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A major achievement of this FORESTERRA event has been the gathering of 37 research institutions from 13 countries around the Mediterranean Basin. Such a large attendance-certainly a record in the region- illustrates the attractiveness of FORESTERRA and the hopes it raises.

Session 2 was devoted to flash presentations by the Directors of Research Institutions or Units. In spite of being a bit lengthy, the session was very informative; it can be considered as a success in the sense that the 25 presentations, put together as the pieces of a puzzle, allowed to come up with a reasonably clear picture. A particular component of the puzzle could be identified: the long lasting scientific cooperation in the areas of forest genetics (CNR, INIA, INRA) and wildfires (Greece, Portugal, Turkey, Tunisia, Italy, France, Spain), based on a series of EU funded projects, as shown by the existing networks, and the willingness to formalize such a cooperation through transnational joint research units. Moreover, the fact that there were new comers in the room i.e., new research institutions, was a “plus” as it allowed to complement the picture by adding new forestry topics or adjacent topics such as water, soil, silvopastoralism, etc.

In conclusion, I would like to express a few general comments drawn from the meeting over the last two days or from my own perception.

- a) FORESTERRA is an important tool for implementing the Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda (MFRA), but it is not the only one. It would be wise to use some opportunities offered by other available EU related initiatives or programmes targeting broader issues than just forestry, such as biodiversity, climate change, agriculture, water, etc.
- b) We must strongly **push in our respective countries for a second call for FORESTERRA**, as the first call is limited in scope due to a modest funding which does not match the expectations and needs. In this perspective, it would be advisable to set up: i) collaborative and innovative research projects of a generic nature based on a real multi-disciplinary approach, designed in such a way that they can make a difference in terms of scientific outputs ; reaching the scientific excellence implies that projects have a sufficient size and funding; ii) collaborative multidisciplinary research projects addressing policy related issues; iii) networking actions more focussed on specific topics which require the sharing of knowledge, be the topic relevant at the whole Mediterranean Basin scale or at a more regional scale.
- c) We should consider putting the scientific cooperation on Mediterranean Forestry in a broader context that can provide more visibility, funding potential and efficiency. In this respect, it would be wise to join efforts for pushing for a Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) for the forest-based sector, in which Mediterranean Forestry could be a component.
- d) The MFRA, designed for 10 years, will be at midterm in one year from now. This offers an opportunity for an evaluation of its accomplishments and an update. In this regard, one can suggest using a more inclusive approach. The inclusiveness should be obtained by considering forestry issues at landscape scale (which is particularly relevant for the Mediterranean area) in relation to watershed management, rural development, energy and water resources, etc., and by looking also outside of the Mediterranean region. Inclusiveness should also be obtained in science by going beyond the traditional limits of forest sciences, and by looking at adjacent scientific fields of potential interest (e.g. movement ecology).
- e) EFIMED, as THE network of all Mediterranean Forest-related research institutions, should orchestrate all these evolutions together with its members.