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WELCOME TO ROBINWOOD

Robinwood is a European project which reintroduces the concept of woodlands as an economic resource for local communities through timber production, providing a clean and alternative energy source, and as an element in the prevention of hydro-geological instability. The project aim is to help create a modern interpretation of woodlands across the partner regions as a permanent source of income for rural areas, consistent with present social and economic conditions and new technologies. Robinwood's main objective is to revitalise rural areas using forestry development and through exchanging knowledge and opinions and also learning from each other. The advantages of woodland management can positively influence each of the partner regions with economic, social and environmental effects. The five European partners of Robinwood are: the Region of Liguria (Italy, project leader), the self-governing Region of Murcia (Spain), the self-governing Regions of Košice and Prešov of Eastern Slovakia (Slovakia), the Forestry Commission Wales (Great Britain) and the Land of Brandenburg (Germany).



RW INTERNATIONAL WOOD ENERGY WEEK

Robinwood International Wood Energy Week took place in Brandenburg in January and gave delegates (managers, technicians and entrepreneurs) from all over Europe the chance to find out more about the latest innovative



techniques for producing wood energy, as well as discovering new opportunities in agro-wood farming and forging links among operators in the energy sector. The conference helped to increase mutual knowledge to facilitate the development of the wood-energy process across the project regions, on the basis of former successful experiences. The Brandenburg region has great experience in the use of energy obtained from local biomass rather than from imported fossil fuels and entrepreneurs in the region support this activity by creating plantations with rapid growth trees, boosting the rural economy.

OPPORTUNITIES AND RISKS FOR AGRICULTURE: THE CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGE

This was issued during the meeting "Kyoto: the day after" that took place in Milan on 14 February 2006, the call from Coldiretti, one of the most representative associations of agricultural producers in Italy, towards an increase in planned usage of bio-fuel in Italy. According to Coldiretti, bio-fuel, if introduced in everyday consumption, could enhance combustion, restrict the use of hydrocarbon-fuels and consequently reduce between 20% and 60% the quantity of particulate released in the atmosphere. Moreover, to aim at bio-fuels would mean giving a new, important opportunity to the development of the agricultural sector, thanks to eco-sustainable production that would support Italy towards the achievement of the Kyoto Protocol's targets.



ROBINWOOD STEERING COMMITTEE - GENOVA - 15 - 17 MARCH 2006

The seventh meeting of the Steering Committee for the Robinwood project will take place in Genova March 15 - 17. The committee meeting begins with a study visit to see biomass plants are in operation, providing sustainable energy for the local community. The second day will be dedicated to the Steering Committee, with the task of approving sub-projects from the partners which will be funded by Robinwood and singled out as pilot areas for project experimentation in Europe. The meeting ends with technical workshops for the report of all research activity carried out by the partner regions so far. During the meeting the sub-projects approved by the Region of Liguria will be announced, so as to immediately start the experimentation phase on the territory. The strategic plan for communication on a European level will be presented to the partners of the Robinwood project.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON - Hydrogeology and Forestry Management - MURCIA - 10 - 12 MAY 2006

The next Robinwood international takes place in Murcia



(Spain) on May 10-12. The first day will give the beneficiaries of the sub-projects to meet and talk face-to-face as well as the opportunity to meet the Robinwood Steering Committee. On the second day the international conference will take place with the following topics: hydro-geological plans, erosion, water-table levels, woodland and hydro-geological recovery, to identify those activities suitable for both the prevention against flood damage, mountainside instability and economic revitalization of woodland areas. Abstracts of the reports are to be submitted by April 30. On the third day there is a visit to the Regional Park of Sierra Espuña and other relevant areas involved in local sub-projects.

ROBINWOOD - THE REAL WORK STARTS

Robinwood is now entering a key phase, as the project moves from gathering and sharing knowledge and information on forestry issues across the partnership, to tendering within those regions for organisations to deliver a range of sub-projects. In Wales these sub-projects will focus on assisting forestry policy development and its relevance to other related issues through 3 main measures (components), these are:



Optimising forestry development and associated forestry management

The role that forests and trees may play in the prevention of flooding and soil erosion

The use of wood and biomass in the production of heat and energy.

Over the next few months contracts worth £220,000 are being awarded to organisations in the partner regions who will be working with similar organisations from other partner regions to identify how best forests can serve rural Europe and provide new jobs, wealth and social benefits.

ROBINWOOD AT THE NEW WELSH ASSEMBLY

The Robinwood Wales team will be meeting top Welsh politicians on April 4 when they stage a promotional event at the new National Assembly building in Cardiff. A specially commissioned display stand will show all aspects of the Forestry Commission Wales run Robinwood project ^ wood energy, hydrology and forest management. Robinwood is one of the first projects to be showcased to politicians in the new building since it was officially opened by the Queen on St. David,s Day, March 1.



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