

European Territorial Cooperation Programme "Alpine Space 2014 - 2020"

CaSCo - CARBON SMART COMMUNITIES PROJECT

Project summary

Increasing material flows along processing chains in timber industry considerably contribute to climate change. However, there is a great but unexploited potential for reduction of CO₂-emissions. The CaSCo project initially visualizes the impact of low carbon material flows of timber products on the climate (integrated carbon footprint system). It develops and establishes policy guidelines in participating communities (bundled by the different partners) and provides decision makers with steering instruments to actively trigger climate friendly timber products. Through the project, an important but unregarded sustainability aspect will be considered in public construction and procurement. Legal opinions from experts of EU and communal law as well as first activities from public bodies in Germany to implement the existing tools into procurement indicate the feasibility of the approach. Furthermore current lacks of specific information among decision makers will be filled up.

The implementation of developed policies is pursued in several communities and public bodies via partners or observers. To support the setting up and exchange between low carbon model areas an innovative smart places network will be established. By using new communication technologies, it extends the sphere of influence of such exemplary places. Strategies and instruments for low carbon and resource saving products and processes are a pan-European issue but need to be developed in a transnational approach to get results that are applicable across the borders. They also help to avoid insulated solutions to reach a broad European acceptance in politics and markets. The project provides a technical innovation, as no such transnational instruments are in place up to now.

CaSCo is supported by the INTERREG Alpine Space Programme of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Total co-financing amounts to 1,947,509 EUR.

CaSCo major goals

The overall objective of the project is to reduce the emissions of carbon dioxide in the Alpine Space.

Two major goals will be pursued within the project:

- development and implementation of transnational low carbon policy instruments for the procurement of significantly low carbon timber products;
- closing loops of regional added value and capitalizing of low carbon timber products by fostering their usage in politics, public bodies and key actors as e.g. architects.

Project specific results will be:

- developed political framework for integrating low carbon timber products in procurement of public bodies;
- implementation of those policies in various communities in the programme region;
- improved transnational operating framework and support tools for low carbon policies;
- empowered SME value chains and improved deliverance of low carbon timber to meet the raised public demands.

CaSCo Partners

- BSC, Business Support Centre, Kranj (SI) - www.bsc-kranj.si
- Rhônealpiénergie-Environnement (FR) - www.raee.org/fr/raee-agence-regionale-de-lenergie-et-de-lenvironnement-en-auvergne-rhone-alpes
- Development Agency Sinergija (SI) - www.ra-sinergija.si/en
- IG Kraftspendedorfer Joglland (AT) - www.kraftspendedoerfer.at
- Environment Park S.p.A. ([Envipark S.p.A.](#)) (IT) - www.envipark.com
- E-Institute (SI) - www.ezavod.si/en
- Regionalentwicklung Vorarlberg eGen (AT) - www.regio-v.at
- Mountain Union of the Municipalities of Valsesia (UM Valsesia) (IT) – www.unionemontanavalsesia.it
- Environment Protection Agency for the Piedmont Region ([ARPA Piemonte](#) (IT) - www.arpa.piemonte.gov.it
- Holz von Hier gemeinnützige GmbH (DE) - www.holz-von-hier.de
- Climate Alliance Klima Bündnis (DE) - www.climatealliance.org/home

Project website: <http://www.alpine-space.eu/projects/casco/en/home>

European Territorial Cooperation Programme Website: <http://www.it.alpine-space.eu/>