



WELCOME TO OUR FPRN Newsletter

Welcome to FPRN electronic newsletter dedicated to the FPRN network. Our primary objective is to furnish quarterly updates and spotlight our most recent advancements and achievements. FPRN News will be distributed via email and prominently displayed on the FPRN website (<https://fprn.info>), ensuring widespread accessibility to our latest developments.

Dr. Ivana Zivojinovic awarded Fulbright Scholarship for Research Stay at Oregon State University

We are proud to announce that Dr. Ivana Zivojinovic, senior researcher at BOKU, has been awarded a prestigious Fulbright Visiting Scholar grant.

From September to December 2025, Dr. Zivojinovic will spend three months at Oregon State University, working with leading experts on her project “Enhancing EU–US Collaboration in Forest Sector Innovation Research”. Her research will compare innovation ecosystems in Oregon and Europe, with a spotlight on the Oregon Private Forest Accord as a pioneering policy-driven initiative.

This recognition is not only an outstanding achievement for Dr. Zivojinovic, but also an important step in strengthening BOKU’s international partnerships. Her stay will foster new teaching and research collaborations, joint publications, and future projects—contributing to global progress in sustainable forestry, climate action, and bioeconomic development.

More information are available [here](#).



Past Events

EFI Annual Conference Bolsters Collaboration and Connection



On 17 September, the European Forest Institute (EFI) welcomed 107 participants to its annual conference in Prague, in partnership with the Czech University of Life Sciences, the Czech Ministry of Agriculture, Czech State Forests, the City of Prague, and Prague Forests.

The event focused on member engagement, charting the path toward EFI Strategy 2040, and planning the Institute’s 2026–2030 research agenda. Delegates emphasized the value of networking, science-to-policy-practice translation, and youth involvement in EFI’s collaborative ecosystem.



Source: efi.int

In the research session, updates were shared on emerging priorities and funding landscapes:

- Laura Liepiņa (DG AGRI) provided insight into EU funding opportunities in forest science and innovation, including the proposed European Partnership for Forests, Forestry, and the Forest-Based Sector.
- Alex Giurcă presented highlights from the Strategic R&I Agenda (SRIA) developed under the EUFORE project, designed to guide future research in forestry and the forest-based sector.

Participants also had the chance to pitch their organizations in short “lightning talk” sessions.

Key Decisions & Institutional Updates

- Dr. Sanja Perić was re-elected to the EFI Board for the 2025–2028 term.
- EFI resolved to waive 2025 membership fees for its Ukrainian member organisations in light of ongoing challenges
- The network welcomed eight new Associate Members and one Affiliate Member, bringing EFI's total membership to about 125 organisations spanning 39 countries.
- Dr. Leire Barañano, former board member, vice-chair, and chair, was inducted as the newest EFI Fellow. She highlighted the Institute's institutional evolution in her acceptance remarks.

Looking ahead, the **2026 EFI Annual Conference and Scientific Seminar will be held in Växjö, Sweden**, hosted by Linnaeus University. The scientific seminar will revolve around forest diplomacy.

Stay tuned for more updates and photos from the Prague event via EFI's LinkedIn channel.

This article is a condensed version of the original news item published on the [EFI website](#).

SILVA Network Annual Conference 2025: Forestry Education Reimagined: Reform and Best Practices for the Future

21-23 May 2025

The conference held on 21–23 May 2025 in Zvolen, Slovakia, was supported by IUFRO Research Group 6.09.00 Forest education and focused on the theme "Forestry Education Reimagined: Reform and Best Practices for the Future".

The keynote speech by RNDr. Soňa Ftáčniková, PhD, from the Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information, addressed the ethical implications of using artificial intelligence (AI) in academia. She presented alarming statistics, indicating a 47% increase in global research publications between 2016 and 2022, which has led to concerns about declining quality.

In her online keynote, Dr. Tatiane Micheletti focused on the role of AI in research, discussing its potential for generating scientific ideas and analyzing data. However, she cautioned against biases inherent in AI and the ethical implications of its use in academia.

Dr. Mika Rekola from the University of Helsinki presented on the intersection of Open Educational Resources (OER) and Artificial Intelligence (AI), focusing on quality enhancement. He discussed the benefits and challenges of OER, frameworks for assessing quality, and AI applications in education. The presentation emphasized the importance of community engagement and future initiatives for developing quality educational materials, particularly in forest sciences.



From the left: Jaroslav Šálka, Sandra Liebal, and Norbert Weber. Image: Mika Rekola

The conference concluded with discussions on the importance of open educational resources (OER) and AI in enhancing educational quality. Proposals for European cooperation in forestry education were presented, emphasizing the need for modular learning paths and quality assurance mechanisms. Overall, the conference underscored the transformative potential of AI in forestry education and research while addressing significant challenges in academic publishing and the ethical implications of AI use in academia. The discussions highlighted the need for collaboration, transparency, and ongoing reform to ensure the integrity and quality of research in the field.

Read more about the conference [here](#).

Upcoming Events

Faculty of Forestry's 7th International Conference Suceava University, 7-8, Nov 2025

The highlights of the scientific program:

- Forest Ecosystems and Climate
- Silviculture and Forest Health
- Forest Assessment, Modelling and Management
- Environmental Economics and Policy
- Forest Operations Engineering and Forest Products
- Close to Nature Forestry
- EUDR Forest Management challenges, tools, and solutions

Registration (oral or poster presentation) at the following [link](#)

It will be a great opportunity for all the participants to share experiences with peer colleagues in a friendly environment in the historic capital of the province of Bucovina.

More information are available here visit: <https://www.silvic.usv.ro/imer2025/index.php>



6th International Forest Policy Meeting, Prague, 12-15 May 2026

Perception versus Reality in Forest Policy

The 6th International Forest Policy Meeting (IFPM6) will focus on the tension between perception and reality in forest policy, with a particular interest in the post-socialist transformation and current dynamics in forest governance in Eastern countries within the EU. However, the conference remains open to global perspectives and invites comparative case studies that shed light on how similar challenges are addressed in diverse contexts. A central question will be how to bridge perception gaps through participatory governance, inclusive stakeholder engagement, and transparent, effective communication.

Deadlines and key dates

- Sept 2025: Call for papers published
- 31 Dec 2025: Submission deadline for proposed panels and papers
- 31 Jan 2026: Acceptance/rejection of panels/papers.
- Feb 2026: Registration opens
- 15 Mar 2026: Deadline for registration
- 15 Apr 2026: Conference program published
- 12 May 2026: Start of conference
- 15 May 2026: Excursions

The conference fee is €300 (regular), €220 PhD students. **Registration will open in January 2026.**

More information at the following [link](#).

Special Issue: Forest Policy and Governance in Baltics, Central Eastern and South-eastern Europe



We are pleased to inform you that some of the first articles from the thematic issue of the Central European Forestry Journal (CEFJ) Forest policy and governance research in Baltics, Central Eastern and South-eastern Europe are already available [online](#).

The complete issue will be published soon. We encourage you to explore the early-access articles and share them within your networks. A full announcement will follow once the issue is finalized. This initiative is a joint effort of the Forest Policy Research Network (FPRN) and showcases ongoing collaboration and knowledge exchange across Europe.

Special Issue Call for Papers Forest Futures: Leveraging Social, Governance and Institutional Innovations to Tackle Contemporary Challenges

Call for Papers Aligning with Environmental Policy and Governance journal's emphasis on multi-level, multi-actor and cross-sectoral governance, this Special Issue calls for papers which explore how social, governance, institutional, and policy innovations in the forest sector can be leveraged within multi-level governance systems to shape equitable, inclusive, and sustainable forest futures. Particular attention will be given to the policy and governance dimensions of these innovations—how they emerge, scale, and operate across governance levels, and how they influence policy integration, procedural justice, and institutional resilience.

More information are available [here](#).

Highlighted Publications

RECENT RESEARCH PAPERS!

- Halušková, L., Nousiainen, D., Hujala, T., Malovrh, Š. P., Uhan, Z., Machoň, M., ... Šálka, J. (2025). Navigating the international forest policy labyrinth: Domestic drivers of participation in the UNFF from Czechia, Finland, Slovakia, and Slovenia. *Forest Policy and Economics*, 178, 103596. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.forpol.2025.103596>
- Kicko, P., Dobšínská, Z., Šálka, J. (2025). Forestry Ideology in the Slovak Government's Program Statements. *Forests*, 16(6), 974. <https://doi.org/10.3390/f16060974>
- Trenčiansky, M., Bálíková, K., Štěrbová, M., Šálka, J. (2025). Current Issues and Challenges in Slovak Water Reservoir Management. *Water*, 17(17), 2521. <https://doi.org/10.3390/w17172521>
- Bumbera, A., Halaj, D., Hajdúchová, I. (2025). Will cultural and regulatory forest services provide enough balance to provisioning services in forest enterprise portfolios in future? Marketing case studies of selected forest enterprises in Slovakia. *Journal of Forest Science (1212-4834)*, 71(2). <https://doi.org/10.17221/68/2024-JFS>
- Majlingova, A., Sedliak, M., Brodrechtova, Y. (2025). Implementation Potential of the SILVANUS Project Outcomes for Wildfire Resilience and Sustainable Forest Management in the Slovak Republic. *Forests (19994907)*, 16(7). <https://doi.org/10.3390/f16071153>
- Němec, M., Riedl, M., Šálka, J., Jarský, V., Dobšínská, Z., Sarvaš, M., Sarvašová, Z., Bučko, J., & Hustinová, M. (2025). Consumer Perceptions and Sustainability Challenges in Game Meat Production and Marketing: A Comparative Study of Slovakia and the Czech Republic. *Foods*, 14(4), 653. <https://doi.org/10.3390/foods14040653>
- Živojinović, I.; Nedeljković, J.; Petrović, N.; Nonić, D.; Weiss, G.; Nichiforel, L. (2025): The forest restitution process in Serbia: The role of the Serbian Orthodox Church in shaping an adapted forest governance framework. *Forest Policy and Economics*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.forpol.2025.103538>
- Konczal, Agata & Koning, J & Larsen, Jørgen & Felton, Adam & Lawrence, Anna & Ammer, C & Angelstam, Per & Martínez de Arano, Inazio & Bjørsting, Therese & Blondet, Marieke & Calviño-Cancela, María & De Vreese, Rik & Dolriis, C & Jaroszewicz, Bogdan & Johansson, Johanna & Lexer, M & Nichiforel, Liviu & Niedziałkowski, Krzysztof & Paillet, Yoan & de Koning, Johannes. (2025). Integrating nature and people in European forest management: what is the state of nature conservation and role of participation?. *International Forestry Review*. 27. 2025. 10.1505/146554825840319564.

Share your inputs with us in the future

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