

## Description of best practice

Best practice	
Title	Wood as primary construction material
Picture	
Domain	Wood promotion, construction material, policy
Source of wood	Local forest owners
Location	Harghita county, Romania
Implementers	Harghita county council, Local authorities from Harghita county
Actual status	2012 - ongoing
Approach	Since Harghita County is rich in wood source, the main aim of this policy is to encourage and promote the use of wood in constructions first of all at the level of public buildings but to enlarge it on business and household level. This successful implementation project from Harghita County we are going to expand this approach on national level in Romania.
Main results	The policy aims to identify how forests can provide new jobs and business opportunities in order to keep rural communities alive. Beside the fact of strengthening the idea of traditional use of wood, there is a need to create new, competitive wooden products with high added value. In order to protect the local wood processing based industry the policy of County Council does not allow the establishment of international investors who would like to exploit the county's natural resources without adding high value added activity on local level. Taking into account that at this moment there isn't any big company, investor in the field of silviculture and forestry establish in the county this is already a positive impact of the policy.
Lessons learned	This policy approach should be taken into account at in other regions of Romania as well. 52% of Harghita County's turnover is given by forest management and wood processing. 35.6 % of the County's surface is covered by forest, 47% of these forests are owned by local forest owner associations, the rest being owned by private owners and local public authorities, churches and state. The most important lessons from this best practice is the consciousness and endurance of the local stakeholders.
Contact information	Available upon request
Link to website	<a href="http://www.hargitamegye.ro">www.hargitamegye.ro</a>

Code	BP_RO_02
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## Best practice assessment

Region	Harghita county, Centru region, Romania
Time scale	2012 -
Mobilization Potential	Approx. 1,000,000 m <sup>3</sup> , area affected 2,300 km <sup>2</sup>
Kind of wood concerned	70-80 % is conifer
Sustainability Potential	Positive
Impact on environment & biodiversity	Sustainable forest management, replantation of forest controlled by local forest owner associations
Ease of implementation	Medium
Economic impact	Positive, growth of the company / turnover 52% of the County's turnover coming from wood process
Job effect	Creating of new jobs mostly in rural area
Income effect	Positive
Specific knowledge needed	Sustainable and effective forest management, efficient wood processes, long term business strategy
Costs of implementation	50.000 EUR
Technical readiness level	Ready
Key information for adoption	Long term sustainability for local economy, local value preserving