

ERIAFF Network
European Regions for Innovation
in Agriculture, Food and Forestry



Invitation to the Workshop
"Inform-Prioritize-Collaborate: Cooperation of Regions on Innovation in Forest Management, Use of Wood and Forest-related Services"
29 January 2016 in Brussels

(!New date after cancellation of the former date due to high security alert level in Brussels!)

Forestry and forest-based economy will play a major role in the EU bio-economy. The European Innovation Partnership Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP Agri) specifically addresses this issue and offers a framework for supporting innovation in forestry.

At the first Forest Innovation Workshop in May 2014, regional forest actors and experts joined forces for the identification of priority areas on which innovation support efforts through Rural Development policies and other European programmes should be focused. This initiative resulted in 4 main priorities for innovation in forestry:

- 1-Managing Impacts related to Climate Change
- 2-Supporting Wood and Biomass Mobilization
- 3-Supporting the Provision of Ecosystem Services
- 4-Improving Sustainable Forest Management Approaches and Tools.

Details on this first workshop are available at:

http://www.efi.int/portal/capacity_building/sharing_knowledge/workshop/

Today, Rural Development Programmes have been approved, or are in the final approval phase, offering supporting measures for innovating the forest sector. It's now time to show what Regions are planning or already implementing, to inspire other territories to make use of the available measures (particularly EIP AGRI Operational Groups) and to establish cross-border cooperation, not neglecting other relevant tools (Horizon 2020, COSME, LIFE+, INTERREG, other national/regional funding instruments).

The ERIAFF Network (European Regions for Innovation in Agriculture, Food and Forestry), the European Forest Institute (EFI), EUROMONTANA (the European Association of Mountain Areas), the European Confederation of Forest Owners (CEPF), EUSTAFOR (the European State Forest Association), COPA-COGECA (European Farmers and Agri-cooperatives) and ERRIN (European Regions for Research and Innovation Network) are pleased to invite you to the workshop.

Inform-Prioritize-Collaborate: Cooperation of Regions on Innovation in Forest Management, Use of Wood and Forest-related Services
29 January 2016 from 9.00 am to 4.30 pm

The event is kindly hosted by
the Representation of the Free State of Bavaria to the European Union,
Rue Wiertz 77, 1000 Brussels

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Starting from the 4 challenges defined during the 2014 edition, this second workshop will focus on practical ideas and cases on tackling forest-related challenges through innovation and cross sectorial collaboration which can be supported

- as EIP AGRI Operational Groups under the 2014-2020 Rural Development Programmes;
- or by other relevant programmes (Horizon 2020, COSME, LIFE, INTERREG).

The event will provide an opportunity to bring together potential stakeholders to improve their project ideas and to help Managing Authorities of Rural Development Programmes in better targeting their priorities when implementing their measures to support innovation in forestry.

For further information, programme and registration please visit the [workshop webpage](#).
Registration is closing on 18 January.

Ensure your voice is heard and your views shared by the relevant EU and regional stakeholders - help us to strengthen the contribution of forestry to the EU bio-economy and rural development!