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## **Proposal for an external study for SCAR SWG FOREST**

(Strategic Working Group on forests and forestry research and innovation)

### **Title: Assessment of forest-related ERA-NETs and COST FPS Actions**

#### **Duration (9 months):**

Start: 01/06/2017

End: 28/02/2018

#### **Rationale and objectives**

The study on the impact of the three existing ERA-Nets within the European forest-based sector will contribute largely to the scope and role of the “renewed” SCAR strategic group for forests and forestry research and innovation, as it will feed in deeper knowledge and understanding of the innovation and research activities that had been carried out on transnational level in reflection of the European projects, including many forest-related COST Actions funded by COST - under the FPS (Forests, their Products and Services) domain until 2014.

Since 2014, the SWG Forest had successfully paved the way for one of the three ERA-NETs, namely SUMForest which ends up in 2017. It is a complementary ERA-NET to the variable geometry of FORESTERRA, which was a thematic and connected geographic transnational programme for the Mediterranean basin, and WoodWisdom-Net (I-II and the +). Annex 1 to the proposal provides further background information and details on those 3 ERA-Nets that will be analysed in the study.

The ERANETS have defined common European interests taking all differences into consideration. As can be seen in Annex 1, the preceding ERA-NETs activities have overall achieved successful co-operation and sustained progress among the existing partners and countries. Trans-national co-operation still has to be firmly embedded in national policies and processes in order to be long-lasting. The experience shows that national programmes are committed to combined efforts. However, there is still a need to widen participation and develop cooperation procedures in order to fund European level projects from national funds. National research programmes would benefit from exploring the possibilities for international coordination and sharing of competences and infrastructures. The interaction of the research funders and research policy makers will complement the Standing Forestry Committee's advice to the Commission on forest and forest product related issues.

As forestry and the forest-based industries (FBI) are facing big challenges and are becoming increasingly international, the need to fund international RTD through national funds is also growing. This is highlighted by the fact that 90-95% of all Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) funding in EU comes from national sources.

The increased focus on utilization of EU forest products and resources will also need to bring member states' research funding and research policy organisations together for identifying possibilities for joint programming and alignment of research initiatives in areas suitable for transnational collaboration (regional, pan-European or global level). This also creates a need for SWG member countries to meet for strategic discussions and planning as well as sharing

results and experiences from the forest related Era-nets, and other scientific and technological cooperation systems such as COST.

The objective of this study is to enhance the knowledge and understanding of transnational coordination and collaboration in forest and forestry research and innovation through analysis and assessment of ERA-NETs and S&T cooperation under FP7 COST Domain Forests, their Products and Services (FPS). More generally, it is anticipated that the results of the study will contribute to a better knowledge of the following points of particular relevance for the Cofund programming:

- coordination of national research programmes, towards an integrated European Research Area,
- coupling research and innovation,
- removing barriers to innovation,
- practices and achievements of collaboration of public-public and public-private sectors
- contribution of the sector to the wider circular economy and bioeconomy research

Special attention will also be given in the study to strengthen and support the work of the SWG FOREST for promoting transnational research and international cooperation to meet the global challenges facing the EU forest-based sector, and to ensure the EU-wide participation and further development and relevance of coordination actions. The results of the impact analysis will be of value and contribute to the discussions on strategic matters like the formulation of research and innovation policies.

The three ERA-NETs within the European forest-based sector: WoodWisdom-Net+, Foresterra, SUMForest are currently developing a proposal for a planned ERA-NET Cofund on “Innovative Forest-Based Bioeconomy”. The proposed study could be of use for the partners within the planned the COFUND for its execution of the joint call and the selection of projects.

### **Brief description and outcomes**

The assessment of the forest-related ERA-NETs and COST ACTIONS will analyse the contents, the parts of the forest systems and forestry-wood value chains that have been addressed, the innovation and research efforts put into it, the budgets of the projects, partnerships and cooperation networks, work structure, milestones and deliverables as well as their transfer and implementation into services and industry. It will include consultations with stakeholders, other initiatives and relevant organisations, e.g. Forest-based Sector Technology Platform, CEI-Bois, EOS-OES, EPF, CEPI, CEPF, EUSTAFOR and others

Expected outcomes and outputs of the study include:

- Information on research and innovation projects resulting from coordinated actions (ERA-NET), funded by MS, of high relevance for the sustainable growth of the economy in EU forest sector.
- Identification of future areas and topics for joint programming and alignment of research activities based on the state of the art.
- Assessing impacts and benefits of COST activities in bringing together consortia in ERA-NETs funded projects and other ERA-relevant outcomes

The experts and the SWG will interact during the 2 plenary meetings planned in 2017 (Helsinki, 8-9 June 2017; October 2017) in connection with SUMFOREST meetings. It is expected that a preliminary report will be available and presented at SWG meeting in October, and a draft final report for SCAR plenary in December 2017.

### **Dissemination**

Beside the general channels of SCAR (Programme delegates, SCAR members, EC publications), the report will be widely distributed via the active networks of organisations and stakeholders mentioned above; it will be also presented to the Standing Forestry Committee and to COST office.

### **Budget**

A lump sum of 18.000 € will be needed to cover all expenses (incl. traveling and accommodation for meetings and dissemination).

### **Experts involved:**

- Andreas Kleinschmit von Lengefeld (FCBA, France) will lead the expert study (see short CV in annex 2)
- Jean-Luc Peyron (ECOFOR, France)
- other experts (e.g. Gus Verhaeghe, InnovaWood, Belgium) will be involved in relation with evaluation of COST actions

### **SWG FOREST contact persons:**

- main contact: Jean-Michel Carnus (chair)
- Martin Greimel, Karin Perhans, Kalliopi Radoglou (core group members)

### **Draft Terms of Reference (ToR):**

The ToR will be based on the text from the proposal above including following aspects::

- Title, duration and period of the study
- Background and rationale
- Description of the study including outcomes
- Methodology: the study will be a desk study jointly led by the two experts, and completed by consultations with key stakeholders
- Dissemination: the SWG will disseminate the results of the study
- Communication with SWG will be channeled through the chair and the core group

The terms of reference will be finalised with the expert after approval of the study by SCAR.

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## **ANNEX 1 – Description of major ERA-NETs for the European forest-based sector (WoodWisdom-Net I-II, Wood-Wisdom-Net+, Foresterra, SUMForest)**

### **WoodWisdom**

Since 2004 the European coordination of national research programmes in the area of wood material science and engineering in the forest-based value chains has been facilitated through the ERA-NET WoodWisdom-Net (today running as an ERA-NET Plus Action until Nov 2017).

The first ERA-NET on wood material science and engineering, [WoodWisdom-Net](#) started in 2004 with 12 partners from 5 countries and was later in 2006 expanded with 6 new partners (3 countries). The project was initiated as a part of the ERA-NET Scheme of the European Commission's Framework Programme 6 which is to support the cooperation and coordination of research activities carried out at national and/or regional level. As a main result, the [1st Joint Call](#) of Transnational WoodWisdom-Net Research Programme with 17 projects of a total volume of over 20 M€ was launched (for the years 2006-11). This first ERA-NET phase of WoodWisdom-Net came to its end on Dec 21, 2008.

#### **Joint Call 2006-2011 (JC1)**

The first joint call was launched 1. November 2006 based on the activities run by the WoodWisdom-Net ERA-NET project during the years 2004-2008. In the first stage, 74 proposals were submitted from which 45 were invited into the second stage of the evaluation. In the end, 17 projects were accepted for funding. The projects were started late 2007/ early 2008 and the last ones were ended in February 2011.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of WoodWisdom-Net "[WoodWisdom-Net 2](#) – ERA-NET on trans-national cooperation for new innovative products in the forest-based value chains" was run from Jan 2009 to Feb 2012 under the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development. The consortium included 19 partners from 12 countries. As a result there were launched two joint calls: the [2<sup>nd</sup> Joint Call](#) for Proposals "Sustainable, competitive processing and end-use concepts for forest-based industries" in autumn 2009, and the [3<sup>rd</sup> Joint Call](#) "Sustainable forest management and optimised use of ligno-cellulosic resources – Bridging gaps between research disciplines, producers, consumers and society" in autumn 2010. The latter call was arranged together with the [ERA-NET Bioenergy](#).

#### **Joint Call 2010-2013 (JC2)**

The 2nd Joint Call for Proposals of the WoodWisdom-Net Research Programme titled "Sustainable competitive processing and end-use concepts for forest based industries" was launched in November 2009. By the call deadline (Feb 23, 2010 there were submitted 38 proposals of which 9 projects were selected for funding. The projects were run between the years 2010 and 2013.

#### **Joint Call 2011-2014 (JC3)**

The 3rd Joint Call for Proposals of the WoodWisdom-Net Research Programme was closed on March 31, 2011. The call "Sustainable forest management and optimised use of lignocellulosic resources – Bridging gaps between research disciplines, producers, consumers and society" was a joint call together with the [ERA-NET Bioenergy](#), and it generated 81 proposals of which 13 projects were selected for funding. The projects were started late 2011/ early 2012 and they ended by the end of the year 2014.

Today, WoodWisdom-Net continues under the ERA-NET Plus scheme. Call definition process for a new call was started in 2012 (will run till Nov 2017), and based on the discussions and analysis of the outcomes, the [WW-Net+](#) Consortium launched the [4<sup>th</sup> Joint Call for Proposals](#) in February 2013. The overall scope of WoodWisdom-Net+ is to support the total transformation of the European forest-based industry and sustainable forest management to enable it to increase resource efficiency and develop a totally new products scope, while adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

#### **Joint Call 2013-2017 (JC4)**

The 4th Call for joint European research projects within the WoodWisdom-Net Research Programme was launched in spring 2013 under the ERA-NET Plus Scheme of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) of the European Commission. The call for pre-proposals resulted in 80 proposals, and 33 proposals were asked to submit a full proposal. After the judgement of an international Expert Panel, in November 2013 the WoodWisdom-Net+ Steering Committee selected 23 projects for funding.

Most projects are focusing on research issues related to Theme 3 “Value added products” (10), Theme 2 “Industrial processes” (7), and Theme 4 “Competitive customer solutions” (5), while only one proposal stated that its main thematic research area is under Theme 1 “Sustainable management of forest resources”. However, all proposals indicated that their research is connected to more than just one of the listed research areas.

#### **FORESTERRA** Enhancing forest research in the Mediterranean region.

Started in January 2012 and ended in December 2015 (funded under FP7):

- European contribution of 1,997,795.00 Euros.
- Partners from twelve countries: Spain, France, Italy, Turkey, Portugal, Tunisia, Morocco, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Croatia, Greece and Algeria, as well as two international institutions, the European Forest Institute (EFI) and the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM).

FORESTERRA had a four-step programme for achieving its objectives:

- Mapping and information exchange to improve mutual knowledge of existing programmes and capacities.
- Defining common strategic activities to reduce the fragmentation of the research community, avoiding overlaps and promoting synergies.
- Implementation of joint activities to consolidate partnerships and develop common schemes for programme evaluation, as well as for mutual opening facilities.
- Foresterra launched one joint calls for joint research projects to maximise the research impact of the network (2 projects were selected for funding).

#### **SUMFOREST**

SUMFOREST stands for: SUsustainable forest management; Multifunctional Forestry, European Forest Policy. Climatic and environmental changes lead to socio-economic and land-use changes and pose challenges for multifunctional demands on European forest resources and their sustainable management.



The aim of this transnational ERA-NET is reinforcing scientific cooperation on European forests, which will also build new cooperation arrangements with EU neighbourhood regions, aiming at a reduced fragmentation and maximised impact of research activities on sustainable forest management and multifunctional forestry.

SUMForest launched one joint call in 2016. Seven projects are funded:

1. BenchValue: Benchmarking sustainability performance of value chains using ToSIA, the Tool for Sustainability Impact Assessment
2. FOREXCLIM: Forests and extreme weather events: Solutions for risk resilient management in a changing climate
3. ForRisk: Forest density reduction to minimize the vulnerability of Norway spruce and silver fir to extreme drought – a risk assessment
4. FutureBioEcon: Sustainable future use of European forests for developing the bioeconomy
5. REFORCE: Resilience mechanisms for risk adapted forest management under climate change
6. REFORM: Mixed species forest management. Lowering risk, increasing resilience
7. POLYFORES: Decision Making Support for Forest Ecosystem Services in Europe – Value Assessment, Synergy Effects and Trade-offs

Call Statistics of SUMForest: Overall, 7 out of 26 eligible proposals were funded (27%). The anticipated sum requested for public funding is 8.363.709 €. Thus, 84% of the available budget was spent, as 9.965.000 € were in the virtual common pot.

#### **Others : BiodivERsA**

Other ERA-nets such as BiodivERsA has also been successful in promoting collaboration, identifying relevant research questions and funding transnational research in the area of biodiversity and in relation with forest ecosystems.

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## **ANNEX 2 - Lead expert short CV**

Dr. Andreas Kleinschmit von Lengefeld (Director Innovation Research at the Institute of Technology FCBA, France)

Dr. Andreas Kleinschmit von Lengefeld has been the Director of the French Institute of Technology for forest-based and furniture sectors (FCBA) since April 2011. Today around 350 people work at FCBA, this covers a large part of the French forest-based sector, namely forestry and genetic improvement of trees, lingo-cellulosic materials, building and living with wood. From March 2005 until March 2011 he was involved in the setting-up and operating of the European Forest-Based Sector Technology Platform – FTP, at which he held the position of Director. During that period he was also the RTDI Manager at CEI-Bois (Confederation of European Woodworking industries). He studied forestry sciences at Ludwig-Maximilians-University of Munich and holds a PhD from Technical University of Munich. Dr. Kleinschmit von Lengefeld has been member of various expert and advisory groups: Advisory Board of EFI regional offices EFICIENT and EFIATLANTIC; FTP NSG France; Member of the Stakeholder Advisory Board for the ERA-NET Foresterra; Member of the WoodWisdom-NET+ Management Team, Coordinator of the European Hardwoods Innovation Alliance (EHIA), Task Force Leader “Impact” within the InnovaWood network; member of the ECOFOR Scientific Council; member of the ESB Scientific Council; Vice-President of a private forest owner group. He is appointed by the EIP AGRI to coordinate the focus group “sustainable mobilization of forest biomass”.