

Workshop on Regional Cooperation for Forestry Innovation

The 20 of May 2014 the workshop “Inform-Prioritize-Collaborate: cooperation of regions on innovation in forest management, use of wood and forest-related service” took place in Brussels. The objective of the event was to promote the exchange between European forest stakeholders at regional level to exchange and share views and concerns, improve the collaboration at European level and have the possibility to develop common projects in the future.

The 20 of May 2014 the **workshop “Inform-Prioritize-Collaborate: cooperation of regions on innovation in forest management, use of wood and forest-related service”** took place in the premises of the Representation of the Free State of Bavaria to the EU in Brussels. The workshop was jointly organised by Euromontana, the ERIAFF network (European Regions for Innovation in Agriculture Food and Forestry), the EFI (European Forestry Institute), the CEPF (European Confederation of Private Forest-owners), and EUSTAFOR (European Association of State-owned Forests).

European programmes and regional perspectives

The event welcomed around 150 participants from various European Countries, mainly from Finland, Germany, Italy and Spain.

The day started with an opening session where the representatives of the different organisers gave a welcoming speech, including Irene Piria, the director of Euromontana. After the introductory speeches, a session on presentations of European forestry related programs took place with representatives from the European commission and the EIP-AGRI Service Point. In the same session, **three regional perspectives** were presented, **being one of them from the Foundation from the Basque Government for Rural Development, HAZI**, which is member of Euromontana. Alejandro Cantero, one of the forestry experts of HAZI exposed the main tools of the [FORRISK project](#), a network for innovation in silviculture and integrated systems for forest risk management.



Thematic discussion

In the afternoon, the four priorities for innovation in forestry that were selected during the registration process were presented by experts from different forest research related organisations. The most voted challenges during the registration were the following:

1. **Challenge n°1: Managing impacts related to climate change**
2. **Challenge n°3: Supporting Wood and Biomass Mobilization**
3. **Challenge n°5: Supporting the Provision of Ecosystem Services**
4. **Challenge n°7: Improving Sustainable Forest Management Approaches and Tools**

For each of the challenges a number of actions that could be carried out to face these challenges were presented. From these possible actions four were selected per each challenge in order to be discussed in roundtables. During the roundtables, the participants had also the occasion to share project ideas and forestry related issues and concerns.



Conclusions

After the discussions the workshop continued with the closing words of Álvaro Picardo (Councilor of the Director General for Environment at the Government of Castilla y León) and Johan Elvnert (Director of the Forest-based Sector Technology Platform). A short resume of the brokerage session by the rapporteurs followed to finish the closure. The organisers, as well as the participants, were pleased with the participation and hopeful about the possibilities of collaboration and joint projects.

The next few years will be decisive in forestry in Europe, following the implementation of the new rural development programs and the opportunities given by the Horizon 2020 scheme. **In order to have a strong forestry sector which will innovate, collaboration between stakeholders at European level is a key element.**



For more information, all the background documents, presentations, discussion summaries and pictures from the event can be found at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ro1bms902mxo2sr/AABV7jxBH85EdUGsFCjfl4dXa>

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