

WOODWISDOM-NET eNEWSLETTER 4/2005

October 25, 2005

Dear Recipient,

Please, find here the fourth WoodWisdom-Net eNewsletter in 2005.

The eNewsletter supports the work of the EU's ERA-NET project WoodWisdom-Net in creating a common research platform that will promote the competitiveness and sustainability of European forestry and forest-based industry.

WoodWisdom-Net eNewsletter contains news and current issues of interests in the field of wood material science both in the European and national level.

Enjoy your reading!

WoodWisdom-Net Secretariat
www.woodwisdom.net

NEWS

WoodWisdom-Net offers a toolbox for implementation of one specific part of the Forest-Based Sector's Strategic Research Agenda (SRA)

Forestry sector and forest-based industry has drawn out its vision for the future and will present the research strategy (SRA) to reach that vision next month in Stockholm meeting. At the same time in WoodWisdom-Net project the national funding organisations from 8 European countries are working on mechanisms and processes needed to be able to open and fund a joint transnational research programme. In this development work Wood Material Science and Engineering Programme has been chosen as the "test case". WoodWisdom-Net will have the mechanisms ready for the transnational funding in year 2007. It means that WoodWisdom-Net has worked out one way of how parts of the strategic research agenda can be implemented. Of course there is also other ways to implement the SRA like the Framework programme. However, it should be kept in mind the fact that the major part of R&D in Europe is done and will be done on national level. The outcome of WoodWisdom-Net offers a ready toolbox on how these national efforts can be coordinated and jointly funded.

WoodWisdom-Net is now identifying the research topics for the coming transnational wood material science and engineering research programme

Around 350 researchers from universities, research institutes and industry have participated during the last months in solicitation of the research issues for the transnational wood material science and engineering programme. The first call of this programme is planned to be opened in the year 2007. The WoodWisdom-Net coordination would like to thank all of you for your

participation to the first phase of the collaborative shaping of research agendas in WoodWisdom-Net. However, the shaping of research agendas in WoodWisdom-Net will continue.

In the first phase research funding or management organizations, from the eight countries participating WoodWisdom-Net, invited researchers from universities, institutes and industry to solicitate research issues suitable for internationally co-funded research activities in the area of wood material science and engineering.

In the next phases the focus will be in the evaluation of the given proposals: first the researchers, who participated in the first phase, will be invited in November to assess the novelty of the proposed issues and indicate their tentative commitment. After that in December the industrial leaders on their turn will be invited to assess industrial relevance of the issues, suitability for European cooperation and the time horizon for the industrial use. Finally, there will be arranged three workshops in February 2006 for researchers and industrial leaders to discuss the results of the assessments and to elaborate the proposals for research areas of the transnational wood material science and engineering programme, and also proposals for distribution of funds between basic and applied research areas and sub-areas. At the end of March 2006 funding organisation will discuss in their own workshop the results of the assessments and will also develop tentative plans for European research programmes and respective calls for proposals.

The whole process will support the original plan of the WoodWisdom-Net ERA-Net project: to launch a joint, transnational European Research and Technical Development (RTD) programme in the area of wood material science and engineering with common funding and administration in the year 2007.

FinnSight 2015 - The Academy of Finland and Tekes launched a joint foresight project

FinnSight 2015 – Science and Technology in Finland in the 2010s, is a joint foresight project of the Academy of Finland and Tekes, the National Technology Agency of Finland. The project will be carried out in 2005-2006.

The foresight project will examine the change factors that have impact on Finnish business and industry and on Finnish society, identify future challenges of innovation and research activity and analyse such areas of expertise which will foster the well-being in society and the competitiveness of business and industry by means of scientific research and innovation activities. The focus in foresight is on social and global issues.

Foresight will lay the foundation for new internationally competitive centres of excellence and expertise clusters. Simultaneously, foresight will reinforce strategy work at the Academy of Finland and Tekes.

The core of the foresight project comprises ten expert panels, each of which is composed of ten experts.

The Academy of Finland and Tekes will publish the results of the foresight project in August-September 2006.

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European Commission has published in September a proposal concerning the Specific Programme Cooperation implementing the Seventh Framework Programme (2007-13) of the European Community

for research, technological development and demonstration activities See the FP7 document "Building the Europe of Knowledge":

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Forest cluster on the threshold of change

The forest industry has long sought a competitive edge through efficiency in production, but that road will soon have run its course. The future of the forestry and forest-based industry lies in interdisciplinary technological cooperation, stresses Christine Hagstöm-Näsi, Technology Manager at Tekes, the National Technology Agency of Finland.

"Tekes has arranged countless programmes and projects to support Finnish cooperation in technology. Now, we have shifted our gaze towards research cooperation at the international level and the first joint programme with Swedish research backers got underway in 2003. The Wood Material Science and Engineering Programme, which brings together the resources of Finnish and Swedish forest industry researches and will last until 2007, is focusing its sights on the development of the new forest, wood and fibre products," explains Ms Hagström-Näsi.

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Finnish forest biotechnology researcher awarded the EURYI prize for young researchers

25 outstanding young researchers in Europe have been awarded the European Young Investigator Award. Among the awarded are also Finnish researcher Professor Yrjö Helariutta from the University of Turku. Researchers are to use the EURYI awards, worth 1 - 1.25 million euros each, to establish and develop their own research groups.

Professor Helariutta is active in the field of plant biology and plant genomics and has e.g. been involved in the Finnish Forest Cluster Research Programme, WoodWisdom.

Helariutta's research findings offer significant opportunities in the long run to improve forest growth and tailor wood and fibre properties and thus promote the competitiveness of forestry sector and forest-based industry.

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Research Strategy for Swedish Forest Sector Research

The Research Counsel Formas has formulated the Swedish forestry Sector and forest-based industry research strategy for 2000 – 2020. The strategy document is a result of surveys and consultation of research funding organisations, researchers and other stakeholders.

According to the report around 70 to 80 MEUR/ year have been used for forestry sector and forest-based industry research at the Swedish universities and institutes during the period 2000-2003. Of these about 50% has been used for processing/improving the wood raw material and close to 30% for forest production and silvicultural research. The remaining 20% consists of research on intangible values, i.e. biological, environmental and social values.

With regard to wood material science and engineering, the report points out that more resources should be allocated in research and developing activities focused on innovative forest products and creating new material combinations. The importance of international co-operation between researchers is also recommended. More information about this and other areas of research with relevance to the sector, e.g.

building and construction can be found on Formas web pages.

The version of the strategy report "National programme for forest sector research 2000 - 2020" will be published by the Formas in November.

The Swedish version is now available at

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Study Scholarships and Research Grants for graduates, doctoral students, and postdoctoral students from selected countries

The Scholarship programme "Studies and Research in Sustainability", run by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in cooperation with the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), offers academically especially qualified foreign graduates, doctoral students, and postdoctoral students from selected countries as well as German doctoral students opportunities to study and research in Germany or abroad.

The First Call for Proposal was published in September 2005

Study and Research Topics:

- Sustainable Forestry
- Ecosystems Management and Resource Utilisation,
- Integrated Land Use / Agro-Forestry Value Chain,
- Product and System Innovations in Forestry and Forest Products

Countries

- Brazil
- Mongolia
- PR China
- doctoral students from Germany

Application Papers

Foreign applicants should complete the form "Application for Research Grants and Study Scholarships"

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German applicants should use the form "Antrag auf ein Auslandsstipendium für deutsche Studierende / Graduierte / Promovierte"

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Closing Date for Applications:

15 December 2005

National Research Programme on Sustainable Production and Products

The Academy of Finland is launching a four-year research programme focusing on sustainable production and products. The call for applications for the programme is planned to be opened in January 2006.

The National Technology Agency of Finland, Tekes and the Ministry of the Environment are involved in the planned multidisciplinary research programme. Negotiations with foreign bilateral funding cooperation partners are under way.

The aim of the programme is to strengthen basic research in process engineering and chemistry with a view of boosting future research and development in Finnish industries e.g. in process, chemical, forest, biotechnology and pharmaceuticals industries.

The research programme is covering the following areas: green chemistry and engineering, industrial ecology, chemicals testing and the impacts of chemicals legislation on industrial production.

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Expert panel welcomes European research co-operation and recommends further funds

COST (European Co-operation in the field of Scientific and Technical Research) is a suitable mechanism for contributing to the Lisbon and Barcelona goals, due to its role

in assisting the co-ordination of national research, an expert panel has told the Commission. The experts found that its structure and operating procedures are designed to be simple and responsive, making it particularly appropriate for involving new countries and new research groups. The flexibility of COST makes it attractive to young people and it has a role as good preparation for participation in European research programmes. Following positive developments in reforming COST's science management, the expert panel was able to

recommend the granting of the full €80m provided in the Sixth Framework Programme to the European Science Foundation (ESF), which provides the scientific secretariat for COST.

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<http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/press/2005/pr15c07en.cfm>

New Publication: Research in Finland

Ministry of Trade and Industry; Academy of Finland; Tekes, the National Technology Agency; Science and Technology Policy Council; Finnish universities; CSC - the Finnish IT center for science; and Statistics Finland

Publication

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New consultation on simplification in FP7

A consultation on simplification within the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) has been launched by the European Commission.

The aim of this consultation is to provide an opportunity for all researchers, but especially those within the EU (and Associated Countries), to offer their views on the 10 proposed measures for simplification contained in the staff working document on simplification that accompanied the Commission proposal on the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). We welcome inputs from all participants on other issues that would be addressed by the Rules for Participation such as intellectual property provisions, evaluation criteria, financial collective responsibility and other participation principles.

To access the consultation and for further information, please visit

Audit Certificate Guidance Notes 6th Framework Programme

At the end of June 2005 the Commission has published its Guidance Notes to guide research contractors and certifying entities in the preparation of audit certificates under the European Commissions 6th Framework Programme (FP6) including details among other things about certified costs. For more information, [please see](#):

http://dbs.cordis.lu/fep-cgi/srchidadb?ACTION=D&SESSION=&DOC=1&TBL=EN_DOCS&RCN=EN_RCN:6918005&CALLER=FP6_LIB

Three new COST Actions launched

- E51: "Integrating Innovation and Development Policies for the Forest Sector"
- E52: "Evaluation of Beech Genetic Resources for Sustainable Forestry"
- E53: "Quality control for wood and wood products"

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COST Action E53 "Quality control for wood and wood products"

The Action aims at the improvement of existing and the development of novel methods and techniques for fast and accurate quality assessment along the forestry wood chain. Special attention is given to a) scanning of round wood for inherent wood properties, b) determination of moisture content and distortions, and c) assessment of strength, stiffness and visual appearance of timber and wood products. Improved quality control systems will help to increase the competitiveness of the wood sector, ensure that round wood is optimally processed and that European wood industry provides wood products which are well adapted to end user requirements.

[:::More:::](#)

UK wood using industries defining R&D priorities

At a meeting hosted by the Confederation of Forest Industries (UK) Ltd (ConFor) on 2nd September the UK wood using industries agreed to establish a group to prepare an overall strategy and priorities for the UK industry's R&D needs. The driving force behind the meeting was a desire to engage with a European level initiative to establish a Forest-Based Sector Technology Platform (FTP).

While discussing whether to establish a UK National Support Group, participants at the ConFor meeting felt that such a group would also be of value beyond the immediate need presented by the FTP. The belief was that the industry as a whole has not been able to properly articulate its R&D requirements to researchers or government. As a result, much of the R&D going on is supply rather than demand driven, presenting in turn a threat to R&D quality and capacity in the UK.

A follow up meeting is taking place to prepare the UK's input to the Strategic Research Agenda and also to follow up the proposal to establish a group with a broader role, fulfilling the requirements of a NSG but also providing a means of defining the wider, longer term R&D priorities of the UK industry and communicating that to key audiences including research institutions and government.

Strategic Timber Research - Making Best Use of the Home-Grown Resource

A workshop was held on 13th September 2005 at the Forest Research Northern research Station as part of the Strategic Integrated Research into Timber (SIRT) and WoodWisdom-Net projects. The aim of the seminar was to present the latest research into wood and timber which is of relevance to the British forestry and wood processing industries. It was aimed at all those involved or with an interest in the forestry and wood processing industries and was particularly focussed on informing the industrial sector of the latest research on wood and timber.

SIRT: <http://cte.napier.ac.uk/SIRT/>

Telephone numbers of the National Technology Agency in Finland (Tekes) have been changed from 1 September 2005

The new number for Tekes's switchboard will be +358-10 605 5000. The new number for Tekes's customer service department will be +358-10 605 5050.

CONFERENCES, SUMMER SCHOOLS, OTHER EVENTS

The Finnish-Swedish Wood Material Science and Engineering Research Programme will arrange its' Annual Seminar 2006 on Wednesday April 5, 2006 in Helsinki

Please, note the date and follow the Wood Wisdom website where will be information about the programme and registrations more closely the seminar time.

The Seminar is open to all those who are interested in!

www.woodwisdom.fi -> en -> events

November 2005:

Estonia in Crossroad - What is the best way towards knowledge based economy? Conference will take place in the Conference Centre in Tallinn TV Tower (Kloostrimetsa tee 58a, Tallinn) on November 3-4, 2005.

The aim of the conference is first and foremost to give an overview of different national innovation systems and to discuss various options in shaping the Estonian national innovation system for 2007-2013. The discussion on the future of the Estonian national innovation system concentrates on five clusters – biomedicine, information and communication technologies, metals industry, wood industry and food industry.

The conference is free of charge. The conference language is English.
Please find a conference agenda from below
Registration: e-mail foorum@eas.ee, phone +372 680 4050

[See the programme](#)

FTP Research Forum, Nov. 9-10, 2005 in Stockholm

INNOVATIVE AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF FOREST RESOURCES
[See the programme and other information](#)

November 14-15, 2005: Communicating European Research 2005, International Conference, Brussels, Belgium

On 14-15 November, the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research will host the second "Communicating European Research" conference. Based on the very positive experiences from the 2004 edition, the event will focus on the manifold aspects of science communication and will provide an excellent forum and meeting place for scientists, communication professionals and journalists. The conference will also take stock of the way towards the Seventh Framework Programme.

[Further information](#)

The Fifth Workshop "Connection between Forest Resources and Wood Quality: Modelling approaches and Simulation Software"

New Zealand, November 6-13, 2005

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The Second Workshop on Cellulose and Cellulose Derivatives at Karlstadt University, Karlstadt, Sweden, November 22-23, 2005

[Read more](#)

November 24, 2005: eBUSINESS EVENT 2005 in Grangemouth, UK

One day Cluster seminar on ebusiness in the forest industries to be held at the Inchyra Hotel, Grangemouth. Programme to be confirmed – [see Cluster website](#)

due course. Contact: Fiona Angier, Confederation of Forest Industries; T: 0131 524 8099;
E: fiona.angier@confor.org.uk

FPIRC courses in Nov and Dec, 2005 November 28 - December 1, 2005

FPIRC course No 15: Fibre-Water Interactions at KTH in Stockholm.

Registration (through the web) no later than by Nov. 14 The courses will be held in English.

Schedule and detailed course information (incl. prices), as well as the possibility to [register on line](#) will be found at <http://www.fpirc.kth.se/courselist>

December

Wood-Plastic Composites - growth, profits, benefits and propositions

The international conference and exhibition for the wood-plastic composites industry.
5-7 December, 2005, Austria Trend Evenhotel Pyramide, Vienna, Austria

[:::More:::](#)

6-7 December 2005: First SustainPack conference in Stockholm, Sweden

The conference is your first chance to see what the research so far has revealed. Split into six core sections, you'll find out how to:

- * Translate consumer needs into R&D
- * Find a route into lean fibre-based packaging
- * Understand developments in fibre-based composite films
- * Catch up with protective coatings and 3D composites and their uses in fibre-based packs
- * Learn how packaging can communicate more effectively
- * Glimpse the future of fibre-based packaging.

Further information: www.piranet.com

2006

The Changing Technology in WPCs, April 2-4, 2006, Crowne Plaza Union Square, San Francisco, California

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2006 International Conference on Nanotechnology for the Forest Products Industry

TAPPI invites industry professionals to participate in the 2006 International Conference on Nanotechnology for the Forest Products Industry, to be held at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel, Atlanta, GA, **April 26-28, 2006**. For more information on submitting an abstract for this event, [please go](#)

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