



FORESTERRA

Enhancing FOREst REsearch in the MediTERRAnean
through improved coordination and integration



Foresterra Final Conference

www.foresterra.eu

- Lisbon, Portugal, 24-26 November 2015 -

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Directorate General for Scientific and Technical

Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness -MINECO-



FORESTERRA ("Enhancing FOREst REsearch in the MediTERRAnean through improved coordination and integration"),
Grant Agreement nº 291832, is an ERA-NET funded by the European Union's FP7.



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Why?

Mediterranean forests currently handicapped by fragmentation, isolation and the low benefits they offer.

Forests ecosystems provide multiple goods and services that are crucial to the socioeconomic development of its rural areas and urban populations.

Mediterranean basin countries, and other Mediterranean Climate Areas, face similar challenges regarding the sustainability of forest ecosystems, goods and services.



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The objectives

To reduce the fragmentation of the research community, avoiding overlaps and promoting synergies.

To maximise the research impact of the network.

To improve mutual knowledge of existing national programs and capacities.

To consolidate partnerships and develop common schemes for programme evaluation, as well as for mutual opening of facilities, laboratories and experimental sites.



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What is an ERA NET?

- ☐ 1st ERA-Net launched in 2002 => 'Structuring the European Research Area' under de FP6
- ☐ Key element to avoid the fragmentation of the European research
- ☐ The main tool of coordination and cooperation of the R+D+I programs in the EU
- ☐ Designed as initiatives of variable-geometry basis: MMSS, AASS, 3rd countries.
- ☐ Authorities identify research programs of common interest to be coordinated:
 - They produce joint Strategic Research Agendas (SRA)
 - Joint transnational calls for research projects
- ☐ Participants:
 - Owners of research programs (Ministries or Governmental Offices funding Research activities)
 - Program managers (Funding research agencies)
 - Sometimes I.I.OO. and Research Performing entities



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**To reinforce science
programming
cooperation on
Mediterranean
forests**

**To reduce
fragmentation and
maximize the
impact of research
activities**

**The FORESTERRA
ERA-NET
*a key
project/program***

**A specific theme
transnational
Mediterranean ERA-
Net**

**To exchange
Mediterranean
forest science
information**

**Transcontinental cooperation among
Mediterranean Climate Areas**



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Project full title: Enhancing FOREst REsearch in the MediTERRanean through improved coordination and integration
Project acronym: **FORESTERRA**
Type of funding scheme: Coordination and support actions (Coordinating)
Call identifier: **KBBE-2011.1.2-08**
Work programme topics: 2.1 Sustainable production and management of biological resources from land, forest and aquatic environment
Coordinating person: David González Martínez

List of Participants

Participant Number	Participant Organisation name	Participant short name	Country	Date enter project	Date exit project
1	Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness	MINECO	Spain (ES)	M1	M48
2	Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Zaragoza / International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies	IAMZ	INT	Consortium	
3	Ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Agroalimentaire et de la Forêt	MAAF	France (FR)		
4	Ministero delle Politiche Agricole Alimentari e Forestali	MIPAAF	Italy (IT)		
5	Ministry of Forest and Water Affairs, General Directorate of Forestry, Southwest Anatolia Forest Research Institute	SAFRI	Turkey (TR)		
6	European Forest Institute-Mediterranean Regional Office	EFIMED	INT		
7	Research Council for Agriculture	CRA	Italy (IT)		
8	Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique	INRA	France (FR)		
9	Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia	FCT	Portugal (PT)		
10	Institution of Agricultural Research and Higher Education	IRESA	Tunisia (TN)		
11	Haut Commissariat aux Eaux et Forêts et à la Lutte Contre la Désertification	HCEFLCD	Morocco (MA)		
12	Executive Forest Agency	EFA	Bulgaria (BG)		
13	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food	MAFF	Slovenia (SL)		
14	Ministry of Science, Education and Sports	MZOS	Croatia (HR)		
15	Ministry of environment, energy and climate change	MEECC	Greece (GR)		
16	Institut National de Recherche Forestière	INRF	Algeria (DZ)		

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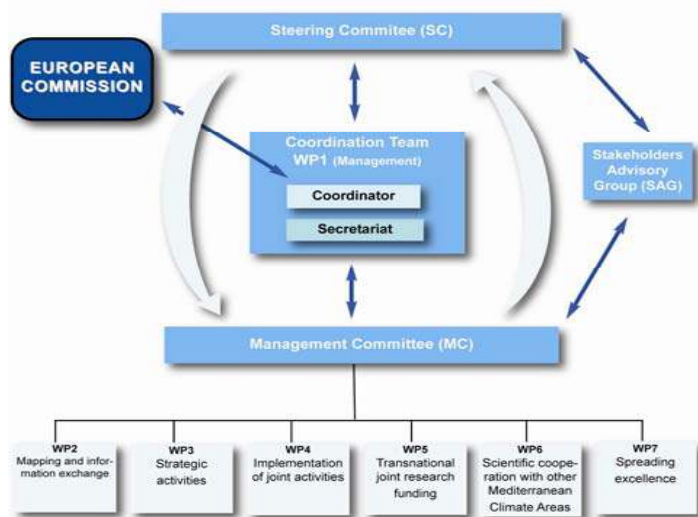
1 Jan 2012 – 31 Dec 2015





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Project Coordination

Partner 1(MINECO) is the responsible for the coordination and development of the Foresterra network and activities. EFIMED has played a key role in the strategic activities such as the SRIA.

Networking development, and interactions with stakeholders

FORESTERRA all accross the project has established a Stakeholders Advisory Group (SAG) and ensured good communication and interaction with relevant forest-related policy makers and stakeholders (including researchers) in the region





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**Foresterra R&D
Strategic plan**

FORESTERRA Joint Call

**Implementation of
other Joint activities**

The Work performed by FORESTERRA

**Mapping of existing research
capacities**

**Mediterranean Forestry
Research Framework
database**

**Dissemination
events**

**International
cooperation activities**

Publications



FORESTERRA R&D Strategic plan

- ✓ We designed a model which ensures sustainability of the Mediterranean forestry research and FORESTERRA

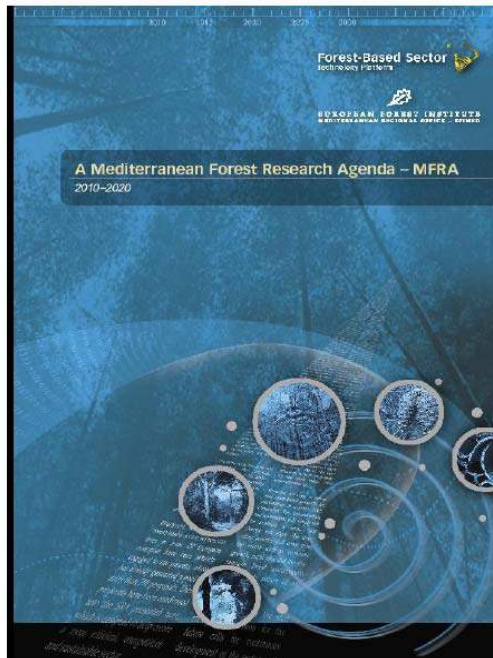
FORESTERRA strategic scientific, built based on:

- **The Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda MFRA 2010 - 2020**

- A FORESTERRA mapping exercise to identify and characterize forest research capacities and programs on Mediterranean forests - A a wide consultation process with the scientific community and relevant stakeholders to define strategic scientific themes to be address through a transnational approach.

<http://www.foresterra.eu/pdfs/D3.1+Research+Stakeholders+workshop.pdf>

Stakeholders workshop took place in Tunis, Tunisia June 2012





FORESTERRA R&D Strategic plan

Deliverable 3.2: Strategic plan for joint activities and research topics for transnational funding

- ✓ Forest research capacities and programs
- ✓ Implementation of joint activities
- ✓ Strategic research themes
- ✓ Joint Transnational Research Units (JTRU)



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Foresterra Strategic Research Themes

Based on a broad consultation process, four main multi - disciplinary and cross - cutting research themes were identified: **Global Change, Biodiversity, (funded in first call)** and **Landscapes, Water**. *Foresterra Stakeholders workshop (Tunis, 13th June 2012)*

- **1: Understanding global change drivers, indicators and impacts on Mediterranean forest ecosystems: a Mediterranean-scale approach. - GLOBAL CHANGE-**
- **2: Fostering forest system resilience through managing biodiversity, from genes to community. -BIODIVERSITY-**
- **3: Multi-purpose forest landscapes management to enhance the role of non-wood products and related ecosystem services in rural development. -MULTIPURPOSE LANDSCAPES-**
- **4: Integrated watershed management for delivering forest water-related services. -WATER-**



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FORESTERRA Joint Call

We successfully launched the first FORESTERRA Joint Call in November 2013

FORESTERRA Transnational Call for Joint Collaborative Projects and Networking action proposals on *“Mediterranean-scale approach to study global change drivers, impacts & indicators on forest ecosystems and to foster forest system resilience through managing biodiversity”.*

Criteria: Added value; Interdisciplinary; Transnational collaboration

2 Thematic Research Areas:

- **Global change**: Understanding global change drivers, impacts & indicators on forest ecosystems: a Mediterranean-scale approach -**Networking actions**-
- **Biodiversity**: Fostering forest system resilience through managing biodiversity, from genes to communities -**Collaborative projects**-



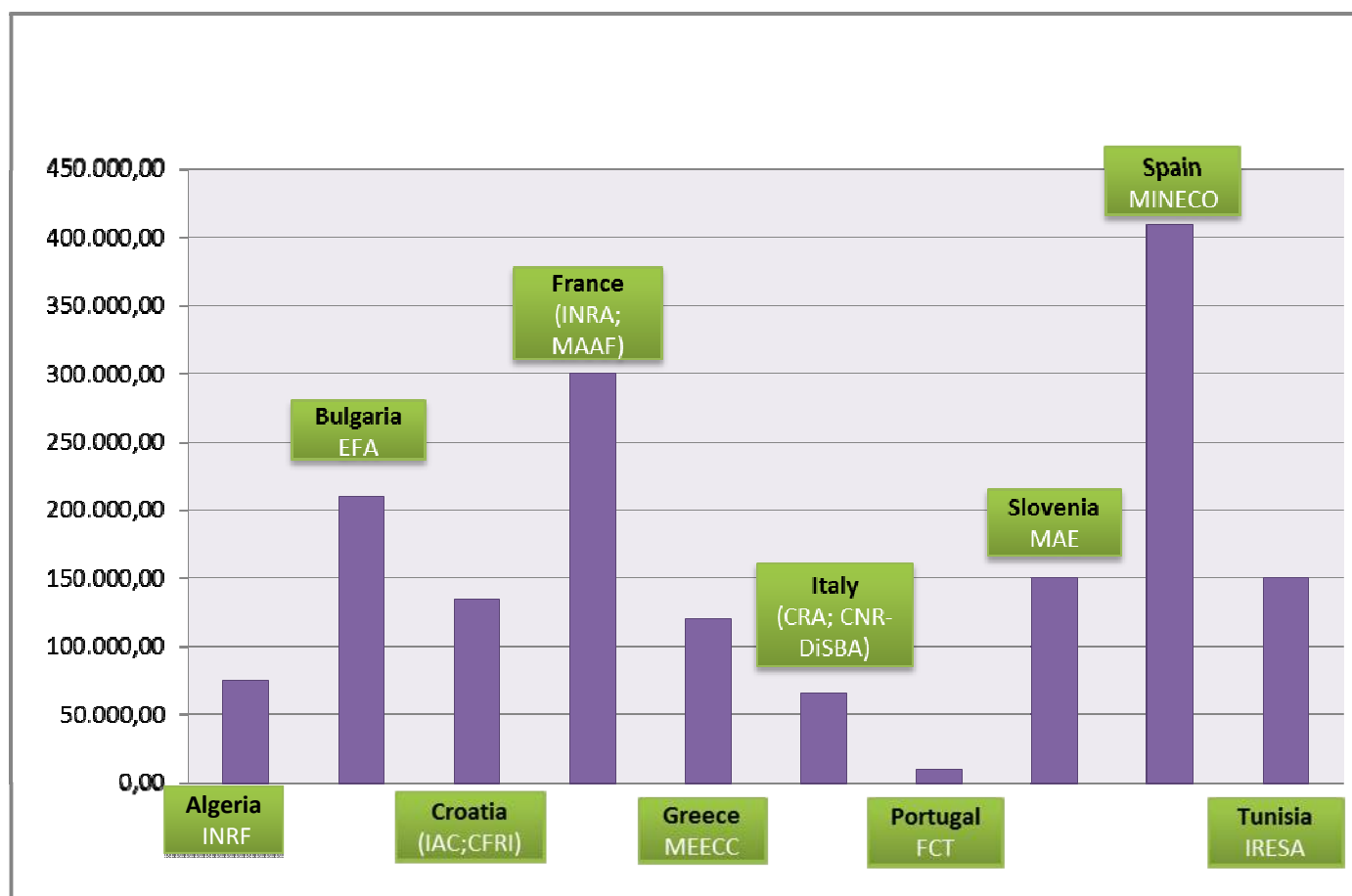
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Launch of the call: 4th November 2013

Total: 1.516.000€





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NETWORKING ACTIONS

2014

**Global
Change**

First stage evaluation:
RESILIST, NETMEDFOR, **MEDWILDFIRELAB**

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

2014

Biodiversity

First stage evaluation:
MEDITREEVAR, INFORMED; FORENANCES; FORESTMED

Second stage evaluation:
INFORMED; FORENANCES





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Funded Collaborative Project INFORMED: “INtegrated research on FOrest Resilience and Management in the mEDiterranean “

Biodiversity

Coordinator: Prof. François Lefèvre, Institut National de la Recherche Agricole (FR)

Country partners: Algeria, France, Bulgaria, Greece, Portugal, Spain, Slovenia, Tunisia, Italy, Croatia

Duration: 36 months (From 01/01/2015 - 31/12/2018) **Budget requested:** 1.114.650 € **Total Budget:** 2.310.079€

Objectives:

- to produce global change scenarios specifically dedicated to the Mediterranean forests;
- to develop process-based approach of biodiversity and functional response of Mediterranean forests to disturbance;
- to develop integrated assessment of ecosystem services and their dynamics based on ecosystem functions
- to evaluate adaptive management strategies, policy and governance for their expected impact on resilience of Mediterranean forests.

Funded Networking Action MEDWILDFIRELAB: Global Change Impacts on Wildland Fire Behaviour and Uses in Mediterranean Forest Ecosystems, towards a «wall less» Mediterranean Wildland Fire Laboratory

Global Change

Coordinator: Prof. Francisco M.C. CASTRO REGO, Universidade Tecnica de Lisboa

Country partners: Algeria, France, Greece, Portugal, Spain, Tunisia, Turkey, Italy, Croatia

Duration: 30 months (From 01/10/2014 - 31/03/2017) **Budget requested:** 248.850 € **Total budget:** 267.850€

Objectives:

- to develop an integrated Mediterranean forest information system as basis for fostering the cooperation;
- to work towards common concepts and vocabulary adapted to Mediterranean context;
- to address the policy makers proposals and recommendations for up-dating wildland fire policies;
- to support the transnational access to existing research networks and infrastructures towards a new transnational joint research structure willing to ensure a long-lasting cooperation in this field, the “wall less” Mediterranean Wildland Fire Laboratory.



Analysis for a possible Foresterra second Joint Call

An analysis for a possible Foresterra second Joint Call was realized

- The consortium considered the idea of a second call during the second period of the project.
- Proposed in the Steering Committee Meeting in Kavala (Nov. 2014).

Relation with SUMFOREST:

This ERA-NET began at the end of 2014.

As there are partners in common with SUMFOREST, and they will launch a joint Call with themes related to FORESTERRA (Water), we have decided to participate with Sumforest in the future Call.



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Implementation of Joint activities

□ FORESTERRA Workshop on Strategic Activities (Tunisia, June 2012):

The event aimed to introduce Foresterra to a large cross-section of the Mediterranean forest research community and to draw a scientific plan.

- More than **90 participants** attending the FORESTERRA workshop, including other Mediterranean Climate Areas. From **Australia** Southern Cross University and from **California** University of California - College of Natural Resources of Berkeley
- Four cross-cutting themes were discussed, through interactive and iterative group work.
- Drafts strategic document produced, disseminated to EFIMED's network of over 800 stakeholders for additional comments.



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❑ FORESTERRA Workshop for exchanging information regarding the mapping exercises (Rome, October 2012)

- **More than 27 participants.** Focused on the exchange of information regarding existing research programmes and capacities among partners, among countries and with relevant stakeholders
- In order to exploit the results of the mapping exercises (Task 2.1 and 2.2)
- After the workshop, the deliverable 2.4 “Report on the mapping and characterisation of existing funding programmes and research capacities” was produced.
- A summary was disseminated to EFIMED’s network of over 800 stakeholders by the newsletter and it is available at the FORESTERRA Website.





□ Workshop with relevant ERA-Nets and JPIs (Barcelona, September 2013)

- **Opening session which was attended by over 100 leading researchers**, funding agencies and policy makers in Mediterranean forestry (in coincidence with EFIMED Annual Meeting)
- **Presentation of our SRIA and pre-launch of the FORESTERRA CALL.**
- **Dissemination event:** Presentations or posters on their institution / project / activity in relation to one of the four FORESTERRA strategic themes.
- Participants had the opportunity to network and take steps towards building trans-national consortia for the forthcoming calls for proposals.
- **FORESTERRA maximized synergies** and the impacts of research not only with other related initiatives, but also with other Mediterranean Climate Areas, in order to promote joint activities and exchange of information.



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□ FORESTERRA workshop “Towards building a multi-level transnational network in Mediterranean forestry research” (Marseille, December 2013):

<http://foresterra.eu/marseille2013/index.html>



- More than **80 participants** attended the event and a total of **37 directors of forest research institutes/centers/entities of 13 countries were represented** (Algeria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Morocco, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Tunisia and Turkey).
- The specific objectives of the workshop:
 - Reinforce the **networking activities** among forest research institutions, units and laboratories;
 - Promote the **mutual opening of national forest research infrastructures** and information (experimental sites, facilities, databases);
 - Encourage the **development of transnational joint research units**.



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❑ FORESTERRA dissemination workshop (Sofía, 2014):

The objective was to strengthen the dissemination among EU Member States, MPCs, and the new EU Member and Candidate States.

http://www.foresterra.eu/pdfs/D7.4_Workshop_to_attract_new_partners.pdf

- More than 32 representatives from forest research intitutions of Eastern Meidterranean EU and non-EU.
- Presentations from the nine invited countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Jordan, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia
- A way to produce new material and attract non-participating countries.
- To explore the possibilities to **reinforce the cooperation** with different stakeholders from these potential new countries (Middle East and Balkan countries)
- Sofía meeting attendants were invited, and some of them are participating in this Final Conference



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❑ 1st SUMFOREST - FORESTERRA Workshop (Krakow, Poland, July 2014) :

The objective of the event was to maximise synergies and identify and define joint strategic topics

- Attended by 19 representatives from funding agencies and research performing entities who were leaders of the different Work Packages of each project.
- Discussion on SUMFOREST-FORESTERRA cooperation and joint activity plan. Discussion included, inter alia, strategic topics identified in the FORESTERRA research agenda and their relevance at the European level, as well as possibility for SUMFOREST to maintain the FORESTERRA information/web and database on research activities alive after 2015, etc.

(Rome 2015, Lisbon 2015 JTTG... and beyond)



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□ World Forest Congress 2015 (Durban, South Africa):

150 organizations from 26 countries.



4 Major forest research topics: Understanding global change; Fostering Forest resilience; Multipurpose landscapes; Integrated Water and forest management

- Presentation of FORESTERRA by Marc Palahí, Director of European Forest Institute
- **Introducing FORESTERRA at the Mediterranean Stand (FAO-AIFM-):** “The Stand “**Mediterranean Forest**” took place for the first time within the World Forestry Congress and was organized by the [International Association for Mediterranean Forests \(AIFM\)](#).
- Exchange of ideas, information and experiences in terms of different actions and projects -realized to resolve the many problems faced by the Mediterranean forest ecosystems- is a major key toward their sustainable development.



New research approaches needed:
The case of FORESTERRA

Marc Palahí
Director
European Forest Institute



Mapping of existing research capacities

- ☐ Mapping and characterization of existing funding programs & research capacities in MA
- ☐ A Mediterranean forestry research framework database was generated from the information gathered from questionnaires from scientific organizations, funding Bodies and forestry programmes financed by funding entities.
- ☐ To identify complementarities, overlaps, gaps, strengths and weaknesses in forest research a country matrix analysis was performed



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- ☐ We analyzed the overall budgets provided to forest research, and how much goes to agricultural research institutions in the participant countries of FORESTERRA.
- ☐ We analyzed the distribution of the forest research dedicated staff (permanent and non - permanent).
- ☐ We were also able to demonstrate the top utilized journals where the FORESTERRA countries publish their forestry scientific papers.



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- Forest topics of major concern:
 - effects of global and climate change (ecological and genetic adaptation);
 - biomass production optimization/bioenergy;
 - evaluation of forest ecosystem services.

- Infrastructures.** Most common research facilities:
- genetic and biotechnology lab; eco - physiology lab; forest pathology lab; soil analysis lab; experimental fields; experimental trials; meteorological station**





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Our consortium was able to publish the following papers with relevant information to the Mediterranean forest scientific community:

Publications:

Linking the forest research in the Mediterranean area: A framework to improve research capacities and cooperation.

Forest Policy and Economics, DOI:10.1016/j.forpol.2014.08.003.

Authors: Giovanni Di Matteo, Pierfrancesco Nardi, Paolo Ceci, Sofia Bajocco, Luigi Perini, Gema Herrero-Corral, Dunixi Gabiña, Giuseppe Scarascia Mugnozza.

Exploring forest infrastructures equipment through multivariate analysis: complementarities, gaps and overlaps in the Mediterranean basin.

Annals of Silvicultural research, DOI: 10.12899/asr-774.

Authors: Sofia Bajocco, Elisabetta Raparelli, Francesco Patriarca, Giovanni Di Matteo, Pierfrancesco Nardi, Luigi Perini, Luca Salvati, Giuseppe Scarascia Mugnozza.

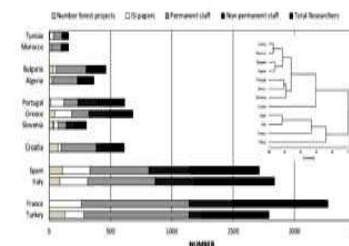


Fig. 1. Number of ongoing forest projects, number of papers published in forest subjects and number of total staff deployed in forest research, together with the latest analysis developed grouping the Mediterranean countries with similar performance in forest research capacity. Note that the numbers

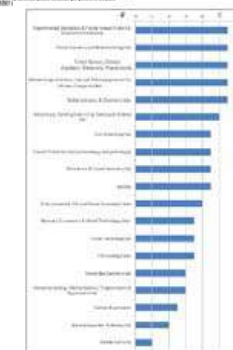


Figure 2: Frequency graph of the infrastructure equipment belonging to the forest research facilities of the 1995-2010 period.



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International cooperation activities

Presence of representatives from Mediterranean Climate Areas (MCAs):

Australia

Chile

South Africa

USA

At the Foresterra workshop (Barcelona, September 2013) & Research
Stakeholders workshop (Tunisia, June 2012)

**International cooperation activities and search for common interests with
other Mediterranean climate areas:**

Mission to Australia and California

*Many shared interests were found in these missions, and this information is very
important for future analysis of potential networking and collaboration opportunities
between FORESTERRA, Australian and Californian researchers, and funding
organizations.*





Mission to Australia: 7 day mission to Australia in February 2014

- **FORESTERRA representation: Funding agencies MINECO and FCT and research performing entities and CRA and international organizations EFI**
- **The visit included funding agencies and regulators centres of excellence in the Mediterranean Climate Forest research, and industry in Canberra, Melbourne, Mount Gambier and Perth.**
- **As for research areas the main focus is on the following, which are a priority:**
 - Water** (Strong issue with water depletion below ground reservoirs and employment of water spending tree species)
 - Bushfire control**
 - Climate change**
 - Management of plantation: silviculture**



Mission to California: 1st to 4th December 2014

- This mission consisted on several visits to universities and funding entities in Oakland, Stanford, Santa Cruz, Berkeley, Albany, Sacramento and Davis.
- **All targets of the FORESTERRA research agenda were perceived as relevant by the scientists (universities) and funders (CAL FIRE and USDA-PSW RS).**
- **The most important topics are related to fire (prevention, resilience and post fire restoration), water resource (availability, regulation and quality) and global warming (adaptation and mitigation).**
- Biodiversity preservation is a relevant topic as well with a specific emphasis on the role of invasive species and exotic pests.
- Due to social pressure, wood mobilization is not as important as in European Mediterranean countries, although it could be part of a fire prevention strategy.



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Communication
plan

Spreading excellence

*Strengthening dissemination among the new EU
member and Candidate States.*



8 Newsletters produced
Dissemination material
<http://www.foresterra.eu/news.html>

Conferences:
Mid-term Conference in
Barcelona
Final Conference in Lisbon



www.foresterra.eu
More than 38.000 visits from the
begining and more than 12.000 in
the last year



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Meetings and Dissemination events

Meetings

[FORESTERRA Final Meeting. Lisbon 24-26 November 2015](#)

[INFORMED Collaborative Project Kick-off Meeting. Barcelona 9-11 March 2015](#)

[FORESTERRA 3rd Steering & Management committee. Kavala, Greece, 4 November 2014](#)

[Joint SUMFOREST-FORESTERRA Workshop. Krakow, Poland, 8th July 2014](#)

[FORESTERRA Dissemination Workshop. Sofia, Bulgaria, 27-28 May 2014](#)

[FORESTERRA Management Committee meeting, and FORESTERRA Call Funding Agencies Meeting. Zaragoza, Spain, 24-25 April 2014.](#)

[Marseille, France, 12-13 December 2013. FORESTERRA WORKSHOP Towards building a multi-level transnational network in Mediterranean forestry research](#)

[Barcelona, Spain, 3-4 September 2013. FORESTERRA Steering Committee and Foresterra Event](#)

[Paris, France, 6-7 May 2013. FORESTERRA Management Committee Meeting, Paris, France](#)

[Rome, Italy, October 2012. FORESTERRA Steering Committee and Stakeholders Advisory Group Meetings](#)

[Tunis, Tunisia, June 2012. FORESTERRA Workshop on Strategic Activities and FORESTERRA Management Committee Meeting](#)

[Madrid, Spain, February 2012. FORESTERRA Kick-off meeting](#)

Events

[EFIMED Annual Meeting 2013. 3-6 September 2013. Sant Pau World Heritage Site, Barcelona, Spain](#)



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Other meetings attended

- **FORESTERRA Meeting with the FORESTERRA Project Officer** (Doru Leonard IRIMIE) Brussels, 17 January 2014
- **PLATFORM 3rd Annual Workshop: ERA-Nets for the future.** Leiden, 13-14 February 2014
- **Visits to other Mediterranean Climate Areas (WP6):** Australia, 17-21 February 2014 and California, 2-4 December 2014
- **Kick-off meeting MedWildFireLab Networking Action.** Castelo de Vide, 24 October 2014
- **HORIZON 2020 meeting.** Rome, 19 December 2013 (MIUR, Ministry of Education, Universities and Research):
- **MEDSPRING 1st Meeting on EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PROJECTS DIALOGUE TO ENHANCE WATER-ENERGY-FOOD NEXUS.** Barcelona, 21– 22 January 2015.
- **Kick-off meeting INFORMED collaborative project .** Barcelona, 9-11 March 2015
- **SUMFOREST Management Committee Meeting 4 (MC4) and Workshop: “Transnational research needs and sharing of research capacities”.** Warsaw, Poland, 5-6 May 2015
- **Joint Think Tank Group SUMFOREST-FORESTERRA.** Kick off meeting. Rome, 25th September 2015
- **PLATFORM Annual Event 2015 “ERA-NETs for Impact and Global Cooperation”.** Berlin, 10-11 September 2015



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Future challenges

- Strengthen the alliances and interchange with similar networks & projects => sustainability of Foresterra under SUMFOREST and the 1st SUMFOREST call
- To continue with the synergies and cooperation of FORESTERRA in other EU and international Mediterranean Climate areas
- Bring together efforts on bioeconomy & forest European policies: Cofund initiative for innovative forest-based bioeconomy. The topic of ERANET COFUND should be inclusive with the interests of the SRIA and the Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda (MFRA)
- To update the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA). Interaction with other related Mediterranean initiatives

Keeping the focus on forestry research and Mediterranean interests



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- Mediterranean forest interactions are complex and water resources are scarce and these should be looked in an integrated manner.
- New holistic approach of the problem has to be done and should not be limited to the Mediterranean.
- New research needs new tools and experiences from FORESTERRA:
 - ☐ Interdisciplinary and multi-scale projects
 - ☐ Integrated experimental sites
 - ☐ New scale of research funding! (COFUND)

***Keeping the focus on forestry research and common transeuropean
and Mediterranean interests***



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**Thanks for your
attention!**

***Obrigado pela sua
atenção!***