



Newsletter ERA-NET Sumforest - December 2017-

Tackling the Challenges in the
Implementation of Sustainable and
Multifunctional Forestry through
enhanced Research Coordination
for Policy Decisions

Dear Sumforest newsletter readers

This is the last Sumforest
newsletter! You can download all
8 newsletters from: [https://
www.sumforest.org/newsletter/](https://www.sumforest.org/newsletter/)

All newsletter contributors thank
you for the attention you paid to
Sumforest.

Best wishes

Sumforest in brief

(January 2014 - December 2017)

Sumforest is built around i) the growing importance of global changes, ii) the influence of many public policies on forests at the expense of a coherent forestry strategy and iii) interactions between the multiple goods and services provided by forests.

Sumforest plays a crucial role in harmonising research programmes and supporting policy decisions relevant to **sustainable forest management and multifunctional forestry**.

Cooperation with Russia and Eastern Partnership Countries is developing, with the aim of identifying common research priorities and initiatives.

Within Sumforest, seven research projects were funded (<https://www.sumforest.org/calls-research/>).

Further information is available here:

<https://www.sumforest.org/>.



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News

ERA-Net ForestValue

Deadline for pre-proposal submission

As it was already mentioned in the 7th newsletter, the new ERA-NET Cofund ForestValue has launched its call on 17 October 2017. It is a two steps procedure, and the deadline for submitting the pre-proposals in on **23 January 2017**.

The **ForestValue networking webinar** on November 15th 2017 connected over 100 researchers interested in the ForestValue call for proposals 2017 – multifarious project presentations and a summary table including contact details and offers for cooperation are now available [online](#).

Sumforest Brochure

All Sumforest partners and all Sumforest project coordinators, with the help of Anaïs Jallais (GIP Ecofor), have contributed to the Sumforest Brochure. The brochure contains:

The description of the achieved work and deliverables
The presentation of the 7 Sumforest projects.

It is available for you to download or print out:

[Sumforest brochure website](#).



Dear Sumforest newsletter reader

This is the 8th and last edition of the Sumforest newsletter.

Sumforest has been a very successful ERA-NET project. All intended milestones and deliverables could be fulfilled and all results and reports are available on the [Sumforest website](#).

Therefore I take the liberty as the coordinator of this ERA-NET to give you a more personal review about those last four years.

First of all, it has been a pleasure to work as a coordinator for Sumforest! This is not just a nice phrase: it has been much more fun than I expected four years ago. There has been no day when I was totally frustrated. Well, to be honest there could have been one or two of them but from my former job as a research project officer for the EC I know that quite a number of projects had and still have to change the coordinator because he quits.

Sometimes it happened that the coordinator of an EU project was thrown out, which luckily did not happen to me. I really had the privilege to work with very skilled, wonderful and passionate project partners!

During those four years I learnt a lot but two subjects that graved deep into my brain I would like to share with you:

- When working in an international project the language is English but be aware that an English written text or conversation can be very differently received and interpreted. It very much depends from which geographical area and which scientific background the person is coming from. I learnt to pay attention to this fact and that helped to avoid misunderstandings.
- Another knowledge gained was the fact that everyone has different talents and in a team you should use those talents instead of picking on those properties your teammate is lacking. In Sumforest we have been very lucky to have very many different talents and that we were able to draw on those talents.

Thank you to all who dedicated time and resources to the Sumforest project. This project definitely was not a "one man show" but was a real collaboration. I have counted 85 persons from the involved 23 partners that in one way or the other have been directly involved in the tasks that Sumforest tackled. Beside these 85 persons there have been several supporters and observers that contributed to the Workshops and Questionnaires we organized. And of course taking into consideration the Call for research projects the circle of involved people is much wider.

I am very happy that with most of those people I had the privilege to meet in Sumforest I will continue to work together in the new ERA-NET Cofund ForestValue. Therefore I am looking forward to the next challenge.

I wish you all the best for the future.

Martin Greimel

[Martin Greimel](#), BMLFUW





Interviews with Sumforest project Coordinators (1/2)

We interviewed the respective project coordinators of projects funded under the Sumforest programme, to share insight information with you. A short description of all projects can be downloaded by clicking [here](#).

1. The first project year is almost over - how do you see the start of your project and what are the results so far?

Tord Snäll (SLU, FutureBioEcon):

We had a fruitful spring kick-off meeting here in Uppsala with very interesting discussions resulting from the team coming from different disciplines. All had previously somewhat worked on the research questions to be addressed in FutureBioEcon, but we learnt a lot on both general- and detail-level issues concerning our questions. The start months have been intense with stakeholder meetings, yet another full consortium skype meeting, frequent email correspondence and now we are planning for a second consortium skype meeting before the winter holidays. We further look forward to start spreading the results, e.g. at the European Congress of Conservation Biology (ECCB) where we will organize a symposium based on FutureBioEcon and on the work in the parallel BiodivERSA project GreenFutureForest. We have preliminary results from WP1-projections of increased global demand of wood if we are to meet the Paris agreement. At ECCB, we will show how this may affect biodiversity and other forest ecosystem services.

2. What is the biggest advantage of an international cooperation when it comes to research in general?

Diana Tuomasjukka (EFI, BenchValue)

The jump down the rabbit hole is the strength of international cooperation. By daring to take in other countries' points of view, cooperative research can gather valuable insight on country specific conditions, which vary due to natural and infrastructural factors, heritage, and school of

thought, while also taking into account different approaches to problem solving. Only in joint discussions can inspiration and novel solutions be found that allow for the diversity of European culture and policy drivers at a regional level; a 'one solution does not fit all' approach. For instance, in BenchValue we have partners from Ireland, Austria, France, Lithuania, Finland and Sweden. While Austria is centrally located in Europe with access to natural resources and infrastructure, Ireland – as an island – relies more on importation (timber, steel, etc.). This of course influences the carbon emission balance, local employment and costs. In addition, houses in France have very different heat and moisture requirements than those in Finland. Through international cooperation, research can develop suitable solutions across Europe and do so faster and more effectively than each country would achieve on their own. Furthermore, through the sharing of experience and ideas, collaboration and cooperation can act as a catalyst for change and facilitate in the continuous development of a sustainable Europe.

3. Were there any unexpected obstacles within your Sumforest project? If yes, how could you solve them?

Camilla Widmark (SLU, POLYFORES)

In planning a project of this size, there are always unexpected obstacles that are difficult to foresee in the planning phase. For POLYFORES, a challenge rather than an obstacle, is how the results of the different work-packages will be synthesised into a larger overall perspective, providing meaningful policy support on international, national as well as local policy making levels. Since the project is interdisciplinary, including ecology, economics, and political science, these dimensions have to be coordinated and conformed to enable synthesis. This requires that the consortium carefully discuss definitions and delimitations, to create a common understanding and keep an open dialogue throughout the project. It is also important to plan carefully each work-package to ensure that synthesising is possible in the end of the project. Hence, POLYFORES has given this all attention in the start-up of the project.

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Interviews with Sumforest project Coordinators (2/2)

- 4. If younger researchers ask you how they can cooperate in an international field, what is your advice for them?**

Björn Reineking (*Irstea, REFORCE*):

First, I would further encourage the young researchers to seek such international cooperation – I have found it very enriching both on a scientific and on a personal level. Second, I believe it is useful to reflect on their competence and interests and how they think this might contribute to a given project. Above all, I would say “Don’t be shy” – people in the international context are generally very open to welcome new colleagues. In practical terms, I feel that taking part in meetings of international projects such as Cost actions or ERA-NET projects is a good starting point – if the younger researchers are not already part of any such project, they may ask other colleagues, e.g. at their institution, to have them get invited. Or they might even proactively contact people they find interesting (based on encounters at conferences, or just based on the literature).

- 5. Which impact do you hope to have with your Sumforest project?**

Miren del Río (*INIA, REFORM*):

In forest research one critical bottleneck is the transition of knowledge to forest practice. In the REFORM project we expect to produce results that are applicable in different European regions and effectively usable by stakeholders (forest practitioners, policy makers, researchers) to reduce the vulnerability to biotic and abiotic disturbances. The engagement of relevant stakeholders will allow us to ensure that the results are developed in an adequate way for this transition. Additionally, REFORM will generate a knowledge advance on mixed forest dynamics, management and modelling, based on the integration of partners with complementary research skills which enables the integration of different methods into a transnational collaborative research framework.

- 6. Do you see any possibilities to cooperate with other Sumforest projects and how would you do this?**

Anja Rammig, Claudia Chreptun (*TUM, FOREXCLIM*):

We can see strong synergies between the different Sumforest projects. The projects are working on ways to a sustainable forest management and multifunctional forestry in the future. In our projects, we use different approaches along this way. Our projects could profit from exchanging ideas and organizing joint activities. A first step could be for example to organize joint project workshops or a conference. A regular newsletter that updates on the activities of the individual projects could help to stimulate the cooperation.

- 7. What are the advantages of interdisciplinary research when dealing with forest issues?**

Andreas Rigling & Alessandra Bottero (*WSL, ForRISK*):

Forests are complex long-living systems composing of many different organisms and elements, which are interdependent and interacting. Hence, system analyses in forest ecosystem research are rarely a single-disciplinary question since they require integrative and interdisciplinary approaches, combining the advantages of different research concepts (e.g. by linking environmental monitoring, experimental ecology and modeling approaches). Forest management research, in addition, requires bridging natural sciences with socio-economy and even the integration of stakeholder knowledge into research concepts. Such inter- and transdisciplinary research approaches are challenging and effortful, but absolutely necessary when solving nowadays problems in forest research in the context of environmental changes.

Vera Steinberg, BLE





Success of the second stage Sumforest Summer School in Barcelona, 13-16 October 2017 ^(1/2)

Newsletter ERA-NET Sumforest from July 2017 describes in detail background and outcomes of the Sumforest Summer School for Young Researchers on the topic “Networking and communication skills in research in the area of sustainable forest management” organized on June 27-29, 2017 in Minsk, Belarus. Following its successful experience and positive feedback of the participants and key speakers it was decided to organize the 2nd stage Summer School for Young Researchers in the frame of WP 6 “International Cooperation” of the Sumforest project.

The first stage of the school was devoted to the topic of international calls for proposals, building consortia, writing international collaborative research proposals and basics of international evaluation procedures. At the same time, it is also recognized that for better integration into global research community, researchers and the institutions they represent **need to communicate their research much more effectively to an international audience. Researchers need the communication skills to enable them to publish in international journals and present at conferences in English; communicate with the wider public as well as policy-makers; and build international collaborations to further their research.** That is why it was decided to formulate the topic of the 2nd stage as “Networking and communication skills in research in the area of sustainable forest management”.

The overall aim of the 2nd stage of the Sumforest Summer School for Young Researchers was again: capacity building, better integration of young forestry researchers from Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus,

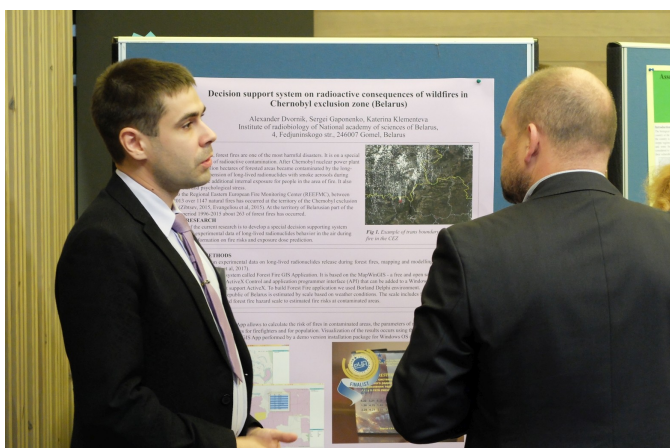


Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) as well as Russia and North-African Mediterranean countries into the transnational research community, share practical experiences, develop skills that translate knowledge into effective actions. It was held on **13-16 October 2017**, in Castelldefels, suburban of Barcelona, Spain. All the participants also attended the **Sumforest Final Conference on 17-18 October 2017** (<https://www.sumforest.org/sumforest-conference/>) and presented their scientific posters developed during the training course. The same 25 participants selected for the 1st stage of the Sumforest Summer School for Young Researchers took part in the 2nd stage.

The Barcelona Summer school was divided in 5 themes:

1. Introduction to the topic of research communication and networking
2. Writing for Publications: articles, abstracts, posters
3. Presenting participants research work
4. Other types of communication: effective e-mails and others
5. Development and presentation of posters, its evaluation.

The programme represented combination of lectures and an individual/group work sessions.



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Success of the second stage Sumforest Summer School in Barcelona, 13-16 October 2017 (2/2)

As a result of 2nd stage Summer School, **25 scientific posters** were produced and presented by the participants during the Sumforest conference “Bridging research, policy and practice for sustainable forest management” on 17-18 October 2017. The posters can be found here: <https://www.sumforest.org/sumforest-conference/>

The organizers of the Summer School have got a feedback from the participants. All the respondents thought that the programme fulfilled their expectations. The main reasons for attending the Summer School were personal growth and development (30%) as well as the possibility of networking (25%) and programme content (20%). Understanding the role of networking and communication in research was considered as very important knowledge to be used in future. Writing for publications (articles, abstracts, posters), presenting results of research work and developing other types of communication (like effective emails) was seen as a powerful tools, important for young researchers to present their work to different types of audience, including an international one.

The most beneficial aspect of the programme was

mentioned to be the opportunity of networking (including Sumforest conference), methodology and technique of poster development and writing for publication. Many participants mentioned knowledge ability and professionalism of key-speakers and dedication of organisers.

The majority of respondents was satisfied with the group work and its outcomes. In the group work, the participants appreciated opportunities to develop skills, share diverse perspectives, and discuss special research projects. They considered group work as encouraging, rich and fruitful. For many participants, developing posters was a new and challenging task but they succeeded.

As a whole, participants expressed opinion that “summer school was so useful, helpful and interesting” and they “were quite glad to be able to participate in it”. One of the common recommendations regarding the further development of the programme was to arrange it more often.

The event was organized by the European Forest Institute (EFI). The important local partner and supporter was EFI Mediterranean office (EFIMED), Barcelona, Spain.

[Elena Kulikova](#), EFI





SCAR Forest, a strategic working group on Forests and Forestry Research and Innovation

S CAR FOREST mission is to be a source of advice on European forest-based research and innovation, thus contributing to the implementation of EU Forest Strategy through the development of a coherent and ambitious forest-based research area.

Current mandate

Under the current mandate (2016-2019), the main objective is to promote and strengthen transnational research and cooperation to meet the challenges of adaptation to and mitigation of climate changes, and of increasing sustainability and competitiveness of the EU's forest-based sector. This is done by sustainably providing biomass and products for a growing bio-based economy, and other ecosystem services for societal wellbeing.

To this end, members of the SCAR Forest group meet twice a year to take stock of their annual missions, such as carrying out studies, mapping the needs of forest research or preparing events. Jean-Michel Carnus (INRA) was the coordinator of the group. Following his retirement, he was replaced in November 2017 by Jean-Luc Peyron (GIP Ecofor).

Ongoing studies

Currently, two studies are being conducted by SCAR Forest members.

The first one is a synthesis on forest bio-economy research and innovation in Europe. It is carried out by Robert Mavsar and Marko Lovric (European Forest Institute). The study will look into synergies and coherence of research and innovation needs in the forest-based bio-economy through synthesis of research and innovation activities and examples of

best practices. The main task will be to review and synthesize existing updated information about forest bio-economy research and innovation in different member states in Europe.

The first part of the report synthesizes the mapping exercise and provides recommendations about possible synergies and future research needs. The second part of the report will include guidelines and best practice examples of innovation activities in Europe, as well as worldwide. An executive summary will be prepared for policy makers. The results are expected in late December 2017.

The second report is an assessment of forest-related ERA-NETs and COST FPS Action¹. It is performed by Andreas Kleinschmit von Lengfeld (FCBA Technology Institute) and Jean-Luc Peyron. The objective of this study is to enhance the knowledge and understanding of transnational coordination and collaboration in forest and forestry research and innovation. The assessment of the forest-related ERA-NETs and COST FPS Actions¹ will not only analyze the contents, the parts of the forest systems and forestry-wood value chains that have been addressed, but also the innovation and research efforts put into it, the budgets of the projects, partnerships and cooperation networks, work structure, milestones and deliverables as well as their transfer and implementation into services and industry. The results are expected in February 2018.

Both studies have been realized with the support of H2020 CSA project CASA.

[Anaïs Jallais](#), GIP Ecofor

1. Forests, their Products and Services





List of Sumforest partners

Country	Institution	Contact
Austria	BMLFUW (The Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management)	Martin Greimel
Europe	EFI (European Forest Institute)	Robert Mavsar
Scandinavia	SNS (Nordic Forest Research)	Mimmi Blomquist
Finland	MMM (Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry)	Liisa Saarenmaa
France	ECOFOR	Annabelle Amm
Germany	BLE (Federal Office for Agriculture and Food)	Vera Steinberg
Germany	BMEL (Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture)	Thomas Haußmann
Greece	DUTH (Democritus University of Thrace)	Kalliopi Radoglou
Greece	YPEKA (Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change)	Georgios Panagiotou
Ireland	DAFM (Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine)	Tony Quinn
Italy	MIPAAF (Ministry of Agricultural Food and Forestry)	Annamaria Marzetti
Latvia	LAAFS (Latvian Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences)	Baiba Rivza
Lithuania	MERL (Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania)	Nerijus Kupstaitis
F.Y.R.of Macedonia	UKIM (Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje - Faculty of Forestry)	Kiril Sotirovski
Norway	RCN (The Research Council of Norway)	Petter Nilsen
Poland	IBL (Forest Research Institute)	Adam Kaliszewski
Slovak Republic	MPRV SR (Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic)	Eva Huštáková
Slovenia	MIZS (Ministry of Education, Science, and Sport of the Republic of Slovenia)	Meta Dobnikar
Slovenia	MAE (Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment of the Republic of Slovenia)	Robert Rezonja
Spain	INIA (The National Institute for Agriculture and Food Research and Technology)	Elena Rodríguez
Sweden	Formas (The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning)	Jan Svensson
Switzerland	FOEN (Federal Office for the Environment)	Christian Küchli
UK	FCRA (Forestry Commission Research Agency)	Peter Freer-Smith

List of Sumforest observers

Country	Institution	Contact
Bosnia-Herzegovina	University of Sarajevo, Faculty of Forestry (Univerzitet u Sarajevu, Šumarski Fakultet)	Mersudin Avdibegović
Netherlands	University of Wageningen, Forest Ecology and Forest Management Group	Frits Mohren G.M.J.
Germany	Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute, Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries	
Switzerland	Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research (Eidgenössische Forschungsanstalt für Wald, Schnee und Landschaft WSL)	Adrian Lanz Christoph Hegg
Belgium	Research Foundation - Flanders	Olivier Boehme
Belgium	Fund for Scientific Research-FNRS	Arnaud Goolaerts
Belarus	National Academy of Sciences of Belarus	Aliaksandr Puhachevski
Croatia	Croatian Forest Research Institute (Hrvatski šumarski institut)	Dijana Vuletić

International

Russia	St. Petersburg State Forest Technical University	Alexander Alekseev
Russia	Volga State University of Technology	Evgeny M. Romanov Rector Info
Russia	Moscow State Forest University	NIKITIN Vladimir Valentinovich MGUL
Russia	Voronezh State Forestry Engineering Academy	Vladimir Mikhailovich Bugakov Rectorat VGLTA
Russia	Northern Research Institute of Forestry	Sergey Veniaminovich Yaroslavlsev Forestry sevniih
Algeria	National Institute of Forest Research (Institut National de Recherche Forestière)	Mohamed Khemici

