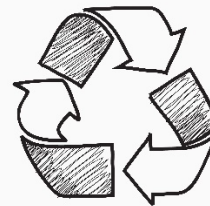


## PRESS RELEASE

Brussels, 19 March 2024

# EcoReFibre project unveils promising advancements in Recycling Technology and presents its ambitions in a Video



**With a focus on wood recycling and waste management, the EcoReFibre project, spearheaded by a consortium of 20 partners, continues towards groundbreaking progress. A first video sheds light on what the project stands and calls for.**

Driven by cutting-edge research, the EU funded project, EcoReFibre aims to bolster wood resources across Europe by maximising recycling efforts and to substitute up to 25% of the virgin fibres currently used in the European fibreboard market. As the world celebrated Recycling Day, EcoReFibre calls upon individuals, organisations, and communities to explore the transformative potential and impact of recycling.

***Through the release of [its first video](#), EcoReFibre exemplifies the project's aspirations and commitment to advancing circularity by pushing wood recycling and waste sorting technologies to the next level.***

*The versatility of wood-based panels and the benefits of innovative advancements in the recycling of fibreboards are showcased.*



“ About 64 million cubic metres of wood-based panels are produced each year in the EU. Additional volumes are imported in the form of furniture and other products.

Thanks to EcoReFibre, recycling of different types of boards will become profitable by improved waste sorting technologies.

This wood recycling loop is a powerful way of storing carbon in common consumer products such as furniture and will contribute to climate change mitigation.



Five industry-led pilot demonstrations, involving leading panel manufacturers, are underway to translate innovative concepts into tangible business opportunities. These trials are poised to unlock economic value, promote circularity, and deliver significant environmental benefits.

By embracing innovative solutions and collective action, the project, funded by Horizon Europe, underscores the importance of joint research in exploring smart technologies to recycle post-consumer waste wood back into fibreboards and into novel building products. It paves the way towards driving positive changes within the wood-based panels sector, extending the product life cycle and optimising wood resources.

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## MORE INFO

[ecorefibre.eu](https://ecorefibre.eu) (News & events page)  
Sign up to the [Newsletter](#)

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## Follow the EcoReFibre Journey!



## ABOUT THE CONSORTIUM

### Research partners

**SWEDISH UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES** is a leading university with responsibility for the development of learning and expertise in areas concerning biological resources and biomaterial production. The Department of Forest Biomaterials and Technology is responsible for the research area of Wood Science and Wood Technology. The Wood Science & Technology group is one of the few true material science orientated research groups and thereby ideally suited for involvement in the Biomaterials platform promoted by SLU for the period 2017-2025. [slu.se](https://www.slu.se)

**ECOLE SUPÉRIEURE DU BOIS** trains wood scientists and technologists, from the technician to PhD level, for the French forestry-wood chain. It also conducts research grouped into two broad themes: comfort of the building envelope and the wood circular economy. The EcoReFibre project is a part of ESB's continuing research on intelligent and responsible recycling. ESB is based in Nantes, France. [esb-campus.fr](https://www.esb-campus.fr)

**FCBA** is the technological institute for forest, cellulose, wood and furniture industries in France. Its mission is to promote technical progress, to participate in the improvement of yield and to guarantee quality in the industry. Its field of action covers the entire forestry-wood and furniture sectors: forestry, logging, sawmills, pulp and paper, wood-based panels, carpentry, structures, furniture, packaging and various products. [Fcba.fr](https://www.fcba.fr)

**NIBIO** is one of the largest research institutes in Norway with approximately 700 employees. We contribute to food security and safety, sustainable resource management, innovation and value creation through research and knowledge production. [nibio.no](https://www.nibio.no)

**INSTITUT FÜR HOLZTECHNOLOGIE DRESDEN** has been an industrial research institution, since 1952, with expertise, technological know-how and specialist knowledge in the fields of wood anatomy and biology, material and product development, surface coating, health assessment of building products, and furniture and construction elements. [ihd-dresden.de](https://www.ihd-dresden.de)

**IVL** The Swedish Environmental Research Institute conducts advanced research and performs targeted consultancy assignments in relation to climate and environment. We support companies and civil authorities in their sustainability efforts to solve specific environmental problems in the domestic and international arenas. R&D forms the basis of our operations, and as research practitioners we also develop skills that form the basis for our consulting business. [ivl.se](https://www.ivl.se)

### Associations and consulting support

**European Panel Federation** represents the manufacturers of wood-based panels being particleboard, dry process fibreboard (MDF), oriented strand board (OSB), hardboard, softboard and plywood. EPF has members in 30 European countries. The EU wood panel industry has a turnover of about 25 billion euro every year and provides over 100,000 jobs in Europe. The production of wood-based panels in the EU-27 (+EFTA) in 2022 was an estimated 59.8 million m<sup>3</sup>. [europanel.org](https://www.europanel.org)

**INNOVAWOOD** mission is to foster innovation and bring business benefit to the entire value chain from forestry to wood, to furniture and construction. InnovaWood provides a European platform to share knowledge, latest information and follow developments as well as innovative trends. InnovaWood aims to provide a strategic orientation to the European research and innovation ecosystem which is evolving in response to the global challenges. [innovawood.com](https://www.innovawood.com)

**FEDERLEGNOARREDO** is the Italian Federation of Woodworking, Cork, Furniture, Lighting and Furnishing Industries. Founded in 1945, it associates more than 2100 enterprises, ranging from SMEs to industry leaders, and includes 11 sectorial associations, 8 affiliated associations and a Young Entrepreneurs Group. [federlegnoarredo.it](https://www.federlegnoarredo.it)

**STEINBEIS EUROPA ZENTRUM** stands for over 30 years of experience in innovation consulting and research funding throughout Europe and beyond. Well-connected with international partners and networks, we stand by companies, start-ups, universities, research institutions and cluster initiatives on issues of innovation management, financing, EU applications, international markets, regional and social transformation and innovation policy. [steinbeis-europa.de](https://www.steinbeis-europa.de)

### Industrial partners and SMEs

**DIEFFENBACHER** is a leading manufacturer of press systems and complete production plants for the wood-based panels, composites and recycling industries. We combine technologies, processes and application know-how with extensive client collaboration to create advanced solutions and to help our customers achieve their business goals. [dieffenbacher.com](https://www.dieffenbacher.com)

**SONAE ARAUCO** is one of the largest wood-based solutions' players in the world. Our portfolio contemplates a sustainable range of products for furniture, interior design and construction, from the more standard to the most demanding from a technical viewpoint. [sonaearauco.com](https://sonaearauco.com)

**HOMANIT** is one of the leading manufacturers of thin, high-quality finished, medium-density (MDF) and high-density (HDF) wood fibreboards in the European wood products industry and supply the furniture, door and coating industries worldwide. [homanit.org](https://homanit.org)

**SMARTPANNEL** SmartPannel will develop a new bio-based, sustainable construction block composed of a mixture of fibreboard processing residues (fines) with bioderived polyols. In EcoReFibre, a prototype production line for these blocks is installed and tested by SmartPannel. [smartpanel.no](https://smartpanel.no)

**SOPREMA** is an independent family group which is now positioned as one of the world's leading companies in the field of protection, energy efficiency and building management.

A responsible and pioneering industrialist, the Group is now a key player in this sector. SOPREMA offers high-performance, high-tech solutions that meet all the challenges of whatever renovation or new construction of both residential and non-residential buildings. SOPREMA systems are developed in an eco-design logic and today display exceptional performance in terms of quality and longevity. SOPREMA's vision: to act for the enhancement of the built heritage and the comfort of users, with the necessary reduction of its impact on the environment. [soprema.fr](https://soprema.fr)

**CORMATEX** is a textile machinery manufacturer, located in Prato (Italy) and operating on the international markets for more than 35 years. The company is specialized in customized solutions for the Nonwoven Sector and has developed a special technology called "Airlay Lap Formair" for the conversion of waste materials into new added value products for various applications (building, insulation, automotive, home furnishing ecc.) [cormatex.it](https://cormatex.it)

**BIESSE** Group is an international company that designs, manufactures and distributes systems and machines for processing wood, glass, stone, metal, plastic and composite materials aimed at the furniture, housing & construction, automotive and aerospace sectors. Founded in Pesaro, Italy, in 1969, it has been listed in the STAR segment of the Italian Stock Exchange since 2001. 80% of its consolidated turnover is achieved abroad. It operates in over 160 countries with 14 manufacturing sites and a direct presence in the main world markets. Today it has 4,300 employees. [biessegroup.com](https://biessegroup.com)

**MANIFAKTURA** is an INNOVATIVE start-up, that combines complementary skills developed in a decade of national and international experience in the wood-furniture sector, in particular in the field of product certifications, research training, innovative product development and tech transfer. In addition to their know-how on Circular Economy and Open Innovation, MANIFAKTURA boasts a wide network of relationships and collaborations with Clusters, Universities, Research Centers, Associations and Corporates/SME. [manifaktura.net](https://manifaktura.net)

**VEOLIA** is a recycling company that collects, sorts, processes and recycles around 50 million tons of household and industrial waste every year. Veolia supports the technological developments in Demos. [veolia.com](https://veolia.com)

**MET4** is a Digital Innovation Company bridging efficiently the two worlds of IT and Materials into the new era of Industry 4.0, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML). Senior scientists and engineers (with very strong academic background and industrial experience in both fields) are deeply analysing manufacturing systems and processes and apply all modern analytic and AI/ML tools in order to identify improvement points, lower costs and increase efficiency and safety of operations. Additionally, they offer full IT infrastructure solutions for hosting developed AI systems and converting them into a handy, accessible, and manageable powerful tool. [met4.eu](https://met4.eu)