

EUFORINNO: European Forest Research and Innovation

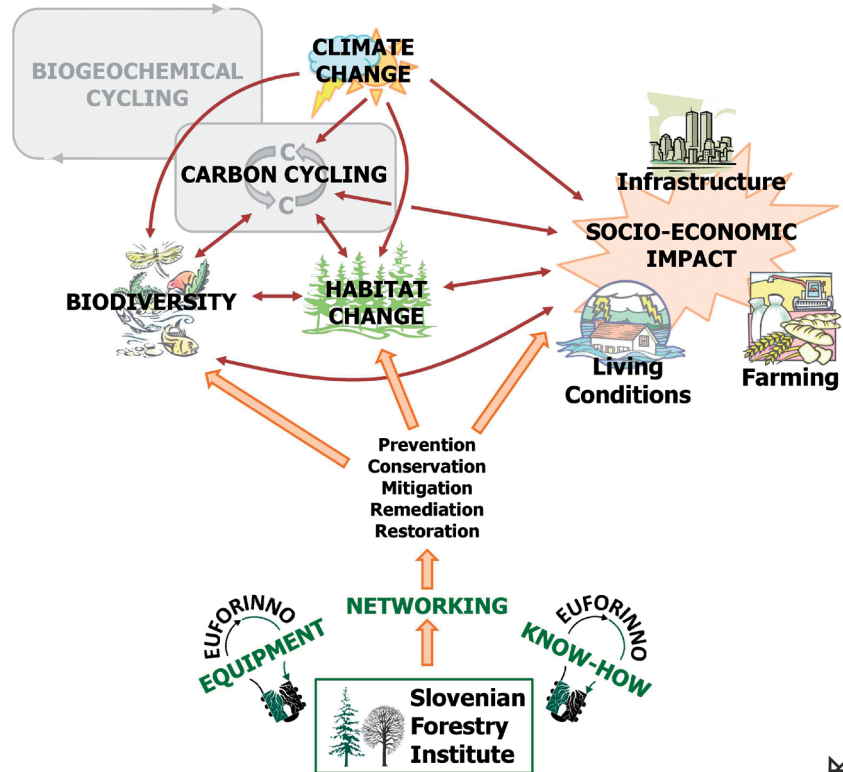


an FP7 CAPACITIES project (RegPot No. 315982,

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European forests are critical to carbon storage, biodiversity conservation, water quality and a number of ecosystem services, socio-demographic stability and economic revenue. EUFORINNO (<http://euforinno.gozdis.si/presentation/>) is a mean for the Slovenian Forestry Institute (SFI) to raise its scientific excellence and infrastructure, and better exploit its innovative outputs. The project focuses on filling the gaps in four forest research areas: i) genetic monitoring; ii) biodiversity and functional diversity; iii) belowground complexity; and iv) ecosystem carbon exchange in time and space.

EUFORINNO relies on eight excellent research partners who support SFI in building its long-term strategy, welcome researchers from SFI during their secondments abroad, provides on-site training on new methodologies, data interpretation and publishing. The expected outcomes are an increase of excellence; a deeper integration within the ERA (especially in the European Forest Research and Innovation Area - EuFoRIA) and collaboration with end-users; the recognition of SFI as a center of research excellence in the region; and an increase of forestry research excellence and awareness throughout Europe.



Dinaric silver fir – beech forest representing multifunctional sustainable forest management, where in the stump, left in forest after thinning, this decomposing part of the tree provides living substrate for a number of organisms, from fungi to beetles, including a newly regenerated seedling. Below are presented silver fir wood anatomy (photo by Jožica Gričar), a mycorrhizal root (photo by Melita Hrenko), and a newly installed microscope with a laser microdissection unit for molecular studies (photo by Tanja Mrak).

Within the first year of the project five new scientists and dissemination experts were employed, new research equipment was installed at SFI (almost 1 million EURO which is about 30% of the project budget), one third of mobilities – secondments abroad and one third of trainings at SFI were finalized. Among most interesting trainings at SFI was the summer school given by Prof. Dr. Reinhart Ceulemans (Plant and Vegetation Ecology, University of Antwerpen) on scientific writing and publishing. Prof. Ceulemans, who is among 20 most cited authors in plant science and member of a number of editorial boards, also presented an open lecture on integrity in science.

In the forthcoming year the activities are addressed in further upgrading of the scientific excellence of SFI researchers and on strengthening its position within the South-Eastern European forestry and nature conservation scientists and professionals. A series of thematic workshops shall be organized within selected countries on the topics of interest for these future partners in EU and

regional projects, and for which the know-how and infrastructures can be provided by the newly established SFI laboratory capacities. EUFORINNO shall provide key note speakers (from SFI and partners in the project), provide on-site trainings, and partly financially support the organization. Workshops have also already been announced in Turkey, Japan and Brasil.

The project also supports the SFI publishing center, *Silva Slovenica*, and has initiated the establishment of an open access repository, entitled *SciVie (Science de la vie; http://eprints.gozdis.si/)* – since it is not only aimed at forest and forestry science, but to all life, environment and geosciences; it is opened for use also by other institutions wishing to better promote their scientific excellence and visibility.

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