

IDEAS COMPETITION 2025-ARPADA CHAIR UPM



“From Waste to Resource: Reimagining Wood in Sustainable Construction.”

1. Introduction

Wood from Construction and Demolition Waste (CDW) refers to materials generated during the construction process of a building, derived from the use and disposal of wood. At Arpada, most of this waste originates from construction activities, with a smaller portion coming from the demolition of a building or part of it. Such waste can include damaged or unusable remains of formwork, pallets, cuttings, offcuts, and temporary elements.

Managing this type of waste has a significant environmental impact due to transportation and final disposal, and must be carried out rigorously, organizing its collection from construction sites and ensuring delivery to an authorized waste manager.

For this reason, the **ARPADA Chair**, in collaboration with the **Technical School of Building Engineering (ETS Edificación, UPM)**, announces an **Ideas Competition** open to undergraduate and postgraduate students, with the goal of promoting creativity, innovation, and sustainability in the construction sector.

The challenge **“New Applications for Wood Waste from Construction and Demolition (CDW)”** focuses on finding possible new uses and applications for wood waste generated in building projects.

This initiative aims to foster the circular economy and material valorization in the construction sector, contributing to waste reduction and efficient use of natural resources.

2. Objective of the Competition

The main objective is to propose **innovative, viable, and sustainable ideas** for the reuse, recycling, or valorization of wood waste from construction and demolition.

Proposals may address, among others, the following areas:

- New products or materials derived from wood CDW.
- Applications in architecture, urban furniture, design, or art.
- Transformation processes or technologies that improve waste management.
- Business models or circular economy strategies related to the construction sector.

3. Participants

Eligible participants:

- Undergraduate or Master's students from any national or international university degree program.
- Individual or team submissions (maximum of 4 people).
- Each participant or team may submit only **one proposal**.
- Entries must be submitted **personally by the participants**, not on behalf of third parties.

4. Submission Format

Proposals must be submitted in a single document including:

1. Title and main idea.
2. Description of the proposal (max. 1,000 words).

3. Technical and environmental justification.
4. Possible applications and benefits.
5. Optional graphic material (diagrams, sketches, renders, infographics, video).

The document must be submitted in **PDF format, maximum 5 pages, A4 size**.

5. Jury and Evaluation Criteria

The jury will be the ARPADA Chair Monitoring Committee. Each proposal will be scored from 1 to 10 for each of the following criteria, and the total score will determine the final ranking:

- Originality and creativity.
- Technical and economic feasibility.
- Positive environmental impact.
- Applicability to real construction contexts.
- Clarity of presentation.

6. Awards

The following awards will be granted:

- **First Prize:** 300 €
- **Second Prize:** 100 €
- **Special Mention for Sustainability or Innovation**

Selected ideas may be publicly presented at an event organized by the ARPADA Chair and may serve as the basis for future research projects or collaborations with companies in the sector.

The jury reserves the right to declare any prize vacant if, in its opinion, the submitted proposals do not meet the required standards.

7. Deadlines

- **Call opens:** November 10, 2025
- **Submission deadline:** December 12, 2025
- **Winners announced:** December 17, 2025

Proposals must be sent by email to: catedra@arpada.net

Subject: *ARPADA Chair Ideas Competition 2025*

All submissions will be anonymized before being reviewed by the jury.

8. Intellectual Property

The copyright of the submitted ideas will remain with their authors.

However, the ARPADA Chair reserves the right to disseminate, exhibit, or publish the proposals for academic and educational purposes, always citing the authorship.

9. Contact and Information

For inquiries or clarifications: catedra@arpada.net

Any submission that does not comply with the specified requirements or deadlines will be excluded from the competition.

10. Data Protection

In compliance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of April 27, 2016, on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and the free movement of such data, and with Spanish Organic Law 3/2018, of December 5, on the Protection of Personal Data and Guarantee of Digital Rights, it is hereby informed that the personal data of participants in this competition will be processed jointly by the **Universidad Politécnica de Madrid** and **Arpada**, as **co-controllers of the data**, for the purpose of managing participation in the

competition, communicating with winners, and awarding prizes. By accepting these terms, participants expressly consent to the publication of their name, image, and any photographs submitted or taken during the awards ceremony on Arpada's social media and communication channels (A-28328441, Calle Ebanistas 4, 28923 Alcorcón, Madrid), solely for the purpose of promoting the competition and its results. Images will not be used for any other purpose without additional consent from the participant. Providing personal data is mandatory for registration. Failure to do so will make participation impossible. The legal basis for data processing is the performance of a contract or the taking of pre-contractual measures necessary to process the registration. As a general rule, data will not be shared with third parties except as required. by law. Data will be retained for the duration of the competition and for any related claims.

For any inquiries or to exercise rights of access, rectification, erasure, restriction, or objection, please contact: dpo@grupoarpada.com

If participants are not satisfied with the response to such requests, they may file a complaint with the **Spanish Data Protection Agency (AEPD)**.