

Small Diameter Wood Utilization with Innovative Stand Management for Multifunctional Forests and a Growing Sustainable Bio-economy (SMALLWOOD)



Trees from small-diameter stands, resulting from thinning, coppice, forest fire prevention cutting, and linear areas such as roadsides, are a large underutilized wood resource with high potential to support growth of the forest-based bioeconomy in Europe. The overall objective of SMALLWOOD is to develop and evaluate new technologies and business and operational models that can support a sustainable management and utilization of different types of small diameter wood.

This will be achieved by optimizing and testing new small-diameter tree harvesting innovations in four European countries (Sweden, Finland, Slovenia and Spain). Specifically, SMALLWOOD analyses multi-tree harvesting technique, boom-corridor thinning, and combined harvesting and chipping. The project employs field experiments, innovation uptake analysis, and overall sustainability impact assessment. The project will contribute to the transforming of the global economy from a dependence on fossil fuels and non-renewable materials to a sustainable bio-based economy. SMALLWOOD brings together technique and working method developments with advanced knowledge on forest owner motivation as well as SME business development, environmental impacts and forest fire risk mitigation. The project will also contribute to the development of European machine manufacturing companies, presuming that increased small-diameter stand management will lead to the demand of more machines, and in the long run, more advanced innovative solutions to perform this management.

For further information:

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