



INTRODUCTION TO FORESTVALUE AND ITS HISTORY



Charm of cooperation: international collaboration for an innovative forest-based value chain

Ljubljana 13 May 2019

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ERA-NET scheme in brief



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- *The ERA-NET scheme aims at developing and strengthening the coordination of national and regional research programmes.*
 - ***Under the ERA-NET scheme, national and regional authorities, represented by so-called 'programme owners' and/or 'programme managers', identify research programmes they wish to coordinate or open up mutually.***
 - *The focus and role of ERA-NETs has varied across the Frameworks Programmes.*
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More: <https://www.era-learn.eu/partnerships-in-a-nutshell/type-of-networks/era-net-scheme>

“ERA-NET under Horizon 2020 is a funding instrument designed to support public-public partnerships in their preparation, establishment of networking structures, design and implementation, and coordination of joint activities. The instruments mainly 'tops-up' funding for single joint calls and transnational actions.”

the ERA-NET scheme as such has proven to be the perfect instrument for bottom-up, well-tailored research and innovation actions fostering considerable transfer and market impact.

A total of 159 ERA-NET actions from 2007 to 2020 were identified, which of 80 projects belong to the main ERA-NETs WoodWisdom, FORESTERRA and SUMFOREST. The main ERA-NETs in the forest-based sector mobilised around €85 million of funding, which of more than €70 million came from national funding sources. The total funding from forest-related ERA-NETs can be estimated between €140-180 million.



1 - <https://scar-europe.org/index.php/news-display/133-scar-forest-report-assessment-of-era-nets-and-cost-actions>

See also:

Joint recommendation of Forest-Based Sector Technology Platform and the forest-based sector on the next EU Research and Innovation Framework Programme (Horizon Europe = FP9) [\[link\]](#):

"Recommendation 10: Continue the use of the ERA-NET Cofund Instrument. The ERA-Net family of instruments have been very efficient and appreciated by our stakeholders. We recommend that the ERA-Net instrument is retained in FP9."

History of ForestValue



FORESTVALUE BUILDS ON THE SUCCESS OF THREE FOREST-BASED ERA-NETS:

WoodWisdom-Net - From "Networking and Integration of National Programmes in the Area of Wood Material Science and Engineering" to "Pacing Innovation in the Forest-Based Sector"

Duration 2004-2017 ([WoodWisdom-Net 1](#), [WoodWisdom-Net 2](#), [WoodWisdom-Net+](#)); EU support: ca. 10.6 M€; Calls: 4; Projects: 64; Funding: 86 M€



SUMFOREST - Tackling the challenges in sustainable and multifunctional forestry through enhanced research coordination for policy decisions

Duration 2014-2017; EU support: ca. 2.0 M€; Calls: 1; Projects: 7; Funding: 9.3 M€



FORESTERRA - Enhancing Forest RESearch in the MediTERRanean through improved coordination and integration

Duration 2012-2015; EU support: ca. 2.0 M€; Calls: 1; Projects: 2; Funding: 1.5 M€



And Slovenia has been an active actor throughout the years:

WoodWisdom-Net:

- *Involvement in 14 projects*
 - *Projects' total costs: 16 644 309 €*
 - *National investments in total: 2 689 142 € (mainly MIZS - Ministry of education, science and sport + some industrial co-funding)*
 - *Amount of EU top-up funding to MIZS (WW-Net+): 410 196 €*
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Sumforest:

- *Involvement in 2 projects*
 - *Projects' total costs: 1 473 477 €*
 - *National investments in total: 203 037 € (MKGP - Ministry of agriculture, forestry and food).*
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Foreterra:

- *Involvement in 1 project*
 - *Projects' total costs: ca. 2 million €*
 - *National investments in total: 150 000 € (MKGP - Ministry of agriculture, forestry and food).*
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Conclusion: with a national investment of ca. 3 MEUR Slovenia has had a direct access to a project portfolio of a total value of ca. 20 MEUR



But the actual roots are even further back...

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ERA-NET Cofund ForestValue - Innovating the forest-based bioeconomy



SUMFOREST WP6 International Cooperation (Task 6.2 Link to FORESTERRA)

- *In November 2014 the coordinators and some partners from WoodWisdom-Net+, FORESTERRA, SUMFOREST and the Bio-based Industries (BBI) met in Vienna and drew up a draft work plan for a joint future coordination.*
 - *With the support of the Programme Committee of the Societal Challenges 2, the EC was convinced to open a call under H2020, Work Programme 2016 (SFS-19-2016-2017).*
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Call for proposals: H2020-Sustainable Food Security – Resilient and resource-efficient value chains (Deadline 14 Feb 2017)



ForestValue

Project ID: 773324

Funded under:

[H2020-EU.3.2.1 – Sustainable agriculture and forestry](#)

[H2020-EU.3.2.8 – Sustainable and competitive agri-food sector for a safe and healthy diet](#)

ForestValue - Innovating forest-based bioeconomy

From 2017-10-01 to 2022-09-30, ongoing project

Project details

Total cost: EUR 15 257 575	Topic(s): SFS-19-2016-2017 - ERA-NET Cofund: Public-Private Partnerships in the Bioeconomy
EU contribution: EUR 5 034 999,75	Call for proposal: H2020-SFS-2017-1 See other projects for this call
Coordinated in: Finland	Funding scheme: ERA-NET-Cofund – ERA-NET Cofund

Project information

ForestValue

Grant agreement ID: 773324

Status

Ongoing project

Start date

1 October 2017

End date

30 September 2022

Funded under:

H2020-EU.3.2.1. , H2020-EU.3.2.2.

Overall budget:

€ 15 257 575

EU contribution
€ 5 034 999,75



Coordinated by:

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

 Finland

<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/rcn/213373/factsheet/en>



OBJECTIVE

The overall objective is to promote increased innovation and competitiveness of the forest-based sector in Europe and support its transformation from a resource-intensive to a knowledge-intensive, productive, resource-efficient and resilient sector. Sustainability and modernisation of forestry systems and downstream value chains including innovative business concepts and production technologies will be needed to develop the forestry sector and the European bioeconomy, of which forestry accounts for a large share.

AIM

The aim is to comprise the joint implementation of a trans-national call for proposals for research, development and innovation in the forest-based sector with a clear financial commitment from the participating national (or regional) research programmes and the EU.



2 - This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 773324.

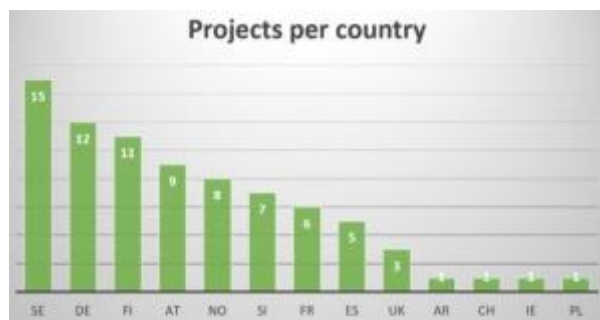
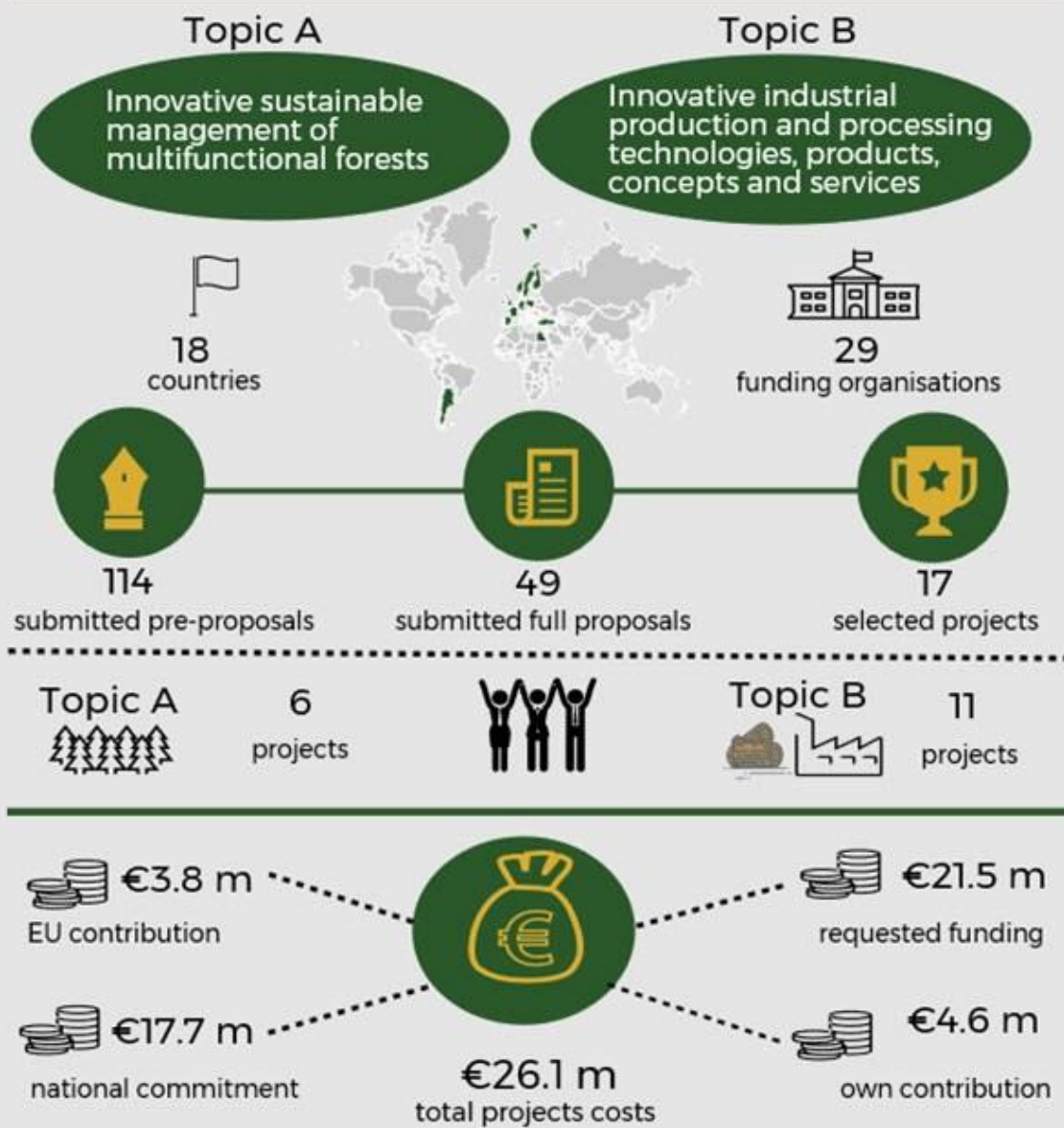
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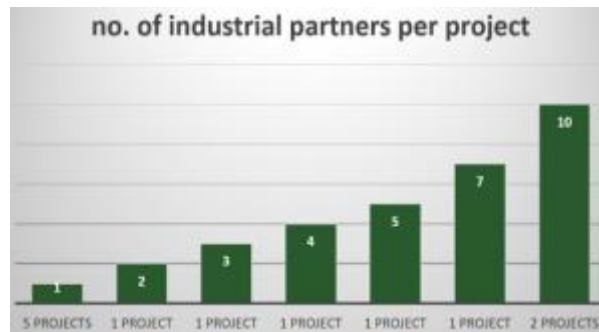
ForestValue Joint Call 2017



ForestValue - Innovating forest-based bioeconomy

ForestValue Joint Call 2017





Slovenian participation:

- *Involvement in 7 projects*
 - *Projects' total costs: 9 812 994 €*
 - *National investments in total: 1 481 000 € (mainly MIZS + some industrial co-funding)*
 - *Amount of EU top-up funding to MIZS (WW-Net+): 630 000 €*
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Conclusion: with a national investment of ca. 1.48 MEUR Slovenia has a direct access to a project portfolio of a total value of ca. 9.81 MEUR

More:

[ForestValue Joint Call 2017](#) (website)

[ForestValue Newsletter #2 December 2018](#) (online publication in PDF)







Lessons learnt from Joint Calls



1. IT IS CHALLENGING

- *Specific requirements due to the EU co-funding*
 - *Different actors with different needs*
- *Evaluation of RDI proposals covering a wide range of topics*
 - *Timing*

2. IT IS POSSIBLE

- *Flexibility*

- *Patience*
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- As a coordinator characteristically noted 'ERA-NET Cofund is an essential instrument that ensures international collaboration. If it has not existed it would be much more complicated to collaborate. The EU contribution is very useful to fund more projects and unlock ranking list where necessary.'

EU publication 2016: Analysis of ERA-NET Cofund actions under Horizon 2020 - Final report of the expert group. [[link](#)]

3. IT IS EXTREMELY VALUABLE AND REWARDING



Impact of activities on national and regional research programmes

- *A common, trans-national programme is based on a joint analysis of research needs and priorities that will facilitate allocation of resources to areas of highest strategic importance.*
 - *It is believed to be of main importance that a result of the network is a more free flow of information and knowledge.*
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Impacts on organisational/regional level

Impacts on country/European level

A few project examples:

W3B - What We Wood Believe – Societal Perceptions of the Forest-based Sector

Coordinated by: University of Graz, AT; Partner countries: AT, FI, DE and SI (University of Primorska, University of Ljubljana); Duration: 01.05.2014-31.01.2017

- Improved understanding of communication mechanisms in the forest-based.
 - Among other things, the project run an online survey with 2500 participants mainly from Germany, Austria, Slovenia, and Finland investigating the state of attitude towards the eight “core topics of interest” (TOI) formulated at an international stakeholder meeting
 - Five stakeholder workshops, the final stakeholder workshop in Sept 2016 in Brussels was very well attended by relevant stakeholders.
 - Results wrapped up in the Major Project Results Report ([ResearchGate](#)) and Good Guidance Report ([link](#)), both reports are aimed to guide future communication activities towards the general public.
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CaReWood - Cascading Recovered Wood

Coordinated by: Technical University of Munich, DE; Partner countries: AT, FI, FR, DE and SI (University of Primorska, MSora d. d., Abelium d. o. o.); Duration: 01.06.2014 – 31.05.2017

- Among other things, the CaReWood project served as an important reference for the Slovenian company Abelium d. o. o. to obtain the digital transformation of the forest-wood chain in Slovenia project in cooperation with the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology. Within this project ABE established cooperation with key players in Slovenia in the forest-wood chain field and presented the project at international events.
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Partial impacts on personal development

Project example:

ReWoBioRef - Mobilisation and utilisation of recycled wood for lignocellulosic biorefinery processes

Coordinated by: Fraunhofer WKI, DE; Partner countries: FI, DE, UK and SI (University of Ljubljana, Wood Industry Cluster WIC); Duration: 01.07.2014-30.06.2017

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- A 3-month scientific exchange between the Slovenian project partner and Fraunhofer WKI was carried out between April and June 2015. The main objective was the preparation and submission of a scientific and technical publication in a specialist journal or a specialist magazine. An article titled "Utilization of recycled wood in biorefineries - preliminary results of steam explosion and ethanol / water organosolv-pulping without a catalyst" was filed in June 2015 in the European Journal of Wood and Wood Products. The paper was published in May 2016.
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Impacts on standardization

Impacts on organisational level - commercialization

Read more:

ERA-LEARN Annual Joint Programming Conference 2016, 22-23 November 2016:

Impacts of Public-Public Partnerships - expectations and experiences

<https://www.era-learn.eu/news-events/events/annual-joint-programming-conference-2016>

https://www.era-learn.eu/documents/presentation_impact_greimel-1.pdf

Future - Next steps



FORESTVALUE ERA-NET COFUND ACTIVITIES:

WP4 - Follow-up and monitoring of projects resulting from the co-funded call

WP Leader: AEI, Spain, contact person: Manuel Sanchez-Blanco (era-agro@aei.gob.es)

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- Follow-up reports of the projects selected for funding under JC2017*
 - Impact assessment report of the co-funded call*
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WP5 - Communication, Exploitation and Dissemination of the results

WP Leader: MIZS, Slovenia, contact person: Katja Ceglar (katja.ceglar@gov.si)

- *Monograph publication on the impact of EU collaboration in the forest-based sector.*
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WP7 - Additional activities

WP Leader: BLE, Germany, contact person: Vera Steinberg (vera.steinberg@ble.de)

- *Workshop with other ERA-NET(s) and initiatives; Outreach seminar for international collaboration; Online evaluation of projects funded under WW-Net, SUMFOREST, FORESTERRA and ForestValue*
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FORESTVALUE RESEARCH PROGRAMME - JOINT CALL 2017 ACTIVITIES:

Three follow-up seminars are planned throughout the duration of the programme: kick-off (2019), mid-term (2020) and final seminar (2022). The seminars will aim to bring together researchers and stakeholders from industry, academia and policy-making organisations in the forest-based bioeconomy sector. The main objectives of the seminars will be to discuss the projects' objectives/results, to facilitate information exchange and networking between the projects and their stakeholders, and to collect feedback and ideas for the further development of the programme.



Save the Date:

ForestValue Research Programme Kick-Off Seminar 23 – 24 May 2019, Helsinki

we are pleased to announce that the ERA-NET Cofund “ForestValue – Innovating forest-based bioeconomy” will hold the ForestValue Research Programme Kick-Off Seminar in Helsinki, Finland on 23-24 May 2019.

<https://forestvalue.org/seminar-2019/>

FORESTVALUE RESEARCH PROGRAMME - NEW JOINT CALL(S)?

ForestValue consortium members have been discussing if there would be enough interest among the participating funders to possibly launch an additional call in 2019/20:

- a number of agencies who have expressed their initial interest in participating in an additional call,*
 - no agreements made on this yet,*
 - discussions ongoing, hopefully we would be able to announce more at our coming ForestValue Research Programme Kick-Off Seminar 23-24 May 2019 in Helsinki, Finland.*
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Influencing factors:

- National RDI programmes/policies (scientific, economic interests) > topics & funding*
 - Other national interests in general*
 - Political environments in different countries*
 - National commitments to other possible collaboration activities*
 - Funding for call design and implementation*
 - Horizon Europe - the next research and innovation framework programme - EU funding for Research and Innovation 2021-2027 https://ec.europa.eu/info/designing-next-research-and-innovation-framework-programme/what-shapes-next-framework-programme_en*
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