



CirculAlps

Bioeconomy for the Alps



The forestry industry already makes an important contribution to the bioeconomy. A project called "CirculAlps" will expand and diversify this contribution as well as promoting the circular economy in the Alpine timber sector.

The Salzburg University of Applied Sciences is working with 4 partners from Germany, Slovenia and Italy in order to turn the CirculAlps vision into reality. The project was launched in January 2018 within the framework of EUSALP – the EU Strategy for the Alpine Region – and is supported by the Alpine Region Preparatory Action Fund (ARPAF).

The Alpine region is one of the most productive regions in Europe economically and it is home to around 70 million inhabitants. In the future this diverse region will face major challenges such as globalisation, demographic & climate change and energy insecurity.

The Alpine Space Strategy is setting steps towards new and strengthened cooperation between regions and countries. Above all the aim of EUSALP is to generate added value by establishing new relationships between metropolitan regions, rural regions and mountainous regions.



PROJECTPARTNERS

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Timber as a cornerstone

The sawn wood is the main product in the sawmills and the basis for various semi-manufactured products for furniture, construction materials and so on.

The products sawdust and wood chips are often called as sawmill residues and are by-products, which are produced through the cutting process for the sawn wood.

The applications of sawdust are dependent on the quality and ranged from the production of wood panel to wood pellets. The incoming wood chips by the production of sawn wood may be used for the production of pulp and cellulose as well as wood fibre boards.

The further processing of the wood chips is depending on the wood quality of the chips and low quality wood chips could also be used for the thermal energy generation



An overview of innovative wood-based products, materials, processes and applications in extended case study areas is shown.

Some examples with high innovation potential from the manufacture perspective were identified in the different extended case study areas within the CircularAlps project consortium.

The wood residues cannot only use for the thermal energy production but also for the production of innovative materials



Good practices as well as several innovative products have been identified for possible new value chains with raw materials from forests.

