

SCAR FOREST

**Strategic Working Group on Forests
and Forestry Research and Innovation**

Spring 2018



EUROPEAN UNION

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The Strategic Working Group

- **20 member states** (AT, BE, BG, CZ, DE, EE, ES, FI, FR, GR, HU, IE, IT, LT, LV, NO, PL, SE, SK, UK)
- **Observers:** European Forest Institute (EFI), Forest Technology Platform (FTP)
- **Core group**
 - Jean-Michel Carnus (FR, Inra) → Jean-Luc Peyron (FR, Ecofor)
 - Martin Greimel (AT, Bmnt)
 - Karin Perhans (SE, Formas)
 - Kalliopi Radoglou (GR, Duth)
 - Secretariat: Anaïs Jallais (FR, Ecofor)
- Terms of reference 2016 - June 2019

Missions (2016 – 2019)

- *to be a source of advice on European forest-based research and innovation (R&I), thus **contributing to the development of a coherent and ambitious forest-based research area.***
- *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 [...]*

Specific objectives

- **Promote forest-based system and value-chain approaches** with consideration of other sectors
- **Provide strategic intelligence** by mapping **national** forest research and innovation capacities, policies, strategies
- **Facilitate knowledge-based input** to public debates
- Provide advice on research and innovation support to the implementation of **national** forest policies and **EU forest strategy**

Activities

- Governance of the group
 - Widening the group
 - Coordinating activities with the new ERA-NET Cofund ForestValue
 - Launching and monitoring activities
 1. Mapping forest bioeconomy research and innovation capacities
 2. Assessing forest-related ERA-NETs and COST Actions
 3. Organising a SCAR-COST event on climate change and forest
 4. Towards a synthesis report on global forest R&I cooperation.

Synthesis on forest bioeconomy research and innovation

- **Duration:** 04/2017 – End: 12/2017
- **Background:** existing mapping exercises (ERA-NETs Foresterra & Sumforest, ERIFORE...), but overall synthesis missing + need to cover complete forest-based systems in context of circular bioeconomy
- **Budget:** 20 K€
- **Experts:** lead EFI (Marko Lovric, Natasa Lovric, Robert Mavsar) + contribution from other experts (FTP, Innovawood, ..)
- **Objectives:** review and synthesize existing updated information about forest bio-economy research and innovation

- Boundaries
 - Forest systems
 - Forest biomass and raw materials
 - Primary processing
 - Secondary processing
- Information used
 - Previous mapping exercises
 - Private companies in Cordis data sets
1978 companies identified (2008-2017), 1.4 billion €
145/182 valid responses

- Some results
 - Research capacities increase along the supply chain
 - Less obvious for Southern Europe
 - More obvious for Northern and Western Europe
 - 50% are in Sweden, Germany, Finland, France and Spain
 - Increase along time
 - Main topics: bioenergy, biorefinery, construction and final wood products, sustainability assessment
 - Decreasing topics: forest inventory and economics, non-wood forest products, forest ecosystem services, wood properties

- Some more results
 - Fragmented research area
 - Low level of cooperation among different topics
 - Most innovations are successful, particularly radically new complex innovations
 - But improvements would be useful, for example in terms of financial support and cooperation among actors.

- **Duration:** 06/2017 – 02/2018
 - **Budget:** 18 K€
 - **Experts:** lead FCBA (Andreas Kleinschmit, Alain Bouvet, Frédéric Rouger) and Innovawood (Uwe Kies)
 - **Objectives:** assessment of forest-related ERA-NETs and COST actions, identification of future areas and topics for joint programming and alignment of research activities.
 - **Activities:** ERA-NET projects : 339 projects analysed
 - With high (117), medium (47) or low (175) relevance
 - From 40 calls and mainly WoodWisdom-Net and Bioenergy
- COST actions: about 100

- **Date and location** : 4/5 June 2018, Sofia, Bulgaria
- Cooperation SCAR-COST
- **Concept of COST Connect events** : Pro Action café
Methodology for creative and inspirational conversations. All participants are invited to share their questions in three rounds guided by a few generic questions to help deepen and focus their discussions.
- **Participants**: Stakeholders in the field (SCAR, DG RTD, JRC, JPI, EIP, EFI, FTP, Innovawood, IUFRO) and representatives of more than 15 COST Actions

2018-19 proposed activities

- **Widening participation**, and connecting to ongoing ERA-NETs and relevant networks (continuation)
- Identification of research and innovation needs for future forests and forest-based sector in Europe (link to preparation of FP 9: Horizon Europe)
- Advise on global forest R&I cooperation for contributing to the implementation of SDGs
- Interacting with other SCAR groups (SWG ARCH on role of forests for SDGs, SWG BIOECONOMY for revision of the EU bioeconomy strategy, Foresight Group on preparation of 5th foresight)

2018-19 main deliverables

- D2: report on assessment of forest-related ERA-NETs and COST actions – 2018/Q1 (final report of external study)
- D3: workshop on climate change and forests and reflection paper on new horizons for research and innovation (COST connect event, 4-5th June 2018)
- D4: position paper on research and innovation needs for future forests and forest-based sector in Europe – 2018/Q3
- D5: report and policy brief on global cooperation in forest research and innovation – 2019/Q1

Main message

On a European level

- CWG/SWG Forest has been crucial in setting up the ERA-NET Sumforest and ForestValue
 - Supporting forest research project in the range of 30 M€
- Designing Annual Work Programmes in FP 7 and Horizon 2020
- Influencing the design of FP 9 Horizon Europe

On a national level

- coordinating the many ministries dealing with forest issues:
 - Agriculture, Environment, Industry, Infrastructure, Research,.....
- Enabeling national research to participate on a European level through participation in ERA-NET and Joint Programming Initiatives

THANK YOU for your attention

[Martin.greimel\(at\)bmnt.gv.at](mailto:Martin.greimel(at)bmnt.gv.at)

