

AUSTRIAN WOOD INITIATIVE

“Creating a sustainable future with wood”

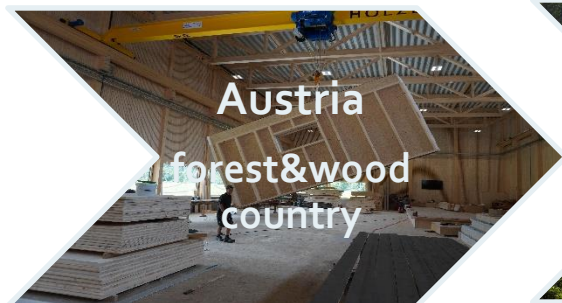
From Austria to global scale - public wood promotion

Dr. Georg Rappold, MBA

Head of the Division Wood-based Value Chain
Forestry and Sustainability Section, BML

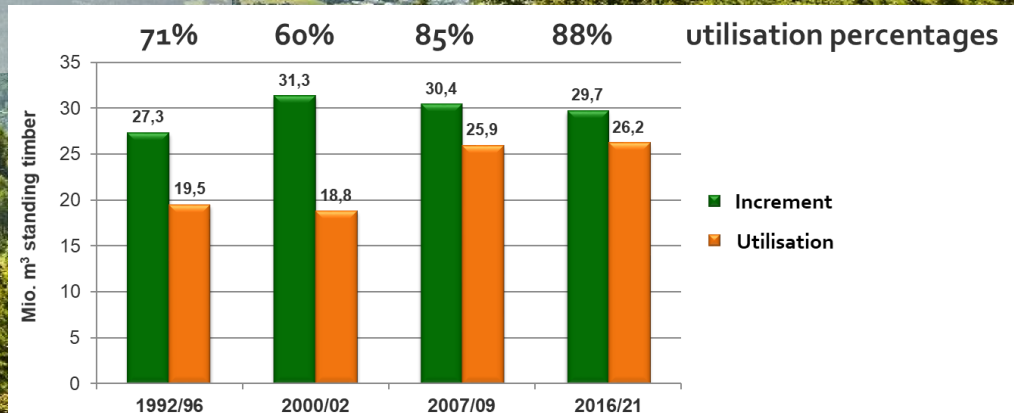


What to expect?



Austria

- 9 Mio. inhabitants
- 8.4 Mio. ha
- 4 Mio. hectares of forest (48 % of the total area)
 - 1.173 million solid cubic meters standing stock
 - **351 m³/ha** (*Comparison: Sweden 121 m³/ha, Finland 90 m³/ha*)
 - Over the past 60 years ...**forest area increased by about 300.000 ha** (3.5x Berlin) ...**wood stock by about 390 mill. m³**



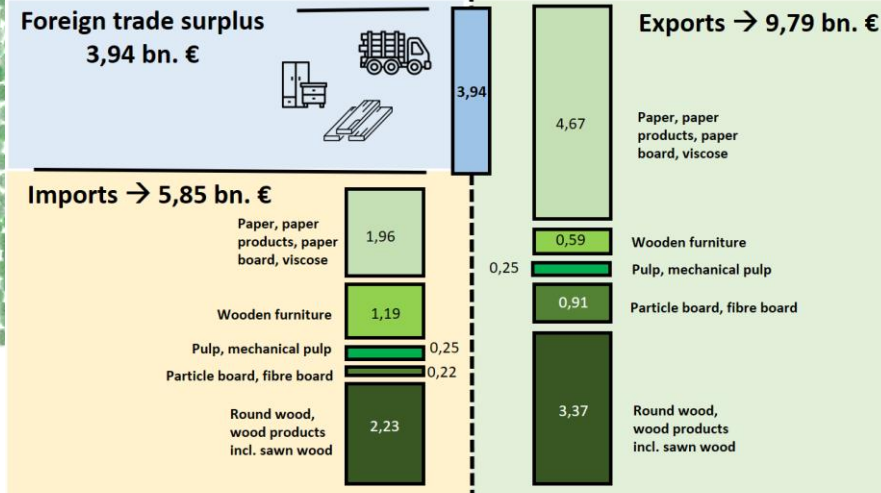
Austria is a "wood player" !

On the national scale

- Forestry and timber industry secures around **300,000 jobs**
- Every **15th job** is attributable to the forestry and timber industry
- Sector generates **every 17th euro of Austria's gross value added**
- Total value chain achieves a gross value added of over **20 billion euros**

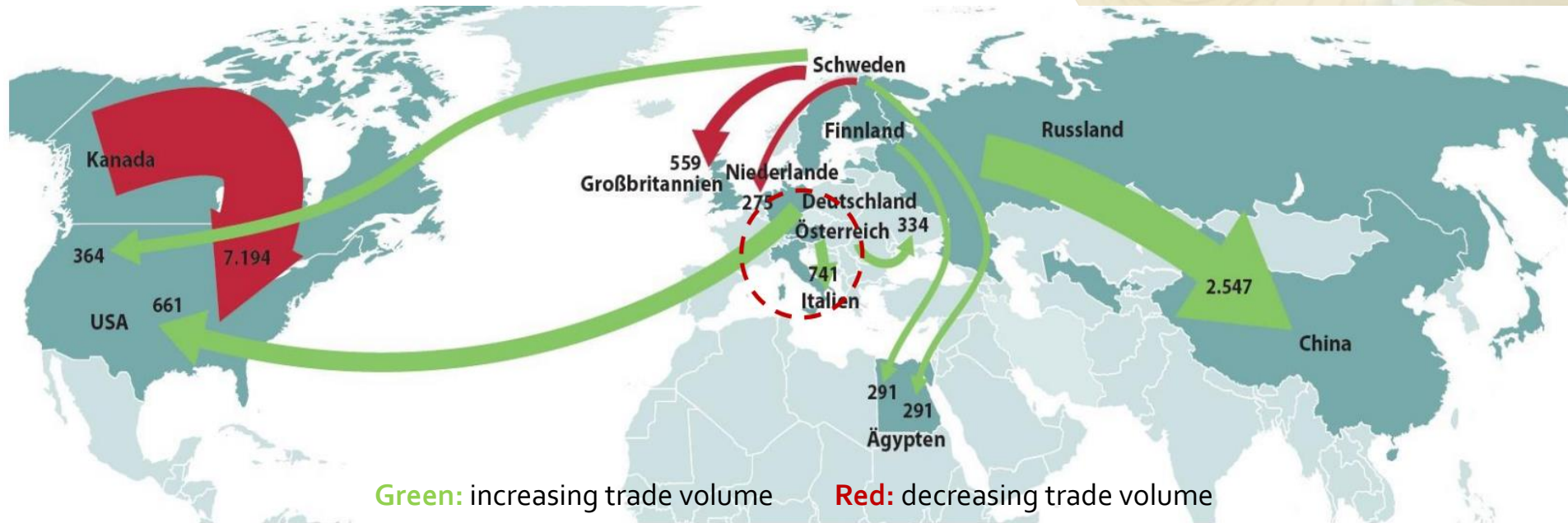
On the global scale

- **2-largest importer of industrial roundwood**
- **6-largest exporter of softwood lumber**
- **8-largest exporter of paper and cardboard products**
- **10-largest exporter of wood-based panels**



10 largest commodity flows of sawn softwood in Q1 2022

Austria is twice among the top ten: Exports to Italy (3rd) and Germany (7th)



Current challenges

CLIMATE CHANGE

- Biotic and abiotic hazards

MAIN CONFLICTS - PROTECT versus USE

- Active management of forests versus biodiversity/species conservation
- Preservation of forests as carbon reservoirs (carbon farming)

ADDITIONAL USES FOR WOOD provide alternative demand

- Bioeconomy offers a multitude of new opportunities
- Woody biomass – energetic use of wood

RAW MATERIAL SUPPLY

- Costs for active and sustainable forest management versus yield
- Infrastructure and logistics (rail, truck)

Efficient and value-adding utilization

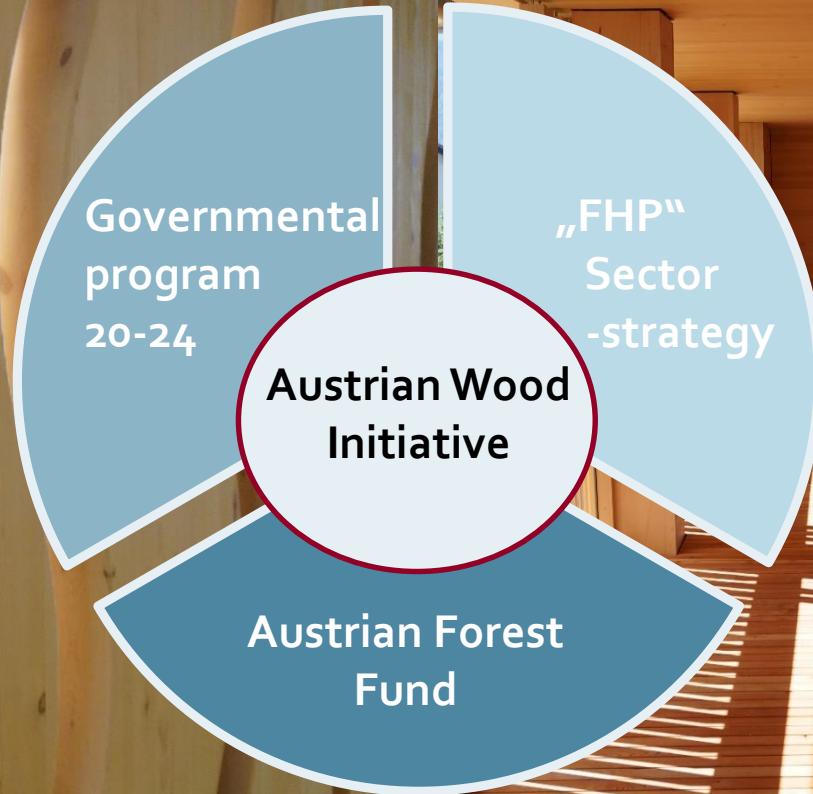
- Material sufficiency and circular economy - cascading use

Wood related education and research

- Architecture, civil engineering, urban planning, dual education, applied research



Austria's response to current challenges



Austrian Forest Fund (Forest Fund Act)

Background

- The Forest Fund Act was passed by the National Council on July 7, 2020, and entered into force on February 1, 2021
- The Forest Fund comprises 350 million euros

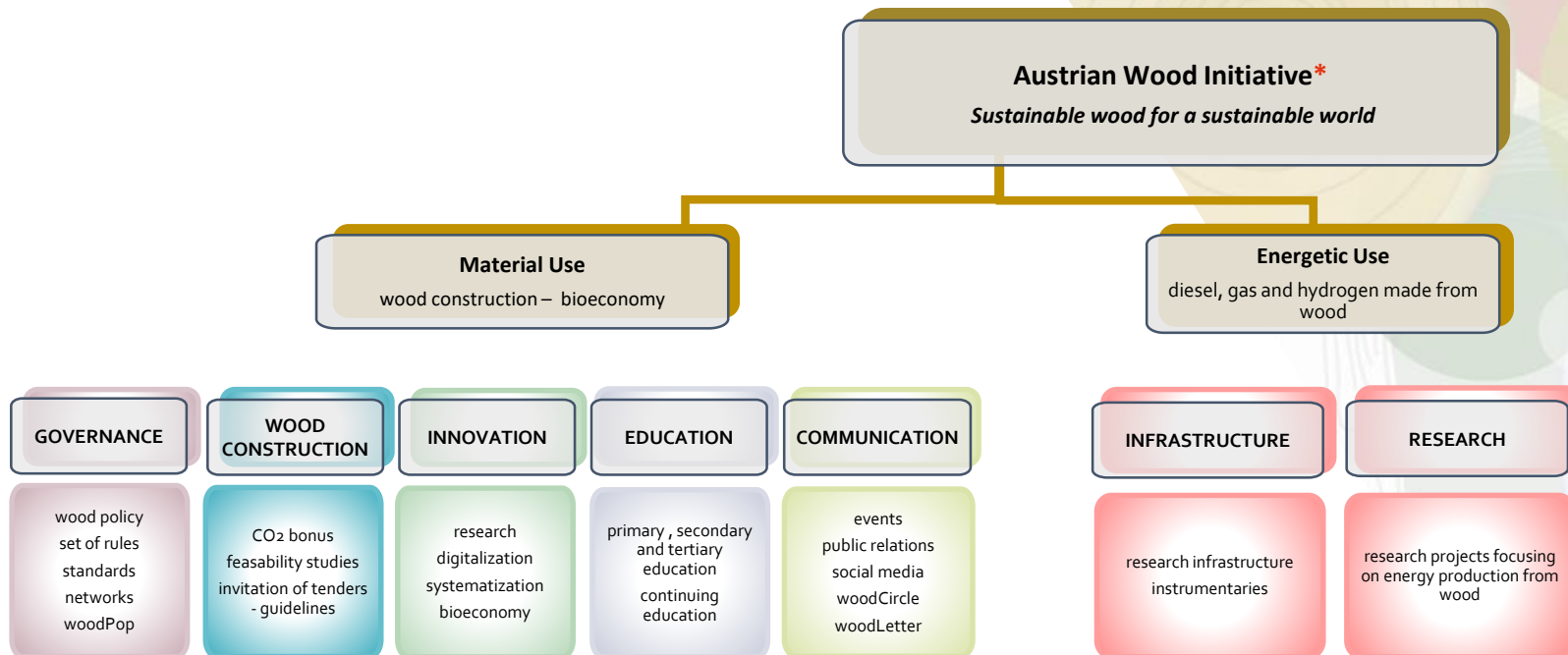
Objectives

1. Compensation of forest owners for loss of value and consequential costs caused by climate change, in particular by bark beetle proliferation.
2. Reduction of the infestation of Austrian forests by bark beetles
3. Establishment of climate-smart forests and strengthening forest biodiversity
4. **Strengthening the material and energetic use of wood as an active contribution to climate protection**
 - **Measure 7:** Research on "wood gas and biofuels" and facilities for the production of wood gas and biofuels → **31.5 Million Euros**
 - **Measure 9:** Measures to increase the material use of wood → **62 Million Euros**

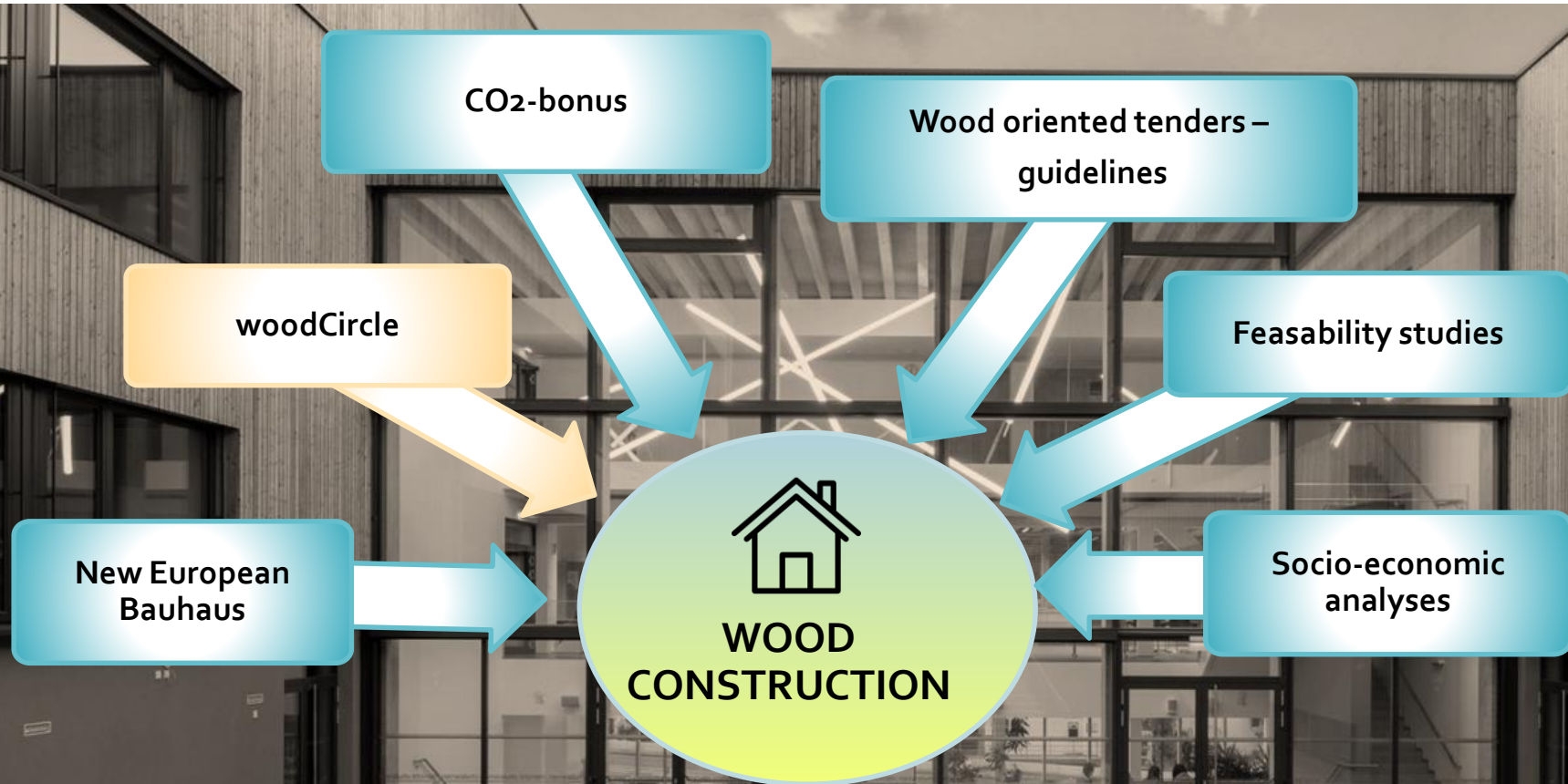
Austrian Wood Initiative - Objectives

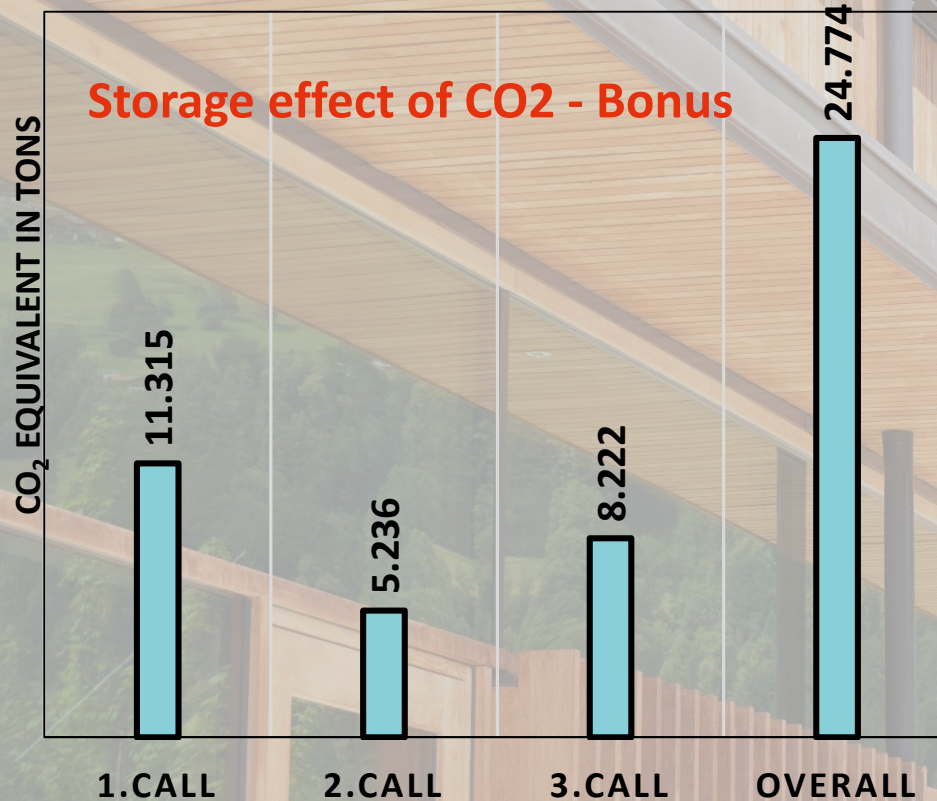


Austrian Wood Initiative – Overview



*In coordination (agreement) with the Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology (BMK).





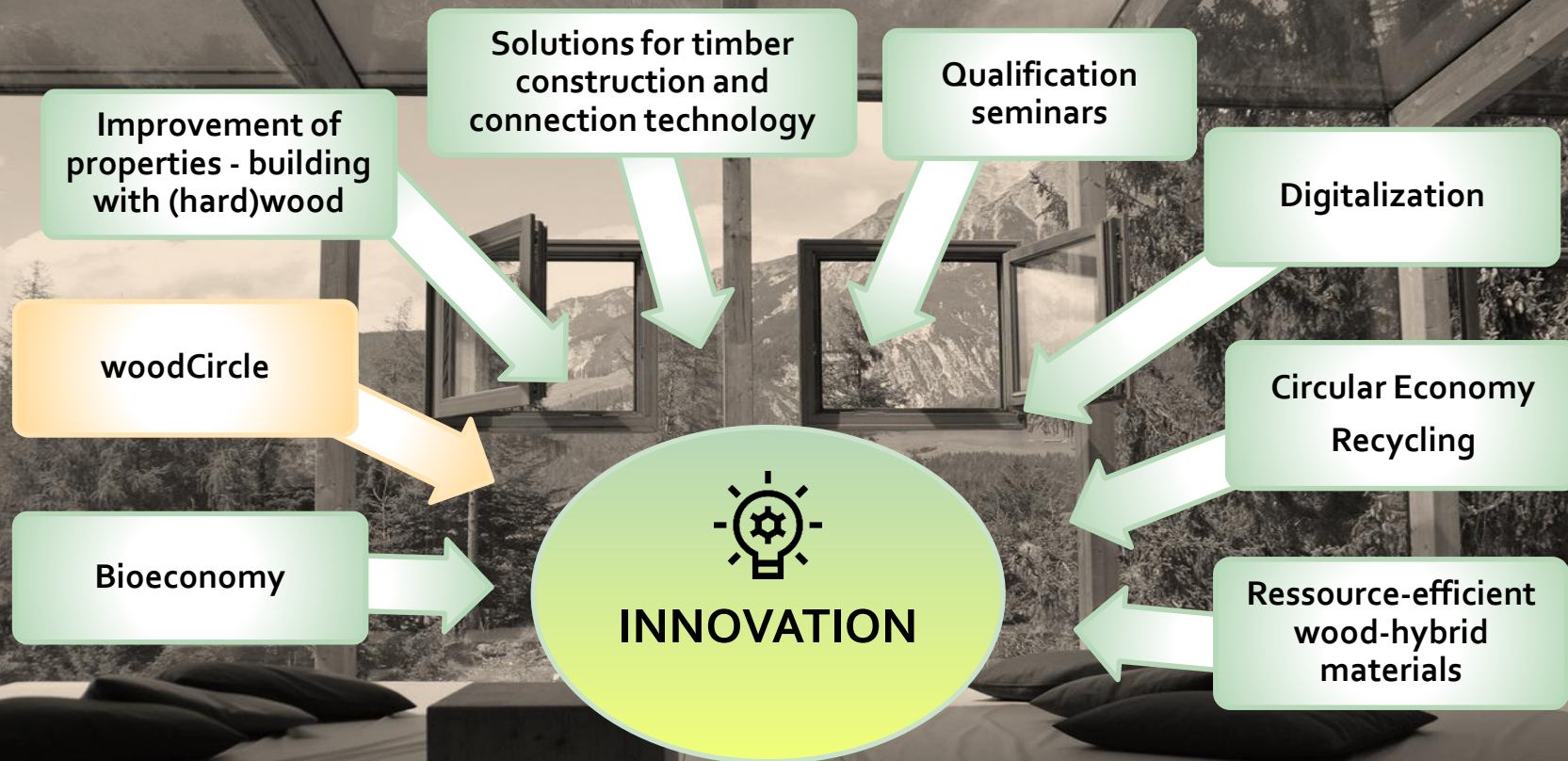
The construction sector is responsible for:

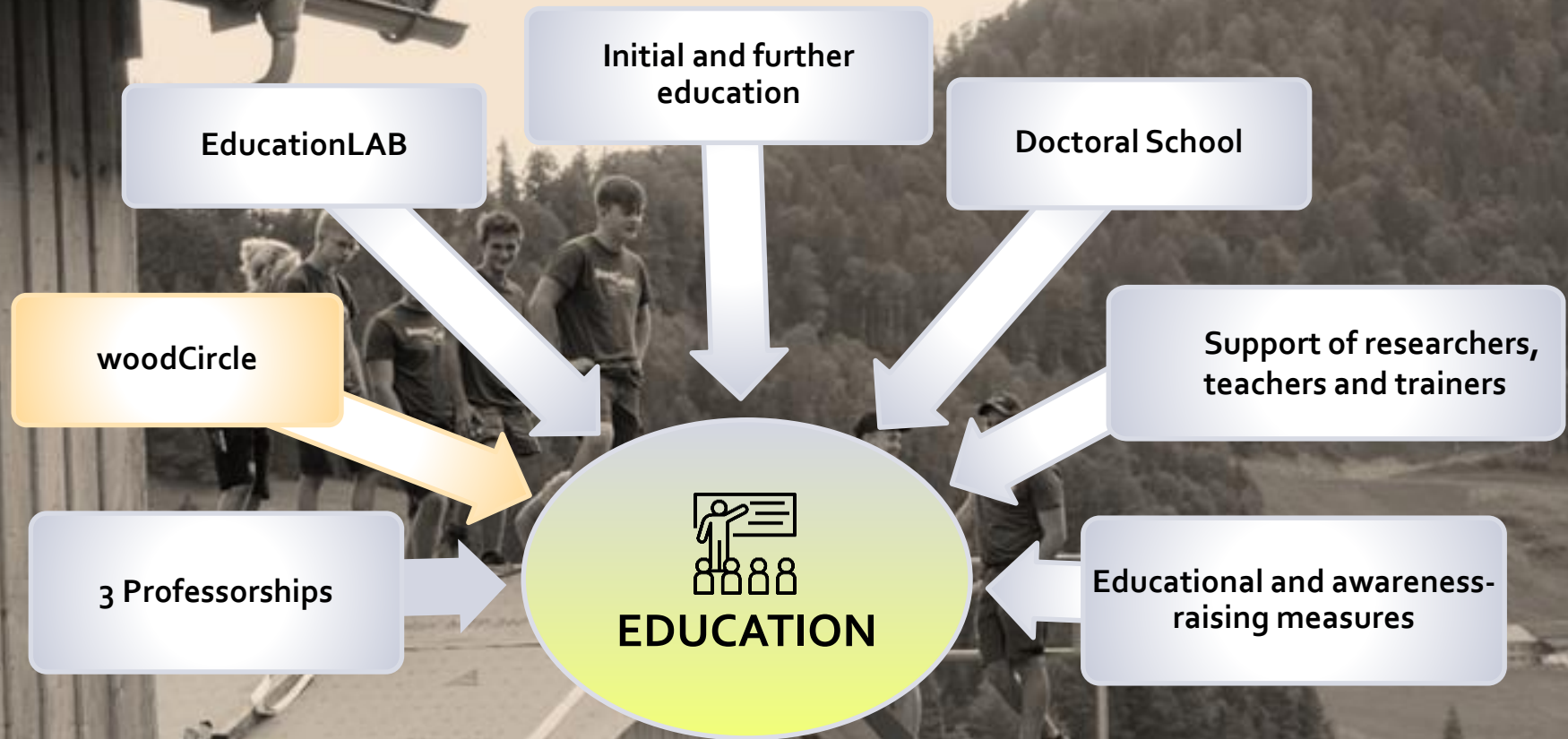
- ~ 39% of raw materials
- ~ 36% of CO₂ emissions
- ~ 40% of solid waste
- ~ 40% of the total energy

Source: Raw materials scoreboard 2016. European commission

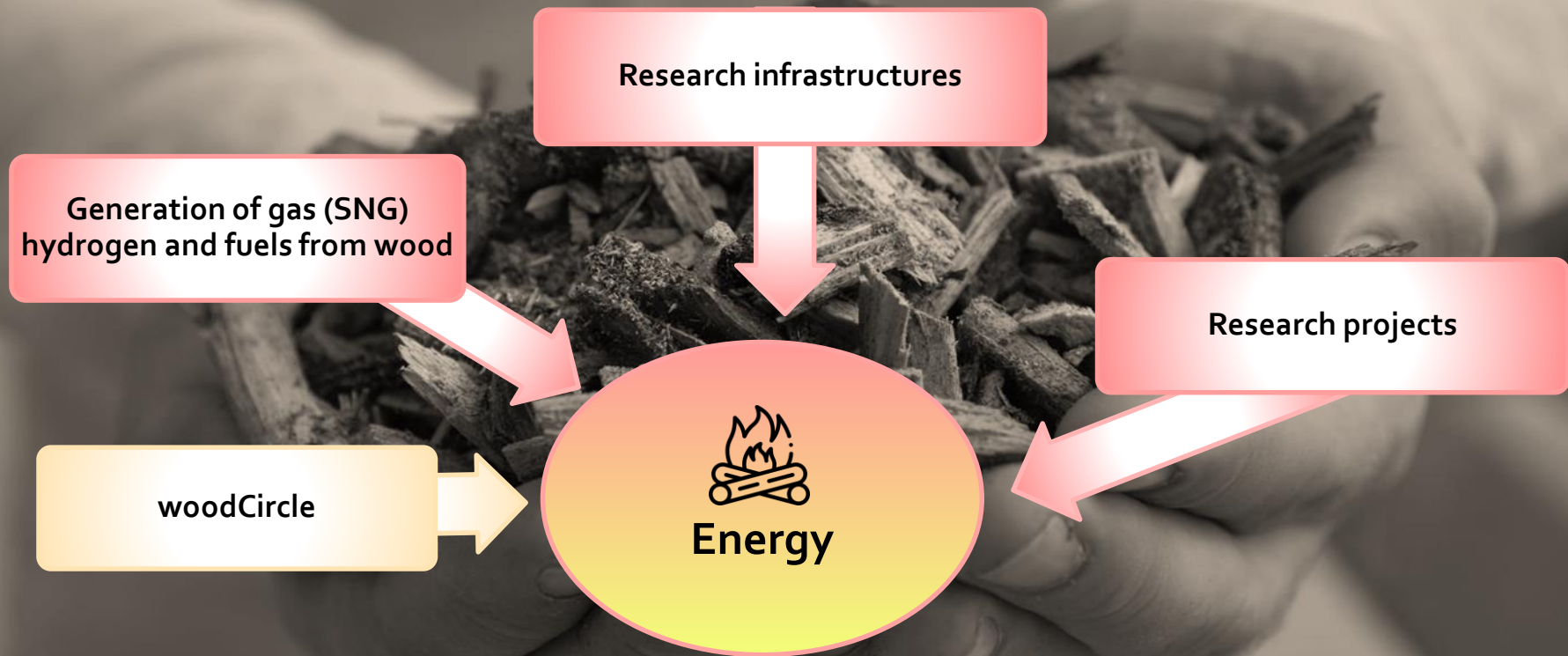
CO₂ Bonus

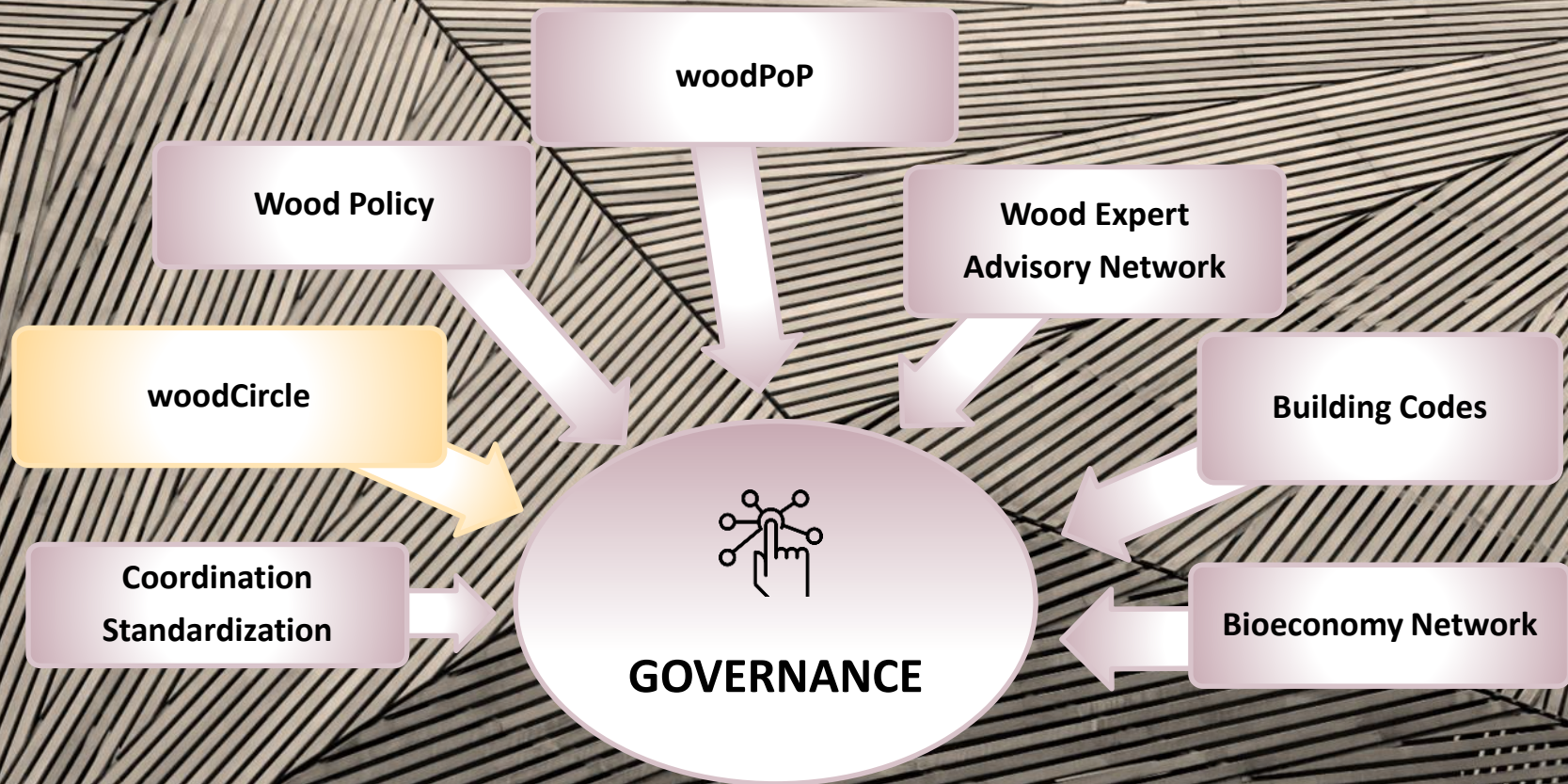
- 20 Mio. € are granted to this purpose
- 65 large-volume Timber Buildings have been subsidized (21/22)











woodPoP

Wood policy – from the national to the global level

Creating and shaping wood policy

Austrian Wood Initiative



European woodPoP



Global woodPoP



General Focus of woodPoP (European & Global)

- The wood policy platform (woodPoP) will focus on **WOOD and WOOD-BASED related policies and governance elements** (regulations, research, education, communication, etc.) **at different levels**
- Forestry and wood production are interlinked
 - The **sustainable production** of the renewable resource wood is enabling **sustainable consumption** along the whole wood value chain
- **Forestry and forest related policies and regulations will not be the focus!**

Actions of Austria to upscale wood-policy

- **Financing FAO initiatives on Wood**
 - Sustainable Wood for a Sustainable World
 - Replaced with Wood
 - Rethink Wood
- **Financing a global Pilot Project**
 - Towards a Global Wood Policy Platform - Sustainable wood for a carbon-neutral bio-economy
 - Lead organization: IUFRO & FAO
- **Austria actively supports the Ministerial Call for scaling-up sustainable wood-based pathways adopted at the XV World Forestry Congress in Korea (May 2022)**

Ministerial Call for scaling-up sustainable wood-based pathways at the XV World Forestry Congress in Korea (May 2022)

Key Messages

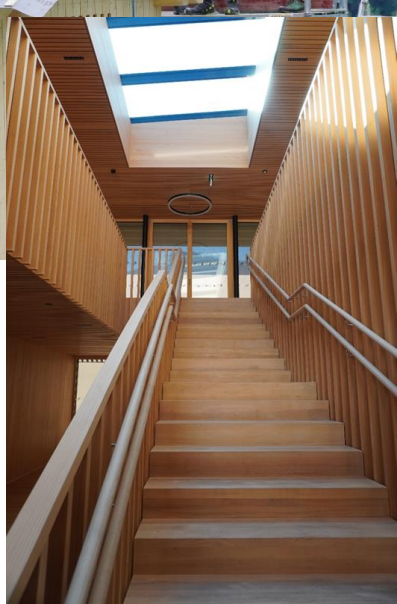
- to ***address the lack of awareness*** of wood-based pathways;
- to ***enhance global and regional policy dialogues*** on wood-based pathways and related synergies and trade-offs and ways to ***strengthen investments***;
- to ***improve modalities to promote technical exchange***, *sharing of experiences and learning* in order to drive innovations, from sustainable forest management and efficient wood value chains **to sustainable wood use**;
- to ***significantly increase the use of sustainable wood-based solutions*** within Nationally Determined Contributions by 2030.



AUSTRIAN WOOD INITIATIVE

“Creating a sustainable future with wood”

Download der Broschüre unter:
Die Österreichische Holzinitiative (bml.gv.at)





Thank you!

Georg Rappold

Head of Division Wood-based Value Chain
Forestry and Sustainability Section, BML

Georg.rappold@bml.gv.at