

A sustainable and circular development of the wood sector in Wallonia, Southern Belgium

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Wood can be a sustainable and circular material!

The objective of the Strategic Innovation Initiative (SII) VALBOWAL focuses on sustainable use of local wood in Wallonia. This Initiative is led by the University of Liège and supported by other Universities and about sixty organizations and companies.

Our common ambitions:

- Create a resilient and diversified Walloon forest;
- Develop the Walloon wood sector in a sustainable way;
- Strengthen a low-carbon, social and circular economy in Wallonia, by proposing innovative ideas, research projects and actions at all levels.



Introduction

The concept of the S3 Strategy was introduced by the European Commission as part of its economic growth agenda.

In 2021, Wallonia adopted its new strategy S3 with the objective to respond to societal challenges and market needs and to strengthen regional competitiveness through new ecosystems of innovative "academic and industrial research". Wood is considered a circular material and thus the IIS VALBOWAL was created.

Research axes of VALBOWAL

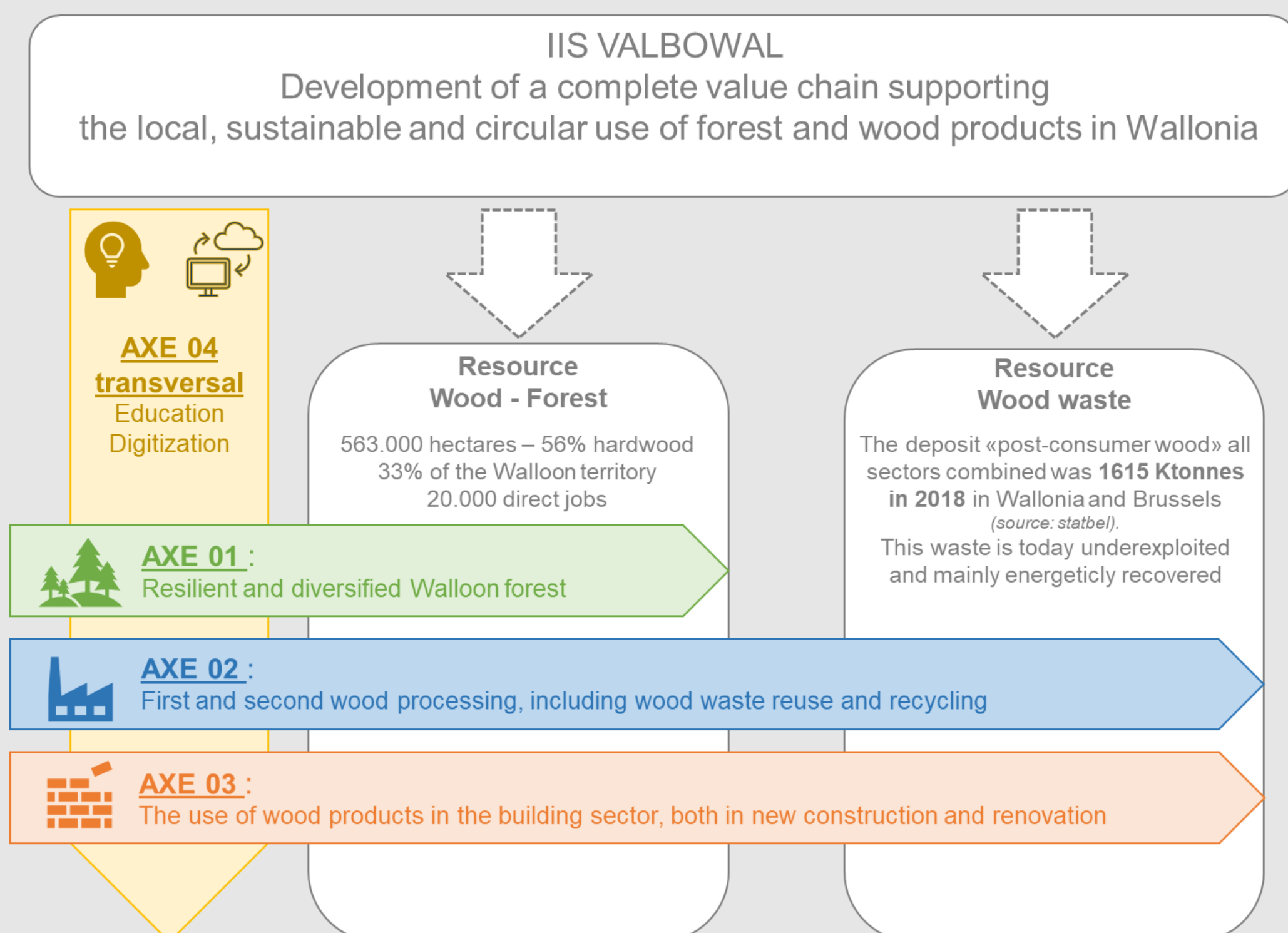


Figure 1: Objective and research axes

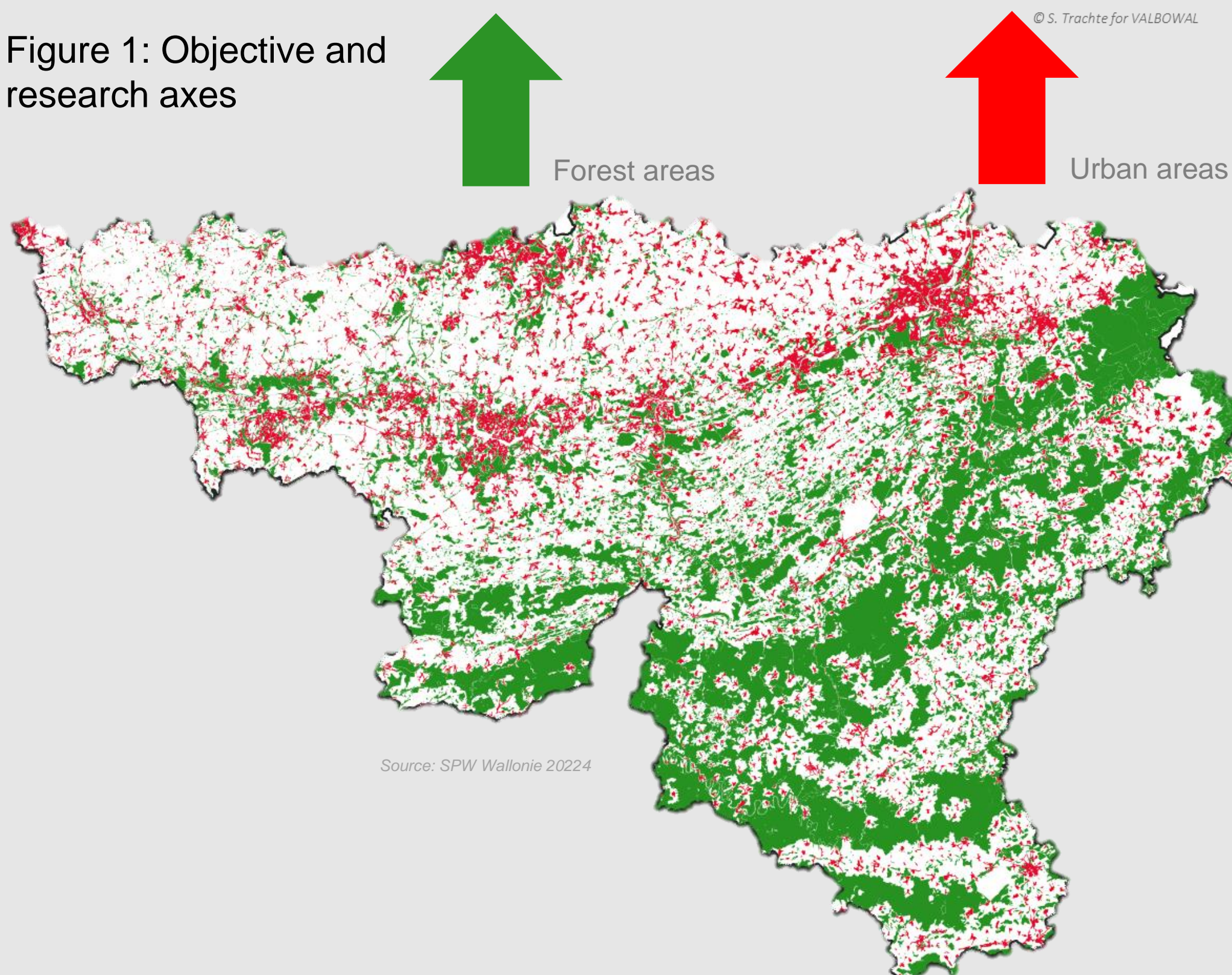


Figure 2: Resource fluxes and corresponding axes. Green arrows refer to virgin wood, red fluxes refer to used wood



Figure 03: Research action plan of VALBOWAL with the 20 main actions

Research action plan of VALBOWAL

A research trajectory is proposed, starting with fundamental research and progressing to achieve the innovation and technological maturity needed for the wood industry. It includes the creation of new products, services, tools, technologies, and/or companies.

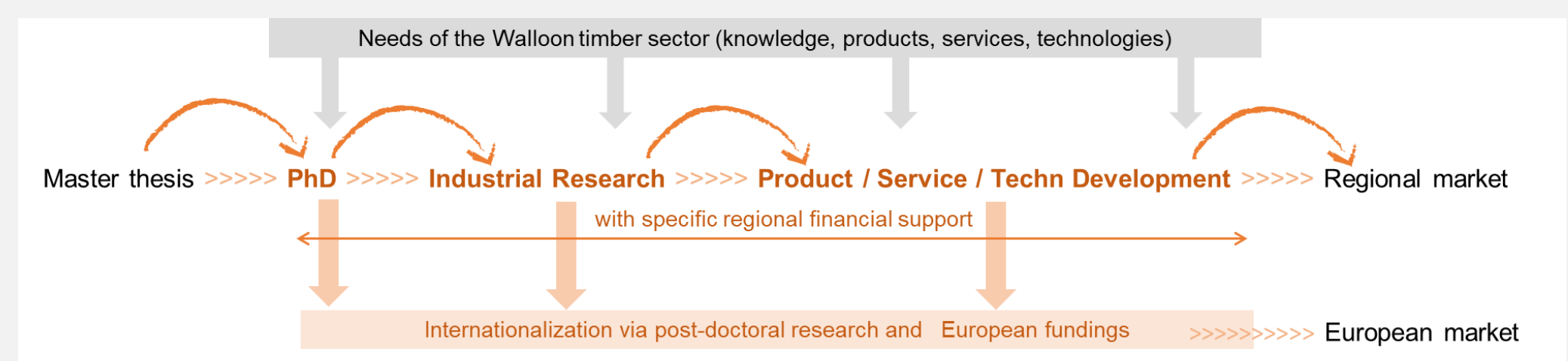


Figure 4: Research trajectory of VALBOWAL

International position

VALBOWAL aims to enhance international collaborations by integrating various networks: **INNOVAWOOD**, **Biobased Industries Consortium (BIC)**, **Existing COST actions** related to the wood sector.

Members have also begun reflecting on the Horizon Europe initiative, "**New European Bauhaus**".

Outlook

The Win4Collective project "Timber Reuse" (Buildwize, CRA-W), old structural wood reuse potential in Wallonia will start in October.

A doctoral research thesis on the integration of bamboo in temperate climates and its exploitation in the construction sector will start in September, under the supervision of the two professors.

