ENRD Forestry Thematic Initiative

National Rural Network joint activities

European Network for Rural Development

European Commission
Agriculture and
Rural Development

Proposal for on an accountancy data system for the forestry sector and rural development measures
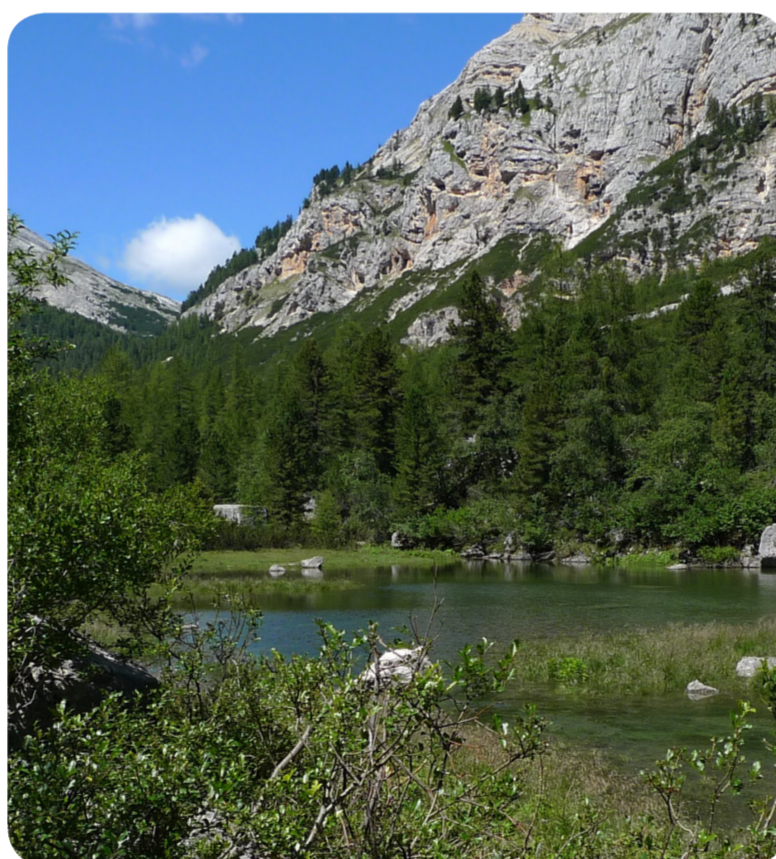
Under the coordination of the INEA Forest Observatory (National Institute of Agricultural Economics) and the financial support of the National Rural Network Programme, the Italian NRN launches a project for applying the Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN) principles to the forestry sector.

The aim of the project is to evaluate the performance of forestry enterprises. Within the EU Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for rural development, the assessment of socio-economic indicators (such as net added value) implies the need to investigate about costs and revenues structure of forestry firms and to take into account the specificity of forestry resources.

Objectives:
- to adapt the FADN principles to the forestry sector and ensure its integration in the accountancy system;
- to define a set of forestry-specific indicators to evaluate the impact of RD policies;
- to promote exchanges with other Member States about indicators and techniques for the evaluation of RD forestry measures.

Transferability of Results
Differently from agricultural sector, forestry accounting schemes have been scarcely developed across Europe and there are not standardized rules. The availability of accounting data is extremely useful for monitoring and evaluating the impacts of rural development measures for forestry.

Target groups
NRNs, Managing Authorities, associations of forest owners and forest enterprises, private forestry owners with book-keeping practices.

Proposed Activities
1. *Preliminary activities:*
- collection of expression of interest from NRNs and designation of a reference person (forestry expert);
- collection of information about existing practices (baseline and impact indicators, evaluation methods);
- summary of the results by the Italian NRN.

2. *Sharing experiences*
Bilateral or multilateral exchanges to investigate how national monitoring and evaluation systems are addressing forestry measure (collection, processing and use of forestry accountancy data).

3. *Reporting*
A short document highlighting the information need:
- How to integrate forestry activities in the FADN system ("ad hoc" survey of forestry farms and enterprises)?
- How to adapt official statistics to the monitoring and evaluation of forestry measures?
- Suggestions for the programming period 2014-2020.

4. *Dissemination*
Final seminar for presenting and discussing the results with EU stakeholders.

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Connecting Rural Europe