



**FORESTERRA**

Enhancing Forest RESearch in the MediTERRanean  
through improved coordination and integration



# Forest Research Institute Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

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## Some facts about our institute:

**Forest Research Institute – Sofia, was established in 1928 as an “Experimental Forestry Service”. Today it is an independent research body within the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. FRI performs research aiming to provide knowledge and new experience to the forestry sector, develops strategies based on national peculiarities and traditions in the forestry, taking into consideration the International criteria for Sustainable Forest Management.**

## Organizational chart

General Assembly of Scientists

Scientific Council

Director

Scientific Structural Units Conducting Forest Research

Other Units

EB Coniferous Forests  
Velingrad

Afforestation & Erosion  
control Sandanski

EB Broadleaved Forests  
Etropole

EB Coniferous Forests  
Govedartsi

Silviculture and Management  
of Forest Resources

Forest Ecology

Forest Genetics  
Physiology & Plantations

Forest Entomology, Phytopathology  
and Hunting Fauna

Administration &  
Logistics

Financial & Economic

Information &  
Publishing Center  
Library & Archive



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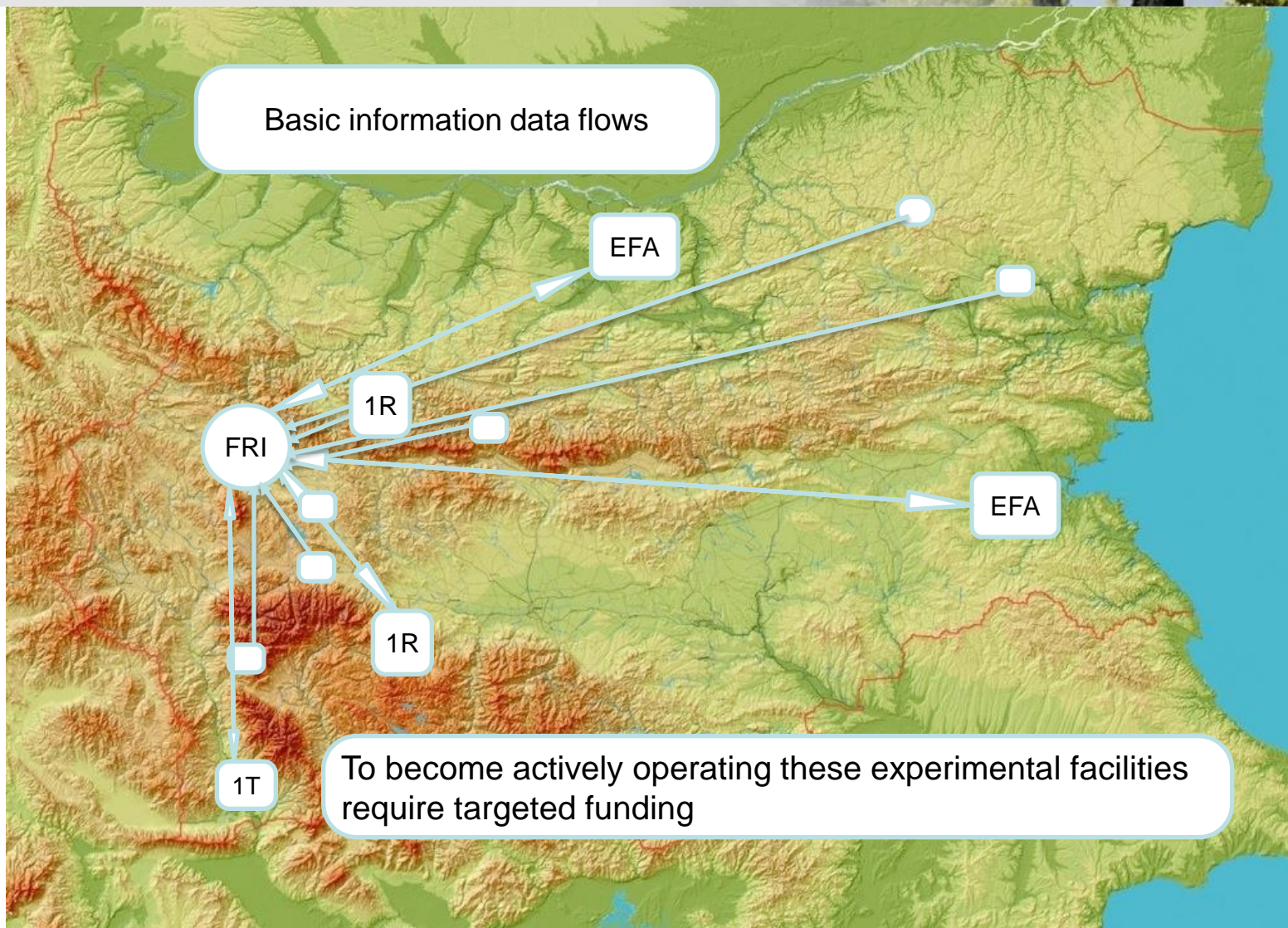


## Some facts about our institute: FRI maintains four experimental base stations and eight experimental stations situated in different parts of Bulgaria

### Experimental stations:

- Vasil Serafimov– SFE Yakoruda\*
- Igralishte – SFE Strumyani
- Gabra– SFE Elin Pelin
- Parangalitsa – NP Rila\*
- Balkanets – SFE Troyan
- Yasenkovo – SFE Shumen
- Govedartsi – SFE Samokov\*
- Ostrovtche - SFE Targovishte

\* Stations included and exchanged data with the European network of stations for many years of research in forest ecosystems and landscapes (ENFORS), not active now





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## Some facts about our institute: Staff (2012)

### Forestry permanent staff — 66

- Researchers — 36
- Engineers & experts with university degree — 14
- Technicians — 7
- Others — 16

### Forestry non-permanent staff (PhD Students)— 8



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## Some facts about our institute: Funding for 2012

**Overall Budget: 454 000 €**

**(including contributions from the state, public agencies and private institutions as well as funds raised by competitive grants for research projects)**

**Budget dedicated to forestry projects: 131 000 €**

**Projects Funded by EFA 5 000 €**

**Total number of funded projects: 12**



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## Dissemination of results:

Through the publishing house of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, the Forest Research Institute publishes the journals “Nauka za gorata” (Forest Science) and Silva Balcanica.

	Publications for 2012	Accepted for print
ISI Thomson Reuters Web of Knowledge platform	22	25
Impact Factor	7	3
Others	33	19
Monographies	1	





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## Some facts about our institute:

**Priority research areas: silviculture, ecology, structure and functioning of forest ecosystems and populations, their conservation, reproduction and sustainable development**



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## Some facts about our institute:

**Objectives: to perform research for improving: Close to-nature and multifunctional management of the forest resources; Biodiversity and methods for its conservation Elucidate plantation forestry as green technology for the production of quality wood and biomass; Selection of species, subspecies, provenances and progenies for afforestation; Elaborate methods and methodological approaches for the propagation and preservation of selected material, Optimization of species composition and density of forest plantations, soil preparation and planting methods.**



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## Main current projects:

**ARANGE (Advanced Multifunctional Management of European Mountain Forests)** is a Collaborative Project within FP7 (Theme KBB.2011.1.2-07) with the aim to provide improved insight in the multifunctional management of European mountain forests. The consortium comprises of 16 partner institutions in total, from 11 countries and the European Forest Institute (EFI) as an international partner, coordinating institution is the Institute of Silviculture, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU).

**Evaluation and Monitoring of the Air Pollution Impact on Forests Ecosystems LIFE 07 ENV/DE/000218**

**Comprehensive Assessment of Forest and Agricultural Species for Establishment of Energy Crops in Bulgaria, period of implementation: two years from 30/11/2012 to 30/11/2014; funding institution: Bulgarian Science Fund; Contract № ДФНИ-Е01/6 by 30/11/2012 year; 30/11/2014**

**Genetic resources of forest tree species in Europe (EUFORGEN) – phase IV (2010-2014)**



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## Main past projects

**Inventory and Strategy for Sustainable Management of Virgin Forests in Bulgaria”, assigned by the Royal Dutch Society for Nature Conservation; “Natura 2000 in Bulgaria – Public contribution (PIN MATRA)**

**Multi-functional Management of Coppice Forests: Contributions to Rural Development, Biodiversity Maintenance, and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation in Natural Resource Management ([SEE-ERA.NET](http://SEE-ERA.NET))**

**State and prospects of the Castanea Sativa Population in Belasitsa mountain: Climate Change Adaptation, Biodiversity Maintenance and Sustainable Ecosystem Management” ruled by the European Economic Area**

**The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources. FAO - Bulgaria (2010-2012)**



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## **Future perspectives in the forest research domain:**

**Scientific Research in the forest research domain is prone to mitigate the effects of climate change, ensure the maintenance of a healthy environment and at the same time provide sufficiently high-quality wood, biomass and non-wood products.**



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## About forest research infrastructures:

**List of available infrastructure\*** (experimental sites, large facilities, scientific equipment, databases, collections, etc) for conducting forest research.

**Five permanent sample plots, five trial plantations, one arboretum and one database are the experimental sites open for transnational collaboration in case of mutual interest and preliminary signed agreement.**



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## About forest research infrastructures:

**Does your institute have a specific policy of access to these infrastructures by other national/international institutes?**

**Our institute has not yet developed any specific rules and regulations for access to data and information.**



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**Do you have any experience in mutual opening and transnational access of infrastructures?**

**We have limited experience in mutual opening and transnational access to infrastructures.**





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## Transnational collaborations (European and international)

**Does your institute participate in any network? Which one? Which is the main topic?**

**At the moment we participate in COST and EUFORGEN network programmes with the main topic “conservation of resources”**



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## Transnational collaborations (European and international)

**Who are the national / European / international institutes with which you have active collaborations?**

We have active collaboration with institutions dealing with biodiversity, bioresources and ecology: University of Forestry - Sofia, Sofia University, Experimental Station For Fast-growing Tree Species-Svishtov (EFA), Experimental Station For Oak Forests-Burgas (EFA) FAO, EFI, EUFORGEN, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU) Slovak Academy of Sciences, Institute of Ecology, Zvolen, Russian Academy of Sciences-Institute of Physicochemical and Biological Problems in Soil, SB RAS Institute of Monitoring of Climatic and Ecological Systems.



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## Transnational collaborations (European and international)

**Which are the direct outputs from this collaboration?**

The direct outputs from this collaboration involve increasing our capacity for winning grants for research projects, bilateral projects and an increase in publication activity.



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## Transnational collaboration

**Which is your interest in creating Transnational Joint Research Units?**

**Participation in Transnational Joint Research Units will improve the efficiency of our work.**

**Which are the positive outputs you expect from this type of collaboration?**

**We expect to increase the initiation of new projects, participation of our researchers into European projects as well as the level of national research funding. Improvement of expertise and skills of researchers.**



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## Transnational collaboration

**Do you identify any drawback?**

**At this stage, there are cases of misunderstanding, mistrust and reluctance of data sharing.**



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## Thank you for your attention!