



# Deliverable N° 7.5

## Midterm and final conferences

**Lead participant: European Forest Institute**

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**Publishable abstract:**

The mid-term conference has been organized in Barcelona to take advantage of the EFIMED Annual Meeting, which has been hold in Barcelona, the 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2013. The aim of the workshop was to maximise synergies and the impacts of research, with other related initiatives and with other Mediterranean Climate Areas.

In that mid-term conference, the participants were informed about the progress made in FORESTERRA: the mapping and characterization of the existing forestry funding programmes and forestry research capacities of the countries participating in the FORESTERRA Consortium, the identification of the strategic research themes and the forthcoming call for proposals.

Furthermore, the future plans were presented. It was announced that a Networking Workshop is being organized in Marseille, in December, to foster the clustering of existing national research organizations as well as of relevant and strategic research projects in order to improve future coordination and maximize the research impacts.

The importance of scientific cooperation with other Mediterranean Climate Areas was pointed out to provide comprehensive information about forest research programmes and research facilities in other Mediterranean Climate Areas as well as to exchange information among programme managers and scientists from the different areas.

The final conference will take place in Istambul in 2015.

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## 1. Introduction

A midterm conference, to discuss potential topics of relevance for other existing ERA-Nets and to develop some other major activities, has been organised at the Sant Pau UNESCO World Heritage Site, in Barcelona, Spain, on 4 September 2013, in the framework of the EFIMED Week.

The midterm conference has been organized in Barcelona, instead of Istanbul, as Annex I indicated. This decision was taken in order to take advantage of the EFIMED Annual Meeting, which has been held in Barcelona, in September 2013. The final conference will take place in Istanbul in 2015. This measure will not have any impact on the other tasks, neither on the available resources.

The aim of the conference was to maximise synergies and the impacts of research. In this context, communication with PLATFORM was developed to ensure that relevant ERA-Nets are informed.

During the midterm conference a presentation of the strategic themes of FORESTERRA was taken place, alongside synergies and the impacts of research with other related initiatives. In the session 'EFIMED Market Place', EFIMED network members were invited to make a brief presentation on their institution / project / activity in relation to one of the four FORESTERRA strategic themes. Meeting participants had the opportunity to network and take steps towards building trans-national consortia for the forthcoming calls for proposals.

The Chair of the EFI Board, Jørgen Bo Larsen, presided over the opening session which was attended by over 100 leading researchers, practitioners and policy makers in Mediterranean forestry. Opening addresses were given by representatives from three entities: Juan Maria Vazquez from the Spanish Government's Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (MINECO) coordinator of the FORESTERRA project and funder of the EFIMED office in Spain; Jordi Bachs, Managing Director of the Santa Creu i Sant Pau Private Hospital Foundation and Joana Ortega, Vice-president of the regional government of Catalonia.

Following the opening, EFIMED's new Head of Office, Inazio Martínez de Arano, shared his hopes and expectations for EFIMED's future, identifying some of the challenges that lie ahead. Building on the work of the past, it will be important to implement, evaluate and develop the Mediterranean Research Agenda and to improve forest-related policies and management with a trans-disciplinary cross-sectoral approach. He is keen to increase the impact of EFIMED's work through exploring synergies with the offices and organisms that are already, or will soon be, based in Sant Pau and with network partners.

After the successful workshop in Tunis last year, as part of WP3, at which participants played big role in defining the strategic themes for the FORESTERRA ERA-Net, the FORESTERRA Workshop this year brought members up to date with progress on the forthcoming call and widened perspectives by welcoming presentations from other Mediterranean Climate Areas and from other ERA-Net initiatives.

## 2. Midterm conference

David González, FORESTERRA Coordinator, presented the progress and future expectations of the ERA-Net; mapping research activities were identified by Giuseppe Scarascia and Marc Palahí presented the FORESTERRA Strategic Plan.

The international joint call for proposal on the topic "Mediterranean-scale approach to study global change drivers, impacts & indicators on forest ecosystems and to foster forest system resilience through managing biodiversity" was announced. The closing date for proposals submission is 15 January 2014 for both Networking actions (Full proposal) and Collaborative projects (Pre-proposal). For the pre-selected Collaborative projects at the Pre-proposal stage, there will be a second stage, with deadline on 7 July 2014.

During this workshop, FORESTERRA maximized synergies and the impacts of research not only with other related initiatives (ERA-Nets and JPIs), but also with other Mediterranean Climate Areas, in order to promote joint activities and exchange of information. Presentations given at the mid-term conference are available in Annex 1 of this deliverable.

### **ERA-Nets and JPIs: experiences and opportunities**

- Water JPI: Framework of opportunities for joint work, Armela Dino
- ERANETMED: Mediterranean cooperation through ERA-Net joint activities and beyond, Maroun El Moujabber,
- FACCE – JPI: State of Play, Christine Bunthof
- PLATFORM: Implement and interact for Impact, Christine Bunthof

### **Networking outside Europe: Short statements from MCA scientists and funding agencies:**

Programme managers and forest scientists from different Mediterranean Climate Areas attended this workshop, in order to promote joint activities and exchange of information: the Australian expert Jerry Vanclay from Southern Cross University, the Chilean researcher Rosa Alzamora from the Universidad Austral, the American scholar Gregory Biging from the University of California, Berkeley, and the South African researcher and project manager, Bongani Ndimba, from the Agricultural Research Council.

- Five key challenges for forestry in Australia, Jenny Vanclay (Australia)
- Chilean Mediterranean Forests (matorral), Rosa Alzamora (Chile)
- University of California, Berkeley Forestry Research / EFIMED, Gregory Biging (USA)
- Food, Agriculture and Fisheries and Biotechnology (FAFB NCP), Bongani Ndimba (South Africa)

The strategic themes of FORESTERRA were presented, alongside synergies and the impacts of research with other related initiatives. Participants had the opportunity to network and take steps towards building trans-national consortia for the forthcoming calls for proposals.

## **Annex 1. Presentations of the midterm conference**

The presentations of the Workshop with relevant ERA-Nets and JPIs held in Barcelona, on the 4 of September 2013, are available at:

[http://www.efimed.efi.int/portal/events/annual\\_meeting/efimed\\_week\\_2013/annual\\_meeting\\_2013/](http://www.efimed.efi.int/portal/events/annual_meeting/efimed_week_2013/annual_meeting_2013/)

## Annex 2. Programme of the midterm conference

### **FORESTERRA Workshop with relevant ERA-Nets and JPIs**

**Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site, Barcelona, Spain**

Wednesday 4 September 2013

*08:00 Registration*

**09:00 Session 1: Opening** Chair: Jørgen Bo Larsen, Chairman of EFI Board

09:00 - 09:45 Opening of the EFIMED Annual Meeting

Juan María Vazquez, DG for Scientific and Technical Research, Government of Spain

The Honorable Joana Ortega i Almany, Vice-president, Government of the Generalitat of Catalunya

**09:45 Session 2: EFIMED Report**

09:45 - 10:05 EFIMED achievements and way ahead, Inazio Martínez de Arano, EFIMED

10:05 - 10:25 Questions and discussion

**10:50 Session 3: FORESTERRA Workshop** Chair: Inazio Martínez de Arano, EFIMED

10:55 - 11:10 FORESTERRA ERA-Net: Progress and future expectations, David González, MINECO

11:10 - 11:25 Mapping activities, Giuseppe Scarascia, University of Tuscia

11:25 - 11:45 FORESTERRA ERA-Net Strategic Plan, Marc Palahí, EFI

11:45 - 13:15 Increasing FORESTERRA ERA-Net impact: Synergies with the ERA and MCAs Introduction: Andreas Kleinschmidt, FCBA

#### **ERA-Nets and JPIs: experiences and opportunities**

Xavier Le Roux (BiodivERsA2), Armela Dino (Water JPI), Maroun El Moujabber (ERANETMED), Christine Bunthof (Platform), (JPI FACCE)

#### **Networking outside Europe**

Short statements from MCA scientists and funding agencies: Jerry Vanclay (Australia), Rosa Alzamora (Chile), Gregory Biging (USA) and Bongani Ndimba (South Africa)

13:15 - 13:30 Wrap-up of the FORESTERRA session

**14:30 Session 4: EFIMED Market place and Networking** Chair: Giuseppe Scarascia, University of Tuscia

EFIMED Market Place: Network members' presentations in relation to FORESTERRA themes

Networking / Consortium building for FORESTERRA call

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## Annex 4. Pictures of the midterm conference



**Photo 1.** Opening of the EFIMED Annual Meeting (Photo: IAMZ)



**Photo 2.** FORESTERRA Workshop with relevant ERA-Nets and JPIs (Photo: Robert Ramos/Fundació Privada Hospital de Sant Pau)



**Photo 3.** FORESTERRA workshop with relevant ERA-Nets and JPIs (Photo: Nicolas Robert)



**Photo 4.** FORESTERRA Workshop with relevant ERA-Nets and JPIs (Photo: Elena Gorriz)