



## Concept note

### Webinar: International Day of Forests (IDF) 2024

**Topic:** The roots of innovation - setting the course for innovation and sustainable growth in the forest sector

**Date:** 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**Time:** 90 minutes (15:30-17:00 CET)

**Target group:** FOREST EUROPE signatories, observers, private sector, industry, students, research organizations and interested public.

**Moderator:** Vera Steinberg and Juliet Achieng (FOREST EUROPE)

#### Background information (based on several references)

Forests provide numerous benefits to the society ranging from products such as timber to services including landscape amenities and opportunities for recreation, biodiversity protection, clean water and climate change mitigation through carbon sequestration. The significance of these goods and services keeps increasing, making the forest sector to be considered as a sector of the future which offers solutions to a range of challenges that society is facing today.

Through innovation, ideas are transformed into new or improved products, services, or processes. In the forest sector, innovation brings new products to the market such as wood-based construction materials and textiles, and creates improved methods of production. These changes lead to improved economic revenue, employment, growth, sustainability, or social welfare. Global challenges such as sustainability crisis, climate change, and growing global social and economic interdependencies call for innovations and new forms of governance in order to adapt technologies, economies, and societies. It is crucial to bring together economic actors, research and education institutions and policy makers as they play a critical role in spearheading innovation. This webinar does exactly that, our goal is to raise awareness on forest sector innovation and the needed policies for promoting it in line with the theme of the International Day of Forests 2024.

#### About the International Day of Forests 2024

The International Day of Forests (IDF) (21<sup>st</sup> March) is a day set aside every year to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of all types of forests. The theme for each International Day of Forests is chosen by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF). In 2024, the theme will be 'Forests and innovation.' In line with the theme, FOREST EUROPE is planning to organize a webinar on 14 March 2024 to commemorate the day.

#### Objectives of the webinar



- Highlighting the innovation potential of the forest sector and the importance of innovation by providing visibility to existing innovative practices in the forest sector in the pan-European region.
- Exploring ways of addressing the topic at the policy level and how to engage policy makers so as to bridge the gap between industry and policy makers.

## **PROGRAMME OVERVIEW**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Speakers</b>
Start 15:30	Welcome and introduction on the importance of the topic	Forest Europe Representative
15 min	<b>Practice perspective:</b> Presentation by selected forest innovation networks in Europe	i. Johan Elvnert from Forest-based Sector Technology Platform (FTP) ii. Veronika Juch, WoodPoP iii. Christoph zu Stolberg, Future Forest Initiative (FFI)
10 min	<b>Practice perspective:</b> What do start-ups have to say?	i. Robert Heinecke, Breeze Technologies ii. Robin Geiger, Forest Mapping Management
15 min	<b>From practice to policy:</b> Dialogue with policy makers on the State of Policy on innovation and how to bridge the policy gaps Two speakers	i. Georg Rappold, Austria ii. Juan Pedro Romero, Spain
15 min	<b>Q&amp;A</b>	Moderated by Forest Europe
20 min	<b>"Room for innovation"</b> Open space for innovations, start-ups, networks etc. from the audience. Participants have the opportunity to speak to different innovative start-ups, networks or companies from the audience. Speakers will have 4 minutes respectively to highlight their activities. The "Room for innovation" will last for 20 minutes, so participants can visit 5 break-out sessions in total.	Join our break-out sessions and learn more about innovations out there! i. EFI Bioregions Facility ( <a href="https://bioregions.efi.int/">https://bioregions.efi.int/</a> ) ii. Firepoctep+ project ( <a href="https://www.linkedin.com/company/firepoctepmas/">https://www.linkedin.com/company/firepoctepmas/</a> ) iii. Lykaia ( <a href="https://www.lykaia-nutrition.de/en">https://www.lykaia-nutrition.de/en</a> ) iv. Strong by Form ( <a href="https://strongbyform.com/">https://strongbyform.com/</a> ) v. Forest.io ( <a href="https://forest.io/">https://forest.io/</a> )
End 17:00	Summary of take-home messages and farewell	Moderated by Forest Europe