



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.

IFPM6 Prague 2026

Bringing Together the Global Forest Policy Community



The Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, hosted the 6th International Forest Policy Meeting (IFPM6) from 12–15 May 2026. Under the theme “Perception versus Reality in Forest Policy”, the conference explored how forest policy is shaped not only by scientific evidence but also by public perceptions, political agendas, stakeholder interests, media narratives, and broader socio-economic contexts.



The event brought together more than 180 participants from 27 countries, including researchers, academics, and PhD students. The scientific programme featured 30 parallel sessions covering a broad range of current topics in forest policy. Keynote lectures were delivered by Prof. Max Krott (University of Göttingen), Dr. Agata A. Konczal (Wageningen University & Research), and Dr. Helga Pülzl (European Forest Institute).

In addition to the scientific programme, participants enjoyed networking and social programme in Prague, while the final conference day was dedicated to professional field excursions across selected forestry and nature management sites in the Czech Republic. The next International Forest Policy Meeting will be held in Copenhagen in 2028.

FPRN also organised a side-meeting during the event to have a mutual update of recent developments, and propose future collaborations. Representatives from EFI gave an account of the recent structural changes: Alex Giurca reported on Research (Head: Flip van Helden), and Helga Pülzl on Engagement (Head: Michele Bozzano). To get involved, all are invited to engage in various ongoing EFI networks and tools, e.g. the Integrate Network, the Bioregions or Biocities facilities, Martelloscope etc. There is also a plan to announce calls for Research Networks during the year. The meeting and informal dinner provided opportunities to connect informally among each other and with staff from the EFI research group on governance, policy and society.

IFPM6 International PhD School: A Platform for New Ideas and Scientific Collaboration

From 5–10 May 2026, the Department of Forest Economics and Policy at the Faculty of Forestry, Technical University in Zvolen hosted the IFPM6 International PhD School as part of the 6th International Forest Policy Meeting (IFPM6). The event provided an international platform for professional discussion, knowledge exchange, and scientific collaboration among early-career researchers in forest policy and forest economics.



An international team of distinguished scholars guided participants through current developments in forest policy, governance, research methodology, and academic publishing while providing individual mentoring and scientific feedback.

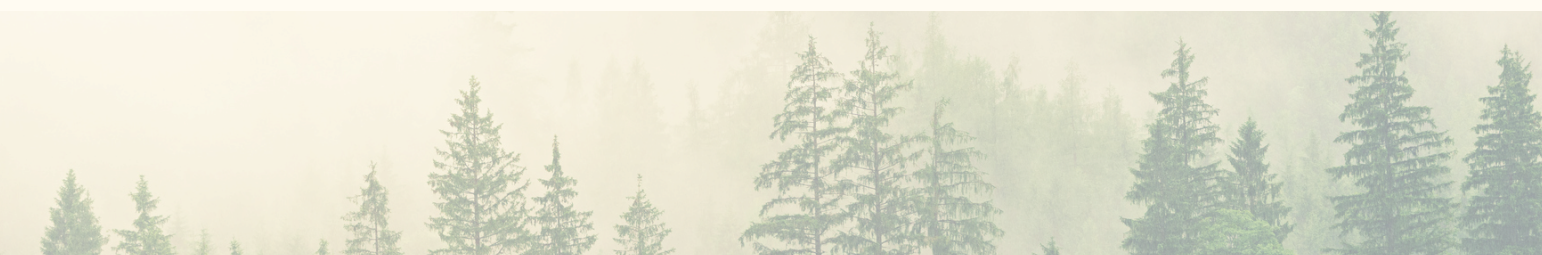
The PhD School brought together 11 doctoral students from universities across Europe and Asia, representing a diverse range of academic backgrounds. Its interactive format encouraged participants to present ongoing research, discuss methodological challenges, and receive constructive feedback through seminars, thematic working groups, and plenary discussions.

In addition to the academic programme, participants explored the city of Zvolen and joined a field excursion to the historic town of Banská Štiavnica, where they linked theoretical discussions with practical examples of sustainable forest management and ecosystem service provision.

The PhD School provided valuable scientific knowledge, new professional connections, and opportunities to build an international network of young forest policy researchers. Positive feedback from both participants and lecturers confirmed the success of the programme in fostering open dialogue, mutual learning, and new scientific collaborations, demonstrating the importance of international cooperation and close links between research and practice.



The successful first edition laid the foundations for a new tradition that will continue to create opportunities for young researchers while strengthening the international profile of the Technical University in Zvolen in the fields of forest policy, forest economics, and related disciplines.



Upcoming Events



Webinar Series | Unlocking Forest Sector Innovation: The Practice and Potential Pathways to Scaling Up

Join us in the 2026 Yale Forest Forum Speaker Series as we dive into one of the most urgent and exciting frontiers in the forest sector: how to design, scale, and sustain innovation!

From September 3 to December 10, leading researchers and practitioners from across the world will unpack questions that shape the future of forestry:

- What does innovation look like in the forest sector?
- How do we build functional innovation ecosystems?
- How are digital technologies transforming monitoring, planning, and management?
- What frameworks help us introduce and scale new ideas?
- What triggers innovation in emerging economies?

The series is hosted by The Forest School at the Yale School of the Environment, College of Forestry – Oregon State University, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU), Universidad Autónoma de Chihuahua, and Universidad Nacional de La Plata, with support from the Latin American Network for Forestry Education (RELAFOR) and the IUFRO – International Union of Forest Research Organizations Task Force on Scaling Up Science-based Forest Sector Innovation.

Every Thursday, Sept 3–Dec 10 | 12–1 p.m. U.S. ET

CEU certificates available for live attendees

[Register here](#)

Summer school in Brno, Czech Republic, 19–23.10.2026

The Summer School on Woody Roots and Mycorrhizal Symbioses explores the fundamental biological processes that underpin healthy and productive forest ecosystems — a key foundation of a sustainable forest-based bioeconomy.

By focusing on **root systems, fungal symbionts, soil biodiversity, and belowground ecosystem functions**, the programme provides participants with essential knowledge for **understanding how forests support carbon storage, nutrient cycling, biodiversity, and long-term ecosystem resilience**.

Through expert lectures and practical training in field and laboratory methods, the Summer School connects cutting-edge research with real-world challenges in sustainable resource management, climate change adaptation, and the development of science-based approaches for a circular and climate-neutral bioeconomy.

EXCELLENTIA
Forest Ecosystem Research

THE HIDDEN HALF OF ECOSYSTEMS
Summer school

19 - 23 October 2026

For detailed program, registration, accommodation see the QR code.

The Summer series Forest Ecology Challenges is held within the project EBN Chair, aiming for excellence in the forest ecosystem research, covering funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Research Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

MENDEL
Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology

Funded by the European Union

Applications now open! 15 DP-FOBI Doctoral Researcher positions

The Doctoral Programme for Advancing Forest-Based Bioeconomy (DP-FOBI) is an MSCA-funded doctoral programme at the University of Eastern Finland. The programme will recruit motivated early-stage researchers for fully funded four-year positions. It also offers structured doctoral training in an international, interdisciplinary, and intersectoral research environment, supporting early-stage researchers in developing the skills, knowledge, and perspectives needed to contribute to sustainable innovation in the forest-based bioeconomy.

For updated information you can follow DP-FOBI on [LinkedIn](#) and check their website: uef.fi/dp-fobi/

FOREXT Fridays Webinar

Forext Fridays is a webinar series that brings together forest advisors, practitioners, researchers, and other stakeholders from across Europe to exchange knowledge, share experiences, and discuss innovative approaches and tools in forestry. The series provides a platform for learning and dialogue on topics such as sustainable forest management, agroforestry, and non-wood forest products. Each session includes presentations from invited experts and practitioners who showcase case studies, projects, policy developments, or practical tools, followed by an interactive discussion with participants.

Whether you are looking to discover new approaches, share your own experience, or simply stay connected with what is happening across Europe's forest sector, FOREXT Fridays is your meeting point.

More information available here: forext.eu

Forest-Based Value Chains in Transition: Innovation, Employment, Diversity, and Inclusion for Sustainable Futures

**The Annual IUFRO Conference of Division 4.05 – Managerial Economics and Accounting
23–26 November 2026 at Eurac Research in Bolzano, Italy**

The conference brings together researchers and practitioners to explore how bioeconomy transitions, employment dynamics, accounting systems, and governance structures are reshaping forest-based value chains. The program includes 10 thematic sessions, covering topics such as bioeconomy pathways, digital business models, power and governance, environmental accounting, gender equity, labor markets, smallholder inclusion, small-scale forestry, and knowledge exchange.

Keynote sessions on bioeconomy and the EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), examining the tension between environmental ambition and equitable implementation across the EU and producer countries open the conference. And finally, a keynote speech on discrimination and precarious working conditions in forest-based value chains will conclude the conference.

Abstract submission is now closed, with 84 contributions received – a strong signal of how timely and relevant these themes are for the research community.

We warmly invite FPRN members to save the date and follow updates on the conference [program](#)

Call for submissions | IUFRO Division 5 & SWST Joint Conference 2027

We warmly invite researchers, practitioners, policymakers, innovators and forest-sector stakeholders to submit abstracts to the IUFRO Division 5 & SWST Joint Conference 2027, taking place in Tartu, Estonia, from 30 May to 3 June 2027.

This conference will explore the future of sustainable forestry, wood science, forest products and the circular bioeconomy and we especially encourage contributions to the following sessions:



Advancing non-timber forest products for sustainable forest-based bioeconomies

Organised by our IUFRO Task Force "Building an Integrated Vision of the Forest-Based Sector within a Bioeconomy" – This session welcomes contributions that advance understanding of non-timber forest products and their role in inclusive, diversified and sustainable forest-based bioeconomies.

Forest Products Marketing + Innovation: A Symphony of Insights and Visions

Organised by the IUFRO Task Force "Scaling-up Science-based Forest Sector Innovation" – This session invites submissions on marketing, innovation, entrepreneurship, value creation and science-based transformation across forest products and forest-based value chains.

**Abstract submission
deadline:
26 October 2026**
More information and
[session details](#).

FOREST JC2026 – Pre-announcement

The FOREST Partnership first Joint Call for research and innovation proposals

The FOREST Partnership is pleased to pre-announce its first Joint Call for research and innovation proposals:

FORESTPathways – Building Knowledge and Solutions for Resilient Forests and Sustainable Forest-Based Futures.

As forests face increasing pressures from climate change, biodiversity loss, and evolving societal demands, the FOREST Partnership will support transnational research and innovation to accelerate the transition towards sustainable forest management and a circular, timber-based bioeconomy.

The call will address four broad topics:

-  Climate-Resilient Forest Systems
-  Adaptive and Multifunctional Forest Management Systems
-  Timber and Innovative Wood-Based Products
-  Forest Value Chains, Markets and Governance

Bringing together 38 Research Funding Organisations from 28 countries, the call is expected to mobilise over €40 million in public funding, including the EU contribution.

-  Indicative call opening: 15 September 2026
-  Information webinar: 17 September 2026
-  Partnering workshop at EUFORE Event, 30 September 2026 (Brussels) >> [here](#).
-  Networking webinar: 6 October 2026

This first FOREST Joint Call will foster cross-sectoral collaboration and innovative solutions to support biodiverse, climate-adaptive, multifunctional and resilient forests and forest-based sectors across Europe and beyond.

 [More information](#)

IN-SYLVA Europe: Building Europe's Future Research Infrastructure for Climate-Smart Forestry



The inclusion of IN-SYLVA Europe (<https://europe.in-sylva.com/>) in the ESFRI Roadmap 2026 marks a major milestone for European forest research. Recognised as a strategic European research infrastructure, the initiative will strengthen Europe's capacity to address the growing impacts of climate change on forests.

By bringing together more than 55 universities, research institutes, experimental forest networks and scientific infrastructures from across Europe, IN-SYLVA creates a platform for collaboration among forest scientists, infrastructure providers, and practitioners. It integrates existing centres of excellence into a coordinated and interoperable European research infrastructure dedicated to forest ecosystem adaptation. By linking long-term experimental forest sites, analytical laboratories, modelling platforms, digital services, and educational resources, the consortium provides the scientific foundation for climate-smart forestry across Europe.

A central scientific objective is to improve our understanding of how genetics, environment and forest management (G×E×M) interact to shape forest responses to drought, heat, pests and other disturbances. By coordinating long-term experiments across different forest types and climatic regions, IN-SYLVA Europe will generate robust, comparable evidence to support climate-smart forest management throughout Europe.

The infrastructure is organised around four complementary service pillars: In situ (experimental forest sites), In lab (analytical facilities), In silico (data platforms and modelling services), and In edu (education, training and capacity

building). Together, these services will strengthen collaboration between research institutions while facilitating knowledge transfer to practitioners and decision-makers.

A key strength of IN-SYLVA Europe is its ability to connect research with practice. Harmonised methodologies, shared datasets, and coordinated experiments will support evidence-based decision-making and the development of adaptive management strategies applicable across Europe's diverse forest landscapes. By fostering collaboration across disciplines, institutions and countries, the infrastructure will also provide a lasting platform for innovation, scientific cooperation and knowledge exchange, contributing to European priorities in climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation, the sustainable bioeconomy and the long-term provision of ecosystem services.

Following its successful inclusion in the ESFRI Roadmap, the consortium has now entered the preparatory phase, during which participating countries will establish the governance and operational framework of the future infrastructure. This marks the beginning of a long-term European effort to build an integrated research infrastructure capable of supporting resilient forests, biodiversity conservation and evidence-based forest policy for decades to come.

As the infrastructure enters its preparatory phase, research organisations, infrastructure providers and other forestry stakeholders are encouraged to contact the IN-SYLVA Europe coordination team at INRAE France (<https://europe.in-sylva.com/contact-us>) or their respective national IN-SYLVA node to explore opportunities for collaboration and future participation.

Highlighted Publications

Austrian Forest Dialogue

As part of the Austrian Forest Dialogue, the authors have revised the forest biodiversity indicators through a participatory stakeholder process. The report presents an analysis for each indicator based on the most recent data available.

The indicators show that silvicultural measures and long-term management strategies are increasingly contributing to the structural and biological stabilization of Austrian forests. Improvements in tree species mix, regeneration diversity and deadwood stocks underscore this trend, whilst ongoing challenges such as invasive species and threatened species necessitate the continuous refinement and adaptation of management practices.

The report is written in German and includes an English summary, download here: [BFW-Berichte 155/2026](#). Linser, S., Lapin, K., Bradley, O., Gschwantner, T., & Russ, W. (2026) Waldbiodiversitätsbericht. BFW-Berichte 155/2026, Wien, 66 pp. (ISSN 1013-0713)



Recent Research Papers!

- Ludvig, A., Aubram, T., Cheval, S., Giannetti, F., Gotschi, E., Hapa, M., Lionggo, I., Marin, M., Mitter, H., Oprica, R., Johannessen, M. R., Some, S., Riera-Spiegelhalder, M., Tudose, N., Zorzi, I., Baltranaite, E., & de Melo, K. (2026). Institutional pathways for climate-resilient forestry: Empirical evidence from Europe. (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.tfp.2026.101329>)
- Parlade, E. A., & Weiss, G. (2026). The meaning of climate-smart forestry – A narrative literature review. (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.forpol.2026.103854>)
- Hansen, E., Dederich, C., Read, I., & Živojinović, I. (2026). Innovation and R&D: Contrasting the US and Nordic Europe forest sectors. (<https://doi.org/10.22382/bpb-2026-002>)
- Elomina, J. (2026). How do local stakeholders make sense of land use conflict? Gällivare case study. (<https://doi.org/10.1080/1747423X.2026.2699098>)

Share your inputs with us in the future

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or visit us at:

