

## Mentoring for the LignoSilva Centre of Excellence in Slovakia

The LignoSilva Centre of Excellence has a 3D CT line for scanning wood.

In January 2024, the Fraunhofer WKI launched a new mentoring program for the EU-funded project "Upgrade of the Centre of Excellence LignoSilva". The aim is to strengthen scientific excellence and international research contacts.

Following the successful establishment of the InnoRenew CoE in Slovenia, the Fraunhofer WKI is using its expertise to help develop the LignoSilva CoE into a central research hub for the wood-processing industry in Slovakia.

The upgrade of the LignoSilva CoE is an important step towards a circular bioeconomy and is intended to reform the fragmented research landscape in Slovakia. The introduction of European standards in science management and the digital transformation with Forestry 4.0 and Pulp & Paper 4.0 will improve knowledge transfer in the forest-based sector.

The main objective of the project comprises excellent research in three areas:

- Intelligent technologies for wood production and processing
- Pulp and paper technologies for biodegradable packaging and the development of speciality papers with multifunctional properties
- Recycling technologies and utilization of cellulose sludge and wood ash

Together with the local partners National Forest Centre in Zvolen and the Pulp and Paper Research Institute in Bratislava, the Fraunhofer WKI will expand the research capacities of the Centre of Excellence to solve interdisciplinary challenges in the forest-based sector.

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