

Robinews



OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF **Robinwood** Project
Giving Rural Europe a New Future



North East SOUTH West
INTERREG IIC



PROJECT PART-FINANCED
BY THE EUROPEAN UNION



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In this issue:

- *The 10th Steering Committee of Interreg IIC Robinwood project held in Brandenburg*
- *Robinwood: public opinion poll in 5 European regions on citizen wood perception*
- *Robinwood at the Royal Welsh Show*
- *The 15 international subprojects financed by Robinwood from the 1st of October*
- *In Sweden (Karlstad): RecAsh 2nd international seminar*
- *In Italy (Genova): Expo Valpolcevera*



REGIONE LIGURIA



LAND
BRANDENBURG



Región de Murcia



Comisiwn Coedwigoeth Cymru
Forestry Commission Wales



Autonomous Regions
of Košice and Prešov

THE 10TH STEERING COMMITTEE OF INTERREG IIC ROBINWOOD PROJECT HELD IN BRANDENBURG

On September 20th 2006 the 10th Steering Committee of Robinwood project was held in Potsdam, in the Building of the Brandenburg Ministry of Environment, Agriculture and Territory. The definition of the actions for the official launch of the 15 subprojects with international partnerships in the 5 RW partner regions that are going to start within the 1st of October 2006 was the main topic of the meeting.



This reunion was also an opportunity to plan the organisation of the international conference on Forests "Forestry – a new future for rural Europe" together with the Welsh partner of the Forestry Commission that will take place in Wales in February 2007.

This conference will represent a moment to exchange experiences with the organisation of field trips, an analysis of case studies from different partner regions, and the chance to be able to confront Politicians and Local Administrators.

The Next Steering Committee will be held in Slovakia in December 2006.

ROBINWOOD: PUBLIC OPINION POLL IN 5 EUROPEAN REGIONS ON CITIZEN WOOD PERCEPTION

A public opinion poll was conducted in all RW partner regions to evaluate the perception of wood and the social acceptability of forest interventions. About 5000 European citizens were interviewed.

Each of the project partners – Wales, Italy, Germany, Slovakia and Spain – look at their woodlands in very different ways, according to figures produced by the pan-European study.

Italians in Liguria are already making major use of their forests for wood energy. Some 44 per cent of the population in the region around Genoa who responded to the survey already use wood fuel.

Meanwhile in Brandenburg, east Germany, where 37 per cent of the land is forested, 23 per cent of the population is switched on to wood fuel while in Murcia, southern Spain, the total is 19 per cent and in Wales just 11 per cent.

"The majority of respondents from all the partners said they had visited a forest 'recently'. The forests of Europe score highly with everyone for providing peace and quiet, and for adding to the beautiful scenery that each country has to offer."

There were more positive responses to 'providing opportunities for walking' and 'protecting the environment' as key functions of forests from Wales than any other partner. Murcia scored the lowest in both categories. The Germans listed gathering mushrooms, berries and

Christmas trees as one of the top attractions of their forests, and the healthy Slovaks jogging and exercise.

The Murcians however - more than any other region - do want more woodlands. 95 per cent of people responding to the survey say they want more trees. Around half the Welsh and Ligurians want more trees - and the eastern Slovaks are quite happy with the forests they have.

Knowledge about trees and woodlands is varied too. In Brandenburg 96 per cent had Best practice forest management logos - for FSC and PEFC - were recognised by 31 per cent of Germans, 16 per cent of Welsh and six per cent of Ligurians.

Brandenburgers are most likely - 68 per cent - to buy locally produced timber, while the Slovaks don't mind what timber they use - and the Murcians would rather buy imported timber.

<http://www.robin-wood.it/>



ROBINWOOD AT THE ROYAL WELSH SHOW

A £250,000 work programme aimed at finding new ways for forestry to boost the Welsh economy was announced at Wales's premier countryside event, the Royal Welsh Show by Robinwood, Wales.

Details of nine major research programmes by organisations across Wales - linking up with the project's partners in Italy, Germany, Slovakia and Spain -

were given to politicians, forestry experts and the general public at a reception at the Forestry Commission Pavilion.

Forestry specialists from Bangor University, Coed Cymru and Mid Wales Energy Agency will be working with other Welsh partners together with their European counterparts in the Interreg IIIC Regional Framework Operation, funded in Wales by the European Union and Welsh Assembly Government.



<http://www.rwas.co.uk>



THE 15 INTERNATIONAL SUBPROJECTS FINANCED BY ROBINWOOD FROM THE 1ST OF OCTOBER

Below is the list of the subprojects with international partnership approved by the Steering Committee of RobinWood in Genova on 13th and 14th July 2006.

From the 1st of October 2006 the activities that have to be carried out by the sub project beneficiaries will have to concretely start and end within one year at most.

Topic	N°	Project Title	Participants
Hydrogeology	2.1	Plans, tools and forest restoration to mitigate hydrogeological instability and flood risk	Council of Pliego; Council of Moratalla; Council of Puerto Lumbreras; Forestry Commission Research Agency.
Hydrogeology	2.2	FRIARTUC: Flows of waterR above below ground In relAtion to lineaR Tree featUres and water abstraCtion	University of Bangor; University of Murcia.
Hydrogeology	2.3	Integrated FORest Management and Education: Concepts for protection and socio-economic reviving of rural areas in Brandenburg and Liguria (INFORME)	Humboldt-University – outpost Thyrow; Ingauna Mountain Community.
Hydrogeology	2.4	RE-MED – Experiences and studies about slope, river, forest management and restoration in the mediterranean areas	Provincial Government of La Spezia; Local council of Mula; Local council of Caravaca de la Cruz; Consortium for the tourist and cultural development of Lorca.
Forestry management	3.1	SFWM: Sustainable Forest and Wildlife Management	University of Applied Sciences Eberswalde – Faculty of Forestry; University of Murcia.
Forestry management	3.2	LADYMARIAN; LAnd use, DYnamic control for Management, Revitalization and Improvement af Appenninic Normel forest	Valli Stura e Orba Mountain Communities; OZ Edukáciu Sabinova – C.A.Pes; Universuty of Wales, Bangor; Civic Association Life for People.
Forestry management	3.3	DENTROVITA: revitalisation and extension of linear tree features to sustain wood supply and biodiversity	Institute of Agricultural Engeneering Potsdam-Bornim; University of Wales – Bangor.
Forestry management	3.4	ALTMAN: Analysis of alternative management strategies	University of Wales – Bangor; Forestry Landowners Association of the Region of Murcia; Internationale Bauausstellung Fürst-Pücler.
Forestry management	3.5	Sustainable forest management and industry development	Aveto Natural Park; Local council of Mula; Coed Cymru.
Forestry management	3.6	Decision support tools for the assessment of future sustainable forestry and land restoration in water-limited regions	Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research; Centre of Pedology and Apllied Biology of the Segura - Research Council of Spain.
Energy	4.1	LOGINWOOD: studies for woodfuel supply chains and how residues from forestry can be devoted for energy uses	SAVE Energy Agency for the Region of Murcia; University of Wales - Bangor; University of Applied Sciences of Eberswalde.
Energy	4.2	Promotion of wood energy value chains based on sustainable forestry management	Economic Area Schraden Association; Town of Stara Lubovna; Municipality of Millesimo.

Energy	4.3	Biomass Utilisation in Central and Southern Europe	Agency for the support of the regional development – Kosice; Forestry Landowners Association of the Region of Murcia; Alta Valle Arroscia Mountain Community.
Energy	4.4	Woodfuel Education and Marketing	Association for environmental education in the forest – Eberswande; Mid Wales Energy Agency.
Energy	4.5	We have energy home	Technical University of Kosice, faculty of MEPCG; Forest Research



**IN SWEDEN (KARLSTAD):
RECASH 2ND INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR**



The second international seminar on the reuse of wood ash took place in Karlstad, Sweden, from 26th to 28th September 2006.



The aim of the seminar, that saw the participation of scientists, governments, research bodies and associations mainly from Sweden and Finland was to support a better circulation of information about the beneficial and negative effects of ash recycling, to present the results of practical experiences in wood fuel and ash use and to give indications on the results of the RecAsh project on ecological, technical, logistic, legal and administrative aspects in wood ash recycling.

The RecAsh project, promoted by the Swedish Forest Agency with the contribution of the EU LIFE project (the financial instrument through which the European Union sustains its environmental policy to promote the development and preservation of environmental resources for sustainable development), aims to demonstrate that wood ash recycling can help compensate the progressive loss of nutrients from soil and decreases the quantity of waste in wood energy use.

<http://www.recash.info/>



IN ITALY (GENOVA): EXPO VALPOLCEVERA



The Robinwood project and the Regione Liguria took part in Expò Valpolcevera which was a four-day event of shows, sport, solidarity, culture and gastronomy that was held from Thursday 7th to Sunday 10th September in Pontedecimo, Genova.



The manifestation that was organised by the group "Economical Operators of Pontedecimo and San Quirico" and by the Alta Val Polcevera Mountain Community, hosted the exhibition of every food farming activity of the valley and the stands of the Municipality of the Mountain Community. It represented both a moment of aggregation and entertainment as well as a "stage" for an important confrontation and debate on the past and future of the territory.

In particular, members of the Regione Liguria and ARE Liguria (Regional Energy Agency) participated in the convention on renewable energy that focused on the role of biomass on the territory, not only as an instrument for energy production but especially as a starting point to trigger a process able to support the development of activities connected to the wood chain: this is a key approach in RW actions in Liguria that is the Leading Regional Partner of the EU project.

<http://www.altavallepolcevera.com>



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