The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), Office of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Regions and Tourism (BMLRT) at the Austrian Embassy Zagreb and Holzcluster Steiermark (Wood Cluster Styria) cordially invite you to participate in the online event „Building with Wood – The Path to a Sustainable Future and one of the answers for Post-Earthquake Rehabilitation“ to be held on June 10th 2021.

The aim of the event is to promote sustainable building materials by raising awareness of the benefits incorporating wood into buildings offers in reducing carbon emissions, mitigating damages to housing caused by earthquakes and fostering green economic growth.

Demand for building materials is growing rapidly, driven largely by urbanization and economic growth in emerging economies and the need to retrofit and renovate existing buildings in developed countries. When it comes to transitioning to a low carbon economy, building a sustainable environment and ensuring effective post-earthquake rehabilitation, material choice matters. Material choice greatly affects the environmental impact of buildings, both during construction and over the building’s lifecycle. Wood is a natural, sustainable, and durable material for building, with a lighter carbon footprint and higher energy efficiency than steel or concrete that can be used in almost any building application. As such, its ability to withstand high loads for short periods of time whilst reducing inertial seismic forces, retaining its elasticity and ultimate strength enable wood to mitigate damage, preserve structural integrity and increase safety in highly seismic zones. Recent years brought about new and innovative solutions in engineered wood such as cross-laminated timber (CLT), capable of displacing concrete assemblies whilst granting the aforementioned advantages. These wood-based structural solutions can tender a shift towards sustainable densification of urban and suburban centres and allow to build green by designing a sustainable future with wood.

With that in mind, the event offers a unique opportunity to learn more about the benefits of using wood in construction to achieve more sustainable and earthquake-resistant structures, availability of financing instruments for wooden buildings, as well Croatia’s experiences in building with wood.

The event will be held virtually via Zoom Video Communications, while the access details will be provided upon confirmation of attendance. To attend the event, please confirm your participation no later than 8 June by email to NovoselM@ebrd.com. The working language of the event will be English. The draft program of the webinar is enclosed with this letter.

We are looking forward to having you join us!
AGENDA

Moderation by Christian Brawenz

10:00 – 10:15
Opening Session – Welcome and Introduction
Victoria Zinchuk, EBRD Croatia
Christian Tippelreither, Wood Cluster Styria
Christian Brawenz, BMLRT

10:15 – 10:35
Benefits of Using Wood and Sustainability
Philipp Zingerle, proHolz Tirol
Benefits of Using Wood and Earthquake Resistance / Presentation
Andreas Ringhofer, TU Graz, Institute of Timber Engineering and Wood Technology
Q&A

10:35 – 10:55
Why to Invest in Sustainable Buildings – Investors Perspectives / Presentation
(tbc)
Q&A

10:55 – 11:35
Panel Discussion - Croatia Experiences in Building with Wood – Past, Present and the Future
Speakers:
Vlatka Rajčić, Faculty of civil engineering Zagreb
Saša Begović, 3LHD, Faculty of Architecture Zagreb
Tihomil Matković, DAZ (Association of Architects Zagreb)
Vladimir Filipović, Filipović Business Advisory
Moderation: Victoria Zinchuk, EBRD Director for Croatia

11:35 – 12:20
Panel Discussion - Are financial institutions ready to finance the (wood and)
green building?
Presentation by Raiffeisen Bank International
Speakers:
Igor Kanjuh, ERSTE Bank Croatia
Josip Pavković, HBOR
Moderation: Victoria Zinchuk, EBRD Director for Croatia

12:20 – 12:30
Closing Remarks