

# BITWON

## Bio-Thermal Timber Alternative Network for Innovation and Development

The mechanical timber industry is a vital source of employment across the Northern Periphery and is characterised by small and medium sized enterprises. The greatest hindrance to the success of these small and family enterprises in the NPP region is the lack of co-operation, networking, and marketing know-how, and particularly in Sweden and Scotland, the lack of technology expertise. In addition to this, the problems relating to the dispersion of innovations generated, as well as the quality and price of the raw materials and pre-form production relating to the innovations are a hindrance to the development and internationalisation of the mechanical timber industry. The Bitwon innovation network will investigate, develop and commercialise heat-treated, oil-treated and pressed timber products from the NPP area that can be utilised by the DIY and construction markets in the EU region. These products will be developed and modified using innovative ideas exchanged by SMEs from the programme area. This process will follow the principles of sustainable development, thereby creating more environmentally friendly products than many of those currently on offer. These products will be suitable for the needs of dwelling, interior decorating and construction.

### Objectives

The general objective of the Bitwon project is to improve the employment rate in NPP areas through increased SME entrepreneurship in the mechanical timber industry. The project will create environmental values in the sparsely populated northern areas of the EU by developing and up-grading networks for the modified mechanical timber industry (heat treatment, oil treatment and timber pressure treatment). The project will also develop a regional and/or national development and innovation network, as well as an international export network for the modified mechanical timber industry. This will be integrated into and compatible with the sustainable development network for mechanical timber in the EU area.



## Project activities

The main activities of the project are the building of local networks of SME companies in the modified mechanical timber industry; commercialising and combining them with national research and development networks; and international marketing and distribution channels. The development of Pilot networks will concentrate, in a three-dimensional manner, on the building of networks, the construction of their production and innovation systems, as well as on the establishment of a marketing and distribution chain. The project will also carry out the following activities:

- Transfer of technological expertise in modified mechanical timber
- Networking and transfer of international co-operation knowledge, expertise and ability
- Establishment of the Bitwon export network

## Expected results

The project will result in some of the following outputs:

- Local timber alternative innovation networks
- Commercialisation systems of pilot networks
- Sales promoting systems for pilot networks
- Service tool packages for pilot networks
- Through the analysis carried out and closer co-operation between business, the dissemination of commercially important innovations will be made more rapid. This will improve the opportunities to attract higher quality students to an economically important industrial field.

## Partners

Luleå Tekniska Universitet, Dept. Skellefteå - Sweden  
Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet - Sweden  
Scottish School of Forestry, Inverness College - Scotland  
BSW Timber plc - Scotland  
Ekopine Oy, Kiuruvesi - Finland  
Oy Lunatimber Ltd, Kiuruvesi - Finland  
TA-Kaluste Oy, Kiuruvesi - Finland  
Parwood Tmi, Kiuruvesi - Finland  
Oy Lunawood Ltd, Iisalmi - Finland  
JMC Corporation, Oulu - Finland  
Teknopuu Hottinen Oy, Lapinlahti - Finland  
Iisalmen Sahat Oy, Iisalmi - Finland  
Allen Proctor Group - Scotland  
Uteträ - Sweden  
Doroteasågen - Sweden  
Norra Skogsägarna - Sweden  
Novar Estate - Scotland

### Measure

2.2

### Total Budget

877 500

### NPP Award

508 500

### Project Period

11/09/2004 – 30/09/2006

### Countries Involved

Finland, Sweden, Scotland

### Lead Partner

#### Organisation

Municipality of Kiuruvesi  
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### Project leader

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