

# Strategic Reserach and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) – Development and Outlook

SCAR Forest Coordinating Forest Innovation  
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# Agenda



1. The basics: ERA-Net and European Partnership
2. The process: SRIA development
3. The content: SRIA chapters
4. The future: further proceedings

# The process: SRIA development



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# Main project outputs



All future European Partnerships under Horizon Europe have to develop a Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) or a Roadmap before their launch in order to ensure that the long-term vision is translated into concrete roadmaps with smart and measurable objectives <sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> [Strategic Research and Innovation Agendas — ERA-LEARN](#)

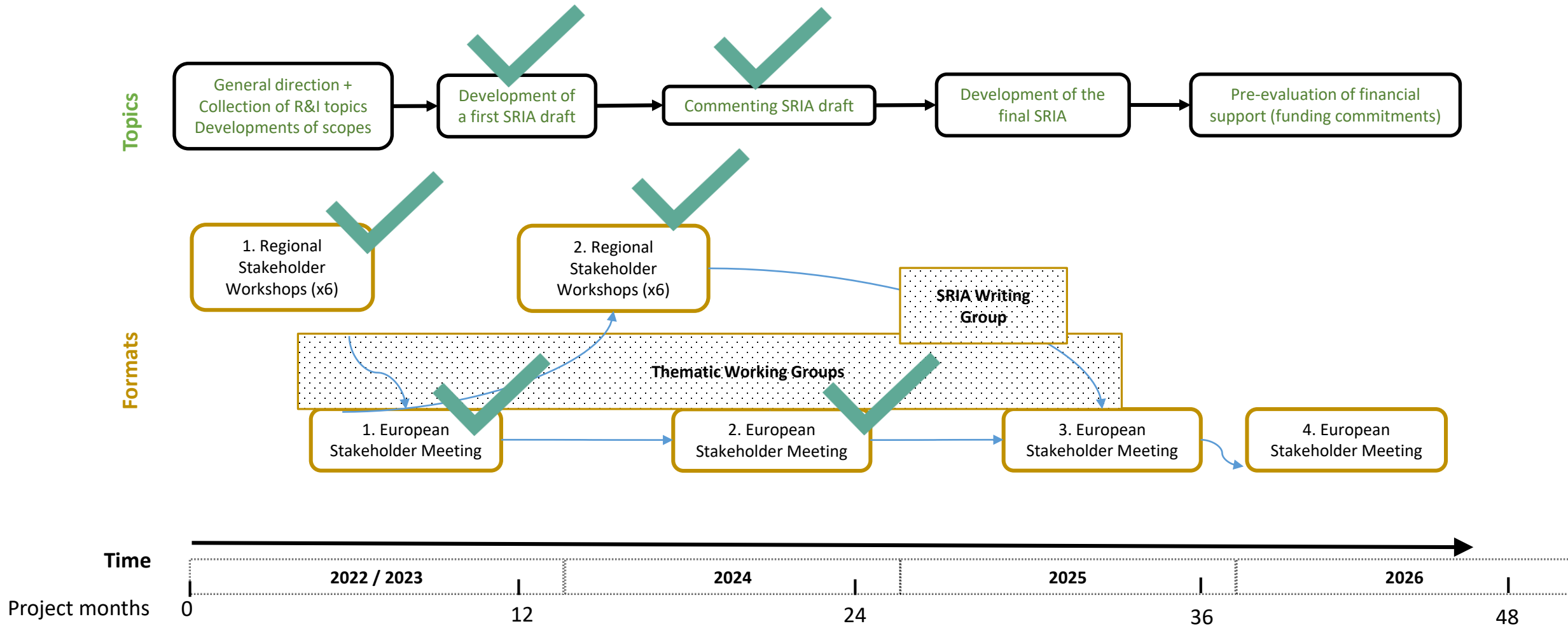
# How is a SRIA developed?

- ❖ involvement of relevant key stakeholders representing all four dimensions of the quadruple helix
- ❖ iterative process
- ❖ co-creation understood as a “collaborative process of creating new value together with external experts and stakeholders<sup>3</sup>”
- ❖ several formats of co-creation are applied:
  - ❖ Regional stakeholder workshops
  - ❖ European stakeholder workshops
  - ❖ thematic working groups
  - ❖ SRIA writing group
- ❖ Additional consultation formats planned
  - ❖ Surveys



<sup>3</sup> <https://www.fronteer.com/>

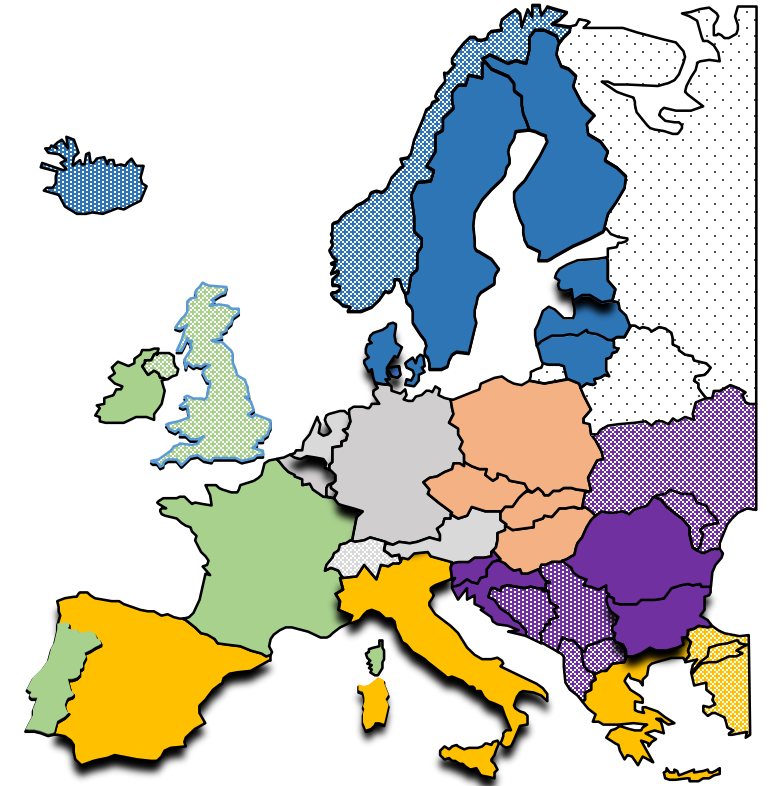
# Timeline Stakeholder Engagement



# Regional Workshops: 1<sup>st</sup> Round



- ❖ Between 06-09/2023
- ❖ 6 parallel co-creation workshops following the same methodology
- ❖ to kick-off SRIA development: focus SCOPE and Initial collection of R&I topics
- ❖ To involve all EU countries (according to regional distribution) + associated countries
- ❖ Representatives of the entire quadruple helix for each country
- ❖ Approx. 40 participants per workshop
- ❖ 1 day workshop
- ❖ 4 main topics



EUFORE Regions

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Nordic Region   | West - Central    |
| West - Atlantic | Eastern - Central |
| Mediterranean   | South - Eastern   |

# Regional Workshops: 1<sup>st</sup> Round



❖ 2218 comments / ideas collected

	WC	ME	WA	NE	SE	CE	
Forest Ecology	115	11	120	165	88	53	552
Forest Management	103	18	108	193	82	102	606
Forest Products	111	20	102	126	77	35	471
Social Aspects	133	28	101	165	61	101	589
	462	77	431	649	308	291	2218



# SRIA development - TWGs

## EUFORE Stakeholder Engagement Hub

Coordination Team

SRIA Writing Group

Thematic Working Groups

Regional/European Stakeholder Workshops



# SRIA development – first draft



❖ comments/ideas considered as highly relevant for further proceeding after a first view & sorting

	Collected in the workshops	After first viewing	R&I topics in the SRIA
Forest Ecology	552	205	19
Forest Management	606	503	24
Forest Products	471	183	33
Social Aspects	589	416	64

The content:  
SRIA chapters:



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# Chapter A: Forest Ecology



## Relevance:

### Two crises : Climate Change and Decrease of Biodiversity

- Decreasing biodiversity reduces the functional diversity of forest ecosystems
- Ability to respond to the stressors
- Existing as well as new emerging pests, pathogens and other invasive species are spreading to new ecosystems
- Ecological resilience of forest ecosystems to these increasingly frequent stresses is therefore of major importance
- Forests provide many ecosystem services, including carbon sequestration, and thus contributing to climate change mitigation.

## Challenges:

- Adapting forest ecosystems to tolerate greater and more variable climate change impacts while conserving forest biodiversity and other ecosystem services
- New approaches to forest restoration that maximise biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Monitoring of biodiversity and its functional components, from molecular level to landscape
- Decreasing our response time to pests and pathogens to achieve effective control of epidemics

# Chapter B: Forest Management



## Challenges

- Tackling environmental polycrisis that includes simultaneously e.g. more frequently occurring extreme weather events and resulting natural disasters, water availability and negative development of forest biodiversity
- Worrying development trends in the growth rates and health of forests
- Securing sustainable and long-term wood sourcing and provision of other forest-based materials for European bioeconomy
- Institutional frictions to change the prevailing management practices in different European regions
- Largely varying forest management traditions, administrative structures and environmental conditions

Our objective is to provide science-based justifications and solutions for the diversification of forest management in European forests resulting in more multi-functional and economically viable forest structures for the future.

# Chapter C: Forest Products



## Relevance:

- 43 % of Europe's land covered by forest masses.
- Growing source of natural resources for bio-based industries:
- Reduce dependence on critical raw materials in Europe
- Promote local development
- Greening of industrial ecosystems (EU Industrial Strategy)
- Replacement of fossil materials in different sectors.

## Challenges:

- Higher deployment of wood products in established fields and new territories.
- Promotion of newly introduced wood species and underused ones.
- Enhancement of circularity, durability, resilience and sustainability of forest products.
- Analysis of market dynamics and new value chains.
- Establishment of proper regulation aspects at the whole value chain
- Fully digitalization of the production process
- Skills development and social awareness of the wood products benefits.

# Chapter D: Social Aspects & Policy



## Challenges:

- Urbanization, globalization, and digitalization impact societal demands, production technologies, and market processes
- The climate and biodiversity crises
- The growing complexity of societal interactions and processes
- Conflicts between various forest uses and policies
- Limited capacity and resources; etc.

## Objectives:

- Emerging societal demands
- Forests as renewable resource
- Role in human health and well-being
- Technological advancements
- Growing consumer awareness of sustainability
- Increasing tools and recognition for cross-sectoral perspectives
- Systemic views on research and innovation, etc.

# The future:

## Further proceedings



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# SRIA development – first draft



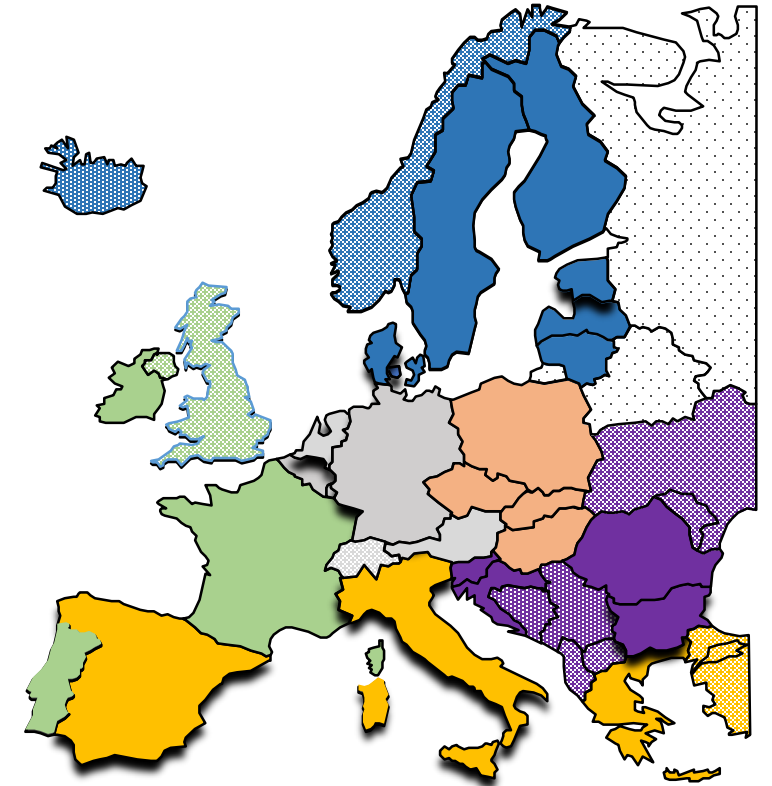
- ❖ presentation of SRIA draft to interested stakeholders on 16 May 2024
- ❖ more than 150 stakeholders from all four stakeholder branches participated
- ❖ intensive online consultation to collect further insights and comments
- ❖ adaptation of first SRIA draft until August 2024
- ❖ collection of R&I themes - suggested to be addressed by the Partnership – finalised

[Finalised draft SRIA](#)

# Regional Workshops: 2<sup>nd</sup> Round



- ❖ Between 07-10/2024
- ❖ 6 parallel co-creation workshops following the same methodology
- ❖ to prepare a SRIA roadmap
- ❖ To involve all EU countries (according to regional distribution) + associated countries
- ❖ Representatives of the entire quadruple helix for each country
- ❖ Approx. 20 participants per workshop
- ❖ ½ day workshop
- ❖ 4 discussion groups



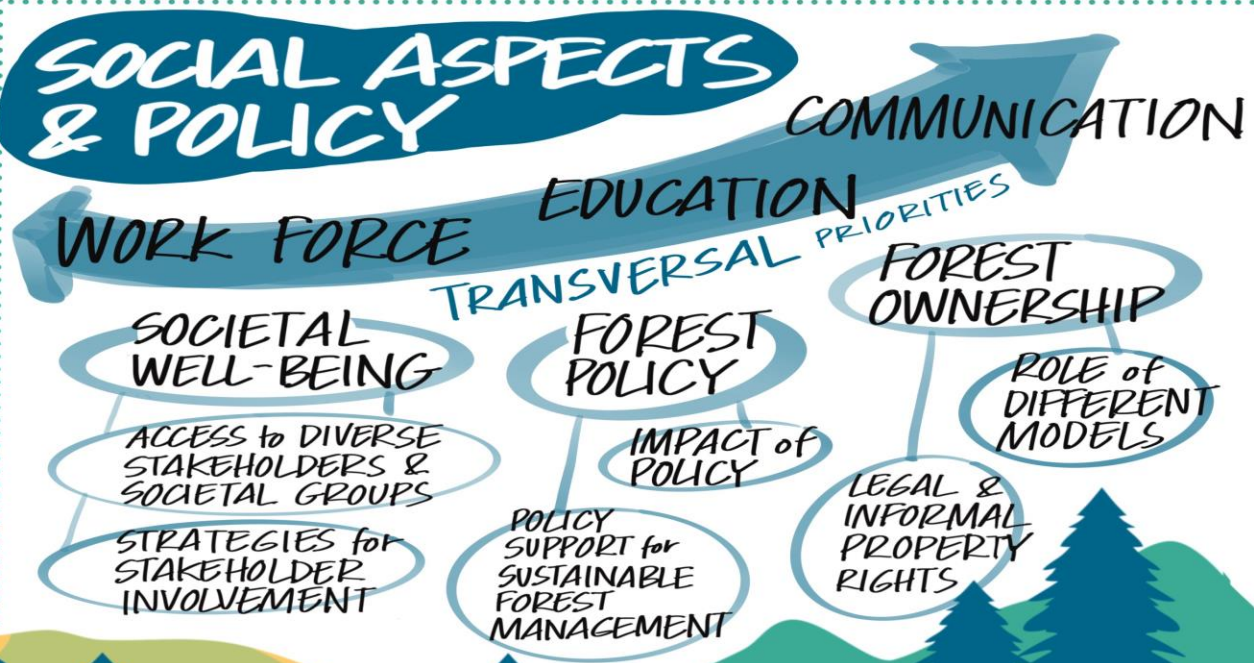
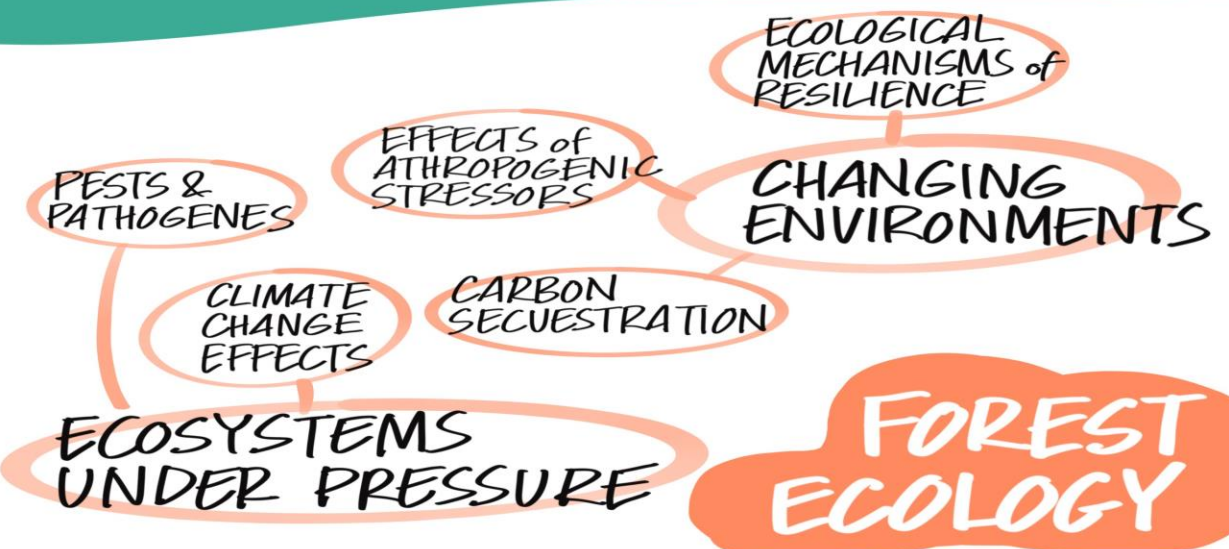
EUFORE Regions



# European Workshop: 2<sup>nd</sup> round



- ❖ aim is to develop an intervention logic / interventional framework in which the R&I themes could be addressed within the Partnership
  - SRIA Roadmap
- ❖ four dimensions of intervention discussed
  - ❖ General prioritization of R&I themes
  - ❖ Level of implementation (EU/national, regional)
  - ❖ Adequate funding activities according to TRL
  - ❖ Time frame
- ❖ a survey was set up to pre-structure the R&I themes from the SRIA
- ❖ SRIA Roadmap as orientation framework for the Partnership



# Next steps

January 2025:

First meeting of the SRIA Writing Group

First half of 2025

Finalising the SRIA and SRIA Roadmap

Once, the partnership started

Formal approval of the SRIA by a Partnerships' management body

# Discussion





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