



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.

Past Events



EFI Forest Policy Research Network at European Forest Week and IFIW2025

On October 20–24, the European Forest Week and the 43rd Session of the European Forestry Commission took place in Istanbul, Türkiye, alongside Istanbul Forest Innovation Week (IFIW2025). EFI-FPRN’s Aine Parlade and Stojan Ivanović joined the panel “Forest futures: Intergenerational dialogue on building innovation ecosystems,” which explored how youth and key experts co-create effective pathways for innovation.



Aine Parlade shared insights from the FORWARDS Project in her presentation “From Systems to Stories: Amplifying Social Innovations in Climate-Smart Forestry and Forest Restoration,” showing how citizen engagement, narratives, and co-creative art approaches can make innovation systems more inclusive and adaptive.

Stojan Ivanović presented findings on EU innovation-related research funding networks, highlighting how collaboration patterns shape institutional success and the need to strengthen participation from Eastern and South-Eastern Europe (based on EUFORE Project data).



The presentations concluded with a fishbowl-format discussion, fostering interaction among key experts, youth, and audience participants.

Thank you to FAO and all partners for the opportunity to contribute and exchange ideas during this inspiring week!



More details [here](#)



Pilot Activities Were Organized Within The “Fem2Forests” Project



Within the international Interreg project Fem2Forests – Innovative Pathways for the Efficient Involvement of Girls and Young Women in the Forestry Sector, two pilot activities were organized by the Faculty of Forestry, University of Belgrade.

The first pilot activity, entitled “Forest as a Classroom – From Students to Engineers”, was held on October 10, 2025, at the Faculty of Forestry’s teaching base “Goč”. The event gathered 45 participants, including students and teachers from the Forestry School in Kraljevo, professors and associates of the Faculty of Forestry in Belgrade, as well as representatives of the public enterprises “Srbijašume” and “National Park Kopaonik”.

The second pilot activity, “Protected Area as a Future Classroom”, took place on October 17, 2025, in the Special Nature Reserve “Obedska Bara”, in cooperation with employees of the public enterprise “Vojvodinašume”. The event was attended by 44 participants, including students and teachers from the School of Food, Forestry and Chemistry in Sremska Mitrovica, professors from the Faculty of Forestry, and representatives of PE “Vojvodinašume”.

The pilot activities were designed to motivate students to consider forestry and nature conservation as potential career paths by presenting a wide range of professional opportunities within the sector. Participants took part in an educational programme that included presentations and guided walks in protected areas, as well as interactive discussions on education, employment opportunities in forestry, and career development prospects. Through direct interaction with professors, experts, and sector professionals, innovative approaches were discussed and proposed to effectively promote forestry careers among girls and young women.

More information about the project is available [here](#).

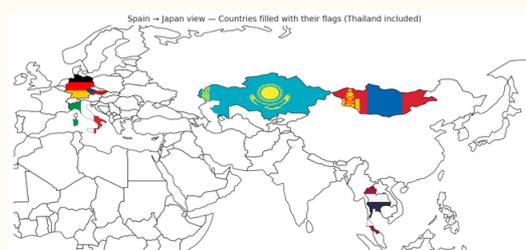
EuAsiaN-ROOT project: Linking Belowground Science to Forest Policy and Resilience

The Eurasian Network for Collaborative Research on Tree-Root-Mycorrhizal-Pathogen Interactions in Forest Soils (EuAsiaN-ROOT) is a Horizon Europe project funded under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Staff Exchange scheme, coordinated by Mendel University in Brno, that brings together researchers and practitioners to advance understanding of forest ecosystems.

Forest soils host intricate networks of fine roots, mycorrhizal fungi, and microbial communities that underpin tree health, carbon storage, nutrient cycling, and long-term ecosystem resilience. EuAsiaN-ROOT investigates these belowground interactions across a broad Eurasian gradient—from tropical forests in Thailand through temperate Europe to the Mongolian Taiga—enabling direct comparisons across contrasting climates, soils, and forest management contexts.

A central focus of the project is mycorrhizal fungi, which enhance nutrient uptake and play a key role in carbon sequestration, making them highly relevant to climate-change mitigation strategies. EuAsiaN-ROOT examines how mycorrhizas regulate the activity of soil-borne saprotroph and pathogen fungi, promoting forest stability and resilience. As an MSCA Staff Exchange project, EuAsiaN-ROOT places strong emphasis on knowledge transfer, capacity building, and cross-sectoral collaboration through international secondments and shared methodologies. The project is also committed to strengthening soil literacy and supporting evidence-based decision-making, thereby contributing scientific knowledge directly relevant to sustainable forest management and policy development.

More information about the project is available [here](#).



Upcoming Events

COLI Global Summit in Vienna, Austria, 23-25 February

The Country-Led Initiative on Advancing Sustainable Forest-based Bioeconomy Approaches will be convened as Global Summit

Within the COLI process, which encompasses different activities to support the work of UNFF and FAO, Austria will host a Country-Led Initiative on Advancing Sustainable Forest-based Bioeconomy Approaches (CLI-ASFBA) in Vienna in February 2026.



The CLI-ASFBA will focus on issues related to sustainable forest-based bioeconomy approaches, such as scaling up financing, supply chains, agroforestry and wood buildings.

The results from COLI activities will inform the Global Summit, whose outcomes will be presented at UNFF21 and FAO's 28th Committee on Forestry session.

More details [here](#).

Training School in Brasov, Romania, 19-24 April

Perception versus Reality in Forest Policy

The OptFor-EU & COST Action DSS4ES Consortia are pleased to invite researchers to their Training School in Brasov, Romania (19.04.-24.04.2026). The training school will focus on several aspects related to the development and application of forest management DSS, to make applicants familiar with the challenges of these systems development, give insight to existing DSS cases and allow them to learn about projects focusing on decision support systems.

There is the [option that the COST Action DSS4ES will reimburse the costs](#) for selected participants' travel, accommodation and subsistence.

The **deadline for applications is 20 January 2026**.



More details [here](#)

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

- 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

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

More details [here](#).

Call for papers!

Policy brief

A group of **HELSUS' members** developed a policy brief funded by the HELSUS initiative. The brief entitled "Forest restoration for just, resilient, and sustainable futures: A call to action" has now been published 12/2025 and recommends the following actions:

- Tailor environmental subsidies to national climate and biodiversity targets.
- Boost funding for R&D activities to better understand the climate change mitigation and restoration potential of peatland forests.
- Engage forest owners, local communities, and Indigenous peoples more meaningfully in nature restoration efforts, through information sharing and direct participation in decision-making processes.
- Prioritize equitable benefit sharing in policies governing the consumption of natural resources in the Global North through strict compensation and sustainable value chains.
- Promote restoration in locations where degradation has occurred, avoiding outsourcing or offsetting projects to other countries.

You can read the whole policy brief [here](#)



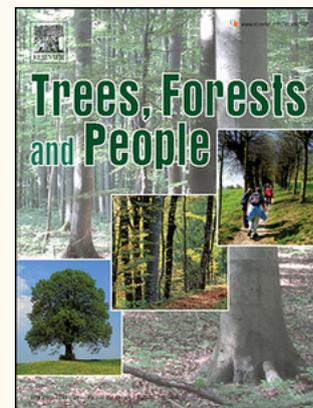
Special Issue

This Special Issue of *Trees, Forests and People*, organized by **IUFRO Research Group 9.03** (Forest History and Traditional Knowledge), invites research and case studies from around the world focusing on the interlinkages between forest biodiversity, traditional knowledge, sustainable livelihoods, food security and human health. It will include such topics as: integration of native forest species in traditional agroforestry systems for enhancing their climate resilience; traditional agroecological systems to support food security in the context of climate change; conservation and management of medicinal plant resources and other non-timber forest products based on traditional knowledge for sustainable livelihoods; governance and policy dimensions of integrating traditional and formal knowledge and practices in forest management and human health.

Guest Editors: (John Parrotta & Doris Mutta)

Submission deadline: 15 May 2026

More details [here](#).



Now available: Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for the European forest-based sector

The much-anticipated Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) for the European forest-based sector has officially been launched during EUFORE's third European-level stakeholder event held in Brussels on 15 October 2025.

As one of the main outputs of the EUFORE project, the SRIA serves as a strategic compass for guiding national and European research agendas in the forest-based sector. It will also inform and evolve with the forthcoming European Research and Innovation Partnership on Forests and Forestry for a Sustainable Future.

The SRIA identifies priority research and innovation areas where scientific excellence can strengthen evidence-based policymaking, promote cross-sectoral collaboration, and enable Europe's forest-based sector to deliver long-term ecological, economic, and social value.



[More details here](#)

New read: Sustainability Challenges in the Arctic Special Issue

A new peer-reviewed special issue titled “Sustainability Challenges in the Arctic: Exploring Land Use Changes and their Impacts” has been published in the Journal of Land Use Science. The collection brings together voices in Arctic research to examine how rapidly shifting land-use patterns, climatic change and economic pressure reshape the European Arctic. This special issue aims to contribute to a better understanding of the complex socio-economic challenges currently facing the Arctic.

The issue highlights how drivers such as mining expansion, infrastructure development, forestry, tourism, fish farming and aquaculture activities are accelerating the transformation of Arctic landscapes. The editors argue that these shifts are deeply intertwined with social, ecological and governance challenges—and call for integrative approaches that go beyond conventional environmental assessments.

Journal of Land Use Science

Sustainability Challenges in the Arctic:
Exploring Land Use Changes and their Impacts

READ IT NOW

Taylor & Francis
Online



Call to action

The special issue is open-access and available online at www.tandfonline.com. Researchers, practitioners and policy-makers are invited to read the volume and consider how its findings can inform ongoing work in Arctic development, mining, forestry, tourism, Indigenous co-management, and Arctic infrastructure planning.

[More details here](#)

EFUF2026 – Submit Your Ideas Now

We warmly welcome submissions from everyone interested in trees, people, and urban nature. While we encourage contributions that connect to the conference theme

“Diversity in Urban Forestry – bringing People, Trees and Ideas together,” we also invite presentations that explore other relevant aspects of urban green environments – including urban trees, parks, shrubs, green infrastructure, and vegetated spaces of all kinds – even if they do not directly align with the main theme.

At EFUF, the term urban forestry is understood in its broadest sense, encompassing all aspects of planning, managing, and studying trees and vegetation in cities and towns, not limited to traditional forestry or peri-urban woodlands.

Abstracts must be **submitted not later than 18th of January 2026** by filling in the on-line abstract submission form.

More details [here](#).



New Colleague



Dipl.-Ing. Viviane Griesinger

is a geographer and has been a project assistant at the Institute for Forest, Environmental and Resource Policy since October 2025. In her master's thesis in environmental and bio-resource management, she specialized in qualitative methods for analyzing political processes related to biodiversity and forest conservation. As part of her work on the Carbon.Sink project, Viviane is investigating the influence of political measures on the use and recyclability of wood-based materials in the Austrian construction sector.

Highlighted Publications

Recent Research Papers!

- Briers, S., Ackermann, A., Živojinović, I., Linser, S., Rinn, R., Martinez de Arano, I., Klapper, J., Wallius, V., Amato Krijan, M., Barañano Orbe, L., Gonzalez Dominguez, M., Koivula, S., Van Langenhove, G., & Wieland, S. (2025). Pathways to bioeconomy development: A multi-regional perspective from Europe. *Ambio*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13280-025-02297-4>
- Krajter Ostoić, S., Massetti, L., Ugolini, F., Simoneti, M., Sanesi, G., Calaza-Martínez, P., Cariñanos, P., Verlič, A., Gonçalves, A., Šaulienė, I., Brajić Kezija, A., Tomičević-Dubljević, J., Čepić, S., Laurinavičienė, R., Živojinović, I., Stojanovski, V., Dabić, I., Bećirović, D., Vuletić, D., & Kičić, M. (2025). Perceptions and attitudes of European urban forest and green space professionals towards public participation in planning and management. *Urban Forestry & Urban Greening*, 114, 129168. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ufug.2025.129168>
- Nebasifu, A., Guillén, L. A., Linser, S., & Toppinen, A. (2025). Sustainability barriers in Nordic forestry: A systematic review. *Sustainable Futures*, 10, 101467. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sftr.2025.101467>



Share your inputs with us in the future

by writing to isidora.dabic@boku.ac.at
or visit us at:



fprn.info



@efiforestpolicy

