



Healthy Forests, Benefits for All

Hands-on Sustainable Forest Management

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Layman report

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Project:

Forest-IN (INovative and Educational INformation for the Sustainable FOREST Management by Smallholders)
2016-1-PT01-KA204-022830 FOREST-IN

Partners:

Universidade de Aveiro (Portugal)
Unimadeiras Portugal)
Asociación Forestal de Galicia (Spain)
PEFC España (Spain)
CESEFOR (Spain)
Association Forêt Modèle de Provence (France)
FSC (Germany)



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Foreword from the Coordinator

Occurring through a particularly difficult time for the forest and its management in Portugal and in Southern Europe (2017-2019), the FOREST-IN project met one of the biggest forest constraints in southern Europe: its economically, socially and environmentally sustainable management.

Based on digital technology, forestry and nature conservation, communications and knowledge transference, and ultimately, adult pedagogy, FOREST-IN was an opportunity for hundreds of different stakeholders coming together to learn sharing their experiences and knowledge in several forestry environments and realities (central region of Portugal, north of Spain and southern France). Around those regions, it was possible for small owners and technical experts to visit reference forest areas, while putting them in touch with different ways of managing, valuing, protecting and safeguarding the forest, and also while sharing the good practices in sustainable forest management employed therein. The forest realities of these territories were also be sharply contrasted, seeking to instil in the participants the need to critically analyse their own context as to broaden the scale of action through associative practices as well as the need to protect values that do not have immediate economic translation.

Several workshops and international technical visits, tutorials and a mobile app were some of the products from the FOREST-IN consortium that are now available for all the society use, namely the forest landowners. The innovative pedagogical techniques associated to a bottom-up approach having the forest owner as the center of the discussion contributed to the success of this project. From now several tools can be used to improve the intervention capacity of all those concerned by forests: from small forest owners and technicians to all relevant decision makers.

Now that the project is completed, we expect that the new educational and training strategies developed in FOREST-IN would ensure the social, environmental and economic benefits of the forest, their Human communities and contribute to the valorisation of rural areas in Europe.

Carlos Fonseca

Project general coordinator

Project Manager | University of Aveiro

I. OVERVIEW

Forest-IN Quick Factsheet

PROJECT TITLE

INovative and Educational INformation for the Sustainable FOREST Management by Smallholders

PROJECT ACRONYM

Forest-IN

GOAL

Capacity-building and provision of new tools and training materials to forest smallholders and the technicians that represent them to: increase their capacity to manage their forests in a framework of Sustainable Forest Management, thus fomenting knowledge on environmental awareness, economic viability and social benefits from forests.

FUNDING

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DURATION

01 September 2016 to 31 August 2019 (36 months)

PARTNERS

Universidade de Aveiro (Coordinator, Portugal)
Unimadeiras Portugal)
Asociación Forestal de Galicia (Spain)
PEFC España (Spain)
CESEFOR (Spain)
Association Forêt Modèle de Provence (France)
FSC (Germany)

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TO KNOW MORE

www.forest-in.eu

 <https://www.facebook.com/forestinproject>

 <https://twitter.com/forestinproject>

I. OVERVIEW

Background

FOREST-IN project stemmed from a challenge put forth by the forestry sector to the academia: tackling the need to create a platform of understanding that would bring together the various forest agents in Portugal, Spain and France, countries that generally face similar forest issues that undermine their competitiveness, such as the fragmented and small-scale forest ownership, that lead to functionally and formally poor forests. In addition to these physical constraints, the social trends associated with forest management based on the lack of training (not only technical) of first-line forest agents: forest smallholders, producers and managers. This has clearly been identified as a fact that undermines forest integrity and productivity and conditions the services of the ecosystem as a whole. In this scope, building capacity to increasingly implement a sustainable forest management framework is the overarching objective of Forest-IN.



Image 1 – Small forest holding in Provence (4th Forest-IN Multiplier event)

WHAT IS FOREST-IN?

Sustainability has become an all-encompassing term. Also in the forests and forestry sector, sustainable development has become a global concern in the last decades. European citizens have been raised aware of global environmental issues, but have not been engaged in actively contributing to solutions through stepwise local actions. In particular, forest smallholders are not aware of their potential as active citizens and their role in the sustainability desired by modern societies. And in fact, altogether, due to the European deeply rooted forestry traditions, they could be a major force in promoting sustainability concepts in society. Forest-IN aimed at the promotion of sustainable forest management practices through the delivery of novel learning approaches embedded in a holistic, participative and horizontal pedagogical process targeted at adult citizens that own or manage forests across Europe, but lack specific competences or guidance for performing that task properly. The project included a set of audience-appropriate intellectual outputs that have the potential to assist smallholders, but also professional forestry technicians in the decision-making regarding forest management. Material outputs thus included an initial research report, interactive IT technologies, two audience specific training packages, a direct, easy-to-follow forest assessment tool or tutorial and, closing the project, a retrospective layman report, highlighting the project's objectives and results. As asserted through the project forest awareness projects are not engaging to most of adults through top-down approaches. Thus Forest-IN constituted an innovative pedagogical process, firstly by involving the target audience all together, an audience that very rarely gets invited to the forums where the policies that most affect them, get discussed and laid out. Secondly it combined practical and theoretical approaches, all fully based on participatory and shared tutoring and transferring of knowledge features.

Thus, throughout the events and courses that were carried out, a strong emphasis was put on field analysis and validation of teaching/learning methods, all while capacitating participants with critical thinking and wide literacy (*incl.* environmental) skills. The training methodology involved, at the same level, both smallholders and technicians.

The involved audiences keenly participated in all relevant activities while engaging with the projects outputs for the most effective knowledge acquiring results, imparting their favorable opinions on all the projects milestones.

Key to the overall positive outcome of the project was the make of the partnership:

- University of Aveiro (PT) was the leading partner, experienced in science communication, public engagement and sustainability issues.
- Asociación Forestal de Galicia (SP), Association Forêt Modèle de Provence (FR) and Unimadeiras (PT) integrated a large network of forest smallholders and technicians, and were able to mobilize the relevant participants in the context of fomenting Sustainable Forest Management.
- PEFC and FSC are the largest forest certification systems worldwide conferring credible standards overarchingly to the project and specifically to the training courses and outputs.
- CESEFOR is a Foundation specialized in communicating the importance of forests, and are fully experienced in developing efficient communication strategies, which included implementing the project's IT technologies (APP and webplatform).

As a result of the project's events and courses and the dissemination strategy(ies), the project was able to involve an audience much wider than the "forestry universe". A wide network of stakeholders and further local/regional partners of each participating organization was key to the project's goals, fostering its outreach and replication. Ultimately, the general public was naturally invited to participate, get involved, and share the project's philosophy. The notion that environment, education and economy, and thus overall human and social well being, are all integrated and share the same roots was the central impact that FOREST-IN project aimed at achieving at all levels: local, regional, national and international. By addressing a wide range of publics, the project found itself aligned with the European's growth strategy, focusing on inclusion, education and intelligence to promote the necessary shift towards greater adoption of the concept of sustainability. Ultimately, direct and indirect participants were able to gain key competences to embrace sustainability and align their individual expectations with nature conservation, economy and education. As the issues the consortium was able to address are global, the cumulative impact of FOREST-IN, hopefully, helped at its scale, to relate a more generalized will to shift European communities towards sustainability, empowering citizens and local actors with the needed skills to do so, principally in the forestry and sustainable forest management sectors.



Image 2 – Forestry in Provence (4th Forest-IN Multiplier Event)

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

What we want to do

Forest-IN is all about adult education, sustainability, hands-on teaching and learning activities, cooperation, and so much more! Some of the main project objectives are to:

- Provide tools that will help adult forest producers, managers and decision makers to put the concept of sustainable forest management into practice and, in this regard, become a major changing force in their community
- Educate about overall environmental, economical and social sustainability of different forest exploitation models and alternatives
- Promote hands-on activities to acquire knowledge on the basis of 'learning-by-doing'.
- Raise awareness that, foremost, global forest, forestry and the concurrent environmental and social problematics need to be addressed locally (at smallholding and community scale)
- Promote the view, among forest smallholders and their representing technicians and decision-makers, that it is possible to implement a sustainable forest management framework, overarching contributing to a more sustainable development
- Train forestry organizations members and technicians in the Forest-IN methodology and tools



Image 3 – Learning-by-doing (1st Forest-IN Training Course)

WHO ARE THE PARTNERS?

Behind a great project, there is always a great team. In our case, seven partners from four countries (Portugal, Spain, France and Germany) make up the Forest-IN consortium, each with a specific set of skills and characteristics. Here is a brief introduction the partners. For more details about the Forest-IN team visit <http://www.forest-in.eu/partners>



University of Aveiro (coordinator)

The University of Aveiro (UA) is one of the most dynamic and innovative universities in Portugal with approximately 15,000 students on undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. UA has achieved a significant position amongst higher education institutions in Portugal. It is one of the top universities based on the quality of its facilities, the strength of its research and the excellence of its staff. The UA's mission is to create knowledge, increase the availability of knowledge through research, education and cooperation for the benefit of people and society; to undertake the project of global development of the individual; to be active in the construction of a European research and education community; and to promote a model of regional development based on innovation, scientific and technological knowledge.



<https://www.ua.pt/>



Unimadeiras S.A.

Unimadeiras SA is a company based in Albergaria-a-Velha, Portugal, with a branch office in Figueira da Foz, Portugal. Founded in October 1974, Unimadeiras is the largest supplier of round wood for pulp, particle board and MDF in the Iberian Peninsula and has over 640 shareholders distributed throughout the country.

Among the main customers are some of the most important companies in the forestry sector in Portugal, such as The Navigator Company (former Portucel-Soporcel Group), Altri, Sonae Indústria, LusoFinsa, Palser, Europac & C and Gesfinu.

Unimadeiras SA takes its social responsibility very seriously.

It deals with over 640 shareholders and over 1000 timber suppliers spread across the country, creating, directly and indirectly, more than 2500 jobs and contributing to about 20% of national market share.

The constitution of Unifloresta group represented an important stage in the activities under the social responsibility of Unimadeiras SA, which obtained the certificate of sustainable forest management FSC in 2008, and PEFC in 2012.

The certification of forest management, joined by the Unifloresta group, seeks to guarantee that the timber comes from properties managed in an ecological, socially fair and economically profitable way, and in compliance with all applicable laws.

The Unifloresta group is managed by Unimadeiras SA, which is responsible for ensuring compliance and enforcing of the legal requirements and applicable standards.



<https://unimadeiras.pt>



Association Forêt Modèle de Provence

Provence Model Forest works to value forest resources by providing transversal management solutions adapted to "its" territory of the Garlaban, Etoile, Sainte Baume and Maures ranges. The three goals are to launch a new forest economy, make suburban areas multifunctional management and do social uses of forests. In that perspective, PMF initiates and capitalizes on innovative projects for demonstration purposes, participates in the exchange of good practices at local, national and international level, and coordinates a network of actors in direct or indirect link with the forest of its reference territory.



<http://www.foretmodele-provence.fr/index.php>



CESEFOR

Cesefor foundation is a non-profit private organization contributing to the integral development of the forestry sector through research, innovation and promoting sustainability in all production areas, giving priority to the conservation of natural resources. Its end users within this project are the private owners regional association (FAFCYLE) and the Regional Government of Castilla y León.



<http://www.cesefor.com/>



Asociación Forestal de Galicia.

The Galicia Forestry Association (AFG) is a private non profit organisation created in 1986 consisting of forest owners (individual private forests and private comunal neighborhood forest). Its activities principally focus on providing technical support and representing their members before the forest Administration, industries and institutions. Other purposes are to achieve the sustainable management of the Galician forests as well as launching and participating in initiatives related to the defence of the forests and the enhancement of their products.

Since its beginnings, the AFG has worked in the recognition of the essential role of forest owners due to their commitment to promote the sustainable forest management and the maintenance of biodiversity as well as their contribution to the mitigation of the effects of climate change and to the maintenance of vital spaces for the society in general. The forests grouped in the AFG, besides producing wood to supply to a key industry in the Galician economy, also produce other resources, sometimes called "secondary" as it can be cattle, mushrooms, wild fruits... and they are even an important source of renewable energy and other "intangible" assets such as drinking water supplies, soil conservation, carbon sinks, landscape, etc.

On the other hand, the AFG has large experience developing R&D projects through co-operation programmes along with other regional, national and international forestry and research institutions. It also has extensive expertise in knowledge transfer through the organisation of training courses, dissemination sessions and forestry trips.



<https://asociacionforestal.gal/>



PEFC España.

PEFC is an international non-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to promoting sustainable forest management through independent third-party certification. The Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification is the certification system of choice for small forest owners PEFC. With 38 endorsed national certification systems and more than 300 million hectares of certified forests.

PEFC Spain is formed by forest owners and industries associations, public governments, technology centers, universities and other social groups. Currently, more than 1,250 companies are PEFC certified in Chain of Custody and 1,9 millions of forest hectares and 19,500 owners and managers are PEFC certified in Spain.

PEFC Spain has the mission of promoting and communicating the forest certification as the tool that guarantees and promotes Sustainable Forest Management and the use of forest certified products, contributing to the employment and development of rural areas.”



https://www.pefc.es/pefc_espana.html



FSC International.

Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) is a global, not-for-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of responsible forest management worldwide. FSC sets standards for responsible forest management and enables consumers to make informed choices about the forest products they buy, to create positive change by engaging the power of market dynamics.

Currently FSC has more than 190 million of hectares as total certified area distributed in 82 countries and more than 31.250 chain of custody certified companies in a total of 120 countries.

The umbrella and membership organization FSC Asociacion Civil (A.C.) is registered under Mexican law since 1993. FSC International Center is an affiliate of FSC A.C., registered in Germany and hosting the FSC Smallholder Social Program. FSC Social Program offers policy tools that allow an easier access to certification as well as to financial and technical support to help smallholders maintain their certification and benefit from the FSC label in the market. FSC Global Development is also an affiliate of FSC A.C., also registered in Germany and hosting FSC Quality Assurance Unit, of which the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) program is part. FSC's M&E program together with the FSC Portugal office would be the technical partner of the project.



<https://fsc.org/pt>

WORKING TOGETHER

The roles of each partner within Forest-IN were as follow:

The University of Aveiro(UA), as the leading partner brought expertise in different fields of knowledge, coordinating the project and materializing the overall implementation and oversight of the project, while contributing directly to its results.

Unimadeiras is a leading private company in the Portuguese forestry sector, deeply experienced in direct contact with smallholders and stakeholders engagement. They were also used to engage smallholders and technicians towards sustainable forest management. With their practical knowledge of the Portuguese forest reality they were key in providing a realistic picture of Portuguese forests and their dynamics, and accordingly, key in mobilising the relevant project participants.

AFG is a Spanish private nonprofit that congregates forest owners with activities focused in providing technical support, representing them, participating in forums, institutions and projects related to forestry. AFG brought experience in the development of R&D projects and in the knowledge transfer at regional, national and international levels that engage the target groups of forest-IN. AFMP is a French nonprofit association that works to value forest resources by providing transversal management solutions. Their objective was to engage in a new forest economy, make multifunctional management and do social uses of forests. AFMP capitalized on its innovative projects for demonstration purposes and participation in the exchange of good practices at local, national and international level,

CESEFOR is a nonprofit private foundation whose mission is to contribute to sustainable development and to improve the management and sustainable exploitation of forestry resources; to foster the competitiveness, and to increase the degree of sustainable industrialization of forestry products. They specialized in communication for forest sustainability and protection, and brought abundant experience in developing bespoke IT technology in this scope. Therefore, IT app and online platform were developed by CESEFOR, as well as the communication strategy.

PEFC and FSC are global, non-profit organisations dedicated to the promotion of responsible forest management worldwide. They establish the standards for sustainable forest management best practices, assuring, through their certification processes, that forest owners manage their proprieties according to the most demanding requirements in terms of environment, and socio-economical justice. They were key in providing the educational and training contents.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Forest-IN guides you in implementing a sustainable forest management framework on your small holding, large plot, or entire forest through. For forest smallholders, forest/forestry technicians, decision makers, and educators there is a set of resources available on the website including interesting educational activities within training packages that include descriptive materials and presentations. Smallholders and their representatives from several countries across Europe have attended the Forest-IN courses.

All Forest-IN materials are available free; there is no registration or login required. To get started you just need an internet connection, go to www.forest-in.eu, and the curiosity to explore all that the project has to offer!

FOR WHO?

Forest-IN project is designed for a wide variety of user profiles, ages and nationalities, albeit having been designed with a somewhat specific target audience in mind. A very important feature of this project is that the majority of Forest-IN products are available in four languages (English, Portuguese, Spanish, French), making Forest-IN extremely accessible. Specifically, the project is suitable for:

- Forest Smallholders
- Forest/forestry technicians
- Forest managers
- Decision-makers in the sectors of forests and forestry
- General public
- Non-government environmental organisations
- Municipalities
- Forest Authorities
- Other organisations and groups



Image 4 – Forest-IN is for a multiplicity of interested parties (1st Forest-IN Multiplier Event)

FOREST-IN IN ACTION

What we did and how we did it

The following pages describe the main activities undertaken during the 3 years of the project.

Multiplier Events

All five Multiplier Events (ME) that were planned for the duration of the project were successfully held. With diversified programmes, depending on the objectives of the ME which in turn depended on the stage of development that the project was in, each ME was done with a unique approach to it.

ME1 – Lousã (Portugal), hosted by U. Aveiro, 02-03 March 2017. Participants (attending both days): Initially planned for a smaller audience (45

Local participants and 7 international), this event counted a total of 108 participants. Each partner also sent participants from their region which they invited: 2 from AFG, 2 from Forêt Maodelle de Provence; 1 from Cesefor; 1 from PEFC Spain; and 1 from FSC International. This ME was the first 'conference' of the Project and was done in a very participative manner with seminars, workshops and technical field visits.

This event took place in month 7 instead of the planned month 5, in Lousã, instead of Aveiro, Portugal. It was organized by the University of Aveiro with great support of Unimadeiras. Lousã hosts the Center for Forestry Technique and Operations, a unique facility in Portugal. For logistical reasons and the ease of access to the surrounding forest, the venue for the 1st Multiplier event was therefore altered from the University of Aveiro to the COTF in Lousã, ca. 90 km to the south. In Portuguese, it was named "Floresta saudável, benefícios para todos" which translates as "Healthy forest, benefits for all". Due to the high number of local participants, the main language of the event was Portuguese. However, translators for Spanish, French and English languages were present, in order to allow international understanding. The event was targeted at the forestry sector in general, including smallholders, forestry technicians, forestry companies, forestry researchers, local authorities, communicators, and other relevant stakeholders that were invited by the partners. An invitation was sent to the

Portuguese Secretary of State for Forests, which was accepted thus conferring, to the first formal Forest-IN event also a kind of political validity. In practice, and beyond the conferences, the event worked as a focus group discussion composed of two round tables: A sectoral round table , where the participants discussed divided into sectors (e.g biodiversity, profitability/economy, Industry, society, etc.) and a mixed round table where the participants confronted their sectoral ideas with the ideas of the other sectors. The participation of foreign stakeholders promoted inter-cultural dialogue, exchange of ideas, contact with different perspectives of forestry, citizenship and environment in the European context, and the development of linguistic skills among the participants. Intellectual outputs such as the summary research project, dissemination package, the App and online platform were presented (as drafts/concepts) in the event, and discussions were held, namely during the abovementioned roundtables as to improve them according to the participating stakeholders' contributions. This Multiplier Event played a preponderant role in the subsequent (and current development of the project's resources (Intellectual Outputs -IO) as it provided the first shape by incorporating the contributions the participants made.



[Video 1](#) – Forest-IN International participatory forum (1st Forest-IN Multiplier Event)



[Image 5](#) – Forest-IN International participatory forum (1st Forest-IN Multiplier Event)



Image 6 – Forest-IN International participatory forum (1st Forest-IN Multiplier Event)

ME2 – Albergaria-a-Velha (Portugal), 24-27 October 2017.

Participants (attending the three days): Initially planned for a smaller audience (45 Local participants and 7 international), this event counted with the presence of ca.70 participants

Each partner also sent participants from their region which they invited: 2 from AFG, 2 from Forêt Maodelle de Provence; 1 from Cesefor; 1 from PEFC Spain; and 1 from FSC International.R relevant

This event took place in month 14, in Albergaria-a-Velha, Portugal. In Portuguese, it was named "Da teoria à prática, mãos à obra para uma gestão florestal sustentável" ". Due to profile of the local participants, the

main language of the event was Portuguese. However, translators for Spanish, French, English and German languages were present, in order to allow international understanding. The event was primordially targeted at smallholders from the partners' network. A total of 52 participants have attended: The Multiplier event itself had a duration of 3 days, and was followed by a fourth day in which local partners from Albergaria-a-Velha, organized a side-event within the scope of the project and which was called BioForum 2017. This event was co-organized by the Municipality of Albergaria-a-Velha, Associação BioLiving, and Auranca, a local development association. This latter event was attended by more than 100 persons from various proveniences. The participants of this 2nd Multiplier event have thus received information and training on basic forest ecology, forest biodiversity, forestry techniques, best practice, forest entrepreneurship and profitability, among other topics deeply embedded in the concept of sustainable forest management and forest certification. It involved both theoretical and practical approaches, delivered in the form of itinerant field sessions, as well as oral presentations, group discussions and field work. The main themes addressed were those related to best practices on forestry restoration and profitability of non-timber products, in order to provide smallholders with entrepreneurship skills for additional income in line with biodiversity conservation. The event has profusely explored, tested, discussed, and improved the Project's Intellectual Outputs, namely the IT app, the online platform and the assessment tutorial, in a practical way.

This holistic approach has allowed smallholders to relate theoretical concepts with their practical and immediate application. The participation of foreign smallholders actively promoted inter-cultural dialogue, exchange of ideas, contact with different perspectives of citizenship and environment in the European context, and the development of linguistic skills.



Image 7 –2nd Forest-IN Multiplier Event



Image 8 –2nd Forest-IN Multiplier Event

ME3 – Santiago de Compostela (Spain), 23-25 January 2018, Participants (attending the three days): initially planned for 52 participants (45 Local participants and 7 international), this event counted with the presence of 56 participants. Each partner also sent participants from their region, which they invited: 2 from UAveiro, 5 from Unimadeiras 2 from Forêt Modèle de

Provence; 1 from Cesefor; 1 from PEFC Spain; and 1 from FSC International.

This event took place in month 17 (January 2018), in Santiago de Compostela, Spain, in accordance with the project's planning. In Spanish, it was named " De la teoría a la práctica: manos a la obra por la gestión forestal sostenible" Due to profile of the local participants, but also the international ones, the main language of the event was Spanish. However, translators for Galician, French and English languages were present, in order to allow international understanding. The event was targeted at smallholders from the partners' network, but also representatives of organisations that work closely with smallholders. A total of 56 participants have attended. The Multiplier Event had a duration of 3 days where it was possible for the participants to receive information on basic forest ecology, forest biodiversity, forestry techniques, best practice, forest entrepreneurship and profitability, among other topics deeply embedded in the concept of sustainable forest management and forest certification. During the event, the participants were led to explore, test, discuss and improve the project's Intellectual Outputs, namely the IT app, the online platform and the assessment tutorial, in a practical way. Again, in the same manner as with the first and second Multiplier Events, it was crucial for the methodological approach to the whole of the project. The opinions and contributions of the smallholders have once again been taken into account for the remainder of the project. The event was very well organized by Asociacion Forestal de Galicia (AFG) with great support of the University of Aveiro.



Video 2 - Detailing the precepts of the 3rd Forest-IN Multiplier Event in Galicia through the lens of the French participants

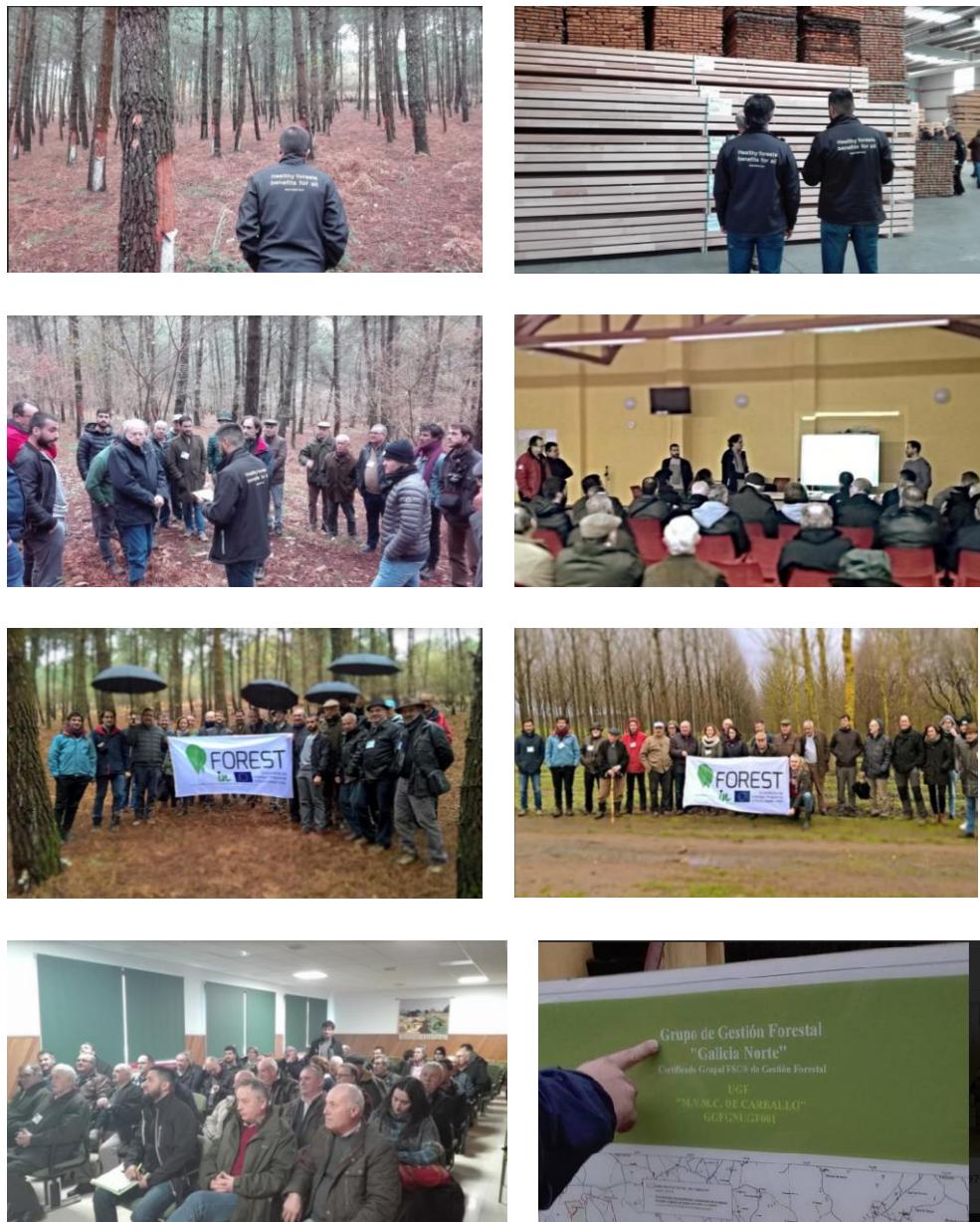


Image 9 –3rd Forest-IN Multiplier Event

ME4 – Gardanne (France), 04-06 June 2018. Participants (attending the three days): as planned the event was attended by 45 Local (french) participants and 7 international. Each partner also sent participants from their region which they invited: 2 from AFG, 2 from Univ. Aveiro; 2 from Unimadeiras; 1 from PEFC Spain; and 1 from FSC International.

This event took place in Provence (France), hosted and organized by Forêt Modèle de Provence, with great support of the University of Aveiro and local partners (PEFC de Provence-Alpe-Côte d'Azur, Centre Régional de la Propriété Forestière, Syndicat de propriétaires forestiers sylviculteurs du Var, ASL de la Suberaie Varoise, Coopérative Provence Forêt, Office National des Forêts). The event was named "the Provence Model Forest Tour", as it itinerated throughout the 4 forest ranges of the NGO's reference territory. By way of examples, this tour aimed to present, specially to Provence forest owners of small forested lands the existing possibilities of managing their forest.

Beyond this main targeted objective, the event aimed to promote forest sustainable and multifunctional management towards a wider audience (professionals, non-professional forest users, researchers, teachers, students, etc.). As planned, the multiplier event included both theoretical and practical knowledge impartation moments. The more theoretical and general was done twice indoor. The first session was held on 2018 June 4th morning at Septèmes-les-Vallons Mairie as a « participatory conference » with the following programme : local forest politics, Forest-IN project presentation and main findings, context of wood forest value chains and forest land structure in Provence and sustainable forest management tools for the small forest holders in Provence. The second session was held on June 2018 06th afternoon at La Môle Mairie as a « participatory round table » on « the advantages and disadvantages of the different tools available to take small forest owners into sustainable and multifunctional forest management ». The more practical dissemination sets were shared throughout 6 fields visits between 2018 June 4th afternoon and June 2018 06th morning. On the fields, the participants were brought to deal with forest ecology and biodiversity (ex : in Sainte-Baume range), forestry techniques and best practices (ex : in Maures range), forest entrepreneurship and profitability of non-timber products (ex : Truffle sylviculture). A focus was applied on technical and legal tools to sustainably value micro-forest fields. Introductions of the 2 certification forest systems were also made. As well, the event was the opportunity to improve the Project's Intellectual Outputs, in a practical way. Indeed, those tools, in their ongoing production process at that time, were discussed with the smallholders and other participants.



[Video 3](#) – The involvement of forest smallholders in the 4th Forest-IN Multiplier Event in Provence, France



Image 10 —4th Forest-IN Multiplier Event

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ME5 – At the end of the project from 24 to 25 July (month 35), a 2-days final conference was held at the University of Aveiro. Participants (attending both days): initially planned for 52 participants (45 Local participants and 7 international), this event counted with the presence of about 120 participants. Each partner also sent participants from their region and networks, which they invited: 3 from AFG, 6 from Unimadeiras 2 from Forêt Modèle de Provence; 1 from PEFC Spain; and 2 from FSC International. The conference was opened to the forests and forestry sector as well as to the general public and was largely disseminated thus assuring an overall number of about 120 attendees. Representatives from all partners were present. Having been directed primarily at forest owners and Smallholders (the project's target audience), as well as their representative organizations and, in a transversal way, open to society in general, a diversified program on the following themes was made available: 1st day: The Forest Smallholder and Public Administration; The Forest Smallholder and the Academy; The Forest Smallholder and the Companies; The Forest Smallholder and Non-Governmental Organizations; The Forest Smallholder and Society. On the 2nd day a hands-on approach was taken with a technical interpretative visit to Bussaco National Forest. For each of the aforementioned themes, Key speakers were invited to deliver talks. Additionally, dedicated talking/exposition time was given to participants of the Multiplier Events and training courses to share with the larger audience their experience(s) in Forest-IN's events and the use of the produced tools (IO's). Together with the project partners and a set of invited partners, it was possible, in an international context, to juxtapose different realities by comparing responses to similar issues under different socio-geographical circumstances. This has provided an opportunity to share experiences in addressing issues related to forest production and profitability, species breeding and management, forest diseases or the environmental impact (eg on biodiversity) of logging activities and forest protection, as well as land use planning, always focusing on the role of the smallholder and producer/manager. This setting provided the framework to present the projects' main conclusions and methodologies showcasing the multiplier

events, training activities, practical forestry/citizenship actions that were developed-produced during the project, the training packages, the forest assessment, the mobile app (and desktop ‘observatory’) and the ICT setup created for the project, while striving to impart learnings on how to use them. The final conference corresponded thus to the consolidation phase of the project, making an impact in a very practical way by demonstrating how the results may be sustainable and widespread to other communities and countries beyond the ones initially involved in the project. The event was organized by the University of Aveiro, with the adequate support and contributions from all partners.



Image 11 –3rd Forest-IN’s Final conference in Aveiro

Training Courses

Forest-In included 4 short-term joint staff training events at Albergaria-a-Velha (Portugal), Lousã(Portugal), Santiago de Compostela (Spain) and Gardanne(France), These training activities were aimed at smallholders, technicians, researchers, educators and other relevant professionals, members/staff of the consortium's partner organizations that were provided with an opportunity to develop their knowledge and skills further, as well as providing practical teaching examples. .The training courses (TC) added value to the global meaning of the project, as they tackled two aspects that are fundamental for embedding sustainability values in the collective behavior:

- 1) providing education to professionals as well as non-professionals from different areas and countries more specific skills and knowledge related with the sustainable forest management concept;
- 2) these professionals will be able to more efficiently disseminate the gained knowledge and observed practices to the smallholders and other similar groups they work with.

As initially planned, all the training course materials are made freely available, at <http://www.forestin>, for anyone willing to use them for the purpose of disseminating the same concepts and philosophy.

The course was organized to be lectured in an average of 25h, divided in six modules, delivered in five days. The modules were as follow:

Module 1:

- Biodiversity, Conservation and Spatial Planning:
 - Good practices in forest management that promote soil and water quality, biodiversityand the correct management of forest areas
 - Threats to Forest Systems: abiotic and biotic agents (pests and diseases, fires, invasive species)
- The role of society in the conservation of the Forest

Module 2:

- Certification- The different phases- Motivations and Advantages in adhering to a Forest Certification scheme
- General Principles for Forest Certification
 - Types of functions associated with forest areas
 - How to value and harmonize forest production with other services and benefits provided?

- The Multiple Use of the Forest: Non-Timber Forest products (cork, pine, chestnut, game, mushrooms, wild berries, etc.)
- Group Dynamics Exercise: Role Play

Module 3:

From theory to practice: multiple use of the forest -Management Simulation Exercise of a Forest Unit

- Implementation of a multifunctional model based on agricultural / forest maps, ecological indicators and risk assessment.
- Documentation needed to prepare an audit - checklists: group exercise / dynamics
- Biodiversity monitoring: checklists: group exercise / dynamics

Module 4

From theory to practice: Forest management and nature conservation Management Simulation Exercise of a Forest Unit

- Conservation Areas versus Protection Areas: - construction of a decision tree (group exercise / dynamics)
- Monitoring sheet construction for conservation and protection areas

Biodiversity monitoring: checklists: group exercise / dynamics

Module 5

Forest and Spatial Planning: an Integrated Perspective

- Natural Resources field evaluation

Module 6

Good practices in sustainable forest management: shared experiences

- Natural Resources field evaluation.

Training Course 1

The first five-day training course took place between 15 and 19 October 2018 in Albergaria-a-Velha (Portugal) and several places where field learning activities took place. Overall, 30 trainees took part in the course: 12 from Unimadeiras, 5 from AFG, 5 from AFMP, 2 from AU, 1 from PEFC Spain and 5 from FSC International. It was hosted by partner host Unimadeiras SA. and other partners in fruitful collaboration, especially the project coordinator University of Aveiro. The structure of the course modules was prepared by FSC International, based on the training needs already identified in the project, diagnosis made by the partners,

experiences drawn from the multiplier events and contributions from other entities that were associated with the project. As per the Intellectual outputs' implementation identified needs, the training course had a strong horizontal learning component, based on participants sharing their experiences and practices and learn from others in their country and other partner countries. The course was imparted and moderated by specialists in various subjects, such as Biologists from the University of Aveiro, public entities with experience in territorial management and multifunctionality (Municipality of Albergaria-a-Velha), multi-use forestry companies and organisations (Medronhalva and Associação dos Apicultores do Litoral Centro), landowners with exemplary diversified forests (Lemos Natura), sectoral association (Centro Pinus) and nature tourism management entity (Bioria / Municipality of Estarreja). The empirical knowledge of the participants was enhanced with the introduction of new management and planning concepts and the use of new tools, such as the project's IO's, developed in the project and firstly tested at this event in their primary form. Particularly, the most practical, hands-on training module, a management simulation exercise for a forestry unit, has provided them with basic territorial / forest management skills that allow them to critically think about the forest and not repeat the dominant forestry paradigms, perceived as conventional. Some knowledge on forestry supported by territorial analysis (conditions, suitability, risks and productivity), multiple use forestry, biodiversity and forest sustainability were also taught and discussed among the participants, and with the course trainers/moderators. This event, the first non-thematic, comprehensive training course for forest owners, prepared owners to think differently and empowered them with basic territorial / forest management skills.

It was unexpected at first, motivating as it was going on and innovative in its conclusion(s). Its evaluation by trainees and partners has allowed the training packages to be reviewed and adapted in subsequent courses in other countries.



Image 12 – 1st Forest-IN Training Course

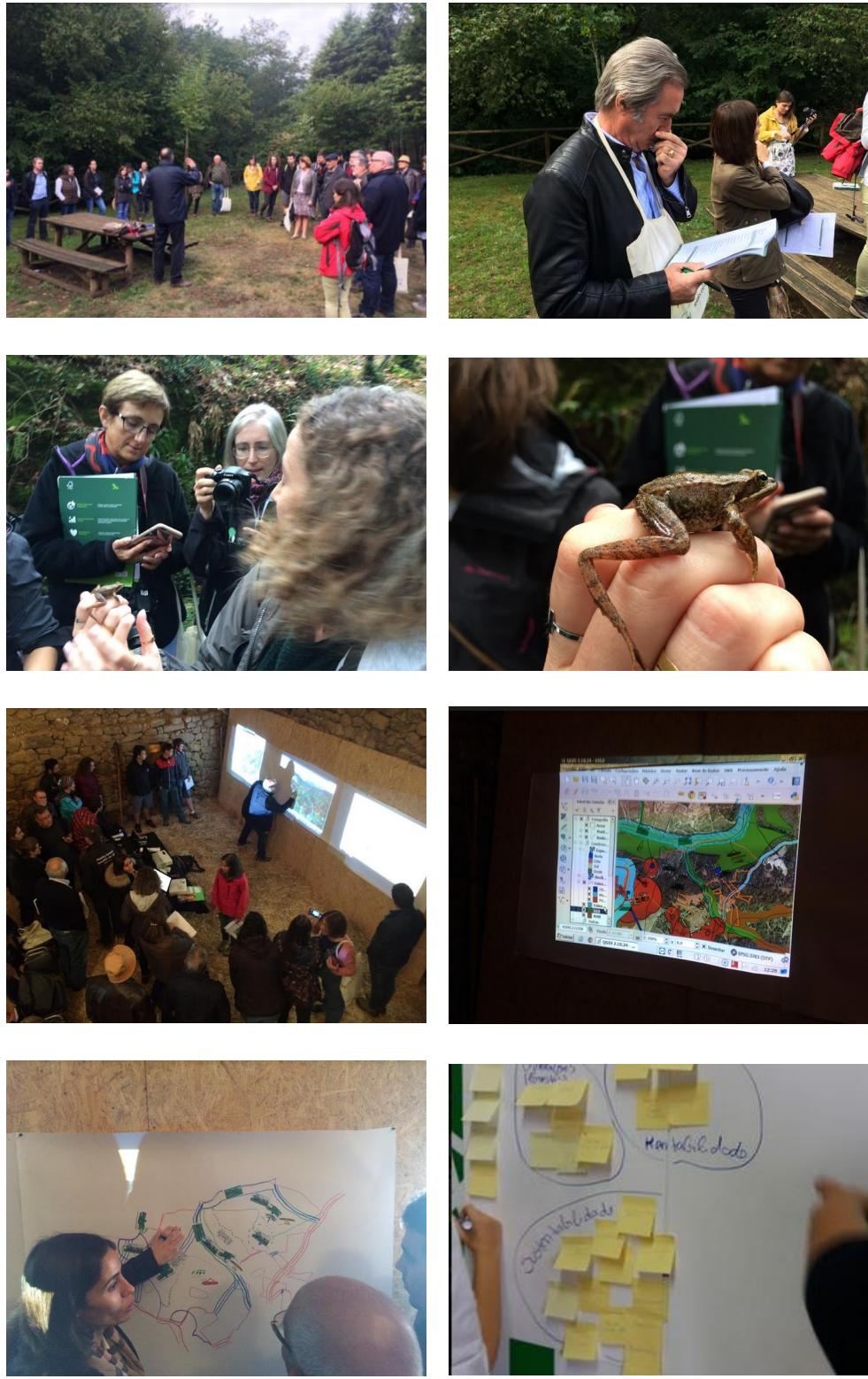


Image 13 – 1st Forest-IN Training Course

Training Course 2

The second Forest-IN training course was hosted from 19 to 23 of November, by the University of Aveiro, in Lousã, Portugal. Initially, the course was planned to be held in France by Association Forêt Modèle de Provence (AFMP). As per the request of participating project partners, and as per agreement reached at the 5th transnational project meeting in Gardanne, France, and the implemented planning during the 6th Transnational partners meeting in Albergaria-a-Velha, Portugal, it was unanimously decided to hold the 2nd Training Course in Portugal. This decision was taken due to the lessons learned during the multiplier events 1,2,3 and 4. It was deemed pedagogically more relevant within the project's framework to allow more french members of Forêt Modèle de Provence to come to Portugal to acquire learnings on how to mobilize forest resources and dynamize the forestry sector. This is because it was found that this was a component lacking in Provence. The forestry sector is there underdeveloped vis-a-vis its potential. Portugal, in comparison has a really strong forest economy put in place, which the french partners found relevant as an experience to impart by the way of training to their participants. Moreover, being forest management (with a strong economic dimension) demonstrably (in the Portuguese case) a way to manage also territorial risks, and following the catastrophic forest fires that occurred in Portugal in 2017, it was agreed among all partners that it was relevant to take lessons in the context of the events on the factors that allowed the fires to take the dimensions they did while discussing strategies to mitigate them. Similarly to the first multiplier event the 2nd course was held at the Center for Forestry Technique and Operations in Lousã. This is a unique facility in Portugal. For logistical reasons and the ease of access to the surrounding forest, the venue for the 2nd course was therefore altered from the University of Aveiro to the COTF in Lousã, ca. 90 km to the south. Trainees were smallholders and other non-professional forest managers, members of the Forest-IN participating organizations. The course made use of the materials and tools tested at the 1st course. The objective the participants on sustainable forest management topics, and indirectly also develop basic skills and competences. The main topic was that forest is an aggregation that, when correctly managed, largely allows achieving all components of sustainability (environmental, social and economical), providing all sorts of benefits for all. As had been already concluded by the 1st course, it was important to underpin to non professional foresters and smallholders that there are multiple forestry solutions that can promote

biodiversity and simultaneously provide income, besides the industrial exotic forestry model that is currently dominant. The course also demonstrated the advantages of managing certified forests, both in terms of environment and of income. An important feature of this course was safety in forestry work and the difficulty that smallholders find in establishing a link between the production and exploitation of their resource and the conditions and labour rights for the workers who work on their plot on their and/or on subcontractors behalf. Thus, the Portuguese Authority for Work Conditions was invited to give a lecture on this matter. The combat on Invasive alien species that hinder the biodiversity and curtail the economic benefits was also an important topic in this edition of the Forest-In training courses, and so Forest-In partnered with the Project Invasoras.pt, to address, in a hands-on manner, this issue. Multifunctionality of forests, and the myriad of potential forest products that is possible to obtain was the third main theme to be discussed within the course and, as such, a show of unconventional forest products was held, sparking a discussion about novel forest exploitation models. FSC International lead the development of the course contents, following the objectives of the agreed programme of proximity to smallholders, with strong support of the University of Aveiro and also Unimadeiras.



Image 14 – 2nd Forest-IN Training Course



Image 15 – 2nd Forest-IN Training Course

Training Course 2

The third training course of the Forest-IN project took place between the 11th and 15th March 2019 and 28 persons took part in it of whose 5 participants came from Unimadeiras, 2 from the University of Aveiro , 5 from the AFMP, 1 from FSC International, 1 from PEFC Spain and 14 from the AFG.

For the organization of the course, tree basic criteria were taken into account:

- To follow a common diagram with the previous organized courses.
- To show forest experiences not studied in the previous courses.
- To answer the participants' demands made in the multiplier events.

In the identification of the issues the AFG worked together with FSC International, the University of Aveiro and also Unimadeiras and assorted programme was put forth, alternating lectures, field visits and team work. The shown experiences addressed several issues on forest management from the perspective of the sustainability, the significance of the management and the diversification opportunities. In the project it was proved, among other things, that in front of the serious problems we have with the forest fires, the solution is the forest areas management, its absence causes disasters, that is why it is essential to show to the forest owners and forest managers

that management is fundamental and that it is possible to do it in numerous forms and all of them in a sustainable way. With these premises, we involved the Xunta de Galicia who introduced (in lecture and in the field visit) the process of consolidation in forest fields in Galicia and also introduced the project of the Land Bank of Galicia. Both experiences were shown in order to analyse two types of forest land grouping necessary for an adequate management in Galicia as well as in the North of Portugal and Provenza. These two examples were complemented with the introduction of the forest owners cooperative Monte Cabalar, which manages its forests through the silvopasture. The multifunctional character of the forest and its management was supplemented with a lecture on the exploitation of medicinal herbs, the production of high value wood and the preservation the natural resources in the Matura 2000 network spaces (example of the Fragas do Eume). Besides, two other essential issues inside the Project were addressed in the course: the sustainable forest management and the forest certification, with several practical exercises and three lectures from the FSC International, PEFC Spain and the experience on certification of the AFG Certification Group, SELGA Xestión Forestal Sostible.



Image 16 – 3rd Forest-IN Training Course

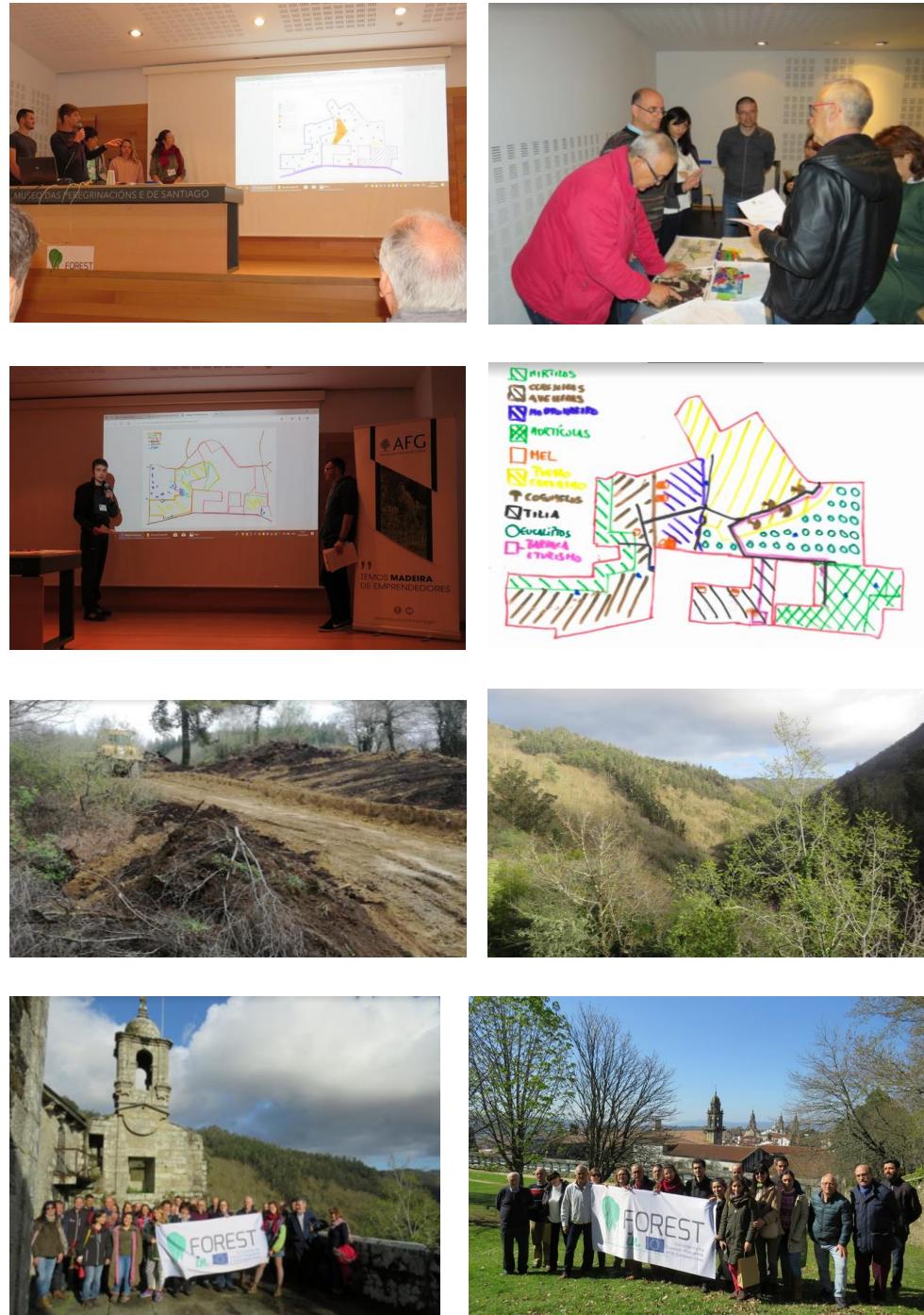


Image 17 – 3rd Forest-IN Training Course



Image 18 – The 4th Forest-IN Training Course, specifically dedicated to forests and forestry technicians, and other professionals was held in Provence, France

Training Course 4

The fourth 5-day training course took place on 2019 from April 1st to 5th. 24 trainees attended the course, allowing multi-country exchanges between 5 from Unimadeiras, 2 from University of Aveiro, 1 from FSC International Center, 1 from PEFC ESPAÑA, 5 from AFG and 15 Frenchs. This training course for technicians took place in Provence (France), hosted by Forêt Modèle de Provence. PEFC Spain lead the development of the course contents, following the objectives of their own proximity “Collaboration programme”, with strong support of the University of Aveiro, FSC International, Forêt Modèle de Provence and some of its local partners (Établissement public local Aix-Valabre-Marseille, ASL de la Suberaie Varoise, Coopérative Provence Forêt, Syndicat de propriétaires forestiers sylviculteurs des Bouches-du-Rhône, Sainte-Baume Regional Naturel Park, Bouches-du-Rhône Département).

By the strength of examples, this event aimed to train and capacitate forestry technicians and forestry decision-makers in sustainable managing forest small fields. It dealt with sustainability forest management, forest certification processes, biodiversity conservation, valuation of non-timber products, multiple uses of the forest, forest economy, forestry techniques, among other relevant matters. Especially, the course trained on silvicultures embedding sustainability and viability in difficult conditions in a context of certification, biodiversity, and people recreation within forest areas management, forest fire defense techniques, National Natural Reserve management, multifunctional forest management (silviculture, cork oak regeneration, non-wood forest productions (cork, eucalyptus leaves, apiculture, silvopastoralism, carbon compensation, hunting, etc, with common organizations. Furthermore, the course used and introduced all

materials and toolkits fully developed within the Project (all Intellectual Outputs). Especially, as part of the training package, the course included the learning of the « Management Simulation Exercise of a Forest Unit » to capacitate the trainees in sustainably manage a forest. After the delivery of the course, the training package has been enhanced and corrected by PEFC Spain where needed according to the trainees feed-backs and project partners appraisal.



Image 19 – 4th Forest-IN Training Course

II. RESOURCES



Image 20 – Understanding Forest-IN, its methods and resources

FOREST-IN some of the project's main resources

Our project considered a set of useful intellectual outputs, with the aim of empowering smallholders, but also to assist professional forestry technicians in the decision-making regarding sustainable forest management. The following pages summarize the main results.

Summary Research Report

A multidisciplinary state-of-the-art presented in a form of a report that conveys in a simple and intelligible way the main rationales behind the project, the problems at hand, while pointing in the direction of solutions to implement the project in accordance to its goals. FOREST-IN is a project to learn about implementing sustainable forest management based on digital technology, forestry and nature conservation, communications and knowledge transference, and ultimately, adult pedagogy.

The Summary Research Report was done with recourse to research exercises to ensure the coverage of common issues in the project partners' countries as well as region-specific themes and problematics. Through participatory workshops, interviews and surveys, Forest-IN's Summary Research Report informs and establishes the designs and contents of the framework of the project, and all subsequent results. All the project's partners added contributions in the planned areas that are of particular

importance to FOREST-IN project: sustainable forest management for small forest holdings; IT and web-based tools used in the context of forestry and adult education; communication and training techniques for adults; public engagement towards sustainability.

The Summary research report work consolidates already existing know-how in the above-mentioned areas but allows to work on some of the dramatic changes in obligations that implicate smallholders in forest management that ensued the catastrophic forest fires in recent years that swept virtually all of Europe.

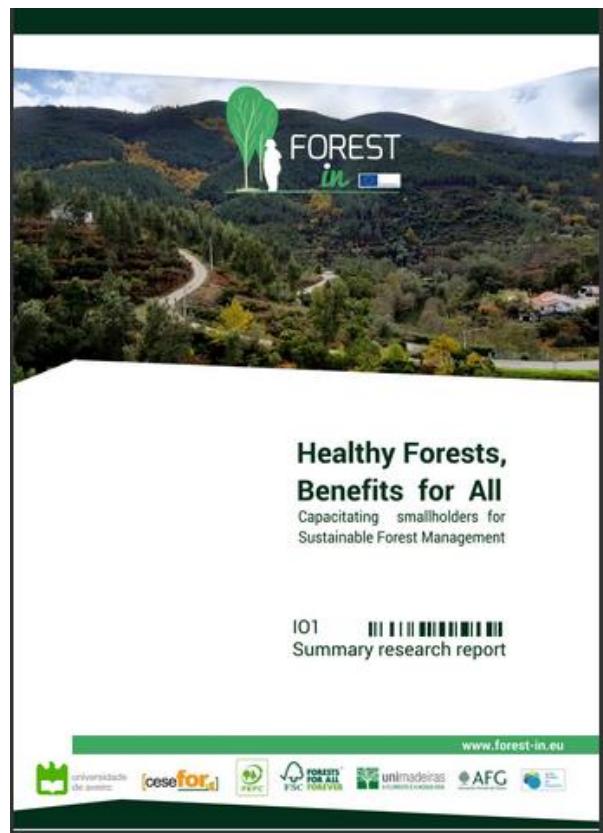


Image 21 –Forest-IN Summary research report

IT application

An IT application (for smartphone and tablet) has been developed to support the learning processes about sustainable forest management and decision making, and for raising awareness. Based on the concept of microlearning, the project included the design, development and dissemination of a mobile application to easily and visually help small forest holders to manage and plan their production and harvesting respecting biodiversity and meeting criteria for sustainable forest management, adopting best practices.

The system is composed by an app working connected to Internet. Any interested participant may require to describe and/or map their forest and or register their management practices by means of self-made short videos. Based on microlearning – a kind of training that's broken down into short segments—usually between 30 seconds and 5 minutes long in video format - the visual information addresses, also through the available tools, topics such as species most adapted to climate and soil characteristics; forestry techniques needed for a greater profitability; biodiversity protection and enhancement; adapted forestry management; forests and climate change; forests and water; valuable non timber forest products associated with species/ management; among many others.

Data collected with the app enter a database, and feature geographical information that, in order to provide user-friendly visual orientation, supporting decision making for the management of their forest.

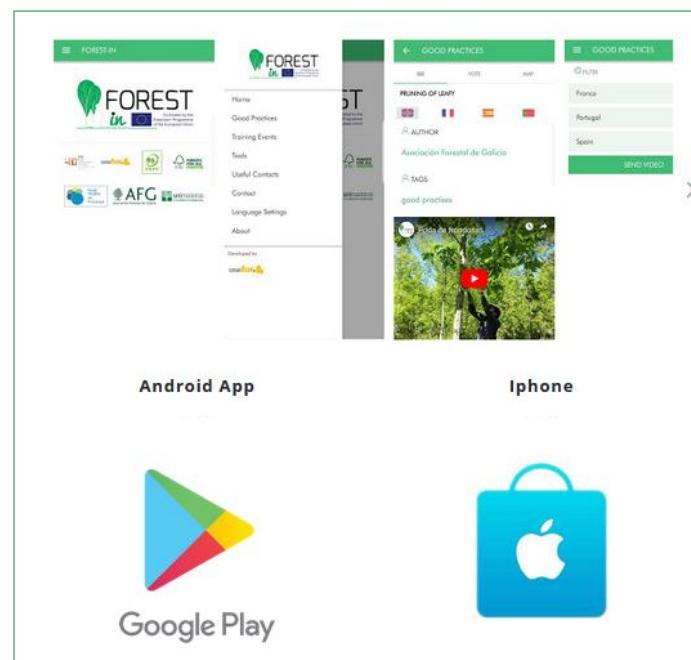


Image 22 – 1st Forest-IN App, available for Android and Apple IOS

www.forest-in.eu

Online platform

The project has, since its inception, developed a website that presents the plan, its informative contents and outputs, its partners, funders and the aims and objectives of Forest-IN to the virtual audiences. Address: <http://www.forest-in.eu/> It was on-line before planned (month 13). The project's website was also intended to be the repository for outputs and resources, and also hosts four preponderant components:

- 1) a PC version of the app with registration, mapping area and decisionmaking support developed for users not well acquainted (or that do not own) a smartphone or tablet; called "smallholders good practices observatory"
- 2) an interactive map that resulting from the database created by the use of the mobile app, which will allow the mapping, rating of contents, and the concurrent generation of awareness towards sustainable forest management;
- 3) an observatory where everyone can consult the videos, documents, network, exchange ideas and engage in the reflective practice that is essential part of the innovation process and indispensable if quality outcomes in sustainable forest management are to be achieved;

The partners will continue to improve the website as the project is being developed further, even after the funding period is over.

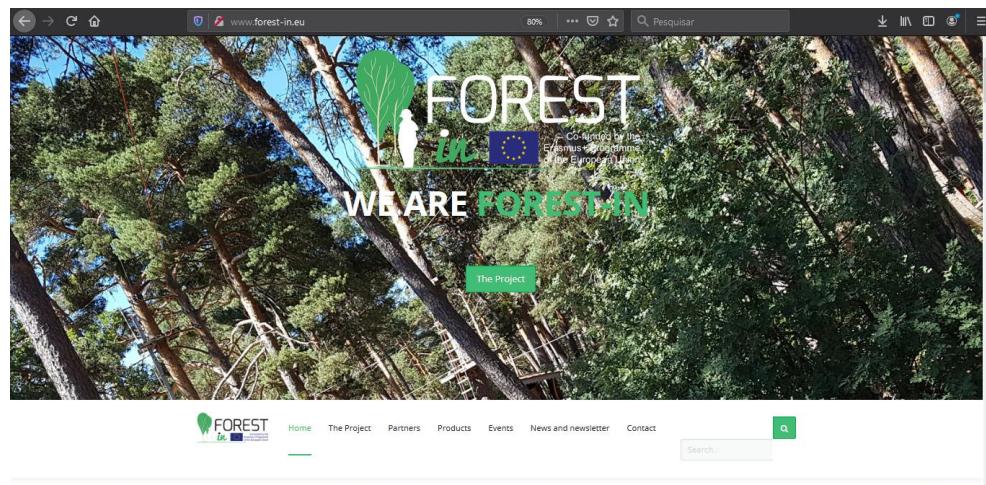


Image 23 – Forest-IN webplatform available at www.forest-in.eu

Training package for training smallholders

The project has developed a training package for a training course for forest smallholders: The Project's partner 'Forest Stewardship Council - FSC International', as forest certification referential entity, took the lead in the development of the training package for a certified training course targeted at smallholders and other non professional forest owners and managers.

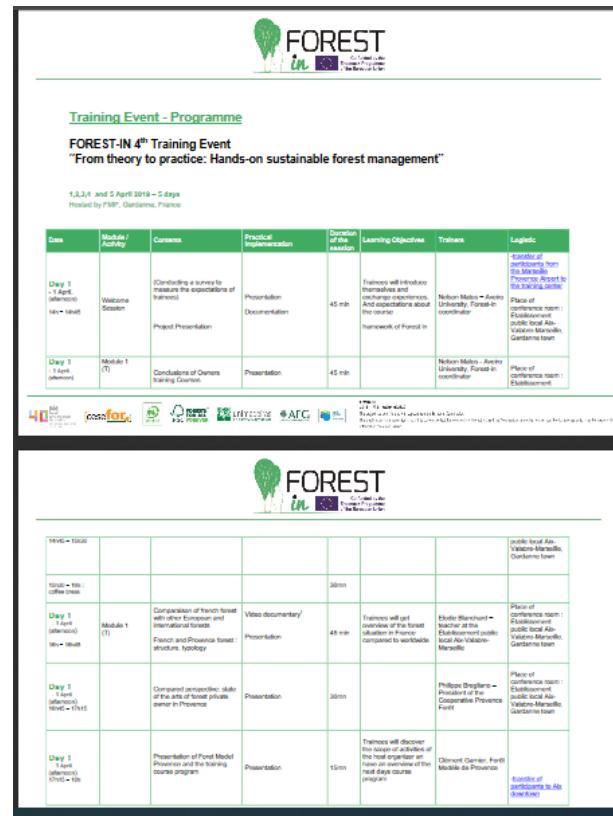
The objective of this package is to provide forest entities a ready-to-use course package, so that they can spread the FOREST-IN concept and replicate the training and raise awareness in their areas of influence. The main concept is that forest is an aggregation being that, when correctly managed, largely allows achieving all components of sustainability (environmental, social and economical), providing all sorts of benefits for all. It is important to underpin to non professional forest owners and smallholders that there are multiple forestry solutions that can promote biodiversity and simultaneously provide income, besides the industrial exotic forestry model that is currently dominant. The course also strongly demonstrates the advantages of managing certified forests, both in terms of environment, society and of income.



Image 24 – Aspect of the Forest-IN Training package for smallholders

Training package for training forestry technicians

The Project's partner 'Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification' (PEFC), a forest certification referential entity, took the lead in the development of the training package for a certified training course targeted at forestry technicians and other professional forest managers. The course made use of all materials developed within FOREST-IN Project. The objective was to provide forestry companies and organisations a ready-to-use course package, so that they can train and capacitate their technicians and forestry decision-makers with updated information on how to approach smallholders on sustainable forest management, forest certification processes, biodiversity conservation, valuation of non-timber products, multiple uses of the forest, forest economy, state-of-the-art forestry techniques, among other relevant matters so that they can spread the FOREST-IN concept and replicate the training and raise awareness in their areas of influence, and especially within the forests and forestry sector.



Training Event - Programme

FOREST-IN 4th Training Event
 "From theory to practice: Hands-on sustainable forest management"

1,3,4 and 5 April 2016 – 5 days
 Hosted by PFM, Gardanne, France

Date	Module / Activity	Content	Practical Implementation	DURATION of the session	Learning Objectives	Trainers	Logistic
Day 1 1 April 10h-12h	Welcome Session	(Conducting a survey to measure the expectations of trainees)	Presentation Documentation	45 min	Trainers will introduce themselves and their organisations. And explanation about the importance of the framework of Forest in	Nelson Matos - Acre University, Forest in coordinator	Scientific committee from PEFC, Members of Province Artois to the Management
Day 1 1 April 14h-17h	Module 1 (1)	Conclusion of Owners Training Course	Presentation	45 min		Nelson Matos - Acre University, Forest in coordinator	Place of conference room : Auditorium of the public local Authority of Acre, Gardanne town
							Place of conference room : Auditorium

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Hour - Value							Local host : Valérie Marcellin, Gardanne town
Total - 5h							
Day 1 1 April 10h-12h	Module 1 (1)	Comparison of french forest with other European and International forest French and Provence forest: structure, topology	Video documentary/ Presentation	45 min	Trainers will get comparison of current situation in France compared to worldwide	Elodie Blanchard - Aix-Marseille University, Establishment public Aix-Marseille University	Place of conference room : Providence of the public local Authority of Aix-Marseille University, Gardanne town
Day 1 1 April 14h-17h		Compared perspective: state of the art of forest private owner in Provence	Presentation	45 min		Philippe Piaggesi - President of the Cooperative Province Forest	Place of conference room : Establishment public local Authority of Aix-Marseille University, Gardanne town
Day 1 1 April 17h-18h		Presentation of Forest Model Programme and the training course program	Presentation	45 min	Trainers will display the vision of activities of the host organization and introduce the Forest Model programme	Clement Gérard, Ferti Module de Provence	Accesories of participants to Aix Marcellin

Image 25 – Among other resources, course planning templates are made available for modules and lectures in the Training package for technicians

Assessment tutorial

This tutorial is linked to the on-line platform and app in a way that a simple assessments allows better counselling and support to decision-making in accordance to a determined forest area be the user. The tutorial addresses key concepts related to the project, such as forest biodiversity, forest health, good practices, forestry techniques, among others, in a simple way, but convening the highest quality standards followed in certification processes.

The tutorial has been constructed as an iterative set of consequent questions, on a compromise between clear and easy-to-understand assessment procedures and sufficient detail to provide a sound technical and scientific aproach, to ensure that the needs of the target groups and other stakeholders are met. Thus, this output represents a non formal learning resource that can be adopted not only by the participating smallholders, but also by forestry partners, and further by all interested audiences, while it is made available on-line, on the website developed within the project.

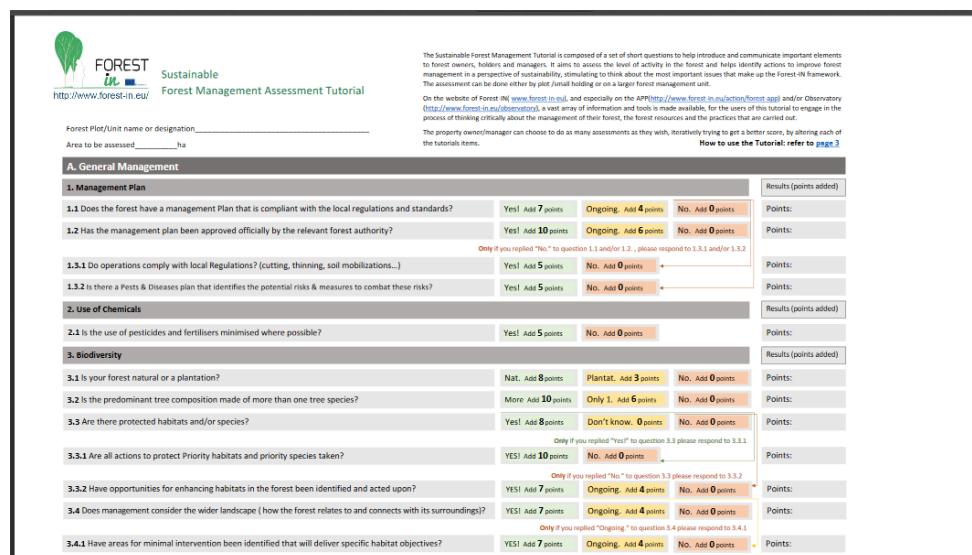


Image 26 – Aspect of the iterative sustainable forest management tutorial

Layman report

At the end of the project, the present final layman report was prepared, aimed at a large scale distribution within non specialized forestry public, such as smallholders associations, schools, environmental associations, etc. The report summarizes the project's rationale, objectives, methods, and main results achieved. The entire report has been written in very simple terms, using immediate and informative contents, so that it can be understood by any interested person or entity at a glance. It also directs readers to the projects' platforms, web-based tools, documents and tutorial, contributing to the sustainability of the project and reinforcing the replicative potential of the project. An online version is hosted on Forest-IN's website, www.forest-in.eu.

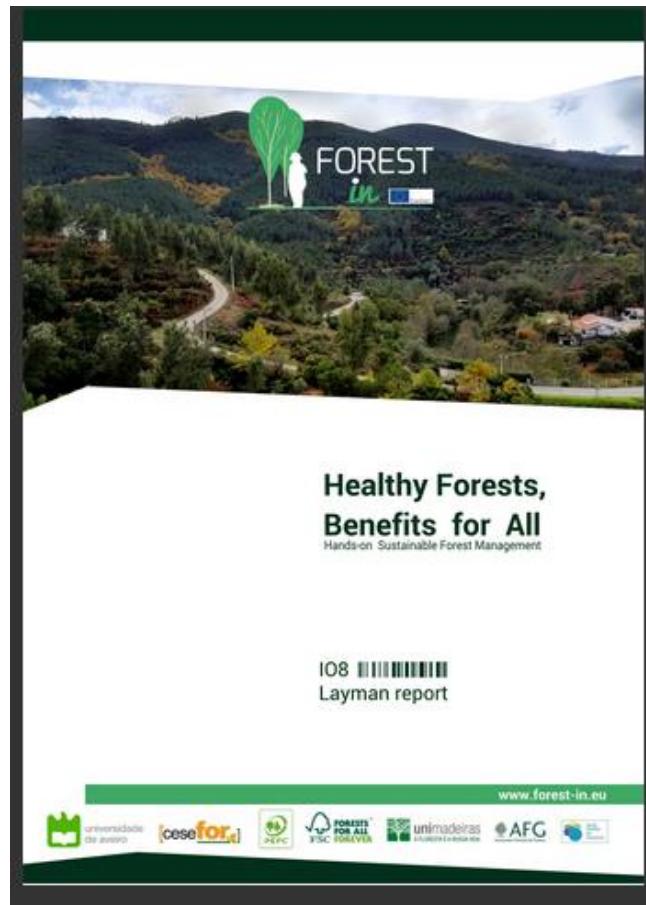


Image 27 – Forest-IN layman report

III. FOREST-IN'S IMPACT

If Europe is to become a smart, inclusive and sustainable economy, a number of key challenges urge to be addressed and Forest-IN, in its scope, where forests intersect with the social, addressed some of the more persistent problems:

- 1) European natural values and resources are being degraded or lost, and those at the forefront of forest production and use of forests and their resources - the smallholders, their representing technicians – paradoxically, demonstrated a sense of a certain disconnection between 'global environmental issues' and 'local' issues, sometimes lacking knowledge and motivation to positively act at their geographical range, and even on their small holdings of forest. This issue was explicitly addressed in all Forest-IN events and outputs.
- 2) The reluctance of the preponderant target group in embracing new technologies to convey knowledge was directly addressed through outputs (web-based platform and app) and strong efforts to disseminate and communicate through social networks such as Facebook and twitter. Positive feedback on the use of these tools was received from participants in the multiplier events. Both the app and platform are multilingual. As for the potential for international impact it can be referred to the availability to a global community of about 2000 million people, in several continents, who are native speakers (first or second official language) of one of the project languages.
- 3) Sustainable Forest Management is one of the responses to significantly reduce environmental risks and ecological scarcities - this definition sums up what Europe aspires to achieve in a short period of time, but society, in general, is still waiting for effective training, information and opportunities to embrace an effectively green function of the economy particularly in relation to forest resources. These issues are not specific to a given country in Europe but rather are relevant in all Member States and to global society that deals with the issues addressed by Forest-IN.

This strategic consortium of multisectoral international partners was a plus in order to try to address this problem taking into account the cultural diversities across Europe. The notion that environment, education and economy, thus overall human and social well-being, are integrated and share the same roots is the key impact that Forest-IN project aims to

achieve at all levels: local, regional, national and international level. A number of quantitative indicators had been set out in the application. In the direct engagement field, the figures were as follow:

- 1230 participants directly involved through Forest-IN's formal events as well as through complementarily organized events put forth by the project's partners.
- 406 persons attending the projects' multiplier events; in all events, self assessment of participants reflected a positive appreciation (assessed through surveys);
 - o 109 smallholders/technicians/administrators/organisation leaders concluding the training course prepared within the project,
 - o 57 external organizations involved in the project;
 - o 119 members of other organizations involved in Forest-IN.
- In the terms of field activities,
 - o 40 forests visited
- Concerning the project's outreach and specially IT engagement, the quantitative results were:
- Website access:
 - o 19090 page views. Webapp access:
 - o 4030 page views with 130 regular users.
 - o Training courses access: 809 page views.
- Other documents access(front page):
 - o 5392 page views.
 - o Users' information: 57% male; 43% female.
- Ranking of languages in which the resources were accessed (Top 3):
 1st: Spanish, 2nd: English, 3rd: Portuguese.
- Dissemination included ca. 90 public presentations and over 100 articles in social media (newspapers, blogs, online articles, etc.).

In general, qualitative indicators also addressed the satisfaction participants with the project's materials, activities and events, their willingness to participate in the project (or similar initiatives), the comfort they felt in using the resources and tools developed in the project, the partners' satisfaction with the project, the attitude and disposition of target-groups and partners to the concepts that underpin the project, and similar indicators. All these indicators were addressed when the evaluation moments were conducted. Other dimensions of impact are not measurable at the conclusion of this project. Did Forest-IN model or the available materials find their way into

the discourses and arguments of the forest and forestry sector managers and governance agents? How many smallholders and/or technicians changed their practices or altered a particular behaviour after attending the project's activities? It is still too soon to evaluate these indicators.. You can provide the project with your own feedback via info@forest-in.eu.

Some testimonials from our partners about their experience in the project

The University of Aveiro

As emphasized throughout this report the feedback about the project and the cooperation and communication between partners is a positive one. In short, the most positive aspects of this partnership were: complementarity, motivation, dedication, good communication and the pursuit of common objectives. No relevant negative elements worth mentioning in this project were found, that were in any way related to the good cooperation and communication between the partners. However, and also based on the feedback from the direct participants in the Project's events, we can refer as the most relevant negative issue the problem of language. While the adaptative abilities and dedication of Forest-IN team(s) managed to successfully overcome this issue several times, the language barrier (most specifically, the difficulty with English and French languages) was frequently present especially with trainees. While not agreeing with the preponderance of an European language over others, we acknowledge that English had to be de facto the lingua franca at international contexts such as the project Forest-IN has been. However, this is not a shortcoming of this project but a Europe-wide issue. In one sense, European exchange projects, such as Erasmus+ projects (and Forest-IN, in particular) are part of the solution, since it was assumed that the stimulation of language competences was a integral part of the project's objectives albeit a lateral one.

The target groups that were addressed in Forest-IN activities were the ones extensively described, for which this project was designed in the first place

and were referred to at the application stage. In a broader sense, this project targets primarily forest smallholders and their technical representatives, but also society as a whole. Imparting knowledge to fully grown adults (in the sense that also their mental availability and permeability are mature) is a challenging task and it is to be considered that Forest-IN would be more efficient if its main focus were to be placed on younger people. The project focused tendentially on mature adults (>65 yrs) since these persons are the ones that detain forest smallholdings (or, in general, any land), and the communication of both new, or unfamiliar concepts or tools presented particular challenges. Such was the case, for instance, in dealing with the IT outputs produced by the project. On the other hand, at these ages, participants have greater power for individual action than younger participants, who can be more permeable to new concepts, but less independent in terms of real-life experience. Since the main learning/teaching feature of Forest-IN was a holistic, horizontal experience-sharing based learning approach, all of these particularities made it a fruitful challenge to put effective and efficient cooperation and communication mechanisms at play.

Individual action could be enhanced by the initial technical support from organizations leaders and technicians and, thus, this project also had a strong emphasis on advanced 'hands-on' training of, technicians and organisation members. As planned, short-term training course contents that are simple in their communication of concepts were developed. Those can be (and were) disseminated beyond the restricted scope of the project partner institutions, namely through the organization of multiplier events that were aimed at the forest and forestry sectors, local leaderships, public institutions and NGOs within the network of each partner. In order to do so, external organisations were invited to work with the project, especially and more intensively pertaining to the project's events, materializing positive cooperations, based on excellent communication between the project (its team(s) and representatives) and the persons in charge of establishing connections and building synergies with the entity they represented and Forest-IN.

Testimonials: The Galician Forestry Association

“ We consider that it has been highly positive the experience of the Forest-IN project for the Galician forest owners who have participated in the project activities.

In a short survey conducted at the end of 2018 among participants in the courses held to date, they were happy to have been involved in the project and the format of the activities, mixing theory and practice in groups and visits to areas of interest.

Very interesting, entertaining, varied, with good environment among the partners and a good organization. (Manuel L.)

One of the aspects the participants most appreciated was having the opportunity to network and interact with colleagues from other nationalities and different regions. The experience of having visited experiences with solutions to problems or issues they also share has been highly appreciated, even though they were not in favour of applying the same solution to their forest properties.

More than changing my opinion, the project led me to consider other points of view, other options to take into account when it comes to managing a forest property. (Manuel L.)

I learnt a lot of interesting things and in a near future I would probably change something. (Ana G.)

The duration of the activities (courses and multiplier events) was initially considered as a problem in terms of getting the interested public involved in each activity. The fact that a large part of the Galician forest owners do not have the forestry activity as its main occupation made it difficult to find the right people to participate in the project. However, the prolonged duration of these stays has been very good for the successful interaction of the participants. And not only of the relations between participants of different nationalities and regions, but also between the same participants contributed by the Galicia Forestry Association who, in most cases, did not know each other, and, as a result of their participation in the project, established strong personal and professional relationships.

It has also been very interesting, and thus the participants recognised it, to realize that in some respects we have a lot to learn and, in others, much to teach, even if, in principle, we were not aware of it.

We need more cycles like these in order to be able to share wise choices and mistakes with the goal of getting right the forestry policy. (Eduardo M.).

It is very beneficial to invest in these experiences, the people who love the forest, who make the most of it, who take care of it, need to be in contact with different people in order to share experiences. (Luis M.)

For me, it was an extraordinary and enriching coexistence in which we all talked about the characteristics of our forest and about the way we managed it according to each one circumstances. Very satisfying. (Manuel L.)

More importantly, in view of the experience they have had, they intend to continue it outside the project and, in fact, an exchange visit of Portuguese foresters to Galicia has already been planned for the coming months.

We should plan annual meetings with the Portuguese forest owners, enlarging the regions, types of exploitations, etc. (Manuel L.)

For the Galicia Forestry Association the participation in the Forest-IN project has meant a highly positive experience for several reasons:

It has allowed us to work with organizations that we did not know and that have shown us other ways of managing situations that we face every day, with different approaches.

It also allowed us to interact more closely with our associated owners and with those participants from other organizations or institutions other than ours with whom we have lived closely for several days.

It has allowed us to analyse and think about our own experience as an association by showing it to the rest of the project participants, submit to their opinion the solutions we had contributed and collect feedback from participants who approached the options shown with different eyes and viewpoints.

It's been a good experience working with such a diverse consortium, two different forest certification systems, the university, the business world, a model forest, a different group that has allowed us to see different

approaches to the reality that surrounds us, enriching the experience and contributing polyhedral analysis to the issues raised.



Image 28 – Participants from the Galician Forestry Association

Testimonials: UNIMADEIRAS SA

“Forest-IN arose from the need to improve good forest practice in smallholder forests, managed by foresters to whom the message of sustainable forest management has not always been delivered in the best way. Over the years the various states have made some efforts through supportive measures that have proved unsuccessful. The partners involved share this reality / problem and have found this innovative way to contribute to solving the problem through the Erasmus + adult education program. Unimadeiras SA, one of the partners and co-author of the idea for the project, from the outset actively participated in it, stimulated by the need to enforce Good Practices in the areas of its forest certification group.

The first meetings of the project were very constructive but also raised some expectations in relation to something innovative, Erasmus + with adults in the forest.

These expectations soon came to materialize when in March 2017 the "Healthy Forests, Benefits for All" Forum was organized. Forest owners and managers diverse institutions, the industry associated with forests and their products, environmental organizations, among others, discussed at round tables and jointly analyzed the forests of the partner countries. It was said that never in Portugal had anything like this been done. The invited smallholders felt as they were now being brought into the problematic, to be this time also a part of the solution. Phrases such as;

"I had never attended such a meeting,"

"finally someone wants to hear from us,"

among others, were expressed.

These minds, now awakened to participation and exchange of experiences, participated in great numbers in the first multiplier event in Portugal, October 2017. They got to know different realities from their own, recognizing that after all there are different options from their own which they had never thought about . From a different perspective, the French were sensitized to a perspective of economic sustainability, little present in their local reality. Some of these participants showed interest in trying some of the alternatives presented, such as the production of arbutus(strawberry tree)

"In my property I can also produce arbutus, it is profitable" –

and about the case of pine that is being genetically improved –

"where can I buy plants with this genetic improvement".

Although close to our reality, Portugal, Galicia has some distinctive characteristics, verified in January 2018 at the second Multiplier event. Here the Portuguese delegation was pleased with what it saw, namely in relation to organization of the state, producer grouping, diverse uses of wood and forest and cultural treatment of it. The owners discussed forest management among themselves, questioning the methods and their costs

"Just use this machine?", "How much does this service cost?" .

In June 2018, the round of multiplier events was completed with a trip to France, to the Provence region. Here the participants were faced with a conservationist forest, something that surprised the Portuguese smallholders –

“but this does not make money!”,

“That's the way it is, here they don't need it to be” -.

This was the different perspective from the forest owners of other countries, which in contrast has ultimately resulted in the project ending with an intermediate attitude, in which both environmental and economic perspectives must be weighed. This was one of the main goals of the project, to put the forest owners and managers in confrontation of ideas and values about the forest.

By the end of 2018 (October and November) and beginning of 2019 (March) 3 training courses were held with based on a unified matrix but carried out with the necessary adaptations to the realities of each place where the course took place. These courses, where it was possible to experiment more deeply the means produced for the purpose of training and capacitation (IO's), although they had been tested in the multiplier events, significantly improved participants' knowledge. Knowing how to plan, with real cases, the management of forest areas using cartography and weighing factors that condition management, knowing about various alternatives of multiple use, identifying conservation areas and directly contacting with native fauna and flora, etc., has made these owners better managers and key disseminators of these methodologies.

Some said

“I had never used a map”,

“I didn't know I had legal limits for my forest activities”,

“I can touch a frog, right?”.

These forest perspective methodologies were transmitted to technicians at a course held in April 2019 in France with the aim of knowing about the particularities of communicating with smallholders and disseminating the project's Good Practices to other forest owners (and technicians).

Lastly, in July 2019, the results of the project were presented. It was with emotion that some of the participants remembered all the work done. Some of them had the opportunity to present their perspective on what they saw as well as their impressions of the project in general, as they were invited as speakers.

In this project a lot has been done, some of the participants are already building a better forest by using new species and working methods. Some owners have already expressed interest in holding regular annual events to further discuss their forests, and an event is planned for next year. In this sense, communication through the Forest-IN 'brand' is still up and running. For Unimadeiras and in a perspective of the identified needs in the application, the objectives were more than achieved, considering that this was the first and important step towards a set of other projects that we intend to implement.

Testimonials FSC

“The Forest-IN project was a 3 year project with different moments of meetings, multiplier events and training courses, in which, the partners of the project were gathered to plan activities and to evaluate how the activities already carried out had gone and what was the feedback and outputs.

We can certainly say that, from the side of the participants, that held the training, they were very pleased with the courses and the overall experience. Also, we had received intentions to participate from the same forest owners or technicians that had already participate in some events. So, this give us a pretty clear idea of the interest that our actions had, which led participants to want to re-register and participate in other sessions.

For example, in the courses we organized, and for which we had a limited number of guests, for all sessions we had a much larger number of stakeholders than the number of places we had available.

The number of stakeholders involved with the project was higher, so the main and general objective we had, of promoting good forest management through the knowledge transmission was successfully achieved.

At the end of each training course, we asked the participants what they thought about the events and all of them mentioned that had excided their expectations, and that it was very interesting and useful.

We also asked what were the improvements for the next events were and some suggestions were to open the training to sons of the smallholders,

because they were the futures owners that will have to continue with the responsible management. So we took this suggestion and in some courses we had families related participating in the courses.

Another important aspect to refer was that the field visits were all very interesting, all very different, addressing different aspects, different types of land use, and different ways of managing the territory. This gave us a different perspective of the 3 countries were the visits were held. We had the opportunity to visit municipality conservation areas, areas dedicated to nature tourism, areas with multiple uses like watermills recovered to produce flour for bread, areas with special species of fauna and flora to protect, areas with different types of forest production and of non timber forest products.

From our point of view the best results were those that allowed the group discussion on the different themes addressed. These were the moments that allowed the exchange of knowledge, perspectives on the use of the territory and the creation of friendship bonds between the participants. We had developed different types of exercises to achieve this goal, like developing a model of exploitation for a certain territory area or a role-play that was made in each course for forest owners in the thematic area of certification.

During the events and courses we invited different external entities to present their success histories in what respects to apply the concept of multiple use of the territory, like entities that are honey producers, mushrooms producers, aromatic and medicinal plants producers, fruit producers and so on. These was, as well, truly appreciated by our guests and trainees. In order to link the conceptualization and on-site observation, the trainees visited different forest management units, some of them with this different forms of forest management.

The fact of the 3 training courses organized by FSC addressed different topics, from safety in forest operations, invasive species management, non-timber forest products, biodiversity management, was an asset in allowing to address different concepts and build a richer training package.

In respect to the certification forest themes we tried to link the products that we use every day that came from forest to the areas where they were produced, and that probably much of them, could become from the forest owners that were attending the courses. We had successfully related the forest with the market, and what are the requirements to complies with to have a responsible forest management.

We also had provide to the trainees a degustation with products proceeding from the forest, such as, mushrooms, chestnuts, nuts, *Arbutus unedo* fresh fruits and liquor, cakes made with pine nuts and chestnut flour, honey, aromatic plants, and other products, which was very well regarded and enjoyed by the participants. It was a way of alerting them to the importance of the forest in everyday life and that there is much more than wood.

We take this course as a form of continuous improvement and even after its closure we intend to continue with these practical courses and learning sessions. With Erasmus Project we had more adherents to the groups, consequently more certified area and more memberships committed to FSC and to a responsible forest management.

Testimonials Forêt Modèle de Provence

“ Our experience of the sharing of practices:

Forest-in project has organized numerous events of dissemination and training, as well as has set up very innovative and useful tools to upscale sustainable and multifunctional forest management. Those events and tools have been a wonderful opportunity for Provence forest smallholders and technicians to get inspired by foreign good practices, gain skills and at the same time share their own knowledge and experiences. Once back in Provence, all the smallholders participants to trainings engaged within the forestry sector. What's more, especially the trainings have created new true human relations, that generate « collateral effects », being grounded cooperations of longer terms for sustainable and multifunctional forest management.

What the association has learned :

It would be impossible to sum up all what we have learned given the high number of knowledge acquired out of Forest-in events and outputs.

Nevertheless, we select two study cases that we found especially interesting :

- The cooperative of Monte-Cabalar in Galice. This structure gathers on a territory of more than 700 ha, 3,600 properties held by 1000 different owners! Their common objectives are to act against fire, to fight against the abandonment of small plots in order to valorise the production capacity of the wooded hills of the zone thanks to the intensive breeding of cattle, all in rotation between pigs, cattle and goats. A great local success, a real social, economic and sustainable feat.
- The « rewilding portuguese association » : This movement of re-ensauvagement is a global movement to which is attached the Portuguese

association, created in January 2019. Its objective, to re-wilt Portugal through ecological restoration and restoration of the food chain to restore the natural processes and ecosystems services plays a major role in the regeneration of territories. Two large-scale "Private Reserves" projects are being carried out in the northern regions of Riba-Coa and Beira Alta. In the Riba-Coa region, 90% of the 120,000 ha of the "reserve" are privately owned land ranging from 10 to 2 ha but lacking a cadastral register and subject to a land consolidation process under development. makes it difficult to identify the owners. The abandonment of all agricultural activity on 50% of the land allowed a significant floral regeneration and a return of the biodiversity, from where the interest of these territories, for a regrouping within a "private natural reserve" encouraging the rural landowners to collaborate, around key actions.

What's more, we select some other information very relevant for us :
For Galicia, the law of parcel concentration dates from 1985 and continued in 2015 with the law "to improve the territorial agrarian structure of Galicia". These legislative acts aim at reducing the high fragmentation of properties, reducing the area of land abandoned, ensuring the development of agricultural, forestry and livestock activities in a sustainable way, reducing environmental risks, especially forest fires. , improve the environmental and landscape protection of Galicia. Thus, since 1954, more than 480,000 ha have been subject to partial restructuring in the Galician territory alone (see figure 1).

As our French forest are also a victim of its fragmentation, would such a land law be possible in our country

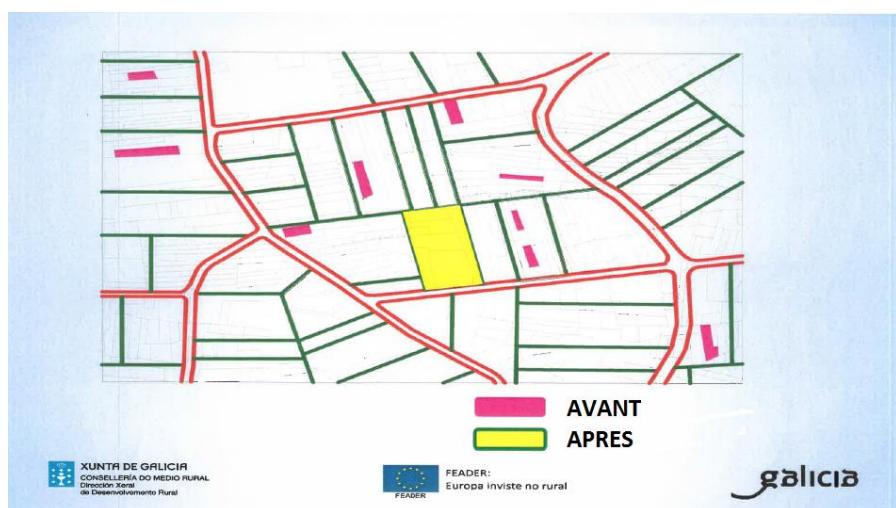


Image 29 –Land redistribution in Galicia



Témoignage de Philippe THEVENET sur la tournée forestière de FOREST-IN au centre du Portugal

[Video 4](#) Multiplier event #2 video feedback

Témoignage de Bernard PICHAUD sur la tournée forestière de FOREST-IN au centre du Portugal

[Video 5](#) – Multiplier event #2 video feedback

Acknowledgements

Forest-IN has involved a wide array of organisations, not participating in the project as direct partners. In the different countries of the partnership, the consortium mobilized a significant number of stakeholders, such as municipalities, companies, associations and collectives linked to forests, forestry and other complementary and/or related sectors.

Their involvement ranged from sporadic collaboration(s) to a more consistent continued involvement with the project's activities and outputs such as material support (sponsoring) to institutional endorsement. To all these entities, **thank you very much** for your collaboration:

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Organização Florestal Atlantis (Portugal)

Associação Florestal de Ansião (Portugal)

Quercus (Portugal)

Medronhalva (Portugal)

ATN - Associação Transumância e Natureza (Portugal)

Lenda da Beira Pampilhosa da Serra (Portugal)

Associação Bioliving (Portugal)

Centro Pinus (Portugal)

FORESTGAI - Empresa pública de gestão e desenvolvimento florestal (Portugal)

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Caima (Portugal)	

About FOREST-IN Project

INovative and Educational INformation for the Sustainable FOREST Management by Smallholders (FOREST-IN) project aims to promote good practices and forestry education through the realization of workshops and international technical visits, tutorials and a mobile app aimed at helping the decision making process for sustainable forest management. All embedded in a concerted strategy involving the forestry community and the general public. The pedagogical techniques will be innovative and customized to the target audience, based on a horizontal and participatory learning model.

Who we are

FOREST-IN is an international strategic partnership for forest education. Funding was submitted to the Erasmus+ Programme, the main financial mechanism of the European Commission for Education. The coordinator of this project is the University of Aveiro (Portugal), with these partners: Cesefor Foundation (Spain), PEFC Spain, FSC International, Unimadeiras (Portugal), The Galicia Forestry Association (Spain) and the Provence Model Forest Association (France).

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