

10 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STIMULATING BIO-BASED BUILDING MATERIALS (FLAX AND HEMP)

During the Grow2build project the project team came across several issues that stakeholders encounter today. These issues were identified during specific policy events, during study trips and informal contacts with stakeholders. It became clear that most stakeholders facing the same problems and challenges. In this policy note the issues are listed with suggestions provided for politicians and other stakeholders, as summarised below. The full note can be read on www.grow2build.eu/publications.

1. Politicians:

- Develop a robust policy framework to stimulate the cascading approach for the use of biomass, favouring the product use over the energy use.
- Establish awareness by raising campaigns/organisations in order to promote building products from renewable resources amongst the conventional building product merchants and traders. Governments can stimulate the use of biobased building materials by supporting partners in the chain: (building) pilots, contests, etc.
- Encourage contracting authorities in all European member states to adopt products from renewable resources through procurement details.
- Encourage a favourable context for small companies to organise themselves with manufacturing enterprises.
- Establish wider markets for innovative biobased building products through better coordination of product related issues for various European regulations, standardisations and certification bodies.
- Adapt existing LCA tools, normalisations/regulations in order to include and display sequestered carbon calculations.
- Introduce specific innovative methods and R&D programmes for building products from biobased materials
- Develop a subsidy and/or tax programme that stimulates the use of building products from renewable materials.
- Guarantee the supply security of high value industries by stimulating farmers to cultivate multipurpose crops like flax and hemp and by allocating the available biomass properly.

2. Stakeholders

- An open central knowledge database with all available product specifications in the field of biobased building materials should be established. An international organisation could maintain the database.
- Introduce a mutual agreement with companies involved in bio based products, as competition is proven advantageous for innovation and price fixing in start-up phase. However, small companies should collaborate for R&D rather than compete with each other.

Governments play a key role in the transition from oil based towards a biobased building industry. In order to make a sustainable transition, cooperation between all stakeholders is vital: governments, industry, knowledge institutions and social organisations.