



Centar kompetencija d.o.o.  
za istraživanje i razvoj

# **LAND OF THE OAKS**

1st meeting of the Thematic Group on  
Forest-Dominant Rural Areas and Municipalities  
16 March 2023

*Ivan Ambroš, PhD, MEng*

# 1. Spačva basin forest

- **Spačva basin** - largest integrated complex of lowland pedunculate oak forest in Europe (Klepac 2000)
- **Most valuable forest resource in Croatia**
- Natura 2000
- 51.000 hectares (40.000 in Croatia/Vukovar-Srijem County)
- 96% of famous Slavonian oak
- *lat. quercus robur, cro. hrast lužnjak – slavonski hrast*



## 2. Vukovar-Srijem County - Land of the Oaks



- Vukovar-Srijem County (NUTS-3)  
- eastern most Croatian county  
bordering with Serbia and Bosnia  
and Herzegovina
- 2.448 km<sup>2</sup>
- forest area 28,3% (69.382 ha)
- 144.438 inhabitants (2021)



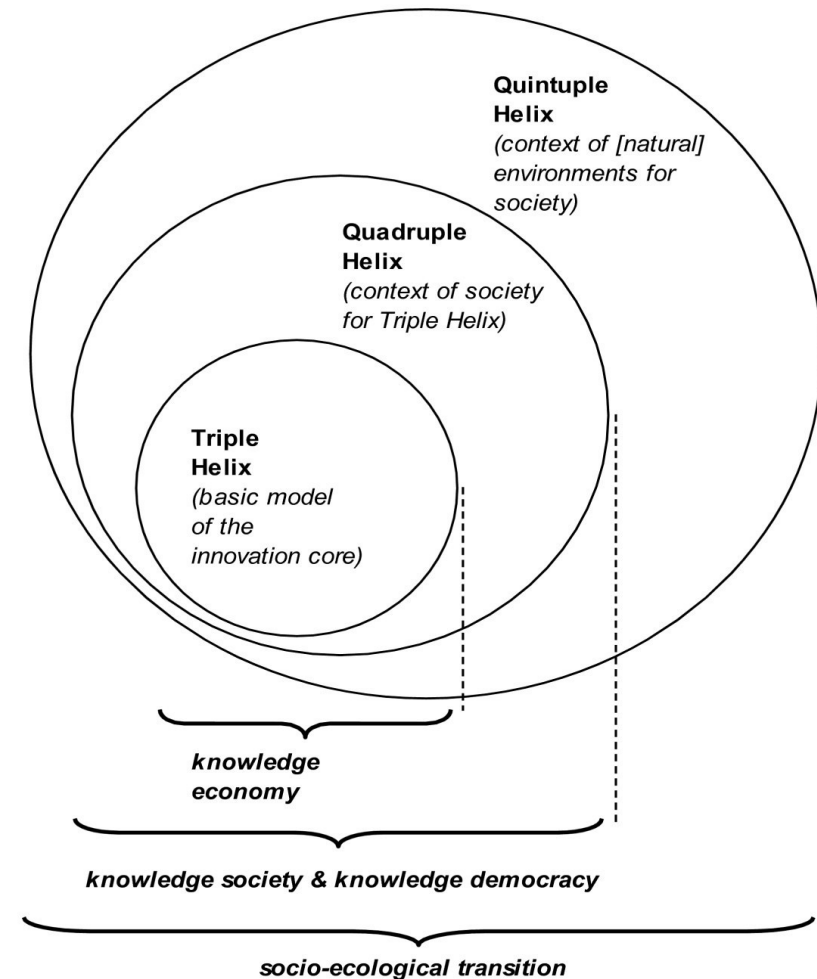
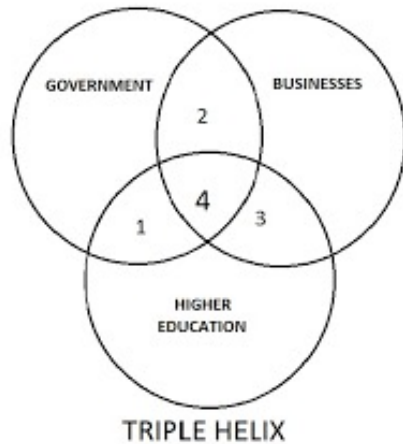
### *3. SLAVONIAN OAK wood cluster*

- [www.slavonski-hrast.com](http://www.slavonski-hrast.com)
- established in 2010 as nonprofit association for wood sector promotion
- 47 members
- Triple helix:
  - business
  - government
  - higher education



## 4. Competence Centre Ltd for research and development

- [www.cekom.hr](http://www.cekom.hr)
- Established by Vukovar-Srijem County (**government**)
- Using national and international RDI capacities (**higher education**)
- To meet the needs of industry (**business**)





Competence Centre Ltd.  
for research and development

- Competence Centre Ltd. for research and development was founded in 2016 for strengthening the innovation potential of the Vukovar-Srijem County economy
- Nonprofit Business Support Organisation - BSO (Law on Promotion of Entrepreneurial Infrastructure)
- Specific thematic area of BIOECONOMY (Strategy of Smart Specialization of the Republic of Croatia 2016-2020)
- **Vision:** Promote and support bioeconomy – smart and sustainable use of natural resources.
- **Mission:** Strengthen innovation potential for advanced, competitive and climate-neutral economy.



Competence Centre Ltd.  
for research and development

- Competence Centre's **Strategic business plan 2020-2024** with two strategic themes:
  - **Innovation** – external strategic theme for strengthening the cooperation of business with science through research, development and innovations projects
  - **Operational excellence** – internal strategic theme for strengthening CEKOM capacities
- Departments:
  - Programmes and projects department
  - Technology department
    - ICT laboratory - 3D technology,
    - CNC laboratory,
    - Wood technology laboratory,
    - Driers and boiler room



## *EU projects in implementation 2023*

- EKO RURAL4STEM “Strengthening STEM skills through ecology in the Elementary school Zrinski Nuštar” (EEA)
- Professional practice (ESF)
- BOND 2 - HAMAG BICRO (ERDF)
- GOFORESTS - European innovation partnership network promoting operational groups dedicated to forestry and agroforestry (HORIZON EUROPE)
- NBS4LOCAL - Adopting nature-based solutions to improve the climate resilience of local governments (Interreg Europe)
- DaWetRest - Danube Wetlands and flood plains Restoration through systemic, community engaged and sustainable innovative actions (HORIZON EUROPE)



# PROJECT: ROSEWOOD4.0 EU Network of Regions On Sustainable Wood Mobilisation ready for Digitalisation



- Continuation of successful ROSEWOOD project: To facilitate the transfer of experience and innovative solutions in sustainable forestry, contributing to the sustainable use of raw wood materials in Europe
- 21 project partner from 19 European countries in 5 European Hubs
- Knowledge platform: <https://www.forestinnovationhubs.rosewood-network.eu>
  - 459 best practices and innovatios for digitalisation of forest and wood industry sector
- Online courses: <https://rosewood-network.eu/resources/training/>



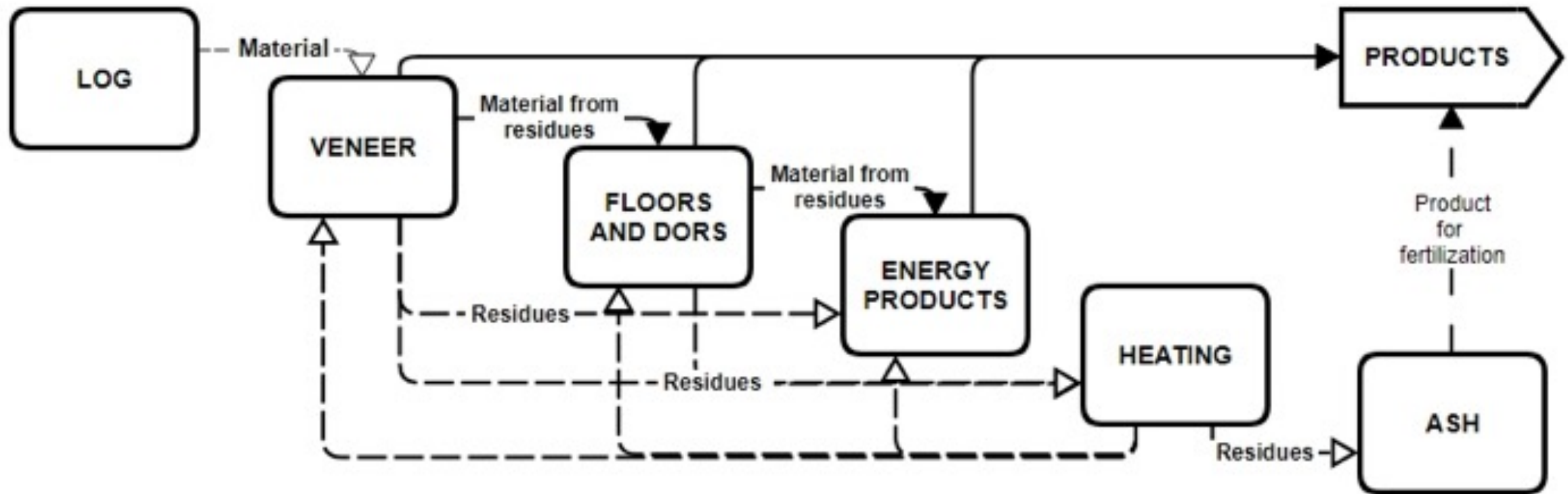
HORIZON 2020



# CASCADING USE OF WOOD IN SPAČVA COMPANY



SPAČVA



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 776754.



# GO FORESTS

**European innovation partnership network promoting operational groups  
dedicated to forestry and agroforestry**



## T1.2 Collection of existing practical knowledge coming from selected EIP-AGRI OGs (M4 – M12)

2<sup>nd</sup> step: collect existing practical knowledge generated by the different EIP-AGRI OGs able to solve the identified problems and needs

ITHub Managers,  
NSPOCs and members  
from...



Italy



Portugal



Spain



Slovenia



France



Latvia

55 OGs

Transfer of the collected knowledge to existing online repositories previously funded by the EC, well-known by the community and end-users



Knowledge Platform  
(ITHub 1)



Case Study Explore  
(ITHub 2)



oppla  
(ITHub 3)



Knowledge Repository  
(ITHub 4)



Knowledge Cloud  
(ITHub 5)

# Land of the Oaks

VUKOVAR-SRIJEM COUNTY (CROATIA)



SLAVONIAN OAK wood cluster was founded in 2010 by Vukovar-Srijem County. 31 cluster member from wood industry, education institutions, government units and business supporting institutions are dedicated to be builders of sustainable bio-economy.

Our mission is sustainable growth, environment protection and raising competitiveness of forestry based industries by efficient use of unique natural forest resources.

Our final products are doors, floors, veneer, light aircraft, furniture, pelets etc.



<http://www.spacva.hr/en/>

Croatia's biggest veneer producer



<http://www.sisarka.com/>

Croatia's biggest pelet producer

[www.slavonski-hrast.com](http://www.slavonski-hrast.com)  
[drvni-klaster@slavonski-hrast.com](mailto:drvni-klaster@slavonski-hrast.com)

## Vukovar-Srijem County

<http://www.vusjz.hr/>

Vukovar-Srijem County forest area makes 28,7% of its territory. Tradition in wood processing, existing resources of quality raw wood material, significant percentage of forest territory and largest oak forest in Europe make Vukovar-Srijem County green county with sustainable bio-economy, renewable energy sources, natural environment and humans health protection - desirable place to live and work in.

Visit Vukovar-Srijem County

<http://www.visitvukovar-srijem.com/>

## Vinkovci

<http://www.vinkovci.hr/>

European oldest town continually inhabited more than 8300 years with famous hunting lodge and forest "Kunjevci"

## Otok

<http://www.otok.hr/>

The door of Spačva forest basin with special forest "Lože" and significant landscape of watercourse "Virovi"

## Forestry Museum

Unique museum of lowland regular forests displaying a long tradition of organized forestry in Vukovar-Srijem County



## Spačva forest basin

Spačva basin in Vukovar-Srijem County (Croatia) is the largest integrated complex of low land oak forest in Europe with 96% of world-famous Slavonian Oak (cro. *slavonski hrast*)





Centar kompetencija d.o.o.  
za istraživanje i razvoj

# THANK YOU

*Ivan Ambroš, PhD, MEng*