



Zaragoza, November 9th, 2012.

The partners of FORESTERRA, an ERA-Net whose objective is to reinforce Mediterranean forest research, participated in the Steering Committee meeting of the project that took place last 18th and 19th of October in Rome, at the *Unitá per la climatologia e la meteorologia applicate all'agricoltura (CRA-CMA)* and at the Castelporziano Presidential Estate and Natural Reserve. Members FORESTERRA's Stakeholders Advisory Group (SAG) also participated in the event.

One of the meeting's aims was to analyze the results from the mapping done by CRA, which will give an overall picture of the forestry-related institutions in the countries that participate in FORESTERRA. Another goal of the meeting was to discuss the four strategic research themes proposed by the task leader, EFIMED, which are global change, biodiversity, multipurpose landscapes and water. These themes were fine-tuned and approved. Some key points of the project were discussed, such as interaction with related ERA-Nets and Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs) to pool resources and avoid duplicities. Work package leaders presented the progress of the different work packages and ongoing tasks, which were advancing well.



Steering Committee and SAG members in Castelporziano Presidential Estate

The 18th October the event was opened by Giuseppe Scarascia (CRA), Luigi Perini (CRA) and the FORESTERRA Coordinator, Rocío Lansac (MINECO).

Giuseppe Scarascia presented the results of the mapping and information exchange activities, which will provide the concrete basis for understanding the forest research framework in Mediterranean countries. Posters presented with the analyses of the results from each country.



Rocío Lansac (MINECO) and Giovanni Di Matteo (CRA)

Enrique Playán (MINECO) gave a presentation on the JPI “Water challenges for a changing world: objectives, strategy and possible synergies”. He explained that the aim of the project is to achieve sustainable water systems for a sustainable economy in Europe. He also stated that there are strong links to FORESTERRA, so cooperation proposals were made.

Robert Mavsar (EFIMED) presented the progress made so in defining strategic research themes, from the call for ideas at the beginning of 2012 in the context of the Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda (MFRA), through the Scientific Workshop organized in Tunis and the mapping results presented by CRA. In the following discussion it was concluded that FORESTERRA needs to complement rather than duplicate existing initiatives. For instance, by cooperating with other ERA-Nets, JPIs and organizations like FAO.

The meetings of the 19th October the event were inaugurated by Ervedo Giordano (Scientific Committee of the Castelporziano Reserve), who explained that this reserve is one of the most studied areas in Italy, with a wide variety of flora and fauna, and by Giorgio Calzolari (*Presidenza della Repubblica*), who discussed the difficulties of preserving this natural area.

The Steering Committee agreed that the next Management Committee meeting would be held in Paris in May. The next Steering Committee meeting will take place at the Barcelona EFIMED Annual meeting, in September 2013, which will serve to present a possible call and explore potential collaborations with other ERA-Nets. FCT plans to attract interested parties from other Mediterranean Climate Areas to attend Barcelona meeting.

In parallel to the Steering Committee meeting, the SAG members had also a meeting, which was chaired by Yves Birot. The SAG includes relevant experts in forest research.

This important consulting body concluded that partners of the project should move beyond the usual methods of project dissemination and proposed to contact the European Commission to identify ERA-Nets and platforms with opportunities for collaboration.

The journey continued with an interesting field visit to the Castelporziano Natural Reserve.



Group photo in Castelporziano Presidential Estate and Natural Reserve