

Call: INNOVATIVE, SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE BIOECONOMY

Topic: [H2020-ISIB-04B-2015 Improved forest management models](#)

Type of action: Research and innovation actions

Proposal :

"IFFOREST"

Improving Future Forest

Deadline Date: 03-02-2015 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)

Stage 2: 11-06-2015 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)

IFFOREST

Improving Future Forest

Partners

- **Leader**

Parzonería General de Gipuzkoa y Alava (Local authority owns a forest domain including Natura 2000 Natural Park)

- **Coordinator:**

Moragues and Scade Abogados, S.A. (Environmental Lawyers)

- **Suggested Partners**

- **Public or private Forest Owners**
- **Forest Government**
- **Environmental Public Administration**
- **Universities**
- **Technologists**
- **Other public or private organizations concerned with sustainable forest management**

Aim of the project

- The aim of the project is to provide a response to the need to improve the sustainability of a multipurpose forestry with ecological services integrated, at the different European selected areas concerned in "IFFOREST" Project, generated by significant social changes over the past decades and the emergence of new policies, for instance with the creation at the beginning of parks and Protected Natural Areas, and then with the protection of biodiversity (Natura 2000), or with actions to adapt to climate change, or using of biomass and other forms of bioenergy, taking into account that forestry cycles are very long, which limits their adaptability.
- The project offers an invaluable opportunity to partners to accelerate, re-think and re-design their proceedings and investments for local management a sustainable forestry with "ecological services" integrated, for the coming years (and also undertaking the innovation and the result of applied research and their developments).
- It also offers the possibility to make a comparative study of different social - ecological situations, from different regions of Europe which represents a plus towards a general (European) model of forest management too.

Challenges

a. The main challenge addressed is to identify the most fit-for-purpose and cost-effective solutions to manage a sustainable forestry with "ecological services" integrated, for the future.

The proposal is designed to increase the management capacity and to seize knowledge opportunities in Europe and outside to enhance the sustainability of a multipurpose EU forestry that would guarantee long-term protection of nature and biodiversity, the adaptation to a climate change and the environment and could satisfy the bioenergy demand.

b. debating common needs to define a new model of sustainable forestry management and drawing up common specifications for it, taking into account longer-term public sector requirements and socio-ecological aspects

This collective and coordinated process, will involve the land owner and the management entities (Forestry, environment, biodiversity and local developments) that are really responsible for the strategy and implementation of the new solutions (Municipalities, Forest owners, Universities and Technological Centers). In particular, under the guide of the Parzonería General de Gipuzkoa y Álava, will act as facilitator to validate and specify the common needs.

c. need focus on sustainable methods to enhance a multipurpose forestry with "ecological services" integrated

The target of IFFOREST is to radically innovate the entire approach to sustainable multipurpose forestry with "ecological services" integrated, addressing the development of new global, sustainable and systemic solutions able to reconciling the maximum forest uses and purposes and to determine significant improvements in terms of positive impact on environment, biodiversity and socio-economic functions.

d. Raising awareness, sharing knowledge

As indicated by the European call itself, to maintain the socio-economic and environmental functions of forests is necessary to improve management models, data logging and forest monitoring systems, especially when in Europe there is great diversity inventory systems, cartography, forest planning and control.

e. Launching joint Research and innovation actions

- to know the real state of natural resources at the selected natural areas and socio economic demands
- to Strengthening the methodological framework for more accurate and harmonized information derived from forest inventories and monitoring systems, above the present state of the art, able to feed into the EU information systems.
- to improve the forest management models geared to sustainable supply of wood for material use and energy use, and also for a further development of the bioeconomy, but above all to protect the forest and nature, habitats and protected species
- to become Forest stands resilient in a continuously changing environment (including climate change), socioeconomic demands

Concept and approach

- (1) The overall concept underpinning the project is to aggregate the European regions demand on a particular and well characterized type of forest that require the adoption of new innovative solutions to design a multipurpose forest management procedure with an end-to-end approach while preserving the "ecological services" with the capacity to provide for wood and "Non-Wood Forest Products" and essential ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, water regulation, soil and nutrient regulation and socio economic demands.
- (2) The main ideas and assumptions involved include:
 - There are a similar level of disgregation in the regulation and management of the EU forest lands, concerning the Wood and non wood forest products, pastures, water, Natura 2000, leisure uses and others;
 - "IFFOREST" Project should be an opportunity to engage the different needs and specifications to prepare the common models of multipurpose forestry.
 - A qualitative and quantitative aggregate multipurpose forestry analysis
 - The open technical dialogue with the technologists from forestry, biodiversity and bioeconomy.
 - Expert groups assisting the implementation of the (open and advertised) technical dialogue.
 - (Open) training activities dedicated to socioeconomic group (Municipalities, farmers, breeders, associations...)
 - A transnational advanced forestry methods analysis
 - A comprehensive study of the state of the art techniques and technologies for multipurpose forestry.
 - Research on the integration of forestry issues, livestock, protection of nature, ecosystem services, climate change adaptation, a model of integrated planning and management
- (3) Starting from the core group of partners, The IFFOREST project is able to involve a wider group of public and private stakeholders thanks to the mobilization power of the networks involved.
- (4) The work plan and methodology is explained below at the different paragraphs

Ambition

The "IFFOREST" Project aims to mobilize different stakeholders in the management of large forest areas to protect natural values and different economic uses, to launch a process of research, coordination and innovation, aiming to overcome the current situation with regulation and superimposed and separated from each of the competencies (forest, pasture, water, nature protection, and other uses) management and often significant contradictions.

IFFOREST, is a fundamentally innovative project that through the combination of two kind of elements: a) the contrast between different actors involved in the management of large forest areas in different parts of Europe, and b) shared research processes, we can get to define a model forest management that integrates other concerned elements in the large wooded area or forest land

The driver of this project is innovative: Getting an integrated management model for forest land have achieved progress towards a sustainable and inclusive bioeconomy.

Operationally speaking, IFFOREST project is aimed to address the multipurpose forestry that affect our bioeconomy in the forest areas, at the same time, to leverage additional investment in research, development and innovation by the public and private sector, towards some models of integrated territorial management in forests and natural values.