

ECONO

Eco House North

Recent research has shown that there will be an increasing demand for ecological wooden houses in the future. This is due to an increased awareness of environmental matters, and stricter environmental legislation and requirements of buildings. However, present products do not meet all the necessary ecological requirements and their applicability to harsh climate areas needs to be improved. In order to fulfil these criteria, there is a need for an international network of expertise that can carry out the task. The development of ecological wooden house concepts and the organisation of training within the network would help bring this know-how to local SMEs. This network would also enter the export market and hence bring new business opportunities and work places to sparsely populated areas. The ECONO project aims to address this need through the creation of a range of environmentally conscious building concepts, which suit different climatic, economic, social and logistic conditions in the NPP area. From an ecological point of view, the renovation of existing wooden houses is important, and therefore the project will develop ecological renovation guidelines and wooden products.

Objectives

The main objectives of the ECONO-project are to develop a range of ecological wooden houses and a strong cluster of house production and marketing for the Northern European market. The wooden house concept would suit the growing demand for more environmentally friendly housing and would also be applicable to harsh climate areas. An international planning, marketing and production network will be convened to reach these goals, and it will also export the products outside the NPP area.



Project activities

The project is divided into three parts:

1. Background study and business concept
2. Development of ecological wooden house concept
3. Networking, pilot construction and dissemination of the knowledge created by the project. The main operating areas are Iceland, North Finland, North Norway, Scotland and Sweden.

In practice, the work consists of carrying out a market survey and its constant updating; entering and presence in the targeted markets; development of products that are ecological and of a good quality; developing business and co-operation concepts; forming Northern European producer networks; searching for constructive collaboration and sales-contacts; exhibitions and pilot-houses; and providing consultation.

Expected results

The expected results of the project are an increase in environmental consciousness amongst the construction and building industry, new techniques and materials for local companies, and improvement in export market opportunities. The project will contribute to raising employment opportunities and possibilities in the NPP area, and will also increase collaborative working and exchange of experience in this field for the benefit of the NPP area.

Partners

Regional Council of Lapland - Finland
Municipality of Inari - Finland
Municipality of Sodankylä - Finland
Oulu Regional Business Agency (Ouluseutu Yrityspalvelut) - Finland
Ylivieska Region - Finland
Ab CASE consult Ltd. - Finland
EUTOR Oy - Finland
Head Consulting Oy - Finland
Honkamajat Finland Oy Ltd - Finland
Kiimingin Mökkinikkari Oy - Finland
Lappiporras Oy - Finland
Lappli-Talot Oy - Finland
Lunawood Oy - Finland
Pohjois-Suomen Hirsitalokeskus Oy - Finland
Rakennusliike Halonen Oy - Finland
Tiivi Oy - Finland
Topi-Kalustaja Oy - Finland
Arkitektkontor John Kristoffersen AS - Norway
Barlindhaug Consults AS - Norway
Siv ing Ole Hammari - Norway
Brian Burns Associates - Scotland
GAIA Architects - Scotland
James Jones & Sons Ltd - Scotland
North Woods Construction Ltd - Scotland
Kalix Kommun - Sweden
Batterið Arkitektar ehf. - Iceland

Project website

<http://www.econo.fi>

Measure

1.2

Total Budget

1 072 750

NPP Award

563 250

Project Period

01/07/2004 - 31/12/2006

Countries Involved

Iceland, Finland, Norway,
Scotland, Sweden

Lead Partner

Organisation

Council of Oulu Region

Project leader

Heini Raasakka

heini.raasakka@econo.fi