

BIOGENIC RESIDUES FOR FOREST PRODUCTS COMPOSITES

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The application of this EPU project sets out several objectives of the proposed collaboration between the FHS and MUST:

1. Know-how transfer of knowledge generated at Kuchl campus regarding the utilization of residues from the forestry and timber industry, such as tree bark in conjunction with other materials such as e.g. Loam or leather scraps for innovative composite materials with special properties such as weathering, fire resistance, decorative surface, low emissions, etc. The existing knowledge from Kuchl (see publications, patents and public contributions) could, with the support of the EPU partner at MUST, begin in a first phase adapted to local conditions (raw materials, market requirements, standards) and later further developed with partner companies of the Mongolian timber industry to a pilot or small batch production.
2. Analysis and comparison of the curricula for the bachelor and master studies "Wood Technology" at FHS and MUST with the aim of developing an exchange program for the students and lecturers. The special experience of the FHS also speaks at the Kuchl location, where many lectures on wood technology and the timber industry are held in English. Each year, more than 10 students from the partner universities (HTB study program) attend one semester. In addition, the MUST working group would like to see an adaptation of the Bachelor's and Master's curricula to make them more compatible with Erasmus programs in the future. Furthermore, it is planned for the lecturers to adapt the contents of the courses to European especially German-language contents.
3. For the MUST students as well as for the experts of the wood industry there was a strong demand for appropriate seminars with the aim to explain the European environmental aspects during the wood processing, use of wood products but also after the end of a life cycle. The Austrian timber industry is a leader in Europe not only in terms of production capacity for sawn timber, construction elements and wood-based panels, but also as a result of the higher requirements for exhaust air and wastewater from the manufacturing process. The exemplary cascading use of biogenic materials, in particular waste wood for the chipboard industry, is another suitable topic for this series of lectures.