



E F I

Celebrating 20 years

OF FOREST NETWORKING IN EUROPE



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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EFI: Celebrating 20 years of forest networking in Europe

Rach Colling

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Foreword

In the early 1990s, when Matti Pekkanen presented his idea of an international forest body in Finland to professors of forestry, the world was changing. There were new international forest policy issues such as the European Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) which had started in Strasbourg in 1990, and the Rio Earth Summit in 1992. There were also many other developments taking place, such as the globalisation of forest industries and citizens' concern about transboundary pollution and forest decline in Europe. Pekkanen's proposal fell on good soil in Finland, which was preparing to host the MCPFE in 1993 and the IUFRO World Congress in 1995.

In this book you will find reflections on what happened after EFI was established in 1993, and how the people involved have seen the developments over the past two decades.

Today, the forest sector in Europe is in many respects very different than it was 20 years ago, but similar in the sense that major changes have not left us alone. Climate change is threatening forest health and its production capacities. Bioenergy has already started to amend industrial production lines; Russia, China, Brazil and other emerging economies are having increasing impact on global forest-based markets. Traditional forest manufacturing industries are moving towards new products like nanocellulose. Forest services, such as ecosystem services, recreation and tourism, are becoming increasingly important, as is the issue of forest governance.

EFI is now well-equipped to respond to the needs of this rapidly developing world, with our strong European network of Member



Countries, member organisations, Regional Offices and a capable staff of more than 140 people. We can mobilize scientific capacities in European countries to serve policy making, implementing the well-adopted concept of the policy-science interface.

But to adapt in the world which is coming, we need to understand our history and the driving forces which have brought us here. In the following pages our network members have a voice, and we hear words such as *networking, pooling resources, policy-relevant, scientific and organisational innovations, commitment, flexibility, family spirit...* I believe the statements in this book can help us to remember where we are coming from, and to see how we can serve better our constituents during the next 20 years.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of staff, Board, Council, Scientific Advisory Board, and of larger networks across EFI's history who have made it possible to achieve the position we are now in. I feel privileged to have been able to work with so many fine people and competent experts, and to have had the possibility to see the development of a unique forest organisation from the inside.

RISTO PÄIVINEN, June 2013

Messages

FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES



EFI HAS 25 MEMBER COUNTRIES. EACH HAS RATIFIED THE CONVENTION ON EFI, AND PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN SUPPORTING EFI'S WORK IN RESEARCH AND POLICY SUPPORT.

"C

ongratulations for 20 years of successful cooperation! EFI can have a key role to play in the European forest-based bioeconomy for the next 20 years through promotion of innovative new technologies, products and services; enhancing the knowledge base; and fostering science-policy-practice interaction."

FINLAND

"E

FI has been designed in order to make possible scientific-based policy decisions for European governments. It has already demonstrated its efficiency in that field, bringing up an understandable science to the political arena, so filling the enormous gap that we have had for years. A policy makers' wish that finally has taken form."

SPAIN

"O

n the occasion of its 20th anniversary Austria congratulates the European Forest Institute for the brilliant achievements and outstanding activities aiming at a sustainable management of Europe's forests, a key element of the European landscape providing goods and services essential for human well-being."

AUSTRIA

"F

our events that shook the world of forestry: 1990 – Strasbourg and the first political forest resolutions, 1992 – Rio and "Forest Principles", 1993 – Helsinki and C&I of Sustainable Forest Management and **Joensuu – EFI with its new European forest research standards.**

Happy birthday EFI and best wishes to become better and better!"

POLAND

"T

he world of forest policy today is complex and it is becoming more and more international. Through research, information and networking EFI creates synergies, develops new solutions and provides guidance to policy-makers. This is an important contribution towards worldwide implementation of sustainable forest management."

GERMANY



Timeline

1990

First Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE)

1992

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit), Rio

Project to establish EFI starts, led by Risto Seppälä



1993

Second Ministerial Conference for the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE) creates the Helsinki Declaration on sustainable forest management

UN Commission on Sustainable Development and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) established

Project to establish EFI continues, led by Risto Päivinen

Project to establish EFI continues, led by Risto Päivinen

12 founding member organisations sign EFI's Act of Constitution

Birger Solberg becomes EFI's first Director, and Tim Peck first Chair of the Board

First edition of EFI News

1994

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) enters into force

EFI's first Annual Conference held in Joensuu, Finland

EFI's budget is 958,000 euros

1995

IUFRO World Conference
in Tampere, Finland
EFI has 50 members

1996

First World Food Summit held in Rome,
Italy. Leads to greater recognition of
the role of forests in support of food
supplies and rural livelihoods
Ian Hunter becomes Director

1997

Kyoto Protocol adopted and signed
Scholarship scheme for EFI
members introduced

1998

EU Forestry Strategy adopted
EU Advisory Committee on
Forestry and Cork established
EFI has over 100 members
EFI members approve the idea
of Project Centres at the Annual
Conference in Zvolen, Slovakia



1999

Storm Lothar/Martin causes largest storm
damage to European forests ever recorded

2000

UN Forum on Forests established
Three Project Centres created in
Bordeaux, Solsona and St Petersburg
Fergal Mulloy becomes Interim
Director (January)
Risto Päivinen becomes Director (October)



2001

Three more Project Centres:
Copenhagen, Vienna and Freiburg

2002

World Summit on Sustainable
Development (RIO+10)

2003

European Union adopts FLEGT Action Plan

Summer heatwave and drought
has large impact on forests

20 countries sign Convention on EFI

EFI's 10th anniversary

2004

EU Advisory Group on Forestry
and Cork established

Forest-based sector Technology
Platform (FTP) launched

FOPER project launched in
the Western Balkans



2005

Kyoto Protocol comes into force

EFI becomes an international organisation

EFI Convention enters into force in Austria,
Croatia, Denmark, Finland, Germany,
Norway, Romania, Spain, Sweden



2006

EU Forest Action Plan adopted

EFI Associate Members approve the
establishment of Regional Offices
at the Annual Conference

EFI Convention enters into force
in Bulgaria, Slovenia, Turkey

2007

Storm Kyrill causes the loss of 45M
cubic metres of standing timber in Europe

UN General Assembly adopts the
Non-legally Binding Instrument
on all Types of Forests (NLBI)

EU FLEGT Facility established

EFIMED launched

EFI Convention enters into force in
Czech Republic, Latvia, Portugal

2008

UN-REDD Programme launched
by FAO, UNDP and UNEP

FLEGT Asia support programme begins

First edition of EFI Network News

EFI Convention enters into force in
the Netherlands, United Kingdom

2009

Storm Klaus has a large impact on
forests in France and Spain

20% decline in pulp production compared
to 2007 due to economic crisis

EFIATLANTIC, EFICIENT-OEF
and EFICEEC established

EFI Convention enters into force in
Greece, Luxemburg, Italy, Poland

2010

International Year of Biodiversity

EFINORD launch event (November)

EU REDD Facility established

EFI Board approves the creation
of the policy support function

EFI Convention enters into force in Ireland



2011

UN International Year of Forests
Negotiations for a Legally Binding
Agreement on Forests in Europe begin

ThinkForest forum established

What Science Can Tell Us series launched

EFI's office in Barcelona established,
focusing on policy support activities

EFI Convention enters into
force in Switzerland

Host Country Agreement signed with Spain

2012

EFICEEC becomes EFICEEC-EFISEE

2013

EFI's 20th anniversary

EFI Convention enters into force
in France and Slovak Republic

EFI's budget is 14.9 million euros



History
OF A BEGINNING

The origins

OF EFI

In the late 1980s, Matti Pekkanen, then Director of the Central Association of Finnish Forest Industries, developed an idea to use the Finnish reputation in forests to create an international activity to serve the needs of policy makers and industry.

By 1990 the idea was on paper, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in Finland took an active part in planning such an organisation. After many meetings and a lot of correspondence, in 1991 the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry decided to launch a preparatory project. Risto Seppälä from the Finnish Forest Research Institute took the lead, supported by a group of 14 members representing different aspects of forest research and forestry. He spent two years promoting the idea of an institute and managing the process of selecting a name and location, gathering a strong support group across Europe and elsewhere behind the idea.

In 1993, it was time to establish the institute at its permanent location in Joensuu, Finland, and to find its first director. The Dean of the Faculty of Forestry of the University of Joensuu (now the University of Eastern Finland), Risto Päivinen was invited to be the first Acting Director, assisted by a small team (Pentti Hyttinen, Leena Salminen and Anu Ruusila). An Interim Board was established, and in August 1993 three brainstorming teams gathered at the EFI headquarters in Joensuu to formulate what would become EFI's three research programmes: forest resources, forest policy, and forest ecology and management.

By September 1993, the launch of the institute was possible. The Act of Constitution of EFI was signed by 12 founding members on 9 September 1993. The first Director, Birger Solberg took up his post, and EFI began to build its research programme.



The Interim Board of EFI with staff members, 12 February 1993.

"Starting up EFI was a challenging task. We had eight months to find the founding members for the institute, and a competent Director from abroad. I still remember the demanding emptiness of the handsome building of the Finnish Bank, waiting for international researchers.

My job as Acting Director was a missionary's job, spreading the gospel of EFI. There was plenty of support for the idea, but also many doubtful faces as I was trying to convince colleagues in Brussels, or during the Ministerial Conference in Helsinki about the need for international collaboration in forest research. Of great support was the Interim Board, especially Chair Paavo Pelkonen, Tim Peck, Pekka Patosaari in the ministry and the committed staff at EFI."

RISTO PÄIVINEN



"Then I think back on the first few years, I think what I remember is the Board. It was a very good Board, they were motivated, they had no personal interests in what was going on for their institution, they were just there to improve EFI and they were very competent. I think also when I look back on these Board members, they had time, they used it on EFI. It was remarkable.

And then I remember the staff, Anu, Leena and Risto and Pentti, equally dedicated. We had no conflict at all! And we knew that this was the early phase, and we had two choices – to sink or fly. We were not occupied with details, and I think that we were rather decisive. It worked so well, both the Board and the administration.

So why did EFI take off? It was that combination, and it was basically a good idea – we had a good Board, good administration and a good idea! In addition, I think it was important that both Risto and I had a strong research anchoring in IUFRO in fields that were relevant for EFI, and could draw on that experience for the benefit of both EFI and IUFRO."

BIRGER SOLBERG, *first Director of EFI*

"The first time I went to EFI was in September 1993, when it had only just been established. I was the first guest-researcher and it was Risto Päivinen personally who came to pick me up from Joensuu airport. I was there six weeks to look into the necessity for a European forest sector carbon balance study. EFI was very small, and I was sitting in a small cubicle, and all visitors were taken there to see the one guest-researcher! It was Anu and Leena who I remember best from that time. They were always there at work, weekends and evenings, making the EFI thing happen."

GERT-JAN NABUURS *arrived as the first non-Finnish researcher in 1993*

"From the Interim Board, Tim Peck and Ernst Wermann were very important persons in the very beginning. I am very glad that they were willing to participate in this work...they had a very good international and global and European and trans-European view. And I thought it very important, because if they were just to start thinking about the development of EFI from the regional point of view, it would be a terrible mistake.

Then of course, Risto Päivinen was very important to me because I was alone when we started. Risto was Dean, I was Rector of the university in those days. Of course, I had to find somebody who could really start the practical work. And I was so happy and glad that Risto took this opportunity. And he has been working for EFI all these years!

And I remember all those phone calls with Birger Solberg when I asked him to start acting as the first Director of EFI. As usual, Birger was positive from the very first phone call, but it's not that easy just to move to Joensuu from Norway. And it took quite many phone calls, and we ended up with this positive result.

PAAVO PELKONEN, *Chair of the Interim Board*

Joensuu,

HOME OF EFI

EFI's headquarters are in Joensuu, Finland, in the heart of the boreal forest zone. Close to the Russian border, the city is surrounded by forests. It's a dynamic environment for forestry research – as well as EFI, Joensuu is host to the School of Forest Sciences at the University of Eastern Finland, the Karelia University of Applied Sciences and the Finnish Forest Research Institute (Metla).

Over 5,000 people earn their living directly from forestry or forest industry in the North Karelia region. If you take into account the income effect from timber sales for forest owners, this figure is doubled. Forestry is also influential in industrial production: several large sawmills, Enocell – one of the world's largest cellulose factories, John Deere and Kesla – leading manufacturers of forestry logging and hauling machinery – and many other firms operate in the area.

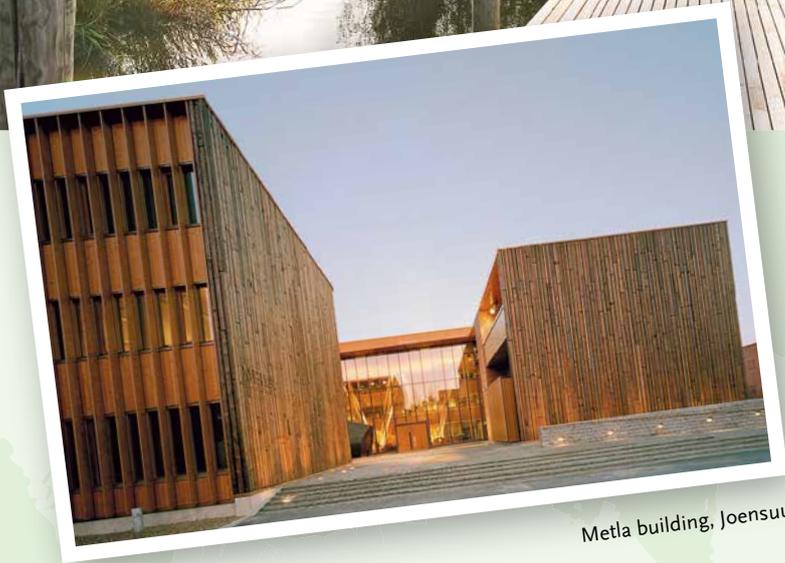
But it hadn't been a foregone conclusion that EFI would move to Joensuu – there had

been many discussions as to which place in Finland would host EFI, with Helsinki the favourite. The decision in favour of Joensuu in 1992 generated lively discussion, both for and against, in the Finnish newspapers.

So in 1993, EFI moved into the former Bank of Finland building on Torikatu, and became probably the only forestry institute in Europe to have bullet-proof windows, a bomb shelter and a vault for a stationery cupboard. EFI settled into the city, as did the steady stream of new staff.

Twenty years on, EFI will soon move to new premises on the other side of the city. The Metla building was the largest wooden office building in Finland when it was constructed in 2003–2004, and is home to the Joensuu branch of the Finnish Forest Research Institute (Metla). It's a move that creates further opportunities for research collaboration and helps to build regional synergies.





Metla building, Joensuu



The location of the EFI headquarters in Joensuu has a significant symbolic value for North Karelia. In the regional development strategies, a lot of emphasis has been put on the higher value added and especially more innovative utilisation of forest resources. By creating an innovative milieu and investing in research infrastructure, we expect to increase employment opportunities and to raise the economic benefits obtained from forests.

From the region's viewpoint, EFI has been one of the key players in making North Karelia a more multicultural and internationally oriented place. The Institute has brought us a lot of long-term and short-term visitors from abroad. Many of them have then found a permanent home here.

I believe that in the future our region is able to get even more out of EFI in helping us to create new forest-based job opportunities and strengthen the occupational base of rural regions."

PENTTI HYTINEN, *Region Mayor of North Karelia*



Cartoon from Metsälehti (Finnish Forestry magazine). Matti Pekkanen comments on the decision by Martti Pura, Finnish Minister of Agriculture and Forestry to locate EFI in Joensuu: “Absurd, it is in the middle of the forest”.

As EFI was founded, it was not clear at all that the headquarters would be located in Joensuu. Already then Joensuu had a wealth of forestry expertise as well as a history as a town which had been born and developed in the middle of forests and forest industries. But it was only after a long and heated national debate and political engagement that Joensuu was able to celebrate its status as the host town of EFI.

Now, 20 years later, we see that the forestry and bioeconomy expertise concentrates at the university campus and in one of the most beautiful modern wooden buildings in the world, the Metla house. We hope that the beautiful environ and the proximity of

EFI and other main players next to each other create new global level knowledge and innovation – also for the benefit of the Joensuu region.

EFI and its staff have played an important role in the internationalisation of Joensuu. Joensuu is known in Europe and at a global scale as the forestry capital of Europe. A great part of the reputation is thanks to the success of EFI. Former EFI staff members form an informal Joensuu-network in Europe and far beyond. This is an excellent network and expertise on which we can base the development of the forestry and bioeconomy in the future.”

KARI KARJALAINEN, Joensuu City Mayor



A large, ancient tree trunk, heavily covered in moss, dominates the foreground. The tree's branches spread out, casting shadows over a lush green forest floor. In the background, a calm lake reflects the surrounding greenery and distant mountains. The scene is bathed in soft, natural light, creating a serene and majestic atmosphere.

Board:

A REWARDING EXPERIENCE

Board

EFI's Board is responsible for establishing and keeping under review the overall framework and strategy of EFI, and supervising the Secretariat. The Board has eight members, who can each serve for six years.

The Board has been there since the earliest days of EFI, overseeing its birth in 1993. The first Interim Board was responsible for everything from the budget to proposals for research programmes, and the selection of the first EFI Director. The first Board (a mixture of scientists and non-scientists) was elected in September 1993.

Since its earliest days, the Board has not only been involved in the development of EFI's research programmes, but has also

covered a challenging set of other strategic issues, including external evaluations, funding, the internationalisation of EFI, and the creation of Project Centres and Regional Offices.

CHAIRS OF THE BOARD

TIM PECK | 1993–1998

YVES BIROT | 1998–2001

FERGAL MULLOY | 2001–2003

FRANCISCO REGO | 2003–2004

FRANÇOIS HOULLIER | 2004–2006

KONSTANTIN VON TEUFFEL | 2006–2010

JØRGEN BO LARSEN | 2010–

The first full Board brought together members from across Europe, from very different cultures, with different styles and expectations. It was a truly European experience for all those involved. I learned more than I contributed. Despite our different backgrounds, we worked well together. There was tremendous goodwill and a sense of purpose."

MELVIN CANNELL, *Board member*





The Director and Chair of the Board fishing for opportunities in Joensuu, 2010

"**R**ight from the start in September 1993, the work of the Board has been facilitated by a remarkable 'esprit de corps' and comradeship among its members and by excellent working relationships with the Director and other members of the Secretariat...The constructive working atmosphere has been assisted by a number of factors, foremost among which has been a shared belief among its members in EFI's mission.

I believe I can speak for all members of the Board, past and present, in saying that it has been a rewarding and enriching experience."

TIM PECK, *Chair of the Board, 1993–1998*

"**A**s a Board member, I have vivid memories of our discussions on a new vision for EFI, as well as the appointment of a new (and in the end in fact 'old') Director. I also remember our many lively discussions, disagreements, but always striving for the best possible way for EFI. Commitment among Board members was admirable, in spite of their busy jobs back home."

CECIL KONIJNENDIJK, *Board member*



2004

"Despite the different responsibilities the mode of operation in the Scientific Advisory Board and the Board is very similar: open, sometimes controversial discussions, which always lead to a consensus."

MICHAEL KÖHL,
Scientific Advisory Board and Board member



2006

"The discussions in the Board during my time were long and winding, sometimes even exhausting but everything that was on the table as ideas came true sooner or later. A particular feature of EFI was the familiar atmosphere. The EFI family functioned like a family with love and hate (more love anyhow) and everybody coming to that family was welcome. Being a Board member was a privilege giving you new friends and an opportunity to travel to special places. The most exotic meeting place was President Tito's former villa in Croatia with its own island and private zoo!"

LIISA SAARENMAA, *Board member*



2007



2012

"E

FI has contributed to collective thinking about forest and forestry in Europe. Especially during recent years, the focus on policy support on the pan-European level is a big achievement. The recent development in facilitating European engagement and responsibility on the EU-level through Think-Forest – a high-level science-policy forum – and beyond through European forest policy implementation in developing countries – FLEGT and REDD – are prodigious. But here we are still at the beginning.

The Board has been very active in evolving EFI from a research-focused networking organisation into an organisation dedicated to supporting forest policy development and implementation on the European level. As such, EFI is internationally acknowledged, and forest issues are getting increasing attention and recognition in Europe and its institutions."

JØRGEN BO LARSEN, *Chair of the Board, 2010–*





*Scientific
Advisory Board:*

THE FRIENDLY WATCHDOG

The Scientific

ADVISORY BOARD

"SAB is a friendly watchdog, an asset that could be used even more to monitor scientific quality and to generate new ideas."

FRIJS MOHREN, *Chair of SAB, 2002–2005*

EFI's Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) has played a crucial role over the last 20 years. It provides independent advice to the Board, Directors and scientific staff of EFI on research, strategies and networking, and monitors the scientific quality of EFI, its Regional Offices and Project Centres. Currently the SAB is a group of 10 high-level experts who represent diverse fields of research and expertise, from all corners of Europe.

The first SAB meeting took place in September 1994 in Joensuu, and it has met twice each year ever since.

CHAIRS OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD

HEINRICH SPIECKER | 1994–2001

FRIJS MOHREN | 2002–2005

TED FARRELL | 2006–2008

HUBERT HASENAUER | 2009–2011

MARCO MARCHETTI | 2012–



The Scientific Advisory Board deep in discussion in Padova, 2005

The highlight for me has to be that I was chairman of the Scientific Advisory Board for three years. I've enjoyed the contact with EFI very much because of the very friendly cooperative attitude that prevails.

As chairman of the SAB, two things we really had to do: one was to make the SAB more effective, to make a better contribution to the work of the Institute. In previous years the Scientific Advisory Board's role really was to look in detail at scientific proposals that were submitted or being prepared or submitted, but as these grew it became impractical. We were faced with large numbers of big proposals, some with only a small EFI input, and not enough time at all to do a proper job, so it wasn't really effective. So

we reduced that work and tried to give more strategic advice to the Board.

The other thing that we tried to do was to improve communication, because (and I only really realised this after a while), the programme managers looked on the Scientific Advisory Board almost as inspectors, coming to criticise them and so on. And they didn't really meet. So we started meeting with the managers once a year, and that, I think was very useful, in seeing that everybody was human. And we learned to communicate with each other that way, and I think they realised, and the SAB took on a more supportive and interactive role with the programme managers."

TED FARRELL, *Chair of SAB, 2006–2008*



2006

"I always thought of the role of SAB as quite important, especially when there is a lot of informality in the network. The nice thing is that the SAB has an advisory role, so you can basically say anything – you don't have to have strategic concerns, because that's the role of the Board.

I think the SAB is very important as an organised resistance, you could say, against the bureaucrats. It's a counterbalance, and if the institute is in difficult times, organisationally or financially or something like that, then it's very easy to leave this aside for a while. And that's understandable, as long as it's being reinstalled after that.

I don't know how this is now, but I felt when I was in the SAB, then the balance was nice. Because we could speak frankly and freely, and we really had an eye on the content, and were flagging this all the time that EFI should have a core of good research that gives credibility to the activities of the institute and so on. And that message also came across."

FRITS MOHREN, *Chair of SAB, 2002-2005*



2012

"S cientific Advisory Board is a very unique body within EFI. Consisting mostly from researchers and scientists, it from one point of view provides advice related to current and further research work. But from another point of view it is a body determining the strategic development of the institute. It is a challenging mixture of scientific and political work. Any mistake in decision making can cause serious consequences.

My particular memories are about SAB members who were very deep scientists and very bright personalities at the same time: Margarida Tomé, Heinrich Spiecker, Gérard Buttoud, Peter Csoka, Max Krott, Eduardo Rojas-Briales, Frits Mohren and others. Communicating with them, I discovered new experience, ideas, approaches – sometimes it was like the discovery of a new world."

ELENA KULIKOVA, *SAB member*

"The SAB's role has been to sustain the decentralization process for its part. We have been overseeing how the idea of the Regional Offices has turned into concrete implementation. This is still partly a weak point in EFI because not all Regional Offices are fully functioning. Generally, EFI should in 10 years' time have consolidated its decentralized system and the Regional Offices should have found a way to best cooperate with the Associate Members in their regions. This is not simple, and EFI should make an effort to reach out for new partners. This could benefit the entire structure and organisation."

MARCO MARCHETTI, *Chair of SAB, 2012–*



"The 10 members of SAB, experienced in EFI's research priority areas and understanding forestry issues in different parts of Europe, met twice a year and fulfilled their tasks always with great dedication, as indicated by regular attendance and a very concentrated way of working at meetings."

HEINRICH SPIECKER, *Chair of SAB, 1993–2001*

"Working with EFI in different ways has been a running thread through my life for the past almost 20 years.

My first contact with EFI was in 1995. I contacted Heinrich Spiecker, at that time Chair of the SAB in order to discuss the possible EFI membership of the newly opened Catalan Forest Research Center (CTFC). Soon we received the visit of Tim Peck, Birger Solberg and Risto Päivinen. Later in 1996 I visited the EFI forest policy summer school. In 1997, CTFC enlarged the scope of the Forest Policy Forum to an international audience with a strong EFI engagement. I was surprised later that year to be invited, at the age of only 35, to act as member of the SAB which I served from 1998-2002. My peer was Peter Csoka with whom I would later become a colleague in FAO; indeed, he has become one of my closest collaborators, and we both joined FAO at practically at the same moment. In the late 90s the regional cen-

tres issue become critical and CTFC proposed forest externalities as the key issue in the region and was one of the first regional centres. When I left at the end of 1999 CTFC for my home city Valencia, the lack of Mediterranean presence in EFI was addressed and later EFIMED followed.

I kept the contact with EFI representing my university (UPV) in the following years. I had the pleasure to work again with Risto in 2005 as vice-chair of the forest value chain of the FTP while drafting its Research Agenda. Since I joined FAO, and in view of its nature as a knowledge organisation, I've been very active in strengthening cooperation with research organisations and networks, and most especially EFI. I'm convinced that EFI has critically contributed to put forests from a different and modern angle in the social debate."

EDUARDO ROJAS-BRIALES, *SAB member*





An international

ORGANISATION IS BORN

Going INTERNATIONAL

The process of changing EFI's legal status from a Finnish association to an international organisation established by European countries lasted for eight years.

The 5th Annual Conference in Zvolen, Slovakia in 1998 authorised the Board and the Secretariat to investigate the issue of internationalisation. The Finnish government prepared a draft convention with EFI in 2000–2001, and more than 20 countries then actively participated in refining the text to reach wording which would be acceptable to all.

Five years later on 28 August 2003 at the 10th anniversary Annual Conference, 12 countries signed the Convention on EFI in Joensuu. A further eight countries signed the Convention at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in Helsinki by 28 November 2003.

After signing, the Convention needed to be ratified by eight countries before it entered into force – and the eighth country, Spain, ratified the Convention in July 2005.

The switchover from association to international organisation then formally took

place at the 12th Annual Conference in Barcelona, Spain on 8 September 2005. The Dissolving Conference of the EFI Association was held on 9 December 2005 at the EFI Headquarters. A small group of five EFI member organisations signed the document, as the final administrative task of the EFI Association.



Meglena Plugtschieva-Alexandrova (Bulgaria) signing the Convention on EFI assisted by Katja Keinänen (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Finland)



Negotiations on the EFI Convention took place in Helsinki in March 2003

"Of course, I am proud of the fact that the internationalisation process – i.e., the transformation of EFI from a Finnish association with a self-defined pan-European cooperation mandate into a true international organisation – became a reality in 2005. By chance, that happened at the very moment of the EFI Conference in Barcelona. I had the honour to chair the Board at that moment, but I am conscious that I was only part of this long-term process, which had been initiated under the leadership of my predecessors and has been continuing under the leadership of my successors – it took eight years and the remarkable tenacity of a few colleagues for my country, France, to ratify the Convention!

The first benefit of the internationalisation of EFI is that it addressed an issue often raised by its member organisations, namely the true European nature of the Institute and its proximity with its members... Of course, the internationalisation gave EFI a greater visibility and attracted new interest, not only from its own member organisations, but also from the countries, and their governments, which became the new 'members' of the Institute. It also obliged EFI management to think to the future and to adapt, which is always necessary for structures, even when they perform well."

FRANÇOIS HOULLIER,
Chair of the Board, 2004–2006

"What am I most proud of achieving as Chair of the Board? If I should select one thing, I would pick up the internationalisation of EFI that I initiated. Although the process took more time than expected, it went through and resulted in a more visible and credible institution. EFI is nowadays a major actor in Europe and abroad, recognized by governments, European Commission, European Parliament. Its new legal status allows attracting funds and people."

YVES BIROT, Chair of the Board, 1998–2001

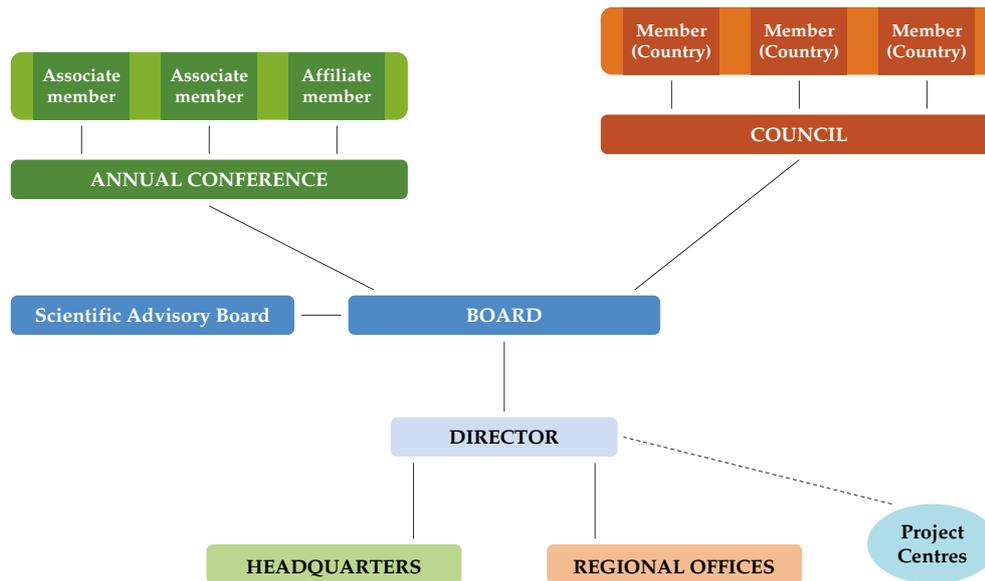
WHAT DID THE CHANGE MEAN?

The new international status of EFI started a new era in forest research cooperation. The new status made it easier to pool research resources for the topics important in forests and forestry, improved the competitiveness of EFI (for example making it easier to hire high-quality researchers), and enabled new initiatives like regional offices.

Practically, the change created a new central decision-making body: the Council, which consists of representatives of those countries which have ratified the Convention on EFI. It meets every three years, focusing on strategic issues, and elects half of the EFI Board members.

THE SITUATION TODAY

By the spring of 2013, a total of 25 European States had ratified the Convention on EFI, namely Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.





FERGAL MULLOY:
A DEFINING MOMENT,
28 AUGUST 2003



"Many occasions are described as 'defining moments' but are not normally so defined until after the event. The 28 August 2003, EFI's Annual Conference day, was one such occasion; even without the hindsight of a decade. On that day the long-awaited international convention that would launch EFI into a new organisational orbit was rolled out to the launching pad. It took two more years however for eight national governments to ratify the Convention before lift-off could occur. The process of getting an international convention from good idea to fruition is never easy. Happily the concept had the commitment and encouragement of the Finnish Government devoting the services of its Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry with their considerable diplomatic and professional skills to achieve a non-controversial and effective international convention. I was privileged to have been part of that process as a team member of EFI.

The collective aspirations of all present that day in Joensuu, was that EFI would become the European centre of gravity for world-class forest research and information source for Europe and beyond. That Matti Vanhanen, Prime Minister of Finland, was present lent gravitas to the occasion and demonstrated the high value the Finnish Government placed on these aspirations. He invited the nations of Europe to sign the Convention; thus beginning the process of elevating EFI to a new level of recognition that today is enriching forestry knowledge throughout the world. It has become an organisation that is now truly "fit for purpose".

That August day was also a special day for me. It marked my last day as a Board member of EFI. I was present at the first Annual Conference and was now completing my last official function as Board chairman. As the day progressed memories of many happy events flooded my mind. Most memories were linked to the deep and lasting friendships my association with EFI had brought. The Conference theme that year "Forest Research Crossing Borders", was being transformed in my mind to "Friendships Crossing Borders". Fondest memories were those of fellow Board members and EFI staff who, without exception, had extended their hands in abiding friendship. The beauty of winter in Koli and the magic of May in Joensuu assailed my thoughts to this day. So too do the ice fishing days with Risto and Timo, my botched skiing attempts, the advice and support from all at Torikatu 34, especially during 2000 when I had the honour of working at that address. These, and countless other EFI reminiscences, have a cherished place in my memory bank."





Member Countries:

AN ACTIVE SUPPORTING ROLE

Member COUNTRIES

The 25 Member Countries of EFI play a vital role in supporting its work across Europe.

Firstly, the countries are involved in the EFI decision-making process. Representatives of Member Countries which have signed the Convention on EFI form the Council, the highest decision-making body of EFI. As well as electing several members of the Board, the Council provides valuable input into the strategic policy framework of EFI activities, ensuring that EFI serves its original purpose in the best possible way in today's environment.

Member Countries also provide financial support for EFI's work via voluntary contributions. For example, the Finnish Government has been a major supporter of EFI over the last 20 years, providing seed funding then core funding to enable its work. Member Countries support the develop-

ment of Regional Offices on an ongoing basis, providing valuable core funding for many of the Regional Offices, thus ensuring the regional perspective of EFI operations.

And Member Countries are also involved in particular projects, for example the Think-Forest initiative, which is supported by the Governments of Finland, France, Germany, and Sweden. Another area where Member Countries have been heavily involved is in EFI's work in policy support and implementation, providing direct support to the EU FLEGT Facility and EU REDD Facility.

CHAIRS OF COUNCIL

FINLAND | 2005–2008

SPAIN | 2008–2011

CROATIA | 2011–2014

AUSTRIA | 2014–2017



Members of the EFI Council meet in Madrid, 2008

"S ince its inception 20 years ago, EFI membership has increased remarkably. The strong involvement of European states in the EFI initiative testifies to just how much our collective awareness of the need for forest protection has developed over the years. It also shows that while cross-border cooperation is still one of the most effective avenues for ensuring the sustainability of our forests and societies, few initiatives have grown to become as successful in this endeavour as EFI."

KRISTINA FERARA BLAŠKOVIĆ,
Chair of EFI Council (Croatia)

"T he Council members are crucial links to forest policy as they provide and guide us in developing the toolbox for policy support, and at the same time they work as an important instrument for forest policy deliberations and implementation in the countries as well as on the EU level."

JØRGEN BO LARSEN,
Chair of the Board, 2010–





Member organisations
THEN AND NOW

Member

ORGANISATIONS

Member organisations have always been central to EFI's existence. The official Act of Constitution of EFI was signed by 12

founding member organisations from 10 European countries, in Joensuu, Finland on 9 September 1993.

THE 12 FOUNDING MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Faculty of Forestry, University of Brno (now Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology, Mendel University in Brno)	Czech Republic
Faculty of Forestry, Albert-Ludwigs University (now Faculty of Forestry and Environmental Sciences)	Germany
Forest Research Institute	Hungary
Norwegian Forest Research Institute (now Norwegian Forest and Landscape Institute)	Norway
The Forest Research Institute	Poland
National Forest Research Station (now part of INIA)	Portugal
St Petersburg Forest Technical Academy (now St Petersburg State Forest Technical University)	Russian Federation
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences	Sweden
Institute of Terrestrial Ecology/NERC (now the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology/NERC)	United Kingdom
University of Joensuu (now the University of Eastern Finland)	Finland
Finnish Forest Research Institute	Finland
Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, University of Helsinki (now the Department of Forest Sciences)	Finland



Raúl Albuquerque de Sardinha of Portugal signing the Act of Constitution. Behind, Stig Andersson (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences), Heinrich Spiecker (Albert-Ludwigs University), Jari Parviainen (Finnish Forest Research Institute) and Birger Solberg (Norwegian Forest Research Institute) await their turn.



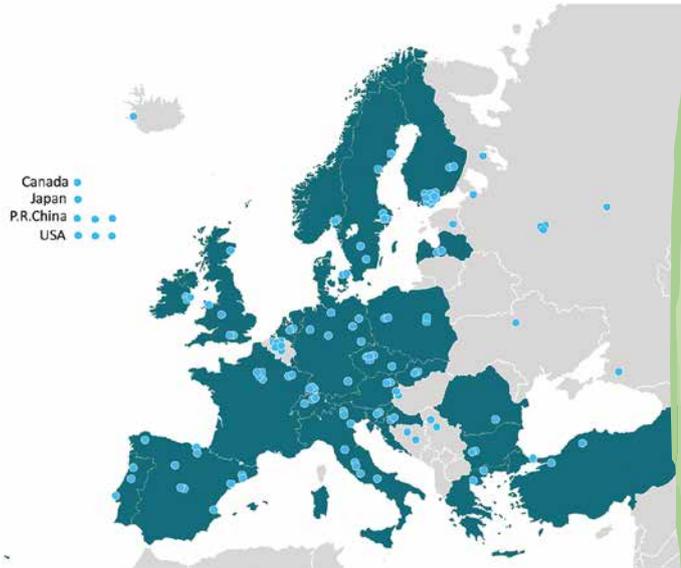
Creating

A COMPREHENSIVE FOREST RESEARCH NETWORK

Over the past 20 years, EFI's membership has grown enormously, creating a network of forest-related organisations across Europe and beyond.

Yves Birot, Chair of the Board wrote in EFI News in June 1999: *"Considering EFI as a living organism, my natural inclination is to compare it to a tree. As a growing tree, EFI has developed quickly, through its membership, a root system able to explore and exploit a large volume of soil. A root system has a structural role which is to anchor the tree firmly into the soil, and a functional role which is to supply the tree with water and nutrients. Without roots, i.e. its members, EFI is nothing."*

In 2013, EFI has 130 member organisations from 36 countries, some from as far afield as the US, Canada, Japan and the People's Republic of China. They include forest research, industry and forest owners, as well as environmental research and international forest-related organisations. Any organisation can apply for EFI membership, as an Associate (organisations based in Europe) or Affiliate (those organisations located outside Europe).



Canada ●
Japan ●
P.R.China ●●●
USA ●●●

A RESPONSIBLE ROLE

Members have always played a role in EFI's governance, right from the early days of the EFI Association. Now EFI is an international organisation, the Associate Members form a central decision-making body, meeting each year at the EFI Annual Conference. There they approve matters such as the annual report, budgets and work plans, and make decisions on EFI's future plans and activities.



Members voting on the establishment of Regional Offices at the 15th Annual Conference in Orvieto, Italy

"The most prominent benefit of being a member of EFI is, without competition, the easy access to the large network of excellent European scientists."

KAJ ROSÉN

"E FI's achievements in the last 20 years include a very impressive growth in size, scope, political influence and geographical coverage."

NIELS ELMERS KOCH,
President of IUFRO, former Scientific Advisory Board member

"E specially as an Affiliate Member from a different continent, North America, we see EFI number one as a tremendous place for exchange of information. And also the contacts with individual members that we've made through the years have really helped us in a lot of joint projects that we've done with individual members, not necessarily joint EFI projects. It's really helped us in our knowledge base in expanding our understanding of European investors, that's what we're really looking at is the investment side of forestry, and it's really given us a lot of insight into how European investors think. And especially how they think about forest land. So I would say that number one the information that we get, and then the contacts that we've made have been invaluable to us.

And then of course we try to come to every conference that there is, so that we can learn as much about the individual countries that are hosting the conference, maybe the individual university or institution that's hosting it. Because sometimes we discover some hidden gems there we never knew were there, or people can find us – one of the things that



we're trying to do is make our university available and known in Europe. So we felt that the best buy for our money was EFI. And it has been! We've been members for, I guess, 10 years now, and we don't regret at all the money that we've paid in our dues, or the time that we've spent coming to the meetings."

BOB IZLAR, *University of Georgia, USA*



"T he major involvement at least for us was that EFI tried to involve as many countries from Europe as possible with activities. These Regional Offices are a great idea in that sense. And I think for us at least, (I'm speaking for the Faculty of Forestry at the University of West Hungary) the most important is the networking. It's not only that you can meet people regularly, but if you need some information, EFI has some other nice datasets, databases which you can access if you are a member of EFI. Or you know the right person to contact if you need some more information, so these are the major advantages of the membership.

And maybe another issue why EFI might be important: Hungary is a small country in the middle of Central Europe. There is a real need for cooperation. We are so small alone that we need cooperating partners in different fields to be able to express our opinions."

FERENC LAKATOS, *University of West Hungary*



"T he main benefits are firstly networking activities, for member organisations – eg my research organisation is quite interested in having this networking in Europe focusing on different aspects of forestry and forest science. For me, the second benefit is a different type of activities, dealing with research proposals at a European level. And the third main benefit for INIA, my research organisation, is also the activity of EFI at European policy level, working for implementation of different activities, and having forestry as one of the main axes of activities at the European level.... I think this advocacy for forestry under the best knowledge on the basics of forests, of science in the forests, is the main role of EFI."

RICARDO ALIA, *Forest Research Centre (CIFOR-INIA), Spain*

"T he main achievement I think is they have really created a stable network of researchers, but not only researchers, also policy makers, decision makers in the field of forestry and related fields.... EFI for me is also important when you get to writing proposals, putting together consortia – then this is, I would say, my first-stop-shop!"

MARC HANEWINKEL,
*Swiss Federal Institute for Forest,
Snow and Landscape Research*

"E FI's network offers us a possibility to interact with a European network and to place research questions at a European level. In terms of applications, coordinated researches and projects, as well as scientific cooperation on forest economics, are quite beneficial.

I also see a concrete and very positive benefit of EFI's network in the training provided in the field of forest policy. Winter Summer Schools and PhD courses, like the one supported by the LABEX "ARBRE" and INRA, are only possible thanks to the expertise of EFI."

ERWIN DREYER, *INRA, France*

"W hat has been the main achievement of EFI in the last 20 years? I think the main achievement is the fact that it allowed us to know each other...and I think the best thing that we have from EFI is the contacts, the networking. Just a small example – every year we organise in our institute [IBL] a winter forestry school, and every year we invite lecturers from abroad, some 5–8 people. Of course I don't know who people are in any specific subject, but I know the people in Finland, and Sweden and Denmark, Austria, Germany just to call or send an email...and after 1–2 weeks I have the list of lecturers ready! So this networking is very important."

TOMASZ ZAWIŁA-NIEDŹWIECKI,
Forest Research Institute (IBL), Poland





"I think the achievements of EFI arise from very actual research problems. Second, they organise very effective networking between institutions, and they also facilitate contact between not only institutions but researchers involved in EFI projects. And the last achievement is the rise in profile of forestry problems at the European level. Because before now, forestry hasn't been presented at such a high level."

ALEXANDER ALEKSEEV,

St Petersburg State Forest Technical University, Russia

"I have watched EFI's impressive development over the last 20 years with great interest and admiration. From the very start EFI has contributed to science with its research and information services, to education with courses, summer schools etc., and over time also towards policy support. My PhD students have spent time at EFI to attend courses, I collaborated a lot with EFI research project coordinators while working for the EC, and for

many years I have had different collaborations with EFI while representing COST. One thing that is very clear to me is the following: EFI has made a lot of achievements over these 20 years, research, education, information services etc., but the most important one is the inclusive networking of European forestry."

SJUR BAARDSEN, COST



"You have the opportunity to be a part of many things, and the possibility to use some very concrete benefits, like applications for projects. But the biggest benefit is to be updated, involved with and informed about all forest policy processes. You are the member of a family – and updated and informed."

MERSUDIN AVDIBEGOVIĆ,

University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

"Our faculty has been an active supporter of EFI for many years and will be in the future, because we see that questions of internationalising research and networking in research (not networking just to meet people but to create joint products, outputs and other added value research-wise) is gaining importance.

From the strategic side, EU projects, international projects and international linkages, also play an increasing role in the funding of research. There it can help a lot to have an active and internationally well

integrated partner such as EFI, who can help take some administrative burdens off the researchers, while at the same time facilitating the exchange of leading researchers throughout Europe. Our faculty as a member organisation would like to see an increasing role of EFI in administratively facilitating output-oriented research and networking activities."

LUKAS GIESSEN,

University of Göttingen, Germany

"I think now it's really a network institution, while in the past I remember that the first impression I got when I was informed about the launch of EFI was "where is Joensuu?"! And then when I looked at the map, I said it will be difficult to have a European dimension with the headquarters there. But now...they have been able to create a European network.

I see two groups of benefits. On a personal level, enlarging my contacts, knowing new people, appreciating new young people. The human dimension is important - you need it to create motivation. And then a bit more of a professional one: a research programme. Grants for young people... So the two aspects: good friends, and a good research programme....I am part of different research programmes thanks to the EFI network."

DAVIDE PETTENELLA, *University of Padova, Italy*



"From having been seen as a Finnish national effort to take the lead in European forest research aiming at influencing European forest policy related issues, EFI has become the natural central organisation to speak for its member coun-

tries/organisations on issues of common interest. This has been achieved through a qualitative, cooperative research and extension at the head office in Joensuu and among its member organisations. This has not been achieved without intensive internal discussions and to some extent differing opinions are still at hand among the members.

I have been the voting representative of first SLU and later Skogforsk during the past 20 years. Furthermore I have had extensive and appreciated contacts with a large number of EFI member organisations and personnel at the headquarters as the coordinator of the integrated EU project EFORWOOD. EFORWOOD ended in 2010 but its heritage is still living under the supervision of EFI."

KAJ ROSÉN



"It has been a great achievement to set up a real European transnational network with more or less all the key research organisations related or working within the field of forestry research... Being a member of EFI means you have direct access to any type of competence you are searching for. And collaboration – you can create partnerships easily to have a breakthrough in research, and also to be able to address questions where one organisation by itself is not strong enough or will never achieve a critical mass..."

ANDREAS KLEINSCHMIT VON LENGEFELD, *FCBA, France*







From Project Centres
TO REGIONAL OFFICES

From Project Centres TO REGIONAL OFFICES

The first years of EFI focused on the development of research programmes and gaining external funding. But by the late 1990s, a new direction emerged, following an external evaluation of EFI's work. This stressed the need for EFI's coordination role, and the development of its network across Europe.

During 1998–99, the idea of establishing nodes of EFI across Europe was discussed, and approved by EFI members at the 1998 Annual Conference in Zvolen, Slovakia. The first three Project Centres were soon operational as independent units under the EFI umbrella, with their own budgets. MEDFOREX in Solsona (Spain), PROCES in St Petersburg (Russia) and IEFM in Bordeaux (France), were joined by three more a year

later: INNOFORCE in Vienna (Austria), EUFORIC in Copenhagen (Denmark), and CONFOREST (Freiburg). PHOENIX in Lisbon (Portugal) followed in 2005.

Each Project Centre gathered a wide range of regional partners together, focusing on a particular research priority relevant to the geographical area. So, for example, MEDFOREX focused on the study of forest externalities in the Mediterranean region, while IEFM was focused on the sustainable management of plantation forests in South West Atlantic Europe. Some Project Centres were highly research-oriented, some were more network driven, while some were more of a blend of all of EFI's core activities.



Project Centre and EFI representatives, 2002

IEFC staff, 2007



THE ROAD TO REGIONAL OFFICES

The first EFI Regional Office, EFIMED, was established in June 2007. The creation of EFIMED was a natural evolution of the active research network developed by the MEDFOREX Project Centre, and was financially supported by the government, of Spain and Catalonia.

Following the success of EFIMED, it became clear that many other Project Centres considered the potential transition towards becoming a regional office. EFI's 15th Annual Conference in 2008 in Orvieto, Italy was the arena for one of the most significant decisions in the history of EFI, when after much debate EFI member organisations voted to accept more Regional Offices. There were active EFI member organisations or Project Centres involved in all the proposals.

"When it appeared that the internationalisation process had a chance to succeed, our Spanish colleagues came with the proposal to set up a Regional Office in Spain, where an EFI regional Project Centre, MEDFOREX, was already active. The opportunity to create such offices had already been discussed, while thinking about the future and rationale of regional Project Centres. Our Spanish colleagues provided EFI with the concrete possibility to establish a first Regional Office. I remember a discussion with Konstantin von Teuffel, on the bus from Solsona to Barcelona, where we shared the vision that EFI could become a multi-centric institute, with headquarters still in Joensuu. Of course, I did not know how many such Regional Offices would be created, and where they would be located, but somehow that vision has come to a reality."

FRANÇOIS HOULLIER,
Chair of the Board, 2004–2006

2009 saw the launch of EFIATLANTIC in Bordeaux (France) and EFICIENT-OEF in Freiburg (Germany), Nancy (France) and Zurich (Switzerland). Launch events were held for EFICEEC in Vienna (Austria) in April 2010, and for EFINORD in Copenhagen (Denmark) in November 2010. The final piece of the jigsaw, EFISEE in Zagreb (Croatia), joined EFICEEC-EFISEE in 2012.

PROJECT CENTRES – NOT THE END OF THE ROAD

But that's not the end of the story. EFI is determined to continue developing its network of research nodes. The 19th Annual Conference in Istanbul approved steps towards the development of a Project Centre on mountain forests (MOUNTFOR), and further proposals are pending.



"What am I most proud of achieving as Chair of the Board? The establishment of Regional Offices at various locations in Europe – it strengthens EFI as an organisation. It brings EFI closer to its members, both countries and scientific institutions and it is an important element for a stabilisation of its funding structures. Regional Offices prove to be a core element of EFI organisation."

KONSTANTIN VON TEUFFEL
Chair of the Board, 2006–2010



Regional Office heads, 2013

"For me, there were two main decisions which were made in the past, which more or less drive EFI in the future. The first one is the creation and implementation of the Regional Offices. For me this was quite an important decision – it was a question of decentralisation, a focus on regional problems and networking at the regional level. This was important in the implementation of the Regional Offices.

The second decision which is going to have a very big impact on EFI in the future is policy advice as one of the main emphasis of activities of EFI. For me these are the two main topics which will drive the future of EFI."

RICARDO ALIA, *Chair of Council, 2008–2011*

EFIATLANTIC

The Atlantic European Regional Office of the European Forest Institute, otherwise known as EFIATLANTIC, was launched in the spring of 2009. It followed in the footsteps of the former Project Centre Institut Européen des Forêts Cultivées (IEFC), which ran from 2001–2009.

EFIATLANTIC focuses on the sustainable management and risk management of planted forests, and covers a large geographical area, stretching along Europe's Atlantic rim from southern Portugal to Northern Scotland. It's successfully created a strong network of partner organisations, building on the work of IEFC.

EFIATLANTIC carries out research into risk management, for example focusing on storms like Storm Klaus in 2009, which caused widespread damage to the Landes of Gascony. EFIATLANTIC's most recent project, FORRISK focuses on integrative systems for risk management in forests.

Other work looks at sustainable management. For example, the REINFFORCE (Resource INFrastructure for monitoring and adapting European Atlantic FORests under Changing climate) project was launched in 2009 at the same time as EFIATLANTIC. It aims to establish a network of 37 arboreta along the Atlantic rim, containing controlled and selected seedlings and 41 demonstra-

tion sites comparing management as usual and adaptive management of existing forest stands. The project aims to monitor and assess the adaptability of different tree varieties over a wide range of climatic and environmental conditions.

In addition to research, EFIATLANTIC also organises and supports regional and major international events (eg the 3rd International Congress on Planted Forests in May 2013), maintains databases on forest models and long-term monitoring trials, and contributes to national and international networks.

PARTNERS

EFIATLANTIC works closely with a strong network of 40 partner organisations, which meet each year at the annual meeting. Its donors include:

- IEFC: European Institute for Cultivated Forests
- USSE: Southern Europe Forest-owner Union
- French Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, particularly INRA (France)
- Regional Council of Aquitaine (France)
- Regional Government of the Basque Country (Spain)
- Forest Research – the Research Agency of the Forestry Commission (UK)



EFIATLANTIC staff, 2009



"Working on planted forests for many years with a good European network makes EFIATLANTIC visible and recognised by non-European countries interested in the topic. Many challenges are facing the planted forest in the near future, as wood demand increases at the same speed as threats. This will require more and more expertise and cooperation."

CHRISTOPHE ORAZIO, Head of EFIATLANTIC

EFICEEC-EFISEE

EFICEEC-EFISEE is EFI's Central-East and South-East European Regional Office. EFICEEC held its launch event in April 2010, and includes a forestry network of 30 partner institutions in Central and Eastern Europe. EFISEE arrived in November 2012, and is a networking institution in South East European countries – it has nine partners from six different countries in the region.

EFICEEC-EFISEE is an international research network, with a special focus on Central East European and South East European countries. It supports sustainable land use and innovation in the forest sector through research, networking, capacity building and advocacy.

Research at EFICEEC builds on the former activities of the INNOFORCE Project Centre, and is divided into three broad work areas:

- forest sector policy and economics, innovation research
- land use change in the context of climate change and bio-energy
- forest ecosystem management, with a special focus on mountain forests.

EFISEE's work has a strong focus on forest governance, as well as on the sustainable use

of forest resources in the Western Balkans. It maintains the networking activities in the region built up by the FOPER project, and connects forest research in the Western Balkans to the European agenda and community.

Recent EFICEEC-EFISEE projects include a series of reports for the FAO on forest owners' organisations in Eastern European countries. EFICEEC-EFISEE is also collaborating with several partner organisations from Latvia, Romania, Austria, Slovenia and Serbia in the EU FP7 StarTree project which supports the sustainable use of non-wood forest resources.

DONORS

EFICEEC is hosted by the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, and receives funding from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment, and Water Management, the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science and Research, and the City of Vienna.

EFISEE is hosted by the Croatian Forest Research Institute in Zagreb, and is funded by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports and the Ministry of Agriculture.



“Changing forest ownership due to restitution and privatisation, altering land use patterns and demographic development, and new modes of forest governance and management regimes impose big challenges for forestry in Eastern Europe. EFICEEC-EFISEE is striving to address these topics as a network compound of ambitious researchers in the region, and transport these issues onto a European level.”

BERNHARD WOLFSLEHNER, *Head of EFICEEC-EFISEE*

EFICIENT-OEF

EFI's Central European Regional Office and the Observatory for European Forests – EFICIENT-OEF was launched in 2009. The proposal for a regional office was initiated by research institutions from the Nancy-Freiburg-Zurich-Network, with the aim of strengthening cross-border research capacities in the Central European region. EFICIENT-OEF has offices in both Freiburg, Germany and Nancy, France.

Research at EFICIENT focuses on issues relevant to Central European forests and forestry, including forests under changing environmental conditions and multifunctional demands towards forests. Current topics include:

- integrative approaches to forest management and their compatibility with other management aims such as timber production, biodiversity and protection functions
- management options in the context of forest disturbances.

An important link for these topics is the cross-border promotion of dialogue between science and practice, creating innovative co-operation structures that can support ongoing forest-related policy-making in Europe. Recent projects include the Implementing Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management in Europe (CI-SFM) project, which explores how the FOREST EU-

ROPE signatories have used pan-European criteria and indicators for sustainable forest management in the last 10 years.

The Observatory for European Forests has two main pan-European streams of activities. The Observatory Programme creates research-based information products and services on forests and the forest sector for policy and other stakeholders – for example web-based information systems, as well as novel products like forest profitability mapping and other thematic maps. OEF's second stream bundles two programmes, on micro- and macro-economics. Current work includes:

- assessing the profitability of forest investments against the backdrop of rapidly changing environmental and socio-economic conditions, and developing assessment tools for institutions and practitioners
- forest sector analysis estimating the demand, supply and trade of forest products in Europe now and in the future, supporting national and European forest sector outlook studies.

EFICIENT-OEF works in close collaboration with the research organisations of the Freiburg-Nancy-Zurich-Network, EFI Associate Members and other partners at local, regional and international level.



DONORS

EFICIENT is hosted by the Forest Research Institute of Baden-Württemberg and funded by the Ministry for Rural Affairs and Consumer Protection. OEF is hosted by Grand Nancy in the city of Nancy and funded by the French Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, La Region Lorraine, Grand Nancy and the National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA). The Regional Office is also financially supported by the Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research.

*"E*stablishing a Regional Office has been a challenging but highly rewarding task. The building of teams in the two office locations, profiling them together, establishing strong research networks and implementing research projects, is now bearing fruit in terms of outputs. Also, ensuring the interaction with young researchers through capacity building and education has been very stimulating."

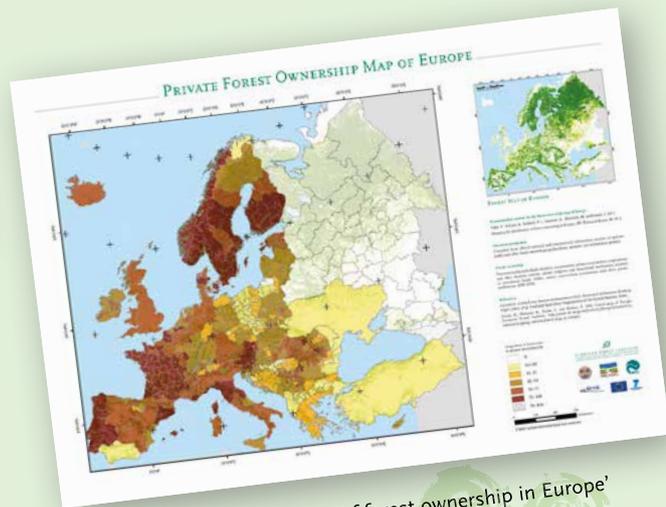
ANDREAS SCHUCK,
Head of EFICIENT-OEF



EFICIENT-OEF organises educational events as part of its outreach work. It is also involved in networking and capacity building, including the EFI Winter Summer Schools.



Integrate symposium field trip, January 2013



The 'Mapping the distribution of forest ownership in Europe' report was published in April 2013.

EFICIENT-OEF

EFIMED

EFIMED is the Mediterranean Regional Office of the European Forest Institute. Based in Barcelona, Spain, it developed from the MEDFOREX Project Centre to become the first EFI Regional Office, launched in 2007. Since then it's grown to coordinate a network of more than 60 forest research institutions from 17 Mediterranean countries.

EFIMED promotes research and networking on Mediterranean forests, forestry and forest products, and responds to policy needs by providing science-based information at the Mediterranean level. It is heavily involved in implementing the Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda (MFRA), and acts as the secretariat supporting the coordinator of FORESTERRA, an ERA-NET scheme whose objective is to reinforce Mediterranean forest research.

Scientific capacity-building, especially in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean coun-

tries, includes grants for short scientific visits for young researchers, the Mediterranean Model Forests grant, and a variety of courses and summer schools.

EFIMED research covers issues such as the impact of climate and land-use changes on forest ecosystems, integration of the risk of forest fires in forestry decision making, models and decision systems for optimising forest management planning, and economic tools and policies for sustainable forest goods and services.

DONORS

EFIMED receives funding from the Ministry of Science and Innovation of Spain and the Department of Innovation, Universities and Enterprises of Catalonia and from the CTFC, Forest Sciences Centre of Catalonia.

"Forestry is at the crossroads of many societal problems and challenges – for example climate change, energy development, biodiversity protection. The big challenge is to tackle these cross-sectoral issues, and build bridges with other areas, not only within forestry. At EFIMED, our challenge is to open our network, and build linkages to

other sectors in the Mediterranean region. We need to work as a facilitator, connecting research communities with the broader picture, and helping them understand the issues so they can be more effective."

INAZIO MARTINEZ DE ARANO,
Head of EFIMED



EFIMED staff, 2010

"E FIMED reflects very well the power of EFI! In 10 years a fragmented Mediterranean research community has turned into a well-organised one with a clear transnational research strategy, good international visibility and promising funding instruments to implement a Mediterranean-level research agenda."

MARC PALAHÍ, former head of EFIMED



The AGORA (Advancing Mediterranean Forest Research Capacities) project implemented research partnerships, networking, capacity building and knowledge transfer in two North African countries, Tunisia and Morocco.



“I was already involved from the beginning in the development of the project centre concept, as it was a major instrument for developing cooperation and partnership between EFI members in the regions. In the mid 90s, EFI was seen by a number of countries, especially in the south, as very much driven by “Nordic” objectives. It was essential to demonstrate that the strength of the Institute was also lying among its members which could develop cooperative activities under EFI flagship.

Regarding EFIMED Regional Office, which rooted in the project centre MEDFOREX, I would say that its trajectory is absolutely remarkable and makes it as a prototype of what a Regional Offices should be. Within a few years, it has been able to federate a fragmented research community around the Mediterranean Basin, to develop a jointly agreed strategic research agenda, to launch major EU funded projects related to research, education, capacity building, including an ERA-NET, and to invest in the science/policy dialogue.”

YVES BIROT

EFINORD

The North European Regional Office of the European Forest Institute, EFINORD, held its launch event in November 2010. It promotes forest research networking within the Nordic-Baltic Sea-North Atlantic region, and in a short space of time has created an open network of around 30 partner organisations across 13 countries.

EFINORD's two key research themes are biomass production and intensive forest management, and ecosystems services. Networking and partnerships are important to EFINORD – for example it collaborates and organises joint activities with the Nordic Forest Research Co-operation Committee – SNS, the cooperation agency which operates within and is funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers. This work includes a yearly joint network call for financing forest research networking activities. EFINORD is also involved in forest research dissemina-

tion. NBforest.info is a regional web portal for forest research in the Nordic and Baltic region, which shares forest-related information.

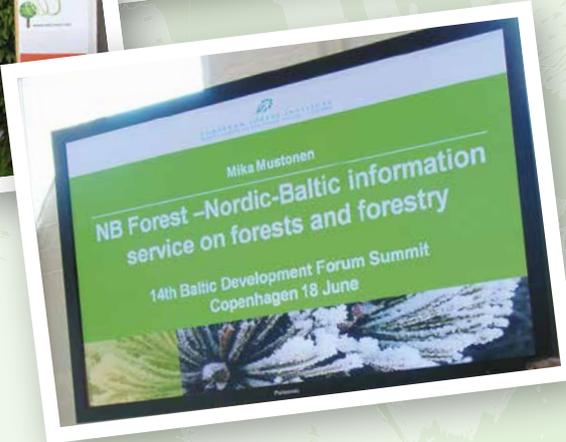
PARTNERS

Six core partners contribute in-kind or in-cash to EFINORD.

- Finnish Forest Research Institute (METLA)
- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)
- Nordic Forest Research Co-Operation Committee (SNS)
- Department of Geosciences and Natural Resource Management, University of Copenhagen
- Estonian University of Life Sciences (EMU)
- Forest Research Institute (IBL)



EFINORD staff, 2012



"E

EFINORD operates in the region that is the hub of the European forest resources and is characterized by a long-standing international cooperation in forest research. Despite the long collaborative tradition, the EFINORD partner organisations see a potential for further expansion of joint research, as well as lifting its relevant aspects to the European scale. This is demonstrated by the commitment of two large Nordic organisations, the Finnish Forest Research Institute METLA and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences that each fund a full-time position at the central EFINORD office, currently hosted by University of Copenhagen, Denmark. Within a work plan for biomass production and intensive forest management four research activities have already been started."

MIKA MUSTONEN, *Head of EFINORD*





Mobilising

FOREST RESEARCH AND EXPERTISE

Research

EFI's mission is simple: to carry out, strengthen and mobilise forest research and expertise aimed at addressing policy-relevant needs with regard to forests and their governance. Research activities aim to provide a scientific basis for policy support, using applied, integrated and multidisciplinary methods – at both the European level and in different European regions and countries.

The beginnings of a research programme at EFI were established in 1993. Groups of international experts were invited to prepare the background material needed, and were asked to analyse the current issues in their area of responsibility. The brainstorming teams had to evaluate the information available and propose a role for EFI – including specific research projects, topics for scientific summer courses and cooperation with other institutions. Most importantly, they had to come up with a funding strategy for their proposals!

The three areas chosen were forest resources, forest policy, and forest ecology and environment.

For the first few years, five research and development priority areas were defined: forest sustainability; forestry and possible climate change; structural changes in markets for forest products and services; policy analysis; and forest sector information services and research methodology.

Twenty years later, the main research areas include some of the same elements. There are two research programmes coordinated at the headquarters in Joensuu (Sustainability and climate change; Forest for society), and a cross-cutting programme, Foresight and policy support.

Research is carried out in flexible teams, making use of EFI's own research staff (whether located centrally or in Regional Offices) and involving close collaboration with Associate Members. In 2012, for example, EFI was a coordinator or partner in 57 research projects, together with 73 Associate Member organisations.



Forest resources brainstorming team:
Jeremy Wall, Kullervo Kuusela, Niels Elers Koch and Giovanni Preto, with Pentti Hyttinen and Risto Päivinen



Forest policy brainstorming team:
Birger Solberg, Ilpo Tikkanen, Peter Glück



Forest ecology and environment brainstorming team:
Melvin Cannell, Frits Mohren, Seppo Kellomäki, Timo Karjalainen

"E uropean forest science can be seen much like a tree: it has its roots firmly in the history, different legacies form its growth rings, and it extends over many countries with its branches. This all creates a sense of identity within a diversity of forest science organisations.

And the identity is also due to our common dream of having forest research contributing to the benefit of European forests. This is the context in which the European Forest Institute was created, and now develops."

FRANCISCO REGO, *Chair of the Board, 2003–2004*



Tim Peck with winners of the
Tim Peck Young Scientist Award

"O ne of the main challenges for the Board in devising the research priorities and programme of EFI has always been to identify those topics which could most benefit from cooperation between European countries and, having done so, to create projects that would attract national institutions to contribute to them. It has put great emphasis on the need to avoid duplication with other institutions and, given its limited resources, to its role as a coordinator."

TIM PECK, *Chair of the Board, 1993–1998*



"E FI research activities have to add value to the research conducted in our member organisations. That requires networking intelligence and being innovative in linking different disciplines and knowledge from different regions."

MARC PALAHÍ, *Deputy Director*

"I n the beginning of the 21st century, the European forest sector is facing a number of structural changes, and it is becoming ever more affected by cross-sectoral issues. Just think about climate change, bioenergy, new forest-based bioeconomy products and services, or digital media impacts on the communication paper sector. What does this all mean for the European forest-based sector? What are the new policies, strategies, and research needs we have to focus on to make the best of these chang-

es? Given this time of accelerating changes and an ever more complex operating environment, there is an increasing need for science-based information to support decision making at all levels. It is these exact needs that the Foresight and Policy Support programme addresses."

LAURI HETEMÄKI,
Head of Foresight and Policy Support programme

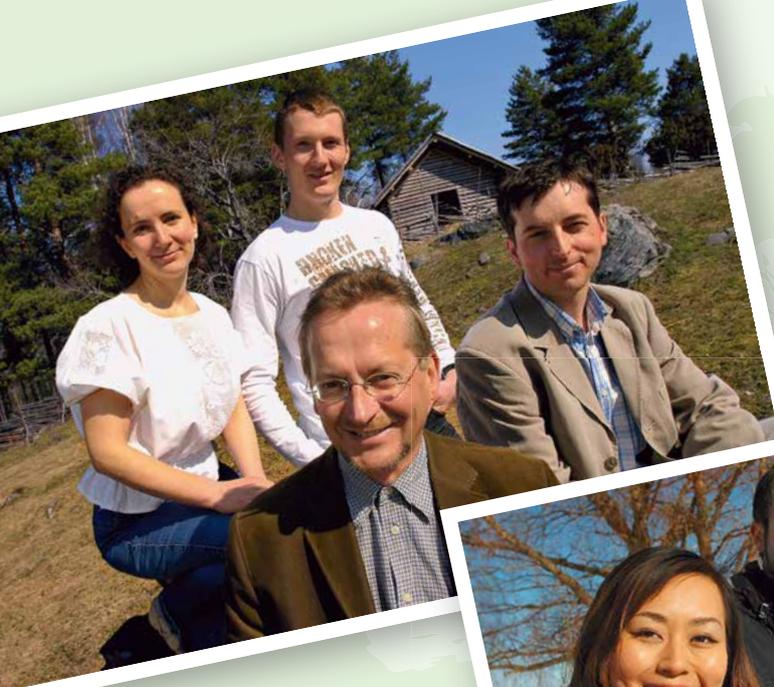


"Climate change and sustainable resource use in a green economy remain challenges also after 20 years of research at EFI. Scientific knowledge is continuously needed at the European level to support decision making, for example on how to adapt resource management to cope with climate change, or to identify climate friendly and resource efficient management of forest value chains. EFI's programme Sustainability and Climate Change synthesizes scientific knowledge and feeds this into decision support tools, which help to identify sustainable and resilient management strategies."

MARCUS LINDNER,
Head of Sustainability and Climate Change programme

"Forests have always been an essential part of our society. They are not only an essential part of our landscapes, but in one or another way significantly contribute to people's wellbeing. But as our society is evolving, also our relation to the forest is changing. To optimise the design of forest policies and management, we needed to consider people's expectations. The Forest for Society Programme strives to deepen our understanding about what forest means to the society, how people value the benefits they receive, and what are their needs in relation to forests."

ROBERT MAVSAR, *Head of Forest for Society programme*



"Forestry research in Europe is extremely well organised. And a lot of this goes to the credit of EFI. I think forestry research is much better organised, than for example agricultural research. Also because it's a more cross-border activity, and so on. And EFI has played a fantastic role there. And all the national research institutes have benefitted from this. And this will only be stronger, for example in the Framework Programmes and so on. What you also see is what we advocated on several occasions with the Scientific Advisory Board – that you need to look across sectors."

FRITS MOHREN, *Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board, 2002–2005*

"EFI has been able to create a unique profile with a blend of research and science, of databases and information systems, of communication and advocacy, of science-policy interactions. Of course, this profile may, and probably will have to, evolve, but I strongly believe that science and research should remain at the heart of EFI!"

FRANÇOIS HOULLIER, *Chair of the Board, 2004–2006*



"What has been EFI's main achievement over the last 20 years? What I think is the main achievement is that we have better cooperation between organisations, and more weight in the research related to forestry and forest industries and the environment at the European level. That's the main achievement – and why EFI was established, because it was lacking one institution which had this as its main task.

There of course have been several other achievements – good meetings, good conferences and good PhD courses have been arranged, and in recent years the policy advocacy. But the main achievement is this improved research at the European level."

BIRGER SOLBERG, *first EFI Director*

"An example of how one project can lead to many things was IMACFORD, a co-ordination and support action under the EU 5th Framework Programme. It was instrumental for the development of the networks of our Project Centres, several of which later became EFI Regional Offices. IMACFORD also facilitated the development of the EFORWOOD project, during which the ToSIA tool for Sustainability Impact Assessment was developed. A good example of how in time one positive thing has led to another, networks have been strengthened and grown, activities have been expanded and brought about nice fruit."

LEENA SALMINEN, *R&D Support Manager*

Growth trends:

A ROLE MODEL FOR EFI RESEARCH

In 1993, the Growth Trends of European Forests project started, as a follow-up to the first EFI report on Forest Resources in Europe. The project was coordinated by Heinrich Spiecker from the University of Freiburg. It involved 44 growth and yield scientists from 12 European countries, who provided their time and effort as a large in-kind contribution to EFI.

Its main objective was to give a retrospective view of forest growth over recent decades, covering different European sites in order to find out whether site productivity had changed. While several growth reports had been published at local, regional and national levels, there had never been a joint international effort to identify and quantify

growth trends, or to develop scenarios of future forest growth.

The final report, Growth Trends in European Forest – Studies from 12 European Countries, was presented to the public in Freiburg, Germany, in September 1996. It showed that many forests in Europe had been growing faster than in previous decades. The study did not specifically investigate the causes, but the authors identified land use history, forest management, natural disturbances, climate, including nitrogen deposition and increased CO₂ content of the atmosphere, as possible factors.

There was large media interest in the study, and its results are still being used, many years later.

T

he growth trends study became a model concept for EFI research: pooling national experts and data together in a harmonised way to create results that go far beyond what is possible at national level.”

RISTO PÄIVINEN



Growth Trends project brainstorming session, August 1993

"Forest policy remains a matter for individual member states, and EFI has a difficult path to tread as it attempts to project the powerful message of the forest sector's relative position, while at the same time recognising and respecting national sovereignty. But the fact remains, that when EFI harnesses that pan-European perspective – as it did with the Growth Trends Study – the impact of the results is vastly greater than when the same message comes from one or more individual countries. Properly used, EFI provides a unique opportunity to bring the visibility of the forest sector in Europe generally up to the level it deserves."

IAN HUNTER, *Director of EFI, (EFI News, 1997/1)*

"The 'Growth Trends in European Forests' project started immediately after the creation of EFI. As a forest biometrician, I had the opportunity to participate, in August 1993, to the first seminar organised by Heinrich Spiecker in Joensuu. I could not continue with the project because I moved to India several months later, but I did like the working atmosphere of this seminar. The project addressed a major scientific issue that was pan-European by nature, and it generated remarkable outputs and follow-ups, including subsequent collaborative research projects."

FRANÇOIS HOULLIER, *INRA*

EFISCEN:

MODELLING THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF FORESTS

The European Forest Information Scenario model (EFISCEN) is one of EFI's longest-running projects. The model has been jointly developed and applied at EFI and Alterra since 1996.

It's a large-scale forest scenario model, which assesses the availability of wood and is used to gain insights into the future development of forests on regional and European scales. The model is mostly used to evaluate and compare different policy and forest management scenarios, for example looking at things like:

- Sustainable management regimes
- Wood production possibilities
- Nature-oriented management
- Climate change impacts
- Natural disturbances, eg forest fire risk
- Carbon balance issues

The model's outputs include information about forest resources like forest area, stem wood volume, potential wood removals etc. It uses a detailed forest inventory database, which is based on the individual national forest inventories of 32 European

countries. This gives insights at a variety of scales – so the information is useful to all kinds of people, from forest managers to policy makers at national and international levels.

Consequently, the model has been used in a wide variety of projects and studies, including:

- EFORWOOD (Tools for Sustainability Impact Assessment of the Forestry-Wood Chain)
- VOLANTE (Visions of Land Use Transitions in Europe)
- A study for the European Commission DG Energy to study wood and biomass potentials for material and energy use in all European Union member states
- In the UNECE and FAO European Forest Sector Outlook Study (EFSOS II) to assess forest resource development for all European countries
- In a study for the European Commission DG Climate Action to develop carbon sequestration reference levels for 14 European countries as part of the international climate negotiations



The EFISCEN team in the 1990s

"E" FISCEN, the 'European Forest Information Scenario Model' is a long-term multi-facet simulation platform that started before EFI's creation, in Sweden and at IIASA – another networking Institute – and that was continued thanks to EFI and several partners. There were multiple outcomes of EFISCEN, and it is, today more than ever, critical to be able to simulate the future of European forest resources, at various scales and according to alternative economic, energetic, biodiversity or climatic scenarios. For example, I would like to stress the fact that there is still a lack of modelling platforms that couple agriculture and forestry. It is thus important that EFISCEN continues and has become an e-facility within the Trees4Future European research infrastructure."

FRANÇOIS HOULLIER, INRA

Mapping Europe:

DRAWING THE FOREST MAP

The history of one of EFI's most popular products, the Forest Map of Europe, goes back to the 1990s. At that point, there were several EU forest maps and also some satellite maps by the European Space Agency (ESA). While satellite data, in principle, provides a harmonized method of assessing forest cover over a large area, it often has drawbacks. Wooded land not fulfilling the definition of 'forest' is easily mis-classified as forest, and vice versa.

Risto Päivinen takes up the story: *"For a Joint Research Centre project, we compared ESA forest cover and national inventory statistics and observed up to 20–30% differences in some countries. The challenge was to prepare a map where these differences did not appear.*

The basis of the Forest Map of Europe is a model resulting in the scaling of the forest cover unit-% within every one kilometre NOAA-AVHRR satellite pixel. Working with VTT, Finland and the University of Eastern Finland, the key was an iterative calibration algorithm we developed at EFI to get the sum of forest cover counted from the pixels, to match with forest area for a region or a country, as derived by field inventory."

This algorithm typically provided an almost 100% match between the regional statistics and the sum of forest in the pixels within a regional boundary. Additional data, such as knowledge of the tree line in the mountains was used to exclude forest which appeared mistakenly in the satellite maps at high altitudes. In the final result, the correct amount of forest was on the map of calibration area, but mistakes may still appear in the location of forest within that particular area. The smaller the calibration areas used, the more accurate the overall map turned out to be.

With the forest area map as a basis, it was fairly easy to embed other information in the basic map. Tree species, standing volume, forest carbon and forest ownership maps have been prepared and used in spatial analysis for various projects.

"An image says more than a thousand words, which is why maps continue to be such an attractive way of giving a quick visualization of the state of the European forests."

RISTO PÄIVINEN





MAPS FOR MANY PURPOSES

The Forest Map of Europe is available for download from the EFI website, and during the past 10 years has been downloaded over 1,050 times by people from 59 countries. Of course it has been used in classic forest research, but it has also had other, more unusual uses.

"I am a photographer and starting to make a series about forestry in Europe. I am interested in manmade nature. I will use the map to find different locations."

Witho Worms, photographer, Netherlands

"My use of this wonderful data is, I'm afraid, trivial. These are works of fiction, and fantasies, about an elvish "otherworld". Just wanted to make sure I don't put a forest where none should be."

Karen Myers, writer and photographer, USA

"Yesterday I gave a presentation during a full day seminar on Oak Use at UC Davis. There were probably 100 winemakers at the seminar and it was interesting and informative. I talked on alternatives to French oak, pointing out that the same species range over most of Europe and there's few reasons why winemakers need to spend \$1,000 for a French barrel when there are oak sources nearby that cost a third less. As part of the discussion, I used two of your maps."

Phil Burton, wine barrel builder, USA





Developing

THE SCIENCE-POLICY INTERFACE

The evolution

OF POLICY SUPPORT

The world has changed fast over the last 20 years. During this time, we have seen the rise of countries like China and India, an economic recession developing in Europe and North America, and the (political) attention for climate change peaking, and fading more recently. We now live in an intricate, uncertain and changing environment with complex interlinked relationships between climate, ecosystems, society and economy.

Research-based information and knowledge is needed for sound forest policy formulation, implementation and evaluation. To meet this need, EFI has developed into an international science-based policy support institution. It provides support for decision-takers, policy makers and institutions, acting as the voice of European forest science and providing policy-relevant research and advice.

The policy support function was created in 2010, with the aim of:

- Enhancing science-policy dialogue
- Identifying emerging policy-relevant information needs to better promote policy relevant research

- Improving understanding on strategic and cross sector forest policy issues
- Facilitating policy implementation
- Helping EFI member organisations to transmit their research results to policy making

Ongoing initiatives include ThinkForest – a European high-level forum on the future of forests – and work in support of the EU Forestry Strategy and FOREST EUROPE. EFI forms part of the Secretariat for the negotiating process towards a Legally Binding Agreement for European Forests, providing independent scientific and policy advice. 2013 saw the intertwining of research and policy support still further, with the development of the cross-cutting Foresight and Policy Support Programme. And of course EFI's FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade) and REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) activities have grown considerably – from a small project team in 2007 to two EU Facilities and over 40 staff.

"From the start EFI was a scientific organisation bringing together forest science institutions throughout Europe. It is only in the recent years that EFI has discovered and developed an additional role as an active element of forest policy in Europe. Taking into account that presently there is no official European forest policy EFI is and can be an organisation to bring forest policy-related topics to

the European stage. The connection of the two tasks (research and policy advice) in one single institution creates many possibilities of mutual benefit for both, forest policy and forest science."

KONSTANTIN VON TEUFFEL,
Chair of the Board, 2006–2010



Marc Palahí, Deputy Director and Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament, Barcelona, 2012



EFI represents the European forest science community on the global and European stages, giving its Associate and Affiliate Members a voice at the highest level. Risto Päivinen giving the official statement by the European Science Community at the FOREST EUROPE Ministerial Conference, 2011.

"We are living in times of accelerated changes and policy makers are in need of timely and reliable unbiased information to take informed decisions. EFI is in a position to provide the big picture in a concise format easily digestible by policy makers. The future of EFI is in providing a policy learning platform for policy-makers, stakeholders and scientists to discuss the future of our forests and its role in a bio-based economy and greener society."

MARC PALAHÍ, *Deputy Director*



Cristina Garmendia Mendizábal, Minister for Science and Innovation of Spain and Risto Päävinen, Director of EFI. A Host Country Agreement was signed by the Kingdom of Spain and EFI in 2011, helping to firmly establish policy support activities in Barcelona.

I have begun to work with EFI as a Scientific Advisory Board member at the year 2000. And at that time we only started to discuss many things which are now basic for EFI: status of international institution, establishment and development of its regional centers, possibilities for wider expertise for policy work, etc. Now, I am happy to notice that all these ideas were successfully developed and came true. One of the major EFI's achievements is of course its research networking and world-wide recognition as high level center of knowledge and expertise

– very often in the very new and challenging areas like EU FLEGT and REDD, for example. Outcomes of EFI work are demanded at the high political level not only of European Union, but wider – at the level of the United Nations as well as at the level of practical, related to forests solutions in the changing world. EFI is now a solid and respectful brand.

ELENA KULIKOVA,
Scientific Advisory Board member

There are so many memorable things that happened during the last 12 years, and it is difficult to rank them in any “most memorable” order. Maybe those moments that you realize that new and strategic ideas to bring EFI to a new era or area of activities start flying and become successfully implemented, such as EFFE, FOPER and ThinkForest. Also, it has been memorable to represent an international institute in pan-European forest policy processes and platforms, and that EFI has been recognized by key policy actors and institutions. EFI is now participating in implementing the Forest Europe work programme, is part of the Intergovern-

mental Negotiating Committee (INC) Secretariat, and has been active in developing the New EU Forest Strategy. We work in good collaboration with the Commission, FAO, UNECE and key forest related stakeholders. One single comment given by a high representative of the Swiss government at the Expert Level Meeting of Forest Europe can be an example: “EFI is no more a silent observer at the corner of pan-European processes.”

ILPO TIKKANEN,
Head of Programme for the Policy and Governance Unit, on his retirement in December 2012

Brussels office:

MEETING POLICYMAKERS FACE TO FACE

EFI's Brussels office opened at the beginning of 2007, in the new European Forestry House which had been established in the very heart of the city at Place du Luxembourg. Other occupants of the Forestry House include the Confederation of European Forest Owners (CEPF), the European State Forest Association (EUSTAFOR) and the Forest-based Sector Technology Platform (FTP).

"We see EFI as a 'lobbying organisation' at the European level, at the European policy level. It's very important that we have someone who can find our agenda and combine it very early on with politicians."

HANNU RAITIO,
Finnish Forest Research Institute



Harald Mauser, EFI's Liaison Officer in Brussels



"Reliable, sound and objective data on various forest-related aspects are needed for proper forest policy making."

The European Forest Institute, with its large network of members, representing the European forest research community, has a clear responsibility in providing high quality but also easy to communicate information, and with this help to further develop and implement sustainable forest management and better promote and communicate the multiple benefits forest and the forest-based sector are providing.

The European forest owners congratulate EFI on its success story and impressive development during the past 20 years and look forward to continue the good cooperation in the next years to come."

ALJOSCHA REQUARDT,
Confederation of European Forest Owners





Think Forest:

ENHANCING SCIENCE-
POLICY DIALOGUE

ThinkForest:

ENHANCING SCIENCE- POLICY DIALOGUE

The ThinkForest discussion forum works to identify information needs related to forest policy questions, building a common understanding of the problems at hand and enabling informed, science-based decision making on strategic forest issues.

The forum officially began life at the Annual Conference in Uppsala in 2011, when Göran Persson, Prime Minister of Sweden from 1996–2006, announced that he would act as the forum's chair.

He urged the sharing of the European forest science community's knowledge with decision makers such as the European Parliament and the European Council.

Since then, the forum, which aims to promote communication, collaboration and partnership building between high-level policy makers and the science community,

has gone from strength to strength. During the first 18 months six events were held, attended by over 400 people.

The ThinkForest events identified and addressed emerging strategic forest-related issues – ranging from discussions on European forest governance to climate change and forest adaptation, payments for environmental services and the potentials of forest biomass to meet energy targets. A ThinkForest study on European forest governance is also forthcoming in the What Science Can Tell Us series.

DONORS

ThinkForest is supported by the Governments of Finland, France, Germany and Sweden.



Janez Potočnik (European Commissioner for the Environment), Göran Persson (ThinkForest Chair), Kriton Arsenis (MEP, Greece), Ilse Aigner (Federal Minister of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, Germany) and Riikka Manner (MEP, Finland) at the first ThinkForest seminar in May 2012



"I look forward to co-operation with this group of distinguished scientists and European structures that I am familiar with. The new discussion forum will offer the Parliament a good forum on research and development and forestry."

GÖRAN PERSSON,
Chair of the ThinkForest forum



The ThinkForest Advisory Board includes representatives from EFI Member Countries, Members of the European Parliament, other European institutions and EFI Associate Members

"The story of EFI itself, the building of a regional European research institution and the more recent development of a policy branch, is quite remarkable. I think that was an important decision to split these two branches, and to make clear that they are two very different obligations that EFI has. It will be interesting to see how they will develop in the future."

PETER MAYER,
ThinkForest Advisory Board member





"Without an active forest policy, it will not be possible to improve a green growth economy in Europe."

GÖRAN PERSSON,
Chair of the ThinkForest forum

"ThinkForest helps policy-makers to navigate the sea of information, and provides them with the best available expertise and the latest research-based information from EFI's networks."

MARC PALAHÍ, *Deputy Director*





FLEGIT and REDD:

FACILITATING POLICY
IMPLEMENTATION

FLEGT and REDD:

FACILITATING POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

Since 2007, EFI has hosted the EU FLEGT Facility, which supports the EU, member states and partner countries in implementing the EU FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade) Action Plan. The Action Plan aims to reduce illegal logging by strengthening sustainable and legal forest management, improving governance and promoting trade in legally produced timber.

What was once a small support team has evolved into a Facility employing over 40 experts in a variety of fields from forest governance to communication and timber market research. The Facility is headquartered at EFI's Barcelona office, and mainly carries out activities on behalf of the European Commission (EC) in Africa, Asia and Central and South America. This includes technical assistance to governments and other stakeholder groups in timber exporting countries, to support the negotiation and implementation of Voluntary Partnership agreements with the EU. A regional FLEGT Asia support programme began at the end of 2009, to facili-

tate information sharing, capacity building and collaboration in the region.

In late 2010, a new EU facility was granted to EFI in the shape of the REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) Facility. This aims to provide effective support to the development and implementation of REDD+ policies in developing countries. It works primarily in Africa, Southeast Asia and South and Central America, and is now engaged in five countries: Democratic Republic of Congo, Guyana, Indonesia, Republic of Congo and Vietnam.

DONORS

The EU FLEGT Facility is supported by the European Union, and the Governments of Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom.

The EU REDD Facility is supported by the European Union, and the Governments of France, Ireland, Spain and the United Kingdom



Connie Hedegaard, European Commissioner for Climate Action and Heiko Liedeker, Head of FLEGT and REDD Unit

"The FLEGT Facility has successfully established EFI as a service partner in policy development and implementation. In 2010, the EC approached EFI to host the EU REDD Facility. We expect that EFI will continue to grow in supporting policy development and implementation, and continue to host a range of facilities for the EC."

HEIKO LIEDEKER,
Head of FLEGT and REDD Unit



FLEGT VPA partner



2009



2012



2012

Cote d'Ivoire

Ghana

Cameroon

Ga



2008



2011

Malaysia
2011

Congo

DRC

ibon



A scenic view of a rocky coastline with a turquoise sea and mountains in the background. The foreground shows the calm, clear water of a bay or fjord. The middle ground is dominated by a high, light-colored limestone cliff face with vertical fissures and some sparse green vegetation. The background features rolling mountains under a cloudy sky.

Capacity building:
CREATING THE FOPER NETWORK

FOPER

The FOPER (Forest Policy, Economics, Education and Research) network began life in 2003, when EFI and a consortium of forestry faculties and research institutes proposed an innovative capacity building programme in the Western Balkan region.

This area is known for its rich natural forests, but despite its long history of forest management, it lacked the capacity to tackle forestry issues outside the forest – in political agendas, market economics and civil society. While traditional forest science disciplines like entomology or forest technology were well understood, the aspects of forest policy and economics were not well developed.

The collapse of Yugoslavia and the intensity of the wars during the 1990s had divided researchers, teachers, students, forest administrations, universities and research institutes in what had previously been a strongly interconnected region. The forestry sector (both state and private organisations), was faced with the challenge of adjusting to the new democratic society, and a market

economy. These challenges were complicated by the reforms needed to meet the legal requirements of the EU accession process.

FOPER began to reconnect and rebuild a regional network, focused on research and education in forest policy and forest economics. It had two phases: FOPER I (2004–2009) and FOPER II (2009–2013), both designed to increase higher education capacity and implement policy-relevant research to place forestry on the political agenda.

The project designed and implemented an international masters' programme and professional training in Forest Policy and Economics, increased training for university teachers and regional researchers as well as professional training, created six Collaborative Regional Research Teams, and developed a Doctoral College to support FOPER MSc students working on doctoral degrees.

Ten years on, 45 students have passed through the MSc programme, and FOPER has become the largest and most vibrant regional research network in the Western Balkan countries.



Students at the EFI Winter Summer School in Varazdin, Croatia in 2011



Capacity building, innovation, policy relevant research, science policy interactions... these works were rarely found in Western Balkan forestry discourse 10 years ago. Today and more importantly tomorrow, these words and concepts are (and will be) irreplaceable. Furthermore, the FOPER region is ready to recognize new concepts and words and thus follow global trends in the fields of forestry and natural resources.

The network of people (FOPER Network) is fully prepared to get involved in European and global political and economic processes, and regional and international research networks. FOPER has created a strong sustainable basis for the development and integration of the forestry sectors in the region into European and global political processes and research activities."

MARGARET SHANNON, *Coordinator and*
DONI BLAGOJEVIĆ, *Vice-Coordinator*



I remember well the first steering committee of FOPER in Croatia in early 2005. The ambassador who was to chair the meeting, was clearly concerned about the risk of a real conflict situation when one brings together nations which had been fighting each other with arms just a few years earlier. I also remember the first-ever regional stakeholder consultation a couple of months earlier in Sarajevo, with an immensely reluctant atmosphere, suspicion towards the fellow participants from neighbouring countries and particularly towards the funny idea of the foreigners to bring everyone together to talk about what we have in common, not about the differences. The project team was the region in miniature, representing different nationalities, religions, professional profiles.

I consider the project team as the key to the change achieved, the small but significant step towards integration in the forest sector of South-East Europe.

The first four years of FOPER were challenging, tackling the memories of the armed conflict, mistrust and earlier disappointment, while building on the unity of the region, cultural ties, professional pride and particularly joy of life. I consider myself fortunate to have had an opportunity to be a part of this process, helping to rebuild the war-broken ties among the foresters of the region, thus doing our own part in the construction of peace and prosperity in Europe."

TOMI TUOMASJUKKA,
Founding Project Coordinator



FOPER students at a research design course in Freiburg, Germany. MSc students have taken part in regional and international excursions, visiting a wide variety of forestry sector sites.

*"*In my opinion, the biggest achievement (of EFI) over the last six or seven years was connecting people to create a network of forest scientists and policy makers – so networking was the biggest achievement. I have been directly involved in the FOPER project. It was a very specific project...and its biggest achievement, I would say, is strengthening human capacities in research and education in the region."*"*

MERSUDIN AVDIBEGOVIĆ,
University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina





Annual Conferences:

GATHERING TOGETHER MEMBERS

Annual

CONFERENCES

The Annual Conference is EFI's central decision-making body. Each year, representatives from EFI's member organisations gather to discuss and approve strategic issues, ranging from the establishment of regional offices, to shaping the vision of EFI. It's a valuable networking event, and a chance for member organisations to swap experiences, learn about new projects and opportunities, and have a say in the direction of EFI.

The first Annual Conference was held at EFI's headquarters in Joensuu, Finland in September 1994, to mark the first anniversary of the formal establishment of EFI. Representatives of 23 member organisations from 19 countries took part, plus 14 observers from other regional or international organisations. The conference reviewed the progress made during EFI's first year, approved the annual report and accounts, adopted the working plan and budget, and appointed the Board for 1994–95.

Fast forward to October 2012 and the 19th Annual Conference in Istanbul, Turkey, hosted by Istanbul University. Eighteen years on, there were 146 participants, and 56 member organisations were represented. As in 1994, the official decision-making session of the conference appointed members of the Board, approved the annual report and accounts, and made comments on EFI's strategy and direction. However, since the early days, annual conferences have grown: the 19th Annual Conference also included lectures on forests and the green economy, with six speakers from across the forest sector, and lively panel discussions. A scientific seminar looked at the social dimensions of forests, while a networking Bazaar presented various EFI projects and activities, and those of member organisations. And after all that, a field trip, concentrating on the challenges facing Turkish forestry.



Joensuu, 1994

"I remember attending one of the very first conferences in Joensuu in 1994 or 1995. From that conference I remember still vividly how the Russian participant – who did not speak English – had brought along an old gigantic map of Soviet forests. It was huge, about 10 meters long, and he unfolded this map printed on a cloth – with great care and pride. I could not believe it, it was incredible."

MARCO MARCHETTI,
Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board, 2012–



Istanbul, 2012

EUROPEAN FOREST INSTITUTE
ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE EUROPEAN FOREST INSTITUTE
PROGRAMME

"Annual events offer convenient opportunities to review progress and draw up plans for the future. For the Secretariat and Board of the European Forest Institute, the Annual Conference offers the perfect chance for doing just that, as well as for meeting members and getting a feeling for the prevailing 'feel-good' rating about the Institute."

TIM PECK,

Chair of the Board, 1993–1998

"There have been many highlights for me during the past 20 years, but maybe two annual conferences deserve a special note. The first one was the Annual Conference 1995 in Tampere in connection with the IUFRO World Congress. It was an event full of energy and excellent participation. The Conference was chaired by Niels Elers Koch from Denmark, and under his chairmanship all went smoothly as ever. The Chair of the Board, Tim Peck gave a lecture on 'Should forest research be concerned just with Forestry?' Mr Peck had a strong vision which can also be seen in the development of EFI during its early years. Having the conference back-to-back with the IUFRO World Congress made the week memorable, and the word about the newly

established EFI spread effectively there. Leena Salmi and I enjoyed the long days at the EFI stand, meeting many people who later became close collaborators for us.

Another highlight was EFI's 10th anniversary in 2003 because of its special nature: the international organisation was concretely launched by the signatures of the member countries. The week was full of festive atmosphere, and the 'EFI family' spirit was high. Since then, the organisation has changed in many ways because now we have the Country Members on board, and the expectations towards us have also grown in many respects."

ANU RUUSILA, *Head of Communications*





YEAR	VENUE
1994	Joensuu, Finland
1995	Tampere, Finland
1996	Freiburg, Germany
1997	Gembloux, Belgium
1998	Zvolen, Slovakia
1999	Ittingen, Switzerland
2000	Lisbon, Portugal
2001	Bordeaux, France
2002	Copenhagen, Denmark
2003	Joensuu, Finland
2004	Bangor, UK
2005	Barcelona, Spain
2006	Kerkrade, The Netherlands
2007	Warsaw, Poland
2008	Orvieto, Italy
2009	Dublin, Ireland
2010	Dresden, Germany
2011	Uppsala, Sweden
2012	Istanbul, Turkey
2013	Nancy, France

EFI members have traditionally offered to host EFI Annual Conferences, and have worked in cooperation with EFI headquarters on the demanding task of organising a multinational event. Each Annual Conference has had its individual highlights, both scientifically and socially.

For example, there's always been entertainment at the dinners of the Annual Conference, usually a show of some kind (often with audience participation). There was flamenco dancing in Barcelona, and whirling dervishes in Istanbul. Choirs sang in Kerkrade, Bangor and Uppsala. And excursions have seen participants rafting, husky sledging, trekking through forests and mountains, or sailing along lakes and rivers on boat trips.

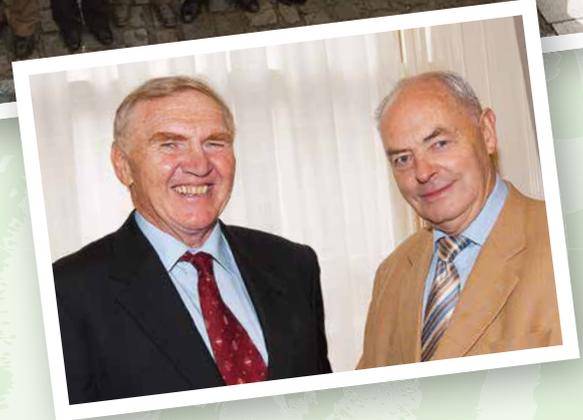


Dublin, 2009

FOCUS ON....DUBLIN

The 16th Annual Conference in 2009 took place in the memorable setting of Dublin Castle, and was organised by EFI Fellows Ted Farrell and Fergal Mulloy, who raised 40,000 euros to bring the event to Ireland. The hosts were the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Forest Research and Development (COFORD), University College Dublin and Coillte.

It's not an easy task, organising an event like this – as Anu Ruusila remembers. *“Ted Farrell and Fergal Mulloy were totally involved in it. I remember Fergal in one moment shaking the hand of the minister, then in the next moment he'd have his car boot there with more drinks, or whatever!”*



A record number of participants – over 140 people – attended the Conference and its decision-making session, which focused on the importance of networking in forest research. This was followed by a scientific seminar on the theme of “Forest Ecosystem Management in the 21st century.” A one-day field trip then introduced the delegates to some of the social, cultural, environmental and economic aspects of forestry in Ireland.





Communications



PUBLICATIONS

EFI's aim to share up-to-date, relevant forest research information among its network and across Europe has led to the production of a vast number of publications over the last 20 years.

22 WORKING PAPERS	1993–2001	2,003 pages
25 RESEARCH REPORTS	1994–2011	4,403 pages
58 PROCEEDINGS	1994–2010	13,771 pages
16 DISCUSSION PAPERS	1997–2012	768 pages
88 TECHNICAL REPORTS (formerly Internal Reports)	2000–	5,319 pages
9 POLICY BRIEFS	2007–	136 pages
1 WHAT SCIENCE CAN TELL US	2011–	174 pages



And that's not even counting the fact that these materials have been translated into all kinds of languages, among them French, German, Spanish, Greek, Portuguese, Italian, Russian and Bahasa Indonesia.

The first publication was in the Working Papers series: Policy Implications of the UNECE/FAO Forest Resource Assessment (temperate zone). It was 31 pages long, written by E. Giordano, P. Glück, F. Hummel, H. Kurth and K. Kuusela, and was published in 1993.

Fast forward to September 2013, and the latest volumes in the What Science Can Tell Us series are in press: European Forest Governance; and Living With Storm Damage in Europe. These days, EFI prints fewer copies, but all publications are available online with open access.

Then there are brochures, leaflets for projects, Annual Reports and many editions of EFI News. There have also been numerous other publications which EFI has had a hand in with projects and partners.

The aim of EFI's publications is to produce materials that do not exist elsewhere. So it is essential that its researchers also publish in peer-reviewed publications. Over the years, EFI researchers have generated thousands of papers in peer-reviewed scientific journals. In 2012, for example, EFI's researchers produced 35 articles in peer-reviewed publications, as well as other consultancy reports, working papers, professional and popular articles.



The launch of the first What Science Can Tell Us, 2011



Communications team, 2011

"E FI has learned many lessons during the 20 years of publishing various series. The most important may be not to compete with the big science publishers but to make an effort to be timely in science-based publications, such as What Science Can Tell Us."

MINNA KORHONEN, *Managing Editor*

"C ommunications has been in the philosophy of EFI since the beginning. In the earlier years it was referred to as information provision and dissemination but during the past 10 years it has started to include also dialogue and become interactive communications. We are proud of our products such as publications that are professionally edited and visually attractive. EFI events have also been valuable meeting points giving a chance for interaction and formation of new networks even. It is a privilege and great fun to have been part of our communications shaping it with great colleagues over the years."

ANU RUUSILA, *Head of Communications*

The changing FACES OF EFI NEWS

The aim of sharing relevant information to its network and beyond lies at the heart of EFI's activities. Since EFI's earliest days, EFI News has been an effective way of providing news and forestry-relevant information to member organisations, policy makers and institutions across Europe.

EFI News was first published in April 1993, even before the official launch of EFI in September 1993. The four-page issue gave basic information about the newly established institute, and presented its first research results.

Over the years, EFI News has developed from that first four-page newsletter into a 20-page magazine published 2–3 times a year both in print and online. EFI News still covers research results from EFI and its network, and provides information for members about projects, conferences and events.

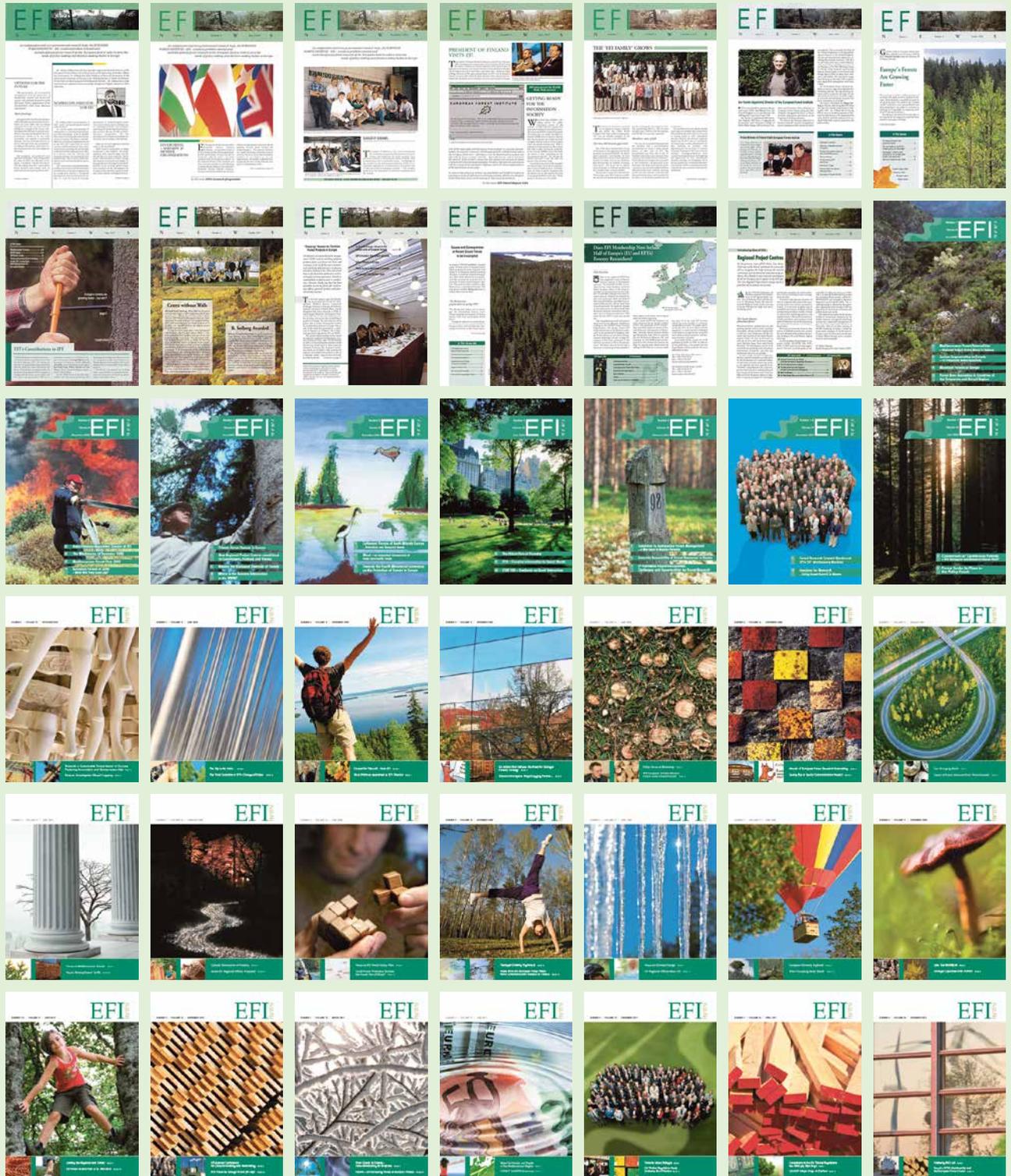
Now, though, there's room for a more detailed look at topical forest-related issues, as well as giving member organisations space to share announcements, project news and articles presenting their work.

It's not only the content which has seen changes over the years – EFI has moved with the times, introducing the first online-only pdf edition in November 2005, and debuting a new online reader in 2013. Design wise, there have also been several changes, moving from the first edition and its black and white photos to today's modern design.

The aim has always been short, to the point articles, and smiling faces from the EFI network who were contributing to our work. We wanted to give a face to the EFI network."

RISTO PÄIVINEN





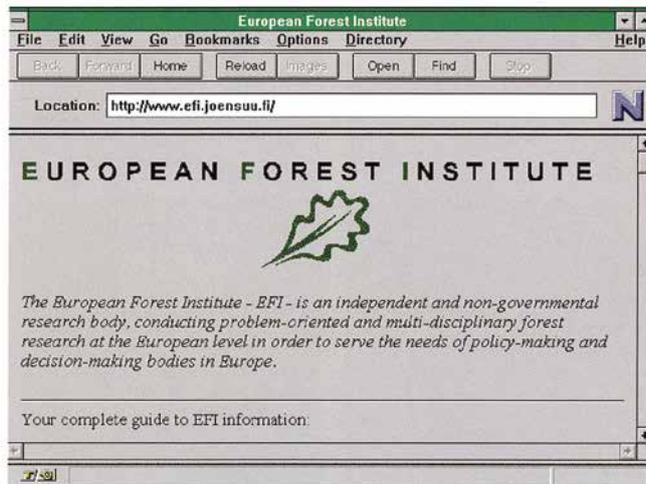
A history

OF EFI ON THE WEB...

EFI's web servers began running on 24 November, 1994. The internet was still in its infancy, but was proving to be a useful method of disseminating information, both

within research communities and for reaching a wider, global audience.

EFI News announced the launch of the new website in May 1995:



A snapshot of Netscape showing the top portion of EFI home page.

One of the main tasks of the European Forest Institute is to provide decision-makers, the research community, and the general public with information about the European forest sector. Information can be disseminated nowadays very effectively by using computer networks. Especially Internet, which used to be the network of the research community, has opened new avenues for global communication beyond its original purpose. For many, Internet is now synonymous with the concept of the Information Highway, and is the closest implementation of the Information Society so far.

In order to take advantage of these new possibilities and to fulfil its mission as a leading provider of information on European forestry, EFI has now started its World Wide Web service on the Internet at <http://www.efi.joensuu.fi/>

EFI announces its World Wide Web service

GETTING READY FOR THE INFORMATION SOCIETY

World Wide Web (WWW) is the leading service for public information access in the Internet. In short, WWW is a protocol of distributed multimedia hyperdocuments. This means that WWW consists of hypertext documents that can reside anywhere in Internet's WWW server computers. Besides text, the documents can contain any form of digital material, such as colour images, maps, sound, and moving video. What is important, the documents can also contain live links to other documents anywhere in the Internet's WWW servers (the links are shown in blue underlining in the accompanying figures). By clicking the mouse over such a link, the user can retrieve that document easily.

It was this easiness that really changed the Internet from a network of computers into a network of information. Currently, there are about 3 million computers and 30 million users on the Internet and tens of thousands of WWW server sites. These numbers double every 18 months.



By 1998, the site had moved to www.efi.fi and had its first design revamp. March 2005 saw a new design for the home page and new features, including a section for members, the latest news and events, and downloadable publications. Members could access EFI's databases direct, and many projects also began to have a web presence.

There was a new incarnation in November 2007 (and a new web address of www.efi.int). New Regional Office websites followed. The current look arrived in March 2012 with a focus on RSS feeds and social media – EFI now reaches out globally via Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and YouTube.



A close-up photograph of weathered wood, showing a prominent knot and a small hole. The wood grain is highly textured and shows signs of aging and decay. The colors range from light tan to dark brown. The text "Stories" is overlaid in a white, cursive font in the lower right quadrant.

Stories

FROM EFI HQ

Stories

FROM EFI HQ

In 1993, four staff moved into the empty Bank of Finland building in Joensuu, to start work at the new European Forest Institute. From these small beginnings, EFI has grown to around 140 staff today, in 10 home locations (not to mention the staff who are

regularly on mission in Africa, Asia and Central America). Along the way, many hundreds of staff members, trainees, visiting researchers and scholars have come from 49 different countries to work at EFI, creating a truly multicultural working environment.



"Since my arrival at EFI, I have witnessed how EFI has grown in terms of its capacity and people. When I joined in 2002, we had about 35 staff members, most of whom were researchers (foresters) or administrators and we were all based in Joensuu. The last four years were very busy for recruitment, as EFI grew and the numbers of staff doubled. Today we have about 140 staff members around the world - people from multidisciplinary backgrounds contributing to a diverse environment.

Many people describe the EFI community as an EFI family – EFI has a unique and special atmosphere. New people are welcomed very warmly and we enjoy working together, and that leads to EFI's success. We have shared many cold Finnish winters – but so warm in terms of friendship, stories and memories."

EMI PESONEN,
Head of HR and Administration



2011

I have a long list of vivid personal memories of the time at EFI as a member of staff. At the very early phase of the establishing process our small staff was extremely strongly committed to our mission. Sometimes we felt that we were fighting against windmills, and for example, getting an application for external funding approved gave always a great feeling of moving ahead – and a good reason for partying.

Personally, coordinating the preparation of the first research programme for EFI in 1993–1995 has been one of the most motivating and energising tasks in my job career. In the later part of the 1990s, I enjoyed a lot leading two large EU funded projects – Forward and Mosefa – with very competent and dynamic project personnel.

Maybe the most important benefit stemming from my job history at EFI has been the knowhow and skills needed in daily life in an international working environment. EFI has brought me a broad international network and a lot of good friends around Europe.”

PENTTI HYTINEN, now Region Mayor of North Karelia, Finland



"My most vivid memory would probably be the Thursday evening staff saunas. For the rest I think that during my time there I enjoyed the friendly and laid-back atmosphere there was in those days; meeting new people – especially the trainee programme brought in a lot of new faces.

Basically EFI started my career: EFI gave me my first job as a researcher fresh out of university; EFI enabled me to get to know a lot of people across Europe – a lot of whom I still encounter at various meetings across the world nowadays; and Risto even stimulated me to get my PhD after working hours. Without the head start EFI gave me, I don't think I'd be where I am today."

GERBEN JANSE, now *International Coordinator, Swedish Forest Agency*

"My best memory is the unique atmosphere at EFI headquarters, where there was always a buzz of anticipation, things to come, new visitors and staff. For a young researcher like me, who started at EFI during the mid-1990s after finishing my Master's degree in the Netherlands, it was great to have such close contacts with some of the leading scientists within my field, at a much more 'level playing field'. We were all part of the EFI family and traditional boundaries between senior and junior researchers disappeared, for example during long evenings in the EFI sauna, at summer schools,

or during the many events organised for staff and visitors.

EFI and I had a mutually beneficial relationship, I would say. EFI helped me develop my international career and network, while I brought urban forestry research to EFI. Moreover, I already had a good network of young forestry professionals through my involvement with the International Forestry Students Association and could help attract some of these to EFI."

CECIL KONIJNENDIJK, now *Professor of Green Space Management, University of Copenhagen*

I think the people were in general very nice and it was nice working there because of the people – it was often the people who saved the day.

I started out as a trainee for Katriina, then became a research assistant and administrator. I started with conference and events, then worked with Anssi Niskanen. That was something which was good for my career. I hadn't got my degree yet, but Anssi was very supportive and let me develop at my own pace. He was always giving good advice on how to do things.

For example I wrote 5–8 pages in the Proceedings [Economic Accessibility of Forest Resources in North-West Russia, 2003] on the demand for wood in Russia. This was the first thing I ever wrote that was scientific. I wrote it once, Anssi looked at it, and there were lots of red marks everywhere! But even though I had done that, Anssi wrote very encouragingly at the top. And I still do that for my students who I supervise today..."

KAIJA SARAMÄKI,

now Lecturer and International Coordinator at Karelia University of Applied Sciences



The President of Finland, Tarja Halonen, speaking with EFI staff in 2004

FI is a special place where the laughs of Ari Pussinen, Mart-Jan Schelhaas and me in the kitchen were renowned and notified everybody that it was 10 o'clock. I will never forget the people of EFI, eg Andreas Ottitsch who made us all experts in facts about Austria; Bruce Michie who would not stop his lonely crusade against Bill Gates; Simo Varis, systems manager who hooked me on to EFI's network when I arrived; Mari Lepikkö who was always working very hard, but who would send us back to the sauna if we had not cleaned it properly after using it; the Schucks who took me to their place

to eat oven-baked pizzas and for sledge riding; Timo Karjalainen, who with the family, offered me hospitality at his place and in his summer cottage. Nor will I forget Päivi Pelli with her bright laughs. I will never forget the sauna evenings, the nice winter, the northern lights that I spotted with Ashley, nor the ice swimming, of which all Finns say that it is a normal thing to do (but so far I have mainly seen foreigners doing it)."

GERT-JAN NABUURS, *now Lead Scientist
European Forests at Alterra Wageningen UR*



PAELLA IN THE SNOW

LEENA SALMINEN:

"That was one Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) meeting in Joensuu in 2002. It was February and a cold time. It so happened that Eduardo Rojas-Briales was in the SAB, and it happened to be his 40th birthday on those days. And he wanted to make paella for everyone. Earlier on already he had donated a paella pan, to EFI, a huge paella pan – he'd brought it sometime by car. He sent me a list of ingredients, and marked which ones he would bring himself, like rabbit meat and artichokes etc, and then there was a big list of things that I was going to buy, and I arranged for him this gas bottle. But when he saw it, he said "this will not work out – it needs to be on an open fire!" It was February, with lots of snow outside! My son had just finished his school exams, so he was free and I got him to come and shovel the snow, because everyone was busy! And then we got bricks from a construction site. So Eduardo then made the fire in the yard. In the snow.

It was really cold. And he was most of the time all by himself outside – people didn't stay outside with him for that long!

MINNA KORHONEN:

"He then made it again in the 10th anniversary year, at EFI in the back yard. In summer this time. I was chasing him at the university, because Kaija Saramäki kept calling me and saying that you have to get Eduardo here, and that otherwise the paella won't be cooked in time! And Eduardo was talking to the big shots, and I'm saying "sorry, you have to go to EFI to start cooking!"

We still have the pan...

ENRICHING THE BIODIVERSITY

LEENA SALMINEN:

I remember that I lost people the very first excursion I ever organised – that’s as far back as 1994. And that was the “Designing a system of Nomenclature for European Forest Mapping” event. There was an excursion to Koli, and we walked from the top of Koli downwards, where the bus was to gather us. And on that path, from the top to the spot where the bus was waiting to collect us, there were three people missing. It was the time before mobile phones, and they had just stepped off the path and discussed some nomenclature issue or something so intensively that they had lost the rest of us. I was counting people, and they were missing – and I was devastated. Frits Mohren just said “yeah, I was once in Australia and we lost some people, they were just left there you know, to enrich the biodiversity!”.

So we went up to have lunch at Koli, and I was freaking out, as you can imagine. But these three



lucky people had somehow found a farm there (there are only two farms in Koli at a distance of kilometres and kilometres, but they had found one of them). And there was somebody at home, and luckily one of the participants spoke Finnish, and the farmer drove them back to Koli. I will never forget that!”







Financial
SUPPORT

Funding

1993–2013

Financial support for EFI has come from many quarters over the last 20 years. Like any non-profit organisation, it relies on many donors, both large and small, who provide invaluable support in both funding and in-kind contributions. This support may be on a general basis (for example the membership fees collected from Associate and Affiliate Members), or may be attached to a particular project (for example the ThinkForest forum is supported by the Governments of France, Finland, Germany and Sweden).

Government grants, or 'core funding', are provided on a voluntary basis by European countries and regions. For example seed project funding for the establishment of EFI came from the Finnish Government, who al-

located 2 million Finnish marks in the 1992 annual budget for the project. Since then, the Finnish Government has been a major supporter of EFI, providing core funding of 18.8 million euros over the last 20 years.

Regional Offices in particular are also supported by core funding. For example the French Government supports EFIATLANTIC and EFICIENT-OEF, while the Spanish Government provides support to EFIMED, and the Austrian Government to EFICEEC-EFISEE. Regional donors are also vitally important for both financial and in-kind support.

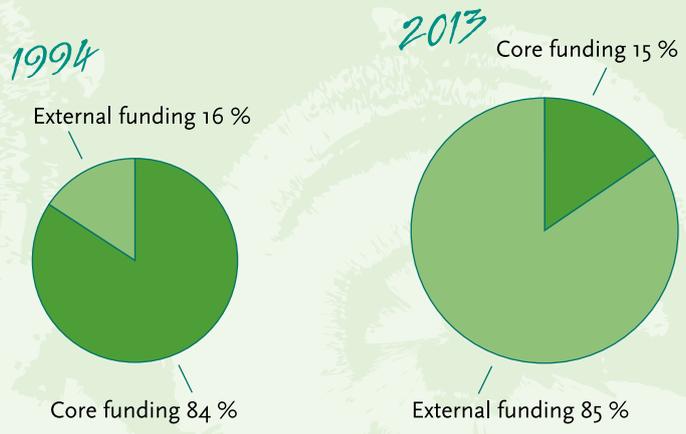
Over the years the share of project-based funding has increased, and this now dominates the budget. EU funding in particular has grown, especially in the area of FLEGT and REDD support.

"In 20 years EFI has been able to multiply the volume of activities by 15 both in terms of the budget and number of personnel. The growth especially during the past few years has been huge, 20–30 % per annum, and has been mainly project based. The challenge today is to increase the core funding – to get all member countries to contribute – and secure further success and even more flourishing future of the organisation."**"**

KIRSI LOISA, *Head of Finance*



	1994	2013
Total budget	5.7 million Finnish marks (958,000 euros)	14.9 million euros
Core funding	4.8 million Finnish marks (807,000 euros)	2.3 million euros
External funding	0.9 million Finnish marks (151,000 euros)	12.6 million euros
Staff	4	140
Member organisations	12 from 10 countries	130 from 36 countries
Country members	-	25
Locations	Joensuu	Joensuu, Barcelona, Bordeaux, Brussels, Copenhagen, Freiburg, Kuala Lumpur, Nancy, Vienna, Zagreb



Growth of EFI





A scenic landscape featuring a misty valley. The foreground and middle ground are filled with trees, some of which have turned vibrant shades of yellow and orange, indicating autumn. The background shows a deep blue sky with soft, white clouds. The overall atmosphere is serene and celebratory.

Celebrations

2003:

10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The 10th anniversary year of EFI was a year of good news. On 28 August 2003 the long-term process towards international status was given the official seal of approval when 12 European states signed the Convention on the European Forest Institute (by the end of the year, 20 states in total had signed). The signing ceremony was a fitting final touch to the celebrations of the 10th Annual conference.

FOREST RESEARCH CROSSING BORDERS

EFI's 10th Annual Conference saw 130 enthusiastic participants gather in Joensuu in August 2003. Forest Research Crossing Borders included a two-day scientific seminar, the Annual Conference decision-making session, and a post-conference excursion to Russia (St Petersburg and the Roschinsky larch forest). The Prime Minister of Finland Matti Vanhanen opened the scientific seminar, which emphasised the crossing of both disciplinary and geographical borders.

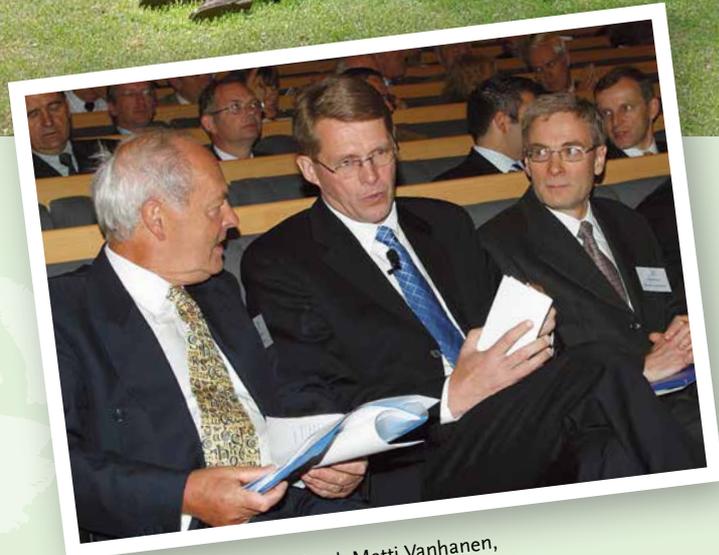
PUBLICATIONS

Two different types of publications were published to mark the occasion.

Kaisu Makkonen-Spiecker wrote a historical review of EFI: *An Idea Becomes Reality*. It described the first 10 years of EFI, giving an insight into its development and its activities over the years. Kaisu tracked down the personalities behind the scenes, recording vivid memories of EFI's early beginnings.

Forest Policy and Economics published a special issue (Volume 5, issue 2) in 2003, looking at the results of EFI's research activities. *Diamonds from the European Forest Institute* evaluated 10 years of EFI research in European forestry issues.

Four researchers (Frits Mohren, Maurizio Merlo, Max Krott and Hubert Sterba) critically evaluated EFI's then programme areas (Forest Ecology and Management; Forest Products, Markets and Socio-Economics; Policy Analysis; and Forest Resources and Information).



"Surely it is beyond any original pipe dream that, in the short period of 10 years, an institute situated in a northern part of a northern country would become the hub of a major forest research network relevant to the needs of 140 forest organisations across 34 European countries."

FERGAL MULLOY,
Chair of the Board, 2001–2003
(EFI News, 10th anniversary issue)

The Prime Minister of Finland, Matti Vanhanen,
talking to Fergal Mulloy and Risto Päivinen.

2013:

20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Celebrations for the 20th anniversary year of EFI began in June with an anniversary seminar in Joensuu. Speakers included Jari Koskinen, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland, who announced that the Government of Finland was committed to supporting EFI now and in the future, and called on other countries to do the same. He reviewed the work of EFI over the last two decades, and encouraged it to meet future challenges by expanding its focus to looking at the opportunities of a green bio-based economy and the whole value chain.

“Today, the European Forest Institute is a well-established international and European organisation that is well worth celebrating. It represents a unique construction where countries and member organisations are both actively involved in the decision-making process...

The Institute should continue to provide new perspectives to policy makers and practitioners, with a strong orientation to the future. In this respect I wish to highlight the need to foster the work on scenarios, outlook into the future and foresight. Two-way communication and collaboration with different stakeholders and the whole society is vital, and I also welcome a continued emphasis on cooperation between different national, regional and international organisations.”

Around 100 people, including a number of ambassadors, attended the seminar, which focused on EFI's 20 years of forest

networking in Europe. EFI was honoured to host the ambassadors from France, Italy, Poland and Spain, together with a delegation from the Embassy of China. Guests also visited the forestry Silva fair 2013 in Joensuu city centre, and an evening reception was hosted by the City of Joensuu in Joensuu Art Museum.

EFI 20 YEARS SCIENCE AND POLICY FORUM

EFI will also celebrate with its member organisations in September 2013 in Nancy, France, at the 20th Annual Conference. The annual decision-making session will gather together members from across Europe, and will be followed by a high-level conference which focuses on Our forests in the 21st century – ready for risks and opportunities?

Speakers will include Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for the Environment; Jan Heino, Chair of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Legally Binding Agreement on Forests in Europe; Eduardo Rojas-Briales, Assistant Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO); and Alexander Panfilov, Deputy Head of the Russian Federal Forestry Agency.

In November 2013 EFI's celebrations will continue with another anniversary seminar in Helsinki, Finland, organised in conjunction with Metsäpäivät 2013.



Jari Koskinen, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland and Risto Päivinen at the 20th Anniversary Seminar

EF I
20 years
 2 0 1 3



*"*Let us continue to work together – build wooden bridges not only between the east and west but between people all over Europe – for the next successful 20 years".

JARI KOSKINEN, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland



A photograph of a winter forest. The trees are covered in snow, and the ground is a smooth, snow-covered path. Long, dark shadows are cast across the snow from the trees, indicating a low sun position. The overall scene is serene and quiet.

European forests

AT A CROSSROADS:
THE NEXT 10 YEARS



EFI:

THE NEXT 10 YEARS

EFI was established as an international association in 1993 to enhance international forest research and to provide decision makers with unbiased forest-related information at the pan-European level. Twenty years later, it has grown and developed into a vibrant international organisation with a wide-ranging remit.

But what does the future hold for EFI over the next 10 years?

In the next decade forestry will have to face a diversity of challenges such as the increasing demand for timber as a renewable resource, the need to protect forest habitats and their biological diversity, changing flow of trade driven by globalisation, bioenergy, climatic change or damages caused by storms, insects and forest fires. The demands of different stakeholders are to some extent contradictory and result in conflicts regarding the appropriate management of forests. For example, the abandonment of timber harvesting for biodiversity protection versus the sustainable utilization of timber in order to meet the future demands for renewable resources.

Given the diversity of interest groups there is no “correct” management of forests. It will be a challenging task for research to provide a holistic view on the different perspectives and their social, economic, and ecologic impacts.”

MICHAEL KÖHL, *Board member*

EFI is in a unique position to respond to these challenges – and opportunities – and provide science-based information to support informed policy-making. We asked many of our interviewees what they thought, and what their vision is for EFI in the next 10 years. Here are their answers...

"Of course, from my point of view, EFI should put a little more attention to cooperation with Russia!"

ALEXANDER ALEKSEEV,
St Petersburg State Forest Technical University, Russia

"I would like to see it grow more...especially at the EU level, I think it's very very important to have an organisation like EFI that's recognised as an unbiased expert. 'Ok, if we do so and so, what's going to happen? Well here's the answer. I don't like that answer, but I trust you because you don't have an agenda, and you're just telling me the science behind it.'

I think I'd like to see EFI continue to push that role with the EU, to become known as the expert organisation that they rely on to the exclusion of anybody else. It has the potential to do that."

BOB IZLAR, *University of Georgia, USA*

"Beside all the competition that is between every research institute or every institution, still they keep a good spirit – I have found many friends here in the network. This is something that I think is the most important thing... I think if they will be able to keep that good spirit, the spirit of friendship within the people, I think then they will survive."

MARC HANEWINKEL,
Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research

"I wish EFI the strength to keep the network together and to once more become the spider in the web of state-of-the-art scientific knowledge on forests in Europe. I think EFI should focus on surviving the transition from a central to a spread-out organisation. I sincerely hope that the EFI spirit of friendliness, "giving a helping hand" and fun I got to know during my years in Joensuu doesn't disappear totally now that the organisation has become much bigger and more spread-out. I hope that also in the future the people working for EFI share the idea that "they are EFI"."

GERBEN JANSE, *Swedish Forest Agency*

"To be direct and frank, I would like to say that currently EFI pays not enough attention to Russia as the most forested country. It could be a huge territory of EFI experience and knowledge application. There are many areas to be considered: sustainable forest management (SFM) as a concept to be applied itself, intensive and based on SFM principles in the areas of secondary forests instead of extensive exploitation practice, forest policy, law enforcement, forest inventory and management planning, etc. The area which is very much underestimated in Russia is forest ecosystem services including issues related to the climate change and carbon sequestration. So, I guess, EFI experience would be very useful for my country."

ELENA KULIKOVA, *WWF Russia*

"EFI has diversified, also into the policy area now, not only in the research area. What was the unique point of interest when they came to the European Commission was that they were researchers, that their interest was research, there was no interest of an industry behind it, or any nation or policy behind that. Now those are a little bit mixing, I know that different organisational parts within EFI are dealing with those different interests, but all in all it's still EFI that has the policy part and the research part behind it, and I feel a little bit that this could be a conflict of interest when you are lobbying for the research part. Because when you are trying to influence policy on a higher level, not only research policy but other policies as well and at the same time you are applying for funding of research topics that you previously influenced via your policy activities, I think you run into a conflict of interest. Therefore a more strict and transparent separation (on the level of the EFI Board) between the policy and research activity should be arranged."

MARTIN GREIMEL,

Lebensministerium Forestry, Austria (former Science officer at DG RTD)

"In 10 years' time I would like to have EFI as a strong network of research organisations, acting as a node for coordinating big programmes, with a pan-European or regional aspect, this is one of the main things that EFI can do. The second thing is to contribute to develop the capacities in the different regions. Europe is very diverse in terms of capacity in the different regions and different institutions. We are still not at the point of having a common understanding of what is forest science or forest research, what are the methodologies, even in terms of competence, in terms of curriculum of the different member organisations – this is quite diverse. This is a quite important problem if you are thinking of a European research area, a European research space, to have a common understanding of what is the focus of the European problems or European research programme."

RICARDO ALIA, *Forest Research Centre (CIFOR-INIA), Spain*



"E FI is on the right track and should develop along the lines expressed by its members, e.g. at the Annual Conferences. However, to my mind EFI could develop its influence and activities towards forest owners. Research-based knowledge should be implemented in real life, i.e. in forest management as it is implemented by forest owners in their daily operations. EFI still lacks a link to forest owners and their organisations and is not gaining the respect and interest from this community as it should."

KAJ ROSÉN

"E FI should not forget where it came from: the wish to facilitate and enhance good forest research in Europe, primarily through its unique network. There have been many developments during the past few years and EFI has been growing. But it's important to sometimes stop up and think: what is our brand? What is the core of our being? How do people see us? I was actively involved in developing EFI's policy and advocacy branch, but (as a current outsider) I sometimes can feel that the child is eating the parent..."

I cannot imagine forest research in Europe without EFI and therefore hope that the organisation has many good years ahead. Personally I also hope that EFI will keep inspiring young people to get engaged in forest research, and to opt for an international career."

CECIL KONIJNENDIJK, *University of Copenhagen, Denmark*



"E FI's main achievement has been to become an international organisation, after which its role as a network of networks in forestry including the establishment of Regional Offices has been rapidly growing. Forest House in Brussels is worthwhile mentioning, and EFI has a major role in implementing FLEGT as a consultant to the European Commission. ThinkForest facilitates the discussions between policy makers and scientists. I wish that EFI continues to work in an innovative way and new and timely issues will be taken to the agenda. Many happy returns!"

LIISA SAARENMAA, *Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Finland*

"I believe that EFI should focus on enhancing the cooperation among members and not only act as an independent research organisation. EFI should also focus on the stabilisation and development of the regional centres. I wish that EFI will in the future organise more European-level scientific meetings around risk management, forest economics, the adaptation of forests to climate change, etc, and establish closer cooperation with other European organisations involved in forest monitoring and database development. Finally, I think that EFI should concentrate on producing high level scientific publications in addition to more applied publications."

ERWIN DREYER, *INRA, France*

"O ne of the things is that I always have the feeling that EFI has not engaged enough in education. EFI has always shied away from this in order not to get into conflict with universities. And I think forest education or environmental education benefits from an international network as well. There are opportunities there – and EFI is doing a bit with the Marie Curie programme and so on, and it's difficult of course how to figure out the complementarity with the Associate Members and avoid competing for funds. But I think that the internationalisation of forestry education will continue, will be more and more. And I think that's something that EFI could be a bit more active in.

EFI could perhaps also facilitate in bridging the FTP network, and EU programmes and the national interests. This is to some extent already done, but within forestry in Europe there are still strong sectoral interests – there is an industry interest and there is a nature conservation interest, and there is a forest owners' perspective and so on. And those are not lined up in a way. There are conflicting interests there. And this is something where EFI could play an integrating role."

FRITS MOHREN, *University of Wageningen, Netherlands*

"By its members EFI holds a wide range of expertise and can provide a scientifically sound and objective base for informed decision processes and to acquaint the public with the complexity of forest ecosystems and their utilization.

Another expectation for EFI is the increasing international activities beyond Europe. The EU FLEGT and REDD facilities are already impressive examples. EFI can provide the interface between the expertise held in the European forest sector and the need of developing countries for applied approaches for the sustainable management of the multiple functions of forests."

MICHAEL KÖHL,

Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute, Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries, Germany



"What should EFI focus on in the next 10 years? It should focus on sustaining its Associate Members at the European level. There is a risk of leaving them alone. It should think of new ways to involve these members, be inclusive and active. And still pay attention to not being in competition with them. In my mind, an overarching integration is needed, to be not only a network but an integrated system.

EFI should also look outside the traditional forestry with its members; EFI can here open connections to e.g. socio-economic values and environmental services. In the latter, forests play a huge role. We can also find a role in globalization using FLEGT-REDD. So, we should reach out in two ways – firstly outside the traditional forestry issues to issues where forests play a crucial role (like ecosystem services) and outside Europe but having a connection to Europe, of course."

MARCO MARCHETTI, *Italian Academy of Forest Sciences*

"Advice for the future is always difficult and risky. Personally, and also on behalf of COST, I wish EFI all the best for the future, and I am convinced that it will continue to play this important role for European forestry. My best advice would be to focus on maintaining the role as the large networker of European forest research and information services. And I look forward to a continued cooperation and active EFI participation in various COST activities."

SJUR BAARSEN, *COST*



"E FI should actively, and more than in the past, engage with its member organisations to form some output oriented actions to bring together the member organisations on current topics. This implies not only 'let's make a workshop on...', but let's from that workshop make a publication on, form a project team on, make a COST action on....

We need a platform. A facilitative platform. And this is how it could help young researchers: through initiating and facilitating joint research projects, because that will make sure that a lot of young researchers and PhD students will be recruited, but at the same time also young post-doc researchers have a chance to not be eaten up by the administration tasks and coordination of a project or proposal. And then afterwards they can show they have worked together with EFI successfully in acquiring this big EU project.

EFI should provide some smaller chunks of scholarship programmes or fellowships, to visit EFI. But also to visit other EFI member organisations...So to stimulate mobility and international work experience and research experience."

LUKAS GIESSEN,
University of Göttingen, Germany



"W hat should EFI focus on for the next 10 years?
To be a key actor in catching up all relevant opportunities for forestry and the forest-based sector in the context of a transition towards a greener and knowledge-based bioeconomy in Europe.

To focus on a few research issues such as sustainability in the context of global changes, and forests for society, and requiring integration from local and country level to Europe's level.

To ensure a substantial policy support function through various approaches including the development of tools allowing some anticipation such as foresight studies.

To consolidate human resources by bringing "new blood" into the system, in particular by attracting talents from abroad, especially in EFI Units located in Finland. This objective should lead to assess the relevance for an international institution of positioning its headquarters in a remote area such as Joensuu.

To develop the strength and roles of Regional Offices and increase the coordination between them in the framework of the EFI Strategy."

YVES BIROT



I think the challenge for EFI in the future will be to demonstrate the benefits to its members more clearly. At the moment there are some members that are active and who receive a direct benefit – but it often depends on the personal relationships in these member organisations that form the sub-networks of EFI. Therefore, I think there should be a more transparent policy at EFI for all its members on what EFI is doing, what it is planning to do, and which paths of involvement are available for a member organisation. Unfortunately, I think that’s at the moment lacking, which poses a challenge for EFI, especially in the research branch.

The policy advice branch is a little different, because it’s work that EFI does for the European Commission based on clear tasks related to FLEGT and REDD. The ThinkForest initiative, which is a science-policy platform, is different since it works on a voluntary basis. As a member of the advisory board of this initiative, I can say that it is our ambition to enable informed decision making at the policy level through scientific knowledge coming from EFI members.”

PETER MAYER,
Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Austria



"My number one wish for EFI is, that EFI consolidates its position now and settles, improves, professionalises and stabilizes its internal organisation including the funding issue. My second important wish is, EFI may improve the attractiveness of the Joensuu headquarters."

KONSTANTIN VON TEUFFEL,
*Forest Research Institute of
Baden-Württemberg, Germany*



"I am convinced that the challenges faced by the European forest sector and ecosystems are such that the 'need for EFI' will remain and even grow: adaptation to climate change, assessment of forest ecosystem services, land use changes and conflicts, rises in bioenergy's and bioproducts' demand, management of forest risks, all these challenges will need to further strengthen the collaborative and cross-border efforts between forest researchers, forest owners and managers and policy-makers. They will also require increased interactions with the citizens. I am thus convinced that EFI, along with its members and Associate Members, has still a key and leading role to play.

A major achievement of EFI has been its ability to organise a longstanding – 20 years is something – collaborative network. Let us keep in mind that it is not so easy to keep the affectio societatis – of course, there are other examples: big science communities organised around large-scale facilities, or, nearer to forestry, in the marine sciences. However, the his-

tory of collaborative organisations, be they national or international, has plenty of moments where their members question the rationale of keeping the network alive, of redesigning the underlying 'founding pact' and the network's goals and means. Thanks to the remarkable commitment of its staff and leader, because EFI has always been active and creative, and also because the internationalisation provided a new momentum, EFI has been able to avoid such critical moments. I thus wish that EFI keeps its capability to change and adapt, for the benefit of its members, be they countries or organisations.

I view the creation of Regional Offices as very positive. However, the risk is that the whole EFI becomes more rigid and spends too much time and energy in internal transactions, while forgetting to exchange with its members and to build and operate new projects. I thus wish that EFI remains a project-driven network."

FRANÇOIS HOULLIER, *INRA, France*

"I think EFI should be ready for change. Because Europe is changing, the world is changing, forestry is changing. And EFI as a very flexible organisation can show to others how to change, how to take seriously the challenges society is addressing to forestry people."

PAAVO PELKONEN, *University of Eastern Finland*

"S"o how I see it is that the past years were totally different kind to what is coming for EFI. In earlier years the researchers were, I think, competing. Competing for projects and funding. But in the future, it's more important for us that there is someone who can help to find the funding – funding sources, new ideas, new skills and competences, partners, and so on. And also the lobbying part of the work is very very important. And also the new areas. I really hope that EFI, Finnish universities and Metla can start to be more active in Russia. They have resources and they have needs. We have to find the ways to do that."

HANNU RAITIO, *Finnish Forest Research Institute (Metla)*

"E"FI should focus on the credibility and image of the institution, especially at European level. It should be more focused on policy advice, and also trying to transfer all its achievements of the last few years into research activities and policy making processes. Now is the time to be involved in real decision-making processes – it's very important to be an actor in forest policy. The FLEGT-REDD work and the presence of EFI in Brussels – it's a good way in the future."

MERSUDIN AVDIBEGOVIĆ, *University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina*

"E"FI should be more risky, I think. EFI should be also open to integrate other disciplines and should be more multidisciplinary. It should collaborate much more with other research competences and research networks that we have within the sector. I think there should be a much much stronger interaction, for example, with Innovawood and EFPRO. And as a European network, it should also pay attention to developments in, and cooperation with, other continents. For example it becomes more and more evident that biomass is a hot topic globally."

ANDREAS KLEINSCHMIT VON LENGEFELD, *FCBA, France*



"I think that thanks also to my experiences inside the organisation, probably it is important to rethink how to manage research activity in Joensuu. That is the first point. The second point – sometimes in the annual meeting I would like that some real problems, real dynamics, and expectation can get out in an open and clear way."

DAVIDE PETTENELLA, *University of Padova, Italy*



"Now we are at a quite crucial moment, I think, because on one hand EFI cannot be a competitive organisation like it very often is – competitive against national institutes. I think that we need to be a kind of umbrella, joining the institutions – that's why we are here! 1,250 euros [membership fee] is nothing when you compare with the advantages you can get from EFI. There's networking, there's publications, distribution of results of investigations - this is, I think one of the very important issues. For example, yesterday we had an EFINORD meeting, and there was a very excellent and interesting report which was presented, on wood mobilisation in European countries. It was done thanks to the networking of EFI, and furthermore it was communicated to participants. It's communication that counts!"

TOMASZ ZAWIŁA-NIEDŹWIECKI, *Forest Research Institute (IBL), Poland*

If Europe should stay competitive in the years ahead it is imperative that its institutions and countries intensify collaboration and increase coordinating activities. Consequently policies and mechanisms for such activities have to be further developed in all sectors. EFI is in an excellent position to facilitate such developments within the forest sector, but in order to do so it has to further develop its coordinating role among its Associate and Affiliate Members and its policy support activities aimed at its member states and the EU level.

Here we come to one of the main challenges ahead. Since almost 90% of its finance is at present 'earmarked' to specific projects, it is not possible to further develop EFI's coordinating and policy support activities without developing specific financing mechanisms for these activities. Together with our member countries and the European Commission we have just started to explore novel ways of financing and funding EFI. The outcome of these activities will be crucial for the further development of the organisation to the benefit of its members.

EFI would never have reached its present position without a committed and highly skilled staff. Hence, another big challenge is to keep and further



develop the knowledge and the motivation among the staff. This can only be done by building excellent working conditions and good career prospects for all employees.”

JØRGEN BO LARSEN,
Forest and Landscape, Denmark

I hope to see an EFI which is even stronger than today on research at the European level. We have to keep in mind that in almost every European country, nearly all activities in the forest sector (silviculture, harvesting, wood processing, economics, policy etc) are small compared to the total national economy, and the forest sector research capacity is limited and has to prioritize national issues. EFI's main comparative advantage and focus should therefore be analysis, research and advocacy at the European level, so we get sufficient weight. Twenty researchers together can do a lot more than 20 individual researchers working more or less uncoordinated. And that should be EFI's main task – where EFI has a niche and where

it should be operating. When you have these Project Centres and Regional Offices and regional centres, the Board and the leadership should always think of this.

And then of course EFI should try to find optimal cooperation with other relevant sectors like energy and agriculture, looking at things like land-use, bio-energy and environmental issues which are very vital for forestry. The energy sector - it's so strong, so more politically dominant. I see an EFI working more in such cooperation than today. To be in that cooperation is very important.”

BIRGER SOLBERG,
Norwegian University of Life Sciences





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EFI HONORARY CHAIRMAN:

Tim Peck

EFI FELLOWS

- 1996: Birger Solberg, Director of EFI, Board member
- 1997: Melvin Cannell, Board member
- 2003: Heinrich Spiecker, Chair of SAB
- 2003: Yves Birot, Chair of the Board
- 2006: Fergal Mulloy, Chair of the Board, interim Director of EFI
- 2008: Emil Klimo, Board member
- 2008: Frits Mohren, Chair of SAB
- 2009: Ted Farrell, Chair of SAB
- 2009: François Houllier, Chair of the Board
- 2013: Konstantin von Teuffel, Chair of the Board
- 2013: Hubert Hasenauer, Chair of SAB

Interviews

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LÄHITAPIOLA
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EUROPEAN FOREST INSTITUTE



The European Forest Institute (EFI) was established in 1993 in Joensuu, Finland with the aim of enhancing international forest research and providing decision makers with unbiased forest-related information at a pan-European level.

Twenty years later, EFI has grown and developed into a vibrant international organisation, with 25 Country Members and 130 member organisations from 36 countries. This publication celebrates the commitment and support of this network, giving voice to their memories and vision for EFI's future.



EFI
20 years
2013