

INTERREG III C THIRD APPLICATION ROUND ROBINWOOD

I Title of the operation, acronym:

Revitalisation of rural areas through sustainable development by means of integrated forestry development.
Robinwood.

III Brief summary of the operation

Forestry development, rural revitalisation, and utilization of wood biomass are key aspects of sustainable socio-economic development in certain areas of partner regions (Brandenburg, Liguria, Murcia, Pomerania, Wales, Eastern Slovakia). These aspects are often at the heart of regional policies (c.f. regional plans for rural development, territorial, forestry and energy plans), because certain regions (such as Liguria) are experiencing a marked deterioration of their forests together with hydrogeological hazards or risk of flooding, a high rate of migration and a weak economy. Therefore the main objective of Robinwood will be revitalisation of rural areas through integrated forestry development and the promotion of a wood chain process; this will be achieved through activities in the fields of hydrogeology, forestry, energy and communication. The Regional Framework Operation will foster innovation, protection of the environment and the participation of local agents. The partnership has been composed by taking into account specific fields of expertise, current relations and the presence of similar problems. Liguria and Murcia for example have the same hydrogeological risk factors and are already taking part in a European Union project; Liguria and Brandenburg are well acquainted as members of the same European network (FEDARENE); Brandenburg and Pomerania have close contacts; Wales has specialized knowledge in the use of wood for social objectives; eastern Slovakia is characterised by complex hydrological conditions and large areas of woodland. The partners have worked in close collaboration on the preparation of this proposal and will continue their cooperation by exchanging details of their own experiences and by working together to define new approaches. The Steering Group will oversee the strategy drawn up jointly by all the partners. Most of the partners will be responsible for the supervision of technical aspects of the components. Robinwood will serve to promote the sustainable development of rural areas and to overcome obstacles which hinder real progress by means of: the creation of a woodland chain process (territorial promotion, marketing), new techniques in forestry development (certification, policy changes, silviculture), hydrogeological improvements (models to prevent instability and to reduce risks), promotion of wood as a fuel source in the energy sector (new systems of management and new technologies). All this will be implemented by means of analyses, sharing of experiences and the creation of new approaches, pilot projects, the preparation of operational and promotional plans and promotions. Direct results will be: workshops, meetings, studies, reports, master plans, promotion campaigns, events, maps,



networks, partnerships, surveys and directives. Certain activities will be carried out by means of sub-projects assigned by means of open invitations to tender.

* * * * * budget details omitted – self explanatory * * * * *



DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE OPERATION

1. RATIONALE

1.1. Brief history of the Operation

In 2001, the Department of the Environment and Territory of the Liguria Regional Authority decided to launch an innovative project based on the woodland chain process, drawing together the policies of different departments (agriculture, town planning, productivity, environment, energy) in order to create a truly integrated approach as defined in § 5 “Rural and mountainous zones” of regional Agenda 21. On 19/7/2002, an official act passed by the Regional Council entitled “Redesignation of rural and mountainous zones through sustainable development models centred on the management of woodland areas” expressed the will to launch a pilot project termed “Robinwood”. This project is prompted by the critical situation of rural areas in Liguria: deterioration of woodland, hydrogeological risk factors, flooding. Furthermore, these areas require economic revitalisation, and wood could play a key role. As stated in the Regional Energy Plan, wood used as a fuel source can be the real development vector in an integral woodland chain process. In the following month, the Department promoted meetings with local participants to development project content. Participants involved were: communities from mountain districts, local action group leaders, small business (SME), professional associations (farmers, forest managers, municipalities, parks). At the beginning of 2003, a round table was organised between the members of the different regional departments, and the collaboration of ARE Liguria, the regional energy association, received strong support because the agency co-ordinates all elements of the programme. For that reason the work group initiated a series of meetings in order to develop a strategy. Meanwhile the preliminary draft of the project was presented at various meetings of INTERREG III C (Majorca, Berlin, Vienna). Contacts were made with the best potential partners who had expressed an interest.

The group was formed of partners with expertise in specific fields and others who would be able to exchange knowledge and new approaches. Wales is experienced in forestry development; Brandenburg and Eastern Slovakia lead in promotion of biomass energy, Murcia in hydrogeological matters. Pomerania needs to better understand the European approach to territorial planning; Liguria has demonstrated best practice in land protection and is experienced in questions of sustainable development. The first meeting took place on 21/7/2003 in Genoa to define the ultimate specifications of Robinwood. The partners exchanged views on their aims for rural revitalisation and began an integrated process aimed at new approaches in order to improve the efficiency of their development policies. Each of the European partners was called upon to define a component on the basis of the contributions of the other partners.

1.1.1. Regional partnerships

The regional partners were involved in the definition of the programme’s strategy and objectives in accordance with their interests and their field of expertise (territorial, thematic) through meetings and consultations organised by the Robinwood partners. For implementation, some of the regional partners will provide direct technical assistance to [other] partner regions especially at the stage of study and analysis. The other partners will take part either as beneficiaries of sub-projects or as a vector in communication activities. In Brandenburg, the



Chamber of Trade and Industry, the Association of woodland owners, [that] of forestry managers, the Council for the Economic Development of the *Landkreis* [rural district] of Barnim, businesses involved in energy production or in transformation of wood, and *Sparkasse* [Savings Bank] Uckermark. In the case of Liguria, the partnership comprises mountain districts, the association of woodland owners, municipal authorities, the Regional Energy Agency (ARE Liguria), the university, professional associations, the Chamber of Commerce, parks, local action groups. For Murcia: the university of Murcia and Carthagen, *Mancomunidad de Canales del Taibilla*, *Confederación Hidrográfica Del Segura*, research centres, the regional agency for energy management, private institutions, local action groups, municipal authorities, tourist associations, landowner associations, agricultural unions, NGOs, *Consejo Superior De Investigaciones Científicas*. For Pomerania: the association of municipal authorities, the regional directorate for state forestry, the university of Gdansk, the regional council for hydraulic works. For the Forestry Commission Wales: university, local energy agency, research centres, associations of woodland owners, municipal authorities, private manufacturers of wood products, professional associations. For Eastern Slovakia: Forests of the Slovak Republic, Chambers of Commerce, associations of woodland owners.

1.2. Problem description

The rural areas of partner regions are victim of certain problems such as a drop in population numbers, slow economic growth, loss of identity, cuts in services, soil erosion. These problems are caused by an imbalance in land use, by environmental, infrastructure and organisational problems, but above all by the lack of territorial development, which leads to a deterioration in the quality of wood types, hydrogeological resource disturbance and a drop in productive activities related to woodland and wood products. All of the partners are experiencing these problems to a greater or lesser extent. Rural areas in Liguria are mainly covered with woodland (66 %) which is deteriorating, where hydrogeological risks and migration towards towns are very high. Murcia has similar territorial characteristics and identical problems. Wales is a key partner in view of its extensive experience in forestry development and handling of social problems with the aid of woodland. Brandenburg leads in territorial development based on the use of wood as an energy source, but it needs advice with regard to forestry development (devitalisation of forests). Pomerania and eastern Slovakia have numerous forests and dry soils and need an economic relaunch of these rural territories and as new EU members, the exchanges will be interesting. This Regional Framework Operation includes partners from different areas of INTERREG IIIC (east, south, west) and thus promotes integration of regions which traditionally have no links [with each other] and whose cultural differences generate different points of view. Furthermore, this Regional Framework Operation unites regions from Category 1 with regions belonging to Category 2 and regions from new member countries.

1.3. Objectives of the operation

All the partners have defined sustainable development based on land management as a future basis for rural revitalisation. In particular, they are determined to relaunch the rural economy and protect territory by means of use and good management of their own forestry resources. In point of fact, the main aim of Robinwood is integrated forestry development and the creation of a woodland chain process in rural areas. The potential which derives from the use of forests for



the purpose of production must be reinforced and promoted by encouraging innovative approaches and technologies and protecting the environment and biodiversity.

This can be subdivided into four secondary aims:

1. To develop and compare appropriate systems of forestry development; to define regional forestry policies; to consider the forest as a source of production; to identify means which will guarantee sustainable development of forests and protection of biodiversity.
2. To remedy hydrogeological instability: identify solutions which are compatible with protection of forests to limit or prevent landslides and restore water cycles to prevent further damage and overcome current risks.
3. To use regional sources for wood as a fuel source: to attempt to reduce the use of fossil fuels through the promotion of local sources of renewable energy (wood) and of a wood energy chain.
4. To increase socio-economic potential for the forestry sector: promote the wood chain process and increase general growth and competitiveness in the area.

1.4. Expected outputs, results and impacts of the operation

Outputs : workshops, meetings, best practice (number); reports on the current situation in the areas (number); study missions (number); guiding principles, master plans and operational plans (number); databases, maps (number); brochures, CD-ROM (number); Web site; promotion campaigns (number); conferences (number); information seminars (number); sub-projects; recommendations; 5 geographical information systems maps; approved models; press conferences; progress reports; local opinion polls.

Results: integration of the different components; participation of and collaboration with the parties involved; close relations between partners; close cooperation between the different sections of the same partner region; full allocation of the budget; knowledge of project management techniques; satisfaction of the partners with regard to management; identification and knowledge of measures which will limit hydrogeological damage; acceptance of recommendations for territorial planning in the partner regions; improved forestry management; creation of groups of woodland owners; acquisition of more information on wood as a fuel source at all levels; increased sales of wood for fuel; new providers of innovative technologies on the ground, promotion of Robinwood at regional and international levels; increased information to local agents on the themes of forest management and use of wood; improvements to local awareness of forestry-related themes.

Impact: increased impact of structural funds for forestry development; fewer dry soils; protection of biodiversity; better land use; promotion of renewable energy; technological innovation; increased competitiveness of rural areas; improvements to the socio-economic context of rural areas; drop in migration figures; greater entrepreneurial spirit; respect of the Kyoto protocol; strengthening of the "bottom up" approach to development.

1.5. Approach and Methodology

The Robinwood activities are centred on five theme components based on the different aspects of integrated forestry development and development of the woodland chain; in addition to project coordination, the following components have been created: hydrogeology, forestry,



biomass energy and communication. The hydrogeology, forestry and energy components are all structured in the same way. The first period of activity (duration approximately one year) is devoted to studies in order to define the present state of the land and to identify problems and the possible solutions and approaches possible, to prepare master plans defining specific management measures which will facilitate the creation of sub-projects. Each partner will focus his attention on his own territory; meanwhile, meetings, conferences and workshops will be organised to exchange experiences and draw up new joint approaches. Not until after the phase of identification of critical aspects and problems will it be possible to define the limits of the sub-projects and to invite tenders. The evolution of the sub-projects will play a significant part in the definition of innovative solutions. Three areas of sub-projects are planned: 1. sustainable hydrogeological management; 2. sustainable forestry management; 3. instruments which will facilitate the application of forestry biomass technologies at a local level. While the sub-projects are running, the partner regions will complete their studies and master plans. Upon completion of the sub-projects, it will also be possible to draft the guiding principles and to set out recommendations, so that the results of the Regional Framework Operation are effective and perfectly integrated into the policies and the standard framework of the reference regions. The communication component is the key to the promotion of all the Regional Framework Operation, of sub-projects, of individually targeted solutions and of specific activities defined in the other components on national, inter-regional and regional levels. The communication component will be essential to encourage the participation of local agents and will follow a timetable linked specifically to the demands of the other components. With regard to their timetable, the partners have decided to start the organisational and promotional activities of components 1 and 5 before the end of 2004; the themed activities of the other three components will start in early 2005. The Regional Framework Operation appears to be the most appropriate programme structure, as it allows the development of a joint strategy; through the implementation of sub-projects between the different countries, this joint strategy will allow specific objectives to be reached and also allow application of individual solutions which are appropriate for each region, but which may be applied in other contexts of non-local planning.

1.7. Components of the Operation

Component 1

Title:

Management and coordination

Strategic focus:

Management and coordination of the programme as a whole, in order to attain the objectives and actions defined in the other components.

Responsible partner:

Liguria region

Involved partners:

All partners who participate as committee members of the programme and as coordinators of local actions and specific components.



Planned results:

Start up of actions. Participation of parties involved. Close relations and exchanges between partners. Close cooperation between different sections of the same partner region. Full allocation of the budget. Knowledge of project management techniques. Satisfaction of partners with regard to management.

Component 2:**Title:**

Hydrogeological improvement.

Strategic focus:

In all partner regions, hydrogeological damage is a critical element in land management in terms of the environment and safety. The component will allow the exchange of models and information and will favour integration with forestry management to limit damage.

Responsible partner:

Murcia region

Involved partners:

All.

Planned results:

Identification of and information about measures to mitigate hydrogeological damage; appropriate use according to the different types of terrain while adhering to the basic principles of safeguard of the environment and biodiversity. Acceptance of recommendations on territorial planning from partner regions.

Component 3:**Title:**

Optimised forestry development

Strategic focus:

To improve sustainable development and forestry development with environmental and socio-economic aims by using the different experiences and best practice of the partner regions for the development of an approach and the integration of regional policies in this field. Forestry is the driving power behind Robinwood.

Responsible partner:

Wales.

Involved partners:

All.

Planned results:

Better forestry management through the exchange of best practice and agreement on solutions to the problems of forestry certification, management and planning. Influence over policy. Collaboration with local partners and with the energy and hydrogeology components. Creation of groups of woodland owners.

Component 4:

Title:

Promotion of energy from local wood.

Strategic focus:

This component which is wholly integrated with the forestry component encourages the use of wood off-cuts and waste from the wood chain, a reduction in the use of fossil fuels and thus a reduction in CO₂ gases and will invigorate the economy and stimulate technological innovation.

Responsible partner:

Brandenburg

Involved partners:

All

Planned results:

Consumers will receive information on wood fuel. Increased sales of wood as a fuel source. New suppliers of innovative technologies in the area. Political figures and small business will be aware of the potential and the possibilities of biomass.

Component 5:

Title:

Communication.

Strategic focus:

Aims not only to promote the project as a whole but also each activity both outside the partner regions and within the regional territory. Envisages a series of support activities for the other components. Is a key element for the project's success and for continuation [of its principles] even after completion.

Responsible partner:

Liguria.

Involved partners:

All.

Planned results:

Awareness of Robinwood at regional and international level; increase the knowledge of local agents about themes of forest management and the use of wood; improve local opinion of forestry-related themes.



1.8. Durability of the operation's results

Durability of the results is guaranteed by:

- their integration into the policies of strategic regional planning, which will subsequently provide for additional administrative and financial measures to support the individual actions identified by Robinwood;
- the creation of networks between regions and the operators involved which will ensure continuation of cooperation with regard to the themes examined.
- structural actions in the territories involved, which by their very nature are irreversible (forestry, hydrogeological, environmental improvements)
- creation of a virtuous productive circle in the wood / energy chain which after start-up will continue to operate automatically.

The results will be the property of the European Commission and the regional administrations which took part in the programme. The results will be kept on the specially created Web site for at least three years after completion of the project and will be available to all public and private operators interested in more information on the topics.

The impact will be long-term because of

- the multiplication effect of the financing involved through the structural funds for forest management;
- improvements to the socio-cultural context;
- continued application of management instruments for the territory as defined in the framework of the Regional Framework Operation;
- continued local interest both public and private, in the themes examined at technological and environmental level.
- territorial marketing activities.

1.9. Location of activities

In Liguria, the programme will be implemented in mountainous rural areas identified in the regional territory plan. Pilot projects will be launched in one or two areas.

In Brandenburg, two *Landkreise* [rural districts] in the North-East (Uckermark and Barnim) defined a strategy in Autumn 2002 entitled BARUM 111 to promote the use of renewable energy sources and free themselves from the use of fossil fuels (100 %) but also to be able to export the energy surplus (11%). Robinwood will pay particular attention to this area but will be an integral part of the 2010 energy strategy forming the backbone of a long term energy policy for all Brandenburg.

In Murcia, the Sierra España Regional Park and the North-West area, which are the parts of the region where 60 % of the total woodland surface and 95 % of the forests are used but are only home to 10 % of the population.

These areas have forests characterised by expansion and diversification.

In Pomerania, the programme will be implemented in the rural areas defined as being among critical areas in the Regional Development Plan of Pomeranian Voievodship.

In Wales and in Eastern Slovakia specific areas will be chosen from the whole region on the basis of their environmental and socio-economic balance.



1.10. Information and Publicity measures

Robinwood envisages promotional campaigns at the level of the component activities and on the scale of the general programme. The aim is to promote not only the whole of the Regional Framework Operation but also the regions concerned; it may be described as territorial marketing. The promotion campaign will target local parties to promote the possibilities and to influence decision-makers as well as the general public in order to advertise the programme and its results. Target groups will be the general public, administrators, political decision-makers, woodland owners and foresters, researchers, architects and builders, potential business leaders, the media. The campaign will also serve to develop best practice on an international scale. Workshops, public events, information seminars and promotion campaigns (brochures, leaflets, advertising), local promotions will be organised.

An appropriate media campaign will be organised at the beginning and at the end of the programme to stimulate public interest in the programme and the problems which it addresses. All the documents and articles published will be presented and available on the specially created Web site.

The “bottom up” approach applied throughout the programme will play an important role in the promotion of Robinwood for word of mouth promotion and the personal relationships which will be created.

Finally the promotion spots as well as the national and international networks which the partners will be part of (for example the European network of the energy agency FEDARENE, the networks of municipal authorities, sustainable urban networks etc) will be informed and will therefore subsequently continue to publish information about the programme.

2. POLICY CONTEXT

2.1. Contribution to the Programme Objectives

Robinwood will make a tangible contribution to the objective of the INTERREG IIIC programme: strengthening economic and social ties within the Community, through sustainable development and strategic cooperation between the different partner regions which face different problems. Furthermore, the nature of the partnership (different INTERREG areas) and cooperation will favour a process of European integration, notably following the broadening of the European Union (Poland and the Slovak Republic are partners).

The programme aims to improve the efficiency of policies and instruments aimed at promoting development and regional cohesion by focussing on the problem of sustainability of the environment and of consistency in relation to the structure and vocation of the territory. The Regional Framework Operation cooperation will also strengthen the participation of the parties concerned as well as their knowledge and skills through the promotion of the exchange of experiences, of best practice, of new methods and policies of sustainable regional development. The project plans to apply the guiding principles of the Development Scheme for Community Areas to rural and mountain areas. Robinwood will provide new ideas, methods and processes for implementation of Structural Fund programmes and will also propose innovative actions for mainstream programmes. It will provide impetus to an integrated approach to tackle regional problems from the different and simultaneous standpoints and levels of competence (environmental, technical, social, economic, health and safety aspects). The added value of the



trans-national cooperation dwells in the possibility of finding and validating interregional solutions to take on the joint challenge of development of the wood chain.

2.2. Relation to specific Topic for Cooperation

Robinwood strengthens the cooperation and integration of mainstream programme strategies. It will allow the partners to subsequently develop the ongoing projects of Objectives 1 and 2. In Liguria, Robinwood integrates perfectly into the DOCUP strategy (promotion of renewable energy, hydrogeological development, environmental certifications and information, territorial promotion and spread of innovation). Thanks to DOCUP, a biomass installation has been financed, about **ten** mountain communities have requested certification, actions aimed at reducing hydrogeological damage as well as the promotion of local products have been carried out. The most significant under Objectives 1 and 2 in Wales are: Wood Energy Business Scheme (wood/energy installations and chains); Cydcoed (management of woodland areas by communities); Better Woodlands for Wales (help for the sustainable management of private woodland); projects for the protection of biodiversity. Robinwood adheres to Objectives 3 and 5 of Brandenburg's Operational Programme for the improvement of silviculture and of wood transformation industries as well as the planting of trees as a fuel source. In Murcia, Robinwood meets the requirements of measure 3.9 for the improvement of forest ecosystems and the struggle against erosion as well as the development of forests in the rural areas of the Operational Programme; the latter aims to improve the hydro-forestry situation and the development of wooded areas. Projects for renewable energy and sustainable forestry come under measures 1.2 – environmental protection – and 3.2. – areas requiring restructuring of the Operational Programme in Pomerania. In Eastern Slovakia, Robinwood fulfils the requirements of programme documents for Objective 1 for the regions with regard to air quality, support for the use of renewable energy resources and sustainable development.

2.3. Contribution to other EU policies

Robinwood will contribute to EU policies on sustainable development as it is compatible with the VI Programme of Action for the Environment. Furthermore, by encouraging the use of biomass as a fuel source, it will contribute towards meeting the objectives set out in the Official Report on renewable energy sources and comply with the Kyoto Protocol. It also follows the guiding principles of the Common Agricultural Policy. With regard to equal opportunities for men and women, our Regional Framework Operation will have a positive effect because the rural economy has always been based on the leading rôle of women (traditionally, men migrated to look for better paid work in factories or urban areas). Furthermore, the work group is mainly made up of women (and the coordinator and financial manager are women). In short, Robinwood will focus on the environment and environmental problems (maintaining biodiversity, [avoiding] hydrogeological risks, forest devitalisation, CO₂ gases) which underlie the promotion of this Regional Framework Operation. Moreover, the legal framework with regard to the environment will be studied and applied to the programme as a whole in order to achieve a true long-term development strategy.

3. MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS



3.1. Responsibility

* * * * * self-explanatory * * * * *

3.1.3. Details for the Co-ordinator

Mrs Daniele Minetti, Sector Policies for Sustainability, experience in the field of sustainability policies for local institutions.

3.1.4.

* * * * * self-explanatory * * * * *

3.1.5. Describe the person's experience in project management, including trans-national and EU-financed projects.

Within the regional department, co-ordinates all INTERREG projects (for example Metropol-Nature and MARS) and LIFE ((Phyles et E.D.E.R.A.).

3.1.6. Do you plan to sub-contract the tasks of the Financial Manager after the approval of the operation?

No

3.1.7. Please describe the foreseen employment procedure ...

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3.1.8. Details for Financial Manager

Mme Claudia Morich, management in the Department for the Protection of the Environment, Buildings and Public Works, experience in financial management.

3.1.10. Describe the person's experience in financial management of projects, including trans-national EU-financed projects.

Within the Department, work to identify the financial needs and sources of financing. Co-ordinates follow-up activities and financial evaluation in the field of integrated programmes and projects, also structural funds (DOCUP 2002-2006).



3.2. Overall co-ordination and management of the operation

3.2.1. Please describe the decision-making, monitoring and evaluation structure for the operation, including the composition of the Steering Group, its competences and procedures (strategic level)

The Steering Group includes appointed representatives (and possible substitutes) of the regional partners and constitutes the highest decision-making body of the Regional Framework Operation. It comprises three sub-committees: the Institutional Committee, formed of policy makers [politicians?] or managers of partner institutions; it meets once a year to define the broad guidelines for strategy and policy, to sign partnership contracts and to examine the efficiency of systems of technical and financial management; the Technical Committee, which meets every six months and looks at the general implementation of the Regional Framework Operation, checks its progress and results, and decides on any changes; the Financial Committee, which meets every six months, is headed by the Financial Manager of the Regional Framework Operation, reviews general financial matters and examines the financial management of the programme. A Programme Coordinator is member of all the sub-committees and ensures that agreement is reached.

The Programme Coordinator draws up the guiding principles for evaluation and follow-up of the Regional Framework Operation in order to ensure that the programme's aims are met. All decisions must be unanimous. The Lead Partner will submit a progress report (activity report and audited financial report) to the Joint Technical Secretariat / Payment Authority every six months. The sub-projects will be selected by public invitations to tender, in accordance with national and EU legislation and the agreement reached by the Programme Coordinator. Invitations to tender issued by the Programme Co-ordinator and the sub-projects will always be adjudged by the Programme Co-ordinator according to the following general criteria: quality of the partnership, share (percentage) of co-financing, attainable and coherent projects, characteristics and size of the territory in question, presence of activities linked to the wood chain.

3.2.2. Please describe the structure, responsibilities and procedures for day-to-day management and co-ordination of the operation (working level)

The full-time Programme Co-ordinator is responsible for daily operational tasks with regard to the management of the project during the different stages of the project cycle. He prepares the periodical activity reports for the Joint Technical Secretariat, ensures thematic coordination of the activities and actions of Robinwood in his rôle as a driving force of the interregional partnership. He is assisted by five Local Heads of Programme appointed by each principal partner to decentralise responsibility for the implementation of activities. The Local Heads of Programme are responsible for: preparation of reports on local activities for the Programme Co-ordinator, drafting of minutes and notes, maintenance of momentum at local level, encouraging participation at local level, follow-up of sub-projects. Regional Local Heads of Programme responsible for the co-ordination of a specific component will also monitor the activities of this component on behalf of all the partners involved. They will be assisted by local technical experts.

An experienced Financial Manager bears the financial responsibility for the whole Regional Framework Operation. This involves: preparation of financial reports / periodic payment



requests; internal management of FEDER funds; checking expenditure; budget compliance. The Financial Manager sends periodic reports to the Steering Group on all aspects of financial management of Robinwood. The Financial Manager collaborates closely with the Programme Co-ordinator and the Local Financial Managers appointed in each region to ensure efficient management. The Local Financial Managers keep accounts for the section of the project of the Lead Partner, pay local invoices and are responsible for preparation of local financial reports / local payment requests (sent to the Financial Manager of the Regional Framework Operation). The Lead Partner and the principal partners appoint independent auditors at the local level. The Auditor may be internal, from a department not headed by the Lead Partner, or may be an independent external auditor.

3.2.3. Please describe the division of the roles among the partners in implementation process; which partners will be responsible for which administrative and financial tasks, components and / or activities?

The Lead Partner is the regional authority of Liguria, Department for the Protection of the Environment, Buildings and Public Works, who will co-ordinate a team composed of other divisions, among them soil protection and land protection, energy, biodiversity, agriculture and forests, territorial planning. During the implementation of the project, Liguria will head the Steering Group, co-ordinate activities, prepare all reports and remain in contact with the Joint Technical Secretariat and Management Authority to ensure efficiency and compliance with the time schedule, costs and results. All regions will take part in the Steering Group and its specific sub-committees through their representatives. The Liguria region will head the first component and Communication. Murcia will direct Hydrogeology, Wales - Forestry and Brandenburg - Energy.

Responsibility for the components has been allocated according to the level of experience in each activity. Each partner responsible for a component, assisted by local technical experts, co-ordinates and promotes the activities of this component. This means that the Local Head of Programme will monitor the other partners and inform the Programme Co-ordinator of the results. Each partner is responsible for his own performance and will send progress reports (financial and activity reports) to the Lead Partner through the Local Heads of Programme and Local Financial Managers. The partner regions will maintain close contact with all the other partners and local partners.

3.2.4. Please describe the administrative and financial management procedures within the operation, including reporting, accounting, controls, auditor's verifications and payments. Indicate the financial model applied. For further information, please refer to Programme Manual.

The Lead Partner will submit an audited progress report (technical and financial) to the Joint Technical Secretariat and the Management Authority every six months. The report is prepared on the basis of progress reports received by partner regions. Those responsible for sub-projects will send their activity reports to their own partner region.

The financial blueprint used is the second model suggested for Regional Framework Operations. The Lead Partner will make payments to the Regional Framework Operation partners. Each regional partner will manage (receive and pay) local invoices (also for sub-projects) and their verification. Each regional partner will then send the invoices to the Lead



Partner (in euros if the local currency is different - specific rules will be set out at the beginning of the programme). The Lead Partner will send financial reports to the Management Authority to activate FEDER reimbursement which will then be sent to other partners.

Each partner must submit a financial report and an activity report to the Lead Partner before the latter submits the general financial report and general activity report to the Management Authority. Expenses will be paid in accordance with the contracts signed. First stage audits will be carried out for each financial report by an independent verifier (who may or may not belong to the institutions involved). The Lead Partner will open a designated income / expenditure balance updating account to receive FEDER funds and distribute them to the partner regions.

3.2.5. Please describe the previous experience of Lead Partner and all other partners in interregional cooperation and Structural Funds financed operations.

Liguria region: the Department for the Protection of the Environment, Buildings and Public Works has received approval for thirty projects within INTERREG III (MEDOCC and Alpine Space), LIFE and LEADER; it directs international cooperation projects with the local Chamber of Commerce, manages a DOCUP measure and is responsible for the Strategic Environmental Evaluation of all DOCUP.

The Forestry Commission Wales (FCW) has extensive experience in the use of Structural Funds and has collaborated closely in the process of evaluation of projects for Objective 1. Forestry Commission Wales is currently running five projects for Objective 1 and has submitted five further projects [for consideration]. Forestry Commission Wales is also taking part in nine other projects. Four tourism projects at Forestry Commission Wales concerning woodland areas are financed through Objective 2 in the east of Wales. Forestry Commission Wales has taken part in interregional projects such as ALTENER and Tapares.

The Murcia region is currently taking part in four INTERREG III B projects, three MEDOC and one SUDOE in collaboration with Italian, French, Portuguese and Spanish Regions and institutions. Three LIFE NATURE projects have also been approved.

Brandenburg has been represented in the framework of several INTERREG, SAVE and ALTENER projects dedicated to energy efficiency and the promotion of wood as an energy source. Brandenburg has recently become a partner in an INTERREG IIIB project entitled "Bio-energy Technology Transfer Network" aimed at setting up development centres for bio-energy and organising international training in this field.

EC BREC/IBMER has participated in more than thirty international projects within the framework of EU ALTENER, SAVE, PHARE, 5th and 6th Programmes Framework RDT in collaboration with regional and national organisations in almost all member states of the EU aimed at promoting and using renewable energy sources and energy efficiency measures. It is a member of the EU OPET network responsible for renewable energy sources. It serves as secretariat for the association of municipal energy authorities in Poland and for its representation within the Reflection Group on Energy Management in the European Commission.

Eastern Slovakia has experience in the field of setting up CBC PHARE projects and ISPA, SAPARD and PHARE, Visegrad Fund, Carpathian Association and other pre-accession funds.



ANNEX I

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ANNEX I.2

Relevance of the partnership

The partnership has been drawn up on the basis of specific skills, existing relationships and the presence of similar problems in varying degrees. The group has been formed by partners who have expertise in specific fields and others who can exchange knowledge and new approaches. Forests in Liguria cover 66 % of national territory; they are deteriorating and the hydrogeological risk is high, but the region has demonstrated best practice in matters of land protection and has a good command of matters related to sustainable development. Murcia has similar geomorphologic characteristics and experiences identical problems and has a good command of hydrogeological issues. Wales is a key partner in view of its vast experience of forestry development and management of social problems through the use of wood. Brandenburg has good knowledge of energy matters and the promotion of biomass energy but needs advice on forestry development (devitalisation of forests). Pomerania is similar to Liguria: numerous forests, dry soils, enormous potential for biomass and it is a new EU country, so exchanges are interesting. The partners will continue their cooperation by exchanging experiences and by working together to define new approaches. The programme thus favours integration of regions which traditionally have no links and whose cultural differences engender different points of view. The partners have initiated an integrated process to improve the efficiency of their development policies. Robinwood will favour the creation of long-term cooperation links between the partners as well as sustainable exchange which will develop and encourage the basis of comparison required to pursue experiments - even those carried out jointly - and thus achieve best practice in this field.

Partners' contribution to and benefit from the operation

Partner 1:

Liguria region – Department for the Protection of the Environment, Buildings and Public Works

Liguria will play the rôle of Lead Partner by proposing and encouraging activities with the Joint Technical Secretariat, local and regional partners. It will also head the Communication component because of its experience in the field of Agenda XXI. In matters of policies for sustainable development, Liguria represents the region *par excellence*, ensuring integration with environmental and socio-economic themes. Robinwood will contribute to the development of the capacity to work together and the exchange with other European regions will allow the acquisition of new know-how.

Partner 2:

Land Brandenburg – Ministry for the Environment, Agriculture and Land Planning

Brandenburg will be responsible for component 4 and will share with other regions its experience in the use of wood as a fuel source as well as its specific know-how in the impact of



climate change on hydrogeology. Brandenburg is very interested in making the most of cooperation opportunities between the regions in the field of development of the uses of wood. It will also try to gain from the experience of Wales in forestry development and to collaborate in the search for private woodland owners interested in economic development.

Partner 3:

Autonomous region of Murcia – General Department of the Environment

The project will help the Murcia region to implement the Regional Forestry Strategy approved in 2003 and two main programmes: one for development and management of forests and one for restoration of and improvements to the natural environment. The Murcia region will play an active rôle in project activities and will co-ordinate and direct component 2 – hydrogeology – in view of its extensive experience in management of hydrogeological damage.

Partner 4:

Forestry Commission Wales

It will head component 3 (forestry). It will help to develop partnership experience in forestry management (local socio-economic revitalisation, conservation of biodiversity and direct economic benefit of wood harvesting) and experience of taking part in programme Objective 1 including direct project management (ten projects) and participation in projects managed by other partners. The exchange with EU countries will be particularly important for the acquisition of further knowledge on the use of wood as a fuel source.

Partner 5:

European Renewal Energy Centre Gdansk

EC BREC / IBMER will share its experience in integrated programming for the use of renewable local resources (wood), in pilot projects (mini-wood technology in rural areas) and in promotion campaigns for innovative energy technologies (biomass) and problems of environmental protection. It is also specialised in planning and forestry training and sustainable wood harvesting. Thanks to Robinwood it will acquire more knowledge on hydrogeology and best practice in EU partner regions.

Partner 6:

Eastern Slovakia (autonomous regions of Košice and Prešov)

It will optimize economic development of the region through the transfer and exchange of experiences. It will improve measures for management of regional development through the integration of trans-regional cooperation. It will initiate cooperation between partners for management of regional processes. It will exploit the production potential of renewable energy, in particular biomass. It will strengthen and implement integrated countryside protection by increasing energy efficiency and technology transfer for small business.



ANNEX II

Countries, regions and areas

* * * * *



ANNEX III

Description of the components

ANNEX III.1.

Time plan for Component 1

Title:

Management and coordination

Strategic focus:

Management and coordination of the programme as a whole, in order to attain the objectives and actions defined in the other components.

Total eligible costs:

827,160.00

Responsible partner:

Liguria region

Involved partners:

All partners who participate as committee members of the programme and as coordinators of local actions and specific components.

Planned results:

Start up of actions. Participation of parties involved. Close relations and exchanges between partners. Close cooperation between different sections of the same partner region. Full allocation of the budget. Knowledge of project management techniques. Satisfaction of partners with regard to management.

Result Indicators and their Quantification:

Number of agents taking part in initial meetings (at least five per partner region); percentage of participation of each partner in meetings (at least 80 % of meetings); percentage of participation of members of regional divisions in local meetings (at least 90 % of meetings); percentage of allocation (100% of budget); number of reports sent on time and in correct form (all); level of satisfaction of partners with regard to management (high).

Expected Outputs and their Quantification:

1 Steering Group; 3 sub-committees (institutional, technical and financial); 1 interpartner agreement; operational plan for the Steering Group; 1 initial report; 5 local partner contracts; administrative activities of the Steering Group and the Financial Manager; meetings of the Steering Group; appointment of 5 Local Heads of Programme and 5 Local Financial Managers; 6 progress reports and one final report (technical and financial); 7 audits and financial certificates; 3 invitations to tender for projects; 2 evaluation reports (interim and post-project); 2 satisfaction surveys.



Description of Component 1:

This component covers the mode of management and the project structure. Its activities are in line with the implementation of the activities of the other components. This component will include operational planning, start-up activities, coordination of interregional work groups, management of local work groups, contracts with all Local Heads of Programmes and Local Financial Managers, monitoring of the progress of activities and drafting of reports to be submitted to the Management Authority and the Joint Technical Secretariat, organisation and supervision of public invitations to tender, supervision of sub-projects, follow-up and evaluation activities. This component will also monitor evaluation and revision of the general programme strategy through the Steering Group. In this component, all the partner regions will work together to define the regulations and operational procedures of the Steering Group. The members of the Steering Group will meet when necessary and on the basis of a specific scheduled topic: institutional, technical or financial. The Steering Group will among other duties have the responsibility of defining the specific field of invitations to tender for sub-projects as well as setting out the procedures and selection criteria for these same invitations to tender. All the partner regions will take part in the activities of the component through co-ordination of activities at a local level. The Lead Partner will fulfil the role of general co-ordinator and contact link with the Management Authority of INTERREG III South. It is most important that this component ensure that all partners (local or international) play a constant active role and that it encourages close contacts and cooperation in order to obtain joint results. The Communication component (5) will support the activities of this component.

The component will also play a special role with regard to monitoring compliance with the time schedule, costs and planning. The component will organise a survey among the partners on the means of identifying strong and weak points [omissions] and draw conclusions on the management methods of the Regional Framework Operation. The implementation of the activities of this component will begin as soon as the programme is approved by the Secretary during the final months of 2004 and at the latest prior to the start of the activities of the other components; this will allow the first months to be devoted to organisational activities. A period of approximately one year will be dedicated to the preparation and publication of invitations to tender for sub-projects, receipt of proposals and evaluation of these same proposals in order to allow all partners to complete procedures in accordance with their standard administrative procedure.

Time Plan:

July – December 2004:

Activities:

The Steering Group with its sub-committees is formed at an initial meeting with the signing of the interpartner agreement, and prepares the operational plan (via the Steering Group) and the regulations for financial management (via the Financial Manager). The contracts for regional partnership are signed at initial meetings in each partner region. Local Heads of Programme and Local Financial Managers are appointed. The Lead Partner drafts and submits an initial report to the Joint Technical Secretariat which declares the start of programme activities and gives details of the management and operational structure. The Lead Partner prepares a report on initial expenditure.

Output:

Initial meeting of the Steering Group (all three sub-committees).
Initial meetings in each partner region.



Interpartner agreement. Regional partnership contracts.
 Operational plan and regulations for financial management. Local Heads of Programmes and Local Financial Managers.
 Initial report. Report on initial expenditure.

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 80,000.00

January – June 2005:

Activities:

The Steering Group begins to supervise the actions undertaken by all the components. Local Heads of Programme start to manage local activities.

First progress reports certified by an auditor are drawn up by the Local Heads of Programme and the Local Financial Managers and are sent to the Joint Technical Secretariat by the Steering Group and the Financial Manager.

The Steering Group prepares the terms of reference for the invitations to tender for projects, with

- procedures for evaluation and follow-up;
- procedures for decision-taking and implementation
- advertising details for invitations to tender
- selection criteria
- rates of assistance.

Output:

First technical and financial reports.

Regulations for invitations to tender for projects.

Meetings of the Steering Group (technical and financial sub-committees).

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 120,000.00

July – December 2005:

Activities:

The Steering Group monitors the progress of activities via Local Heads of Programme and the Financial Manager collects and verifies financial documents from the partners' Local Financial Managers. The Steering Group and the Financial Manager prepare technical and financial reports which are certified by an auditor and submitted to the Joint Technical Secretariat.

Output:

Technical Report.

Financial Report.

Financial audit.

Meetings of the Steering Group (technical and financial sub-committees).

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 100,000.00

January – June 2006:

Activities:



The Steering Group monitors the progress of activities via Local Heads of Programme and the Financial Manager collects and verifies financial documents from the partners' Local Financial Managers. The Steering Group and the Financial Manager prepare technical and financial reports which are certified by an auditor and submitted to the Joint Technical Secretariat.

Interim evaluation of the Robinwood programme.

All invitations to tender for projects are prepared and advertised.

Output:

Invitations to tender for projects.

Technical report and financial report.

Financial audit.

Interim evaluation report.

Meetings of the Steering Group (all three sub-committees).

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 110,000.00

July – December 2006:

Activities:

Right at the start of this semester, an initial survey on the level of satisfaction in the form of a questionnaire will be carried out in the partner regions in order to evaluate the approach to programme management and to make changes if necessary. The technical and financial reports destined for the Joint Technical Secretariat are prepared by the Steering Group and the Financial Manager and certified by an auditor on the basis of collection and verification of reports submitted by partners. The Steering Group monitors the progress of activities via Local Heads of Programme. The Steering Group selects sub-projects from among the proposals submitted.

Output:

Questionnaire for the survey.

Survey of level of satisfaction among partners, and results.

Technical report and financial report.

Financial audit.

Meetings of the Steering Group (technical and financial sub-committees).

List of selected sub-projects.

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 120,000.00

January – June 2007:

Activities:

Start of all sub-projects.

Technical and financial reports required by the Joint Technical Secretariat are prepared by the Steering Group and the Financial Manager and certified by an auditor on the basis of collection and verification of reports submitted by partners. The Steering Group monitors the progress of activities via Local Heads of Programme.

Output:

Technical report.



Financial report.
Financial audit.
Meetings of the Steering Group (technical and financial sub-committees).
Start of sub-projects.

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 90,000.00

July – December 2007:

Activities:

All the sub-projects continue up to the end of this **six month period**.

Technical and financial reports required by the Joint Technical Secretariat are prepared by the Steering Group and the Financial Manager and certified by an auditor on the basis of the collection and verification of reports submitted by partners. The Steering Group monitors the progress of activities via Local Heads of Programme.

Output:

Technical report
Financial report.
Financial audit.
Meetings of the Steering Group (technical and financial sub-committees).
End of sub-projects.

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 80,000.00

January – June 2008:

Activities:

The Lead Partner collects and verifies financial documents from the partners. The management and coordination activities are concluded and final reports are prepared by the Steering Group and the Financial Manager and sent to the Joint Technical Secretariat. A second survey on the level of satisfaction, in the form of a questionnaire, is carried out among the partners in order to evaluate the approach to programme management.

Ex-post evaluation of the Robinwood programme.

Output:

Financial audit.
Final reports (technical and financial).
Questionnaire.
Survey of level of satisfaction among partners, and results.
Ex-post evaluation report on Robinwood
Meetings of the Steering Group (all three sub-committees).

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 127,160.00



ANNEX III.2.**Time plan for Component 2:****Name:**

Hydrogeological improvement

Strategic focus:

In all partner regions, hydrogeological damage is a critical element in land management in terms of the environment and safety. The component will allow the exchange of models and information and will favour integration with forestry management to limit damage.

Total eligible costs:

1,212,504.00

Responsible partner:

Murcia region

Involved partners:

All

Planned results:

Identification of and information about measures to mitigate hydrogeological damage; appropriate use according to the different types of terrain while adhering to the basic principles of safeguard of the environment and biodiversity. Acceptance of recommendations on territorial planning from partner regions.

Result Indicators and their Quantification:

Number of measures to be adopted in each hydrogeological context (at least two for each type of territory); number of administrative acts which formally recognise the measures of the master plan (at least one per partner).

Expected Outputs and their Quantification:

6 reports on the current state of the areas; one report on the context and ecological needs of the protected areas; 6 geographical information systems maps; 4 sub-projects; 1 international study mission; 6 master plans of measures; guiding principles.

Description of Component 2:

The regions covered by Robinwood have similar geomorphologic characteristics, with forests covering a large portion of the territory. The maintenance of wooded areas is one of the critical features of a good hydrogeological context. The mountainous regions – Liguria and Murcia – have problems with landslides; hilly or flat areas – Wales, Pomerania, Eastern Slovakia and Brandenburg - mostly have water management problems and humid zones. This component requires analysis of the current hydrogeological and environmental situation with the aid of cartography and geographical information systems which will analyse the different territorial themes in order to highlight the current problems. Models must be found to study the stability of



the slopes of critical areas (risks of landslides), wooded areas and development of water systems.

The study of best practice and the exchange of experiences between partners will be critical in the identification of the most appropriate model for each region. Joint development of an innovative approach will perhaps be necessary. Then it will be possible to identify actions to be taken to remedy the problems. The actions will be described in full by the partner regions in a master plan with analyses and suggestions provided by the other components. An invitation to tender for sub-projects based on the models of territorial hydrogeological management will be advertised immediately after completion of the first analyses of territorial characteristics. These analyses will allow clear definition of the main critical points and from this the specific field of intervention for the project tenders. Title of sub-projects: Models of sustainable hydrogeological management of territory. Objective: Testing hydrogeological models aimed at resolving critical issues by examining their possible application, their re-use and whether they can guarantee sustainability. Duration: one year. Typology: pilot projects. Number: 4 (Pomerania and Eastern Slovakia will not take part in this). Total budget: approximately 714,000 euros. Target partners: local bodies, public research organisations, university, other public organisations. The results of the sub-projects must be included in the master plan and will assist in the preparation of guiding principles and of final recommendations which include solutions for different situations. The success of the general strategy of the component will depend largely on the activities of dissemination of information using brochures and events designed mainly to reach and influence local decision-makers (authorised to make decisions and take measures in territorial hydrogeological management) which will be developed in the Communication component.

Time plan:

January – June 2005:

Activities:

This period aims to understand the present state of the territory in terms of hydrological ecosystems, hydroforestry systems, drainage networks, humid zones and networks of aquifer conservation, hydrogeological problems (landslides, drop in the level of the water table etc). Particular attention will be paid to protected areas. The general environmental situation must be analysed, notably with regard to past, present and future demands. Statistical data will be collected with a complete set of maps. It will also be important to study the context, i.e. the normative and planning aspects and the ecological needs of protected areas.

Output:

Report on the hydrogeological situation of the studied area.

Report describing the context and ecological requirements of the water systems in the protected areas.

Geographical information systems maps.

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 90,000.00

July – December 2005:

Activities:



It is important to analyse the situation with the aid of certain models simulating water flow [run-off] in order to diagnose the hydrogeological situation of each region. The model must be adapted to the situation and to specific regional demands and experimental approaches must be used. It will be necessary meanwhile to understand the relationships between geography, forestry, tree varieties and water flow [run-off]. Analyses and evaluations will take into account the results of the territorial findings which are already available (e.g. maps showing risk factors). The data provided by the Component Forestry will be a determining factor for the precision of the diagnosis. The elements of forestry vegetation which are relevant to hydrology must be taken into account in the studied area. The activities and models will of course depend on the geomorphologic characteristics of the selected areas.

Output:

Database of information on the situation (geomorphologic map, map showing risk factors, map showing forestry vegetation).

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 100,000.00

January – June 2006:

Activities:

This phase aims at understanding possible solutions derived from experience through the publication of an invitation to tender for sub-projects which will comprise pilot actions aimed at on-site experimentation of the hydrogeological models to test their applicability and to define the interventions required. The analysis of best practice and new methods used in the different countries by the partner regions carried out as part of an international study mission will also help to resolve critical points. The partners will also further extend their analyses during this period.

Output:

Invitation to tender for projects.
International study mission.

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 100,000.00

July – December 2006:

Activities:

Selection procedure for sub-projects.

Output:

List of selected sub-projects.

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 90,000.00

January – June 2007:

Activities:

Sub-projects will begin.



The partners will begin to define the structure and content of the master plan with regard to all the hydrogeological aspects of the territory. At the same time there will be an examination of the integration with the other components to establish priority guidelines.

Output:

Structure of the master plan.

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 360,000.00

July – December 2007:

Activities:

Continuation and conclusion of the sub-projects.

The results of the sub-projects will allow the partner regions to start identifying a series of measures and instruments which will be incorporated into the master plan and into territorial planning documents following guiding principles and recommendations.

Output:

Conclusion of sub-projects.

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 397,505.00

January – June 2008:

Activities:

Approaches, methodologies, recommendations, appropriate measures and the results of the application of models of sub-projects will be incorporated into the master plan. During this period the partners will work in close collaboration to compare proposed solutions and develop guiding principles. The latter will contain joint recommendations which must be specific enough to reflect the particular characteristics of each area concerned while remaining sufficiently general to be able to be applied elsewhere.

Output:

Master plan of measures aimed at mitigating hydrogeological instability.

Guiding principles with recommendations.

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 75,000.00



ANNEX III.3.**Time plan for Component 3:****Name:**

Optimised forestry development

Strategic focus:

To improve sustainable development and forestry development with environmental and socio-economic aims by using the different experiences and best practice of the partner regions for the development of an approach and the integration of regional policies in this field. Forestry is the driving power behind Robinwood.

Total eligible costs:

1,718,586.00

Responsible partner:

Wales

Involved partners:

All

Planned results:

Better forestry management through the exchange of best practice and agreement on solutions to the problems of forestry certification, management and planning. Influence over policy. Collaboration with local partners and with the energy and hydrogeology components. Creation of groups of woodland owners.

Result Indicators and their Quantification:

Participation of partners in local meetings (80%); number of technical meetings with experts from the components energy and hydrogeology (80%); number of recommendations to be included in regional policies (minimum one per region); number of groups of forest owners created to manage forests (minimum one per region).

Expected outputs and their quantification:

6 working plans; 6 regional reports on the state of forests; minimum of 24 (4 per region) meetings of local partners; 6 regional reports on forest certification; 6 regional reports on forestry planning; 6 sub-projects; 1 final interregional report on policy recommendations; 3 sets of guiding principles (one on forestry management, one on forestry planning, one on forestry certification); one operational plan for sustainable forestry management; 6 local opinion polls on forest management and the use of wood.

Description of Component 3:

This component will try to find tenable solutions which address different problems concerning the forests identified within this component and in the components Energy and Hydrogeology. Intensive work will be undertaken to protect biodiversity, so that the physical and biological resources of the forests such as water, soils, fauna and flora are maintained or



improved. The component will begin, in collaboration with partner regions, with local opinion polls on themes linked to forestry management and the use of wood which will guide the local activity to raise the social acceptability of interventions in woods. Then the partners will carry out an analysis on the state of forests in order to subsequently set out the actions to be undertaken and results in the three key areas: certification, development and forestry management, with a forceful socio economic analysis. While fields 1 and 2 will be centred on the studies carried out by the regions, the third field will be the subject of sub-projects. 1: The level of registration of certification and the certification procedure vary in the different partner regions; a study of the methods and motivations to obtain certification of more privately owned woodland areas will be carried out and objective advice will be provided. 2: Forestry planning is an essential tool in forestry management and a step towards certification; it is useful to evaluate the qualities and potential of each woodland area; it allows identification of the extent of management work and preparation of a medium and long term time plan for its completion. Best practice in this field is defined, shared and promoted. 3: Techniques of forestry management cover a range of factors and have a direct impact on the socio-economic activities in the surrounding region. They include actions such as the production of wood for the construction industry, analysis of the market for forestry products, changes in management systems (e.g. transformation of same age plantations into *semper virens* forests of trees of different size and age), improvement to biodiversity, use of environmental evaluation etc. Field 3, which derives from Field 2, will be the subject of a sub-project entitled *Sustainable Forestry Management*. Objective: to test the application of a plan for sustainable forestry management in order to implement in real terms a wood revaluation programme. Duration: one year. Type: pilot project. Number: 6. Total budget: 900,000 euros. Target partners: local organisations, associations, university, local action groups, research centres. The component will conclude with the preparation of an operational plan for forestry management by partner regions, which will contain all the information and will take into account the studies carried out and the results of the sub-projects, in order to evaluate the economic and environmental sustainability of the process. At the end of the project, the partners will jointly set out the guiding principles and recommendations which might influence regional forestry policy.

Time plan:

January – June 2005:

Activity:

A detailed programme of action will be prepared in each partner region in order to organise and implement activities. The work programmes will then be approved and exchanged between the partners to ensure a co-ordinated approach. The partner regions will thus begin to carry out the analysis of the general situation of forests in order to obtain a complete picture of the potential of forest resources and to list individual territory-specific criticisms. These analyses will include a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) of silviculture systems, forestry planning, forest type and productivity. Forest rangers consider the geographical information systems to be an essential tool and they will be used to collate and formulate information. Meanwhile, opinion polls on interventions in the field of forestry management and the multiple uses of wood will be carried out among the general public in each partner region and brought together in a report.

Output:

Work programmes.



Local opinion polls.

Final report on the attitude of the general public towards forestry management and the use of wood in partner regions.

SWOT analysis of silviculture systems, forestry planning, forest types and productivity.

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 120,000.00

July – December 2005:

Activities:

The partners will complete their reports on a regional level by identifying the current state of forests in each region.

Then the partners will jointly decide on the objective of research to be carried out on forestry certification and forestry development and they will begin work in these fields. The work will include surveys, research and collection of data carried out on site and from documents. The agents must be contacted for collaboration and to provide results of the surveys.

Output:

Reports on the State of Forests.

Aim of surveys on certification and planning.

Study and collection of data.

Meetings of local agents in each partner region.

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 150,000.00

January – June 2006:

Activities:

Continuation of activities on certification and forestry planning. The preparations will reach a level which allows simultaneous definition of the typology of sub-projects for the definition of the invitation to tender for the project in question.

Output:

Invitations to tender for sub-projects.

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 150,000.00

July – December 2006:

Activities:

Studies on forestry certification and planning will continue by means of meetings with local agents. The first group of activities (forestry certification) will be completed and will include a report and a tool based on methods and motivations in order to obtain certification of a greater number of privately owned woodland areas. Evaluation of proposals of sub-projects.

Output:

Report on forestry certification with a tool based on methods and motivations in order to obtain certification of a greater number of privately owned woodland areas.

Meetings with local agents.

List of approved sub-projects.



Cost of the component for this six-month period: 110,000.00

January – June 2007:

Activities:

Operational start of sub-projects.

Conclusion of activities related to planning with the publication of a report containing among other things: analysis of exchange experiences in the field of silviculture systems and the creation of a tool necessary to successfully implement exchanges; an analysis of the procedures for the obtention of integrated and consultative forestry planning; analysis of mechanisms for the conservation of biodiversity; definition of forestry protection networks.

Output:

Reports on forestry planning (including maps and tools).

Start of sub-projects.

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 580,000.00

July – December 2007:

Activities:

Sub-projects will continue until the end of the six month period. Meanwhile the partners will begin to jointly define the content of the final operational plan for sustainable forestry management. This plan will collate all information and take into consideration the studies carried out and the results of the sub-projects in order to evaluate the economic and environmental sustainability of the whole process.

Output:

Completion of sub-projects.

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 534,586.00

January – June 2008:

Activities:

The partners will discuss the results of the sub-projects, define the final guiding principles in the three key areas of this component and finalise details of the operational plan for sustainable forestry management.

The partners will set out the final recommendations for integration with forestry policies.

Output:

Operational plan for sustainable forestry management.

Final recommendations for integration with forestry policies.

Guiding principles for forestry certification.

Guiding principles for forestry planning.

Guiding principles for forestry management.

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 74,000.00



ANNEX III.4.**Time Plan for Component 4****Title:**

Promotion of energy from local wood.

Strategic focus:

This component which is wholly integrated with the forestry component encourages the use of wood off-cuts and waste from the wood chain, a reduction in the use of fossil fuels and thus a reduction in CO₂ gases and will invigorate the economy and stimulate technological innovation.

Total eligible costs:

1,517,228.00

Responsible partner:

Brandenburg

Involved partners:

All

Planned results:

Consumers will receive information on wood fuel. Increased sales of wood as a fuel source. New suppliers of innovative technologies in the area. Political figures and small business will be aware of the potential and the possibilities of biomass.

Result Indicators and their Quantification:

Volume of sales of fuel wood (10% increase over 2003).

Number of forest owners using wood off-cuts and waste (10% increase over 2003).

Projects approved at political [policy?] level or where interest is shown (in terms of investments) by companies or individuals (at least 6).

Expected Outputs and their Quantification:

6 reports on regional resources and maps. 1 report on agents in the regions. 1 catalogue of technologies and logistical systems available. 1 joint survey into needs and wood characteristics. One report stating needs and quality criteria for wood as a fuel source. At least 6 meetings with agents and local institutions. 1 international study mission; 6 sub-projects; 6 operational plans; guiding principles.

Description of Component 4:

The use of wood off-cuts and waste for the production of sustainable energy represents an important element of sustainable forestry development (Component 3) and a link in the chain of transformation of wood. At a regional level, the new energy technologies face huge obstacles which prevent them from breaking into established markets. However wood as a fuel source plays a vital role in the European Energy Policy. The partners have defined sustainable energy



policies as important development priorities which are sometimes backed up by regional energy plans and are convinced that the exchange of experiences will help the development of efficient strategies. The partners will begin to carry out an analysis of the context on the basis of the following aspects: resources available at regional level, infrastructure, partners, presence of small business operating in the wood / energy chain.

Among other things, the partners will create a document bank of technologies and logistical systems which are suited to the different environments and the different types of wood fuel. After this phase, an invitation to tender for a project for the implementation of methods or means will be launched which will aim to facilitate real use of forestry biomass technologies at a local level. Title of sub-projects: instruments to facilitate the application of forestry biomass technologies at a local level. Objective: to define the instruments and operational methodologies necessary for the implementation of concrete initiatives to favour use of energy from forest resources. Type: studies. Duration: one year. Number: 6. Target partners: local authorities, local action groups, corresponding public bodies, associations, University, public development agencies. Total budget: approximately 620,000 euros. The data collected from analyses, from other Components, specific regional policies and results of sub-projects will enable each region to define its energy and environmental strategy by means of an operational plan for the development of wood energy potential. The operational plan will integrate into the structural funds policy. It should also provide details for feasibility projects and an analysis of management means to promote the installation of equipment for processing biomass. Development centres for bio-energy set up within the framework of the Network for Transfer of Bio-energy Technology of INTERREG IIIB will support this process. Upon completion, guiding principles will be defined for the promotion of the use of biomass in the field of integrated forestry management in rural areas.

Time Plan:

January - June 2005:

Activities:

The partners will carry out a detailed survey into the wood resources available (e.g. forests, agents, demand etc) and their future development. As the methods of documentation on resources may vary from one region to another, a basis of comparison will be defined and methods transferred. The regions would benefit from using modern geographical information systems to improve efficiency of documentation and its publication via the Internet. The resources will also be documented in the form of maps. The existing infrastructure will be analysed e.g. networks of urban heating systems or areas with public buildings which might make use of wood as a fuel source. Companies handling or processing wood and producing wood off-cuts and waste, or forest owners and forestry businesses will be listed in a database.

Output:

Report analysing regional resources using geographical information systems. Maps. Database of all agents involved in the partner regions (forest / woodland owners, forestry businesses, suppliers of wood as a fuel source, craftsmen, engineers etc).

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 140,000.00

July – December 2005:

Activities:



Improvement in productivity plays a very important role in the development of the market of wood as a fuel source. There are a number of technologies and logistical systems suited to the different environments and to the different fuel wood types. They will be catalogued and will underlie improvements in the respective regions. Special attention will be paid to the social processes necessary for new technologies to be accepted and to their impact on the environment. As the quality of fuel wood and knowledge of needs are a prerequisite for the efficiency of wood-burning stoves, the partners will carry out specific joint surveys.

Output:

Joint survey into the needs and quality of fuel wood.

Report defining needs and quality criteria for fuel wood.

Catalogue of technologies and logistical systems available.

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 150,000.00

January – June 2006:

Activities:

Preparation and publication of invitations to tender for projects. At the same time there will be an examination of the efficiency of best practice developed at an international level with a possible view to extending the positive results and allowing improvement to productivity at all levels. For this purpose, study missions will be organised.

Output:

Analysis of best practice.

International study mission.

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 170,000.00

July – December 2006:

Activities:

Receipt of proposals and selection of sub-projects.

Meanwhile the partners will use and exchange the best experiences from their individual region in order to prepare a framework of priority guidelines which may be adapted to regional specificities and to the needs of consumers. The drafting of operational plans is begun in all regions to describe characteristics and the type of equipment required for each region's needs (territorial characteristics, demand, economic and environmental sustainability, technical feasibility, management and financial aspects).

Output:

List of approved sub-projects.

Regional partners will begin to prepare the operational plan.

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 150,000.00

January – June 2007:

Activities:



Start of sub-projects.

Partner regions will continue working on the operational plan in collaboration with local institutions and agents in order to learn about specific local requirements and to identify joint and integrated solutions.

Output:

Start of sub-projects.

Meetings with local agents and institutions.

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 370,000.00

July – December 2007:

Activities:

Continuation and completion of sub-projects.

Partner regions will continue to prepare the operational plan.

Output:

Completion of sub-projects.

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 431,228.00

January – June 2008:

Activities:

The operational plan is finalised taking into account the results obtained from the sub-projects with regard to the instruments [required] to increase the demand for biomass energy. The partner regions will also develop guiding principles for the promotion of the use of biomass in the field of integrated forest management in rural areas.

Output:

Operational plan.

Guiding principles.

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 106,000.00



ANNEX III.5.**Time plan for Component 5****Title:**

Communication.

Strategic focus:

Aims not only to promote the project as a whole but also each activity both outside the partner regions and within the regional territory. Envisages a series of support activities for the other components. Is a key element for the project's success and for continuation [of its principles] even after completion.

Total eligible costs:

1,294,916.29

Responsible partner:

Liguria.

Involved partners:

All.

Planned results:

Awareness of Robinwood at regional and international level; increase the knowledge of local agents about themes of forest management and the use of wood; improve local opinion of forestry-related themes.

Result Indicators and their Quantification:

Number of local, national and international events at which Robinwood is presented (minimum 15); number of brochures distributed (min 25,000); number of participants in educational training seminars (minimum 30); number of participants in international conferences (minimum 300 per conference); occurrence of local conflicts in intervention areas (none); number of documents which may be downloaded from the Web site.

Expected Outputs and their Quantification:

1 international marketing campaign; 5 campaigns to increase social acceptability of forestry management interventions; 18 brochures (6 on forestry biomass energy; 6 on hydrogeology; 6 on forestry management); 1 final CD-ROM; 1 Web site; 3 international conferences; 2 press conferences; leaflets; 6 educational seminars; 6 meetings with local politicians; 6 meetings with local partners.

Description of Component 5:

This component is devised on the one hand as a publicity tool to promote the whole of the Robinwood project and on the other hand to support and facilitate the implementation of the activities of the other components. It will also allow us to highlight the problems encountered within the framework of the Robinwood project and the proposed solutions.

The Communication component targets both "external" groups such as the national and international communities as well as "internal" groups (in partner regions) such as local



partners, - the general public, woodland owners, small business, local politicians and administrators, environmental associations. The strategy of external communication should promote: Robinwood and INTERREG III C; the participating regions and their partners; the results obtained (solutions, approaches, best practice, pilot projects etc). External communication will draw attention to the need to publicize and compare solutions but it must also broaden the impact of Robinwood and therefore create the conditions for a repeat of the underlying strategy. Internal communication is designed to support activities which are carried out in the other components. It is aimed at a regional public and should promote the regions and the project, thus developing agreement and confidence by making the public aware, by increasing local interest and once again by ensuring a “bottom up” approach. It is also essential to advertise the opportunities created by Robinwood (e.g. invitations to tender for sub-projects). The instruments used in this component include: press releases and press conferences, international congresses, brochures, workshops, meetings, brand and logo, information seminars aimed at the press, at experts and leaders of public opinion. The key element for the development of Robinwood will be the creation of a Web site which will be a “window on the world” (with promotional content, information and documents which may be downloaded) and as a “working space” for project partners to exchange documents and ideas. The key for gradual implementation of the whole of the Robinwood project will be a specific activity to create optimal conditions to ensure correct application of the defined strategy. This means a local promotion campaign based on the polls done in the forestry component aimed at improving social and local acceptance of forestry interventions.

The activities of this component complement the territorial promotion campaign and as such they will have positive effects on the regions and areas involved, even after the end of the Robinwood project.

July – December 2004:

Activities:

To present the official start of the Robinwood project, an international press conference will be organised during which a press release and some specially designed leaflets will be distributed. The event will take place in Liguria and all the partner regions will be present. Representatives of INTERREG III C and journalists from all the partner regions will be invited to attend.

Before the start of programme activities, specific meetings will be organised in each region in order to inform all local agents about the project and to maintain interest in Robinwood.

Output:

Initial international press conference.

Press release.

Leaflets.

Meetings in partner regions with local agents.

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 100,000.00

January – June 2005:

Activities:

The partners will start work on the Web site (general concept, content, technology and graphics). The graphics must include a specific logo, colours, and a slogan which will subsequently be printed on all Robinwood promotional material.

An international publicity campaign will be carried out in all the partner regions during the following semesters. It will include actions such as distribution of documents prepared during



the Robinwood project, participation in conferences and meetings, the development of contacts with significant Web sites, journalists etc.

Output:

Logo and graphics / artwork

Operational Web site.

Results of the international publicity campaign.

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 144,916.29

July – December 2005:

Activities:

On the basis of the results of the opinion polls, regional and local promotion campaigns aimed at local agents (woodland owners, general public, small business, environmental associations etc) will be designed to positively impact social acceptance in each partner region. These actions will also continue during the following **six month periods**.

The Web site will continue to be developed.

A first international technical conference will take place in Brandenburg in order to promote awareness and exchange information on the themes of Component 4: energy from wood off-cuts and waste.

Output:

First international technical conference (on energy).

Results of the international publicity campaign.

Activities within the framework of regional marketing campaigns.

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 150,000.00

January – June 2006:

Activities:

Both international publicity activities and local marketing campaigns continue.

Towards the end of the **six month period**, a second international technical conference will take place in Murcia, centred on themes of Component 2 (hydrogeology).

Output:

Results of the international publicity campaign.

Activities within the framework of regional marketing campaigns.

Second international technical conference (on hydrogeology).

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 150,000.00

July – December 2006:

Activities:

Both the international publicity activities and regional marketing campaigns continue.

The third international technical conference will take place in Wales, centred on themes of Component 3 (forestry).

Output:

Results of the international publicity campaign.



Actions within the framework of regional marketing campaigns.
Third international technical conference (on forestry).

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 180,000.00

January – June 2007:

Activities:

Both the international publicity activities and regional marketing campaigns continue. Notably, international information seminars aimed at journalists, at experts or opinion makers will be organised to advertise the progress made in the Robinwood project (studies, activities and approaches) as well as to achieve maximum recognition at local, national and international levels. These seminars will be organised in partner regions.

Output:

Teaching seminars.

Results of the international publicity campaign.

Activities within the framework of regional marketing campaigns.

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 170,000.00

July – December 2007:

Activities:

The partners will publish specific brochures to explain the activities carried out within the framework of the Robinwood components: Hydrogeology, Forestry, and Energy. The brochures will be available in all languages of the partners.

The international publicity activity will continue.

Within the framework of the programme, the partners will begin to prepare the final CD-ROM containing all the documents, guiding principles, results of studies in the Robinwood project framework, models and pilot projects.

The regional marketing campaign will concentrate on administrators and decision-makers in order to influence local policy on wood energy, on forestry management and on hydrogeological needs.

Output:

Brochures.

Meetings with local administrators and decision-makers.

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 200,000.00

January – June 2008:

Activities:

The final version of the CD-ROM will be completed. The Web site will contain all documents published within the framework of Robinwood.

The international publicity campaign and regional marketing campaigns will close with distribution of promotional material at regional, national and international levels.

The final international press conference will take place in Liguria to present the conclusions of Robinwood.

Output:

Final CD-ROM.



Final international press conference.

Completion of the Web site with publication on the site of all the documents and information derived from the programme.

Final distribution of material.

Cost of the component for this six-month period: 200,000.00

