WORKSHOP

FRIDAY, 18. 11. 2022, 12:05-13:30
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Wood material flows modelling: issues, challenges, and a better future for our youth

Wood from sustainably managed forests is a renewable source of material and energy that stores carbon in its products over its lifetime while consuming significantly fewer fossil resources in its extraction and processing than other materials. Slovenia is a leader in softwood industrial timber production and a net exporter of unprocessed roundwood. The processing chains are not optimized, with concomitant loss of full information on economic, environmental and social performance.

The E-LVO (Economic, environmental and social aspects of wood processing and its use and carbon sequestration) project aims to upgrade this system and develop a model that will allow multi-criteria optimization of timber volumes for processing across the entire forestry, wood and paper sector for a long-term policy that is coordinated with the widest range of stakeholders.
Mapping the current state of the system requires the collection and understanding of historical data about best practices, material flows and production amounts of available wooden products. However, there is a discrepancy among the logical structure and contents of the various existing data sources. The product categories defined by the different sources, due to well -established habits of reporting data, only partially overlap with the actual state of the wood material flows along the wood transformation chains. Therefore, the available data for certain product categories does not necessarily present a realistic picture of the material distribution in the forest-based industries.

This workshop presents our experience on data collection and collation from various data sources and in-person interviews in the scope of the E-LVO project. In addition to presenting the encountered obstacles and devised solutions, the workshop is intended as a debate/discussion on this topic, trying to find a sensible suggestion how the available data collection system could be improved. The discussion will also intend to improve the selection of the most representative wooden products within the proposed product categories classification (set forth by the UN FAO), for the environmental comparison (with the emphasis on the carbon footprint) with their non-wooden functionally similar/same non-wooden alternatives.