



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.

Dipl.-Ing. Barbara Öllerer has been honored with the Young Teaching Award (Junglehrendenpreis) at BOKU University!

This award recognizes the most talented and dedicated junior faculty members, and we can't think of anyone more deserving. Barbara's passion for education and her ability to inspire her students is truly world-class.

Please [join us](#) in celebrating this incredible achievement!



Past Events



IUFRO's Branching Out Forest Podcast Season 3

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Ivana Živojinović (BOKU) recently appeared as a guest on IUFRO's Branching Out podcast, where she spoke about the importance of inclusivity and diversity in shaping a successful transition to a bioeconomy. In the episode, she reflects on how the bioeconomy has evolved into a broader and more holistic framing that connects the production, use, and value of biological resources with wider sustainability goals. The discussion also emphasizes that a bioeconomy should not come at the expense of biodiversity, water, or people's rights and livelihoods. The episode highlights that there is no single pathway to a bioeconomy, as different countries and regions may pursue different approaches depending on their contexts and priorities.

Branching out

The forest podcast

Ivana Živojinović
Boku University, Vienna, Austria,
and IUFRO Task Force
Coordinator

Bioeconomy transition as such will be successful only if it is coherent and inclusive and really grounded in diversity. This silo thinking, I think, would not help much.

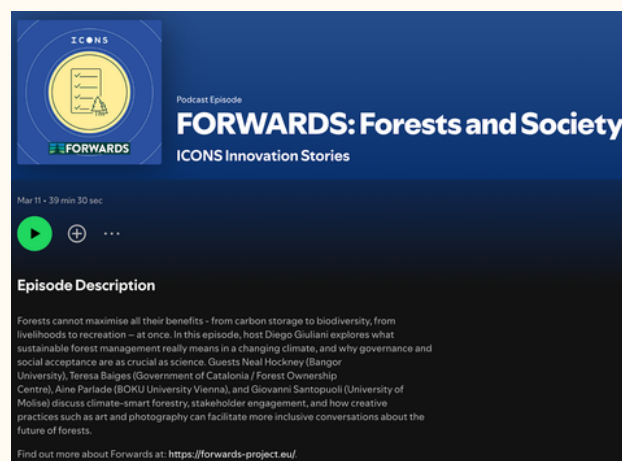
Season 3 Episode 1

Breaking down silos

More details [here](#)

THE SOUND OF FORESTS: A NEW FORWARDS PROJECT PODCAST

The EU-funded FORWARDS Project has launched a new podcast, *The Sound of Forests*, produced by ICONS and available on Spotify. It offers an engaging look at the health of Europe's forests and the innovative technologies, research, and collaborative approaches being used to monitor and protect them under climate change. Across four episodes, the series explores forest condition, monitoring technologies, the social dimensions of climate-smart forestry, and the ForestWard Observatory, bringing together researchers and practitioners from across Europe. One episode in the series, *FORWARDS: Forests and Society*, features Aine Parlade (BOKU University Vienna) alongside Neal Hockney, Teresa Baiges, and Giovanni Santopuoli in a discussion on what sustainable forest management means in a changing climate. The episode reflects on climate-smart forestry, stakeholder engagement, and the importance of governance and social acceptance, while also highlighting how creative practices like art can help open more inclusive conversations about the future of forests. Listen [here](#).



Advancing the Forest-Based Bioeconomy: IUFRO Task Force Contribution

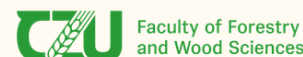
The IUFRO Task Force has been actively contributing to the development of the COLI Extended Policy Brief, coordinated by IUFRO following the Think Tank Workshop. Several Task Force members have taken part in the drafting process as authors and co-authors, bringing valuable expertise and perspectives on key aspects of the forest-based bioeconomy.



The Extended Policy Brief brings together current knowledge and highlights policy-relevant insights to support ongoing international discussions on sustainable forest-based bioeconomy approaches. It is set to play an important role in informing the upcoming COLI Summit (23–25 February 2026, Vienna), while also contributing to broader global policy processes, including UNFF21 and COFO28 in 2026. More details [here](#).

Upcoming Events

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



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. More details [here](#).

IFPM6 PhD School on Forest Policy and Governance

The **IFPM6 PhD School on Forest Policy and Governance**, which will take place in **Zvolen on 5–10 May 2026**, alongside the 6th International Forest Policy Meeting in Prague.

The PhD School will bring together doctoral researchers and leading scholars to discuss theoretical approaches, methodological challenges, and publication strategies in forest policy research. The programme is designed around interactive formats (mentoring pairs, group discussions, and plenary sessions) to foster intensive academic exchange and collaboration. **The school will host 15 PhD students and 10 international teachers.**

Future Forests, Future Leaders

EFI's Young Leadership Programme (YLP) 2026 focuses on creating value at the local level, drawing inspiration from Northern Europe—a region shaped by forests, knowledge, and innovation, yet undergoing significant transformation.

Built around futures thinking and innovation, YLP 2026 combines expert-led discussions with hands-on capacity-building activities designed to strengthen leadership and strategic skills.



Participants will explore how to anticipate disruptions, address emerging challenges, and drive proactive innovation in a rapidly changing world.

YLP 2026 will take place from 24–28 August 2026 in Joensuu, Finland, in collaboration with local partners.

Learn more and apply [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](#).

Call for papers

Call for papers for the Special Issue on Governance analyses of forest-based value and supply chains in the *Small Scale Forestry* journal is now open until December 2026!

This special issue seeks to advance analytical frameworks, methods, and empirical cases dealing with complex governance dynamics of forest-based supply and value chains, from forest-based harvesters to processors and consumers. Empirical value chain governance studies, including those in the forestry sector, have heavily relied on the classification of a) a buyer- or producer-driven one, or b) strong or weak bargaining power. These classifications rather serve chain actors involved in global trade and do not reveal the nuanced power dynamics or other definitions of value beyond economic ones. Forest product chains stemming from small-scale production systems may imply i) domestically-traded goods, ii) governance dynamics and nuances that may not have been captured by such a categorical distinction, and iii) inherent multiple social, cultural, and ecological values.

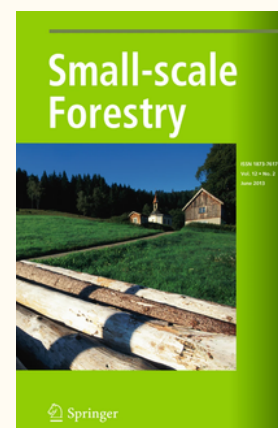
We welcome papers on:

- Power relations, participation, and equity in forest-based value chains, including the roles of small-scale forest farmers, Indigenous and local actors, and small and medium-sized enterprises

- Governance arrangements, policy instruments, and regulatory frameworks that steer forest-based value and supply chains toward biodiversity protection, or rural development
- Innovations in forest-based chain governance, such as traceability mechanisms, unilateral regulations traceability mechanisms, unilateral regulations, new partnerships, cooperative structures, certification, payment schemes for ecosystem services, and digitalization that reconfigure value creation and power relations along forest-based chains.

More information [here](#).

Contact: Dr. Verina Ingram (verina.ingram@wur.nl) or co-editor Dr. Kendisha Soekardjo Hintz (kendisha.hintz@tu-dresden.de)



Call for abstracts for the Bolzano IUFRO 4.05 Annual Conference 2026 is now online

Eurac Research, Bolzano-Bozen, 23-26th November 2026

Sustainability transitions and bioeconomy are fundamentally reconfiguring the forest sector, driving shifts from timber-centric models toward integrated, multifunctional concepts that recognise diverse forest values. Understanding the interplay between value chains, employment dynamics, accounting systems, innovation strategies, and supply chain governance, all grounded in robust data and methods, is essential for equitable and sustainable outcomes.



Credits: Eurac Research

The Annual IUFRO Conference of Division 4.05 (Managerial Economics and Accounting) will directly respond to this development by addressing how multifunctional forest management, wood-processing systems, and the strategic integration of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) contribute to building resilient, diverse, inclusive, and transparent forest-based economies.

More information is available [here](#).

Now available: The State of Europe’s Forests 2025 report

The State of Europe’s Forests 2025 report (SoEF 2025) provides a comprehensive overview of the condition, management, and use of forest resources across Europe. Based on harmonised data provided by FOREST EUROPE Signatory countries, it builds on internationally agreed indicators for sustainable forest management (SFM) and reflects decades of pan-European cooperation.

As the flagship report of the FOREST EUROPE process, SoEF 2025 serves as a key reference for policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders, supporting informed decision-making and strengthening the science-policy interface in a rapidly changing environmental and socio-economic context.



More details [here](#).



**From Indicators to Action -
Bridging Science, Policy and Practice in
Forest Restoration and Integrative Forest
Management Webinar
- End of May -
(exact date and time to be announced
soon on the [TRANSFORMIT website](#)).**



The EU HE TRANSFORMIT project, in collaboration with the Integrate Network, is organizing a 1.5-hour interactive webinar aimed at bridging science, policy, and practice in forest restoration and Integrative Forest Management (IFM).

The session will focus on how ambitious restoration and forest biodiversity-related policies, particularly the EU Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR), including its restoration indicators, can be effectively translated into action on the ground. Building on important lessons learned from the TRANSFORMIT’s development of 17 key indicators for IFM, the webinar will explore how indicators shape “real-world” decision-making, highlight implementation challenges, and stimulate knowledge exchange across country borders and disciplines. Together we will discuss the science behind indicators shaping forest management, policies impacting member countries’ decision-making, and practical insights from national cases and forest landscapes.

Discussions will center around questions such as: ‘How do national and local actors decide what measures to prioritize?’, ‘How do they balance ecological goals with social, economic, and governance realities?’ and ‘What can we learn from each other’s approaches?’

Why attend? This webinar is an opportunity to strengthen the science-policy-practice interface, share experiences, and explore how high-level policy frameworks can be translated into actionable strategies, while ensuring that practitioners’ perspectives feed back into policy design.

Highlighted Publications

Recent Research Papers!

- Roitsch, D., Lamatungga, K. E., Derks, J., De Vreese, R., Buijs, A., Živojinović, I., et al. (n.d.). Ecosystem services and disservices of forests and greenspaces: A pan-European representative study of societal perceptions. *Ecosystem Services*, 78, 101832. [10.1016/j.ecoser.2026.101832](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecoser.2026.101832)
- Moure, M., Pless, C. E., Lovrić, M., Giurca, A., Brendel, O., Živojinović, I., et al. (n.d.). Mapping of a field: A systematic review of reviews on forestry and the forest-based sector in Europe. *Forest Policy and Economics*, 183, 103693. [10.1016/j.forpol.2025.103693](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.forpol.2025.103693)
- Živojinović, I., Grima, N., Radosavljević, M., Hansen, E., Payn, T., Pittaluga, L., et al. (n.d.). Policy-relevant priority actions identified in the expanded policy brief on advancing forest-based bioeconomy approaches. *Science-Policy Programme (SciPol)*, 18. [link](#)
- Živojinović, I., Ivanović, S., Tošković, O., Pülzl, H., De Vreese, R., Davies, C., et al. (n.d.). Socio-demographic and geographical patterns in forest and park use: Insights from 33 European countries. *People and Nature*. (<https://doi.org/10.1002/pan3.70257>)
- Murina, M., Halušková, L., & Šálka, J. (n.d.). EUTR and timber legality governance in the forestry sector in Slovakia: From overlooking to overregulating. (<https://doi.org/10.3390/f17030311>)

Share your inputs with us in the future

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

