



EUROPEAN FOREST
INSTITUTE

On the implementation of the EU Forest Strategy

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Supporting study to the FS evaluation

- Literature review and **document analyses on existing information**
 - reports, studies, research articles, meeting minutes, and other documentation such as database queries
 - Mainly addressing
 - the state of implementation
 - involvement of appropriate policy-makers and stakeholders
 - Contribution to EU-FS objectives
- **Qualitative questionnaire** and targeted **interviews** for additional data (Feb-Jul 2018)
 - Questionnaire responses from **25 Member States / 125 stakeholders**
 - 22 targeted interviews on very specific, remaining questions

Supporting our rural and urban communities

- RDP forestry measures provide the framework and resources for implementing key elements of the EU Forest Strategy
 - affected national funding procedures for forestry
 - Highly active in afforestation and agroforestry systems, protection of forests, and SFM
 - progress in the development of forest-relevant financial instruments and products (EIB, ESIF)
- Further attention needed:
 - urban and peri-urban trees and forests
 - the impact from other sectors that affect rural development
 - review of state aid instruments and modernisation packages

Fostering the competitiveness and sustainability of the EU's forest-based industries, bioenergy and the wider green economy

- competitiveness of the forest-based sector comprehensively addressed and actions implemented
- require more long-term and strategic thinking on how to make the sector adaptive to a quickly changing business environment and the challenges of digitalisation
- Further attention needed:
 - options to assess/monitor competitiveness, and which sub-sectors concerned
 - fostering cross-sectoral initiatives, placing forest-based value chains and their competitive advantages into broader context, including bio-based and circular economy

Forests in a changing climate

- LULUCF commitments caused Member States to set up a range of climate change mitigation initiatives
- Forest fire measures on emergency support, but limited actions on forest disturbance risk prevention and preparedness
- Further attention needed:
 - emphasise adaptation options and their consequences
 - focus on increasing resilience of forests and strengthening forest disturbance risk prevention and preparedness

Protecting forests, enhancing ecosystem services

- comprehensively addressed, esp. on forest genetics, combatting pests, and forest fires
- implementation of EU Nature Directives and EU Biodiversity Strategy in forests still a major challenge in moderating different SFM objectives
- Member State-driven initiatives as viable option for coordinated responses
- Further attention needed:
 - forest management and equivalent plans towards biodiversity goals
 - Exchange on best practice examples for biodiversity integration and conflict resolution across MS
 - balancing of various forest ecosystem services

What forests do we have and how are they changing?

- Information on forests subject to national approaches and NFIs
- UNECE, FAO and FOREST EUROPE inputs as common denominator
- EU Forest Information System (FISE) was planned as central activity, but is delayed
 - new bottom-up attempt with change from JRC to EEA
 - new approaches exist to advance FISE with additional, harmonised data-sets
 - specific elements made progress
 - European Forest Fires Information System (EFFIS)
 - Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services (MAES)
- Further attention needed:
 - comprehensive forest database will require strong commitment by all involved parties
 - needs to bundle expertise available also in relevant research organisations

New and innovative forestry and added-value products

- large number of FP7, Horizon 2020 and ERANET projects with substantial funding
- Significant investments from EU and Member States sources
- coordinated partly via the Forest-based Sector *Technology* Platform
- FP7 and Horizon 2020 investments support *technological* innovation, but less on *social* and *political* aspects of innovation processes
- Further attention needed:
 - Regional balance in research participation still a challenge (e.g. Eastern Europe)
 - more focus on: ecosystem service provision, education and capacity-building, social innovation
 - after-life of EU projects, long-lasting impact and exploitation

Working together to coherently manage and understand our forests

- Coordination and communication important issues for improving recognition of the forest-based sector
- clear evidence on fostering intra-sectoral_coordination
- coordination efforts clearly contributed to coherence of *activities* under EU-FS; impact on *policy* coherence appears ambitious
- some cross-sectoral coordination efforts (e.g. RED II), but limited in scope
- Further attention needed:
 - more effective cross-sectoral links on processes and forest-relevant EU policies
 - discussion on synergies, priorities, and trade-offs between relating policy objectives

Role of stakeholders multiple

- RDP programming consultation
- FTP, EIP, thematic workshops and networking, etc.
- Consultation to LULUCF regulation, and EU Adaptation Strategy
- science-policy interface for risk management (e.g. fire)
- Natura 2000 implementation still challenging
- stakeholder driven networking initiatives important to promote forest issues

Coordination is the backbone of the FS

- Comprehensive and early stage information required for policy processes
- New modes needed to stronger involve forest-related bodies into cross-sectoral issues relating to forests
- Impact of forest-related coordination bodies limited
- Member States-driven/regional initiatives as a promising model for concerted action
- New challenge: sustainable finance action plan



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Thank you for your attention!