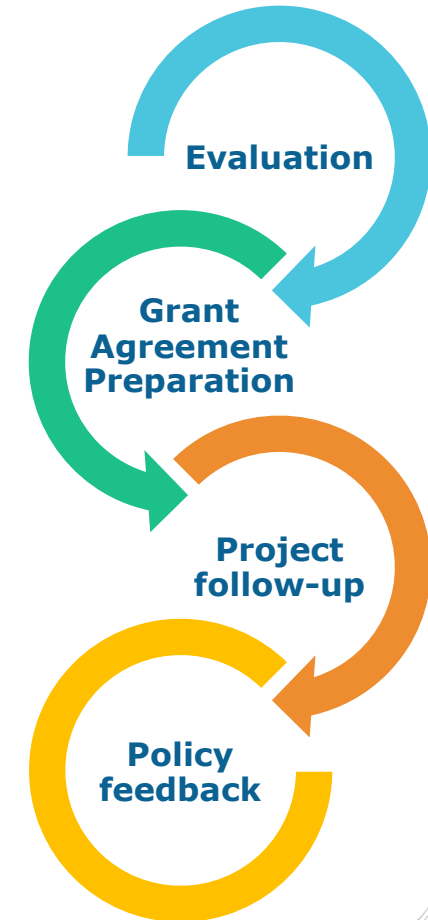# Research Executive Agency (REA)
new mandate 2021 - 2027

- Mandated by the European Commission to support the EU's R&I policy

- Implements EU programmes in close collaboration with stakeholders

- Selects and manages high-quality research and innovation projects

- Manages promotion measures concerning agri-food products

- Provides administrative and logistical support services to several EU bodies

- Provides support and policy feedback to seven Directorates-General (DGs)

European Commission

REA' mission

Manages the full project life cycle for Horizon 2020 and the new Horizon Europe programme:

- Evaluation of proposals

- Grant Agreement preparation

- Scientific/technical and financial monitoring of projects

- Supporting exploitation and dissemination of project results, including policy feedback

Evaluation

Grant Agreement Preparation

Project follow-up

Policy feedback

European Commission

Horizon 2020 – 2014-2020 (79 billion €)

- **Coupling research and innovation to maximise impact**

  ➢ Using stakeholders knowledge to maximise the uptake of project results

  ➢ Promising solutions need to be tested, demonstrated and scaled up

  ➢ Stronger participation of SMEs

- Focus on **societal challenges**, e.g. health, environment, clean energy and transport

- Integration of **social sciences and humanities**

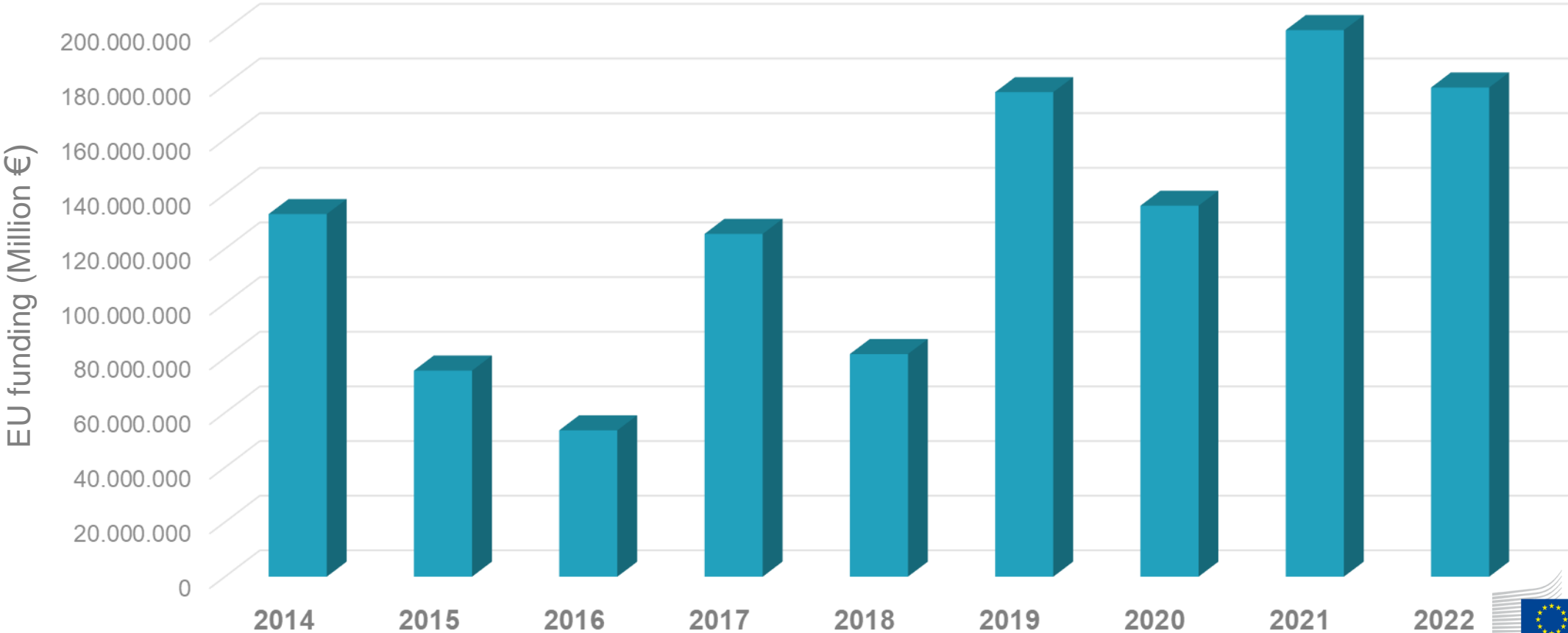- Importance of **international cooperation**
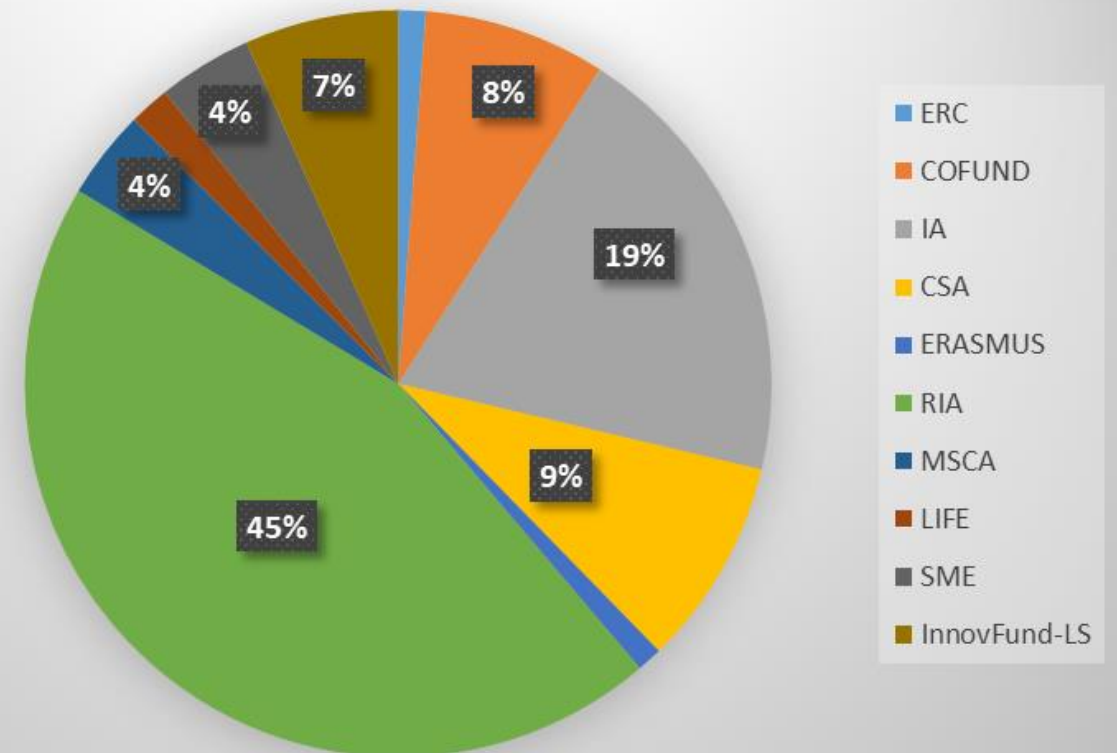
EU Investments in Forest R&I

EU R&I in the forest-based sector

Horizon 2020 Framework Programme

✓ 250 projects on forestry, forest management, forest economy and forest resilience

✓ Under H2020 Societal Challenge 2 : more than 34 projects related to research and technological development in European forests

EU R&I on forest by type of action in H2020

Legend:
- ERC
- COFUND
- IA
- CSA
- ERASMUS
- RIA
- MSCA
- LIFE
- SME
- InnovFund-LS

Pie chart values: 45%, 9%, 19%, 8%, 7%, 4%, 4%

Horizon 2020 - Societal Challenge 2

Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry, Marine, Maritime and Inland Water Research and the Bioeconomy

Research projects are targeting in particular:

- collaboration between national research funding agencies,
- ecosystem services,
- integrated land management,
- IT tools for forests,
- building with wood,
- forest technologies,

(e.g. **ForestValue, SINCERE, LANDSUPPORT, GenRes Bridge, EURAKNOS, ROSEWOOD4.0, i2connect, BASAJAUN, BuildinWood, Forwarder2020, OnTrack, WOODnat, InnoForESt**).

Other research projects are focusing on

- forests and climate change issues,
- data harmonisation at EU level
- forest management models,
- genetic resources,
- forest products and agri-environmental public goods

(e.g. **OneForest DIABOLO ALTERFOR GenTree HOMED B4EST INCREdible CONSOLE**).

European Commission

Horizon Europe

Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry, Marine, Maritime and Inland Water Research and the Bioeconomy

Priorities for R&I on forestry, sustainable forest management

→ accelerate the ecological transition required by the European Green Deal to achieve climate neutrality by 2050

- ✓ Valuing and restoring biodiversity and ecosystem services

- ✓ Managing biodiversity in primary production

- ✓ Multi-functionality and management of forests in Europe based on the three pillars of sustainability (economic, environmental and social)

European Commission

Horizon Europe

Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry, Marine, Maritime and Inland Water Research and the Bioeconomy

Examples of call topics in 2021-2022

HORIZON-CL6-2021-CLIMATE-01-08: Agroforestry to meet climate, biodiversity and farming sustainability goals

HORIZON-CL6-2021-CLIMATE-01-09: Enhancing science -based knowledge on EU forests', including old-growth forests, capacities to mitigate climate change

HORIZON-CL6-2022-BIODIV-01-07: Protection and sustainable management of forest genetic resources of high interest for biodiversity, climate change adaptation, and forest reproductive materials

HORIZON-CL6-2022-CIRCBIO-01-06: Strengthening the European forest-based research and innovation ecosystem

HORIZON-CL6-2022-CIRCBIO-02-06-two-stage: Harnessing the digital revolution in the forest-based sector

HORIZON-CL6-2022-CLIMATE-01-05: Forestry - European observatory of climate change impacts and demonstration network of climate smart restoration pilots

ForestValue - take-away messages

Joint call in 2017 with co-funding from the EC ⟹ 17 projects

Joint call in 2021 with national funding ⟹ 8 projects

"to promote increased innovation and competitiveness of the forest-based sector in Europe and support its transformation from a resource-intensive to a knowledge-intensive, productive, resource-efficient and resilient sector"

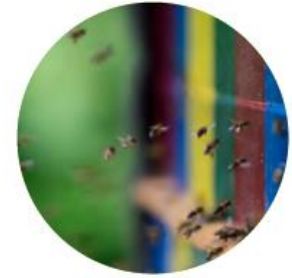€ 37 million

Impacts - ForestValue

Impacts

- Contributed to...

Improve the resilience of forests to climate change

Restore degraded ecosystems

Promote the bio-economy while preserving biodiversity

Increase carbon stored in soil and forests

Increase the use of long-lasting wood and bio-products

Support production of sustainable food

ForestValue - incubator of new research initiatives

The EUFORE project (EUFORE)

new Research and Innovation Action "EUFORE - European FOREST Research and Innovation Ecosystem" coordinated by the European Forest Institute (launch in November 2022)

The new EU Forest Strategy for 2030

A research and innovation partnership on forestry will be proposed to overcome the fragmentation of public research efforts in the EU

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NEW EU FOREST STRATEGY FOR 2030

The EU Forest Strategy will **improve the quantity and quality** of EU forests by:

- Increasing forest coverage in the EU in respecting ecological principles

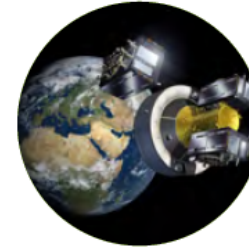- Improving the resilience of forests in the EU

Ensure that forests are managed sustainably by

- Encouraging the **bio-economy** sector to embrace sustainable principles

- Promoting the uptake of **sustainably harvested wood** in the **construction sector**

- Promoting win-win measures for all in **sustainable forest management**

Protect and restore our forests by

- Strictly protecting remaining **EU primary and old-growth forests**

- Establishing legally binding **nature restoration targets** for forests

- **Planting 3 billion** additional trees by 2030

- Creating **payment schemes** for forest owners and managers for the **provision of ecosystem services**

Understand what is happening in our forests by

- Improving the **monitoring of the state of EU forests** including through better remote sensing

- Ensuring Member States develop **Strategic Plans** for their forests

- Encouraging **citizen involvement** through Map-My-Tree, to keep track of the **3 billion trees** roadmap

- Creating an inclusive space for **all stakeholders to discuss**

European Commission

Project advisors at REA

Nicolas FAIVRE

Project Adviser

REA (B3) Biodiversity, Circular Economy and Environment
Place Rogier, B-1210 Brussels

nicolas.faivre@ec.europa.eu

Paul Sescu

Financial and Legal Officer

REA (B3) Biodiversity, Circular Economy and Environment
Place Rogier, B-1210 Brussels

paul.sescu@ec.europa.eu

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