

NUMBER 3 | VOLUME 17 | NOVEMBER 2009

# EFI *news*



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## Editorial

### Dublin echoes

In early September, the medieval Dublin Castle witnessed the gathering of a record number of participants for the 16<sup>th</sup> EFI Annual Conference. In the following I would like to address two issues that emerged during the Conference: increasing possibilities for Associate Members to participate in the EFI activities, and widening EFI's portfolio towards policy advice.

The views of Associate and Affiliate Members on EFI were surveyed as the first step towards the forthcoming external evaluation (more on the survey can be found on page 6). One of the main messages was the wish to be more involved in research projects.

To that end, a concept called 'concerted

action project' (CAP) has been introduced. In a CAP, Associated Members can assign in the European scale, policy-relevant research by using their own data and staff, and possibly local funding sources. The first EFI-CAP, initiated by the Mediterranean Regional Office – EFIMED, will deal with 'profitability of forestry'. More such projects are planned.

As a result of the international status we hear echoes from the Member Countries and the European Commission: there is potential for increasing the role of EFI in science-policy interaction and policy advice. Such activities could be facilitation and expertise in the fields of e.g. climate change in a similar way to the FLEGT Action and strengthening the position of scientific community in international processes like the

Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE). Organizing think-tanks between policy makers, stakeholders and scientists have also been suggested. Having more weight in policy advice would also increase the possibilities for research to be conducted by the EFI network.

Reflecting the changing working environment, the EFI Board has requested the Secretariat to discuss options for EFI future visions, and consequently consider the possible needs to revisit our strategies and organization. All these issues will be certainly brought up in the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Dresden, Germany.

Risto Päivinen  
Director, EFI



## Network Speaks

### Control strategies needed for nematodes

In 1999 the Portuguese government announced that *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus* – a species of nematodes (roundworms) – was found in the native *Pinus pinaster* woods surrounding of city of Setúbal. Despite regulations aimed to stop its dispersal, nematodes can now be found in large areas of central Portugal. Also, isolated incidents have been reported in Northern Portugal and very recently one in southwestern Spain.

Pine wilt disease, caused by pinewood nematodes can cause devastating losses: there are reports of 0.5–2 million m<sup>3</sup> of annual losses in Japan. Pine wilt disease is enhanced by the presences of susceptible species (e.g. *Pinus pinaster*, *P. nigra* and *P. sylvestris*), and favorable environmental conditions, mainly by warm summers. Pine

forests in the Southern Europe seem to be at high risk indeed!

However, as climate change pushes up the 20°C summer isotherm – often considered as a safe climatic barrier – the risk may rapidly expand to other regions. *B. xylophilus* is not only a nasty disease but it may lead to eradication costs and restrictions to international wood trade. These, in, turn, may prove to be a great burden for the forestry sector already severely affected by globalization, increased urbanization and the economic downturn.

In this context, and noting that there are no effective curative treatments, preventing further expansion of the nematode must remain the key priority. Sawyer beetles of the genus *Monochamus* are known to be short range vectors, moving up to a few kilometers. For longer hauls, however, wood trade is the key factor.

Thus, coordinated research in vector biology and control is a must. However, a technology to verify that wood has received mandatory thermal treatment would be truly a breakthrough. Dramatic as it may be, quarantine services around the world have often detected living nematodes and vector larvae in wood that was supposedly kiln-dried.

Obviously, there is a lot more to be done by the research community. But talking about research networks, what about a DNA repository center for pinewood nematodes? It could really make a difference in our ability to identify pathways of infection, or to understand pathogenic differences among subspecies, populations and individuals... Is anyone out there ready to meet this challenge?

Inazio Martinez de Arano  
Union of Foresters of Southern Europe

# Let's Get Mobilized

Anu Ruusila and Minna Korhonen | EFI

This year's EFI Annual Conference gathered the EFI Associate and Affiliate Members as well as invited observers to Dublin Castle in Ireland on 3 September. The conference was followed by a scientific seminar and excursion on the theme 'Forest Ecosystem Management in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century'. The events were attended by a record number of 180 participants showing the need for networking on forest related issues in Europe now and in the future.



Declan Corrigan



Miroslav Benko, Andrey Selikhovkin and Kirsi Loisa



Denis Byrne, Rod Johnstone and newly appointed EFI Board member J. Bo Larsen



Warm thanks go to our hosts in Ireland and EFI Fellows, Ted Farrell (left) and Fergal Mulloy (right)!



Anne Toppinen and Diarmuid McAree

## Steady expansion

This year's decision making was made in the memorable setting of Dublin Castle. The participants heard that the Regional Offices established a year ago are taking up speed, and two of them – EFIATLANTIC and EFICIENT and its Observatory for European Forests (OEF) – are functioning now in Bordeaux, Freiburg and Nancy, respectively. EFICEEC in Vienna will be launched towards the end of the year, followed by EFI-SEE in Varaždin, Croatia. The Conference decided that EFI Regional Offices will expand by one more office in 2010, namely by EFINORD (see p. 7).

## Project Centres: pioneers of networking

The Conference bid farewell to five Project Centres that had successfully been running for ten years. The Project Centres are temporary networking nodes built around a theme or research topic, and EUFORIC, CONFOREST, IEFC, INNOFORCE and PROCES had

all shown the strength of networking by being able to build research networks lasting for a decade and beyond. They also paved the way to the EFI Regional Offices and are involved in them.

The concept of Project Centres continues and the Project Centre PHOENIX based in Lisbon, Portugal continues its activities for another five years on the topic of post-fire ecology.

## Changes in the EFI Board

The Annual Conference re-elected Prof. *Jim Lynch OBE* for a second 3-year-term in the EFI Board. As Prof. Dr. *Birger Solberg* was due to step down from the Board this year, the Conference voted on a new Board Member. Prof. Dr. *J. Bo Larsen* from the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, was elected to the Board for the period 2009–2012. We would like to extend our warm thanks to Birger Solberg for his commitment in EFI activities over the years, and welcome J. Bo Larsen to the Board!



Jiri Kulhavy, Rudolf Kropil, Libor Jansky and Ludek Sisak



Sonia Roig Gómez, Pia Böhnke and Miguel Fabra-Crespo



Declan Corrigan

The conference had a record number of participants.

## Annual Conferences in 2010 and beyond

Dresden University of Technology, Germany will host the EFI Annual Conference in 2010. The Conference decided now that the 2011 Annual Conference will be held in Uppsala, Sweden, and will be hosted by the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences. There will be an open call for the 2012 Annual Conference early next year and in 2013 EFI will most likely celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in its homebase, Joensuu.

## Mobilising a network organisation

The afternoon session of the Conference featured various aspects of regional networking with keynote speeches from Mr. *Tamás Marghescu*, previous Regional Director for Pan-Europe, IUCN, and Dr. *Marc Palahí*, Head of EFI Mediterranean Regional Office – EFIMED.

Mr. Tamás Marghescu brought an external and experienced view to EFI networking. He reminded the audience of the necessity to understand the niche of the organisation and hold shared values and a mission. Communication aspects such as having key products and unique image were also among the main essentials a network organisation should bear in mind. And most importantly, the networks should put their members central. This way we can add value to the work network does and be able to hear the views of network members instantly.

This presentation was complemented by Dr. Marc Palahí, who gave concrete examples of regional networking in the Mediterranean region. The aspect of adding value was strongly presented with examples such as the publication of the Discussion paper 'Living with Wildfires: what science can tell us'. In this case the network has made the publication a widely used reference in different languages. The most recent successful case of networking is the jointly prepared Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda (read more about it on the back cover of this EFI News).



Ted Farrell

## Forest Ecosystem Management in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

A scientific conference on the “Forest Ecosystem Management in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” was organized in the context of the EFI 2009 Annual Conference. Scientific forest management has until recently, been directed at one product of the forest only, wood. This involved regulation of the harvest so as to ensure a constant supply of timber, in perpetuity. The forest, in particular the plantation forest, was seen as a wood factory.

This view of the forest has changed within the past two decades. The forest is now valued for the wide range of goods and services it offers. The need to manage the forest in order to produce multiple benefits is now recognised. In effect, forest managers are being called upon to act as ecosystem managers. This can be difficult because in many cases, forests established with the single objective of wood production are now expected

to deliver wider benefits. In addition, foresters trained within the narrow constraints of traditional forest management, are being called upon to deal with the broader issues of multifunctional management.

The scientific conference was followed by a one-day field trip which introduced the delegates to some of the social, cultural, environmental and economic aspects of forestry in Ireland.

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## Mapping the member organisations’ view

The results from an externally conducted survey of the member organisations’ views of EFI were presented to the EFI Annual Conference in Dublin. Mr. *Pertti Laine*, of Muutostieto Ltd., concluded that the message from the member organisations is generally a positive one. EFI has fulfilled its niche of ‘connecting scientists’ and provided opportunities for collaboration and networking.

It is then no surprise that the networking aspect of EFI strategy was rated as the most important one, followed by research and information, while advocacy function of EFI is still clearly unclear to many respondents. Whatever the preference, the majority of the respondents wanted to be more actively involved in EFI activities. Ideas for EFI to do so more effectively included acting as a gateway to projects by inviting member organisations to those in the early stage and advancing co-operation between project partners. The replies provide valuable information for the development of EFI, and EFI Headquarters are happy to receive more input to the survey.

The survey commissioned by the Board was sent to all EFI’s 120 member organisations, and 40 replies were received. The survey was implemented by an independent consultant agency Muutostieto Ltd. The survey will be followed by a full external evaluation of EFI next year.

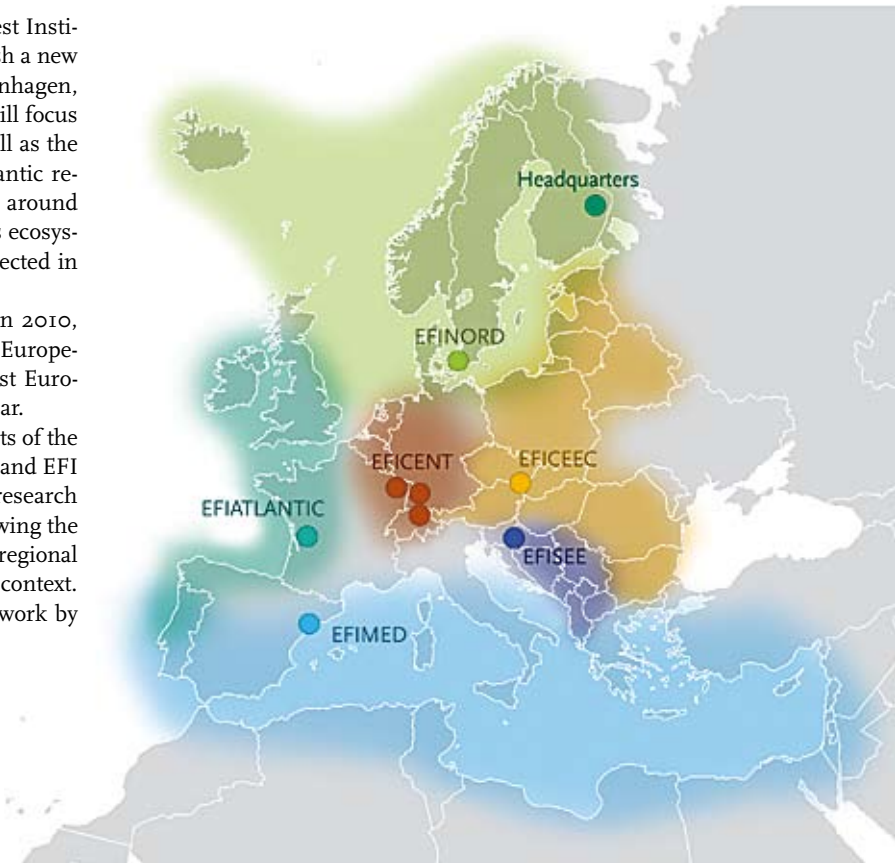
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- The respondents felt that the most important strategic activities are in the following order: Networking – Research – Information – Advocacy.
  - One quarter of the respondents felt there is some competition between EFI and its member organisations. It was noted that this is not always a negative thing.
  - Regional Offices were seen as important elements for networking if their activities are carried out balanced way.
  - EFI has been one of the main channels to international contacts and co-operation and this has had a big effect on personal networking.
  - EFI’s mode of operating was largely seen (85%) as open and transparent.
  - 80% felt that the membership benefits are at a suitable level.
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## EFI Annual Conference accepts the North European Regional Office – EFINORD

The Annual Conference of the European Forest Institute accepted last week the proposal to establish a new Regional Office of EFI to be located in Copenhagen, Denmark. This Regional Office, EFINORD, will focus geographically on the Nordic countries, as well as the Baltic Sea region and parts of the North Atlantic region. The main research themes are planned around biomass production and technology as well as ecosystem services. The launch of EFINORD is expected in spring 2010.

In addition to the opening of EFINORD in 2010, EFI is preparing the launches of Central-East European Regional Office – EFICEEC and South-East European Regional Office – EFISEE in later this year.

The Regional Offices of EFI are integral parts of the Institute and governed by Terms of Reference and EFI management practices. They address forest research and networking issues at a regional level following the EFI Strategy. Their activities bring visibility to regional forest issues by putting them into European context. Regional Offices also strengthen the EFI network by opening new avenues for funding.



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## Copenhagen decides on 8 billion euro for European forest sector – Accounting is crucial

Gert-Jan Nabuurs and Matias Pekkanen | EFI

European forests play an important role in sequestering carbon. However, how this role is accounted and whether one takes into account a baseline or not makes a huge difference. The terms gross-net and net-net are used in this discussion. The first term points to how one accounts the reference year (1990), the second term on how one accounts the final years (2008–2012). Under gross-net, the sink in 1990 is ignored, resulting in a large accounted sink in 2008–2012, with a value for the sector of close to 8 billion €.

Under net-net, the sink in the reference year is already accounted, so only a small additional sink results in 2008–2012, or even a net source effect.

And what's more, the net-net accounting would stimulate to keep using the forest as we do now. Namely when more intense harvesting takes place, it immediately results in emissions in accounting. This net-net would basically lock up the forests to the average current level of harvest of some 60%. So, more than ever before the climate negotiations are important for our forests.



# Stronger Capacities with FOPER

**Tomi Tuomasjukka and Margaret A. Shannon** | EFI

In 2004, the project on Forest Policy and Economics Education and Research (FOPER) started its work in strengthening the human and institutional capacities in the South-East European region. Now, five years later, the first phase of the FOPER-project has been successfully completed. One of the concrete steps has been The Master's Program in Forest Policy and Economics established in Universities of Sarajevo and Belgrade, in collaboration with their peers in Banja Luka, Skopje and Tirana with 18 new graduates!

FOPER-project was successfully finalized in May 2009. This large capacity building project in forest policy and forest economics (FPE) started its work in 2004 in the South-East European (SEE) region and is currently continuing in its' second phase. While the first phase strengthened the human and institutional capacities in forest policy and economics research and education, the second phase is focusing on consolidating these achievements.

The SEE-region, consisting in the case of FOPER of Albania, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia has long traditions in forestry education and research. However, the earlier political regimes have left the expertise in modern forest policy and forest economics weak to respond to the challenges related to market economy and European integration. This justified the funding of the project by the

Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and EFI. Members of the project consortium, both international partners and faculties of forestry and forest research institutes from the SEE-region also contributed to the project funding.

## Capacities given a significant boost

Assessing the results of FOPER against the indicators set in the beginning of the project show a high degree of achievements. The most remarkable result is undoubtedly that out of the 24 students enrolled to the International Masters' Degree Program in Forest Policy and Economics, 18 graduated by the end of the project and four more are expected to do so during this year. The Master's Program is established



Roberto Cerruti / www.fotolia.com

## FOPER awards

In the context of FOPER, EFI has awarded two graduates of the international Master's Degree Program in Forest Policy and Economics for good performance.



Mr. *Marko Lovric* received a prize of € 500 for the best thesis. His work with the title "The value of urban forests in residential land use" focused on the influence of urban forest on the price of housing real estates in Zagreb, Croatia. Mr. Lovric works currently as a teaching assistant in the Faculty of Forestry, University of Zagreb.



Mr. *Nenad Savic* received a prize of € 500 for the first thesis to be completed among the FOPER students. His work on forest product markets and competitiveness of forest based industries in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was completed already in 2008 and considered of good academic quality.

by the project in Universities of Sarajevo and Belgrade, in collaboration with their peers in Banja Luka, Skopje and Tirana.

Training has also been offered to 300 forestry professionals through short courses offered in the context of professional training. In addition to enhancing the awareness on the need of life-long learning in forest sector of the region, the project also established a network of promoters and a large group of trainers on different relevant FPE subjects.

In order to bring forestry research closer to the forest policy processes, FOPER used a large variety of instruments, including international events which served as discussion platforms and disseminated recent research information. About 20 researchers from the region were also trained in modern methodologies of forest policy research as on-the-job training while researching forest related conflicts at the national and regional level.

National case studies are now available and regional overviews are being worked towards peer-reviewed publications.

Impacts of FOPER project can already be seen in the region. The policy processes at the national level are more aware of inclusion of research results and researchers. Regional networking of experts in forest policy and economics has been reestablished, which has been considered very important by the beneficiaries. Most importantly, the capacities in these forest sciences have now been given a significant boost.

### FOPER II will create a Doctoral Graduate College

FOPER II established its project Coordination Office in Varazdin, Croatia and works very closely with the initiative to establish

an EFI Regional Office for the SEE-region, EFISEE. FOPER II will expand research networking to the broader European context by developing research projects on topics of policy interest. Doing policy relevant research within teams of regional and international scientists, including MSc and PhD students is an excellent way to learn to do research. The International FOPER MSc program will continue in 2010 to 2012. The teaching of the Master's Degree Program will again be offered through the Faculties of Forestry in Sarajevo and Belgrade. NEW to FOPER II is the creation of a Doctoral Graduate College for Integrated Forest Policy and Economics. The Graduate College is the key to long term sustainability in that it will train the new faculty and researchers who can join the faculties and research institutes as well as the companies and policy making bodies in the region.

# “Shape Your sustainability Tools – and Let Your Tools Shape You”

## InnovaWood

“Shape Your Sustainability Tools – and Let Your Tools Shape You”, the EFORWOOD project final conference was held in Uppsala in September 2009. The project consortium went back to the city where it all started four years ago, to demonstrate the latest and almost final project outcomes: primarily the Tool for the Sustainability Impact Assessment (ToSIA), but also other valuable methodologies and approaches that were used to assess sustainability impacts of alternative production chains in the forest sector.

The EFORWOOD project has been running for four years and was funded as part of the 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme of the European Community under the area “Strategies for sustainable land management” of the sub-priority “Global changes and ecosystem”. One of the goals of the research undertaken under this sub-priority was to strengthen the necessary scientific base, including socio-economic assessments, tools and management practices, for the future orientation of the European Sustainable Development Strategy.

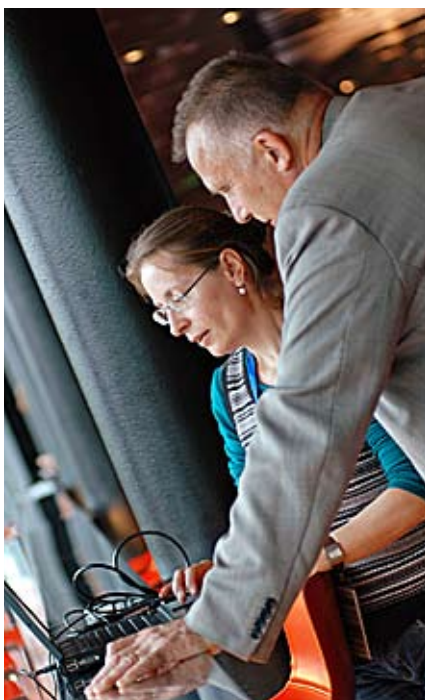
The project aimed to evaluate and improve the contribution of the European Forestry-Wood Chain (FWC) in the context

of the strategic goal of the European Union of becoming the world’s most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy, capable of sustainable economic growth with better social cohesion. For the first time the whole FWC was assessed using the indicators for all three pillars of sustainability; environmental, economical and social. The main project product, the ToSIA tool, is a dynamic sustainability impact assessment model that analyses environmental, economic, and social impacts of changes in the forest-wood production chain, using a consistent and harmonised framework from the forest to the end-of-life of final products.

## Different aspects of sustainability

The conference programme included about thirty oral presentations and almost the same number of posters, covering the four different themes: Sustainability Impact Assessment in a Knowledge-Based Bio-Economy; Methods for Evaluation of Sustainability Impact from Process to Sector Level; Case Study Applications in Sustainability Impact-Assessment, and Scenario Analysis of the Forest-Based Sector and Parts Thereof.

In addition, there were four invited speakers, who highlighted some of the top issues that the FBS sector faces nowadays and underlined the different aspects of the sustainability context. *Roger Sedjo*, Director of Forest Economics and Policy Programme at Resources for the Future and *Christopher Prins*, an independent consultant with many years of experience in forest and wood sector, addressed some of the more general perceptions of the concept and challenges of the sustainability assessment and use of sustainability indicators.



Anna Franck, Skogforsk

The event was an excellent opportunity for combining experiences and expertise with other EU projects that are developing similar tools to support decision making on policies related to various areas of science, such as land use, environmental economics, socio-economic and landscape research.



*Andreas Kleinschmit von Lengefeld*, Manager of the Forest-Based Sector Technology Platform, highlighted the importance of closer collaboration between economy actors and research providers in order to secure the best exploitation of research results and to ensure their implementation in the industry and service sectors. Only joint action between economy drivers and science can lead the European FSB into a sustainable and fruitful future.

The policy framework for the Sustainability Impact Assessment, the importance of having reliable assessment tools in order to better assist decision-making and some practical examples of where these tools could be used (e.g. effects of the economic slowdown, the climate changes effects and the energy policy decisions on forestry and forest-based industries) were some of the aspects that *Maria Gafó Gomez-Zamalloa*, from DG Enterprise and Industry of Euro-

pean Commission, presented to the conference audience. In particular, she mentioned the contribution that EFORWOOD project can have in providing the knowledge base needed to achieve competitiveness and to meet the sustainability challenges.

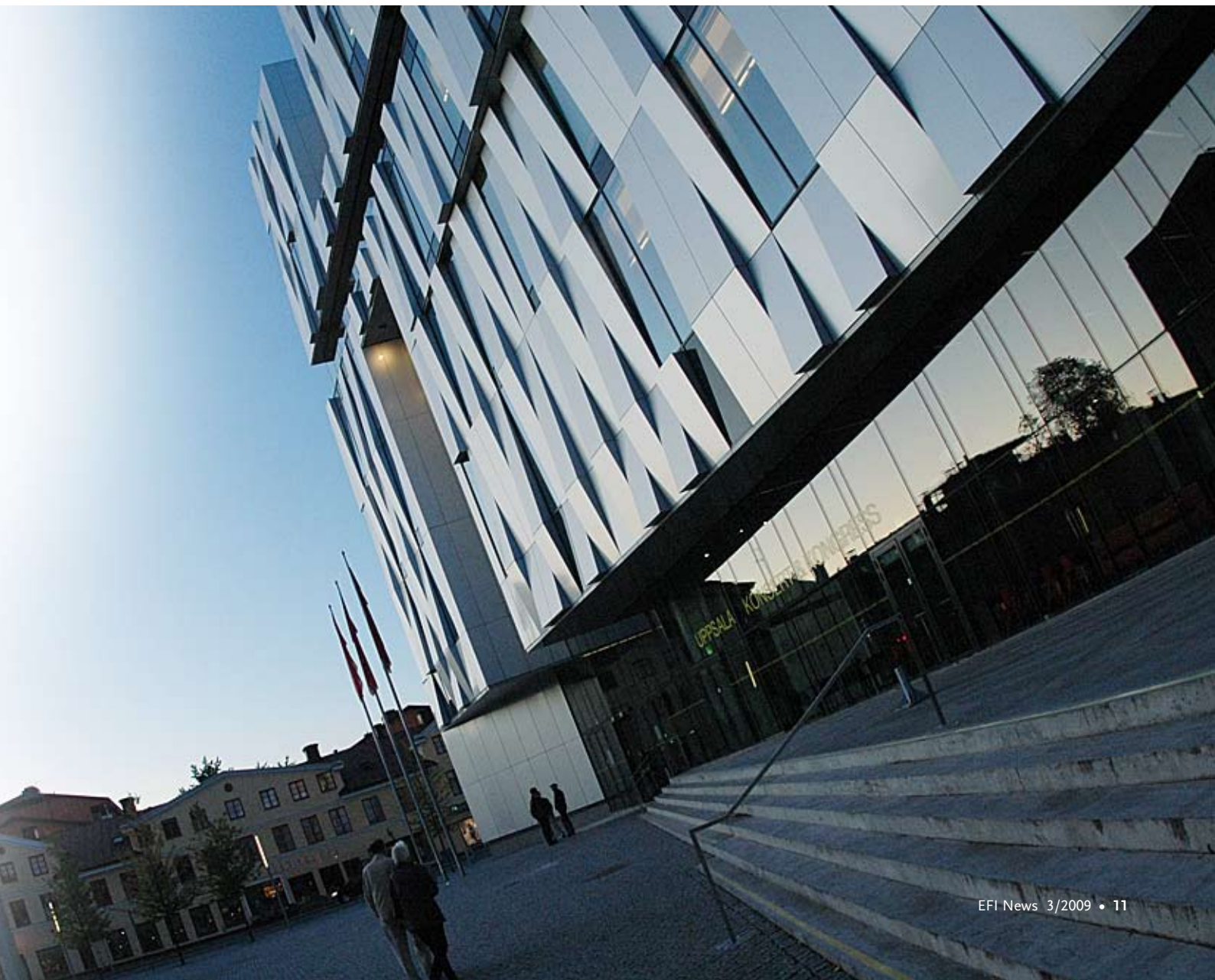
The remaining conference presentations covered the broad spectrum of topics, from those that were more related to the EFORWOOD project outcomes (e.g. functioning of the ToSIA tool and its application, the project case studies, the opportunities and practical challenges related to the application of the cost benefit and multi-criteria analysis, etc.) to those that referred to the research carried on outside of the EFORWOOD project, but being also related to the improving of the sustainable use of the renewable natural resources.

The application of the EFORWOOD results in the future will provide an excellent starting point for future research, offering

science-based and informed guidance on how to use renewable natural resources in a way that avoids non-sustainable exploitation. The tools and methods developed will offer powerful knowledge to different decision makers and aid them in the design of environmental policy. It is believed that the outcomes of the EFORWOOD project will have an important contribution to the implementation of EU Sustainable Development Strategy.

The final EFORWOOD conference served as an official platform to report the projects outcomes, and it was also open to all those interested in improving the sustainable use of the renewable natural resources.

More information about the conference, including conference presentations and posters can be found on project website, [www.eforwood.org](http://www.eforwood.org).





kuma / www.fotolia.com

# Tempus Project Results in Establishment of Povolgie Forest Cluster

**Eldar Kurbanov** | Mari State Technical University  
**Cecil Konijnendijk** | woodSCAPE consult (until 1 September 2009)

In 2007, EFI News introduced a Tempus project aimed at supporting forestry institutions and development in the Povolgie region of Russia. Recently the project came to a successful end. This article looks back at the final stages of the project and the establishment of the Povolgie Forest Cluster.

During early June of this year, foresters, scientists and teachers, students, representatives of forestry ministries and other authorities took to Yoshkar-Ola, capital of the republic of Mari El. They came from the entire Povolgie region, as well as EU countries, to discuss the results of Tempus project 'Training, Networking and Capacity Building for Sustainable forestry in Povolgie' (IB\_JEP-26038-2005). The high interest in the event was reflected in the participation of forestry ministers from various republics in the region, as well as through the welcoming words offered by Mari El president, *Leonid Markelov*.

Members of the international project

consortium presented the main achievements of the project. Moreover, they initiated a discussion with stakeholders on possible next steps to strengthen forest sector institutions in the Povolgie region. Participants agreed that Mari State Technical University (MarSTU), Russian coordinator of the project, was to play an important role also in the future as a regional centre of knowledge and education.

## Training activities

During the project, 12 new courses were developed aiming to retrain forestry special-

ists at MarSTU in a range of actual 'forestry topics', such as silviculture, remote sensing, forest and national park management, corporate responsibility, and urban forestry. The courses were developed by MarSTU teachers based on, for example, their visits to foreign project partners. In all, over 30 MarSTU staff and 20 experts from forestry enterprises in the region took part in such retraining trips to European universities and companies in Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece and Italy.

An important technical aid also for future training activities is establishing a video conference class at MarSTU. This class was already actively used during the project for a series of video lectures and seminars. Use of the class meant that in all 114 foresters from the region could take part in retraining activities, many more than the 75 envisaged at project outset. The experts came from all parts of Povolgie's forest sector, from universities to enterprises and authorities.

Project team members visited various forestry institutions in the region to monitor



Eldar Kurbanov

the impact of Tempus project activities. The general impression was that the project's target group had become aware of the needs of institutional change in the forestry sector, e.g. in the light of the new Forest Code of the Russian Federation. The forestry ministries of Mari El and Nizhny Novgorod, which both took active part in the project, seemed to anticipate best, actively preparing for a transition of responsibilities from the Federal to regional and local levels. These ministries, as well as those of Chuvashia and the Kirov region, made commitments in terms of further support of MarSTU as a regional knowledge and expertise centre.

### Establishing a strong network

The establishment of a strong network, both within the region and between the region and international partners, is a main outcome of the project. As stated by *Ella Kainulainen* (University of Helsinki, the project's grant holder): "In a matter of years, we have

evolved from a group of just a few countries to a network covering much of Europe that forms an excellent basis from which to develop future joint projects".

A total of 42 Russian and foreign organizations participated in project activities, with Russian institutions being based in the earlier mentioned republics and regions, as well as in Tatarstan, Bashkortostan, Penza, Yaroslavl and Ulyanovsk. The organizations included forest sector institutions, including many universities and technical colleges, as well as for example national parks.

The project has generated important new knowledge which could help attract new investments to the region's forest sector. Forest management could benefit from retraining and capacity building, as well as from the enhanced dialogue between stakeholders, and between foresters and society at large. An important spin-off of the project was the establishment of a regional Forest Cluster, coordinated by MarSTU. The Povolgie Forest Cluster will hopefully

offer a new organizational tool, supporting the experts who are dealing with the current transitions in the Russian forest sector.

On a more personal level, the impact of the project was illustrated by MarSTU professor *Jury Demakov*, who said after his training visit to Italy: "I highly appreciate our trip and retraining courses. The obtained knowledge has broadened my views and even removed some former stereotypes that dominated my thinking. I believe now that balanced and beneficial relations between society and forest are possible when forest management is comprehensive and local communities are responsible for their natural resources".

New things and ideas are evolving in the Povolgie's forest sector and the Tempus project team is happy to have been a part of this process.

Further information  
[tempus.marstu.net](http://tempus.marstu.net)

1 [www.efi.int/files/attachments/publications/efi\\_news\\_2007-3.pdf](http://www.efi.int/files/attachments/publications/efi_news_2007-3.pdf)



# Koli Forum Calls for Rapid Action to Fight Climate Change

The competitiveness of Europe can only be secured by reducing our dependence on imported raw materials and imported energy. At the same time immediate measures are required to mitigate climate change. The progress of the continent is, however, being hindered by a lack of capital and political will, according to the Theses passed at the first Koli Forum and addressed to European decision-makers.

In practice, to reach the targets on a global scale, wider and more consistent international cooperation is needed. The conclusions of the Koli Forum are summarised in ten practical courses of action, the Theses of Koli. They call for Europe to accelerate the shift towards a more diversified use of domestic bio-based natural resources without at the same time increasing the environmental burden elsewhere.

The Koli Forum calls for new economic measurement tools, which fully consider

future generations. The Theses focus essentially on a more efficient use of energy and raw materials and the utilisation of new technologies. A wider knowledge base and comparative statistical data are required as a foundation for the action that must be taken.

The first Koli Forum on 22–24 October 2009 gathered together 70 European opinion-leaders to search out the best solutions for a future that considers natural resources. The speakers included *Martti Ahtisaari*, Former President of Finland (1994–2000), Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and a long-term diplomat noted for his international peace work; *Jorma Ollila*, Chairman (1999–) and former CEO of the Nokia Corporation (1992–2006), Chairman of Royal Dutch Shell (2006–) and *Göran Persson*, Former Prime Minister of Sweden, Chairman of the Board of Sveaskog. The next Koli Forum is scheduled for 2011.

## Koli Theses

### Thesis I

The challenge facing the Earth is that of the use of declining natural resources, while population and consumption are simultaneously increasing. Europe has a shortage of non-renewable resources but there is high potential from renewable ones. Among these, forest offer key potential in meeting the needs of society sustainably whilst fighting climate change.

### Thesis II

Europe has the right mind-set and is ethically well placed to offer leadership in global discussion and technological innovation and development. However, investment is lacking and there are political and economic risks in implementing “green growth.”



Photo by Kelli Forum / Markku Tano

## EFI at the Finnish-Russian Forest Summit

On Sunday, 25 October, *Matti Vanhanen*, Prime Minister of Finland met *Vladimir Putin*, Prime Minister of the Russian Federation in the Finnish-Russian Forest Summit in St. Petersburg. The Prime Ministers discussed effects of the economic and financial crisis, cooperation in the forest sector and environmental issues, including preparations for the Copenhagen Climate Summit. They also discussed trade-economic cooperation between Finland and Russia, customs and border issues and other bilateral issues.

As a conclusion, Russia is not giving up on its plans to set up tariffs on exported timber, but could possibly postpone their implementation beyond 2011. Widening of the definition of tariff free assortments may also be possible. Finland aims for the total abolishment of the tariffs. In 2008, Russian exports to Finland were 15 mill. m<sup>3</sup>.

The Summit focused on forest industry investments and innovations, use of forest resources and bilateral cooperation in the fields of education and research. EFI was represented at the Summit by Director *Risto Päivinen*. EFI and the need for the establishment of an EFI Regional Office in Russia was mentioned officially by Prime Minister Vanhanen, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland *Sirkka-Liisa Anttila*, and noted also by Governor of St. Petersburg Ms. *Valentina Matvienko*. In addition, the ministry responsible for forests in Russia is in favour of the idea. Such an establishment of an RO falls within a sphere of many ministries, and negotiations on the issue continue.

About 140 delegates representing the forest sector in Finland and 170 from Russia attended the Summit.



Dudarev Mikhail / www.fotolia.com

### Thesis III

To turn good intentions into operational reality in concert with international partners, co-ordinated and coherent policies and actions are necessary. Cooperation should be based on partnerships between diverse stakeholders and other actors in order to bring about the following actions:

- Action 1: Stimulate the sustainable production and use of domestic bio-based resources whilst minimising negative impacts in other countries
- Action 2: Develop new tools for economic analysis, planning and fiscal measures, taking fully into account future generations e.g. place a global and realistic value on carbon
- Action 3: Make efficient use of land, energy and materials e.g. support dematerialisation
- Action 4: Optimise the streams of materials equitably over their whole life cycle
- Action 5: Mobilise existing renewable natural resources more completely and efficiently
- Action 6: Use finite natural resources efficiently
- Action 7: Tailor implementation to local conditions
- Action 8: Speed up actions while ensuring sustainability
- Action 9: Improve data availability and quality, and information to support actions concerning natural resources
- Action 10: Strengthen high-quality science and education to support the development and application of technology and innovations

## News from EFI Member Organisations

### Networking call on “citizens’ perceptions in forestry”

At the Polytechnic University of Valencia (Spain) there has been established a research group on the issue: “citizens’ perceptions in forestry”, as it was proposed at the area 5.3 of the Research Agenda of the Forest Technology Platform.

Our goal now is to create a network of social scientists in forestry related to this issue. Main research topics would be:

- Knowledge on values and perceptions of different social and economic groups of societies.
- Methods, which are able to identify weak signals of changes in attitudes towards forestry, utilization of forests and forest products.

- Knowledge on the efficiency of various communication strategies applied and potentially applicable in forest-based sector.

A research project is already ongoing under the title: Citizens’ perceptions on forestry in Europe: dissertation on the ecological and socioeconomic variables and drivers

If you are interested in joining the network, please contact Miguel Fabra-Crespo, [mifabcre@prv.upv.es](mailto:mifabcre@prv.upv.es)

### “Jihlava Declaration” – Suitable Communication Strategy on Forestry Needed

How to bring public perception of forests more into line with reality was one of the topics discussed at the EU Forest Directors General meeting which was held under the Czech Presidency of the EU (from 23–25 June 2009 in Jihlava, Vysočina Region, Czech Republic).

Based on the main findings of the workshop entitled “Taking us out of the woods” which was focused on communication on forests and forestry and which was also organised by the Czech Presidency (3–5 June 2009, Pardubice Region, Czech Republic), for instance the following communication objectives were defined:

- increase awareness of the positive state of European forests,
- improve people’s understanding of sustainable forest management as a source of multiple benefits,
- increase the attractiveness of wood as a renewable material.

In conclusion, the EU Forest Directors General agreed on the content of a declaration on this topic, the “Jihlava Declaration”, which makes a number of recommendations to improve communication on forests and forestry and invites the Standing Forestry Committee of the European Commission and the UNECE-FAO Forest Communicators Network to take work forward by developing a common strategy.

Further information  
[www.uhul.cz/mezinarodni\\_aktivita/aktualita.php](http://www.uhul.cz/mezinarodni_aktivita/aktualita.php)



Jasmin Merdan / www.fotolia.com

## CenBio: Bioenergy Innovation Centre

The objective of CenBio is to develop the basis for a sustainable, cost-effective bioenergy industry in Norway in order to achieve the national goal of doubling bioenergy use by 2020.

CenBio will address the entire value chains of virgin biomass and biodegradable waste fractions, including their production, harvesting and transportation,

their conversion to heat, power and biogas, and the handling and upgrade of residues to valuable products. CenBio researchers will develop effective, environmentally sound ways of utilizing more biomass and waste for energy purposes. Educating and training the next generation of bioenergy researchers and industry players are essential to attain these ambitious goals.

CenBio is one of Norway’s Environment-friendly Energy Research (CEER) co-funded by the Norwegian Research Council. CenBio is hosted by the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (UMB).

Further information  
<http://www.sintef.no/Projectweb/CEN-BIO/>

## FLEGT Asia office opened in Malaysia

EFI has opened FLEGT Asia office in Malaysia. The office is located in the diplomatic district of Kuala Lumpur and is a part of EFI's EU FLEGT Facility. The overall objective of the Facility is to improve forest governance through support to the implementation of the EU FLEGT Action Plan. FLEGT Asia focuses on the timber exporting countries in the Asian region.



Nina Verkerk

The current staff members of the FLEGT Asia office visited EFI Headquarters in October for joint discussions with EFI staff on administration, communications and for sharing information on Flegt Asia. From left: Office Assistant Anne Anantom, Administrative Officer (EFI HQ) Tiina Joutsenvaara; Programme Coordinator Vincent van den Berk and Policy Analyst Aimi Lee.

## European Tropical Forest Advisory Group meeting in Helsinki

This year's European Tropical Forest Advisory Group meeting (ETFAG), the annual donor event to strategize about funding priorities in the next three years, took place in Helsinki, 9–11 September, hosted by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. It provided an excellent opportunity to increase coordination between EU funded activities supporting the implementation of the EU FLEGT Action Plan (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade). Key EC FLEGT support grantees are the European Forest Institute (EFI), the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Bank.



Vesa Karakka

In the front: Risto Päivinen, Director of EFI and Frances Seymour, Director General of CIFOR; in the back Peter Dewees, Head of PROFOR at the World Bank, Frank Jacobs, DG EuropeAid at the European Commission and Ralph Ridder, Manager of EFI's EU FLEGT Facility and Jerker Thunberg, Manager of FAO's National Forest Programme Facility

## Event Calendar

### EFI Events

#### ■ Future forest monitoring in the European Union: Providing information for multifunctional forest management

11–12 November 2009

Uppsala, Sweden

#### ■ Workshop: Market-based instruments and Payments for Environmental Services in forestry: a real solution?

17 December 2009

Barcelona, Spain

#### ■ EFIMED Annual Progress Meeting and Scientific Seminar: Knowledge-based management of Mediterranean forests under climate driven risks: the ways ahead

14–16 April 2010

Antalya, Turkey

### EFI Associated Events

#### ■ Role and Significance of Forest Seed in Forest Regeneration

28–29 October 2009

Zagreb, Croatia

### Further information

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Jasmin Merdan / www.fotolia.com

## EFIMED Annual Meeting in Marrakech

A total of 75 participants from 12 countries attended the EFIMED Annual Progress Meeting and its Scientific Seminar in Marrakech, Morocco, on 29 April – 1 May 2009. The scientific seminar discussed and presented scientific evidences on the role of forests and forest management in ensuring the sustainability of other resources like soil, water and fodder. The seminar also discussed the trade-offs among forest, soil, water and fodder from a biophysical point of view

(operational level) and a socio-economic perspective (policy level).

The event was hosted by ENFI (National School of Forestry Engineers of Morocco) and supported by the Ministry of Science of Spain, Ministry of Agriculture of Morocco, the French Cooperation Agency and FAO.

Further information on the EFIMED website.



Elena Corriz

## EFIMED Annual Meeting 2010

The South-western Anatolia Forest Research Institute (Turkey) will host the next EFIMED Annual Meeting with the support of the General Directorate for Forestry (OGM) on 14–16 April 2010. The accompanying scientific seminar will focus on the topic: “Knowledge base management of Mediterranean forests under climate driven risks: the ways ahead”. This will aim at improving the understanding of climate driven risks in a Mediterranean context and how to

take them into account and minimize them through appropriate forest management strategies. The programme will include networking workshops, allowing participants to better interact and raise new projects and initiatives. The Annual meeting will include interesting Field Trip to the Taurus Mountains.

More information on the EFIMED website.

## Improving the collaboration with relevant Mediterranean Institutions

Within the framework of the EFIMED Annual Meeting, Mr. *O’Mihrit*, Association Internationale Forêts Méditerranée, and Dr. *Marc Palahí*, EFIMED, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) through which both organizations commit to improve communication, develop joint projects, jointly advocate for Mediterranean forests and improve the knowledge transfer. AIFM, founded in 1996, aims at exchanging knowledge and information on the management, protection and development forest and other natural environments in countries with a Mediterranean climate and at fostering interdisciplinary cooperation concerning the environmental, technical, socio-economic and developmental aspects of those areas.

On 12 May 2009, EFIMED signed a MoU with the Mediterranean Model Forest Network (MMFN). EFIMED, as the voice of forest science in the Mediterranean region, will provide scientific expertise for the establishment of a network of territories in which the concept of Model Forest will be developed within the Mediterranean environment. The MMFN is a part of the International Model Forest Network (IMFN). Model Forests represent an innovative approach, meant to become the example of how a forest should be sustainable managed in a particular landscape. They combine social, cultural and economic needs of local communities where forests are an important feature with the long-term sustainability.

On 18 June 2009 the General Assembly of the Mediterranean Association of Forest Owners (ARCMED) took place in Aix-en-Provence, France. ARCMED was constituted in 2007, representing and promoting Mediterranean functions of private forests before administrations and organisations, and defending the forests in the EU. They are part of the European Private Forests Confederation (CEPF). EFIMED and ARCMED signed then a MoU, through which both will improve mutual information, advocate for Mediterranean Forests, develop joint activities and improve knowledge exchange and technology transfer.

Further information [www.arcmed.eu](http://www.arcmed.eu)

EFIMED launches its new website, bookmark [www.efimed.efi.int](http://www.efimed.efi.int)

## Advanced Course on Forest fires: impacts and post-fire management

## Short Scientific Visits 2009



EFIMED aims to improve the capacities of Mediterranean forest researchers, especially of those with higher potential. Every year EFIMED launches a call for young scientists to visit another Mediterranean institution, enhancing networking among organisations.

For the 2009 call, the following candidates have been selected:

Mr. *Jaafar Ebrahim*, from University of Lattakia, Syria will spend two weeks in CEMAGREF, France, under the supervision of Dr. Jappiot working on “Fire risk and damage assessment in Mediterranean areas using remote sensing and GIS techniques”.

Dr. *Jordi Garcia*, from Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal, will work with CREAM and EFIMED, Spain in “Optimizing forest management under climate changing conditions. A study case in Catalonia.”

Dr. *Omer Kucut*, from Kastamonu University, Turkey has worked with experts at the University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro – UTAD, Portugal on the “Analysis of Turkish fuel models and their potential fire behavior”.

And Mr. *Anze Japelj*, from the Slovenian Forest Research Institute, stayed two weeks in Barcelona working with EFIMED on the “Economic valuation of selected non-market forest services in Slovenia”.

Congratulations to all of them!

EFIMED, COST Action FP0701, PHOENIX Project Center and SAFRI organised a course on Forest fires: impacts and post-fire management on 13–18 April 2009 in Antalya, Turkey. 25 participants from all around the Mediterranean basin, including young researchers on fire ecology, modeling and related silviculture, and practitioners from forest services. The participants were able to exchange interesting experiences, contrasting procedures and points of view of the most problematic issues with each other and with the lecturers. It was felt that

there are still many open questions and no standard reply can be given to the question “what to do with our forests in regard to fires: before and after”. Experts remarked the need to demystify wildfires and manage forests assuming that fire is a natural process. Appropriate Silvicultural treatments and forest management planning strategies are crucial for developing more fire resistant landscapes. Finally, natural regeneration should be given priority for the improvement of the natural adaptation, taking into account foreseen effects of climate change.

## EFICIENT Observatory for European Forests (EFICIENT-OEF) opens its office in Nancy

The development of EFI Regional Offices continues. The latest office to open its doors is the ‘Observatory for European Forests (EFICIENT-OEF)’ in Nancy, France, which is an integral part of the EFI Central European Regional Office EFICIENT.

The core funding for the establishment of the EFICIENT-OEF and starting its first activities is provided, for the next three years, by four different French donors: the French Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Urban Community of Greater Nancy, the

Regional Council of Lorraine and the French National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA).

Dr. *Aljoscha Requardt*, the Manager of the EFICIENT-OEF, started his work at the beginning of September. He moved to his new position from the Institute for World Forestry, University of Hamburg (UHH), Germany, where he has been a Scientist and Deputy Head of the institute research unit “International Forest Development and Forest Policy”.

As the Mediterranean forest ecosystems provide multiple goods and services, their sound management calls for improved knowledge, targeted education and capacity building. The Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda (MFRA) 2010–2020 presents the challenges Mediterranean forests are facing and how science can best address them during the next decade.

## Mediterranean Forests Require More Research



MFRA aims at networking and coordinating research at Mediterranean level, requiring a coordinated effort by the research community and related stakeholders (forest owners, NGOs, companies, public administration, etc) to utilise in an efficient and effective way the available international and national research funding resources.

MFRA aims to ensure the sustainability of Mediterranean forests and the goods and services they provide by advancing and sharing knowledge on forest ecosystems functions, and by developing new tools for forest management and governance in a context of global change. The contributors to the report agree that innovative development of sciences (climatology, economics, decision science, biology, ecology, information technology and geomatics, etc.) should be adopted and adapted by forest science. Education and sharing knowledge through strengthened capacity building are seen as major components of MFRA.

MFRA is structured around four strategic research priorities – selected on the basis of their intrinsic im-

portance and significance for decision-making – in order to provide a scientific framework with which to meet the important challenges ahead.

The implementation of MFRA will allow the creation of a triangle of Mediterranean forestry knowledge of research, education and innovation, as well as a geographic triangle with its vertices in Mediterranean Europe, North Africa and the Middle East. Both concepts will play a key role in a knowledge-based sustainable Mediterranean society.

The European Forest-Based Sector Technology Platform (FTP) provided the framework for the Mediterranean forest research community to develop the Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda (MFRA) as part of the Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) in order to highlight the main pan-Mediterranean forestry challenges as well as the scientific priorities, objectives and outcomes to address them. The work was co-ordinated by the Mediterranean Regional Office of the European Forest Institute – EFIMED.



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