



EUSALP Task Force
“Multifunctional Forests and Sustainable Use of Timber”
(TF MFSUT)

Mandate 2023 – 2025
(Final draft 12.01.2024)

The EUSALP Task Force on „Multifunctional Forests and Sustainable Use of Timber (TF-MFSUT)” was established in 2019. According to its original objective to foster cross-cutting and interactive cooperation among the EUSALP Action Groups (AGs) 2, 6, 7, 8, and 9 regarding topics linked to forests and wood, the TF-MFSUT is also included as a strategic flagship initiative in the work program 2023-2025 of Action Group 6 which was endorsed by the EUSALP Executive Board.

In the previous two mandates, TF-MFSUT received the task of supporting mechanisms for exchanging information among the concerned AGs which shall be continued. All involved AGs confirmed in their Work Plans 2023-2025 their commitment and support to TF-MFSUT activities. Therefore, the leaders of the involved AGs (2,6,7,8, 9) propose to give the TF-MFSUT a further mandate and ask the EUSALP Executive Board for endorsement of the 3rd mandate for the TF-MFSUT (2023 -2025), in which the TF-MFSUT aims within the limits of its resources to:

Targets

- Ensure – inter alia via the LinkedIn page <https://www.linkedin.com/company/80506019/admin/feed/posts/>¹ - a smooth internal information exchange on forest and timber issues among the involved AGs and share information with other interested EUSALP AGs and bodies.
- Support the involved AGs, if requested by them, on forest and timber-related topics of their work plans (see table 1).
- Enhance the interaction with other initiatives dealing with forest and timber issues within both the EUSALP area (e.g. WG Mountain Agriculture and Mountain Forestry of the Alpine Convention) and the European Union.
- Strengthen the external communication towards the actors of the forest-based sector (e.g., forest administrations and associations, timber clusters) and other associated service providers (such as IT, planners, architects, retailers, engineers, etc.), youth organizations, training, and education institutions and NGOs.
- Exchange and cooperation, if requested, with ongoing projects related to forests and timber.
- Support the submission of projects to European funding programs, if requested by the respective project applicants, concerning forest and timber issues, including products, services, governance, and administration.

Members of the TF

To perform the planned tasks, the AGs involved have identified and appointed the members (and coordinators by vote of the members) listed in table 2.

The operation of the TF and funding

Meetings of the TF-MFSUT will mainly take place online.

The AGs involved agree to explore if the costs for max. one physical meeting per year and of other activities can be covered by their budgets.

Budgets for external activities of the TF-MFSUT need to be clarified well in advance.

¹ The content of this page will be included in the internal communication section of the EUSALP website as soon as it is operational.

Table 1: Forest and timber-related topics of the EUSALP AGs in their Work Plans and Cross-Cutting Priorities 2023 – 2025

AG	Topic
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable timber mobilization, processing, transformation, and use of timber according to «cascade» principles through applying collaborative value chains and GPP business models. • Smart/precision wood processing approaches and update of key competencies to scale up digital transformation opportunities and practices. • Strategic transversal alliances with non-timber sectors to create smart products and social growth within the circular- and bio-economy targeting job creation and business development. • Production, processing, and consumption of local mountain goods from the Alpine region in short supply chains. • Green labeling of wooden materials coupled with the certification of the “CO₂ footprint”, and more effective communication. • Business models to co-design new products and services through open innovation approaches, for sustainable and climate-neutral construction and buildings.
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circular economy aspects in educational curricula and specific courses for Vocational Education and Training (VET) institutions on Circular Economy skills required by the timber sector. • A database/map of VET institutions dealing with the forest and timber sector in the Alps. • Specific training and life-long learning courses for workers dedicated to the forest and timber sector.
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studying the potentials of data spaces in the context of alpine priorities (e.g., timber, ...).
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing information with the Mountain Agriculture and Mountain Forestry (MAMF) Working Group of the Alpine Convention. • Exploring possible connections among circular economy, protection of Alpine intangible cultural heritage, and responsible use of water and wood.
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystem services (ES) provided by peri-urban forest sites with high biodiversity value in times of climate crisis. • Analysis of the changes in forest land cover in the Alps (2000-2018).
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close collaboration with the Alpine Space Project MOSAIC and ADAPTNOW. The Project partners support the collection, harmonization, and sharing of data on Alpine climate-related disasters and trends and raise awareness among foresters, risk managers, decision-makers, and the public.
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timber as a raw material for energy transition.

Table 2: Members of the TF

Name	AG	Institution	Role	Country
Manuela Romagnoli	2	Università degli Studi della TUSCIA	Member	IT
Mirko Grotti	2	ERSAF Lombardia	Member	IT
Gian Antonio Battistel	6	Fondazione Edmund Mach-Provincia Autonoma di Trento	Coordinator	IT
Christian Hoffmann	6	Eurac Research	Coordinator	IT
Raimund Becher	7	Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Forsten	Member	DE
Alessandro Paletto	7	Consiglio per la Ricerca in agricoltura e l'analisi dell'economia agraria (CREA)	Member	IT
Claudia Kaulfuß	8	Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Ernährung, Landwirtschaft und Forsten	Member	DE
Frederic Berger	8	INRAE Laboratoire Ecosystèmes et Sociétés En Montagne	Member	FR
Etienne Vienot	9	AURA-EE - Regional agency for environment and energy	Member	FR