

Deliverable N° 2.3

Workshop for exchanging information regarding the mapping exercises

Lead participant: Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique

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Grant Agreement n°: 291832

Project Acronym: FORESTERRA

Project title: Enhancing FOrest RESearch in the MediTERRAnean through improved coordination and integration

Funding Scheme: Coordination and support action

Date of latest version of Annex I against which the assessment will be made: 27th October, 2011

Deliverable Number: 2.3

Deliverable Title: Workshop for exchanging information regarding the mapping exercises

Code name: FORESTERRA_WP2_D2.3

WP: Mapping and information exchange

Date of submission: November 2013

Dissemination level: Public

Nature: Other

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WP leader: CRA

Coordinator: David González

EC project officer: Doru Irimie

Publishable abstract: A workshop for exchanging information regarding the mapping exercises has been organised to foster exchange of information regarding existing research programmes and capacities among partners, among countries and with relevant stakeholders, in order to exploit the results of the mapping exercises (Task 2.1 and 2.2) with all partners and approved the final structure of the final report (Deliverable 2.4), a key input for WP3.

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1. Overview

This deliverable presents the results of the workshop for exchanging information regarding the mapping exercises.

The objectives of the mapping and information exchange are the following:

1. to characterise the ongoing funding research programmes and projects carried on in the different FORESTERRA partner countries in terms of funding sources, main topics, institutions involved (mapping of programmes);
2. to identify the capacities and research activities of the forest research institutions in different areas (as well as their infrastructures, databases and experimental sites) (mapping of capacities);
3. to characterise the forest research structures (academic, research centre or service provider), and infrastructures (laboratories, experimental fields, data archive, processing machines);
4. to identify complementarities, overlaps, gaps, barriers, duplications, in the existing research programmes and research capacities.

The mapping provided the concrete basis for understanding the forest research framework of each Mediterranean country and for identifying the complementarities, overlaps and knowledge gaps and research needs common to the different countries. The workshop guaranteed an interdisciplinary and transnational information exchange.

The Task 2.3 (“Information exchange”) fostered exchange of information regarding existing research programmes and capacities among partners, among countries and with relevant stakeholders, in order to exploit the results from the previous two tasks. In addition, in this task a workshop to discuss the preliminary results of the mapping exercises (Tasks 2.1 and 2.2) was organised with all partners and approved the structure of the final report (Deliverable 2.4), a key input for WP3. A strategic for information exchange was developed by INRA (see Annex 4).

The MISTRALS Programme (Mediterranean Integrated Studies at Regional and Local Scales) in which the BioDivMex project is framed, share similar objectives as FORESTERRA. This program focuses on scientific bodies, financing organizations, decision makers and R+D industries in order to identify critical stakeholder-relevant knowledge gaps and establish priority topics in the Mediterranean region to conduct collaborative research.

Furthermore, the participation of INRA, as FORESTERRA partner, in the International BioDivMeX workshop (Sept 2012) is justified in the context of Task 2.3: exchanging information among research initiatives outside the FORESTERRA partners network.

The workshop for the information exchange regarding the mapping exercises was expected to be organized by INRA in October 2012. Nevertheless, by mutual agreement and with the approval of the coordination team, there has been an exchange with CRA. Therefore, the D 2.3 meeting was held in Rome (18-19 October 2012), organized by CRA.

The process and results of this workshop are described in the following pages.

D2.3: Workshop for exchanging information regarding the mapping exercises

2. FORESTERRA Workshop for exchanging information regarding the mapping exercises

With over 27 participants attending the FORESTERRA workshop for exchanging information regarding the mapping exercises, there was an enhanced opportunity to discuss and analyse the results of the survey which targets the partners of FORESTERRA, as well as other background, scope and impacts of the potential four research themes face to face, while giving more time to the development of a more informed strategic plan.

The programme and list of participants are shown in the annexes of this document.

After the workshop, the deliverable 2.4 “Report on the mapping and characterisation of existing funding programmes and research capacities” was produced. A summary was disseminated to EFIMED’s network of over 800 stakeholders by the newsletter and it is available at the FORESTERRA Website.

3. Contributions and results from the workshop

The objective of WP2 is the mapping and characterization of the existing forestry funding programmes and forestry research capacities of the countries participating in the FORESTERRA Consortium, which brought together 12 Mediterranean countries.

The mapping survey was performed using two procedures:

1. dedicated questionnaires addressed to funding bodies and scientific organizations;
2. ad-hoc poster session aimed at exchanging information and validating the preliminary results, attended by delegates from participating countries.

A Mediterranean forestry research framework database was generated from the information gathered from 81 questionnaires (i.e. 48 from scientific organizations, 13 from funding bodies and 20 forestry programmes financed by funding bodies). This is an open database and will be progressively updated during the course of the project.

To identify complementarities, overlaps, gaps, strengths and weaknesses in forest research a country matrix analysis was performed; the data from questionnaires were organized in order to select eleven indicators as follows: (i) staff involved in forestry scientific organizations; (ii) ISI papers published by forestry scientific organizations; (iii) top five most utilized forestry journals; (iv) top nine most prestigious journals (with highest IF); (v) overall forestry research budget; (vi) budget financed by funding bodies for forestry projects; (vii) budget of forestry projects; (viii) number of forestry projects; (ix) inventory of infrastructures dedicated to forestry research; (x) budget of forestry project per topic area; (xi) most promising forestry research lines.

Significant results of the Workshop for exchanging information regarding the mapping exercises:

- Mapping and characterisation of existing funding programmes and research capacities in the Mediterranean area.
- Identification of complementarities, overlaps, gaps, barriers, duplications, in the existing research programmes and research capacities.
- Production of a Mediterranean Forestry Research Framework Database.

The Results of WP2 “Mapping and information exchange” are available at:

<http://www.foresterra.eu/results.html>

Annex 1. Programme of Workshop for exchanging information regarding the mapping exercises

Day 1 - 18th of October

Venue: *Unità di ricerca per la climatologia e la meteorologia applicate all'agricoltura (CRA-CMA), Via del Caravita 7^a, Rome*

8.30 – 9.00 Registration

Session 1: Opening & Progress of the WPs

(Chair: Serenella Puliga, MIPAAF)

09.00 – 09.05 Welcome & opening remarks (Luigi Perini, CRA)

09:05 – 09:15 Coordinator's welcome & meeting objectives (Rocío Lansac, MINECO)

09.15 – 09.45 Mapping research activities: analysis and discussion of WP2 questionnaires and thinking ahead to Task 3.1, Definition of joint activities (Giuseppe Scarascia, CRA)

09.45 – 10.30 Progress of the other WPs

- WP4 progress and outlook (Jean-Charles Valette, INRA)
- WP6 progress and outlook (Joana Pinheiro, FCT)
- WP7 progress and outlook (Dunixi Gabiña, IAMZ)

11.00 – 13.00 Mapping research activities and thinking ahead: Poster Session (Giovanni Di Matteo & Sofia Bajocco, CRA)

Session 2: Introduction of SAG members & Strategic Activities (WP3)

(Chair: Rocío Lansac, MINECO)

14.00 – 14.30 Brief self-introductions by the Stakeholders Advisory Group members

14.30 – 15.30 Presentation of FORESTERRA strategic themes (Robert Mavsar, EFIMED)

15.30 – 16.00 Presentation of JPI "Water challenges for a changing world": objectives, strategy and possible synergies (Enrique Playán, MINECO)

16.30 – 18.00 General discussion of FORESTERRA strategic themes and of possible relationships with other ERA-NETs and JPIs (Robert Mavsar, EFIMED)

Day 2 - 19th of October

Venue: Castelporziano Presidential Estate and Natural Reserve

09.15 – 09.30 Introduction to the Castelporziano Forest (Ervedo Giordano, Scientific Committee of Castelporziano Reserve)

Session 3: Steering Committee

In parallel: Stakeholders Advisory Group meeting (Chair: Yves Birot)

(Chair: Rocío Lansac, MINECO)

09.30 – 10.00 WP1 administrative issues. Internal report (Victoria Sanz, EFIMED)

10.00 – 10.45 Steering Committee wrap up and summary (Robert Mavsar, EFIMED)

10.45 – 11.00 Way forward (next meeting date and next steps) (Rocío Lansac, MINECO)

Session 4: SAG feedback and closing

(Chair: Giuseppe Scarascia, CRA)

11.00 – 11.30 Feedback from the SAG. Conclusion of the meeting (Yves Birot, SAG)

11.30 – 13.30 In-field discussion of management and conservation of Mediterranean coastal forests: the case of the Castelporziano Natural Reserve (Giorgio Calzolari & Aleandro Tinelli, Presidenza della Repubblica)

Annex 2. Pictures of Workshop for exchanging information regarding the mapping exercises



Photo 1. Group picture - FORESTERRA Workshop for exchanging information regarding the mapping exercises (Photo: IAMZ)



Photo 2. FORESTERRA Workshop for exchanging information regarding the mapping exercises (Photo: IAMZ)

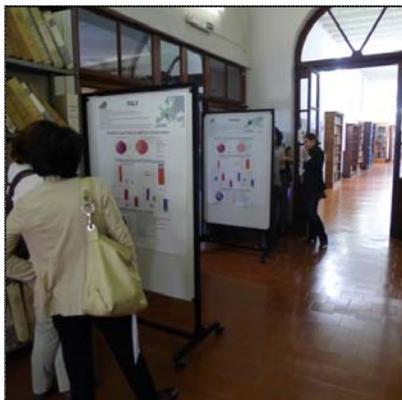


Photo 3. Poster session - FORESTERRA Workshop for exchanging information regarding the mapping exercises (Photo: IAMZ)



Photo 4. Feedback from the Stakeholders Advisory Group meeting - FORESTERRA Workshop for exchanging information regarding the mapping exercises (Photo: IAMZ)

Annex 3. Participants of Steering Committee and Stakeholders Advisory Group

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Annex 4. Information exchange strategy

WP2. *Mapping and information exchange* (WP leader: CRA)

Task 2.3 *Information exchange* (Task leader: INRA) to foster the information exchange among FORESTERRA partners, among countries and with relevant stakeholders regarding existing programmes and research capacities and activities in order to exploit the results from the previous two tasks (2.1 mapping funding programmes and research projects + 2.2 mapping of research activities, capacities and excellence)

Expected task duration: August 2012 - December 2013

The final goal of such activity is to improve communication, develop better reciprocal knowledge and promote trust-building among programme owners or managers in similar scientific and technological areas through a systematic exchange of information and good practices (Research DG, 2010).

In the framework of an ERANET project, “information” should be understood as information on national and regional research activities such as research programmes, funded projects, research priorities, etc...¹. Therefore, in the context of the task 2.3, the information to exchange is mainly related to ongoing national and transnational research programmes, research topics currently addressed, infrastructures, funding sources, etc and on). However, “News” and “Other relevant documents” are extra items whose diffusion in the Foresterra framework could be also advisable.

These exchanges of information involve the FORESTERRA partners but also relevant stakeholders for the project. For instance, scientific and/or technological communities involved in forest research and/or management.

In this context, an *exchange* is considered as the process of receiving and giving information. Therefore, the information exchange strategy is divided in two phases: Gathering of information and dissemination.

The exchanging of information is done through the three following channels:

- a) The **webpage** of FORESTERRA
- b) **Meetings** and **workshops**
- c) Production of **reports** that can be private to Foresterra partners or public for external dissemination

¹ Provisions for implementing the “ERA-NET Scheme” by the Research Directorate General of the European Commission

1. The webpage of FORESTERRA as a tool for exchanging information

In the framework of an ERANET scheme, the European Commission has identified the use of electronic communication tools (i.e. the use of common portals) as suitable and, even more, desirable for a systematic exchange of information. For this purpose, the official webpage of FORESTERRA is a cornerstone to develop the information exchange activity, which implies collecting and disseminating information from/towards the target audience and users.

The Communication Plan of FORESTERRA states that the official web site of the project is the main dissemination tool among partners but also for a wider forest research public. In fact, the exchange of information should allow a wider and voluntary participation of research institutions and funding bodies, further than those represented by FORESTERRA partners.

In the context of WP2, information is collected through a set of **questionnaires** addressed to funding institutions and research organizations in the Mediterranean forest field (tasks wp 2.1 and 2.2). A set of three **forms** about experimental sites, research facilities and databases (see Annex) have been addressed to forest research institutes, laboratories and units in order to collect specific and more detailed information about forest research capacities which will allow to explore possible agreements for their mutual opening. In both cases, the FORESTERRA partners' network was used to identify the relevant target audience to provide the information and the surveys to be filled in are available through the web site of the project.

The information collected directly enriches the FORESTERRA database on Mediterranean forest research programmes, capacities and projects (Deliverable 7.3):

“The website will include meta-databases that store the information collected under WP2:

- data on all the Mediterranean Climate forest research institutions, structures and infrastructures, on the research topics currently addressed and their corresponding funding sources, and on-going national and transnational research programmes;*
- a meta-database on selected Mediterranean Climate forest research institutions of excellence and their national and transnational projects, funding sources, main topics, publications and personnel involved;”*

This database will be progressively updated during the course of the project.

The information collected from the questionnaires has been published in the form of tables in the web page (<http://www.foresterra.eu/tablas/index.html>) that summarize the main indicators describing forest research programmes in twelve Mediterranean countries (Algeria, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey). The information collected through the forms about forest research infrastructures will be available through the web page of FORESTERRA too.

Regarding the exchange of information about forest related events, ongoing forest research activities and relevant documents, it is done through the “News and Newsletters” section in the webpage of FORESTERRA. Besides, there is a link towards the EFIMED bulletin which widely distributes relevant

information among the forest research community (recent publications, project news, events, open calls, etc).

2. Meetings and workshops as a way for exchanging information

A specific workshop for exchanging information was organized in October 2012 in Rome (see report about deliverable 2.3). It was in the form of an ad-hoc poster session for exchanging information and validating the preliminary results obtained from the questionnaires. Delegates from participating countries attended and had the opportunity to discuss the results.

FORESTERRA was also present in the EFIMED WEEK 2013 at Barcelona where the WP2 leader had the opportunity to present the output of the mapping activities and discuss with the audience about the results.

The participation of FORESTERRA partners in scientific meetings has also promoted the exchange of information among research initiatives outside the FORESTERRA network. For example, the MISTRALS Programme (Mediterranean Integrated Studies at Regional and Local Scales), in which the BioDivMex project is framed, share similar objectives as FORESTERRA. This program focuses on scientific bodies, financing organizations, decision makers and R+D industries in order to identify critical stakeholder-relevant knowledge gaps and establish priority topics in the Mediterranean region to conduct collaborative research. The International BioDivMeX workshop (Sept 2012) focused on the environmental functioning of the Mediterranean Basin under the impact of global change, and aimed to build a network of young researchers in order to deploy a coordinated biodiversity research at the scale of the Mediterranean basin.

In the framework of WP4, a networking workshop will take place in December 2013 in which a specific activity for exchanging information is planned. It will focus on two main objectives: (i) disseminate the information gathered under the mapping of forest research programmes; (ii) sharing data for identifying and characterizing the existing research infrastructures in Mediterranean region in order to explore possible agreements for their mutual opening.

Visits to project partners' countries were found useful by other ERANETs in order to understand different national organizational procedures in forest research (how national funding operates, best practices from other ERANETs, presentation of a specific forest research organization, etc). The FORESTERRA steering and management committees are planned to be held in different partner's countries; this have been taken as an opportunity to invite keynote speakers for a speech about a relevant topic for FORESTERRA. For example, Mr. Luigi PERINI presented the main focus of the CRA on forest research in Rome October 2012 and Mrs. Florence JACQUET discussed the experience of the ERANET ARIMNet in the Mediterranean agricultural research field in Paris May 2013. Presentations are posted in the web site of FORESTERRA so, not only the persons attending the meeting can have access to this information.

3. Reports

Production and distribution of reports is considered as a supplementary way for disseminating information.

The most important corresponds to deliverable 2.4 *Report on the mapping and characterization of existing funding programmes and research capacities*. It identifies complementarities, overlaps, gaps, strengths and weaknesses in forest research based on the questionnaires received from the Mediterranean countries participating in FORESTERRA and the information collected from the “Information Exchange workshop” held in October 2012.

A summary was disseminated to EFIMED’s network of over 800 stakeholders by the newsletter and it is available at through the FORESTERRA webpage (<http://www.foresterra.eu/results.html>).

EXPERIMENTAL SITE²	
INFORMATION ABOUT THE PERSON FILLING THE FORM	
Name and family name	
Research organization	
Position in the organization	
Country	
E-mail	
INFORMATION ABOUT THE EXPERIMENTAL SITE	
Name of the site	<i>Short name and complete name (Original language and English translation)</i>
	<i>URL address</i>
Location of the site	<i>Country</i>
	<i>Postal address</i>
	<i>UTM coordinates: Latitude/Longitude</i>
Start date	<i>Year since the experimental site has been operative</i>
Characteristics of the forest ecosystem where it is located	<i>Most relevant features:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Vegetation</i> - <i>Soil characteristics</i> - <i>Mean annual temperature</i> - <i>Mean annual rainfall</i> - <i>Altitude, slope, aspect</i> - <i>others...</i>
Keywords	<i>3-5 keywords to describe the experimental site and its objectives</i>
Scientific characteristics	<i>Scientific objectives</i>
	<i>Interest for users</i>
	<i>Particularities in comparison to others sites</i>
	<i>Research projects in the frame of which the experimental site is used (include web site address)</i>
Technical characteristics	<i>Detailed description (including instrumentation)</i>
	<i>Measured parameters</i>
	<i>If there is any file, map or images relevant about this infrastructure, please attach them (indicating here the name of the file).</i>
SCIENTISTS AND/OR TECHNICIANS IN CHARGE OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE	
Principal investigator	<i>Name and e-mail address</i>
One additional line per person	<i>Name and e-mail address</i>
ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION	
Availability for participating in mutual measurements	<i>Yes or No</i>
	<i>If yes, Name and e-mail address of the contact person</i>
	<i>Conditions or Policy of use</i>
Availability for accessing the	<i>Yes or No</i>
	<i>If yes, Name and e-mail address of the contact person</i>

² An experimental site is located in the field. Natural conditions are measured but not controlled and therefore, natural or artificial events can impact.

data collected	<i>Conditions or Policy of use</i>
Institution that manages the site	<i>Name (Original language and English translation)</i>
	<i>URL address</i>
Institution that manages the data	<i>Name (Original language and English translation)</i>
	<i>URL address</i>
Is the site participating in a national or international Network?	<i>Name (Original language and English translation)</i>
	<i>URL address</i>
Is the site open for transnational collaboration?	<i>Conditions:</i>

FACILITY³	
INFORMATION ABOUT THE PERSON FILLING THE FORM	
Name and family name	
Research organization	
Position in the organization	
Country	
E-mail	
INFORMATION ABOUT THE FACILITY	
Name of the facility	<i>Short name and complete name (Original language and English translation)</i>
	<i>URL address</i>
Location of the facility	<i>Country</i>
	<i>Postal address</i>
	<i>UTM coordinates: Latitude/Longitude</i>
Start date	<i>Year since the facility has been operative</i>
Type of facility	<i>Short description</i> <i>Example: Elemental analyser coupled with isotopic ratio mass spectrometer</i>
Keywords	<i>3-5 keywords to describe the facility and its objectives</i>
Scientific characteristics	<i>Scientific objectives</i>
	<i>Interest for users</i>
	<i>Particularities in comparison to similar facilities</i>
	<i>Research projects in the frame of which the facility is used (include web site address)</i>
Technical characteristics	<i>Detailed description of instrumentation</i>
	<i>Measured parameters</i>
	<i>If there is any file, map or images relevant about this infrastructure, please attach it (indicating here the name of the file).</i>
SCIENTISTS AND/OR TECHNICIANS IN CHARGE OF THE FACILITY	
Principal investigator	<i>Name and e-mail address</i>
One line for each additional person	<i>Name and e-mail address</i>
ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION	
Availability for participating in mutual measurements	<i>Yes or No</i>
	<i>If yes, Name and e-mail address of the contact person</i>
	<i>Conditions or Policy of use</i>
Availability for accessing the data collected	<i>Yes or No</i>
	<i>If yes, Name and e-mail address of the contact person</i>
	<i>Conditions or Policy of use</i>
Institution that manages the facility	<i>Name (Original language and English translation)</i>
	<i>URL address</i>
Structure or institution which manages the	<i>Name (Original language and English translation)</i>

³ A facility is usually located in a laboratory or in a specific building where it is possible to fix and control, partially or completely, the experimental conditions.

data	<i>URL address</i>
Is the facility participating in a national or international Network?	<i>Name (Original language and English translation)</i>
	<i>URL address</i>
Is the facility open for transnational collaboration?	<i>Conditions:</i>

DATABASE⁴	
INFORMATION ABOUT THE PERSON FILLING THE FORM	
Name and family name	
Research organization	
Position in the organization	
Country	
E-mail	
Name of the database	<i>Short name and complete name (Original language and English translation)</i>
	<i>URL address</i>
Scientific information	<i>Scientific domain(s)</i>
	<i>Objectives</i>
	<i>Characteristics of the stored data</i>
Keywords	<i>3-5 keywords to describe the database and its objectives</i>
Technical information	<i>Language in which the field names are expressed (English by default)</i>
	<i>Status:</i> 1. <i>Active (can be completed)</i> 2. <i>Completed</i> 3. <i>Inactive</i> 4. <i>other...</i>
SCIENTISTS AND/OR TECHNICIANS IN CHARGE	
Principal investigator	<i>Name and e-mail address</i>
One additional line per person	<i>Name and e-mail address</i>
ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION FOR SHARING DATA	
Is there any policy for sharing data? (Either to contribute to the database or to extract data and results from the database)	<i>Please, describe the terms or attach the sharing policy document.</i>
Is there any specific policy for transnational access?	<i>Yes or No</i>
	<i>If yes, Name and e-mail address of the contact person</i>
	<i>Conditions</i>

⁴ A database refers to knowledge-containing resources such as collections, archives, structured scientific information or thematic data infrastructures used to conduct research in the forest field. It can be "single-sited (a single resource at a single location), distributed (a network of distributed resources) or virtual (the service is being provided electronically)