



Welcome to the first FTP newsletter. We intend to communicate with you on a quarterly basis, to give you a better insight into the role and objectives of the Forest-based Sector Technology Platform (FTP) and keep you informed about its activities, as well as its achievements.

FTP acts as an interface between the European institutions, research organisations, industry and forest owners, in order to make the best funding decisions.

Our goal is to help facilitate research and innovation networking; to provide information regarding EU funding programmes and policy, and to share ongoing research at national, trans-national and EU levels.

In other words, by bringing together the relevant actors, the forest-based sector creates the opportunity to build research and innovation projects that will contribute to growth.

WWW.FORESTPLATFORM.ORG - NEW FTP WEBSITE!

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1. FTP Conference in Warsaw, 26-27 September

Pacing Innovation for the Bioeconomy, the 7th FTP conference, took place on 26 - 27 September, in Warsaw, in conjunction with the Polish EU-presidency. Gathering participants from all over Europe and beyond, the first day's presentations gave different perspectives on the future of the forest-based sector (from the raw material perspective, from the consumer perspective, as well as the perspective of FP Innovations, Canada). Representatives from the European Commission explained the role of the bioeconomy within the next EU research and innovation budget, as well as the new

concept of a European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials. The current revision process for the *FTP Vision* and *FTP Strategic Research Agenda (SRA)* was presented. While the *Vision* establishes FTP's goals for how the forest-based sector should look in 2030, the SRA sets out the concrete steps to be taken to reach these goals, in line with the priority areas set by the European Commission for their research funding programmes over the next 10 years. The revised SRA will be drafted by a writing team and input will be sought throughout the process by a broad spectrum of industry representatives and researchers across Europe, mainly through FTPs National Support Groups.

On the second day we first heard about the "Innovation support system", during which Mika Kallio - Woodwisdom-Net - and Mark Palahi - Foresterra ERA-Net - spoke about interesting trans-national research funding opportunities for our sector. The second session of the day focused on trends in research which included subjects such as ionic liquids, smart paper, and spinning carbon fibres from lignin. In the final session two of the 2011 Schweighofer Prize winners talked about new innovative wood products. The last presentation of the conference was given by Ola Hildingsson, CEO of Domsjö Fabriker, elaborating on the journey from pulp and paper mill to Biorefinery to become a part of a global business group in the textiles industry.

All in all more than 20 speakers were heard over the two days. FTP is very appreciative of the very professional organisation of the conference by the Polish National Support Group. All presentations from the conference can be found on the FTP website: www.forestplatform.org.

2. COST-FTP Early-Stage Researchers' Forum, Warsaw – 26 September

As a side-event of the FTP conference, an Early-stage Researchers' Forum was organised on the morning of 26 September, in a joint initiative by COST, FTP, InnovaWood, EFPRO, and EFI. The forum gave the opportunity for 23 early-stage researchers to present their research results as well as ongoing and planned research. The participants voted for the two best presentations, which were then shown during the 2nd day of the FTP conference. The 2 winning researchers were:

- Erik Larnøy (Skog&Landskap, Norway) – *"Wood protection by means of electro osmotic pulsing technology"*.
- Martin Lawoko (Wallenberg Wood Science Center, Sweden) – *"Can Carbohydrates be used to dictate structure in native lignins? Towards a more homogenous technical lignin."*

3. EU Research and Innovation Framework Policy

"FP8", the "Common Strategic Framework" or "Horizon 2020"?

The next EU framework for Research and Innovation will seemingly be called "Horizon 2020" and, as was the case for FP7, will cover a seven-year budget (2014-2020). The Commission proposes to allocate **€80 billion (in constant 2011 prices)** for Horizon 2020 (compared to €57 billion 2007-2013). The budget proposal was made to the European Parliament and the Member States this summer and will probably be decided upon by the end of this year.

European Innovation Partnerships (EIPs): pooling forces to achieve breakthroughs towards the societal challenges

The European Innovation Partnerships (EIPs) is a very complex concept and one of the key vehicles for the implementation of Horizon 2020. The EIPs aim at pulling together the research and innovation resources and knowledge in specific areas to deliver market and business solutions to the grand challenges that European society has to face. This is why FTP has recently been very active in getting the forest-based sector recognised in the *Raw Materials* and in the *Food & Agriculture* Innovation Partnerships, currently under discussion and preparation. Among the activities that we have undertaken has been the organisation of responses from FTP and its National Support Groups and stakeholders, to the European Commission's Public Consultations on this issue, in May this year.

In our next Newsletter we hope to be able to announce good news about this, and we will further elaborate on the concept of European Innovation Partnerships.

4. This year's open FP7 Calls for proposals

The European Commission has published its annual Calls for research and innovation. Deadlines for applicants fall between 20th October and 15th November. To find further information about the Calls please visit the website: http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/fp7_calls

5. FTP High-level Group (HLG)

On the occasion of the 7th FTP conference in Warsaw, the FTP High-Level Group (HLG) met to discuss current FTP priorities and strategy. This group, chaired by Michal Jarczynski (Arctic Paper, CEO), is made up of the Secretary Generals and Chairpersons of the owners of FTP: CEI-Bois, CEPI, CEPF and EUSTAFOR, industry representatives from Eastern and Southern Europe and the Chairman of the FTP Advisory Committee; representatives of the European Commission are invited to the meetings as observers. The High Level Group meets twice a year although it may organise further meetings, via telephone conference, when and if necessary. The HLG is the highest instance of FTP governance, acting as a decision-making body for FTP's most important operational and strategic issues.

6. FTP Advisory Committee (AC)

The Advisory Committee, comprised of representatives of the forest-based sector's National Support Groups (NSGs), meets three times a year; the next meeting is scheduled for 22 November. This body represents the branches of the FTP's European family tree, linking FTP's wide scope on the national scale. NSG members typically include researchers, and representatives of the industry and forest owners, as well as representatives of national financing and governmental bodies from European countries participating in FTP. Their main role is:

- to ensure that key stakeholders are represented at national level
- to formulate national viewpoints and provide input to the platform
- to disseminate information about the platform at national level, e.g. through contact with authorities and public financiers

7. FTP Executive Committee (ExCo)

FTP is funded by four European Associations: CEI-Bois (woodworking industries), CEPI (pulp, paper and board), CEPF (private forest owners), EUSTAFOR (state-owned forests). The heads of these associations make up the Executive Committee (ExCo) of FTP which typically meets every second month. The ExCo monitors FTP activities, following up on the budget and checking it meets its overall policy and strategy objectives, as well as making decisions about its day to day running. At its recent meeting in September, the group focused on FTP's revision of its 2 key documents: *FTP Vision 2030* and the *FTP Strategic Research Agenda (SRA)*.

8. 'Forest Sector's Contribution to the bioeconomy' conference at the European Parliament

In an event organised in the Parliament to celebrate the *International Year of Forests 2011*, Johan Elvnert (FTP Manager) spoke on behalf of the forest-based sector platform to explain the sector's commitment in developing innovative solutions in relation to forestry, forest-based materials and products. He underlined the ongoing implementation of FTP's research and innovation agenda for the European forest-based sector and its analysis of possible key policy priorities in the field of

biorefinery. In an example of innovation in the forest-based sector he reminded participants of the importance of generating better food packaging, in order to minimise food spoilage to waste.

9. FTP gives presentation at the Standing Forestry Committee ad hoc Working Group

The 2nd meeting of the EU Standing Forestry Committee ad hoc Working Group on the future EU forestry strategy discussed the preparation of an EU strategy on forests. Unlike agriculture, forestry and forests do not fall under the mandate of the EU. Instead of a forest policy, the member states and the European Commission are formulating a strategy on forests that can become an important tool to handle future problems and opportunities for the forests of Europe. FTP was invited to talk about the interface between policy, research and innovation. FTP will also contribute to parts of the developing strategy, touching upon research and innovation.

10. CEPI Innovation Committee

CEPI (Confederation of European Paper Industries) invited FTP to its first meeting of the newly created Innovation Committee; the Committee gathers industry representatives from the pulp and paper industry. This first meeting focused on the opportunities and business models for the industry in the future, with particular emphasis on the CEPI 2050 Roadmap. The Forest-based Sector ETP (European Technology Platform), as well as the ETP for the textiles industries, offered presentations and outlined the benefits of existing cross-sector collaboration (e.g. the PROsumer.NET project) between the two technology platforms, and looking further into the potential offered by European Innovation Partnerships.

11. CEI-Bois Board Meeting

FTP gave a presentation to the CEI-Bois board members (12 September) about the latest developments in the area of wood-working related policy and research in Brussels. The presentation sparked interesting discussions among the members.

12. Star-COLIBRI

Star-COLIBRI (Strategic Targets 2020 – Collaboration Initiative on Biorefineries) is an EU-funded project that aims to propose ways to reduce research fragmentation in the area of biorefineries. FTP is leading this two-year endeavour that will come to an end in October 2011. As well as FTP, the project involves 4 other European Technology Platforms and 5 major European Research organisations.

Star-COLIBRI aims at overcoming fragmentation and promoting enhanced collaboration in the area of biorefineries research. The project will support innovations by speeding up and facilitating industrial exploitation of research results in the biorefinery field, as well as promoting coordination in the field of future R&D funding.

Star-COLIBRI will be presenting its findings and results in a High-level Policy-maker conference, taking place on 5 October in Brussels. A review of this event will be given in our next newsletter.

We welcome your feedback on the content of this newsletter. Please send any comments you have to e-mail address: mail@forestplatform.org.