Title	Acronym	Topic	Starting Date	Coordinator
Benchmarking the sustainability performances of value chains	BenchValue	Comparative assessment of the sustainability performance of renewable and non- renewable raw material-based value chains to inform policy decisions	1/12/2016	EFI – European Forest Institute (Finland): Diana Tuomasjukka; diana.tuomasjukka@efi.int; Tel: 00358-50-410-2570

Project Partner
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FCBA – French Institute of Technology for forest based and furniture sectors (France);
UL – University of Limerick (Ireland);
NUIG – National University of Ireland, Galway (Ireland);
LAMMC – Lithuanian Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry (Lithuania);
IVL – Swedish Environmental Research Institute (Sweden);
UNILIM – University of Limoges (France)

Project Abstract:

It is well documented that renewable wood-based materials reduce GHG emissions in the construction sector. Modern wood product technology allows for the design of even high-rise buildings which are durable and pass strict fire regulations. In practice, however, the uptake of wood construction is very limited. A partial explanation is that the availability of sustainability assessments pertaining to renewable raw material value chains is limited, and where existing, are rarely comprehensive; mostly focusing on specific products and often lack benchmarking against use of non-renewable materials. Furthermore, decision makers (e.g. in public procurement) have difficulties understanding scientific results as they only give partial or even conflicting answers.

BenchValue will address these shortcomings by expanding the Tool for Sustainability Impact Assessment (ToSIA) with a method for benchmarking wood material value chains against mineral and non-renewable value chains. ToSIA is an established and objective method for analysis and comparison of forest-woodchains. Project partners have expertise on sustainability assessments, LCA methods, certification and materials used in buildings. Based on this knowledge, a gap analysis will pin-point discrepancies in sustainability assessment methods and frameworks for different bio-, mineral- and fossil-based value chains.

These shortcomings will be addressed in the benchmarking method development to compare wood-based with non-renewable value chains in ToSIA. For this purpose, a set of universal indicators (for all value chains) and generic non-renewable reference chains will be developed. The benchmarking method will be tested in 5 case studies in Europe and Russia spanning different decision making contexts.

A European wide projection on the substitution potential in the construction sector and its effects on the bioeconomy will be done, as well as intense stakeholder interaction and capacity building in partner countries.