



Forests and the Circular Economy

Agenda Item 4



**42nd Joint UNECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics,
Economics and Management**

22-24 March 2021, Geneva





- **COFFI and EFC joint session in 2019**

- the joint section was asked to pursue “activities containing research and stock taking elements as well as proposals for guidance tools and recommendations for member States” (ECE/TIM/2019/2 FO:EFC/2019/2).

- **JWP - List of 2020 activities and activities planned for 2021**

- 1) “preparation of a stock-taking document on how the circular bio-economy concepts are related to the forest-based sector;
- 2) exploration of the issue of wood-based value chains in a circular bio-economy” (ECE/TIM/2020/5)



- 1. Circularity concepts in forest-based industries**
- 2. Wood-waste classification**



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1. Circularity concepts in forest-based industries

(ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2021/Inf.4)

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- Circular economy, bioeconomy, cascading use, circular business models, circular value chains
- How these concepts can be applied to the forest-based industries.
- Analysis of key forest-based value chains:
 - (1) woodworking industries: sawn wood, wood in construction, bioenergy
 - (2) furniture industry - wood in furniture sector
 - (3) pulp, paper and cellulose manufacturing: pulp & paper, cellulose-based fibers, cellulose-based plastics.
- Analysis of limitations to increased circularity (economic viability, environmental externalities, sustainability)
- Systemic approaches supporting the transition towards circularity

1. Circularity concepts in forest-based industries

(ECE/TIM/EFC/WP.2/2021/Inf.4)

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What else should be included in the study?



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1. Circularity concepts in forest-based industries
- 2. Wood-waste classification**

2. Classification of wood waste streams

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PLAN

- 1) Developing a standard classification for the ECE region which could serve for data collection
 - ❖ A taskforce/extrabudgetary project could be created for a period of 24 months
 - ❖ Possible cooperation with the ECE Statistical Division on waste classification (& EEA, EUROSTAT, OECD, UNEP, UNSD, national statistical offices) and the ECE Energy Division (Classification of natural resources – anthropogenic resources)
 - ❖ Network of industry experts
- 2) Developing a possible practical tool which facilitating the recycling and trade of waste streams in the region.

2. Classification of wood waste streams

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Wood Waste Catalogue

- Taking stock of existing classifications of wood waste streams as developed by governments and various international organizations

ALBANIA

DRAFT

LEGAL BASIS

The Law on the integrated management of waste⁸⁰ (No. 10 463, 2011) constitutes the foundation of Albanian waste regulations and is based on the European Waste Framework Directive (p. 18). The Albanian Waste Catalogue⁸¹ (No. 99, 2005) contains the European List of Waste (p. 15), aligning Albanian classification codes for waste wood with the EU ones.

SECTORAL CLASSIFICATION

Albania has no wood waste classification that is applied in trading or in the wood processing sector. Plywood, particleboard and fiberboard waste is either landfilled or incinerated, depending on the waste management infrastructure in each region. The districts of Elsaban, Fier and Tirana, which possess incinerators, use wood waste for energy recovery (GIZ, 2020). Wood waste from the demolition sector is mostly landfilled.

Source: Dritan Aidinaj, personal communication, 2020

STATISTICAL CLASSIFICATION

Wood waste is included in the urban waste statistics issued by the Institute of Statistics of Albania⁸² (INSTAT), it is not disaggregated further.

2. Classification of wood waste streams

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RATIONALE

- 1) No international classification exists for wood waste
- 2) In many countries data is not collected at all
- 3) The catalogue provides an overview of sources and methodologies
- 4) This information can be used for the development of a common classification
- 5) Interest from
 - ❖ the woodworking industries
 - ❖ member states with own classifications - see the usefulness of one common one
 - ❖ member states with no classification - could apply it directly
 - ❖ statisticians' community



OTHER TOOLS ?



Roadmap



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Guidelines

Questions to the Working Party

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The Joint Working Party will be invited to take note of the information provided and to:

- a) Inform the Joint Section about additional circularity questions and concepts that could be included in the study before the final draft is presented to the joint session of COFFI and EFC in October 2021.
- b) Advise the Joint Section on the proposed direction of work towards a standard classification of wood waste streams in the ECE region.
- c) Consider actively supporting the work on wood waste classification through engagement of national experts or funding of an extrabudgetary project.
- d) Provide guidance on other possible directions of the Joint Section's work on forests and the circular economy after 2021

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Thank you!



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