**E-letter 2**

***Sustainable development*** it’s defined that "the FULFILLMENT of the needs of the present without compromising the possibility of future generations to satisfy their own needs". So we have to understand that its realizing depends by each political, social and economic decision and / or by the administrative measures that we take in the present. The aim of the ***eco-design*** is to reduce the environmental impact of the product throughout its life cycle, i.e. all stages of the life of a product, from raw materials and components to their phase once it has been discarded. Some of ***potential benefits*** which can be achieved by applying ***eco-design*** for ***furniture factories*** include: reduction of manufacturing and distribution costs; improving the quality of the products by increasing its durability and functionality; compliance with environmental regulations anticipate future legislative changes; access to environmentally sensitive markets; reinforcing the brand image and product due to environmental consciousness and innovative attitude; increasedknowledge of the product and processes; eco-design can bring the company to achieve ecological criteria for obtaining a particular eco-label, or develop self-declarations or Environmental Product Declarations; Eco-design of a product or product line is a prerequisite for certification of Environmental Management System Design Process and Product Development, e.g.

Members of research institutes and training centres in the EU frame work together into Leonardo da Vinci project which aims to create a new qualification, namely "Manager for sustainable furniture or components" and a professional training course for this qualification which intend to transfer all knowledge in the field of sustainable development through eco-design to the top level managers which can decide to transform all opportunities described bellow into an application in their company.

The partner team that are part of this project is composed of: The Association of Romanian Forest Exploitations (ASFOR) - beneficiary; INL Wood Innovation Romania - Project Coordinator; Chamber of Commerce Drôme - France (Neópolis CCI DROME) - partner; the Institute of Forestry Technology, Pulp, Wood and Furniture Construction (FCBA) - France - partner; The Institute of furniture, wooden packaging and technologies in these areas - AIDIMA - SPAIN-partner; AMLEDO @ CO - Sweden - partner. So far the team had three meetings this year to take important decisions on project activities.

Following completion of the first package of the work, which consisted in two research surveys: one qualitative survey and the other a quantitative survey led to the need for the specialized training in furniture and furniture components factories in order to have an ecological and sustainable production. It reaches at the describing of a new qualification in the "Manager for sustainable furniture or components", future namely in terms of competences, knowledge and know-how. In this period the specialists of the above mentioned organizations completes structure of the training modules that will shape the future course of qualification.

Those are:

- SD principles and culture;

- Regulation and certification – UE/country

- Analyze techniques for sustainable practice

- Internal communication and animation SD policy

- Supervise (watch) planning, implementation of SD strategy

- Green marketing policy

- Manage the assessment and recognition of SD performance

In these work packages will be created courses for each module and will be described the rules for certification of the candidates, will be organized a pilot certification for three managers in each partner country and 15 managers in Romania. All aspects concerning this new qualification introduction and the appropriate course will be finalized in order that they can be placed in vocational training centers and universities offer. For more information please visits our site [www.sd-ecofurniture.eu](http://www.sd-ecofurniture.eu) . For being registered to participate in the pilot training course please contact the project manager in each country ...