



Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland



# Towards a possible European R&I partnership on forestry

## Background and latest news

01.12.2022



# European Partnerships in Horizon Europe.

# European Partnerships in Horizon Europe



## What are European Partnerships?

By bringing private and public partners together, European Partnerships help **to avoid the duplication of investments** and **contribute to reducing the fragmentation of the research and innovation landscape in the EU.**

The partnerships launch joint RDI calls for proposals and develop joint additional activities which are included in the partnership's Strategic Research and Innovation Agendas.

Depending on the type of the partnership, the calls may be open to everyone or just for the participants coming from countries with funding agencies participating in the Joint Call.



# Partnerships across areas

- The partnership candidates are collected mainly across the below 4 areas.
  - CLUSTER 1: [HEALTH](#)
  - CLUSTER 4: [DIGITAL, INDUSTRY & SPACE](#)
  - CLUSTER 5: [CLIMATE, ENERGY & MOBILITY](#)
  - CLUSTER 6: [FOOD, BIOECONOMY, NATURAL RESOURCES, AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT](#), some partnership examples:
    - Circular Bio-based Europe ([CBE](#)), Institutionalised European Partnership
    - Rescuing Biodiversity to Safeguard Life on Earth ([Biodiversa+](#)), Co-funded European Partnership



# Types of partnership

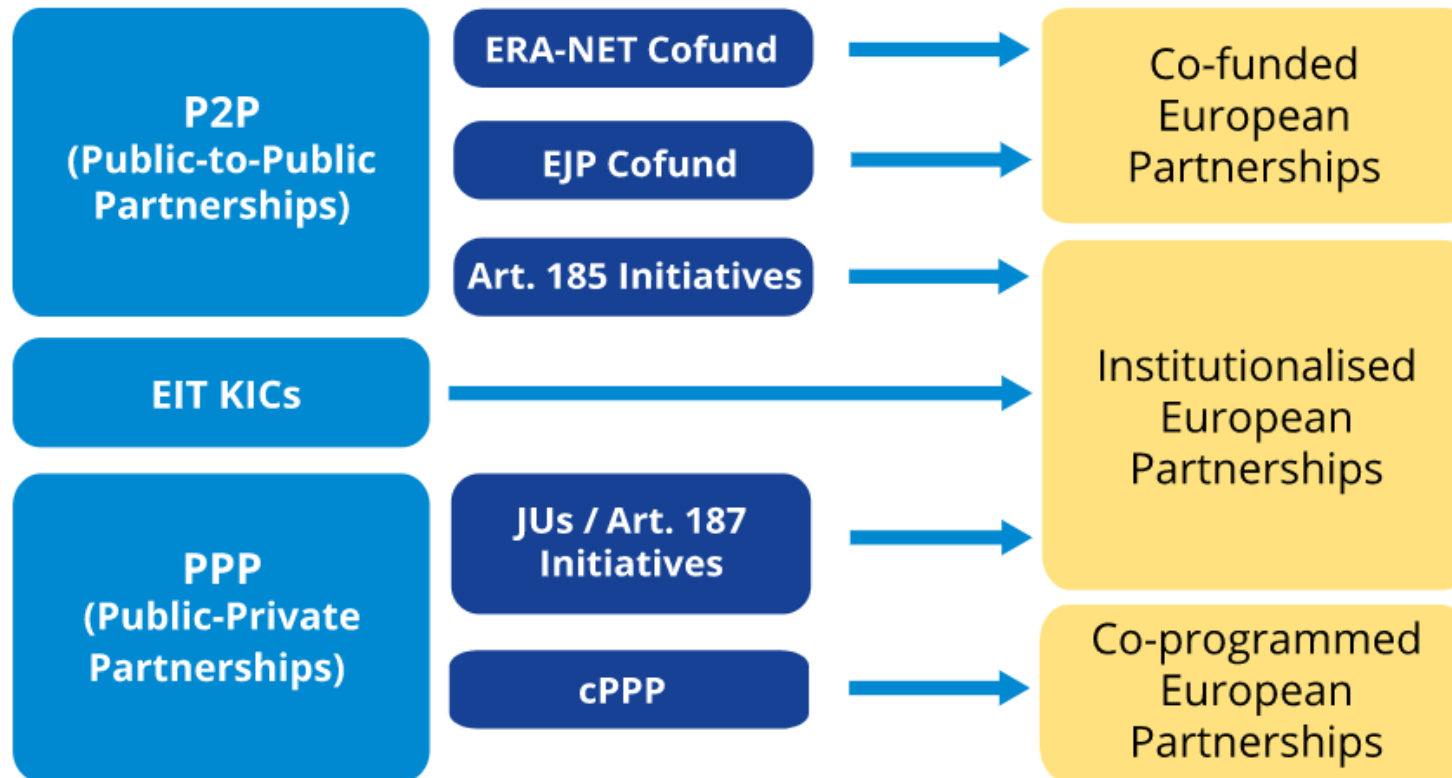
- **CO-PROGRAMMED**
  - Implemented in calls for proposals published in the Work Programme Horizon Europe
  - Calls are open to all eligible applicants
- **CO-FUNDED**
  - Implemented by the consortium of partners in activities under their responsibility, including calls for proposals (co-funded by EU)
  - Calls not open for all applicants
- **INSTITUTIONALISED**
  - Articles 185 and 187: managed and implemented by structures created for their implementation 185 ja 187; EIT KICs
  - Calls are mainly open to all potential applicants



# Partnerships H2020 vs. Horizon Europe

Horizon 2020

Horizon Europe





# Co-funded partnerships

- Relevant current actions : European Joint Programme and ERA-NET Cofund
- Legal form: Grant Agreement (programme co-fund action) signed between a consortium of beneficiaries and the Commission (executive agency)
- Implementation: Member States would design a common R&I programme to be implemented under their responsibility. It **pools national funding/resources with co-funding from the Union.**
- Funding rate (EU top-up funding): 30% (in justified cases higher)
- Calls and evaluations are organised centrally, **beneficiaries in selected projects are typically funded at national level** (on the basis of rules agreed by partners)
- Important to define ex-ante:
  - Types of partners that are needed to form the partnerships (consortium)
  - Stakeholders that provide input (e.g. priority setting) > **role of ministries!**
  - Stakeholders and target groups that are addressed/ involved by the activities implemented



# Common characteristics for all partnership types



- **Strategic orientation**
  - EU policy goals (for example: Green Deal, Europe fit for digital age)
  - Other relevant/linked strategies (for example: Circular Economy Action Plan)
- Joint criteria
  - For example: selection of partnerships, monitoring etc. (Horizon Europe regulation Article 8 & Annex III)
- Key conditions for partnerships
  - Ex ante demonstration of directionality (partner's common strategic vision, underpinned by **Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda/ Roadmap**)
  - Ex ante demonstration of additionality (**long term commitment from partners to mobilise and contribute resources and investments**)
- Implementation is based on annual work programmes or equivalents (roadmaps)
  - **Translation of SRIA into annual priorities and activities**
- Systemic approach
  - **Portfolio of activities that goes beyond collaborative R&I projects**



# Identifying new partnerships

- Strategic Planning: identification of priorities to be addressed by partnerships to achieve objectives
  - NOTE!  
**[Have your voice heard: Commission launches Horizon Europe strategic planning process 2025-2027.](#) Due to be published in November on the Have Your Say portal, the consultation will also feature questions on the past and current research and innovation programmes (Horizon 2020 ex post evaluation and Horizon Europe interim evaluation). **The consultation will remain open for 12 weeks, and a dedicated workshop for citizens is planned to take place in December.****
- Structured consultation of Member States on the portfolio: orientations towards the Strategic Plan
- Further elaboration of proposals for Partnerships in co creation between partners and Commissions services >> ensure ambition and fit with Commission priorities



# Possible European R&I Partnership on Forestry.



## New EU Forest Strategy for 2030, Brussels, 16.7.2021:

### Possible European Research and Innovation Partnership on Forestry

*In order to strengthen EU cooperation, a research and innovation partnership on forestry will be proposed **to overcome the fragmentation of public research efforts in the EU and to reinforce work on research priorities that call for a stronger coordination.***

*The Commission will enhance EU cooperation by proposing a **Research and Innovation partnership on forestry**, including flagships for testing and demonstrating solutions on selected key strategic domains.*

# Towards the European R&I Partnership on Forestry





# EU projects EUFORE & ForestValue2

## EUFORE - European FOREST Research and Innovation Ecosystem

- Type: Research & Innovation Actions (**RIA**)
- Duration: 48 months (01.11.2022 – 31.10.2026)
- Budget: ca. 4 M€
- Project coordinator: European Forest Institute EFI (Joensuu, FI)
- Participants: 16 partners from 10 countries

## ForestValue2 - Innovating forest-based bioeconomy

- Type: Coordination and Support Actions (**CSA**)
- Duration: 60 months (01.01.2023 - 31.12.2027)
- Budget: ca. 2,2 M€
- Project coordinator : Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland (MMM)
- Participants: 14 partners from 12 countries



# **EUFORE**

## **project.**



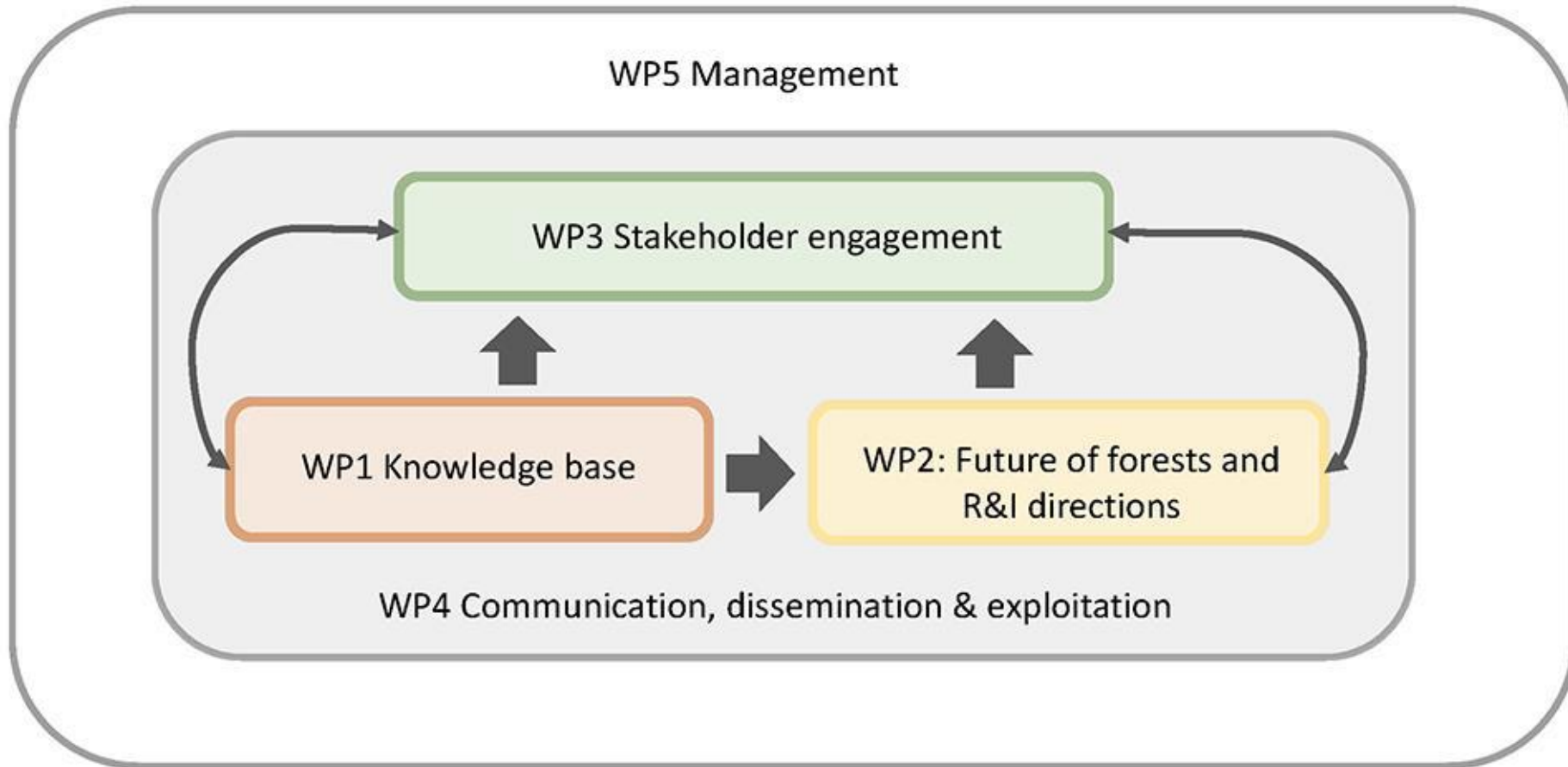
# EUFORE - General

- **The EUFORE project supports the preparation for a possible European research and innovation partnership on forests under the Horizon Europe Programme**
  - Consortium consists of representatives from research organizations, governments, industry (incl. FTP) and societal groups
- **Note! SCAR FOREST - Strategic Working Group on Forests and Forestry Research and Innovation of the Standing Committee on Agricultural Research ([SCAR](#)) – with its Member State delegates is in charge of negotiating and preparing the partnership in collaboration with the European Commission (lead: DG AGRI)**
  - The Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) will be co-designed by stakeholders in EUFORE, the basic conditions as well as the final scope will be discussed and agreed upon with SCAR FOREST and the EC.
  - Task 4.4 in EUFORE is to ensure consistency between the SCAR activities, requirements of the European Commission services and the EUFORE project (Task Lead: MMM, FI)
  - Chair of SCAR FOREST is Nicolas PICARD (GIP-ECOFOR, France), co-chair Anne TOLVANEN (Luke, FI)
- The kick-off meeting was held in BRU on 24.-25.11.2022





# EUFORE – Work Packages





# EUFORE - Partners

1. **EFI** – European Forest Institute (**FI**), coordinator
2. **MMM** – Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland (**FI**)
3. **FNR** - Agency of Renewable Resources (**DE**)
4. **Luke** - Natural Resources Institute Finland (**FI**)
5. **UCPH** - University of Copenhagen (**DK**)
6. **INRAE** – French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (**FR**)
7. **GIP ECOFOR** (French public body and a federative platform in charge of research coordination in the field of forest ecosystems at the national level) (**FR**)
8. **BOKU** - University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (**AT**)
9. **CTFC** - Forest Science and Technology Centre of Catalonia (**ES**)
10. **IUCN** - International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (**BE**)
11. **NLCSK** - National Forest Centre of the Slovak Republic (**SK**)
12. **INNOVAWOOD** (umbrella organisation integrating major research institutions and technical centres in forestry, woodworking and furniture) (**BE**)
13. **FTP** - Forest-Based Sector Technology Platform (**BE**)
14. **TECNALIA** (largest center of applied research and technological development in Spain) (**ES**)
15. **CFRI** - Croatian Forest Research Institute (**HR**)
16. **MIPAAF** - Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies of Italy (**IT**)



# ForestValue2 project.



# ForestValue2

- ForestValue2 brings together 14 owners and managers of national and regional RDI programmes in the forest-based sector in 11 Member States of the European Union - FI, IE, DE, ES, SI, LV, PL, SK, IT, EE, RO - and in one Associated Country (NO) with an aim to coordinate national and regional R&I programmes by pooling national resources and contributing to the alignment of national research and innovation policies
- Main objective: implementation of a joint call(s), resulting in the funding of transnational collaborative R&I projects (see WoodWisdom-Net, Sumforest, FORESTERRA, ForestValue)
- Identification of common research and innovation priorities during spring 2023, expected call launch early summer 2023



# ForestValue2 - Consortium

- ForestValue2 brings together **14 owners and managers of national and regional RDI programmes in 11 Member States** of the European Union - FI, IE, DE, ES, SI, LV, PL, SK, IT, EE, RO - **and in one Associated Country (NO)**
- **Six of the partners come from the widening countries**, whilst at the same time representing the BIOEAST Initiative
- ForestValue2 will address “**improving access to excellence**” through a portfolio of actions that aim at building up R&I capacities **especially in EU13 and Ukraine and Republic of Moldova**, to enable them to advance to the competitive edge at European and international level



# ForestValue2 - Partners

1. **MMM** - Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (**FI**), koordinaattori
2. **DAFM** - Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (**IE**)
3. **FNR** - Agency for Renewable Resources (**DE**)
4. **AEI** - State Research Agency (**ES**)
5. **FECYT** - Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (Affiliated Entity) (**ES**)
6. **MIZS** - Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (**SI**)
7. **RCN** - The Research Council of Norway (**NO**)
8. **LAAFS** - Latvian Academy of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences (**LV**)
9. **NCN** - National Science Centre (**PL**)
10. **NFC** - National Forest Centre of Slovakia (**SK**)
11. **CREA** - Council for Agricultural Research and Economics (**IT**)
12. **MIPAAF** - Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies (**IT**)
13. **MoE** - Ministry of the Environment (**EE**)
14. **INCDS** - National Institute for Research and Development in Forestry “Marin Drăcea” (**RO**)



**Topical now.**



## Michael WOLF (DG AGRI), 07.10.2022:

### European R&I Partnership on Forestry

### Where are we now?

*The draft fiche [for European Partnership on Forestry] will be circulated now among the members of the **Partnership Knowledge Hub** that has been tasked to provide advice on the identification of new candidate Partnerships.*

*This will hopefully facilitate the discussion in the **Strategic Programme Committee** (expected in June 2023), which is the single-entry point for the structured consultation of Member and Associated States on the identification of co-programmed and co-funded European Partnerships.*



# Partnership preparation – Tentative schedule 1



- **27 May 2022:** deadline for replying to the bottom-up collection of ideas on candidate European Partnerships (draft 4-page fiches)
- **3Q 2022:** first guidance from the Project group (to give an overview of the bottom-up proposals for partnerships, seek for the endorsement on the overall approach to partnerships in the second Strategic Plan)
- **September 2022:** First discussion at the Partnership Knowledge Hub (incl. presenting the results of the EC bottom-up collection of ideas)
- Commission internal consultation ongoing
- **December 2022:** SCAR Forest meeting
  - All involved DGs invited (**DG AGRI**, DG RTD, DG ENV, DG GROW, DG CLIMA, DG JRC > asked for 2 slides: gap analysis) > DG “wishes” for the partnership
  - Message from Member States: a holistic and balanced approach is needed  
” A European Partnership is required **to ensure a holistic and balanced approach** regarding the multiple uses and benefits of forests and forestry in all parts of Europe while considering changing climate, environmental and socio-economic conditions.”

# Partnership preparation – Tentative schedule 2



- **April 2023:** advice from the Partnership Knowledge Hub on the identification of partnerships
- **May 2023:** second guidance from the Project Group (to consolidate the portfolio, review and to launch the structured consultation of MS/AC in the SPC)
- **June 2023:** 4-page fiches ready for each candidate partnership (approved by the PG, published on the web)
- **June 2023:** presentation of the proposed partnership portfolio and consultation in SPC and launch of the structured consultation of MS/AC (via dedicated survey tool)
- **Sept 2023:** first discussion at the SPC on the partnership portfolio (incl. the results of the consultation)

# Partnership preparation – Tentative schedule 3



- **Oct 2023:** second discussion at the SPC (to resolve any outstanding issues, maybe a third meeting is needed)
- **Q4 2023:** third guidance from the Project Group (validation of the results at the SPC)
- **Q4 2023:** deadline for the review of the areas for the Institutionalised Partnerships based on Art. 185/7 (Art 11 of Horizon Europe)
- **Q1 2024:** adoption of the Strategic Plan 2025-2027
- **2024:** publication of draft proposals, request for commitment letters, etc.

# Partnership preparation – If we will have a positive result:



- **Q4/2024:** publication of Work Programme 2025-26
- **Early 2025:** submission of proposal for European Partnership on Forestry
  - Standard Application Form (HE Cofund) including
    - **Describe** how the governance and management of the Partnership will contribute to ensuring coherence and synergies with the EU research and innovation landscape **and demonstrate, as well as transparency and openness during the Partnership as regards** the identification of its objectives, priorities, vision, **Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA)** and work programmes
    - **Describe the process, during the implementation phase of the SRIA/roadmap,** for establishing annual work programmes, and define measures to ensure an open and transparent methodology for consulting all constituent entities and relevant stakeholders for the identification of its priorities and the design of its activities
- **Late 2025:** official launch of European Partnership on Forestry
- **2026:** first call/s under European Partnership on Forestry published



**Thank you.**

# Further information:



**Mika Kallio**

Project Coordinator

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland | Information  
and Research Division | Research and Legal Affairs

+358 (0)2951 62212 | [mika.kallio@gov.fi](mailto:mika.kallio@gov.fi)

[@mikamkallio](#)