

Deliverable N° 7.4

Workshop to attract new partners

Lead participant: Executive Forest Agency (EFA)

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WP leader: IAMZ

Coordinator: David González

EC project officer: Doru Irimie

Publishable abstract:

One of the goals of Foresterra is to strengthening dissemination among the new EU member and candidate states as a way to produce new material and attract non-participating countries.

Last May, it was organized a workshop in Sofia with Middle East and Balkan countries in order to explore the possibilities to reinforce the cooperation with different stakeholders from these potential new countries.

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1. Introduction

The main goal of the **Workpackage 7, Spreading excellence** is to ensure the awareness of FORESTERRA and its impacts across the forestry sector. One of the tasks has been the organization of a workshop aimed to attract potential new partner countries to join ERA-Net activities.

In the context of FORESTERRA, the workshop held in Sofia last May (27th and 28th), was focused on Middle East and Balkan countries. The objective has been to exploring the possibilities of reinforcing the collaboration with the different stakeholders and funding agencies of these countries. In addition, this workshop was dedicated as well to disseminate lessons learnt and collect new input and ideas from these potential partners for further development of the FORESTERRA Research Programme.

2. Foresterra workshop to attract new partners

Opening and Welcome

The workshop was opened by David González as FORESTERRA Coordinator who thanked the participants for attending the meeting. Welcome speech was presented by Dipl. Eng. Grigor Gogov, Executive Director who stressed on the importance of more close cooperation among the countries on the Balkan Peninsula and Middle East regarding protection of forests and development of forest science and research. The participants were welcomed also by Prof. Hristo Tsakov, Director of the Forest Research Institute and Assoc. Prof. Petar Zhelev, Vice rector of the University of Forestry. Both expressed the interest of their organizations to participate more actively in joint activities with other Mediterranean scientific organizations.

Introduction to the FORESTERRA ERA-Net and the FORESTERRA Call, its achieved results and future activities. David González Martínez. FORESTERRA Coordinator. Ministry of Economy and Competiveness (MINECO)

Mr. David González presented the reasons for the establishment of FORESTERRA project and gave information about its goals, structure, achieved and expected results and participating partners. He also informed of the results and the selected proposals in the FORESTERRA Call for Proposals, after the final decision on networking activities and the first stage of assessment of collaborative projects.

Following a question from the invited non-partner countries on how they could join the collaborative projects Mr. Gonzales explained that the approved proposals would be financed by the respective national administrations of the partner countries.

Keynote presentation: Understanding global change drivers, impacts and indicators on forest ecosystems. Presentation of the FORESTERRA Call funded Networking Action. Francisco Manuel Cardoso Castro Rego. Instituto Superior de Agronomia. Centro de Ecologia Aplicada "Prof. Baeta Neves". Portugal

Forest fires are one of the main problems for the forests in the Mediterranean area. They are result not only of climate change but, to a great extent, to human activity. Dr. Francisco Rego and his team have prepared and submitted the proposal for FORESTERRA Networking Action: "Global Change Impacts on Wildland Fire Behaviour and Uses in Mediterranean Forest Ecosystems, towards a « wall less » Mediterranean Wildland Fire Laboratory – **MedWildFireLab**". This was the only networking proposal selected for funding .

Dr. Inazio Martínez points out that big fires in Spain are not only due for global change but for economic reasons. There are societal components related to fires and Dr. Francisco Rego adds that without climate change, fires are rising anyway.

Presentation of the FORESTERRA WP7 "Spreading excellence". Objectives and expectations of the Workshop. Denitsa Pandeva, Executive Forest Agency (EFA); Dunixi Gabiña, Instituto Agronómico Mediterráneo de Zaragoza CIHEAM)

Dr. Denitsa Pandeva presented WP7 "Spreading excellence", its objectives, target groups, and activities for dissemination and knowledge transfer performed up to now. She emphasized that the present international workshop was organized in implementation of Task 7.2 "Strengthening the dissemination among EU Member States, MPCs, and the new EU Member and Candidate States" and that it aimed to identify possibilities for participation of partners from new countries in the joint activities.

Dr. Gabina presented the webpage of FORESTERRA and demonstrated the newly uploaded database on the experimental plots proposed by the partner countries.

General discussion of Day 1

In the course of the discussions on the materials presented, the following main problems were pointed out:

- In most of the Balkan countries forests and the forest sector are not a priority in the national policies. This leads to forestry being neglected in comparison with other economic sectors.
- It is very difficult to find funding for forest scientific and research activities at national level.
- Some of the Balkan countries already experience lack of human resources and potential in forest science and research.

- Most of the participants expressed their opinion that one way to address the above problems would be to establish better cooperation at regional and international level and to be more competitive in searching for appropriate EU funding programmes.

There were not presentations from Kosovo, Slovenia and Montenegro.

Information on Horizon 2020 and other funding programmes and eligible beneficiary countries: Mediterranean forest funding under H2020. Doru Irimie. European Commission, DG Research & Innovation. F3: Agri-Food Chain



Mr. Doru Irimie presented the opportunities for the countries from the Balkan peninsula to participate in projects under Horizon 2020 and other funding EU programmes. He pointed out that forestry had cross-points with many EU policies and was an important part of the EU countries' economies and gave detailed information on the on-going research projects. He emphasized international Cooperation under Horizon 2020 open to participation from across the world. Funding could be received by:

Member States (including overseas departments and overseas territories)

Associated Countries (e.g. Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, FYR Macedonia, Montenegro, Israel, Serbia, Turkey,

Exhaustive list of countries in annex to work programme (BRIC no longer in this list, but Mediterranean countries e.g. Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco, and Mediterranean climate-like countries, e.g. Chile - yes)

The following questions were related to the process of participation in the EU programmes, eligibility of persons, percentage of EU financing, other requirements.

Session on Discussion on common points of interest and possibilities for joint projects and synergies between FORESTERRA and the guest countries/institutions at the workshop, etc. Introduction to the Session by the facilitator, Inazio Martínez, EFIMED.

Inazio started his presentation doing a brainstorming focused on the European Forests keywords for each one of the invited countries. Then, he connected the discussion to his preliminary presentation

showing the paradoxes and challenges which faced the Mediterranean forests. He emphasized the link between forestry research and management of resources.



3. Contributions and results from the workshop

3.1. Annex I. Programme of the workshop

Day 1: 27 May

09:15 – 09:30 Registration

09:30 – 09:45 Opening and Welcome. *Dipl. Eng. Grigor Gogov, Executive Director Representatives of the EFA; Prof. Hristo Tsakov, Director of the Forest Research Institute; Assoc. Prof. Petar Zhelev, Vice rector of the University of Forestry; David González, FORESTERRA Coordinator*

09:45 - 10:45 Introduction to the FORESTERRA ERA-Net and the FORESTERRA Call, its achieved results and future activities. *David González Martínez. FORESTERRA Coordinator. Ministry of Economy and Competiveness (MINECO). Spain*

10:45 – 11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00 – 11:45 Keynote presentation: Understanding global change drivers, impacts and indicators on forest ecosystems. Presentation of the FORESTERRA Call funded Networking Action. *Francisco Manuel Cardoso Castro Rego. Instituto Superior de Agronomia. Centro de Ecologia Aplicada "Prof. Baeta Neves". Portugal*

11:45 – 12:15 Presentation of the FORESTERRA WP7 “Spreading excellence”. Objectives and expectations of the Workshop. *Denitsa Pandeva, Executive Forest Agency (EFA). Bulgaria*

12:15 – 12:30 Discussion

12:30 – 14:00 *Lunch*

14:00- 15:45 Presentations from the nine invited countries (15 min each): Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Jordan, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia

- General information on forests and forestry
- Forest administration – institutions responsible for forest management, as potential financing organizations
- Information on the forest scientific and research units (universities, research institute, specialized laboratories, etc.)
- National policies or strategies supporting scientific and research activities in

the field of forestry

- Information on the research activities related to forests and biodiversity, climate change, water management, ecosystem services, etc. – executed or on-going projects/programmes, results, future possibilities
- Information on the available national / international funding programmes related to forestry
- Possible interactions and interest in joining FORESTERRA activities

15:45 – 16:00 *Coffee break*

16:00- 16:45 Continuation of the Presentations from the invited countries

16:45- 17:30 General discussion of Day 1

Day 2, 28th May 2014

09:00 – 09:45 Information on Horizon 2020 and other funding EU programmes and eligible beneficiary countries: Mediterranean forests funding under H2020. *Doru Irimie (tbc), European Commission, DG Research & Innovation. F3: Agri-Food Chain*

09:45 – 10:15 Questions and discussion

10:15 – 10:30 *Coffee break*

10:30 – 12:15 Discussion on common points of interest and possibilities for joint projects and synergies between FORESTERRA and the guest countries/institutions at the workshop, etc.

12:15 – 12:30 Information about the International Scientific Conference “Forestry: Bridge to the future” and 7-th annual meeting of Conference of Deans and Directors of European Forestry Faculties and Schools (ConDDEFFS). Sofia, 6–9 May 2015. *Milko Milev. Dean of the Faculty of Forestr; Petar Zhelev. Vice-rector of the University of Forestry.*

12:30 – 14:00 *Lunch*

14:00 – 20:00 Technical visit near Sofia – Nature and historic site “Tsari Mali grad”

20:00 Social dinner

3.2. Annex II. List of participants

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32	Doru Irimie	European Commission, DG Research & Innovation	International	Doru-Leonard.IRIMIE@ec.europa.eu

3.3. Annex III. Keynotes

Assoc. Prof. Milko Milev - Dean of the Faculty of Forestry presented information about the forthcoming International Scientific Conference "Forestry: Bridge to the Future" and the 7th annual meeting of Conference of Deans and Directors of European Forestry Faculties and Schools (ConDDEFFS) that will take place in Sofia, 6–9 May 2015.

3.4. Annex IV. Flash presentations of forest research institutes participating in the workshop

The presentations of the invited presentations were prepared according to a template sent previously in which information was requested on basic forest data, structure of forest administration and other potential financing organizations, legal framework and existing forest scientific and educational institutions.

ALBANIA

Dr. Ylli Hoxha - Director of Forest Protection and Treatment, Ministry of Environment.

He pointed out that for the moment there were no basic forest research projects, but there were other research activities in different fields, but small and unrelated to each other.

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Dr. Mirza Dautbašić – Dean of the Faculty of Forestry, University of Sarajevo.

Main activities of the Faculty of Forestry institution are concentrated on education and research in the field of forestry, urban forestry and horticulture Economics and policy, planning and management, ecology, silviculture, seedling, nursery and afforestation, utilization and forest communications, and protection. Dr. Dautbašić presented information about the executed and ongoing projects as well as the available infrastructure. At this moment, there are not national policies or scientific and research activities; Dr. Dautbašić inquires about the way of becoming a Foresterra partner but avoiding the financial contribution.

JORDAN

Dr. Nizar Haddad - President of the Jordan Beekeepers Union.

Forests in Jordan cover a comparatively small area but they are considered an important natural resource. Dr. Haddad presented the research experiments and expressed the interest of his administration to join the FORESTERRA project. In Jordan there is not a forestry strategy or plans; at the University, there is only one brand of one department which deals with biodiversity. The capacity building can be reached through the transfer of knowledge to Jordan.

MACEDONIA

Assoc. Prof. Makedonka Stojanovska - Faculty of Forestry, UKIM.

Assoc. Prof. Stojanovska presented the current situation in the forest sector in Macedonia and stressed the fact that much more attention and funding were directed to the agricultural sector, leaving the forests and the forestry problem in very unfavorable condition. She emphasized that cross-sectoral, national, regional and international relations were needed in order to protect forests and their biodiversity.

SERBIA

Dr. Andrej Pilipovic - Institute for Lowland forestry and Environment.

Dr. Pilipovic presented the forest sector in Serbia, the existing research and scientific institutions and their experience in implementation of international projects. He informed of the possibilities for extending regional and international cooperation in future.

