoring systems, novel plants and production systems, the improvement of the scientific and technical basis of fisheries management, and a better understanding of the interaction between different systems (agriculture and **forestry**; fisheries and aquaculture) across a whole ecosystem approach. For land based biological resources, special emphasis will be placed on low input and organic production systems, improved management of resources and novel feeds, and novel plants (crops and trees) with improved composition, resistance to stress, nutrient use efficiency, and architecture. This will be supported through research into biosafety, co-existence and traceability of novel plants systems and products. Plant health will be improved through better understanding of ecology, biology of pests, diseases and other threats and support to controlling disease outbreaks and enhancing sustainable pest management tools and techniques. For biological resources from aquatic environments, emphasis will be placed on essential biological functions, safe and environmentally friendly production systems and feeds of cultured species and on fisheries biology, dynamics of mixed fisheries, interactions between fisheries activities and the marine ecosystem and on fleet-based, regional and multi-annual management systems.

### Life sciences and biotechnology for sustainable non-food products and processes

- To strengthen the knowledge base and develop advanced technologies for terrestrial or marine biomass production for applications in energy and industry. This will include plant, animal and microbial genomics and metabolomics to improve the productivity and composition of raw materials and biomass feedstocks for optimised conversion to high added value products, while exploiting natural or enhanced terrestrial and aquatic organisms as novel sources. This will fully incorporate life cycle analysis of farming practices, transportation, and storage and market deployment of bio-products. Accordingly the application of industrial biotechnologies within the whole crop chain to realise the full potential of the bio-refinery approach, including socioeconomic, agronomic, and ecological and consumer aspects will be addressed. This will be enhanced by an increased understanding and control of plant and microbial metabolism at the cellular and sub-cellular level, in the production of high value commodities deploying bio-processes with increased yield, quality and purity of conversion products, including biocatalytic process design. **Furthermore, biotechnologies for novel and improved high quality, high added value and renewable forest-based products and processes will be used or developed to increase sustainability of wood and wood production, including timber and renewable bioenergy stocks.** Finally, the potential of biotechnology to detect, monitor, prevent, treat and remove pollution with an emphasis on maximising the economic value of waste and by-products through new bio-processes, alone or in combination with plant systems and/or chemical catalysts will be addressed.

## **Specific Programme: Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies**

You can download the whole Specific Programme under (pages 43 - 46)  
[ftp://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/fp7/docs/com2005\\_0440en01.pdf](ftp://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/fp7/docs/com2005_0440en01.pdf)

### **Materials**

- New advanced materials with higher knowledge content, new functionalities and improved performance are increasingly critical for industrial competitiveness and sustainable development. According to the new models of manufacturing industry, it is the materials themselves which are becoming the first step in increasing the value of products and their performance, rather than the processing steps. Research will focus on developing new knowledge-based materials with tailored properties. This requires an intelligent control of intrinsic properties, processing and production, and taking into account potential impacts on health and the environment throughout their entire life-cycle. Emphasis will be placed on new advanced materials obtained using the potential of nanotechnologies and biotechnologies and/or “learning from nature”, in particular higher performance nano-materials, bio-materials and hybrid materials.

A multidisciplinary approach will be fostered, involving chemistry, physics and increasingly the biological sciences. Materials characterisation, design and simulation are also essential to better understand materials phenomena, in particular the structure–property relationships at different scales; to improve materials assessment and reliability, and to extend the concept of virtual materials for materials design. The integration of nanomolecular-macro levels in chemical and materials technologies will be supported for developing new concepts and processes such as in catalysis, and process intensification and optimization.

### **New Production Technologies**

- A new approach to manufacturing is required for the transformation of EU industry from a resource intensive to a knowledge-based industrial environment and will depend on the adoption of totally new attitudes towards the continued acquisition, deployment, protection and funding of new knowledge and its use, including towards sustainable production and consumption patterns. This entails creating the right conditions for continuous innovation (in industrial activities and production systems, including construction, devices, and services) and for developing generic production “assets” (technologies, organisation and production facilities) while also meeting safety and environmental requirements.

The research will focus on a number of strands: the development and validation of new industrial models and strategies covering all aspects of product and process life-cycle; adaptive production systems that overcome existing process limitations and enable new manufacturing and processing methods; networked production to develop tools and methods for co-operative and value-added operations at a global scale; tools for the rapid transfer and integration of new technologies into the design and operation of manufacturing processes; and the exploitation of the convergence of the nano-, bio-, info- and cognitive technologies to develop new products and engineering concepts and the possibility of new industries.

### **Integration of technologies for industrial applications**

- The integration of knowledge and technologies of the three areas of research above is essential in order to speed up the transformation of European industry and its economy, while adopting a safe, socially responsible and sustainable approach.

The research will focus on new applications and novel, step-change solutions responding to major challenges, as well as to the RTD needs identified by the different European Technology Plat-

forms. The integration of new knowledge and nano-, materials-, and production-technologies will be supported in sectoral and cross-sectoral applications such as health, construction, space industry, transport, energy, chemistry, environment, textiles and clothing, **pulp and paper**, and mechanical engineering, as well as in the generic subject

### **Specific Programme: Energy**

You can download the whole Specific Programme under (pages 47 - 50)

[ftp://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/fp7/docs/com2005\\_0440en01.pdf](ftp://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/fp7/docs/com2005_0440en01.pdf)

### **Renewables for heating and cooling**

- Development and demonstration of a portfolio of technologies to increase the potential of heating and cooling from **renewable energy** sources to contribute to sustainable energy. The aim is to achieve substantial cost reductions, increase efficiencies, further reduce environmental impacts and optimise the use of technologies in different regional conditions.

Research and demonstration should include new systems and components for industrial applications (incl. thermal seawater desalination), district and/or dedicated space heating and cooling, building integration and energy storage.

### **Specific Programme: Environment (including Climate Change)**

You can download the whole Specific Programme under (pages 51 - 55)

[ftp://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/fp7/docs/com2005\\_0440en01.pdf](ftp://ftp.cordis.lu/pub/fp7/docs/com2005_0440en01.pdf)

### **Sustainable Management of Resources**

- *Conservation and sustainable management of natural and man-made resources*

Research activities will be targeted to improve the knowledge basis and develop advanced models and tools needed for the sustainable management of resources and the creation of sustainable consumption patterns. This will enable the prediction of the behaviour of ecosystems and their restoration, and the mitigation of degradation and loss of important structural and functional elements of ecosystems (for biodiversity, water, soil and marine resources). Research on ecosystem modelling will take account of protection and conservation practices. Innovative approaches to develop economic activities from ecosystem services will be promoted. Approaches will be developed to prevent desertification, land degradation and erosion, and to stop biodiversity loss. Research will also address sustainable **management of forests** and the urban environment including planning, and waste management. The research will benefit from and contribute to the development of open, distributed, inter-operable data management and information systems and will underpin assessments, foresight, and services related to natural resources and their use.

## **Ideas**

You can download the whole Specific Programme under (pages 7 - 10)

[http://www.euresearch.ch/media/02\\_Multimedia/FP7/Files%20for%20publishing/ideas.pdf](http://www.euresearch.ch/media/02_Multimedia/FP7/Files%20for%20publishing/ideas.pdf)

The Ideas programme will provide a pan-European mechanism to support the truly creative scientists, engineers and scholars, whose curiosity and thirst for knowledge are most likely to make the unpredictable and spectacular discoveries that can change the course of human understanding and open up new vistas for technological progress and solving enduring social and environmental problems. The target group for this programme will be primarily academia.

## **People**

You can download the whole Specific Programme under (pages 9 - 10)

[http://www.euresearch.ch/media/02\\_Multimedia/FP7/Files%20for%20publishing/people.pdf](http://www.euresearch.ch/media/02_Multimedia/FP7/Files%20for%20publishing/people.pdf)

The People specific programme forms part of a broad and integrated strategy to strengthen, qualitatively and quantitatively, human resources in R&D in Europe. The programme will stimulate people to embark on and pursue research careers, encourage researchers to stay in Europe, and attract the best brains to Europe.

## **Capacities**

### **Specific Programme: Research for the benefit of SMEs**

You can download the whole Specific Programme under (pages 27 - 28)

[http://www.euresearch.ch/media/02\\_Multimedia/FP7/Files%20for%20publishing/capacities.pdf](http://www.euresearch.ch/media/02_Multimedia/FP7/Files%20for%20publishing/capacities.pdf)

## **Objectives**

Strengthening the innovation capacity of European SMEs and their contribution to the development of new technology based products and markets by helping them outsource research, increase their research efforts, extend their networks, better exploit research results and acquire technological know how.

## **Approach**

SMEs are at the core of European industry. They should be a key component of the innovation system and in the chain of transformation of knowledge into new products, processes and services. Faced with an increasing competition in the internal market and globally, European SMEs need to increase their knowledge and research intensity, expand geographically their business activities and internationalize their knowledge networks. All Member States have actions relevant to SMEs, but often they do not encourage and support trans-national research cooperation and technology transfer. Actions at EU level are necessary to complement and enhance the impact of actions undertaken at national and regional level. Specific actions will be implemented to support SMEs or SME associations in need of outsourcing research to universities and research centres ("RTD performers"). These actions will be carried out in the entire field of science and technology. The evaluation of the project proposals will take due account of the expected economic impact for the SMEs. Financial means will be allocated through two schemes: Research for SMEs and Research for SME associations. The first targets mainly low to medium technology SMEs with little or no research capability, but also research intensive SMEs who need to outsource research to complement their core research capability. The second targets SME associations which are normally best placed to know or identify the common technical problems of their members, to act on their behalf, and to promote the effective dissemination and take-up of the results. In addition to these specific actions, the participation of SMEs across the Framework Programme will be encouraged and facilitated. The research needs and potential of SMEs are duly

taken into account in developing the content of the thematic areas of the “co-operation” programme, which will be implemented through projects of different sizes and scope depending on the field and topic.

During the implementation of the Community RTD Framework Programme, complementarity and synergy will be ensured with the actions of the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme to encourage and facilitate the participation of SMEs in the Community RTD Framework Programme.

### **Activities**

The following two SME specific schemes will be implemented:

#### **– Research for SMEs**

This scheme supports small groups of innovative SMEs to solve common or complementary technological problems. Projects, which are relatively short term, must be centred on the innovation needs of the SMEs which outsource research to RTD performers and must demonstrate a clear exploitation potential for the SMEs concerned.

#### **– Research for SME associations**

This scheme supports SME associations to develop technical solutions to problems common to a large number of SMEs in specific industrial sectors or segments of the value chain through research needed, for example, to develop or conform to European norms and standards, and to meet regulatory requirements in areas such as health, safety and environmental protection. Projects, which can have a duration of several years, must be driven by the SME associations which outsource research to RTD performers for the benefit of their members and must involve a number of individual SMEs.

#### **– Common features of the schemes**

- Other enterprises and end-users can participate in the schemes if it is in the interest of the SMEs or the SME associations
- In addition to research, the projects should include activities to promote the take-up and effective exploitation of the research results, such as, testing, demonstration, training, technology transfer, knowledge management and IPR protection. For *Research for SME associations*, projects should also include activities to disseminate effectively the research results to the members of the SME associations, and if appropriate, more widely

Special rules will apply for ownership and access rights for the two schemes.

## EVENTS

### Get ready for FP7 – WOODISM Partnering Events

**21 November 2006, Lahti, Finland** (<http://www.tts.fi/woodism/meeting-finland.htm>)

International Partnering event for Coordinators and SMEs in connection with the Forest-based Sector Technology Platform Follow-up Conference

The aim of the international partnering meeting is to facilitate the setup of FP7 project consortia and in particular the collaboration between Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and projects' coordinators. The event is focused on the first opportunities in FP7 calls in the areas especially relevant to the forest-based and related industries. The exact priorities are to be defined as soon as the exact contents of the first call(s) of FP7 are available.

Take the opportunity to get first hand information regarding the 7th European Framework Programme (main transnational research and innovation programme within the EU) and the participation possibilities for the forest-based and related industries; listen to Success Stories of former participants in EU-projects and discuss important issues regarding EU-research with highly renowned key persons from the wood sector during the panel discussion.



### Get ready for FP7

The **WOODISM** network organises an international partnering event.

The aim of the event is to facilitate the set up of FP7 project consortia and in particular the collaboration between Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) and project Coordinators.

The event is customized to the needs of the forest-based and related industries and focus on the first opportunities in FP7 calls.

Take the opportunity to get first hand information regarding FP7 and the participation possibilities for the forest-based and related industries.

## LAHTI, FINLAND: 21ST NOVEMBER 2006

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERING EVENT FOR COORDINATORS AND SMEs

FURTHER INFO AVAILABLE: <http://www.tts.fi/woodism/meeting-finland.htm>



**31. August - 3. September 2006 International Wood Fair Klagenfurt :** The event is focusing on timber construction and architecture, sawmill technology, forestry, bioenergy as well as timber logistics

The INTERNATIONAL WOOD FAIR, which attracts 16,000 trade visitors, is an ideal sales platform in the Alpine-Adriatic region, but also holds an important position in Southeast Europe as a whole. As a result of the close cooperation with the most important national and international sector federations, the Fair is visited by experts from Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Hungary and Slovakia.

**Link:** [http://www.kaerntnermessen.at/holzmesse2006/index\\_english.htm](http://www.kaerntnermessen.at/holzmesse2006/index_english.htm)

**6-13. September, Celije, Slovenia.** 39th International Trade Fair

The fair is not only the largest fair and business event in Slovenia, but has been placed alongside the largest fair events in this part of Europe for many years now. It is a springboard to the Eastern European markets for many home and foreign exhibitors that is why the fair itself is trying to consolidate its role of a business crossroads between the member states of the European Union and Eastern European countries.

**Link:** [http://www.ce-sejem.si/show\\_sejem.php?cid=10\\_18\\_37&l=1](http://www.ce-sejem.si/show_sejem.php?cid=10_18_37&l=1)

**9-13 September, Rovaniemi, Finland.** COST E38 Workshop. Roots, mycorrhizas and their external mycelia in carbon dynamics in forest soil.

**Link:** <http://www.cost38.net>

**10-13 October 2006, St. Petersburg, Russia.** VIII International Forestry Forum. Russian Forestry Complex in the 21st century.

The Congress programme includes over 40 events. Over 4000 specialists from 1100 organizations from 24 countries (CIS, Germany, France, Italy, Sweden, Finland, Canada, Denmark, Turkey etc.) and 52 regions participated in the events of the VI International Forestry Forum in 2004. The forum was visited by more than 25000 forestry and wood industry professionals.

**Link:** <http://www.restec.ru/exhibitions/featured/forum/info.en.html>

## Success Story

### **WOODISM network: how it can support SMEs and project coordinators**

The WOODISM project aims to promote and increase participation of Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) in R&D projects, in the wood sector. Among its services – e.g. individual assistance and consulting, audit, and information and training on EU project related topics - the WOODISM partners offer support to find the most suitable partnership for research projects, through the WOODISM network.

In this way, a significant achievement is the identification of a consistent number of fitting SMEs for one project. In particular, under the call NMP-NI-4 (March 2005), Innova, an Italian partner in the Woodism project, made a commitment to find some SMEs as partners for an Integrated Project to be submitted in this call. The project proposal pointed out to develop a new business concept for sustainable management of natural building material, through the integration of three material chains – e.g. wood, stone, and cork. Therefore, the partners sought had to cover a wide array of expertises, ranging from material properties and processing, to produce advanced learning material, organising training, and education activities.

To fulfill this commitment, Innova firstly used the Virtual Matching Platform - a dynamic database created by the consortium to match offer and request of expertise in the wood sector in Europe, by selecting several key words. At the moment of the search, the database contained more than 300 profiles - mainly SMEs, research centres and universities - which would like to participate in research project with different roles (research, technology transfer, exploitation of results, etc). The Virtual Matching Platform helped to create a well-qualified aware workforce, identifying 15 potential SMEs. Then, Innova sent the SME profiles identified by the Virtual Matching Platform to the corresponding WOODISM partner including the partner search form. Each partner contacted the SMEs from its country, and explained them how they could participate in the project. After hard work, and thanks to the teamwork, in only one week, Innova was able to present to the coordinator 8 SME profiles. Finally, 5 Italian SMEs – e.g. Istituto Giordano; Comec; Bohor; Cospa Ltd; Agri Tech Solutions - were inserted in the consortium.

The collaboration with the WOODISM partners was crucially important for building up powerful networks that transmit not only information but also factual possibilities that help to increase the credibility of the SMEs. The results obtained after 1 year demonstrate the unique and important contribution the WOODISM consortium made.

To insert your profile, please visit:  
<http://woodism.apre.it/SMEapp.aspx>