

H2020 ERA-NET COFUND

# ForestValue

## INNOVATING FOREST-BASED BIOECONOMY

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Sumforest Conference “Bridging research, policy and practice for sustainable forest management”



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# Funding instrument: ERA-NET

## Cofund

A H2020 ERA-NET Cofund is a financing instrument where:

- The budget is provided by public funding institutions from the participating countries/regions
- The ultimate goals are joint calls for research projects that are financed by the **partner** institutions and the first call is co-funded by the EU (max. 33%/ max. 5.035.000,00 EUR)
- Rules for participation in the joint call: agreed between the funding partners (**not H2020 rules**)

# **PREDECESSOR: ERA-NET FORESTERRA - ENHANCING FOREST RESEARCH IN THE MEDITERRANEAN THROUGH IMPROVED COORDINATION AND INTEGRATION**

FORESTERRA had 14 partners from 12 Mediterranean-area countries as well as two international institutions, the European Forest Institute (EFI) and the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM).

Foresterra was co-ordinated by the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness MINECO (Spain).

Total cost: 2,46 MEUR; Duration: 2012-2015

Joint Transnational Call 2013: two proposals selected, national funding ca. 1.5 MEUR

# **PREDECESSOR: ERA-NET SUMFOREST - SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT; MULTIFUNCTIONAL FORESTRY, EUROPEAN FOREST POLICY**

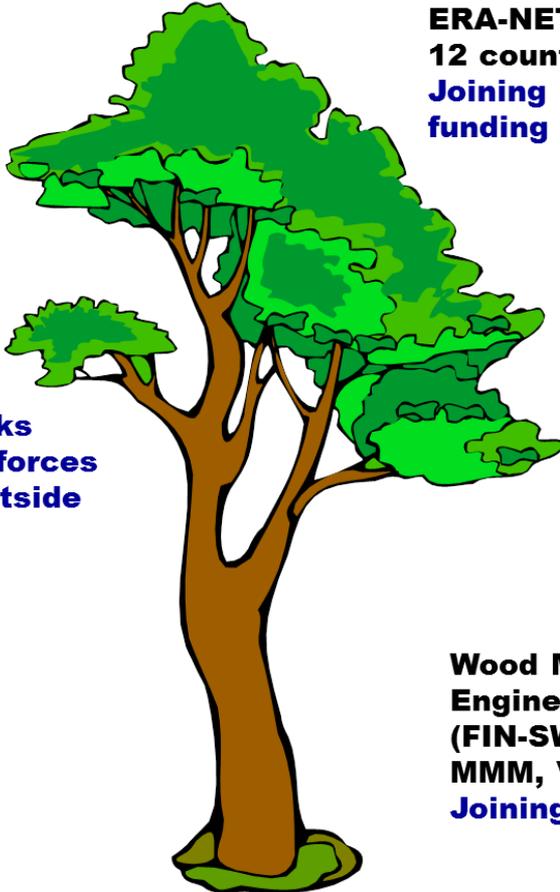
The Sumforest partners represent 18 countries in Europe and 23 funding organisations. In addition there are 9 European observers of which four Russian universities and a Russian State Forest Technical Academy.

Sumforest is co-ordinated by the Austrian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management.

Total cost: 2,17 MEUR; Duration: 2014-17

Joint Transnational Call 2016 “Sustainable forests for the society of the future”: 7 projects, 8,6 M€

# PREDECESSOR: WOODWISDOM-NET RESEARCH PROGRAMME



**Networks  
joining forces  
from outside  
Europe**

**ERA-NET Plus WoodWisdom-Net+ (2012-17)**  
**12 countries 20 partners,**  
**Joining national funding with EU Commission  
funding**



**ERA-NET WoodWisdom-Net 2 (2009-12)**  
**12 countries 19 partners,**  
**5 joint call funding organisations**  
**7 associate organisations**  
**Joining new forces in East and South Europe**



**ERA-NET WoodWisdom-Net (2004-08)**  
**first 5 countries 12 partners**  
**growth to 8 countries 18 partners**  
**Joining forces in North & Central Europe**



**Wood Material Science and  
Engineering  
(FIN-SWE 2003-06) Tekes, AKA  
MMM, Vinnova, Formas**  
**Joining forces in Finland and Sweden**

**Woodwisdom (FIN 1998-2001) Tekes, AKA, MMM**  
**Joining forces of Finnish funding and research**

# PREDECESSOR: ERA-NETS WOODWISDOM-NET, FORESTERRA AND SUMFOREST – CALL ACTIVITY IN FIGURES

Proposed Co-fund Activity	SOURCE of Co-fund Activity	Call Data		Other
		No. of calls	National funding (MEUR)	
Innovative Forest-Based Bioeconomy	WoodWisdom-Net (1, 2 and Plus)	4	56,6	20 partners from 12 countries
	FORESTERRA	1	1,5	16 partners from 12 countries
	SUMFOREST	1	8,6	23 key actors from 15 European member states, 3 associated states and 2 international institutions
	<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>66,7</b>	

# FORESTVALUE - INNOVATING FOREST-BASED BIOECONOMY

The Cofund action will promote increased **innovation and competitiveness of the forest-based sector** in Europe and support its **transformation** from a resource-intensive to a knowledge-intensive, productive, resource-efficient and resilient sector.

**Sustainability and modernisation of forestry systems and downstream value chains including innovative business concepts and production technologies** will be needed to develop the forestry sector and the European bioeconomy, of which forestry accounts for a large share.

**Basic and applied research, close-to-market research and innovation actions** are all envisaged.

**The scope spans all forest-based value chains**, from forest vitality and sustainability of forestry production systems to efficiency in supplying forest-based goods (wood and non-wood) and services.

# FORESTVALUE - BASIC DATA

## **FUNDING**

Initial national funding commitments: 20.575.000,00 EUR

EU top-up funding: 5.035.000,00 EUR

Total funding volume (expected): 25.610.000,00 EUR

## **PARTNER COUNTRIES**

The consortium consists of 31 partners from 19 countries representing different programmes in the bioeconomy funding sector, coming from different regions and countries inside/outside Europe.

### **The Member States of the European Union (12)**

Finland (coordinating organisation Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry - MMM), Austria, France, Czech Republic, Germany, Ireland, Latvia, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, UK

### **The associated countries (4)**

Norway, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey

### **Other countries (3)**

Argentina, Egypt, Jordan

# FOREST VALUE – JOINT CALL

## PARTICIPANTS

The following funding organisations and programme owners participate in the joint call:

**Finland:** Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MMM), Academy of Finland (AKA); Tekes – the Finnish Funding Agency for Innovation (Tekes); Ministry of the Environment (YM)

**Austria:** Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment & Water Management (BMLFUW)

**Czech Republic:** Ministry of Agriculture (MoA); Forestry and Game Management Research Institute (FGMRI) in the Czech Republic

**France:** The French Environment and Energy Management Agency (ADEME); The French National Research Agency (ANR)

**Germany:** Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL); Agency for Renewable Resources (FNR)

**Ireland:** Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)

**Latvia:** Latvian Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences (LAAFS); State Education Development Agency (VIAA)

**Poland:** National Science Centre (NCN)

**Slovenia:** Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (MIZS)

**Spain:** Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness (MINECO) through the State

**Sweden:** The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning (FORMAS); Swedish Energy Agency (SWEA); Swedish Governmental Agency for Innovation Systems (Vinnova)

**United Kingdom:** The Forestry Commissioners (FC)

**Norway:** Research Council of Norway (RCN)

**Switzerland:** The Commission for Technology and Innovation (CTI; in the Federal Department of Economic Affairs FDEA); Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN)

**Tunisia:** Institution of Agricultural Research and Higher Education (IRESA)

**Turkey:** The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK)

**Argentina:** The Argentine Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation (MINCyT)

**Egypt:** Academy of Scientific Research & Technology (ASRT)

**Jordan:** National Center for Agricultural Research and Extension (NCARE)

# ForestValue: Joint Call Schedule

17 <sup>th</sup> October 2017	<b>Official launch of the Joint Call for Research Proposals</b>
15 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	Partnering webinar
23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2018; 13:00 CET	<b>Deadline for submitting pre-proposals</b>
End of May 2018	<b>Letters to applicants / Invitation to submit a full proposal</b>
14 <sup>th</sup> August 2018; 13:00 CET	<b>Deadline for submitting full proposals</b> (only for projects that passed the pre-proposal phase)
End of October 2018	Communication of funding recommendations
End of 2018 / early 2019	<b>Start of funded projects</b>

# ForestValue: Call Scope

The primary purpose of the planned ForestValue joint call is to contribute **to transforming the global economy from a dependence on fossil and non-renewable raw materials to a sustainable “bio-based economy”**.

The overarching aim of the call is to support projects that will address the development and/or proof of concepts on novel strategies, methods, processes or products designed to support the forestry and forest-based industries including their respective partners, resellers, consumers and end-users in remaining competitive and efficient providers of sustainable bio-products and services. Currently underutilised potential in the forest-based sector shall be used to develop novel ideas and create new markets.

The co-funded joint transnational call will address **the whole forest-based value chain** in two areas:

# ForestValue: Call Scope

## *A. Innovative sustainable management of multifunctional forests including:*

- ... harvesting, planning and logistics systems
- ... scenarios based on the induced future alterations of species mix under predicted effects of climate change
- ... defining tree species and cultivars (including breeding approaches) adapted to changing environmental influences (biotic and abiotic)
- ... fostering resilience of forest ecosystems and forest production systems (incl. pests, diseases, invasive species) e.g. through managing biodiversity, from genes to local communities
- ... methodologies for assessing the economic, social and environmental values of forest products and services in regional and national scales; deducting trade-offs in management
- ...non-wood forest products

# ForestValue: Call Scope

## *B. Innovative industrial production and processing technologies, products, concepts and services focusing at:*

- ... Circular use of forest-based products, side streams and waste within a ***circular bio-economy***. Energy and resource efficient processes (e.g. by utilising side stream woody biomass for energy)
- ... Extraction, separation and fractionation of wood components for innovative added value green chemicals, components and other ***value-added products and their new functionalities*** from wood, wood-based hybrids & composites
- ... Management concepts for ***lean timber construction and other building solutions*** (new & retrofitted; multi-storey & industrial buildings) including the utilization of soft and hardwood resources
- ... Consequential ***full life cycle environmental, social and economic impacts*** of wood and wood construction
- ... ***Efficient use of raw materials and other resources*** taking into account large scale raw material use alterations (e.g. by additional users (biorefinery))
- ... ***Quality assessment*** of wood resources for different uses; also taking into account raw material properties induced by future alterations of species mix resulting under the predicted effects of climate change
- ... ***Value-added use of forest-based products*** for dynamically changing societal needs (e.g. new materials or systems for timber constructions)

# ForestValue: Call Scope

*As the following issues pertain to all parts of the value chain, they may be addressed in each part where appropriate:*

- ***Digitalization*** (integration of the above topics with state-of-the-art information and communication technology across company boundaries)
- Implications to and from EU and national ***policy frameworks for the forest-based sector***
- ***Innovative business concepts*** (incl. business ecosystems) and value added esp. for rural areas
- Organisation, harmonisation and standardisation of ***data storage, formats and protocols***. Creation of ***meta-databases***
- ***Societal perceptions and dialogue*** about the forestry and wood production sector, its products and contributions towards a sustainable society
- Future development of ***global circular bio-economy markets*** and their implication on the European forest based sector

# ForestValue: Call Scope

Interdisciplinary collaboration and involvement of companies and stakeholders are highly welcome.

**Consortia may cover basic and/or applied research and/or industrial research and development, close-to-market research and innovation actions.** Please check the national annexes for specific national funding requirements.

Funding is available for innovative, industrially relevant research and development projects. This means that *a significant step beyond the state of the art is an absolute pre-requisite.*

**National funding regulations are applied within this joint call:**

***Please note that some specific topics may be out of scope of a certain national programme. You should always check with all relevant funding organisations for your consortium before handing in a proposal.***

# Forest Value: Call – Basic rules for participation

- **Consortia must include at least three independent legal entities applying for funding from three different countries with funding agencies participating in the call** (see Annex IV). The number of partners per consortium is not limited, but the manageability of the consortium must be demonstrated (efficient consortia of typically 5-8 partners for medium-sized projects with total budget in a range of 1-2 Mio € are expected.)
- The initiative is intended to facilitate **transnational collaboration** between **industry, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), stakeholder associations, research organisations, leading-edge scientists from a wider range of disciplines covering forest management, wood material, construction, natural, biological, social, economic and other relevant sciences** who will bring their broad expertise to support the transformation of the European forest-based sector and to secure its competitiveness.
- Wherever possible and meaningful, **the participation of commercial and industrial partners – especially small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) – is strongly recommended** to ensure the relevance of the research to technological development and to the needs of society. Please note, however, some national programmes are not open to commercial and industrial partners (see Annex IV).
- The **participation of young scientists** in the research teams is encouraged.
- Note that **detailed exploitation and dissemination plans are an important feature of every proposal.**

# ForestValue: Call – Main rules for participation

- **Partners from countries which are not participating in the call are also encouraged to join a consortium** (as additional partners; the minimum number of three partners from countries participating in this call remains). **These so-called “third country” partners must finance their activities from other sources and need to state in advance the source of funding for their part in the project.** In the full proposal phase, a letter of commitment must be included in the proposal confirming the source of funding. Projects must ensure that the exploitation of results focuses on the ForestValue partner countries and that all exploitation in third countries clearly indicates the Union funding that contributed to this project. These so-called “third country” partners are entitled to follow any applicable H2020 participation rules.
- **National funding regulations are applied** within this joint call. In addition to the general rules and procedures laid down in this document, there may be **specific national rules** to be followed by the applicants. **It is strongly recommended that these are checked with the contact person at the respective funding agency before submitting a proposal.**

# ForestValue: Call – Proposal Evaluation

## Pre-proposal stage (Step 1)

- The pre-proposals **will first be checked for eligibility by the Call Office** with regard to mandatory eligibility criteria defined in the call text (“5. Rules for participation”). Afterwards the **funding organisations will check the eligibility of the pre-proposals and their suitability for national funding** in line with the restrictions laid down in the Specific National Rules in Annex IV.
- **Eligible pre-proposals will be scientifically evaluated by at least three international experts** with regard to the criteria laid down in Annex I to the Call Text.
- **The Call Steering Committee will, based on the recommendations of the independent experts, select those pre-proposals that may enter the full proposal phase.** After the evaluation of the pre-proposals all research consortia will be informed of the outcome of the evaluation and will receive a short evaluation assessment statement. **Only consortia whose pre-proposals pass the first evaluation stage will be invited to submit a full proposal.**

# ForestValue: Call – Proposal Evaluation

## Full proposal stage (Step 2)

- Submitted full proposals will be briefly checked if **eligibility** is still guaranteed and after this **evaluated centrally by a joint and independent international peer review** based on the evaluation criteria stated in Annex I to the Call Text. Each proposal will be evaluated by at least three independent experts.
- At the end of the evaluation process, **the evaluator panel will determine on one final ranking list of proposals. Based on the ranking list and the available funding, the ForestValue partners will decide in accordance with the H2020 ERA-NET Cofund rules and the national and/or regional budget availability on the projects to be funded.**
- The Call Office will inform the coordinators of all research consortia of the evaluation outcome by sending an evaluation summary. **Those consortia recommended for funding will additionally be informed of the next steps to be taken in order to start national contract negotiations.**

# ForestValue: Contact Information

*ForestValue website* (incl. a link to submission tool): <https://forestvalue.org/>

The administration of the call is led by the *ForestValue Call Office* on behalf of all the funding partners. *General enquiries* about this call should be addressed to the call office:

- Carina Lemke, Agency for Renewable Resources (FNR), [c.lemke@fnr.de](mailto:c.lemke@fnr.de)
- Martin Greimel, Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Water Management (BMLFUW), [Martin.Greimel@bmlfuw.gv.at](mailto:Martin.Greimel@bmlfuw.gv.at)
- Mika Kallio, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MMM), [Mika.Kallio@mmm.fi](mailto:Mika.Kallio@mmm.fi)

For questions regarding **national funding rules and national forms**, please consult the **Call text Annex IV: Specific National Rules. Additional information on national funding rules** can be obtained from the contact persons at the participating funding organisations (see **Call text Annex III: National Contacts**).

