



EAFRD-funded projects

Wood Phoenix



Wood Phoenix project reduces wood waste through experimental design and reuse of used wood and wood scraps to create equipment for the local community.

To prevent the generation of and reduce the amount of wood waste, the project aimed to reuse discarded wood or reclaim wood scraps to produce equipment that would complement the footpaths, enrich scenic viewpoints and enable better access to the rapidly developing and increasingly visited natural bathing site for the local community. Paired with an extensive awareness-raising campaign about how to reduce waste beyond simply used wood, the project involved cooperation between business and educational institutions as the prototypes for the community equipment were developed by woodworking students through a competition. The equipment was then produced reusing wood that otherwise would have ended up in landfills or burned, causing environmental impacts.



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Location

Škofja Loka (Slovenia)

Programming period

2014 - 2020

Priority

P6 - Social Inclusion and
Economic Development

Measure

M19 - LEADER/CLLD

Funding (EUR)

Total budget 95 568
EAFRD 54 357
National/regional 13 589
Private 27 622

Project duration

2019 - 2021

Project promoter

Zadruga Lokatur, z.o.o., so.p.

Contact

igor@drakulic.eu

Website

lesnifeniks.si

Results

Direct effects of the project:

- Equipment made of used wood was installed: 20 benches around the community and 9 deckchairs, a changing room and a diving board for the bathing site.
- A composting toilet was built at the bathing site.
- A short promotional video was recorded.
- A press conference was held.
- Almost 600 participants attended 8 lectures and film screenings.

Lessons & Recommendations

Wood scraps and used wood can be reused rather than disposed of and possibly cause environmental harm. Waste reduction and reuse needs to start with targeted awareness-raising and education campaigns for employees in companies and the broader community. The project also demonstrated that forming connections between businesses and educational institutions can meet the need for primary and secondary school students and university students to gain practical experience during their studies and get to know future employers.

ENRD Contact Point

Rue de la Loi, 38 Boîte n.4 - 1040
Brussels, Belgium
Tel. +32 2 801 38 00
Email: info@enrd.eu
Website: enrd.ec.europa.eu

Context

Wood scraps and used wood represent raw material that in the vast majority of cases ends up in landfill or in domestic and industrial furnaces. Used wood disposal poses an environmental hazard as it can be contaminated due to the use of various coatings. Huge amounts of wood scraps are also generated in industrial facilities, among which high-quality wood can be found. Alternative solutions should be found to reuse such wood scraps and used wood to produce new wooden products.

Before the project, the municipality of Žiri (Občina Žiri) had long been expressing the need to install equipment that would complement the footpaths, enrich scenic viewpoints and enable better access to the rapidly developing and increasingly visited Pustotnik natural bathing site by the Poljanska Sora River. Bearing environmental protection in mind, the idea was floated of using discarded or unused wood to produce the equipment and, by doing so, bring the wood back to life. The installation of new equipment would also raise the quality of local amenities for the community.

Objectives

The objective of the project was to protect the environment by reducing the amount of waste generated, increasing the reuse of materials and raising the awareness of local residents about the possibilities for and importance of transitioning to the circular economy. Implementation of the project followed two main objectives, specifically:

- awareness-raising activities for the general public, and
- piloting the use of used wood or wood scraps to produce equipment for the local community as an example of good practice in waste prevention and reuse.

Activities

Innovative possibilities for designing and manufacturing products from used wood were explored in the first phase of the project. The project directly involved youth in this process, fostering cooperation between students of the Škofja Loka Secondary School for Wood Technology and the company M Sora d.d., which were partners in the project. The students participated in a competition and produced prototypes of equipment that could be made from used wood. The partner M Sora d.d., a company that produces wooden windows, conducted an analysis of the quantities and properties of the used wood from old windows. Based on the products made by the students who participated in the competition, it developed the equipment and prepared technical documentation for the production of the alternative wood products. The municipality of Žiri, as the future owner of the manufactured equipment, was involved in the entire process from the first phase of production and research. The first set of lectures, workshops and film screenings was held to raise public awareness about the importance of reuse of raw materials and the circular economy. A press conference was also held. These awareness-raising activities were carried out by the partner Razvojna agencija Sora (Development Agency Sora). The lead partner, the Lokatur Association, was also in charge of setting up, coordinating and managing the project's website - www.lesnifeniks.si.

In the second phase of the project, the partner M Sora d.d. produced the recycled wooden equipment. It made benches, deckchairs, a diving board and a changing room. The Žiri municipality installed the benches throughout the municipality - along footpaths and at scenic points. The deckchairs, diving board and changing room were installed for visitors to the Pustotnik natural bathing site by the Poljanska Sora river. A composting toilet was also built at the bathing site. The second part of lectures and workshops on the topic of preventing and reducing waste was also held in this phase of the project. A round table debate was held on the topic of the circular economy and a promotional video was recorded on how to revive used wood and turn it into something useful.

The last set of lectures and workshops on the topic of preventing and reducing waste was held in the third phase of the project. A very active promotional campaign on the content of the project and its results took place throughout the entire project, gaining extensive media coverage. All this contributed to the project having a positive impact on the residents of the Loško Pogorje LAG and, ultimately, on the broader surrounding area as well.

Main results

Direct effects of the project included:

- installed equipment made of used wood: 20 benches throughout the community and 9 deckchairs, a changing room and a diving board for the bathing site,
- built a composting toilet at the bathing site,
- recorded a short promotional video,
- held a press conference, and
- hosted almost 600 participants in 8 lectures and film screenings encouraging wood reuse.

Cooperation between businesses, the educational institution and the local community integrated the various aspects of the Wood Phoenix project. Its implementation increased the awareness of the local population and the pilot project contributed to the development of learning programmes for student woodworkers and enabled experimentation with reused wood through the design competition. During its implementation, the project also fostered international connections. Good practices were exchanged with the Maasland Reuse Centre in Belgium, but unfortunately, the epidemic prevented in-person visits so cooperation only took place virtually.

Key lessons

Wood scraps and used wood can be reused rather than disposed of and possibly cause environmental harm. Waste reduction and reuse needs to start with targeted awareness-raising and education campaigns for employees in companies and the broader community. The project also demonstrated that forming connections between businesses and educational institutions can meet the need for primary and secondary school students and university students to gain practical experience during their studies and get to know future employers.

Additional sources of information

las-pogorje.si

[Video – Wood Phoenix: The new life of the forest](#)

This project has been categorised under 'Green futures' by the nominating National Rural Network