



**6th Edition of the Forest Innovation Workshop
and OptFor-EU Mid-Term Conference**
**INFORM-PRIORITIZE-COLLABORATE: Building a Sustainable Forest Future
through Regional Cooperation and Innovation**
11-12 February 2025

*Representation of the Free State of Bavaria to the EU
Rue Wiertz 77, 1000 Brussels, Belgium*

PROGRAMME

draft 20241217

DAY 1 – 11 February

8.30 Registration

9:00 Welcoming speeches and opening remarks

- Dr. Armin HARTMUTH (Head of the Representation of the Free State of Bavaria to the EU)
- George PREDOIU (European Research Executive Agency, OptFor-EU Project Officer)
- Samuele PII (European Regions for Innovation in Agriculture, Food and Forestry – ERIAFF)
- Polish EU-Presidency (tbc)

9:30 European framework for innovation in the forest-based sector

- Representative from the CAP Network (Pacôme ELOUNA EYENGA, Team Leader Support Facility for Innovation and Knowledge exchange including EIP-AGRI, tbc)
- EU Framework for forestry related research - Laura LIEPINA (DG AGRI, Research and Innovation unit)
- Overview on Operational Groups on forest-related topics - Francesca GIANNETTI (project coordinator FOREST4EU)
- Q&A

10:30 Coffee break

11:00 OptFor-EU project: Presentation of preliminary results

Moderator: Sorin CHEVAL (Coordinator OptFor-EU)

- 11:00 OPTimising FORest management decisions for a low-carbon, climate resilient future in Europe: a brief introduction about the project - Sorin CHEVAL (MeteoRo)
- 11:10 From science to practice: the Decision Support System (DSS) for forest managers - Harald VACIK (BOKU) (tbc)
- 11:20 From Practice to policy: priorities and objectives for sustainable and resilient forests across Europe - Alice LUDVIG, BOKU or Gerhard WEISS, Head of Office, European Forest Institute, Forest Policy Research Network (BOKU) (tbc)

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These projects have received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation Programme under grant agreement No 101086216 and No 101060554





11:30 OptFor-EU project: Panel 1-Science point of view

Moderated panel discussion with experts in forest management and sister projects (CNR+Forwards, +Fire RES. RESONATE, SUPERB, HoliSoils, ...)

12:15 OptFor-EU project: Panel 2-Policy making challenges and opportunities

Moderated panel discussion with policy representatives and experts in forest management

- European stakeholder associations of the forest-based sector
- Polish EU-Presidency
- European Commission
- Committee of the Regions
- ERIAFF
- ...

13:00 Introduction to the breakout sessions

13:15 Lunch break

14:15 Breakout Session 1: Presentation and discussion on innovation initiatives

Four main topics will be discussed in parallel in two rounds to allow rotation of participants between two main topics. For each main topic, Operational Groups and research projects will present innovation cases and discuss with the audience.

Topic A - Adopting decision support tools for small-scale forestry

Chair: Danijela Šarić Bartolović (CEKOM)

Project: SMURF

Operational Groups: GO SURF (Italy), eGOZD (Slovenia), PRI.FOR.MAN (Italy)

Topic B – Forest restoration in a changing climate

Co-Chairs: Benjamin CHAPELET (CNPFF), MORNEAU Francois (CNPFF-IDF)

Project: SUPERB

Operational Groups: BIOSEIFORTE - SlideforMap (Italy), EUROFORM (France), Bee forest (Germany)

Topic C - Valorizing non-wood forest products for healthy consumption patterns

Chair: Aida RODRIGUEZ (CESEFOR)

Project: INCREDIBILE

Operational Groups: MICOTING (Portugal), ResinLAB (Spain), Platisor (Portugal)

Topic D - Agroforestry innovations

Chair: Rosa Maria MOSQUERA-LOSADA (USC)

Project: AF4EU

Operational Groups: FORESTCELTA (Spain), NEWTON CREDIT FOR AGROFORESTRY (Italy), Fertipinea (Portugal), ECOMONTDAO XXI Portugal),

15:45 Coffee Break and Rotation between Breakout tables

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16:15 Breakout Session 2: Presentation and discussion on innovation initiatives

Participants can rotate to another room to learn about other cases/another topic (same presentations as in breakout session 1)

17:45 End of Day 1

Day 2 – 12 February

8:30 Check in day 2

09:00 Plenary Session-Reports from the breakout sessions

Reports by topic chairs and short discussion with the audience

09:30 EUFORE Project-A future research and innovation agenda for the forest-based sector

Preparation activities for an upcoming European research partnership for the forest-based sector – (EUFORE representatives)
Q&A

10:45 Coffee break

11:15 Introduction to the Regional Authorities Roundtable Discussion on priorities for innovation and a supportive framework

Administrative barriers in EIP-Agri funding for innovation in forestry and agroforestry and how to overcome them - Kathrin BÖHLING (Forest4EU)

11:30 Regional Authorities Roundtable Discussion on priorities for innovation and a supportive framework

Moderator: Fabio BOSCALERI

The inputs provided by previous sessions and the Introduction are discussed regarding consequences for regions and their activities to support innovation for forests of the future. Panellists are representatives from regional authorities at sub-national level active in forest and/or innovation policies, and one representative from DG AGRI (unit Rural areas & networks).

12:30 Conclusions and next steps

12:45 End of conference

The workshop is moderated by Harald Mauser, European Forest Institute

The working language is English

The event is cost-free

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