



PRESS RELEASE

THE ICSURO PRESENTS A NEW OPENING FOR VALORISING CORK BYPRODUCTS AT THE INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP OF THE AGRICULTURAL EUROPEAN INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP

On 10th and 11th November, the ICSuro (Catalan Cork Institute) participated in the workshop “New Value Chains from Multifunctional Forests” in Vienna, Austria, organised by EIP-AGRI (The Agricultural European Innovation Partnership) which was attended by 80 people from 19 European countries, representatives from technological research centres, forest owners and managers, livestock breeders and farmers and representatives of the government in agroforestry matters.

The main objective of the workshop was for experts in agroforestry matters to pool their knowledge to find new ideas and to bridge the gap between research and practice. At the same time, to get to know the agroforestry reality of the member countries and to share the management of their forests.

The strategic lines of the ICSuro for 2014-2020 are to promote, develop and increase the entire value chain of the Catalan cork-producing sector. The ICSuro’s objective is to increase the value of cork-producing territories by working to develop new uses for cork. Along these lines, at the workshop, Maria Verдум of the Department of Research, Development and Innovation, presented a case study in the form of a poster which explained the use of the byproduct of the cork industry as raw material for 3D printing: “High value 3D printed products from low quality cork raw materials”.

Over the years, the Catalan forests have been ravaged by large forest fires, such as the one in 2013 in the Alt Empordà region or the one in 2014 in the municipal areas of Calonge, Palamós and Vall-llobrega. These fires left behind huge amounts of burnt cork oak groves that need to be valorised so that the forest managers can make a profit and can manage them again. Therefore, this cork could be used in new applications, such as 3D printing.

During the workshop, 20 case studies were presented encompassed in categories of food, non-food, agroforestry and leisure time activity products. The posters presented defined innovative ideas in traditional forest management. To this end, the ICSuro explained the use of additive technology linked to valorising cork byproducts.

The studies presented were used to show part of the concerns of the European forest sector and were the basis of work for the new common challenges in the agroforestry area. This workshop served to connect people of different nationalities working in the same area, by pooling their knowledge to achieve new future objectives.

From here, the EIP-AGRI will promote the creation of European operational groups to work on innovation in the agroforestry sector. The ICSuro currently participates in several operative groups, nationally and internationally, in matters of research and innovation.

Photos: EIP-AGRI workshop 'New Value Chains from Multifunctional Forests' - copyright European Commission.

For further information: Ariadna Ros - Tel. (+34) 972 305 661 / (+34) 618 558 505 / Email: aros@icsuro.com