

# EFI Multi Donor Trust Fund for Policy Support: Annual Report 2017

*24 January 2018*



*EFI MDTF for Policy Support countries marked by green color*



*EFI ThinkForest seminar, 7 November 2017, International Press Centre, Brussels. Photo: Simon Pugh*





EUROPEAN FOREST INSTITUTE



# Executive Summary

## What is this document?

This document is the Annual Report of the EFI Multi Donor Trust Fund for Policy Support (hereafter MDTF) for 2017. It presents the activities, outputs, impacts and budget from the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the MDTF, the reporting period being 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017. Its aim is to provide transparent information, which can also be used to assess and evaluate the performance and impact of the MDTF work.

## Project management

EFI Assistant Director Lauri Hetemäki has coordinated MDTF project activities in 2017, with important support from Policy Support Officer Ulla Vääntinen and Communications Officer Rach Colling. The ThinkForest Forum has been chaired by its President, Göran Persson. In addition, other EFI staff resources and outside subcontracting have been used to carry out the activities during 2017.

## Project funding and costs in 2017

By the 4<sup>th</sup> MDTF Steering Committee meeting on 5 July 2017, 10 countries had joined the MDTF: *Austria, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Spain and Sweden*. The total financial contribution from the countries to the MDTF by the end of 2017 was **773 809** euros (including transfers from 2016). The total amount of expenses in 2017 is estimated to have been **780 899** euros. *It should be noted that when writing this on 24 January 2018, the EFI accounts for 2017 had not yet been finalized.*

## Summary of activities

The highlights of activities and outputs from 2017 include:

*From Science to Policy* (FSTP) study was published on what a circular bioeconomy strategy would require, particularly in a European context. Two *What Science Can Tell Us* (WSCTU) studies were published in 2017. One WSCTU is on “Natura 2000 and forests: Assessing the state of implementation and effectiveness” and the other assesses the economic, social and environmental sustainability of a forest-based bioeconomy, and looks at issues that may affect its development. Jointly with the FSTP and WSCTU studies, also their *Executive Summaries* were published separately (replacing the previous ThinkForest briefs). In addition, “White Paper” report on “Climate-Smart Forestry: quantification of mitigation impacts in three case regions in Europe” was published. Moreover, three online newsletters, *Science Supporting Policy-making* were distributed to the EFI network (approx. 2150 recipients by the end of 2017).

**ThinkForest events** are the flagship science-policy events organized by MDTF, and there were four such events in 2017: 1. “*Leading the way to a new European bioeconomy strategy*”, held at the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Berlin, 10 May 2017; 2. “*Roundtable lunch seminar on climate-smart forestry*”, at Hotel Leopold, Brussels, 30 May 2017; 3. “*Implementing Natura 2000 in Forests: Lessons Learned and Looking Ahead*”, at the International Press Center, Brussels, 27 September 2017; and 4. “*Looking ahead to a circular European bioeconomy*”, at the International Press Center, Brussels, 7 November 2017.



## Summary of impacts

**Publications** were widely distributed both in (printed and digital forms). Between 400-500 copies of each *What Science Can Tell Us* studies were printed. Due to the high demand, a new printing of the FSTP no. 5 on “*Leading the way to a European circular bioeconomy strategy*” was needed (a total of 1 000 copies were printed). Publications were distributed at ThinkForest events, to policymakers in Brussels via EFI’s Brussels Liaison Office, and were sent to EFI’s network and Regional Offices. *From Science to Policy 5* was also distributed at the Bioeconomy Investment Summit held in Helsinki in December 2017. The electronic copies of the publications proved extremely popular, with *From Science to Policy 5* being downloaded 2,400 times in its first three months of publication.

There were also several media or stakeholder group news reports of the publications (see Appendix). Publications received also very good response from decision makers. For example, the European Commission commented that they find very helpful and will use in their work the FSTP no. 5 in updating the EU bioeconomy strategy (comments by the Director for Bioeconomy, European Commission DG R&D). The publication also spread well to the national level decision makers, not least due to the four former top politicians (Esko Aho, Cristina Narbona, Göran Persson and Janez Potočnik) having written the Foreword for the report and spreading it to their networks. For example, the Spanish Socialist Worker’s Party (PSOE) used it for drafting their party programme. Also, the Natura 2000 WSCTU publication was commented to be extremely helpful for the European Commission biodiversity policy planning and work (comments by Director, Natural Capital, European Commission DG Env).

Three editions of the *Science Supporting Policy-making* online newsletter were sent during 2017. The newsletter reports on and promotes ThinkForest events and MDTF-funded studies, in addition to more general news items on current MDTF themes. The newsletter is sent by email to EFI’s policy support mailing list, which by the end of 2017 totalled some 2,150 subscribers. Subscribers include, e.g. European Parliament (85), European Commission (67), Permanent Representations/Embassies (149), and national ministries (193).

**ThinkForest event participation:** Participation in the three ThinkForest seminars varied between 71-97 participants. The ThinkForest Roundtable Discussion event was by invitation only (27 participants), and all the invitees came. In total, over 270 people took part in ThinkForest events in 2017. In addition, the three ThinkForest seminars were watched live by video/web streaming by close to 2 000 persons. In terms of background, four major participant groups were: stakeholder group representatives, the research community, national government (ministries) and forest industry. In the invitation-only Roundtable Discussion, European Parliament and European Commission staff were the biggest group, consisting of 44 % of the participants. The number of participants representing regional governments/administration increased during the reporting period.



**Media impact:** MDTF Policy Support work was again actively promoted in “traditional” and social media in 2017. Related to the ThinkForest seminars or publications, media published 15 articles (including national newspapers and broadcasters), and the different stakeholder groups published in total 14 follow-up articles in their forums (media coverage has continued in 2018, but not reported in this 2017 Annual Report). During 2017, MDTF-funded policy support work was promoted via social media, taking advantage of EFI’s existing channels to reach a geographically widespread audience. Effort focused on Twitter, which is used professionally by the policy maker audience. For example, Twitter was used at each of the three ThinkForest events, to encourage interaction and dialogue with participants, both those in the room and those watching via the livestream. During 2017, there were approx. 2,000 tweets and the account gained over 1,300 new followers. Within Europe, a high percentage of followers are based in Spain (15.4%), the UK (14.5%), Finland (7.6%), Belgium (4%) and Germany (3.7%). Other important areas globally include the US (8.4%) and Canada (3.2%).

**Expert presentations, hearings and statements:** The large number of requests for presentations or expert statements in policy or science-policy forums based on the publications and ThinkForest events indicated the usefulness of the MDTF events and publications. Based on the *From the Science to Policy*–series studies, the authors of the studies and Chief-Editor provided 26 presentations and expert statements in 2017 in the European Parliament, European Commission, national Parliament Committees, events organized by a Minister, Permanent Representations, and other forums.

**Feedback from the network:** The publications and ThinkForest events have been considered timely, and tackling topical policy issues. In particular, participants have appreciated that issues high on the political agenda have been brought to the discussion, and needed science-based information has been provided by the studies and ThinkForest seminars. Indeed, ThinkForest Roundtable lunch seminar on climate smart forestry held on 30 May and the ThinkForest on bioeconomy strategy held on 7 November were commented to be just in time for the discussion of the EC LULUCF proposal and updating of the EU bioeconomy strategy. ThinkForest events have been highly valued by various Commission officials (e.g. Commissioners, senior EC officials, Joint Research Centre officials), national government civil servants, EFI Associate Member representatives, and forest-based sector stakeholders.

**External evaluation.** The EFI MDTF for Policy Support work was evaluated in 2017 by four external evaluators. To support the evaluation, a survey was carried out to get feedback from the readers of the science-policy publications and participants of the ThinkForest events. The main result from both of these can be summarized in a statement that both the publications and ThinkForest events are very needed and they should continue. They have a unique role since no similar publications and events exist at the pan-European level:

Evaluation Report:

[http://www.efi.int/files/attachments/policy\\_advice/mdtf\\_evaluation\\_document\\_final\\_190617.pdf](http://www.efi.int/files/attachments/policy_advice/mdtf_evaluation_document_final_190617.pdf)

Survey Report:

[http://www.efi.int/files/images/thinkforest/survey\\_of\\_efi\\_thinkforest\\_events\\_final.pdf](http://www.efi.int/files/images/thinkforest/survey_of_efi_thinkforest_events_final.pdf)



## Contents

<b>1. Introduction</b>	7
1.1 EFI Multi Donor Trust Fund for Policy Support	7
1.2 MDTF funding and management	9
<b>2. Activities and outputs</b>	10
2.1 Publications	10
2.2 ThinkForest Seminars	14
2.3 Other outputs	18
2.4 Expert evaluation and survey	22
<b>3. Impacts</b>	23
3.1 Downloads	23
3.2 Feedback from stakeholders and network	25
3.3 Expert statements	26
3.4 Media impact	28
<b>4. Reporting of expenses</b>	30
4.1 Background	30
4.2 Expenditures by cost category	31
<b>5. Current and emerging forest-related policy issues and trends</b>	32
5.1 Background	32
5.2 Outlook	33
5.3. Potential developments pointing to stricter policy coordination need	34
5.4 Implications	36
<b>6. Conclusions</b>	37



## Annex: Tables

Table 1: Online statistics.....	39
Table 2: Number of ThinkForest participants according to background.....	46
Table 3: Stakeholder follow-up articles related to events and publications.....	48
Table 4: Media coverage.....	50
Table 5: Publication citations.....	52



## 1. Introduction and background

### 1.1 EFI Multi Donor Trust Fund for Policy Support

The objective of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) is to support the operationalization of the activities of the EFI Foresight and Policy Support Programme (FPS). The Trust Fund has been established for a period of three years, 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2017. The Steering Committee of the Trust Fund decided on July 2017 to continue its operation to a new 3-year period, i.e., for 2018-2020.

*The Steering Committee* is the highest decision-making body of MDTF. The Steering Committee approves the MDTF work programme and related budget. The main aims and responsibilities of the Steering Committee are to provide *strategic guidance and advice* on the operations of FPS. It receives information from the EFI secretariat and gives feedback regarding the outputs, outcomes and impacts resulting from the activities of MDTF policy support work. The Steering Committee does not take part in the operation and management of the MDTF policy support work, science-policy studies, or the selection of the scientists conducting the studies. This is in line with the principle of safeguarding the scientific integrity of the actual science-policy work. However, the Steering Committee members can *comment* the science- policy study manuscripts, but they *do not review* them. That is, the decision how to incorporate, or not to incorporate, the possible Steering Committee comments to the studies, rests on the scientists.

The Steering Committee consists of a representative of each donor and the Director of EFI or his authorized representative. The Chair of the EFI Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), or a designated SAB member, took part in the meetings as an *observer*. Also, some EFI Member Countries participated as observers in the Steering Committee meetings in 2017 (Bulgaria, Poland). The membership of a donor ends 12 months following the last contribution of the donor. The Steering Committee meets at least once a year, and maintains an active interaction through correspondence, and can meet informally in connection with other international meetings.

#### In 2017, the MDTF Steering Committee members were:

1. Ingeborg Bromée, Ministry for Enterprise & Innovation, Sweden
2. Thomas Haußmann, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Germany
3. José Manuel Jaquotot, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and the Environment, Spain
4. Tomas Krejzar, Ministry of Agriculture, Czech Republic
5. Martin Nöbauer, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management, Austria
6. Noel O'Connor, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Ireland
7. Marc Palahí, Director of EFI
8. Enrico Pompei, Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies, Italy
9. Claire Morlot, Ministry of Agriculture, Agro-food and Forestry, France
10. Silje Trollstøl, Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Norway
11. Taina Veltheim, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland



The MDTF policy support work is managed and administrated by the EFI Foresight and Policy Support Programme. The actual implementation of the science-policy studies is based on the work by EFI staff, its Associate Members, and the science community in general. The aim of the work is to:

- respond in a timely manner to policy makers' information needs with scientific-based analysis and information in an easily understandable and policy-relevant format and scale;
- support the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of sustainable policies and strategies relevant for the European forest-based sector;
- communicate effectively and consequently build a better understanding of forest-related issues, proactively involving policy makers, scientists and stakeholders.

The above objectives are carried out in particular through EFI MDTF science-policy publications (*From Science to Policy* reports and *What Science Can Tell Us* reports) and ThinkForest forum high-level science-policy seminars. The ThinkForest forum events are often chaired by its President, Göran Persson (Prime Minister of Sweden 1996-2006). The President's role has also been important in representing ThinkForest and EFI policy support work in different platforms (e.g., international conferences, videos), providing important networks and access to high-level policy makers, inviting speakers to the ThinkForest seminars, and providing strategic advice for EFI management in science-policy support work.



*ThinkForest President Göran Persson chairing the seminar on 7 November 2017, Brussels.  
Photo: Simon Pugh Photography*



## 1.2 MDTF funding and management

**Funding:** The members of the MDTF in 2017 were ten countries: **Austria, Finland, France, Czech Republic, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Norway, Spain and Sweden**. The total contribution of donors in 2017 was **773 809 euros** (including transfers from 2016). The expenses of MDTF activities during 1 January to 31 December 2017 is estimated to have been **780 899 euros** (the exact amount will be known when the EFI accounts for 2017 are finalized in February 2018).

According to the MDTF Guidelines, funding can be used to finance the following categories of expenditure:

- FPS staff costs and travel expenses;
- EFI staff costs, consultant and expert fees and related expenses (travels, etc.) to coordinate and conduct FPS studies and activities;
- Costs for contracting EFI member organizations and other relevant organizations for carrying out scientific assessments, policy studies, etc.;
- EFI staff costs and travel expenses related to the negotiations of the trust fund, its establishment and enlargement;
- Communication and media expenses, including publications (e.g. *From Science to Policy* and *What Science Can Tell Us* studies)
- Briefs, EFI News, etc., translations, and video and electronic media;
- Workshop, conference and meeting expenses, including costs associated with presenters, publicity, translation and reporting;
- Equipment related to supporting the activities of FPS;
- Office running costs (not covered by the agreed overheads);
- Costs related to activities, not included above, that have the approval of the Steering Committee;
- Auditing and final external evaluation costs.

**Management:** The MDTF policy support work is managed and administrated by the *EFI Foresight and Policy Support Programme (FPS)*. It initiates, coordinates, carries out and disseminates science-based analysis and synthesis assessments for policy makers, stakeholders, media and the public at large. It supports science-policy dialogue and functions as a go-between scientists and policy makers. One of the main activities is also the managing and operation of ThinkForest Forum, the high-level science-policy information, discussion and information-sharing forum.

Based on feedback from the Steering Committee members, EFI prepares an annual work plan and an associated budget which is approved by the Steering Committee. Studies may be planned to be conducted within a period of up to three years subject to the availability of sufficient funding.

The team responsible for managing and administrating the MDTF policy support work in 2017 was:

Lauri Hetemäki, Assistant Director, EFI  
Rach Colling, Communications Officer, EFI  
Harald Mauser, Brussels Liaison Officer, EFI  
Ulla Vanttinen, Policy Support Officer, EFI



## 2. Activities and outputs

The activities under MDTF for Policy Support were of many different types during 2017. The flagship activities are the ThinkForest events and science-policy publications. In addition, a number of related and supporting activities were carried out, such as the policy support newsletter, webstreaming, videos, policy support webpage, posters, social media activities, expert statements and presentations in policy forums, and efforts to get new countries to join the MDTF. This chapter gives more detailed information about these activities.

### 2.1 Publications

#### 2.1.1. Science-policy studies

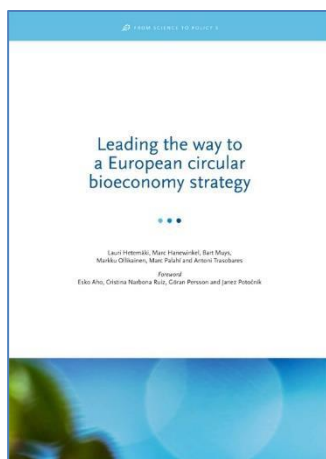
MDTF publications build on existing EFI series, with the aim of creating a cascade of products, targeted at different audiences and purposes. Their main objective is to synthesise existing science analysis and results, and draw policy implications based on these, in order to support policy making and stakeholders work. The text is accordingly written in a format that is easily accessible to these target groups.

EFI series	No of pages	Purpose
<b><i>What Science Can Tell Us</i></b> (WSCTU)	80-100	Synthesis of large scope studies. Main target groups: civil servants, policy makers' assistants, stakeholders, experts, researchers
<b><i>From Science to Policy</i></b> (FSTP)	28-32	Synthesis of a specific topic, carried out within a short timeframe (typically in 4-8 months). Main target groups: civil servants, policy makers' assistants, stakeholders, experts, researchers
<b><i>Executive Summary</i></b> <b><i>(formerly ThinkForest Brief)</i></b>	c.8	Executive Summary from either WSCTU or FSTP, summarizing their policy implications. Main target groups: policy makers, policy makers' assistants, media, stakeholders, experts

Detailed science-policy analysis from a *What Science Can Tell Us* or *From Science to Policy* study is summarised in an *Executive Summary*. Both are made available at ThinkForest events.

**In 2017, one *From Science to Policy* study and two *What Science Can Tell Us* were published, together with their respective *Executive Summaries*. In addition, a “*White Paper*” report on climate smart forestry was produced.**



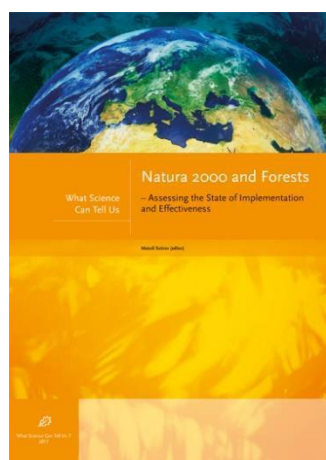


### From Science to Policy 5: [Leading the way to a European circular bioeconomy strategy](#)

The study was coordinated by Lauri Hetemäki (EFI), and had 6 authors from 5 institutions.

The publication also includes a Foreword by Esko Aho, Cristina Narbona Ruiz, Göran Persson and Janez Potočnik.

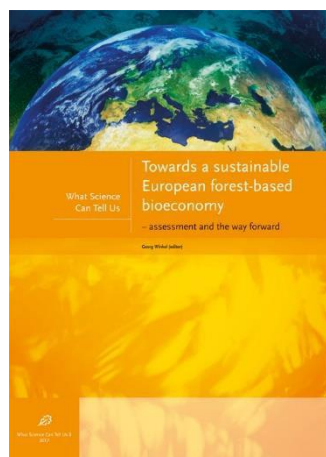
#### [Executive Summary](#)



### What Science Can Tell Us 7: [Natura 2000 and forests: Assessing the state of implementation and effectiveness](#)

The study was coordinated by Metodi Sotirov (University of Freiburg), and had 20 authors from 11 institutions in 11 countries.

#### [Executive Summary](#)



### What Science Can Tell Us 8: [Towards a sustainable European forest-based bioeconomy – assessment and the way forward](#)

The study was coordinated by Georg Winkel (EFI), and had 48 authors from 27 institutions in 12 countries.

#### [Executive Summary](#)





**White Paper –report: Climate-Smart Forestry: quantification of mitigation impacts in three case regions in Europe**, coordinated by Gert-Jan Nabuurs (Wageningen), and had 5 authors from 4 institutions in 4 countries. The “White Paper” has been further developed and will be published as an EFI From Science to Policy –series report in spring 2018.

Author affiliations	Countries represented
Centre Tecnologic Forestal de Catalunya (CTFC)* European Environment Agency (EEA) EFI Forest Research Institute of Baden-Württemberg* IFER - Institute of Forest Ecosystem Research InForest Joint Research Unit (CTFC-CREAF)* and CSIC International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) Joint Research Centre, European Commission Laboratoire d’Economie Forestière, Institut National de Recherche Agronomique (INRA)*, AgroParisTech* Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change National Forest Centre, Slovakia* National Research Council of Italy* – Trees and Timber Institute (CNR IVALSa) National Research Institute of Science and Technology for Environment and Agriculture (IRSTEA)* Natural Resources Institute Finland* Oregon State University Stockholm Environment Institute Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)* University of Bari Aldo Moro University of Copenhagen* University of Eastern Finland* University of Freiburg* University of Helsinki* University of the Highlands and Islands	Austria Czech Republic Belgium Denmark Finland France Germany Italy Netherlands Romania Slovakia Spain Sweden UK USA



University of Jyväskylä University of Leuven* University of Molise* University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU)* University of Padova* University of Stirling University of Suceava USDA Forest Service Utrecht University Wageningen University* Wild Resources Ltd	
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\*EFI Associate Member organization

## Policy support newsletter



*The Science Supporting Policy-making* online newsletter reports on and promotes ThinkForest events and MDTF-funded studies, in addition to more general news items on current MDTF themes (for example bioeconomy).

The newsletter is sent by email to EFI's policy support mailing list, using the Apsis newsletter system, and is promoted to EFI's wider network via social media.

Subscription was actively promoted during the year (e.g. during registration for events). **By the end of 2017, the policy support mailing list totalled some 2,150 subscribers, an increase of c.550 over the course of the year.**

Amongst others, subscribers include:

	2017	2016	2015
European Parliament	85	89	89
European Commission	67	73	59
Permanent Representations/Embassies	149	108	69
National ministries	193	177	121
Regional representations in Brussels	93	69	4

**Three editions of the newsletter were published in 2017**

Newsletter issue	Contents
3-2017 (24.11.2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moving towards a circular bioeconomy</li> <li>Circular bioeconomy strategy needed in Europe</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New European circular bioeconomy strategy has to be mainstreamed</li> <li>• Placing sustainability at the heart of the investment agenda</li> </ul>
<u>2-2017</u> (02.10.2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supporting decision-making in policy and practice</li> <li>• New study assesses effects of Natura 2000 in forests</li> <li>• Using science to improve policy</li> <li>• Looking ahead to a circular European bioeconomy</li> <li>• Placing sustainability at the heart of the investment agenda</li> </ul>
<u>1-2017</u> (07.06.2017)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating a circular bioeconomy narrative</li> <li>• Climate-Smart Forestry</li> <li>• Bioeconomy and biodiversity are two sides of the same coin</li> <li>• Call for Scientific Advisory Board members</li> <li>• How can wood construction reduce environmental degradation?</li> </ul>

## 2.2 ThinkForest Seminars

There were four ThinkForest events in 2017: 1. *“Leading the way to a new European bioeconomy strategy”*, held at Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Berlin, 10 May 2017; 2. *“Roundtable lunch seminar on climate-smart forestry”*, at Hotel Leopold, Brussels, 30 May 2017; 3. *“Implementing Natura 2000 in Forests: Lessons Learned and Looking Ahead”*, at the International Press Center, Brussels, 27 September 2017; and 4. *“Looking ahead to a circular European bioeconomy”*, at the International Press Center, Brussels, 7 November 2017.

ThinkForest events are mainly organized in Brussels, but in 2017 one event also took place in a MDTF member country, Germany (in Berlin). The aim is also in the future to take the events to member countries, in addition to Brussels. In Berlin, attendance was good, and new audience had an opportunity to be introduced to a ThinkForest seminar. Non-German participants constituted 43 % of the audience. In addition, the live webstreaming and video recording made available in the web after the event, allowed for easy following outside Germany.

For the second time, a smaller and by invitation only ThinkForest Roundtable Discussion event was organized. The background for this type of event was especially the wish from the European Parliament MEPs for such a forum, in which there was the possibility for a freer and more thorough discussion. There were 27 participants in the event, of which 44 % were from European Parliament and European Commission.

The ThinkForest events benefit significantly from the Presidency of Göran Persson. His PR value, networks, advice, and professional and insightful chairing of the events have greatly helped to raise the profile of the events. He has also took part in the policy support articles coordinated by EFI and published in newspapers. In addition, Mr. Persson has helped to promote the ThinkForest, EFI policy support work, and European forest sector in general.



## Leading the way to a new European bioeconomy strategy

The opportunities which the circular bioeconomy can offer for inclusive, sustainable, economic development were the focus of a ThinkForest seminar on European bioeconomy strategy which took place in Berlin on 10 May 2017. Not overusing the biosphere, but also not underusing its potential was the key message. The need for more policy coherence and cross-disciplinary research to inform policy processes was also emphasized.

The State Secretary Hermann Onko Aeikens from the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture emphasised to participants that forestry is a vital part of the bioeconomy and that a sustainable bioeconomy is not possible without sustainable forest management. He also stated that European Forest Institute enjoys an excellent reputation in Europe and beyond. “Over the past years the Federal Ministry of Agriculture has thus intensified its cooperation with the EFI as an influential, international institution with expertise in forestry.”

Panellists and the audience discussed plans for a revised EU bioeconomy strategy that would connect it to circular economy and help to shape the transition to a more sustainable consumption and production in the EU. It was also stressed that circular bioeconomy plays key role in movement to climate smart and sustainable cities, along with the already well understood role it has in rural areas.



State Secretary, Hermann Onko Aeikens



Panel discussions: Cristina Narbona Ruiz, Felix Creutzig, Mika Aalto and Waldemar Kutt

*Photos: Florian Gaertner/photothek.net/BMEL*

The seminar was attended by 72 participants. Out of all participants, 17 were country representatives (embassies, permanent reps., ministries). Other main participant groups were researchers (24), stakeholders (10) and forest industry (5). After the seminar, a networking event was organised in the conference venue, Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture.



## Roundtable lunch seminar on climate-smart forestry

On **30 May**, a ThinkForest roundtable discussion was organized in Brussels. The event discussed Climate-Smart Forestry (CSF) and its connection to the European Commission LULUCF proposal. A draft manuscript of the forthcoming EFI White Paper on Climate-Smart Forestry was presented by Prof. Gert-Jan Nabuurs. This paper is a follow-up to the 2015 From Science to Policy study 'A new role for forests and the forest sector in the EU post-2020 climate targets'. It considers the mitigation impacts of Climate-Smart Forestry in three case study areas in Europe: Czech Republic, Ireland and Spain (it is due to be published in spring 2018).

Attendance to this event was by invitation only. The 27 participants (all invited came!) represented European Commission and European Parliament (12), countries (8), research (4) and other international organizations (3).



Prof. Gert-Jan Nabuurs presenting the White Paper, ThinkForest Roundtable 30 May 2017, Brussels

## Implementing Natura 2000 in Forests: Lessons Learned and Looking Ahead

Using science-based knowledge to improve the implementation of Natura 2000 in forests was the focus of a ThinkForest seminar which took place in Brussels on 27 September. There was a general consensus amongst the speakers and audience that the Natura 2000 network was globally recognised as a unique conservation tool. However, experiences from the 25 years have shown that its implementation could be better.

The new *EFI What Science Can Tell Us study on implementation of Natura 2000 in forests* was presented in the seminar. The study team of 20 scientists had identified three major recommendations to move forward with Natura 2000 implementation: (i) decision makers and practitioners need to join forces to deal with ideological and information challenges (ii) there is a need to tackle economic and funding challenges and (iii) there is also a need to tackle institutional challenges in Natura 2000 implementation.



A wide-ranging panel discussion delved in more detail into the practicalities of better implementation. Key issues discussed included evidence-based funding, an integrated monitoring structure, and the clear need to involve all stakeholders and invest in win-win dialogue.

The 81 participants represented stakeholders (22), research (13), European Commission and European Parliament (8), countries (8), forest industry and forest owners (8), NGOs (4) and other international organizations. After the seminar, the event continued with a networking event which took place in the conference venue, International Press Center, Brussels.



Metodi Sotirov, presenting the Natura 2000 *What Science Can Tell Us* study.



Panellists included: Emma Berglund, Jürgen Bauhus, Mark Demesmaeker, Christian Barthod, Andreas Baumüller and Rudolf Plochman.

*Photos: Michael Chia*

## Looking ahead to a circular European bioeconomy

How we mainstream the implementation of the circular bioeconomy strategy was discussed in the ThinkForest seminar on 7 November in Brussels. The year 2018 will be a turning point, with the expected updating of the EU Bioeconomy Strategy and Action Plan giving an opportunity to set a new level of ambition and focus on how the circular bioeconomy can create a sustainable, renewable society. Speakers of the seminar were agreed that the bioeconomy is inevitable. How the circular bioeconomy can move from aspiration to realization is the next priority.

John Bell, Director for Bioeconomy at DG Research and Innovation said there would be a mainstreaming of the development of the bioeconomy over the next year, and its embedding in the other policies. Urban populations and cities were the focus of the seminar's panel discussions. Cities and regions could be the forerunners for the circular bioeconomy process. Yet, it was noted by many panelists that it was important to adapt plans to regional requirements. Common challenges included ensuring competitiveness, scaling new innovative bioeconomy products to commercial scale, and investing in R&D and new skills.





Panellists included: Marc Palahí, Hanna Kosonen, Lambert van Nistelrooij, Cecil Konijnendijk van den Bosch, Janez Potočnik and Christian Patermann. Photos: Simon Pugh Photography

The recommendations of the latest EFI *From Science to Policy* study '*Leading the way to a European circular bioeconomy strategy*' were introduced at the event. The study analyses what a circular bioeconomy strategy would require, particularly in a European context. The event took place at the International Press Centre, Brussels, and had 94 participants. The participants represented forest industry and forest owners (18), other stakeholders/ NGOs (24), research organizations (21), European Commission and European Parliament (9), countries (5) and international organizations (21, incl. participants from EFI). The morning session was concluded with the lunch with 85 participants.

The afternoon session focused on the role which forests play in a European circular bioeconomy. Key conclusions from a forthcoming *What Science Can Tell Us study on the European forest bioeconomy* were presented. It was emphasized that people are at the heart of a forest-based bioeconomy, with a growing group of urbanized forest owners providing a big opportunity to align consumer demands with producer interests. The networking event held after the afternoon session was attended by 80 participants. It offered participants an opportunity to ask more questions from the speakers, and to exchange views on seminar topics.

## 2.3. Other outputs

### 2.3.1. Online activities

The EFI website is an important tool in MDTF communication activities, as it acts as a central, easily accessible source of information about policy support activities. The website not only aggregates content from and signposts users to all other digital channels, but is also the place where a lasting and easily



accessible 'footprint' of MDTF-supported outputs is created, making it available to policymakers for future reference.

### Policy support/ThinkForest webpages

In addition to policy support material being showcased on the EFI homepage ([www.efi.int](http://www.efi.int)), the dedicated Policy Support webpages ([www.efi.int/portal/policy\\_advice](http://www.efi.int/portal/policy_advice)) were updated throughout the year, with the aim of promoting the latest activities, and signposting to further information.

The ThinkForest webpages were maintained and expanded during 2017, with sections added for each new ThinkForest event. This included mini-biographies of key speakers, programme, background information etc. This was updated after each event to include relevant news releases, photos, presentations and videos.

Publications information moved to one consolidated location ([www.efi.int/portal/virtual\\_library/publications/](http://www.efi.int/portal/virtual_library/publications/)) and was updated as new reports were published.

### Videos

Video continued to be used during 2017, with the aim of making ThinkForest events accessible to as wide an audience as possible. Three ThinkForest events (Berlin, May; Brussels, September and November) were successfully webstreamed live via the [EFI YouTube channel](#), with good audience figures. Webstreaming also has the benefit of allowing the full event recordings to be made available afterwards, giving a lasting record of ThinkForest discussions.

Event	Livestream viewers	Average time watched	Countries (top 5 viewers)	Recording views 2017
<a href="#">Looking ahead to a circular European bioeconomy</a> 07.11.2017, Brussels	184	55 minutes	26 countries (FI, DE, BE, IS, NL)	459
<a href="#">Implementing Natura 2000 in forests: lessons learned and looking ahead</a> 27.09.2017, Brussels	174	38 minutes	30 countries (DE, BE, IT, FI, DK)	484
<a href="#">Leading the way to a new European bioeconomy strategy</a> 10.05.2017, Berlin	217	27 minutes	30 countries (FI, DE, IT, BE, SE/LV/ES)	1,029

More details are available in the Annex in the Online Statistics section.



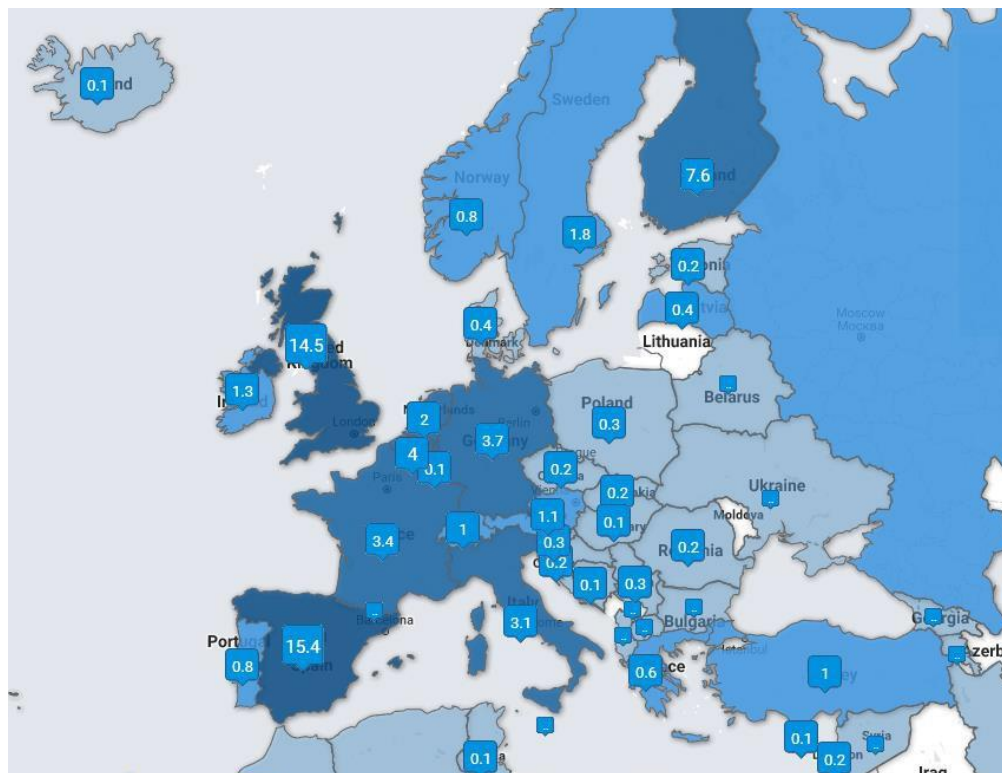
## Social media

During 2017, MDTF-funded policy support work was promoted via social media, taking advantage of EFI's growing social media presence and existing channels to reach a geographically widespread audience.

Social media channel	Number of followers (31 Dec 2017)	Number of followers (31 Dec 2016)	Number of followers (15 Dec 2015)
<a href="#">Twitter</a>	6,116	4,828	3,330
<a href="#">Facebook</a>	5,253	3,621	2,750
<a href="#">LinkedIn</a>	4,014	3,305	2,750
<a href="#">YouTube</a>	568 subscribers	408 subscribers	323 subscribers

Effort again focused on Twitter, which is used professionally by the policy maker audience (in particular MEPs, European Commission etc). Tweets were broadcast from each of the 2017 ThinkForest events, which again saw good social media conversations by participants.

During 2016, there were 1,995 tweets (a small increase on 2015), and the account gained c.1,290 new followers. Within Europe, a high percentage of followers are based in Spain (15.4%), the UK (14.5%), Finland (7.6%), Belgium (4%) and Germany (3.7%). Other important areas globally include the US (8.4%) and Canada (3.2%).



**EFI's global Twitter followers by country (percentages of total)**



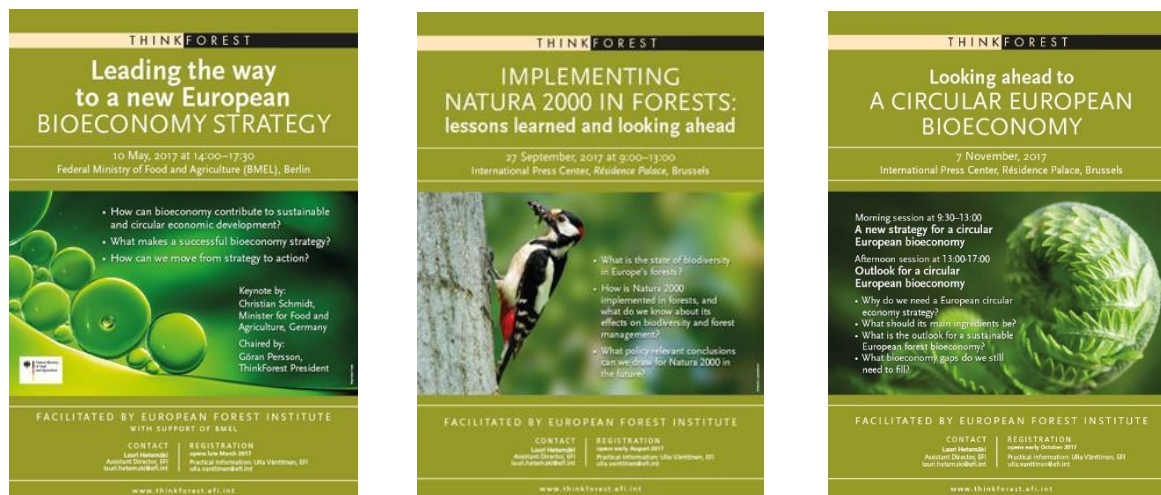
## Electronic messaging

The capacity to send messages to the policy support mailing list via the Apsis software system was again heavily used in 2017. A total of 17 messages relating to ThinkForest events were sent by email to the policy support mailing list, and media lists. These included ‘save the date’ messages, event invitations and reminders, as well as notifications of webstreaming. In addition, members of the list received three invitations and reminders to respond to the ThinkForest survey.

More details are available in the Annex in the Online Statistics section.

## Posters

A4 posters were produced to advertise each ThinkForest event in 2017. These were made available in PDF (for example for use on the web) and printed formats, for ease of distribution. Printed posters were used at events, and distributed in Brussels (for example at the European Parliament).



## Press releases/news items

There was active contact with the media during 2017, with regular press releases and invitations to ThinkForest events. In addition, a media workshop was organised in May 2017, in connection with the Berlin bioeconomy event (see section 3.4).

The database of Brussels-based journalists was maintained, together with those across Europe interested in specific topics (for example bioeconomy, climate change). A distribution list of relevant journalists was created for each event, and extensive use was also made of ‘multipliers’, i.e. news distribution channels such as AlphaGalileo, ScienceDaily, UNECE/FAO Forest Information Billboard, FAO Infosylva.

A dissemination plan was made for each ThinkForest event, and the results from dissemination activities were monitored and logged, using an off-the-shelf system (Meltwater) (see Table 5, Post-event media coverage).



Seven press releases/news items were published in 2017:

[Creating a sustainable and inclusive forest-based bioeconomy in Europe](#) (20.12.2017)  
[Mitigation effects of EU forests could nearly double through Climate Smart Forestry](#) (12.12.2017)  
[New European circular bioeconomy strategy has to be mainstreamed](#) (09.11.2017)  
[Circular bioeconomy strategy needed in Europe](#) (31.10.2017)  
[Using science to improve policy](#) (28.09.2017)  
[New study assesses effects of Natura 2000 in forests](#) (21.09.2017)  
[Building a pro-active relationship between the economy and ecology](#) (11.05.2017)

Press releases were sent to a distribution list of approx. 400 journalists, depending on the topic (see section 4.3 Media impacts).

## Enlarging the MDTF

The MDTF started in January 2015 with 8 countries: Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Norway and Sweden. In 2016 Spain joined the MDTF, and in 2017 the Czech Republic. Thus, currently Central-, Northern-, Southern and Eastern Europe are all represented in the MDTF. During 2017, active efforts to engage more Baltic and Eastern European countries to MDTF were taken by the EFI Director and Assistant Director.

## 2.4. Expert evaluation and survey

An external evaluation after a period of three years was carried out according to the EFI MDTF Guidelines, considering all activities implemented before May 2017. The aim was to review the impact of the ThinkForest events and MDTF publications, and to suggest recommendations for a continuation of the programme and fund. The Evaluation Panel (Panel) consisted Peter Mayer, Chair (Austrian Research Centre for Forests), Emma Berglund (Confederation of European Forest Owners), Jean-Michel Carnus (French National Institute for Agricultural Research), Dan Burgar Kuželički (European Commission). Panel members were represented in their personal capacity. To support the evaluation, a “Survey of EFI ThinkForest events, science-policy studies, and social media usage” was carried out, and it was supported also by face-to-face interviews in European Parliament, European Commission and Permanent Representations in Brussels. This, gave further insights into the impacts and functioning of the programme.

The Evaluation Report recommended the continuation of the MDTF Programme to a new 3-year period. It recognized the added value of the MDTF work for facilitating an active science-policy interface. The events and publications of the MDTF were regarded as effective and needed, and the Programme administrated smoothly and according to good practice. The Panel made a series of recommendations to further improve the activities and impact of the policy support work. For example, still scale up the work activities in future, engaging the EFI Associate Members better to the work, as well as the EFI Brussels liaison officer. Also,



there was a wish that the foresight section of the Annual Reports (i.e. this Report) should play a stronger role in shaping the MDTF working programme, and should be expanded.

The Survey showed that ThinkForest clearly creates a recognised science-policy forum through e.g. providing a common meeting and discussion space for science-policy dialogue, and for presenting most recent state of the art synthesis of scientific knowledge in a format targeted for decision-makers. Most respondents agreed that ThinkForest has created its own identity. The interviews (10 persons) pointed out that ThinkForest events and EFI science-policy publications were well on track as ThinkForest reaches out to decision makers, as well as it facilitates dialogue and networking activities which is not makes it a unique forest-related forum in Brussels. The continuation of smaller by invitation only Roundtables and larger public events possibly tight to the political agenda to attract both high level politicians as well as a large interested audience was very much appreciated. A number of suggestions were made as how to improve the event set-up, networking and interaction as well as to provide participants with preliminary even conclusions and to inform them about planned future activities.

### 3. Impacts

In general, the EFI MDTF Policy Support work has during 2017 received very positive feedback and it has reached a wide audience. The impact indicators given in the Report show a robust continuation of MDTF activities impact (see Appendix), as do the External Evaluation report and network Survey carried out in 2017. In addition, the direct responses received from the network (see below), from the discussions EFI staff have had with policy makers, stakeholders and research institutes during 2017, as well as the numerous requests for expert presentations or statements based on the MDTF work support this conclusion. Besides the information reported below, during meetings and discussions that EFI's Director and Assistant Director had during 2017 with European Parliament MEPs, European Commission staff, national ministries and stakeholders, very positive feedback was given for the MDTF policy support work. This included in meetings and discussion with European Commission officials (e.g., DG Research Director of Bioeconomy John Bell; DG Env, Director of Natural Capital Humberto Delgado Rosa), national government Ministers and civil servants (e.g. Minister Christian Schmidt, Germany; Minister Kimmo Tiilikainen, Finland), EFI Associate Member representatives, etc. In summary, the work has been very well received and pointed that it is a unique and needed platform for pan-European forest-based sector science-policy work.

#### 3.1 Downloads

All MDTF publications (*From Science to Policy*, *What Science Can Tell Us* and *Executive Summaries*) were available in printed and online formats during 2017.

These were distributed at ThinkForest events, to policymakers in Brussels via EFI's Brussels Liaison Office, and were also sent to EFI's network and Regional Offices. In addition, *From Science to Policy 5* was distributed at the Bioeconomy Investment Summit in Helsinki in December 2017.

The electronic copies of these studies again proved extremely popular.



Included in the table below are details of all major *MDTF* publications produced to date (2015-2017).

<b>Title</b>	<b>Publication date</b>	<b>No of copies printed and distributed in 2017</b>	<b>No of electronic copies downloaded 2017</b>	<b>No of electronic copies downloaded 2016</b>	<b>No of electronic copies downloaded 2015</b>
WSCTU 8 (Forest-based bioeconomy)	Dec 2017	450 (printed 2018)	888	n/a	n/a
WSCTU 8 Summary	Nov 2017	125	217	n/a	n/a
From Science to Policy 5 (Circular bioeconomy)	Oct 2017	1,080	2,397	n/a	n/a
FSTP5 Summary	Nov 2017	475	564	n/a	n/a
WSCTU 7 (Natura 2000)	Sept 2017	500	2,162	n/a	n/a
WSCTU 7 Summary	Sept 2017	200	661	n/a	n/a
From Science to Policy 4 (Forest bioeconomy indicators)	Nov 2016	n/a	2,836	1,739	n/a
From Science to Policy 3 (Forest biomass, carbon neutrality)	Oct 2016	n/a	4,768	8,667	n/a
From Science to Policy 2 (A new role for forests)	Dec 2015	n/a	3,554	5,382	1,107
From Science to Policy 1 (EUTR-FLEGT)	Apr 2015	n/a	2,793	1,961	2,524

*Detailed information is available in Table 2.*



### 3.2. Feedback from stakeholders and network

#### ThinkForest seminars

In summary, the events have been considered timely, and tackling topical issues. In particular, participants have appreciated that issues high on the political agenda have been brought to the discussion, and additional science-based information has been provided by the publications and ThinkForest events. ThinkForest events have been considered important e.g. by European Parliament and European Commission staff and Brussels-based stakeholders.

After having attended the ThinkForest events, many participants have wanted to join EFI's policy support mailing list in order to receive updates on the schedule of events along with the news. By the end of 2017, the policy support mailing list totalled some 2,150 subscribers, an increase of c. 550 over the course of the year. In addition, direct oral and written responses after the events have been positive, and indicated the usefulness of the MDTF events and publications. Below are some examples of the comments received:

#### ***ThinkForest event on Leading the way to a new European bioeconomy strategy (10 May)***

This was the first ThinkForest organized in cooperation with a MDTF country's Ministry (Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, BMEL). It was also held at the Ministry's premises (Berlin). The cooperation worked excellently, and the event was able to reach widely an audience from Germany, and also outside the typical forest sector actors, which is not possible for a ThinkForest event in Brussels. Thus, the awareness of the EFI science-policy work and ThinkForest reached a new level in Germany.

#### ***ThinkForest roundtable lunch seminar on Climate-smart forestry (30 May)***

This Roundtable discussion event was considered to be very timely due to its connection to the European Parliament being in process of voting on the EC LULUCF proposal. Attendance was by invitation only, and all invitees participated. Participants valued highly the possibility to express freely their views on the topic discussed, and information provided in the new EFI White Paper on Climate-Smart Forestry. In particular, the MEPs and European Commission staff present in the event gave very positive feedback on the event, and participated actively in the discussion.

#### ***ThinkForest event on Implementing Natura 2000 in forests: lessons learned and looking ahead (27 September)***

*"I would thank EFI for organizing this ThinkForest, this discussion is extremely good opportunity, as well as the study WSCTU very helpful, since they are very timely to the situation we are now in the EU" (Humberto Delgado Rosa, Director, Natural Capital, European Commission).*

*'I would like to thank you for the book Natura 2000 and Forests. This book will help us to understand better the forest management in Natura 2000 areas' as commented by participant from the Aleksandras Stulginskis University, Lithuania.*



### **ThinkForest event on Looking ahead to a circular European bioeconomy (7 November)**

*'Many thanks for organizing the event held yesterday in the International Press Center. Even though a number of participants remained rather low, the programme was of a high quality! As discussed between several participants, now the message on bioeconomy reached another level, and was enforced with some new input' as commented by participant representing Confederation of European Paper Industries.*

*'I took the chance to listen to your presentation this week through the weblink. I very much liked your emphasis that we have to look at ecosystem services, bioeconomy and circular economy as a whole. I am working with the bioeconomy issues for Regional administration, Sweden, and would like to refer to your presentation in an internal working group. I gather the presentation is available for a download?' as commented by participant from the Regional Council in Kalmar County, Sweden.*

After each ThinkForest event, a **press release** on the event has been published at the EFI website. **As a follow-up, stakeholders have published news on their own websites** (see Table below).

<b>ThinkForest event</b>	<b>Number of (web)articles</b>
<b><i>ThinkForest event on Leading the way to a new European bioeconomy strategy, 10 May</i></b>	1 research organisation
<b><i>ThinkForest roundtable lunch seminar on Climate-smart forestry, 30 May</i></b>	n/a
<b><i>ThinkForest event on Implementing Natura 2000 in forests: lessons learned and looking ahead, 27 September</i></b>	1 policy institute 1 MEP 5 stakeholders 1 research organisation
<b><i>ThinkForest event on Looking ahead to a circular European bioeconomy, 7 November</i></b>	1 MP/ political party 2 industry 1 stakeholder

*The detailed information is available in Table 4.*

### **3.3. Expert presentations, statements and hearings**

After publishing the studies in the EFI *From the Science to Policy* –series and *What Science Can Tell Us*-series, the authors of the studies and the series Chief-Editor have presented the study results in total of **26 times** in different science and policy forums.

Below, is a summary of the presentations, expert statements and hearings held in various policy and science-policy forums in 2017:



Publication	Presenter / event
<p><b>“White Paper” report.</b>  <b>“Climate-Smart Forestry: quantification of mitigation impacts in three case regions in Europe”</b>  (Published May 2017)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nabuurs, G.-J. Forests and wood in the climate challenge – Climate Smart Forestry in Europe. Invited talk at Dutch Ministry Economic Affairs. The Hague. 12 Dec 2017</li> <li>2. Nabuurs, G.-J. Invited talk at side event COP23. Climate Smart Forestry – mitigation impact in three case regions in Europe. 8 Nov 2017.</li> <li>3. Nabuurs, G.-J. Invited talk at EFI annual Conference Oslo. European forest management under bioeconomy trends. 5 Oct 2017</li> <li>4. Nabuurs, G.-J. Climate Smart Forestry session at IUFRO 125 years conference, Freiburg. 18 Sep 2017:</li> <li>5. Nabuurs, G.-J. Keynote at GFBI conference in Beijing. ‘Challenges European forest management’. 6 Sep 2017.</li> <li>6. Nabuurs, G.-J. Climate Smart Forestry applied in 3 regions in Europe. ThinkForest Roundtable Discussion, Brussels, 30 May 2017.</li> <li>7. Nabuurs, G.-J. Climate Smart Forestry in Europe. Invited keynote at the Climate Leadership Council meeting. Helsinki. 11 May 2017.</li> <li>8. Nabuurs, G.-J. Sustainable forestry for a biobased economy in Europe. EEA meeting bio based and circular economy. Copenhagen. 31 March 2017.</li> <li>9. Nabuurs, G.-J. EU forests and the forest sector in the climate mitigation targets: facing new challenges. Invited Distinguished lecture at WSL, Birmensdorf. 31 Jan 2017.</li> <li>10. Lindner, M. Afforestation and climate change. Afforestation and land use change in the EU in a changing climate, Workshop, DG Agri, Brussels 30. March 2017.</li> <li>11. Lindner, M. Focus Group Forest Practices &amp; Climate Change. Setting the Scene. EIP-Agri Focus Group 24, 1st Workshop, June 20-21, 2017 – Ljubljana, Slovenia</li> <li>12. Lindner, M., Jasinevičius, G. &amp; Verkerk, H. Alternative climate change mitigation strategies and their relevance in European climate smart forestry. IUFRO 125th Anniversary Congress 2017, Session D4 – 46: European Climate Smart Forestry, Freiburg, 18. September 2017.</li> </ol>
<p><b>WSCTU No. 7</b>  <b>“Natura 2000 and forests: Assessing the state of implementation and effectiveness”</b>  (Published Sept. 2017)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sotirov, M., G. Weiss, A. Jump, S. Garcia, M. Marchetti (2017): Natura 2000 and Forests: Assessing the State of Implementation and Effectiveness. EFI ThinkForest seminar, 27 September, 2017, International Press Center, Brussels, Belgium.</li> <li>2. Sotirov, M. (2017): Integrated Forest Management and Natura 2000 in Europe: the European implementation strategy. IUFRO Summer School “International Forestry and Global Issues” (IFGI), 25-29 September 2017, Nancy, AgroParisTech, France.</li> <li>3. Sotirov, M., Eckerberg, K., Winkel, G. (2017): The Politics of the Forest Environmental Nexus in Europe. 125<sup>th</sup> IUFRO Congress 2017, Session 77: “The Global Forest Environmental Frontier - What has changed, what has remained unchanged, how will the future look like?”, Freiburg, Germany.</li> </ol>



<p><b>From Science to Policy 5:</b>  <b>“Leading the way to a European circular bioeconomy strategy”</b>  (Published in October 2017)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hetemäki. Need for European bioeconomy strategy. <i>EFI Media Lunch, 10 May 2017, Federal Ministry of Food &amp; Agriculture, Berlin.</i></li> <li>2. Hetemäki. Outlook for forest industry in Europe. <i>Skog og Tre 2017 - conference, Clarion Hotel Oslo Airport, 1 June 2017</i></li> <li>3. Palahí, M. Role of forests in climate change mitigation. <i>World Circular Economy Forum, 6 June, Helsinki.</i></li> <li>4. Palahí, M. Role of forests in climate change mitigation. <i>Inauguration Symposium of the SwissForestLab, 5 September, Zurich.</i></li> <li>5. Hetemäki, L. Outlook for forest-based bioeconomy in Europe. <i>IUFRO Conference, Freiburg, 20 September 2017.</i></li> <li>6. Hetemäki, L., Hanewinkel, M., Muys, B., Ollikainen, M., Palahí, M. &amp; Trasobares, A. Leading the way to a European circular bioeconomy strategy. ThinkForest, International Press Center, Brussels, <i>7 November 2017.</i></li> <li>7. Hetemäki, L. Leading the way to a European circular bioeconomy strategy. <i>BIOBASE Circular &amp; Biobased Economy Conference, Piteå, Sweden, 23 November 2017.</i></li> <li>8. Hetemäki, L. Leading the way to a European circular bioeconomy strategy. <i>Future of forest bioeconomy –lecture, University of Helsinki, 28 November 2017</i></li> <li>9. Hetemäki, L. <i>Outlook for forest bioeconomy markets. “Opportunities and challenges of sustainable forest bioeconomy” –seminar, Wanha Satama, Helsinki, 13 December 2017.</i></li> <li>10. Göran Persson. Opening speech. 2017 Bioeconomy Investment Summit, Helsinki, 14 December 2017.</li> </ol>
<p><b>WSCTU No. 8</b>  <b>“Towards a sustainable European forest-based bioeconomy – assessment and the way forward”</b>  (Published Dec. 2017)</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Winkel, G. Outlook for European forest bioeconomy. ThinkForest, International Press Center, Brussels, <i>7 November 2017.</i></li> </ol>

### 3.4. Media impacts

#### Media invitations

Press invitations were distributed by email, using an off-the-shelf system, Meltwater. This allows you to create distribution lists based on country and the journalist’s ‘beat’ (area of specialism), and to monitor whether each invitation has been opened.

Meltwater covers all journalists in the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA. In addition, a separate in-house list of Brussels-based correspondents is used.



Event	Mailing list size	Press invitation to event (% read)	Media attendance	Organisation
Looking ahead to a circular European bioeconomy, November 2017	359	23%	1	Revolve Media
Implementing Natura 2000 in forests, September 2017	126	24.2%	2	Audiomedia Oy Revolve Media
Leading the way to a new European bioeconomy strategy, May 2017	244	24.5%	4	BBC Politico Audiomedia Oy BIOCOM AG

Media attendance and immediate coverage of events was limited, with journalists using the opportunity to gain background information on a subject and often publishing related materials several months later. For example, an article appeared in the German TAZ (Die Tageszeitung) newspaper in August 2017 relating to the ThinkForest event held in Helsinki in June 2016.

### Media workshop

As a result, a media workshop was held before the Berlin ThinkForest event on ‘Leading the way to a new European bioeconomy strategy’ in May 2017. The workshop was chaired by Matthew Karnitschnig, Chief Europe Correspondent, POLITICO. It included presentations on the circular bioeconomy from Janez Potočnik, Co-Chair of International Resource Panel, UN Environment Programme, Cristina Narbona Ruiz, Nuclear Safety Council (Minister of Environment, Spain 2004-2008) and Lauri Hetemäki, EFI Assistant Director. Giving the journalist perspective was Tom Heap, Science, environment and rural affairs broadcaster at the BBC, who spoke on engaging audiences in complex sustainability issues.

Journalists and media communicators in the audience were joined by speakers from the ThinkForest event, with lively discussions amongst all participants on how to create a new narrative for the bioeconomy. These discussions and networking continued over lunch.

### Media coverage

Post-event media coverage and ongoing media monitoring was also carried out via the Meltwater system. The ‘Looking ahead to a circular European bioeconomy’ ThinkForest event, held in November, received the widest media coverage during 2017, in particular reaching media outlets in Croatia, Finland and Italy (See Table 5 for more details).

In addition, there has been media coverage of Mr Persson’s role within ThinkForest, particularly in Sweden (see Table 5).



## 4. Reporting of expenses

### 4.1 Background

The general background principle for reporting of the funding and budgeting of the MDTF for 2017 is given here. The annual funding is not called a “budget” here, because of the technicalities related to funding and operation of MDTF. By this is meant that e.g. unused funds from 2016 were also used in 2017; and not all the country contributions for 2017 were yet received by the end of 2017. Finally, due to the time lag between closing the accounts, as of the end of January 2018 (time of writing this) the financial accounts for EFI for 2017 have not yet been closed. Given these, it is more accurate and helpful to give information on the “Actual and Forecasted” costs for the 2017.

### 4.2 Expenditures by cost category

In 2017 the MDTF funded partial salaries of the Assistant Director managing the MDTF, policy support officer responsible for the administration, and communication officer responsible for the MDTF communication. Beginning of autumn of 2017, also the Brussels Liaison Officer was by partially covered by the MDTF funding. These salary costs were linked to the general management, planning, administration, networking, coordination of the MDTF work, and communication. All the other salaries paid from MDTF to EFI staff were related directly to specific policy support activities and Work Packages.

Besides the salaries, expenses related to the expenditure categories listed under the MDTF Guidelines (shown also in Chapter 1.2) were covered by the MDTF funds.

According to MDTF Guidelines, 13% is allocated to overheads (indirect costs). Compared to common practices, this is a very low share. For example, in European Commission Horizon 2020 overheads is 25% for research and innovation projects. Indeed, in the MDTF case, the 13% overheads can be viewed to cover the using of EFI brand, some of the EFI staff costs (e.g., Director’s work input, ad hoc and small administration work input), maintenance of administration software (e.g. budgeting software), office rent and office maintenance costs, etc. The staff costs related to the MDTF activities (e.g., coordination, management, administration, EFI lawyer costs related to subcontracting and country agreements, working for the publications and ThinkForest events) are reported under MDTF salaries, not overheads.

The activities under MDTF have been organized for administrative and cost following purposes under Work Packages (WP). In 2017, costs were related to following WPs:

1. FPS Multi-Donor Trust Fund General
2. FPS MDTF WP2: Natura 2000 (preparation for 2016-2017 activities)
3. FPS MDTF WP5: Bioeconomy 2016
4. FPS MDTF WP6: Bioeconomy 2017
5. FPS MDTF WP7: From Science to Policy No 5 (FSTPNO5)
6. FPS MDTF WP8: Follow-up study for FSTP No 2

The expenses for 2017 are reported in the Table 4.1 next page.



Table 4.1 Expenses funded by MDTF, 1 January–31 December 2017\*

Expenses	2017
Salaries & Social Security	293 863
Other Personnel Expenses	19 200
Rents & Leasing	0
Travel Expenses	61 867
Consumables	15 192
External services and subcontracts	276 455
Events & Meetings & PR	24 546
Other Expenses	-62
Equipment & Software	0
<b>Direct Expenses Total</b>	<b>691 061</b>
Overheads (13%)	89 838
<b>Expenses total</b>	<b>780 899</b>

\*Estimated! EFI accounts for 2017 had not yet been finalized by 22 Jan 2018.

Expenses by Work Packages	2017
WP: MDTF General Management & Administration & Communication	219 700
WP1: FLEGT-EUTR Brussels 2015	2 613
WP2: Natura 2000	114 248
WP3: Forest Day Brussels 2015	-2
WP4: COP21 Paris 2015	105
WP5: Bioeconomy 2016	9 600
WP6: Bioeconomy 2017	161 012
WP7: FSTPNO5	128 287
WP8: Follow-up for study FSTPNO2 (2017)	55 498
Overheads (13%)	89 838
<b>Total</b>	<b>780 899</b>



## 5. Current and emerging forest-related policy issues and trends in Europe

According to the MDTF Guidelines “*EFI will provide on a yearly basis a broad overview (summary) of the current and emerging European forest-related policy issues and trends*”. This chapter seeks to fulfill this objective. Given the forward-looking nature of the chapter, the discussion is selective and seeking to raise emerging issues, rather than comprehensive and definite review. An excellent and recent review of the European forest policy framework was given in the article by Aggestam et al. (2017)<sup>1</sup> - a study which was funded by the MDTF.

### 5.1 Background

A recent review of EU policy documents demonstrated that as many as 570 policy documents have a potential impact on the EU forest-based bioeconomy (Aggestam et al., 2017, Rivera León et al, 2016)<sup>2</sup>. Relevant policies cover for example climate, energy, industrial, environmental, and social issues. Below, the Figure 5.1 (Wolfslehner et al. 2016) provides an over-view of these EU policies, relating them to areas of competences and the existing priorities of the European Commission that have been formulated for the years 2014–2019, the seven flagship initiatives to be reached by 2020, and situates them along the forest-based sector value chain.

Three main insights that one can draw from the Figure are the following. First, the EU policy framework related to the forest bioeconomy is complex and manifold. Second, the bulk of the policies affecting the forest sector are designed outside the forest sector. Third, given the flagship initiatives for the future (and the expectations of the changes in the operating environment), the messages of the two previous points are likely to be valid also in the future.

The rational response to this situation is the request for a clear and deeper coordination between the policies to enhance the synergies and minimize potential trade-offs between the policies. Indeed, there has existed a large agreement amongst the EU forest sector actors that more policy coordination for forest policy is needed (Winkel & Sotirov 2014)<sup>3</sup>. Such coordination requests started already in the 1980s, when the “acid rain” discussion generated this need (Winkel & Sotirov 2014). But based on the historical evidence and the research analysis on the topic, the coordination efforts have not led to effective practical execution. Efforts such as the EU Forest Strategy, or the legally binding agreement (LBA) on forests at the pan-European level, have tried to improve the situation. Clearly, they have been important processes and increased common understanding on the issues, but so far they have not resulted in legal liability or direct connection to EU financial policy instruments. Therefore, forest policy coordination at the EU level can be described as consultative and lacking tools for practical implementation. Although the EU Forest Strategy is expected to guide the forestry measures funding in CAP and Rural Development Programme, the question to what

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<sup>1</sup> Aggestam, Pülzl, Sotirov & Winkel. 2017. The policy framework. In Winkel, G. (ed.). Towards a sustainable European forest-based bioeconomy – assessment and the way forward. What Science Can Tell Us, no. 8, European Forest Institute.

<sup>2</sup> Rivera Leon, Bougas, Aggestam, Pulzl, Zoboli, Ravet, Grinieci, Vermeer, Maroulis, Ettwein, Van Brusselenm & Green. 2016. An assessment of the cumulative cost impact of specified EU legislation and policies on the EU forest-based industries. Brussels: DG GROW.

<sup>3</sup> Winkel & Sotirov 2014. Whose integration is this? European forest policy between the gospel of coordination, institutional competition, and a new spirit of integration. *Environment and Planning C: Government and Policy* 2014.



extent this actually happens can be raised (see the Box below). On the other hand, key policies affecting the EU forest sector, such as, climate, energy and environmental policies have legally binding status and financial resources for implementation.

There is also some evidence from the past that some forest sector actors and stakeholders do not desire more binding policy coordination and are happy with the current situation (Winkel & Sotirov 2014). The path to stricter and binding coordination would raise questions like: How should this be done, who should be coordinating the coordination, and where should the final decision making power rest? These are key questions in which it has been still difficult to find a consensus. These questions also boil down to difficult issues related to power, funding, special interests, and subsidiarity vs. centralized decision-making.

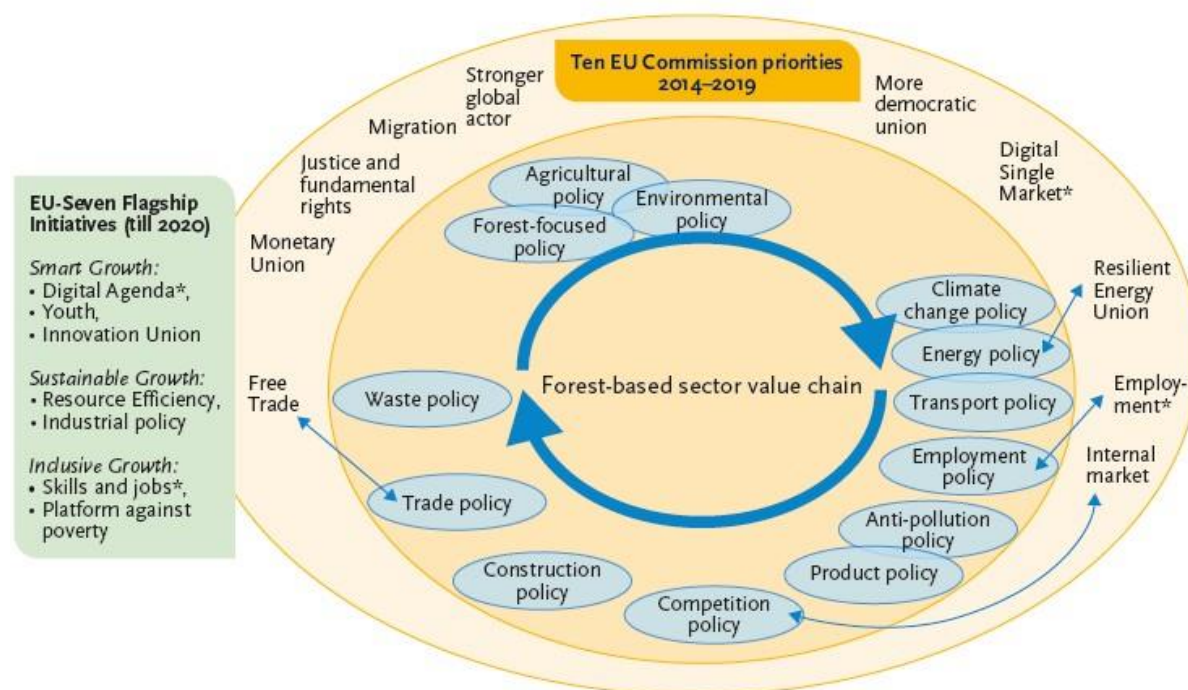


Figure 5.1. Forest-based value chains and EU policies relating to a forest sector (Wolfslehner et al, 2016).

Are there any changes to the current European forest policy framework situation in the horizon? If there would be changes, why would these take place? Below we address these questions with a lens of foresight thinking and research results.

## 5.2 Outlook

The policy change literature has pointed out that major changes in policy frameworks take place only if specific conditions are met (Winkel & Sotirov 2014). The conditions are typically a significant political crisis, or a destructive political stalemate in which each group views the continuation of the status quo as unacceptable. In all other situations the literature is sceptical regarding the chance that a major policy



framework change would take place (Winkel & Sotirov 2015, Carpenter and Kennedy 1988<sup>4</sup>; Sabatier and Weible 2007<sup>5</sup>). Moving to legally binding EU or pan-European level forest policy coordination could be understood to be such a major change. Yet, it is important to keep in mind that concepts such as “political crisis” or “a destructive political stalemate” are of course relative, and different people may have different interpretations of whether policy has actually entered to these stages, or how severe they are. Therefore, in practice it may be ambiguous what is actually required in a specific case and context for a major policy change to take place.

Let us assume that the policy scientists are correct, and it is only under such situations that major changes in the policy framework can take place. Then the key question for the possibility of a “legally binding” policy coordination framework to take place at the European level seems to be this: Is the European forest sector policy framework in crisis, or is the continuation of status quo seen as undesirable by the majority of key players; or is it likely to be in such situations in the future? In practice, the potential policy framework change might also have different shades of legal impact and cooperation. That is, a strict and drastic change, or a less strict and drastic.

Has there been increasing uncomfortableness towards the European forest policy situation, or could there be in the future? To these questions there are many answers which are likely to vary according to who gives the answer. Different arrangements can be beneficial for different interest groups and even countries. So no absolute truth on it exists. Yet, it is still interesting to assess and discuss the question against recent and forthcoming policy changes, and also how these policies fit into the changing global and European operating environment. The latter is important to assess, since how well the policies are seen to work depends in which context they are implemented.



### 5.3 Potential developments pointing to stricter policy coordination need

The EU preparations for the post-2020 climate policy (LULUCF) and renewable energy policy (RED II) raised intensive discussion in 2017 in many Member States. The discussions tended to divide parties at different levels: amongst the Member States; stakeholders, citizens, and also the research community. Basically there is nothing new in this and similar experiences have been witnessed also in the past, such as during the Natura 2000 process two decades ago, during which very different views emerged amongst the stakeholders, citizens and countries. The anxiety amongst the Member States and stakeholders in 2017 related to the new EU climate and energy policy processes

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<sup>4</sup>Carpenter & Kennedy 1988. *Managing Public Disputes: A Practical Guide to Handling Conflict and Reaching Agreements*, Jossey-Bass, San Francisco, CA.

<sup>5</sup> Sabatier, Hunter & McLaughlin 1987. “The devil shift: perceptions and misperceptions of opponents” *The Western Political Quarterly*, 40, 449–476.



resembles the tensions that arose in the Natura 2000 process. The forest sector has also complained about the poor capacity and expertise in the European Commission to understand forest sector issues. The European Commission has a very limited number of staff in different DGs with good expertise on forest sector issues. In summary, the above situation has led some to think of possible ways to improve the current forest policy framework in the EU: could there be a better institutional framework for the EU policies related to the forest sector?

The post-Brexit developments (Winkel & Derks 2016)<sup>6</sup> and most likely future reduction of the budget during the updating of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) raises also the following questions: What has been the effectiveness of the forestry measures so far?; which role should they play in the new CAP?; and how they should be implemented? The increasing role of forest-based circular bioeconomy in the rural (and urban) development in the EU may raise new needs for policy coordination.

### **CAP and forest sector measures**

- Despite CAP forestry measures being the financial backbone of the EU Forest Strategy, the budgeted measures do not seem to reflect necessarily the Strategy priorities. In the CAP, 62% of forest related financing is directed to *afforestation* and *prevention and restoration of forest damage* (mainly forest fire related). The key strategic pillars of EU Forest Strategy - the delivering of vital ecosystem services and contributions to the bioeconomy – get much less funding.
- At EU-28 level, the Rural Development Programme total expected budget spending during 2014-2020 is €161 billion, of which expected €7 billion or only 4.3 % share is directed to forest sector (EAFRD + national/regional co-financing). Forests cover 42% of the EU land and there are 16 million private forest owners. The comparable figures for agriculture land and farmers are 40% and 12 million (EUROSTAT). To what extent the very low funding figures for forest measures are due to the EU policy, or due to the low uptake rates of forestry related funding, needs to be further assessed. But the latter also raises the question how well the CAP forestry measures are really designed to fit the needs of forestry, and to what extent this has impact to the often low uptake rates.
- The objectives and budget allocations for the implemented forest measures vary significantly between RDPs. Only 22 RDPs allocated more than €100 million to the forest measures.

Sources:

European Commission. *EU Forest Strategy 2013; Facts and Figures Rural Development in the European Union; Evaluation of the CAP Forestry Measures; EUROSTAT.*

<https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/events/2016/rural-development/fact-sheet.pdf>

[https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/evaluation\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/evaluation_en)

The general EU development in the coming years could have implications for the conditions under which also forest policy is assessed. Given the recent political statements and discussions between France and Germany (e.g., President Macron and Chancellor Merkel), and the proposals from the European Commission (e.g., Juncker's State of the Union Address 2017), it is widely expected that efforts to deepen EU cooperation and institutions will take place in the coming years. If this happens,

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<sup>6</sup> Winkel & Derks. 2016. The nature of Brexit. How the UK exiting the European Union could affect European forest and (forest related) environmental policy. *Forest Policy and Economics*, 70 (2016) 124–127.



it could have also spill-over impacts to the EU forest sector. The question should the EU forest policy coordination be also advanced more effectively than in the past might rise in this context.

At a more global level, world states have recently agreed on the *Paris Climate Agreement* and *Sustainable Development Goals*. It has been argued that it is possible and necessary for the European forest-based circular bioeconomy to also play a key role in reaching these policy goals (Hetemäki et al. 2017).<sup>7</sup> Given this, the importance of forests is likely to increase at the global and European level. The emerging circular bioeconomy pathway implies that the products and services that the European forest-based sector produces are going to be more diverse than in the past. This may require more coordinated forest policies and actions at the EU level.

Achieving the above global targets and advancing circular bioeconomy requires also a holistic approach in the EU on policies related to rural policy, regional policy, climate and energy policy, industrial policy, and sustainable development policy. These policies cut across issues such as land use, managing natural capital, regional economic and societal development and cohesion. In this context, in many parts of the EU the forest based bioeconomy can strongly support managing or reaching all these objectives. This clearly points to the need for a stronger coordination and integration between forest policies, CAP, regional policy and sustainability policies. However, it may be asked how well such synergies between forest bioeconomy, economic and societal development and cohesion, and sustainability goals are met and advanced today by the EU forest related policies and funding?

## 5.4 Implications

The above discussion highlighted some process and developments that are already, or could in future, question the effectiveness and results of the current forest policy framework in the EU and in Europe. It is possible that these developments do not amount to the “political crisis” or “general dissatisfaction with the current situation” that would trigger the need to change the current EU forest policy framework. Therefore, the status quo of the past decades could continue. Yet, there is a possibility that the opposite could also be the case, that is, increasing pressures to change the current forest policy framework.

In order to prepare for different options, it could be beneficial to provide assessment(s) of the advantages and disadvantages of the current European forest policy framework against the possible future developments, and also provide insights into possible alternative frameworks and their advantages and disadvantages. These assessments can be provided by the EU, different European states, stakeholders, etc. However, it would be important also to have neutral interest-free evidence-based assessments. It would be very interesting to re-assess the situation also from different perspectives, that is, such as looking at interests of states and societal groups, from economic, trade and competitiveness, and environmental sustainability perspectives. Moreover, it would also be helpful to analyse how socio-economic and policy changes, such as the increasing importance of China in bioeconomy and climate policy development, or shifting political balances due to post-Brexit<sup>8</sup> might impact the EU forest policy development.

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<sup>7</sup> Hetemäki, L., Hanewinkel, M., Muys, B., Ollikainen, M., Palahí, M. and Trasobares, A. 2017. Leading the way to a European circular bioeconomy strategy. From Science to Policy 5. European Forest Institute.

<sup>8</sup> According to Winkel & Derks (2016), UK has in the EU forest related policies emphasised the environmental focus rather than economic issues, and has been sceptical towards stronger forest policy framework.



## 6. Conclusions

The year 2017 was the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of operation of the MDTF. It was a year in which many of the activities started already in 2016 were finished, and the number of activities were clearly more than in 2015 or 2016 - 4 ThinkForest seminars; two large What Science Can Tell Us –reports, one From Science to Policy –report, and one “White Paper” report. During 2017, also a new country joined the MDTF, Czech Republic. Work to still enlarge the MDTF with new countries in the future took also place in 2017. The cooperation with the European Commission continued, for example, with the circular bioeconomy work.

Despite acknowledging the difficulties to measure the impact of MDTF science-policy support work (the impacts are likely to be gradual and at least partly indirect), the indicators related to ThinkForest event participation, publication downloads, requested expert presentations, statements and hearings based on the studies, social media activities, and direct communication from the network members, all indicate great interest in MDTF work and activities.

For the MDTF type of work, usually the most one can wish for is to be able to inform and bring new insights to decision makers and stakeholders, ask relevant questions others are not asking, and inform and impact the policy discussion. The evidence reported in this publication indicates that MDTF work has been successful in many, if not all of these. In terms of timing, the publications and events seem to have been right, coming out when they were needed, and in a format that was fitting for the needs.

Since there is no other similar platform, or other organization, engaging in such a pan-European forest-based sector related science-policy work, it is difficult to compare (benchmark) the work to others. In fact, exactly because of this, many policy makers and EFI Associate Member organizations have expressed their interest to support EFI MDTF work. Given these responses and the information provided in this Report, and the External Evaluation and Survey results carried out in 2017, the MDTF work appears to have reached well the set objectives for 2017. According to the External Evaluation, the MDTF activities have also been carried out cost-efficiently. Yet, it is in the end the donors and EFI network assessment that will be the most important and provide the appropriate judgement of the work.

Finally, the EFI FPS team gratefully acknowledges the donors and Steering Committee for supporting the work, and providing strategic guidance for it. All the members of the Steering Committee have been very supportive. We wish to thank the Steering Committee and its Chair in 2017, José Manuel Jaquotot (Spain), for their support, and the decision to continue the MDTF work to a new 3-year period - 2018-2020. Also, we wish to thank all the scientists who have contributed to the studies and activities in 2016! The support from the EFI Director has also been very important for this work.



## Annexes

**Table 1: Online statistics**

**Table 2: Number of ThinkForest participants according to background**

**Table 3: Stakeholder follow-up articles related to events and publications**

**Table 4: Media coverage**

**Table 5: Publication citations**



**Table 1: Online statistics****Publication statistics**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Publication date</b>	<b>No of copies printed and distributed in 2017</b>	<b>No of electronic copies downloaded 2017</b>	<b>No of electronic copies downloaded 2016</b>	<b>No of electronic copies downloaded 2015</b>
WSCTU 8 (Forest-based bioeconomy)	Dec 2017	450 (printed 2018)	888	n/a	n/a
WSCTU 8 Summary	Nov 2017	125	217	n/a	n/a
From Science to Policy 5 (Circular bioeconomy)	Oct 2017	1,080	2,397	n/a	n/a
FSTP5 Summary	Nov 2017	475	564	n/a	n/a
WSCTU 7 (Natura 2000)	Sept 2017	500	2,162	n/a	n/a
WSCTU 7 Summary	Sept 2017	200	661	n/a	n/a
From Science to Policy 4 (Forest bioeconomy indicators)	Nov 2016	n/a	2,836	1,739	n/a
From Science to Policy 3 (Forest biomass, carbon neutrality)	Oct 2016	n/a	4,768	8,667	n/a
From Science to Policy 2 (A new role for forests)	Dec 2015	n/a	3,554	5,382	1,107
From Science to Policy 1 (EUTR-FLEGT)	Apr 2015	n/a	2,793	1,961	2,524
ThinkForest brief (Forest biomass, carbon neutrality)	Oct 2016	n/a	1,104	2,234	n/a
ThinkForest brief (A new role for forests)	Dec 2015	n/a	367	824	157
ThinkForest brief	Dec 2015	n/a	150	270	19



(Un nouveau rôle pour les forêts)					
ThinkForest brief (EUTR-FLEGT)	Apr 2015	n/a	469	695	1,114
Policy support brochure	Sept 2015 (reprinted May 2016)	n/a	421	477	469

### Policy support electronic newsletter

Three editions of the policy support newsletter, *Science Supporting Policy-making* were sent by email to subscribers during 2017.

Edition	Date	Number of subscribers	% read
3-2017	24.11.2017	2,131	30.4%
2-2017	02.10.2017	2,068	31.2%
1-2017	07.06.2017	1,928	32.1%

### Electronic event invitations

Seventeen event invitations were sent by email to subscribers during 2017:

Event	Date	Number of subscribers	% read
Live ThinkForest webcast: 7.11. Looking ahead to a circular European bioeconomy	06.11.2017	2,111	25.8%
Reminder: Looking ahead to a circular European bioeconomy	31.10.2017	2,138	25.5%
Invitation: Looking ahead to a circular European bioeconomy	18.10.2017	2,056	32.5%
Live ThinkForest webcast 27.09: Implementing Natura 2000 in forests	26.09.2017	2,062	28.2%
Reminder: implementing Natura 2000 in forests	19.09.2017	2,029	28.2%
Reminder: Implementing Natura 2000 in forests	06.09.2017	2,048	30.2%
Invitation: Implementing Natura 2000 in forests	16.08.2017	2,017	33.2%
Live ThinkForest webcast	09.05.2017	1,999	27.4%



10 May, Leading the way to a new European bioeconomy strategy			
Reminder: ThinkForest media lunch	02.05.2017	100	19.4%
Reminder: register now for ThinkForest bioeconomy event	02.05.2017	1,888	27.2%
Reminder: Media lunch on circular bioeconomy	26.04.2017	96	21.3%
Reminder: register now for ThinkForest bioeconomy event	25.04.2017	1,861	27.9%
Invitation: Leading the way to a new bioeconomy strategy (Berlin embassies)	19.04.2017	27	40%
Reminder: Leading the way to a new bioeconomy strategy	19.04.2017	1,818	30.9%
Invitation: Media lunch on circular bioeconomy	18.04.2017	90	23.6%
Invitation: Leading the way to a new bioeconomy strategy	28.03.2017	1,748	32.5%
Save the date! Leading the way to a new bioeconomy strategy	21.02.2017	1,682	32.2%

### Survey notifications

Three survey notifications were sent by email to subscribers of the Policy Support mailing list during 2017

	Date	Number of subscribers	% read
Tell us your views: ThinkForest survey closes 22 March (Ministries and EP)	15.03.2017	341	15.4%
Reminder: ThinkForest survey, tell us your views	13.03.2017	1,704	28.0%
ThinkForest survey: Tell us your views	24.02.2017	1,685	29.6%



## Social media

### Twitter

1,995 tweets were sent out during the course of 2017, approx. a 9% increase on the previous year. By the end of 2017, the EFI Twitter account had 6,116 followers. This represents an increase of 1,288 new followers during 2017.

Twitter, 2017	Tweets	Gain in followers
Jan	155	119
Feb	150	96
Mar	216	134
Apr	171	102
May	232	101
Jun	242	109
Jul	61	98
Aug	166	77
Sep	167	106
Oct	151	132
Nov	154	103
Dec	130	111
<b>Total 2017</b>	<b>1,995</b>	<b>1,288</b>
<b>Total 2016</b>	<b>1,837</b>	<b>1,505</b>
<b>Total 2015</b>	<b>1,803</b>	<b>1,106</b>

EFI's other social media channels were also utilised:

Other channels	No of policy support-related posts
Linked In	11
Facebook	28

### Videos

Three policy support videos were published on the EFI YouTube channel in 2017:

Video	Published	No of views 2017
<a href="#">Looking ahead to a circular European bioeconomy</a>	07.11.2017	439
<a href="#">Implementing Natura 2000 in forests: lessons learned and looking ahead</a>	27.09.2017	484



<a href="#">Leading the way to a new European bioeconomy strategy</a>	10.05.2017	1,029
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Previous video material:	Published	No of views 2017	No of views 2016	No of views 2015
<a href="#">Building an innovative and resilient forest bioeconomy</a>	15.11.2016	166	334	n/a
<a href="#">Building the bioeconomy: insights from European strategies</a>	08.06.2016	262	564	n/a
<a href="#">Climate policy after COP21: Implications for the European forest-based sector</a>	15.03.2016	43	503	n/a
7 videos from COP21 event: Climate policy targets – How can European forests contribute?	04.01.2016	204	713	n/a
Towards Paris 2015: How can the forest sector contribute?	Oct 2015	27	209	622
Bioeconomy is the future ( <i>Göran Persson</i> )	Nov 2015	771	979	697
A new role for forests and the forest sector in climate targets ( <i>Gert-Jan Nabuurs</i> )	Nov 2015	113	170	342

## Website

During 2017, the Policy support section of the EFI website contained approximately 190 pages, including all ThinkForest pages (127 pages). To place this in context, the EFI website contains over 7,000 pages.

In 2017, policy support/ThinkForest web pages were viewed a total of 23,459 times, by 6,708 visitors. As a comparison, in 2016, policy support/ThinkForest web pages were viewed a total of 26,190 times by 6,769 visitors.

The reduction in visitor numbers and pages viewed between 2016-2017 is due to:

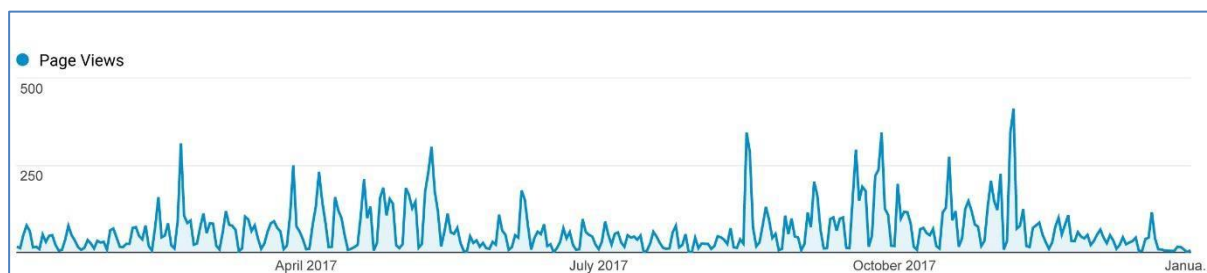
- (a) the **increased usage of Eventbrite**, which now handles all registrations for ThinkForest events  
[http://www.efi.int/portal/policy\\_advice/](http://www.efi.int/portal/policy_advice/)



- (b) **publications information moved** to the Virtual Library section of the EFI website, to reduce duplication

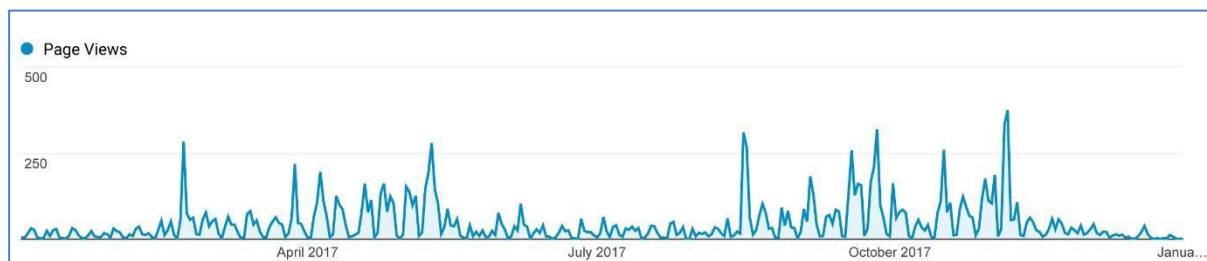
#### Policy support and ThinkForest webpages, 1 Jan-31 Dec 2017

##### Page views



#### ThinkForest webpages, 1 Jan-31 Dec 2017

##### Page views



Web pages	Page views 2017	Page views 2016	% change	Unique visitors 2017	Unique visitors 2016	% change
<b>All policy support pages, including ThinkForest</b>	23,459	26,190	<b>-10.5%</b>	6,708	6,769	<b>-0.9%</b>
Policy support main landing page (policy_advice/)	3,442	4,052	<b>-15%</b>	1,835	1,754	<b>4.6%</b>
Our work section (policy_advice/our_work/)	316	316	<b>0%</b>	200	175	<b>14.2%</b>
ThinkForest section (policy_advice/thinkforest/)*	16,731	18,775	<b>-10.9%</b>	4,893	5,093	<b>-3.9%</b>
Newsletter (policy_advice/newsletter/)	815	560	<b>45.5%</b>	412	267	<b>54.3%</b>
Publications section (policy_advice/publications/)**	1,045	1,583	<b>-34%</b>	492	637	<b>-22.8%</b>



Foresight and Policy Support Programme (policy_advice/fps/)	263	248	6%	201	179	12.3%
Funding (policy_advice/funding/)	240	215	11.6%	182	147	23.8%
Forest Europe section (policy_advice/forest_europe/)	367	367	0%	305	280	8.9%

\*see (a) \*\* see (b)



**Table 2: Number of ThinkForest participants according to background**

<b>Participant background</b>	Leading the way to a new European bioeconomy strategy, 10 May, Berlin	Roundtable lunch seminar on climate-smart forestry, 30 May, Brussels <sup>1</sup>	Implementing Natura 2000 in Forests: Lessons Learned and Looking Ahead, 27 September, Brussels	Looking ahead to a circular European bioeconomy, 7 November, Brussels
EU Parliament	-	5	3	5
European Commission	2	7	5	5
Council of the EU	-	-	-	-
Ministries	13	6	6	5
Embassies, perm. representations	4	2	2	2
Forest industry	5	-	1	14
Forest owner	-	-	7	4
NGO	-	-	4	3
Other stakeholder group	10	-	22	21
Research	23	4	13	21
Other (e.g. international org. incl. EFI)	11	3	16	16
Media	3	-	2	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>97</b>

<sup>1</sup> By invitation only, with 27 participants



**Number of MDTF countries represented in ThinkForest events** (*out of 10 countries*)

<b>Participant background</b>	Leading the way to a new European bioeconomy strategy, 10 May, Berlin	Roundtable lunch seminar on climate-smart forestry, 30 May, Brussels <sup>1</sup>	Implementing Natura 2000 in Forests: Lessons Learned and Looking Ahead, 27 September, Brussels	Looking ahead to a circular European bioeconomy, 7 November, Brussels
Ministries in total. From MDTF countries.	13 FI, DE	6 CZ, ES, FI, DE, IE, NO	6 DE, FI, FR	3 DE, ES, FI
Embassies, perm. representations in total. From MDTF countries.	4 FR	2 NO	2 -	2 FR



**Table 3: Stakeholder follow-up articles related to events and publications**

<b>ThinkForest event on Leading the way to a new European bioeconomy strategy, 10 May 2017</b>			
<b>Publisher / Stakeholder</b>	<b>Specified, article name</b>	<b>Link</b>	<b>Stakeholder background</b>
PLATFORM of Bioeconomy ERA-NET Actions	Presentations and recording available ThinkForest seminar	<a href="http://www.era-platform.eu/news/presentations-and-recording-available-thinkforest-seminar-leading-way-new-european-bioeconomy-strategy-berlin-10-may-2017/">http://www.era-platform.eu/news/presentations-and-recording-available-thinkforest-seminar-leading-way-new-european-bioeconomy-strategy-berlin-10-may-2017/</a>	EU project

<b>ThinkForest event on Implementing Natura 2000 in forests: lessons learned and looking ahead, 27 Sept 2017</b>			
<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Specified, article name</b>	<b>Link</b>	<b>Publisher background</b>
Chatham House (Royal Institute of International Affairs)	Forest Governance Monthly News Roundup	<a href="http://email-chathamhouse.org/1S3M-570HT-FCNUSOEY4E/cr.aspx">http://email-chathamhouse.org/1S3M-570HT-FCNUSOEY4E/cr.aspx</a>	Policy institute
Mark Demesmaeker, MEP	Bossen maken ons rijk!	<a href="http://www.markdemesmaeker.eu/nieuws/bossen-maken-ons-rijk">http://www.markdemesmaeker.eu/nieuws/bossen-maken-ons-rijk</a>	Member of European Parliament
Illegal Logging portal (Chatham House)	Natura 2000 and forests: Assessing the state of implementation and effectiveness	<a href="https://www.illegal-logging.info/content/natura-2000-and-forests-assessing-state-implementation-and-effectiveness">https://www.illegal-logging.info/content/natura-2000-and-forests-assessing-state-implementation-and-effectiveness</a>	Online portal
EUSTAFOR	Implementing Natura 2000 in forests: lessons learned and looking ahead	<a href="https://www.eustafor.eu/implementing-natura-2000-in-forests-lessons-learned-and-looking-ahead/">https://www.eustafor.eu/implementing-natura-2000-in-forests-lessons-learned-and-looking-ahead/</a>	State forest association
Agroforestry Latvia	Implementing Natura 2000 in forests: lessons learned and looking ahead	<a href="http://www.agroforestrylatvia.com/2017/09/implementing-natura-2000-in-forests.html">http://www.agroforestrylatvia.com/2017/09/implementing-natura-2000-in-forests.html</a>	ERAF project
India Environment Portal	Natura 2000 and forests: assessing the state of implementation and effectiveness	<a href="http://www.indiaenvironmentportal.org.in/content/447658/natura-2000-and-forests-assessing-the-state-of-implementation-and-effectiveness/">http://www.indiaenvironmentportal.org.in/content/447658/natura-2000-and-forests-assessing-the-state-of-implementation-and-effectiveness/</a>	Online environmental portal
International Association for Mediterranean Forests	A new study assesses effects of Natura 2000 in forests	<a href="http://aifm.org/en/actualites-agenda/new-study-assesses-effects-natura-2000-forests">http://aifm.org/en/actualites-agenda/new-study-assesses-effects-natura-2000-forests</a>	NGO
CEPF	Newsletter, Oct 2017	<a href="http://mailchi.mp/cepf-eu/cepf-newsletter-october-2479817?e=a379a399ef">http://mailchi.mp/cepf-eu/cepf-newsletter-october-2479817?e=a379a399ef</a>	Forest owner association



ThinkForest event on Looking ahead to a circular European bioeconomy, 7 November 2017			
Publisher	Specified, article name	Link	Publisher background
Suomenmaa	Hanna Kosonen ja Esko Aho: Suomeen saatava biotalouden oma "Slush"	<a href="http://www.suomenmaa.fi/uutiset/hanna-kosonen-ja-esko-aho-suomeen-saatava-biotalouden-oma-34slush34-6.3.304962.d3788a844a">http://www.suomenmaa.fi/uutiset/hanna-kosonen-ja-esko-aho-suomeen-saatava-biotalouden-oma-34slush34-6.3.304962.d3788a844a</a>	Newspaper of the Finnish Central Party
Mercatos de medio ambiente	La transición hacia una bioeconomía circular facilitará el logro de los ODS y el Acuerdo de París	<a href="http://www.mercadosdemedioambiente.com/actualidad/la-transicion-hacia-una-bioeconomia-circular-permitira-cumplir-los-ods-y-el-acuerdo-de-paris/">http://www.mercadosdemedioambiente.com/actualidad/la-transicion-hacia-una-bioeconomia-circular-permitira-cumplir-los-ods-y-el-acuerdo-de-paris/</a>	Spanish environment and sustainability platform
Drvo & Namjestaj	BIVŠI ŠVEDSKI PREMIJER LOBIRA ZA ŠUME: Petir otvorila forum o budućnosti europskog šumarstva	<a href="http://www.drvo-namjestaj.hr/vijesti/bivsi-svedski-premijer-lobira-za-sume-petir-otvorila-forum-o-buducnosti-europskog-sumarstva/">http://www.drvo-namjestaj.hr/vijesti/bivsi-svedski-premijer-lobira-za-sume-petir-otvorila-forum-o-buducnosti-europskog-sumarstva/</a>	"WOOD & FURNITURE" newsletter of the wood processing sector in Croatia
Bio-based news	ThinkForest Seminar: Circular bioeconomy can create a sustainable, renewable society	<a href="http://news.bio-based.eu/thinkforest-seminar-circular-bioeconomy-can-create-a-sustainable-renewable-society/">http://news.bio-based.eu/thinkforest-seminar-circular-bioeconomy-can-create-a-sustainable-renewable-society/</a>	Portal for bio-based economy and industrial biotechnology (nova-Institut)
UNECE Forest Information billboard, Issue 4, December 2017		<a href="https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=47705">https://www.unece.org/index.php?id=47705</a>	



**Table 4: Media coverage**

<b>ThinkForest event on Leading the way to a new European bioeconomy strategy, 10 May 2017</b>			
<b>Publisher</b>	<b>Type of publication</b>	<b>Article name</b>	<b>Link</b>
Audiomedia	Finnish media agency	Interview with Janez Potocnik: Metsän käytön ja ympäristön tarpeet voidaan yhdistää	<a href="http://markkulaukkanen.fi/artikkelit/ex-komissaari-janez-potocnik-metsan-kayton-ja-ympariston-tarpeet-voidaan-yhdistaa/">http://markkulaukkanen.fi/artikkelit/ex-komissaari-janez-potocnik-metsan-kayton-ja-ympariston-tarpeet-voidaan-yhdistaa/</a>
Audiomedia	Finnish media agency	Interview with Göran Persson: Euroopan päättäjillä heikko metsätietämys	<a href="http://markkulaukkanen.fi/artikkelit/euroopan-paattajilla-heikko-metsatietamys/">http://markkulaukkanen.fi/artikkelit/euroopan-paattajilla-heikko-metsatietamys/</a>
Analys Skog & Mark #3	Distributed with Dagens industri, Swedish financial newspaper	Bioekonomisk strategi underbyggs av forskning	<a href="https://issuu.com/europeanmediapartner/docs/analys_skogsindustri_-_0512-lowres">https://issuu.com/europeanmediapartner/docs/analys_skogsindustri_-_0512-lowres</a>
<b>ThinkForest event on Implementing Natura 2000 in forests: lessons learned and looking ahead, 27 Sept 2017</b>			
AlphaGalileo	Global news distributor	New study assesses effects of Natura 2000 in forests	<a href="https://www.alphagalileo.org/ViewItem.aspx?ItemId=179194&amp;CultureCode=en">https://www.alphagalileo.org/ViewItem.aspx?ItemId=179194&amp;CultureCode=en</a>
Médiaterre	French online portal for sustainable development news	Natura 2000 et les forêts : bilan scientifique	<a href="https://www.mediaterrre.org/terres/actu,20170925144059,3.html">https://www.mediaterrre.org/terres/actu,20170925144059,3.html</a>
<b>ThinkForest event on Looking ahead to a circular European bioeconomy, 7 November 2017</b>			
Il Bioeconomista	Italian bioeconomy online news	ThinkForest Seminar: Circular bioeconomy can create a sustainable, renewable society	<a href="https://ilbioeconomista.com/2017/11/20/thinkforest-seminar-circular-bioeconomy-can-create-a-sustainable-renewable-society/">https://ilbioeconomista.com/2017/11/20/thinkforest-seminar-circular-bioeconomy-can-create-a-sustainable-renewable-society/</a>
Dnevno.hr	Croatian multimedia news portal	Sektor biogospodarstva mogao bi generirati 130 000 novih radnih mjesta do 2025. godine	<a href="http://www.dnevno.hr/novac/sektor-biogospodarstva-mogao-bi-generirati-130-000-novih-radnih-mjesta-do-2025-godine-1088973/">http://www.dnevno.hr/novac/sektor-biogospodarstva-mogao-bi-generirati-130-000-novih-radnih-mjesta-do-2025-godine-1088973/</a>
Poslovni dnevnik	Croatian daily business newspaper	Sektor koji bi mogao generirati 130.000 novih radnih mjesta	<a href="http://www.poslovni.hr/svijet-i-regija/sektor-koji-bi-mogao-generirati-130000-novih-radnih-mjesta-334097">http://www.poslovni.hr/svijet-i-regija/sektor-koji-bi-mogao-generirati-130000-novih-radnih-mjesta-334097</a>
AgroKlub	Croatian agricultural portal	U biogospodarstvu bi se moglo zaposliti još 130.000 ljudi?	<a href="https://www.agroklub.com/sumarstvo/u-biogospodarstvu-bi-se-moglo-zaposliti-jos-130-000-ljudi/37099/">https://www.agroklub.com/sumarstvo/u-biogospodarstvu-bi-se-moglo-zaposliti-jos-130-000-ljudi/37099/</a>
AlphaGalileo	Global news distributor	New science-policy study: Leading the way to a European circular bioeconomy strategy	<a href="https://www.alphagalileo.org/ViewItem.aspx?ItemId=180499&amp;CultureCode=en">https://www.alphagalileo.org/ViewItem.aspx?ItemId=180499&amp;CultureCode=en</a>



Mustread.fi	Finnish media, targets 1,000 most important decision makers in Finland	Eihän puita saa tappaa! – yhdeksän askelta biotalousstrategiaan, joka nappaa myös kaupungeissa	<a href="https://www.mustread.fi/artikkelit/eihan-puita-saa-tappaa-yhdeksan-askelta-biotalousstrategiaan-joka-nappaa-myo-kaupungeissa/?utm_source=internal&amp;utm_medium=ft">https://www.mustread.fi/artikkelit/eihan-puita-saa-tappaa-yhdeksan-askelta-biotalousstrategiaan-joka-nappaa-myo-kaupungeissa/?utm_source=internal&amp;utm_medium=ft</a>
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## Other

TAZ (Die Tageszeitung), 20.08.2017	German daily newspaper	Hinter dem Rücken Gottes (follow-up piece to 2016 ThinkForest event in Helsinki)	<a href="http://www.taz.de/Einhundert-Jahre-Finnland/!5435264/">http://www.taz.de/Einhundert-Jahre-Finnland/!5435264/</a>
SVT Nyheter	Swedish national public TV broadcaster	Skogen ska ersätta oljan (Interview with Göran Persson)	<a href="https://www.svt.se/nyheter/lokalt/vas-ternorrland/skogen-ska-ersatta-oljan">https://www.svt.se/nyheter/lokalt/vas-ternorrland/skogen-ska-ersatta-oljan</a>
Land Skogsbruk	Swedish weekly forestry newspaper	Vi kan inte räkna med skogsindustrin	<a href="http://www.landskogsbruk.se/skog/vi-kan-inte-rakna-med-skogsindustrin/">http://www.landskogsbruk.se/skog/vi-kan-inte-rakna-med-skogsindustrin/</a>
Land Skogsbruk	Swedish weekly forestry newspaper	Omställning kräver högre virkespriser	<a href="http://www.landskogsbruk.se/skog/omstallning-kraver-hogre-virkespriser/">http://www.landskogsbruk.se/skog/omstallning-kraver-hogre-virkespriser/</a>



**Table 5: Publication citations**



**Published during 2017**

<b>From Science to Policy 1: Assessment of the EU Timber Regulation and FLEGT Action Plan</b> Published 21 April 2015			
<b>Citations</b>			
Pauline Pirlot, Tom Delreux and Christine Farcy	In European Union External Environmental Policy: Rules, Regulation and Governance Beyond Borders. Springer, Camilla Adelle, Katja Biedenkopf, Diarmuid Torney (eds). (Available online 15.11.2017)	Forests: A Multi-sectoral and Multi-level Approach to Sustainable Forest Management	<a href="https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-60931-7_9">https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-319-60931-7_9</a>
Laura Secco, Matteo Favero, Mauro Masiero, Davide Matteo Pettenella	Land Use Policy, Volume 62, March 2017 (published online 28.12.2016)	Failures of political decentralization in promoting network governance in the forest sector: Observations from Italy	<a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2016.11.013">http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.landusepol.2016.11.013</a>
Niels Janzen, Holger Weimar	Drewno. 2016, Vol. 59 Issue 197	Market coverage of the EUTR - what share of wood imports into the EU is covered by the EUTR?	<a href="http://drewno-wood.pl/pobierz-255">http://drewno-wood.pl/pobierz-255</a>
Y T Tegegne	University of Helsinki PhD thesis, 2016	FLEGT and REDD+ synergies and impacts in the Congo Basin: lessons for global forest governance	<a href="https://helda.helsinki.fi/bitstream/handle/10138/169117/FLEGTand.pdf?sequence=1">https://helda.helsinki.fi/bitstream/handle/10138/169117/FLEGTand.pdf?sequence=1</a>
	European Environment Agency Report No 5/2016 (Published 29.04.2016)	European forest ecosystems - State and trends	<a href="http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/european-forest-ecosystems">http://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/european-forest-ecosystems</a>
K Matsson,	SLU Master's thesis (2015)	The impact of the EU Timber Regulation on the Bosnia and Herzegovinian export of processed wood	<a href="http://stud.epsilon.slu.se/8077/1/Matsson_K_20150622.pdf">http://stud.epsilon.slu.se/8077/1/Matsson_K_20150622.pdf</a>
Ines Gavrilut, Aureliu- Florin Halalisan,	Forests 2016, 7(1), 3	The Interaction between FSC Certification and the	<a href="http://www.mdpi.com/1999-4907/7/1/3/htm">http://www.mdpi.com/1999-4907/7/1/3/htm</a>



Alexandru Giurca, and Metodi Sotirov	(Published 22.12.2015)	Implementation of the EU Timber Regulation in Romania	
	UNECE (Published 10.11.2015)	Forest Products Annual Market Review 2014-2015	<a href="https://issuu.com/unpublications/docs/9789210575607/41">https://issuu.com/unpublications/docs/9789210575607/41</a>
Mauro Masiero, Davide Pettenella, and Paolo Omar Cerutti	Forests 2015, 6, 3452-3482  (Published 30.09.2015)	Legality Constraints: The Emergence of a Dual Market for Tropical Timber Products?	<a href="http://www.cifor.org/publications/pdf_files/articles/ACerutti1502.pdf">http://www.cifor.org/publications/pdf_files/articles/ACerutti1502.pdf</a>
Holger Weimar, Niels Janzen and Matthias Dieter	Thünen Institute of International Forestry and Forest Economics  Thünen Working Paper 45 (Published 08.2015)	Market coverage of wood imports by the EU Timber Regulation	<a href="https://www.ti.bund.de/media/publikationen/thuenen-workingpaper/ThuenenWorkingPaper_45.pdf">https://www.ti.bund.de/media/publikationen/thuenen-workingpaper/ThuenenWorkingPaper_45.pdf</a>
Nicola Andrighetto, Davide Pettenella and Mauro Masiero	IUFRO Proceedings of the 13th International Symposium: Legal Aspects of European Forest Sustainable Development, May 2015	Illegal Activities in the Italian Wood-Energy Sector and Potential Impacts on Regulation (EU) 995/2010 (EU Timber Regulation)	<a href="http://www.unitbv.ro/Portals/64/internationalizare/Proceedings%20IUFRO_Brasov_2015.pdf">http://www.unitbv.ro/Portals/64/internationalizare/Proceedings%20IUFRO_Brasov_2015.pdf</a>
Ed Pepke	Dovetail Partners (Published 28.04.2015)	Impacts of Policies to Eliminate Illegal Timber Trade	<a href="http://www.dovetailinc.org/report_pdfs/2015/dovetailtradepolicyimpacts0515.pdf">http://www.dovetailinc.org/report_pdfs/2015/dovetailtradepolicyimpacts0515.pdf</a>
<b>Presentations</b>			
Georg Winkel, EFI	IUFRO WFSE Seminar “Forests & development: from development discourses to providing data for decision making”, Helsinki, 1.3.2016	Green protectionism or a breakthrough for sustainable management - different narratives on illegal logging across the globe	<a href="http://www.iufro.org/science-for-policy/article/2016/03/15/forests-and-development-from-development-discourses-to-providing-data-for-decision-making/">http://www.iufro.org/science-for-policy/article/2016/03/15/forests-and-development-from-development-discourses-to-providing-data-for-decision-making/</a>
<b>Stakeholders</b>			
	Illegal Deforestation Monitor, 29.09.2016	Comment: Why voluntary policies will not stop deforestation	<a href="http://www.farmlandgrab.org/post/view/26549-comment-why-voluntary-policies-will-not-stop-deforestation">http://www.farmlandgrab.org/post/view/26549-comment-why-voluntary-policies-will-not-stop-deforestation</a>



<b>From Science to Policy 2: A new role for forests and the forest sector in the EU post-2020 climate targets</b> Published 1 December 2015			
Citations			
Gert-Jan Nabuurs, Philippe Delacote, David Ellison, Marc Hanewinkel, Lauri Hetemäki and Marcus Lindner	Forests 2017, 8(12), 484 (published 6.12.2017)	By 2050 the Mitigation Effects of EU Forests Could Nearly Double through Climate Smart Forestry	<a href="http://www.mdpi.com/1999-4907/8/12/484">http://www.mdpi.com/1999-4907/8/12/484</a>
Lauri Hetemäki, Marc Hanewinkel, Bart Muys, Markku Ollikainen, Marc Palahí and Antoni Trasobares.	From Science to Policy 5, European Forest Institute.	Leading the way to a European circular bioeconomy strategy	<a href="http://www.efi.int/files/attachments/publications/efi_fstp_5_2017.pdf">http://www.efi.int/files/attachments/publications/efi_fstp_5_2017.pdf</a>
Christian Temperli, Golo Stadelmann, Esther Thürig, Peter Brang	European Journal of Forest Research, published online 19.07.2017	Timber mobilization and habitat tree retention in low-elevation mixed forests in Switzerland: an inventory-based scenario analysis of opportunities and constraints	<a href="https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10342-017-1067-y">https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10342-017-1067-y</a>
Quentin Kleindienst, Arnaud Besserer, Marie-Laure Antoine, Christelle Perrin, Jean-François Bocquet, Laurent Bléron	International Biodeterioration & Biodegradation, Volume 123, September 2017	Predicting the beech wood decay and strength loss in-ground	<a href="http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0964830517303955">http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0964830517303955</a>
Gediminas Jasinevičius, Marcus Lindner, Pieter Johannes Verkerk and Marius Aleinikovas	Forests 2017, 8(4), 133,	Assessing Impacts of Wood Utilisation Scenarios for a Lithuanian Bioeconomy: Impacts on Carbon in Forests and Harvested Wood Products and on the Socio-Economic Performance of the Forest-Based Sector	<a href="http://www.mdpi.com/1999-4907/8/4/133/htm">http://www.mdpi.com/1999-4907/8/4/133/htm</a>
Christian Temperli, Golo Stadelmann, Esther Thürig, Peter Brang	European Journal of Forest Research, (published online 9.04.2017)	Silvicultural strategies for increased timber harvesting in a Central European mountain landscape	<a href="http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10342-017-1048-1">http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10342-017-1048-1</a>
Gediminas Jasinevičius, Marcus Lindner, Emil Cienciala, Markku Tykkyläinen	Journal of Industrial Ecology, (published online 23.01.2017).	Carbon Accounting in Harvested Wood Products: Assessment Using Material Flow Analysis Resulting in Larger Pools Compared to the IPCC Default Method	<a href="http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jiec.12538/full">http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/jiec.12538/full</a>



Richard Sikkema, Jean Francois Dallemand, Cristina T. Matos, Marijn van der Velde & Jesus San-Miguel-Ayanz	Scandinavian Journal of Forest Research just-accepted (2016): 1-17 (Published online 20.10.2016)	How can the ambitious goals for the EU's future bioeconomy be supported by sustainable and efficient wood sourcing practices?	<a href="http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/02827581.2016.1240228">http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/02827581.2016.1240228</a>
Pere Pons and Josep Rost	Conservation Biology, 2016  (Published 4.10.2016)	The challenge of conserving biodiversity in harvested burned forests	<a href="http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cobi.12767/abstract">http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/cobi.12767/abstract</a>
Roberto Pilli, Giacomo Grassi, Werner A. Kurz, Jose V. Moris, Raúl Abad Viñas	Carbon Balance and Management, 2016, 11: 20  (Published 26.08.2016)	Modelling forest carbon stock changes as affected by harvest and natural disturbances. II. EU-level analysis	<a href="http://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/s13021-016-0059-4">http://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/s13021-016-0059-4</a>
Marion Pause, Christian Schweitzer, Michael Rosenthal, Vanessa Keuck, Jan Bumberger, Peter Dietrich, Marco Heurich, Andrés Jung and Angela Lausch	Remote Sensing 2016, 8(6), 471  (Published 3.06.2016)	In Situ/Remote Sensing Integration to Assess Forest Health—A Review	<a href="http://www.mdpi.com/2072-4292/8/6/471/htm">http://www.mdpi.com/2072-4292/8/6/471/htm</a>
Alexandre Strapasson, Jeremy Woods and Kofi Mbuk	Grantham Institute, Briefing paper No 17, March 2016	Land use futures in Europe: How changes in diet, agricultural practices and forestlands could help reduce greenhouse gas emissions	<a href="https://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/grantham-institute/public/publications/briefing-papers/Land-Use-Futures-in-Europe---web-version-v3.pdf">https://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/grantham-institute/public/publications/briefing-papers/Land-Use-Futures-in-Europe---web-version-v3.pdf</a>
Philippe Delacote, A. Maarit, I. Kallio	Journal of Forest Economics, Volume 23, April 2016  (Published online 17.2.2016)	Forests and climate: New insights from forest sector modeling	<a href="http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1104689916000040">http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1104689916000040</a>
Giulia Corradini	University of Padova, PhD thesis  (Published 31.01.2016)	Market based instruments applications to non-wood forest products and services	<a href="http://paduaresearch.cab.unipd.it/9501/">http://paduaresearch.cab.unipd.it/9501/</a>
<b>Presentations</b>			
Gert-Jan Nabuurs, Alterra	ThinkForest Roundtable Discussion,	Presentation of ThinkForest study 'Climate-Smart Forestry: quantification of mitigation	<a href="http://www.efi.int/portal/policy_advice/thinkforest/past_events/roundtable/">http://www.efi.int/portal/policy_advice/thinkforest/past_events/roundtable/</a>



	Brussels, 30.05.2017	impacts in three case regions in Europe'	
Gert-Jan Nabuurs, Alterra	Invited Distinguished lecture at WSL, Birmensdorf, 31.01.2017	EU forests and the forest sector in the climate mitigation targets: facing new challenges.	<a href="http://www.slf.ch/dienstleistungen/events/index_EN?viewevent=wsl_distlect_20170131">http://www.slf.ch/dienstleistungen/events/index_EN?viewevent=wsl_distlect_20170131</a>
Gert-Jan Nabuurs, Alterra	"Contribution of Forests to Climate Change Mitigation", EUSTAFOR/EP Intergroup seminar, European Parliament 24.01.2017	"Forests & Climate: The impact of forests and forestry on the EU Climate and Energy policy"	<a href="http://ebcd.org/event/forests-climate-impact-forests-forestry-eu-climate-energy-policy">http://ebcd.org/event/forests-climate-impact-forests-forestry-eu-climate-energy-policy</a>
Marcus Lindner, EFI	"Landwirtschaft und Umwelt": Wege für mehr Klimaschutz, BMEL, Berlin. 13.12.2016		<a href="http://www.bmel.de/DE/Landwirtschaft/Nachhaltige-Landnutzung/Klimawandel/_Texte/FachtagungKlimaschutzgutachten.html">http://www.bmel.de/DE/Landwirtschaft/Nachhaltige-Landnutzung/Klimawandel/_Texte/FachtagungKlimaschutzgutachten.html</a>
Rupert Oliver, Forest Industries Intelligence	74th session of the UNECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry, Geneva 18-10.2016	Cited in: Overview of European wood market	<a href="https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/meetings/20161018/coffi74-item3a1-01-oliver.pdf">https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/timber/meetings/20161018/coffi74-item3a1-01-oliver.pdf</a>
Lauri Hetemäki, EFI	Climate Diplomacy Week seminar, Helsinki 16.09.2016	EU climate policy and forest-based sector	<a href="http://www.syke.fi/download/noname/%7B28B8406A-F556-4540-939C-377D48C5F641%7D/121633">http://www.syke.fi/download/noname/%7B28B8406A-F556-4540-939C-377D48C5F641%7D/121633</a>
Marcus Lindner, EFI	Sustainable production of forest biomass for Northern Europe in a climate change context. Copa and Cogeca working party on forestry, Brussels 08.06.2016		
Hans Verkerk, EFI	USSE Seminar, San Sebastián, Spain 25.05.2016	The role of European forests in mitigating climate change.	
Marcus Lindner, EFI	Sustainable production of forest biomass for	A new role of forests and the forest sector in the EU post-2020 climate targets	<a href="http://www.efinord.efi.int/portal/efinord_sns_-_nkj_joint_seminar_24_ma">http://www.efinord.efi.int/portal/efinord_sns_-_nkj_joint_seminar_24_ma</a>



	Northern Europe in a climate change context. Joint EFINORD – SNS seminar, Oslo 24.05.2016		<a href="#">y 2016 afternoon presentations available/</a>
Gert-Jan Nabuurs, Alterra	Managing European Forests Responsibly for People, Climate and Nature conference, EUSTAFOR, Brussels 05.04.2016	Keynote presentation: “A new role for forests and the forest sector in the EU post-2020 climate targets”	<a href="http://eustafor.eu/uploads/FINAL_Program_Managing-European-Forests-Responsibly_4_2016_Website.pdf">http://eustafor.eu/uploads/FINAL_Program_Managing-European-Forests-Responsibly_4_2016_Website.pdf</a>
Gert-Jan Nabuurs, Alterra	UNECE, Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management, Geneva 24.03.2016	Post Paris: the role of Research	<a href="http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41852#/">http://www.unece.org/index.php?id=41852#/</a>
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***This Report has been compiled by Lauri Hetemäki (Assistant Director), Rach Colling (Communications Officer) and Ulla Vanttinen (Policy Support Officer), EFI***