

Candidate Co-funded European R&I Partnership, Strategic Plan 2025-2027

Forests and Forestry for a Sustainable Future

Consortium Development Meeting 10

01 September 2025

from 10:00 to 13:00 CET online in Teams

**FOrests, forestry, and the forest-based sector:
REsearch and innovation for a Sustainable Transition
(FOREST)**

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1. Welcome and agenda

Representatives from the following agencies (original core team + WP leads + SCAR Forest co-chairs):

- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland (**MMM**)
- Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning (**FORMAS**)
- The Research Council of Norway (**RCN**), Norway
- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (**DAFM**), IE
- Agency for Renewable Resources (**FNR**), Germany
- Project Management Jülich (**PtJ**), Germany
- Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Climate and Environmental Protection, Regions and Water Management (**BMLUK**)
- The Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (**FOEN**)
- French Ministries (**Research, Environment**)
- The French National Research Agency (**ANR**)



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Agenda

1. Welcome and agenda Mika Kallio (MMM, FI) <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Welcome by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland (MMM) and Forest Partnership Core Planning Team▪ Meeting overview	10:00	15 min.
2. Meeting participants Mika Kallio (MMM, FI) <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Overview of participants	10:15	15 min.
3. Proposal status Mika Kallio (MMM, FI) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Part B: technical description• Annual Work Programme Annex• Financial Support to Third Party Annex	10:30	30 min.
4. Proposal status – Part A Mika Kallio (MMM, FI)	11:00	15 min.
Coffee break	11:15	10 min.

5. Proposal status – Budget Mika Kallio (MMM, FI)	11:25	50 min.
Coffee break	12:15	10 min.
6. Next steps and process ahead Mika Kallio (MMM, FI)	12:25	20 min.
7. AOB	12:45	15 min.
8. Meeting closure Mika Kallio (MMM, FI)	13:00	

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2. Meeting participants

- Overview of participants



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Consortium partners (beneficiaries), status update

FPOs (Funding and Policy Organisations) = Ministries/ Research Funders/ Public Authorities

- **53 organisations from 28 countries**
- Initial confirmed funding commitments for the full partnership duration of 10 years in total: around **EUR 165 million**

Research Performing Organisations (RPOs) = entities such as a university, research institute, or company, that conducts research and supports researchers

- **45 organisations from 17 countries**

A few notes from the call text:

- *To achieve the international cooperation objectives, and given the global dimension of forests, collaboration with strategic **third country partners** with proven added value in the field of forests and forestry is strongly encouraged. In particular, the participation of legal entities from international countries and/or regions, including those not automatically eligible for funding, is encouraged in the transnational co-funded calls and/or in other activities of the partnership. Cooperation with **international organisations** may be considered.*
- *The partnership should be open to include **new partners** over its lifetime.*

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3. Proposal status – Part B

- Based on a **template** provided by the European Commission
- **A page limit of 70 pages** (*The title, list of participants and sections 1, 2 and 3, together, should not be longer than 70 pages. All tables, figures, references and any other element pertaining to these sections must be included as an integral part of these sections and are thus counted against this page limit*).

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3. Proposal status – Annual Work Programme Annex

- Based on a **template** provided by the European Commission
- The annual work plan provides a **detailed description of activities to be undertaken during the first 12 months** of the co-funded partnership and is a **key part of the proposal**.
- Subsequent Annual Work Plans must be included as regular deliverables of the co-funded partnership which need to be submitted on a 12 months rolling basis.
- No page limit

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3. Proposal status – Financial Support to Third Party Annex

- Based on a **template** provided by the European Commission
- No page limit

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4. Proposal status – Part A

- In the EU Funding & Tenders Portal <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

Table of contents

Section	Title	Action
1	General information	Show
2	Participants	Show
3	Budget	Show
4	Ethics and security	Show
5	Other questions	Show

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4.1 Part A – General information

- *This section provides **basic data** on the proposal.*
- *It can be filled in by contacts with full access rights from the coordinating organisation.*
- *Other contacts may only read this section.*

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4.2 Part A – Participants

➤ Current status: numerous validations errors

Administrative forms

Validation result

Show Error

The red 'Show Error' button indicates an error due to a missing or incorrect value related to the call eligibility criteria. The submission of the proposal **will be blocked** unless that specific field is corrected!

Show Warning

The yellow 'Show Warning' button indicates a warning due to a missing or incorrect value related to the call eligibility criteria. The submission of the proposal **will not be blocked** (proposal will be submitted with the missing or incorrect value).

Section	Description	
FECYT	This section has not been validated yet	Show Error
FECYT	This section has not been validated yet	Show Error
VL O	This section has not been validated yet	Show Error
SUOMEN AKATEMIA	This section has not been validated yet	Show Error
MINISTERE DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT SUPE	This section has not been validated yet	Show Error
SUOMEN AKATEMIA	This section has not been validated yet	Show Error
MINISTERE DE L'ENSEIGNEMENT SUPE	This section has not been validated yet	Show Error
MINISTRY OF CLIMATE	This section has not been validated yet	Show Error
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	This section has not been validated yet	Show Error

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4.2 Part A – Participants

➤ TO DO FOR EACH PARTNER: **UPDATE AND VALIDATE BY THU 4 SEPT 2025**

Administrative forms

Proposal ID SEP-211171806

Acronym FOREST

2 - Participants

List of participating organisations

#	Participating Organisation Legal Name	Country	Role	Action
1	MAA- JA METSATALOUSMINISTERIO (MMM)	Finland	Coordinator	Show Participant's Details
2	BUNDESMINISTERIUM FUR LAND- UND FORSTWIR Austria		Partner	Show Participant's Details
3	OSTERREICHISCHE FORSCHUNGSFORDERUNGSGE Austria		Partner	Show Participant's Details
4	BUNDESFORSCHUNGS UND AUSBILDUNGSZENTRU Austria		Partner	Show Participant's Details
5	SYRION INSTITUT ZUR FORDERUNG SYSTEMISCHI Austria		Partner	Show Participant's Details
6	UNIVERSITÄT GRAZ	Austria	Partner	Show Participant's Details

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4.3 Part A – Budget

Administrative forms

Proposal ID **SEP-211171806**

Acronym **FOREST**

3 - Budget

Please note that only the budget categories that apply will be visible for the selected topic.

Associated partners cannot request any budget.

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4.4 Part A – Ethics and security

Administrative forms

Proposal ID **SEP-211171806**

Acronym **FOREST**

4 - Ethics & security

Ethics Issues Table

?

1. Human Embryonic Stem Cells and Human Embryos	Page
Does this activity involve Human Embryonic Stem Cells (hESCs)?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Does this activity involve the use of human embryos?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
2. Humans	Page
Does this activity involve human participants?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Does this activity involve interventions (physical also including imaging technology, behavioural treatments, etc.) on the study participants?	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Does this activity involve conducting a clinical study as defined by the Clinical Trial Regulation (EU 536/2014) ? (using pharmaceuticals, biologicals, radiopharmaceuticals, or advanced therapy medicinal products)	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
3. Human Cells / Tissues (not covered by section 1)	Page

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4.4 Part A – Other questions

Administrative forms

Proposal ID **SEP-211171806**

Acronym **FOREST**

5 - Other questions

Not applicable for this topic

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5. Budget

- First draft budget calculated for WPs > **Partners to do: PM average (the average cost of one person-month) by email to mika.kallio@gov.fi at soonest if not yet sent**
- WP4 survey outcomes missing > will be added to the budget later this week
- **Important:** The Portal budget is not necessarily final; it may be adjusted up or down depending on the actual contribution of each partner to the project.
- **Our internal budget agreement will be defined during the Grant Agreement preparation phase** (the negotiation process with the EC includes several steps – from the preparation of the updated proposal to the signing of the grant agreement – and requires the project coordinator and its project partners to fulfill a range of formal requirements)
- Additionally, we'll establish **regular control points** throughout the partnership implementation to monitor budget execution, ensure financial alignment, and enable timely adjustments if needed

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Budget / Grant Agreement vs. Consortium Agreement

6. Budget transfers (budget flexibility)

The budget in Annex 2 is an estimation. The budget is therefore in principle flexible (with certain exceptions, *see below*).

As a general principle, beneficiaries may transfer budget among themselves, between affiliated entities or between budget categories (without requesting an amendment; *see Article 39*) and — at the time of reporting — declare costs that are different from the estimated budget provided that the action remains in line with the description of the action in Annex 1 (if this is not the case, an amendment is needed, under the conditions of Article 39).

⚠ Moreover, you should be aware that the **budget table** is considered by the granting authority to **reflect the actual situation** and may therefore be the basis for certain decisions, such as the calculation of amounts to be offset from (pre-financing) payments for beneficiaries that have outstanding debts to the Commission (*see Article 22*).

As in the **Grant Agreement**:

Estimated eligible ² costs (per budget category)										Estimated EU contribution ²				
Direct costs									Indirect costs	Total costs	EU contribution to eligible costs			Maximum grant amount ⁶
A. Personnel costs			B. Subcontracting costs	C. Purchase costs			D. Other cost categories		E. Indirect costs ⁷		Funding rate % ⁴	Maximum EU contribution ⁵	Requested EU contribution	
A.1 Employees (or equivalent)		A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries	B. Subcontracting	C.1 Travel and subsistence	C.2 Equipment	C.3 Other goods, works and services	D.1 Financial support to third parties	D.2 Internally invoiced goods and services	E. Indirect costs					
A.2 Natural persons under direct contract														
A.3 Seconded persons														
Actual costs	Unit costs (usual accounting practices)	Unit costs ⁷	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Actual costs	Unit costs (usual accounting practices)	Flat-rate cost ⁸					
a1	a2	a3	b	c1	c2	c3	d1	d2	e = 0,25 * (a1 + a2 + a3 + c1 + c2 + c3)	f = a + b + c + d + e	U	g = f * U%	h	m

As in the **Consortium Agreement**:

The 'consortium agreement' is an agreement between members of the consortium, to set out their internal arrangements for implementing the project and the administration of the EU grant. It is **purely internal**.

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5. Budget

- Minimum scenario discussed in the Core Group (must be verified with calculations, subject to change)

Personnel costs	
WP leads/ Co-leads	100 %
Task leads/ co-leads to some extent	50 %
Other active partners	10-20%
* see WP1 and WP6 as a minimum	
Subcontracting costs	100 %
Purchase costs/	
Travel and subsistence	100 %
Other goods, works and services	100 %
Other	
Top-up funding to the funders with financial contributions to joint call/s	10 %
Top-up funding to the RPOs with in-kind co-funding	5 %

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6. Next steps and process ahead

■ Proposal submissions before the deadline of Sept 17

- Submission 1 (test) on Friday 5th of September
- Submission 2 on Friday 12th of September
- Submission 3 = Final submission on Tuesday 16th of September

■ Process ahead

- After the submission, we will start negotiating about our **internal Consortium Agreement** (to be completed prior to the project start)
- Proposal evaluation
 - Evaluation Phase (proposals are evaluated by independent experts)
 - Notification of Results (applicants receive the Evaluation Summary Report (ESR); notification of whether the proposal is selected for funding)
 - Grant Agreement Preparation (GAP; preparation of the Grant Agreement with the EC; legal and financial validation of participants; finalization of project details (budget, work plan, etc.).
- Project start possibly in summer/autumn 2026

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7. AOB



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8. Closure



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