

Newsletter
February 2025



The **HABITABLE** project is an innovative response to one of the biggest problems of the **housing sector** at European level: the **shortage of workers** in the sector, trained in the necessary **digitalisation and green transition skills**. At the same time, it promotes inclusion and equity in education. Its objective is clear: to improve the responsiveness of **Vocational Education and Training (VET)** in a **Habitat “skills ecosystem”**.

This project is funded by the **European Union**, through the **ERASMUS+ programme**.

3rd Transnational Partners Meeting

Kuchl, Austria



The event took place from **February 4th to February 6th 2025** in **Kuchl, Salzburg, Austria** as part of the **HABITABLE project** (Erasmus+ CoVE), hosted by the **FH Salzburg** with the aim of

demonstrating and explaining the **Austrian vocational education system**. It is the third Transnational partners meeting after Valladolid, Spain (October 9th -10th , 2023) and Aveiro, Portugal (May 23rd -24th , 2024).

February 4th: 09:00-09:30 Welcome: Managing Director Engel, Head of Department Petutschnigg
 09:30-11:30 Keynote Speeches/Multiplier: Assinger, Huber, Dengg & Kowalski, Weichbold
 11:30-13:00 Networking with buffet
 13:00-15:00 Campus Tour
 15:00-17:30 Project Meeting: WPL Progress
 17:30-19:00 Departure to Salzburg
 19:00- Joint Dinner at Braurestaurant "Imlauer"

February 5th: 09:00-10:30 Workshop Session 1
 10:30-10:45 Break
 10:45-12:15 Workshop Session 2
 12:15-13:00 Lunch at the Mensa
 13:00-14:30 Presentations: Education Possibilities at Campus Kuchl
 14:30-16:30 Visit of the College for Higher Vocational Education, HTL Hallein
 16:00-19:00 Salzburg guided City Tour
 19:00- Meeting and Dinner at Monastery Brewery "Augustinerbräu Kloster Mülln"

February 6th: 09:00-09:45 Final meeting and discussion about 4th TPM
 09:45-10:00 Departure to BinderHolz/B-Solutions
 10:00-12:30 Company Visit B-Solutions
 12:30-13:00 Departure to WIFI Salzburg
 13:00-14:00 Lunch at WIFI Salzburg
 14:00-16:00 WIFI Visit (Train the Trainer Q&A)

February 4th morning

The 3rd TPM was opened with **keynote speeches** and the **multiplier event**.

The participants were informed by experts about **life-long learning** and how formal education statistically affects the rest of life, the **Austrian education system in timber construction** with the various paths to becoming a **master carpenter**, timber construction research on existing projects



as well as re-use/ever-use of wood and the Austrian timber construction market along with the task of the **Association of the Austrian Wood Industries**.

Following the keynote speeches/the multiplier event, participants were given the opportunity to exchange ideas with the other working groups over a buffet.



February 4th afternoon

After lunch, the participants were given a guided tour of the **Knowledge Campus** in Kuchl.

After a short presentation of the **HTL Kuchl** (Higher Technical School) dormitory, the new wooden building was shown, followed by a tour of the sawmill, the sharpening workshop and the CNC machine.

Afterwards, the classrooms, the joinery, the textile processing and the wood store of the **vocational school** were visited.



This was followed by a project meeting at which all work packages were presented, and the progress of the project was outlined. The meeting was also used to discuss unclear topics, requests and suggestions.

To round off the day, discussions about the project continued over a **joint dinner** at the restaurant "Imlauer".

February 5th morning

The next day, the time was used to present and discuss the remaining topics that could not be done on the previous day.

The participants were then given the opportunity to form their own working groups to discuss the tasks ahead.



After lunch in the cafeteria of the FH Kuchl, an overview of the various **training opportunities** at the **Knowledge Campus Kuchl** was presented.

In addition to the two schools visited on the previous day, which were also presented in more detail here, the two-semester long **Interior Design School** and the **Virtual Wood University**, an online platform with courses for students, were also introduced to the participants.





February 5th afternoon

The next part of the agenda was a visit to the **HTL** (Higher Technical School) **Hallein**. An insight was given into the classrooms and the workshops, which specialize not only in wood, but also in other materials such as stone and metal, including sculpture making.

The school also offers training in mechanical engineering, business informatics and interior design.



In the evening, the participants were offered a **guided tour** of the old town of Salzburg, during which landmarks such as the **old town**, **Mozart's birthplace** and the **Getreidegasse** were shown and their history revealed.

Afterwards, the evening was rounded off with traditional food and drinks in **Austria's largest beer restaurant** (Augustinerbräu).

February 6th

The day started with an initial discussion about final topics such as the next TPM in Greece before visiting the company **BinderHolz/B-solution**. An overview of the company was given before the **B-Solution factory** was shown.

The last point on the agenda after lunch at **WIFI Salzburg** was a visit to the **workshops** for vehicle technology, metalworking and woodworking at **WIFI**, an institution specializing in training and further education.



Pictures provided by Holzcluster Steiermark (Florian Fasching) and Hermann Huber

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