

Sawmill at home: a business initiative to enhance the local wood



This company was founded in 2013, when a manager in the IT sector, Carlo Petrolo, decided to renovate a family farmhouse using the trees on the property. None of the few remaining sawmills, however, makes itself available to take a few logs and then saw them. Petrolo sees an opportunity in this crisis situation. Thus was born the idea of preparing a mobile, self-transportable sawmill service, suitable for all those who had the need to work their own wood on site.

The activity appears easily replicable with reduced investments. In addition, a service like this could complement another activity, forest or agricultural. However, a widespread action of promotion and contact with all possible purchasers of the service is necessary: very diversified subjects, since we pass from the forest operator to the private citizen, up to the public administration. In the case in question, marketing activities via internet had a fundamental role, especially through social networks.

The service, initially based on a single mobile sawmill, immediately received great interest from operators in the sector and inhabitants in mountain areas. The service, now expanded also in the Italian territory with several mobile sawmills in action. It has responded to the need of many small private owners or farms who are often in a position to be unable to use their raw materials due to the lack of local facilities still capable of sawing small quantities. This experience has also been the forerunner of numerous other alpine entrepreneurial activities (forest companies and treeclimbers) that have purchased mobile sawmills to enhance the wood that was previously used as biomass or waste.

DETAILS

ORIGIN OF WOOD

Forest

TYPE OF WOOD

Stemwood

MOBILIZATION POTENTIAL

1.500-3.000 m3/year

SUSTAINABILITY POTENTIAL - VALUE

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KIND OF WOOD CONCERNED

Cedar, chestnut, cypress, walnut, poplar, oak

EASE OF IMPLEMENTATION

Not easy

IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENT & BIODIVERSITY

N/A

EASE OF IMPLEMENTATION - EVALUATION

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INCOME EFFECT

N/A

KEY PREREQUISITES

Strong advertising of sawmill service at regional level

EXPLOITATION POTENTIAL

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TYPE OF EVENT WHERE THIS BPI HAS BEEN FEATURED

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HUB

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JOB EFFECT

2 workers for each sawmill

ECONOMIC IMPACT

45-90.000 €/year

COSTS OF IMPLEMENTATION (EURO - €)

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SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE NEEDED

Tree cutting in urban areas, tree climbing technics and sawmill utilization

MORE DETAILS

CHALLENGE ADDRESSED

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KEYWORDS

--

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN

Italy

DOMAIN

Forest-based bio/circular economy

DIGITAL SOLUTION

No

SCALE OF APPLICATION

Regional/sub-national

TYPE OF SOLUTION

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INNOVATION

No

START AND END YEAR

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REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

MAIN WEBSITE

<http://www.boratt.ch>

PROJECT WEBSITE

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PROJECT REFERENCE

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RESOURCES

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PROJECT UNDER WHICH THIS FACTSHEET HAS BEEN CREATED

Rosewood

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