2025

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IEFC ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES 2025



ANNUAL REPORT
2024



The multi-actor network for sustainable management and resilience of planted forests

Table of Contents

SEMINAR ON FOREST HEALTH MONITORING SYSTEM

- "Forest Monitoring Law to Establish a Common Framework for Monitoring the Resilience of Europe's Forets", USSE (Edurne Lacalle/Leire Salaberria).
- "International Plant Sentinel Network" (Itxaso Quitana).
- "Observatree: 12 years of Tree Health Citizen Science In The UK", Forest Research UK (Matthew Parratt)
- "The Impact of Urban Trees on the Invasion of Forest Pests", Instituto Superior de Agronomia, University of Lisboa (Manuela Branco).
- "Designing Large-Area Forest Health Monitoring Systems: the example of the Galician Continuous Forest Inventory (IFCG)", University of Santiago de Compostela (Cesar Pérez Cruzado).
- "Citizen Science and AI to Monitor Forest Health in Poplar Plantations", University of León (Flor Alvarez Taboada).
- "BASODATA: An Integrated Forestry Information System" (Alejandro Cantero, HAZI FUNDAZIOA).
- Roundtable (Moderator: Ander Arias Gonzalez NEIKER).
 - "First Step to Improve Information Exchange on Forest Health on the Atlantic regions", IEFC (Christophe Orazio)

SEMINAR ON PRIVATE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR RESEARCH

- "Forestry Innovation in Uncertain Times: financing and collaboration alternatives" - Javier Calvo-Simón. Head of the Bioeconomy Area at Cesefor.
- "Presentation of Success Story: Forest Productivity Cooperative (FPC) model" - Dr Rafael Rubilar Pons. Co-Director Forest Productivity Cooperative
- "The Challenges of Technology Transfer" Aida López, Director of Strategy and Public Sector at Ayming.
- "Group activity: Initial Exploration of a Collaborative Funding Model for the IEFC"

Table of Contents

OPEN SESSION OF FLASH TALKS FOR IEFC MEMBERS: LET'S TALK ABOUT PLANTED FORESTS

- "Detection, Monitoring and Management of Non Native Forest Pests and Pathogens" (Hervé Jactel, INRAE)
- "Forest Health Under the Climate Change Scenarios" (Tomás Sánchez Pellicer, CESEFOR)
- "Planted Riparian Forests" (Valters Samakis, SILAVA)
- "Sustaining Growth and Genetic Diversity in Planted Scots pine Stands in Latvia: The Forest4LV contribution" (Paul Zeltin, SILAVA)
- "ARF@pf a Tool to Support Landowners in the Selection of Species for New Plantations" (Margarida Tomé, ISA)
- "StandsSIM Web App: Forest Management Driven Simulations Online" (Nuno Lopes, ISA)
- "SOCIAL FOREST: Towards a Transnational Forest Strategy to Strengthen Climate Resilience and Enhance Socio-Economic Development of Rural Areas in South-western Europe" (Abdelwahab Besaad, Xylofutur)
- "Vulnerability of Pinus pinea to Forest Decline in the Mediterranean Basin" (Raoul Sanchez, University of Sevilla)
- "Added Value of Forest Co-products for Chemicals from Green Chemistry" (Armand Clopeau, Stéphane Legay, Gilles Labat – Pôles RFT / Biosense, FCBA, Bordeaux)

Table of Contents

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

- OPENING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
- PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD REPORT
- REPORTING SESSION
 - OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT NETWORKING ACTIVITIES:
 KNOWLEDGE SHARING
 - IEFC NETWORK FUND
 - IEFC MEMBERS DAILY CONNECTIONS
 - IUFRO (INTERNATIONAL UNION OF FOREST RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS)
 - EUROPEAN FOREST INSTITUTE RESEARCH NETWORK
 - ONGOING PROJECTS: INNOVATION PRODUCTION
 - OVERVIEW OF COMMUNICATION AND PUBLICATION ACTIVITIES
- DECISION MAKING SESSION
 - FINANCIAL REPORT
- OPPORTUNITIES
- CLOSURE
- ANNEXES







DATE: 8-9 APRIL 2025

[Minutes]

IEFC General Assembly 2025 in San Sebastián

The IEFC Annual General Meeting 2025, co-organised by IEFC, USSE, HAZI, NEIKER, Cesefor and Gipuzkoa, took place on 8th and 9th April in the city of San Sebastián (Donostia) in the Basque Country. The event was held in the prestigious Sala GUNEA of the Diputación Foral de Gipuzkoa (The Gipuzkoa Provincial Council), which provided an excellent setting for the 60 attendees. The day was filled with meaningful exchanges and powerful presentations, with 22 distinguished speakers from various countries sharing their expertise and insights.

The meeting started with a welcome from the Basque authorities and partners



Leire Salabeirra (USSE), Susana Barreiro (University of Lisbon, ISA), Ander Arias-Gonzalez (NEIKER), Christophe Orazio (IEFC), Barry Gardiner (IEFC), Rémi Borelle (LandLife Company), Benoit De Guerry (IEFC), Suzanne Afanou (IEFC), Fabienne Benest (CNPF) on behalf of Roland de Larry, Tomas Sanchez Pellicier (CESEFOR), Daphné Villain (IEFC), Hervé Jactel (INRAe), Antonio Correira (University of Lisbon, ISA), Aris Jansons (Lavian State Forestry Institute), Armand Clopeau (FCBA), Margarida Tomé (FR), Nick Mc Carthy (SETU), Pauls Zeltins (SILAVA), Asier Arrese Zabala (HAZI), Josu Aspitarte (Baskegur), Noreen Barrett (Western Forest Coop), Baptiste Bert (Pépinières Naudet), Abdelwahab Bessaad (Xylofutur), Guillaume Bouffard (Groupama Forêt Assurances), Manuela Branco (University of Lisbon, ISA), Alice Broome, Javier Calvo-Simon (CESEFOR), Alejandro Cantero (HAZI), Ander Castender (NEIKER), Imogen Cavadino-Phillips (Forest Research), Elaine Dick (Forest Research), Sergio Fabres (RAIZ), Nahia Gartzia-Bengoetxea (NEIKER), Colm Gilheaney (Western Forestry Coop), Marc Hanewinkel (University of Freiburg), Andrea Hevia Cabal (University of Seville), Galdeano Lacalle (USSE), Nuno Lopes (University of Lisbon, ISA), Jone Maioz Malkorra (Gipuzkoako Baso Elkartea), Itziar Montalban (NEIKER), Aine Ni Dhubhain (University college Dublin), Aitor Omar (Diputacion Foral Bizkaia), Hubert Pruvost (Cabinet expert forestier Michel Chavet), Luis Javier Roman (Diputacion Foral Bizkaia), Maria Jose Rozados Lorenzo (XUNTA), Valters Samariks (SILAVA), Raul Sanchez Salguero (University of Seville), Asier Ureta Lizzaraga (Gipuzkoako Baso Elkartea), Jaime Uria (NEIKER), Amelia Uria (Confederation of foresters of Basque country), Amaia Urkola Goenaga (GFA), Arnaud Villette (SMURFIT), Ihalar Zubeldia Garmendia (Eusko Jaurlaritza), Matt Pawatt, Itexa Quintana, Larraitz Garmendia, Flor Alvarez Taboada, Aida Lopez Merino (Ayming)

Remotely: Dr Rafael Rubilar Pons (Forest Productivity Cooperative, Chile)

SCIENTIFIC SEMINAR

SEMINAR ON FOREST HEALTH MONITORING SYSTEMS

The day started with a seminar on Forest Health Monitoring Systems. The objective of the seminar, chaired by Leire Salaberria from USSE, was to give an overview of existing forest health monitoring plant tools and open avenues for further cooperation between the regions of the Atlantic arc. In addition, the session evaluated the potential of IEFC network to facilitate information exchange of interest between members and regions with planted forests.

The speakers provided a large set of insight into many topics. Manuela Branco from ISA informed the meeting about the importance of monitoring plant introduction sites where potential new emerging pest can occurs as it was the case in the past for pine wood nématode. Flor Alvarez from University of Leon, presented a webapp dedicated to identification of damage on poplar tree damaging agents with AI, that is very complementary to the Silvalert app. Opportunities for connection between the apps are under investigation. The Galician colleagues explained how they are setting up a monitoring forest heath tool using NFI method in a Observatree similar way to what was presented by HAZI for the Basque country. Matt Parrat from Forest Research explained how demanding it was to train and maintain a network of more than 200 hunders volunteers all over the UK, checking tree health in Observatree with a quality standard as close a possible to professional networks as exist in France. The International Plant Sentinel Network presented how botanical gardens contribute to tree heath monitoring worldwide, while Edurne Lacalle from USSE presented the ambition of the European forest monitoring tool that is in preparation.

All slideshows can be found here (Area restricted to IEFC members) : https://www.plantedforests.org/iefc-general-assembly-2025/presentations/

The second stop of the journey was a roundtable discussion led by Ander Arias from NEIKER, focused on the challenges in ongoing initiatives to monitor forest health, from citizen science reporting damage to professional experts to training individuals to identify tree biotic agents.

This session began with a presentation led by Christophe Orazio of IEFC and focused on options to improve the exchange of information on forest health between the Atlantic regions, taking advantage of the IEFC network. The actions proposed by IEFC gathering most support were i) using the listing of existing damaging agent websites/resources in the network, ii) using the IEFC newsletter to provide updates on emerging risk and risk management in planted forests, iii) building partnerships around <u>Silvalert</u>.

SEMINAR ON PRIVATE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR RESEARCH

The third session was organised on behalf of the IEFC network fund by CESEFOR to analyse financing and cooperation alternatives for Research and Development and Innovation (R&D&I) and transfer in forest bioeconomy, taking successful models as a reference. The aim was to explore a possible collaborative financing system managed by the IEFC, identifying sources of funds and collaboration strategies that guarantee the sustainability of the network.

This session led by Javier Calvo from CESEFOR reported the surveys done with the IEFC network fund and revealed that most of the IEFC members were not aware of private funding opportunities. The agenda included a series of presentations on forestry innovation, a success story of the Forest Productivity cooperative in Chile, and technology transfer challenges and funding models for IEFC. A successful group activity encouraged participants to explore collaborative funding opportunities and identify sources of future support for IEFC project:

Forestry innovation in uncertain times: financing and collaboration alternatives - Javier Calvo-Simón. Head of the Bioeconomy Area at Cesefor. The reduction of European funds threatens forestry R&D&I. Exploring collaborative models and strengthening public-private cooperation is key. Preliminary results of a survey of IEFC members are presented to guide the workshop debate.

- Presentation of success story: Forest Productivity Cooperative (FPC) model Dr Rafael Rubilar Pons. Co-Director Forest Productivity Cooperative The Forest Productivity Cooperative (FPC) is an international alliance that promotes innovative solutions to improve forest productivity and value through the sustainable management of site resources. Led by universities in the USA and Latin America, the FPC integrates applied research, training and technology transfer, collaborating with industry, investors and forest managers. With more than 10 million hectares under management, it is one of the largest global programmes in cooperative forestry, standing out for its impact on the adoption of sustainable and efficient practices.
- The Challenges of Technology Transfer Aida López, Director of Strategy and Public Sector at Ayming. Analysis of transfer mechanisms (licensing, spin-offs, collaborations, innovative public procurement), opportunities in emerging markets, common barriers and strategies to overcome them, with examples of success and case studies.
- Group activity: Initial exploration of a collaborative funding model for the IEFC. Guided group dynamics to explore possible funding structures for the IEFC, identifying sources of funds and mechanisms for collaboration between partners. Key ideas will be collected as a starting point for future developments. (See annexe 2)

LET'S TALK ABOUT PLANTED FOREST: OPEN SESSION

The day was followed as usual with the open session giving the floor to IEFC members so that they can introduce any initiative of interest to share with other network members. It consisted of nine talks covering a large range of topics of interest in relation to planted forest from forests health to biochemicals in wood:

- 1. "Detection, Monitoring and Management of Non Native Forest Pests and Pathogens" (Hervé Jactel, INRAE)
- 2."Forest Health Under the Climate Change Scenarios" (Tomás Sánchez Pellicer, CESEFOR)
- 3. "Planted Riparian Forests" (Valters Samakis, SILAVA)
- 4. "Sustaining Growth and Genetic Diversity in Planted Scots Pine stands in Latvia: The Forest4LV contribution" (Paul Zeltin, SILAVA)
- 5."ARF@pf A Tool to Support Landowners in the Selection of Species for New Plantations" (Margarida Tomé, ISA)
- 6. "StandsSIM Web App: Forest Management Driven Simulations On-line" (Nuno Lopes, ISA)
- 7."SOCIAL FOREST: Towards a Transnational Forest Strategy to Strengthen Climate Resilience and Enhance Socio-Economic Development of Rural Areas in Southwestern Europe." (Abdelwahab Besaad, Xylofutur)

9. Vulnerability of Pinus Pinea to Forest decline in the Mediterranean Basin (Raoul Sanchez, University of Sevilla)

10.Added Value of Forest Co-products For Chemicals from Green Chemistry (Armand Clopeau, Stéphane Legay, Gilles Labat – Pôles RFT / Biosense, FCBA, Bordeaux)

All presentations can be found on the <u>IEFC website</u> in the general assembly section of plantedforests.org (restricted to IEFC members).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OPENING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The last session of the day started with the opening of the General Assembly by Susana Barreiro, where key reports on IEFC activities in 2024-2025 were presented (Board president report, Networking and capacity building activities, Communication activities, IEFC ongoing projects topics), followed by discussions on the 2024 accounts and the 2025 budget.

PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD REPORT

The meeting was introduced by IEFC's president Susana Barreiro from the Forest Research Centre (CEF) of the School of Agriculture (Instituto Superior de Agronomia) the Lisbon University. After having warmly welcomed the audience, the president reminded the meeting of main missions of IEFC as set out in the strategy defined by the IEFC board and 2022 General Assembly and these are to promote and coordinate projects, facilitate knowledge exchange, build capacity and disseminate and communicate solutions for sustainable management and resilience of planted forests. Having reminded the audience that the team is small and the ambition is large, she demonstrated that most of the strategic goals were even improved from the previous year:

Strategic plan: Key Strategic Goals



In addition, she welcomed new IEFC applicants, Propopulus and University of Leon bringing specific skills on Poplar. This effort makes visible the involvement of groups working with an additional important planted forest species, joining representatives from Radiata pine in Basque country, but also in New Zealand, and experts in plantation species from many countries including Sitka spruce, Douglas fir, Norway spruce, Maritime pine, Cork oak, ...

The multi-actor network of IEFC is an open network, and any new organization wishing to exchange knowledge on planted forest is welcome. To improve services to our members, the registration form has been updated and new members are invited to exchange with the board so that we can tailor IEFC services to its members expectations.

Session presented by Christophe Orazio (Director of IEFC) with the support of Daphné Villain (Junior Expert in spatial planning and the involvement of local authorities in the fire risk management), Benoît de Guerry (Forest Engineer) and Suzanne Afanou (Head of Communication). The reporting was done in line with the new IEFC <u>strategy</u> of 2021-2026 and gives an overview of the main activities ongoing at IEFC.



OVERVIEW OF THE CURRENT NETWORKING ACTIVITIES: KNOWLEDGE SHARING

All the <u>networking activities</u> were briefly introduced, it included the new IUFRO Task force on Planted Forests, the European network of resin territories, the Forest Extension network, COST actions, etc... This year the focus was given to 4 networking activities:



IEFC NETWORK FUND

Christophe Orazio reminded the meeting that 20k€ from the IEFC budget is allocated each year to facilitate cooperation between IEFC members.

- Only one of the winners of the 2024 Network funds who completed their work in 2024-25 was present at the Annual General Assembly to report on their achievements: CESEFOR, Forest Research. INRAe's report will be completed next year.
 - The CESEFOR proposal: Strengthening collaboration between Cesefor and IEFC Partners in Nouvelle-Aquitaine: Javier Calvo will spend 2 months in Bordeaux with a "Focus on Enhancing Partnerships and Developing Joint Projects for Sustainable Forest Management" of planted forests.
 - The Forest Research/INRAe proposal: Mechanical reaction of trees to environmental extremes; linking microscopic features of wood to macroscopic wood properties in major commercial species in the UK and France. A number of bilateral scientist exchanges will be funded.
- The 3 winners of the 2025 Network fund selected by the board are as follows:
 - CESEFOR and CETEMAS presenting a proposal about enhancing the resilience of forest plantations through the application of hydrogels in chestnut plantations with different productive objectives.
 - FCBA and Forest Research presenting the proposal BIOFUN about BIOdiversity and FUNctions indicators for planted forests
 - NEIKER & Freiburg university: ACOUSNET-Networking in acoustic monitoring of resident birds in planted forests

NEIKER having announced during the General Assembly that they stopped working on bioacoustics, alternative options will be investigated for the third network fund, working with HAZI and INRAe to prepare a new proposal for next year. In the meantime, the proposal of University of León about extending the use of AppPopuli+, a citizen science application for real-time damage (pests and diseases) identification and reporting in poplar plantations in synergy with <u>Silvalert</u> will be supported.

2025 call for IEFC network fund will open in autumn. Be prepared!

IEFC MEMBERS DAILY CONNECTIONS:

The IEFC staff answer on a daily basis many requests from IEFC members from supporting the organization of an international delegation tour in Europe, or a French delegation visit in a foreign country, writing supporting letters, sharing scientific contacts, preparing project proposals, identifying research topics, etc... By way of example, we can mention the following:

- Support preparation of CAPGEMINI work, providing input on planted forest areas in Europe
- Participation in COLIBRI project on decision support tool for forest led by CNPF in the frame of the French innovation network called AFORCE.
- Participation to the Delphi consultation of OPTFOREST project led by INRAe
- Participation in EUFORE topic identification for future HORIZON programs with GIP-ECOFOR and FREIBURG University
- Report on potential support of IEFC to Basque country to improve forest health monitoring for NEIKER
- Supporting visit of scientists from New Zealand experts in radiata pine forest health
- Contributing to FOREST4Europe project about operational groups existing in Europe.
 Operational group is a decentralized European fund that can support innovation in regions. Good examples are shared by the project and actively promoted by CNPF.
- Preparation of French Speaking Entomologist Group Event with INRAe
- Supporting XYLOFUTUR for SMURF project
- Attending online event of RESONATE project lead by EFI
- Supporting INRAe requiring REINFFORCE information for Genetic resource management in France
- Facilitating access to REINFFORCE members for visit of other members such as ALLIANCE-FORET-BOIS on experimental sites.

<u>IUFRO (INTERNATIONAL UNION OF FOREST RESEARCHERS):</u>

IEFC has been a member of IUFRO since 2004. The new task force proposal entitled "<u>147 Stand complexity in planted forests, Harnessing stand complexity to improve the resilience of single- and mixed- species plantations for nature climate and people" successfully passed the IUFRO selection process, which selected 13 Task Forces from 24 proposals. This task force is transdisciplinary, involves members from most of the IUFRO divisions (div 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9) and aim at facilitating knowledge exchange between scientist and practitioners. It is coordinated by Christophe Orazio and co-lead by Nelson Thiffault (Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada), Margarida Tomé (ISA, PT), Tim Payn (Scion, NZ). Any volunteer can join the task force. The tentative task list for the next 5 years includes a series of publications and events including:</u>

• D1: Science-Society interface

- Let's talk about planted forests webinars in cooperation with short rotation forestry unit (IEFC and TF members), 5/year
- Micro symposia lasting 1.5 hour with 1 expert keynote (Scion) 2/year
- Links to FAO Forest Communicators Network campaigns

• D2: Networking activities and events

- Technical sessions at the 27th Session of the <u>International Poplar Commission and Other</u> fast growing Trees,October 2024 (FAO, CNFP, INRAe, FCBA, IEFC)
- UFRO event March 2025: Forest establishment and early plant dynamics (Rolando -Scion, Thiffault – NRCan/Laval University)
- Workshop on Sustainable pathways to increase wood production from planted forests, March 2025 (FAO)
- Reforestation challenge international conference, in October 2025 (Reforesta and Belgrade University)
- Event on Douglas fir in Germany 2026 (similar to NGP tours)
- International congress on planted forest 2028 (Yale University USA, IEFC)
- Standardization of silviculture quality & performance surveys (GroundTruth)
- International Congress on Short-Rotation Forestry 2026 (Altri, ISA)
- Global ForestTrial database for IUFRO: establishment and contribution for planted forest trials based on IEFC's forestrial database.
- The <u>DecisionES 2025 Symposium</u> Porto seguro, BA Brazil, 30 june-4 July 2025.

• D3: Publications

Plantation description sheets: Overview of main plantation forests type in the world – online on plantadforests.org (picture, species, management, main income, challenges) – (All members will produce 2 sheets per year, Lead ISA Margarida Tomé). As part of the collaboration with FAO and the International Commission on Poplar (IPC), a set of description sheets could be focused on native tree species with interest for commercial afforestation and reforestation efforts ongoing in developing countries.

Country	Focal Species
France	Maritime Pine, Poplar, Douglas Fir
Spain	Radiata Pine, Eucalyptus nitens & globulus
Portugal	Maritime Pine, <i>Eucalyptus</i> spp, Cork oak
New Zealand	Radiata Pine
Brazil	Pinus taeda., Eucalyptus spp, teak and acacia
Canada	Pinus mariana, Pinus banksiana
Kenya, Tanzania	Melia volkensii
Republic of Congo	Acacia auriculiformis
(to be completed)	

- White paper with PEFC international (2025, Scion)
- Report on sustainable pathways to increase wood production from planted forests (2025, FAO)
- Comparison on mixed species modelling (2025, LandLifeCompany)
- First lessons from mixture trials in plantations of *E.globulus* and *P.radiata* (ISA, Scion, 2025/26)
- Discussion paper reviewing past and forthcoming scenarios of plantation deployment on landscape sustainability (2027, Dungey -Scion)
- Promotion of FORMIX network and first assessment of all mixed plantation trials (2028 IEFC-INRAe)
- Challenges and opportunities for vegetation management in an era of global change: a Canadian perspective (2027, Thiffault, NRCan)
- Report/review on social perceptions of trade-offs around plantation forests TBC



IUFRO TF members localisation; in blue scientists with division number; in green stakeholders

EUROPEAN FOREST INSTITUTE RESEARCH NETWORK

Since 2020 when the EFIPLANT regional office was closed and staff dismissed, IEFC is no longer an EFI regional office. However, IEFC is now running activities on behalf of the EFI research network to remain visible in the European landscape on planted forests topics. The activities to be reported under the network are discussed with EFI on a yearly basis. The activities carried out on behalf of the EFI research network since 2020 are the following:

- Factsheet on planted forests (connected to https://efi.int/forestquestions) in preparation
- Webinars: Let's talk about planted forest (2022-2024)

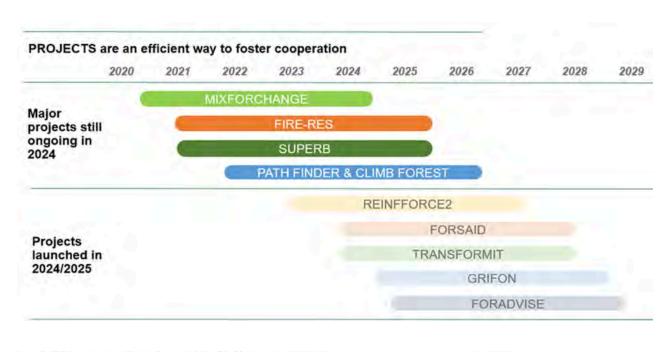


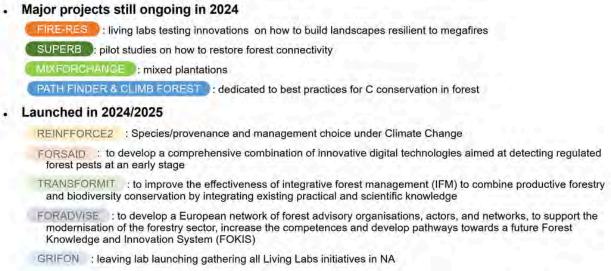
ONGOING PROJECTS: INNOVATION PRODUCTION

IEFC has always had a role in several ongoing projects that foster cooperation and support knowledge building and/or sharing on planted forests of interest for practitioners and policy-makers:

Christophe Orazio reviewed the list of main projects ongoing in 2024 inviting members to express their interest and participate in them (an up-to-date list is available on the <u>IEFC website</u>):

- Major projects finished in 2023:
 - <u>LUTHYL</u>: Hylobius pest management without pesticides allowed significant improvement of SILVALERT App making it fully operational
 - MIXFORCHANGE: this ERA-NET project aims to analyse both the processes that change in a mixed plantation context but also to analyse the perception and expectations of stakeholders towards mixed-forests.





To provide a better insight of the type of work performed and the results achieved within these projects, some of them where presented:

- SUPERB/Bocage forestier projects, led by EFI and involving Alliance Forêts-Bois and INRAe, seeks to demonstrates best practices supported by the latest scientific knowledge and to establish an environment conducive to large-scale forest restoration. IEFC is in charge of coordinating the French demonstration area, aiming to plant broadleaved hedgerows in pure maritime pine forest to increase the stand biodiversity and resilience, organizing local stakeholders' engagement via workshops, promoting the scientific outputs through articles or interviews, and organizing the project annual meeting in 2022. The real impact of hedgerows is evaluated by comparing biodiversity with and without them to be able to make practical recommendations and promote secure funding schemes to upscale this practice by the end of the project with the support of the CNPF.
- FIRES-RES project project aims at developing an integrated fire management strategy to efficiently and effectively address extreme wildfire events in Europe. 34 innovation actions have been identified, and IEFC is organizing regular webinars to popularize their results. IEFC is also coordinating a living lab to implement some of these innovation actions with a strong focus on solutions to design land use planning in continuous planted forests based on modeling and risk mapping. IIEFC organized the FIRE-RES general assembly in 2024. MISSO and INRAe are associated with some of the deployments of innovation actions.



- REINFFORCE 2 project coordinated by IEFC will enhance and make the most of REINFFORCE 1 network of arboreta and demonstration trials for adaptation to climate change. This new edition includes Ireland as substitute for Forest Research beneficiary, following the UK's departure from Europe. Forest Research remains an associate partner. During the next 4 years, the partners will make measurements using classical and innovative methods the REINFFORCE 1 trials in order to publish all the result from arboreta and demonstration sites still being maintained. The project aims also at installing new trials.
- <u>FORSAID</u> **project** led by the University of Padova, an IEFC member, focuses on quarantine pest organisms affecting forests. It will develop new tools to detect and anticipate new diseases, using remote sensing, Als and citizen science. IEFC involvement is to support stakeholder interaction with scientists.
- TRANSFORMIT project wants to promote the concept of Integrated Forest Management (IFM), that is an enhanced SFM with a strong focus on adaptation to climate change and biodiversity preservation. A demo site is being developed in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine French region in collaboration with the SF-CDC local forestry company.

- FORADVISE coordinated by EFI, this project aims at creating a EU forest advisory network, animating knowledge sharing process, developing training modules, cost benefit analysis toolkit, etc. The ultimate goal is to advance towards more resilient, multifunctional, and productive forests. IEFC's role is to engage forest advisors in thematic working groups to foster knowledge exchange, identify best forestry practices and advisory methods, and disseminate knowledge. IEFC Members role: CNPF is in charge of setting up the network of forest advisory networks, CESEFOR role is similar to IEFC, SETU will create a CBA forest advisory toolkit, and USSE will be involved in project clustering and partnership management.
- **GRIFON**, coordinated by INRAE, aims at better understanding the interaction between biotic and abiotic threats in forest (pests, pathogens, storm, fire, drought, ...). This project concerns only the south-west region of France and will propose strategies for adapting forest management, landscape management, and the forestry and wood industry. IEFC is in charge of the committee of stakeholders, their engagement in the project, and the communication activities.

OVERVIEW OF COMMUNICATION AND PUBLICATION ACTIVITIES

All the website and social networks managed by IEFC were presented by IEFC communication manager Suzanne Afanou.

In 2024, IEFC's main website registered 22,873 visits, marking a 13% increase compared to 2023. This growth is primarily driven by improved organic search visibility and referral traffic, despite a slight decrease in direct navigation. Visitor engagement also improved, with increased time spent on site.

In addition to the IEFC main site, 7 websites are maintained (REINFFORCE, PLURIFOR, FORRISK, FORMIX, SILVALERT, COMFOR-SUDOE, KEBBE) and 1 App (Silvalert).

Informational fact sheets on planted forests were published on the <u>IEFC website</u>, with a focus on France. The first fact sheet was also adapted into a <u>public-friendly video</u>, released on the International Day of Forests (March 21).

This campaign was complemented by new <u>press coverage</u>, with 16 media mentions in 2024, compared to 6 in 2023, demonstrating stronger media visibility and interest in IEFC and its European project activities.

IEFC organized four webinars, gathering a total of 325 participants. One of them, focused on carbon sequestration in plantations, set a participation record with 153 attendees, reflecting strong engagement from the scientific and professional community. (All webinar replays are now publicly accessible!)

Regarding social media, in December 2024, given the reduced number of active users, it was decided to close the X account (formerly Twitter), while IEFC's LinkedIn presence continues to grow steadily, now reaching 1,433 followers (April 2025). The platform remains a key channel for professional outreach. A Communication & PR intern was also welcomed in 2025 to

support media relations and conduct a social media audit for strategic improvement for both professionals and the general public.

IEFC's Dailymotion channel has continued to grow with the addition of new video content.

Three newsletters were issued in 2024, with a rise in subscriptions to the Englishlanguage version, while the French-language audience saw a slight decline.

In addition to communication for IEFC itself, support was also provided to research projects, including work on the visual identity for GRIFON project, in collaboration with a graphic designer. Several events were supported by communication efforts, in particular the FIRE-RES Annual General Meeting (October 2024), which included the creation of branded materials (IEFC flags), media engagement (resulting in coverage by the Sud-Ouest newspaper), and professional photography. IEFC was also involved in the organisation of International Commission on Poplars and Other Fast Growing Trees sustaining people and the environment (IPC 27) https://www.plantedforests.org/ipc27/

As a whole, communication activities have expanded significantly over the past year, with strengthened visibility, increased engagement across channels, and broader outreach. Continued development is planned in 2025, with a focus on improving media presence, social media activities to promote the sustainable management of planted forests.

DECISION MAKING SESSION

The General Assembly approved the president of the board report and activity report (resolution 1).



FINANCIAL REPORT

In 2024, there is a significant increase of staff due to the short-term contract of Daphné Villain and recruitment of Tam Do.

All the IEFC members approved the general assembly technical and financial report, except USSE, SETU and HAZI who protested against the abandonment of X social network by the IEFC team.

The General Assembly approved the 2024 balance sheet and 2025 budget (Resolution 2)

Income		
Projects and subcontracts	310 350 €	
Grants	44 000 €	
Membership fees	9 600 €	
Other income	19 736 €	
Bank interest	8 643 €	
Extra incomes (previous years)	9 605 €	
Total Incomes	498 200 €	
Expenditure		
Human resources	289 197 €	
General expenses	22 580 €	
Travel costs	28 498 €	
External services	54 095 €	
Consumables	2 589 €	
Communications	15 596€	
Meetings	61 510 €	
Equipment	11 105 €	
Other costs	15 880 €	
Extra cost (previous years)	0 €	
Total costs	501 053 €	
Balance	- 2 853 €	



MANAGEMENT OF IEFC INFRASTRUCTURES

Christophe Orazio reminded the meeting of the <u>list of infrastructures</u> maintained by IEFC.

Some of them have been established since the birth of IEFC such as the FORMODELS database or the forest health and diseases guide. They need constant maintenance effort and can be enhanced by motivated partners.

- REINFFORCE infrastructure for adaptation to climate change will arrive at its end of life as network in 2028, the infrastructure will be extended thanks to the REINFFORCE 2 project.
- FORMIX on mixed plantations is still under construction and new sites can be added on a voluntary basis.
- FORMODELS database is moderated by M. Tomé and C. Meredieu.
- FORESTRIALS overlaps with the INSILVA French project. The maintenance of this
 tool that was set up with REINFFORCE partners was questioned. The phytosanitary
 guide is led by H. Jactel: updates and translations have been planned for many
 years but not implemented so far.
- Silvalert: the app is fully operational since August 2023.

CLOSURE

The president thanked the host for welcoming IEFC at Diputación Foral de Gipuzkoa in San Sebastián (Donostia). The president closed the General Assembly by thanking everyone for their participation and thanked our donors: the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region, the Basque region and Forest Research



Susana Barreiro President

ANNEXES

Expenditure		
Human resources	360 180 €	
General expenses	20 000 €	
Travel costs	32 000 €	
External services	43 600 €	
Consumables	2 000 €	
Communications	23 200 €	
Meetings	11 500 €	
Equipment	3 500 €	
Other costs	78 000 €	
Total costs	573 980 €	
Income		
Projects	491 690 €	
Grants	55 000 €	
Membership fees	10 500 €	
Other income	18 400 €	
Total income	575 590 €	
Balance	1610€	

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PROJECT LIST



MEMBERS LIST

France

- <u>Alliance Forêts Bois Coopérative Forestière</u>
- Bordeaux Sciences Agro (BSA)
- Centre Régional de la Propriété Forestière Nouvelle Aquitaine (CRPF-NA)
- <u>France Douglas</u>
- GIP Ecosystèmes Forestiers (ECOFOR)
- <u>Groupama Forêts Assurances (MISSO)</u>
- <u>Institut National de Recherche pour l'Agriculture, l'Alimentation et l'Environnement (INRAE)</u>
- <u>Institut Technologique Forêt Cellulose Bois-construction</u> <u>Ameublement (FCBA)</u>
- <u>Plantons pour l'Avenir</u>
- XYLOFUTUR

Germany

• University of Freiburg

Ireland

- Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT)
- Western Forestry Co-op

Italy

• <u>University of Padova</u>

Latvia

• LSFRI Silava

New Zealand

• Scion

Netherland

• LandLife company

Portugal

- Altri Caima
- Associação das Bioindústrias de base Florestal (Biond)
- Instituto Superior de Agronomia, Centro de Estudos Florestais, Lisboa (ISA)
- The Navigator Company

Spain

- <u>Centro de Investigaciones Forestales y Ambientales de Lourizan</u>
 (<u>CIF</u>)
- Centro Tecnologico Forestal y de la Madera (CETEMAS)
- <u>Fundación Centro de Servicios y Promoción Forestal y de su Industria de Castilla y León (CESEFOR)</u>
- Energía y Celulosa (ENCE, S.A.)
- Empresa de Transformacion Agraria (TRAGSA)
- NEIKER
- Fundacion General de la Universidad de Valladolid

UK

- Forest Research
- ForestRe Ltd

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- New Zealand Institute of Forestry
- Institut Forestier du Chili
- Institute of Lowland Forestry and Environment
- University College Dublin (UCD)
- University of Kwazulu-Natal
- UNBC Growth and Yield
- Western Forestry Co-operative Society Ltd

Overview of communications and publications activities

IEFC Annual Meeting - 8-9 April 2025

Suzanne AFANOU Head of Communication

Digital Communication

IB-C Amusi Minting - 6-9 April 2020

Carrenamation

Website - Updates

IEEE Amon Maron | An April 2021

Continuentillo

Statistics





IEFC - Press review



Projects website maintained by IEFC



Webinars

IECAmual Morting - 8-9 Ap-42022

Let's' talk About Planted Forests Webinars

(IEFC, IUFRO Task force, EFI Research Network)



Social Media

(B-C 4 may Menting - 8-5 At-1202)

Continuential

Social Media

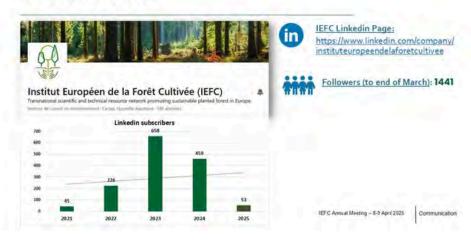


| IEFC Twitter Page: | https://twitter.com/IEFCPlantForest

IEFC Annual Meeting - 8-9 April 2025

Communication

Social Media



Video



Emailing

IEE C Annual Monting - 6-9 April 2022 Communication

Emailing



Newsletter



Subscribers (to end of April):

913 vs 907 in 2024

- French: 140 (vs 145 in 2024)
- English: 703 (vs 694 in 2024)
- Spanish: 43 (vs 46 in 2024)
- Portuguese: 27 (vs 22 in 2024)



IEFC Newsletter:

- 3 issues in 2023
- 3 issues in 2024
- 1 issue in 2025



communication@plantedforests.org

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE!!!

IEFC Annual Meeting – 8-9 April 2025 Communication

Projects

GRIFON





GRIFON is a research programme dedicated to the management of multiple risks in forests, such as climate change, fire, drought, insects, diseases, etc. The aim is to develop solutions that strengthen the resilience of forest ecosystems while preserving biodiversity.

Driven by strong values such as ecology, forest conservation and sustainable risk management, GRIFON aims to become a national model. It is committed to protecting forests, which are essential for combating climate change and ensuring a sustainable future.

Events

IEEC Annual Meeting - 6-9 April 2022 Communication

FIRE-RES General Assembly - 8-10 octobre 2024

Communication Materials



Press release campaign



Photographer







IEFC Annual Meeting – 8-9 April 2025 Communication

Communication & Public Relations

Intern in Communication & PR: Joy Kingson

 In 2025, we recruited an intern for 6 months in Communication and Public Relations to support our outreach efforts. Focus on strengthening relationships with media and enhancing public visibility.

 Contributing to press releases, media relations, and strategic communication

Campaign for International Day of Forests (March 21st)

Objective Designing communication materials and managing media relations to raise awareness of the sustainable management of planted forests.

Media Relations:

Objective. Strengthen the visibility of IEFC in the media by engaging journalists and specialized media on planted forests.

Promote IEFC's initiatives, inform the public about planted forests, and build lasting media relationships.

Social Media Audit & Strategy:

Objective: Conduct a comprehensive audit of IEFC's social media presence (Linkedin, Dailymotion) and create a strategic plan to increase visibility and engagement, targeting professionals through Linkedin and the general public through other social media platforms, which are yet to be defined. Develop recommendations for new social media platforms to expand IEFC's outreach.

IEEC Annual Meeting - 6-9 Ared 2025

Communication





17 March 2025



19 March 2025



21 March 2025



21 March 2025

IEFC Annual Meeting - 8-9 April 2025

Communication

Conclusion

In conclusion, our communications activities have significantly expanded.

- Our social media presence has evolved on Linkedin. However, we aim to expand our reach further by establishing a presence on at least one social media platform that targets the general public. This will help us raise awareness and engage a broader audience on topics related to planted forests.
- Our presence has also significantly expanded within the media, enabling IEFC to share its message on planted forests with a broader audience and raise awareness about their importance.
- This year, IEFC will significantly expand its social media and press relations presence, supported by Joy, our Communication and Press Relations intern, who will be with the team for a six-month period.

ID C Amusi Marring 1 for April 2021

Lastramaille

NEWSLETTERS

All IEFC newsletters are available on IEFC website: https://www.plantedforests.org/our-latest-newsletters/



Entrepreneurship Support

(RE)

Promotes the creation of startups and spinoffs to turn ideas into business

Dynamism

Constantly evolves to adapt to technological and economic changes

Collaboration

Interaction between stakeholders to generate joint knowledge and solutions

Knowledge Flow

Encourages technology transfer between research, industry, and society

Infrastructure

Innovation

Ecosystem

Includes innovation hubs, technology parks, and networking platforms

Organizations cannot generate all innovations internally

Characteristics of an Innovation Ecosystem

66 An innovation ecosystem is a collaborative environment where diverse stakeholders interact to develop, share and apply knowledge, technologies and innovative solutions. Its aim is to facilitate Value creation through research, entrepreneurship and technology transfer, fostering competitiveness as well as economic and social development. 99

- Boosts the **competitiveness** of companies and regions
- Facilitates the market uptake of new technologies
- Accelerates digitalization and the transition towards high value-added sectors
- 4. Contributes to addressing social and environmental challenges



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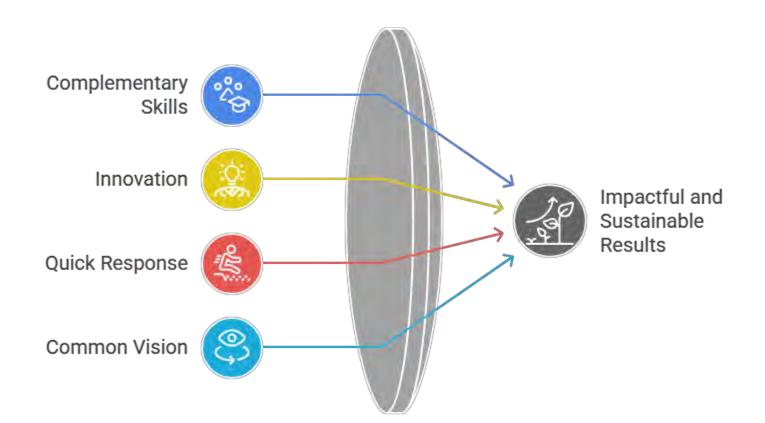
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Importance of building a value proposition based on collaboration, combined capabilities, thematic proximity, innovative vision, openness to change and team agility

Pathways to Organisational Success





Importance of building a value proposition based on collaboration, combined capabilities, thematic proximity, innovative vision, openness to change and team agility

Pathways to Organisational Success







- 1. Capability Map
- 2. Innovation and communities (hubs)
- 3. Promote joint proposals
- 4. Establish an **Observatory** for transfer and innovation
- 5. Build external strategic partnerships



- 1. Identify needs from public sector (PMC, PPI)
- 2. Stimulate the research and business base around innovation (connect research community with business sector)



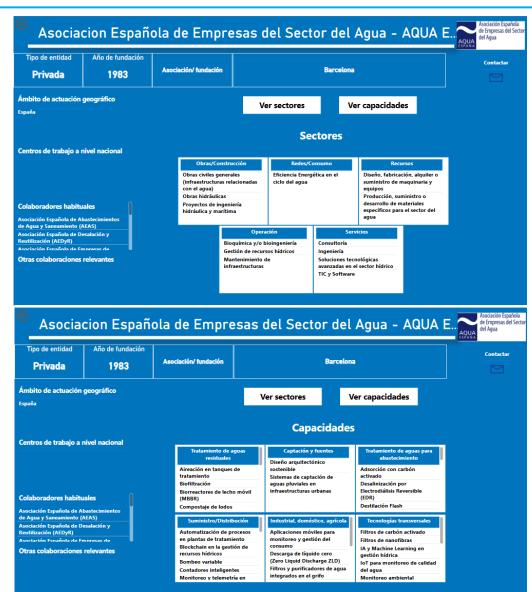
Target: joint product&services offering



Capability map

Target: joint product&services offering











Key points and technological capabilities for a joint proposal promoted by the IEFC

1 Define Value Chain

Establish the foundational structure of the value chain.



Unirse a este evento de Wooclap



1. What are the main capabilities of the IEFC members?

(Scientific and technological as modelling of forest growth and productivity, GIS applied to forestry, sensing and monitoring, silvicultural trials, forest water management, simulations, digital tools for different purposes, or other...)

2. What are companies and public entities **demanding in terms** of technology and innovation to foster knowledge transfer?



- 1 Vaya a wooclap.com
- 2 Ingrese el código de evento en el banner superior

Código de evento





Based on the answers and number of "likes" received, the most highlighted capabilities among IEFC members are:

- Networking (collaboration and connection among actors)
- Planting trees (expertise in reforestation and forest plantations)
- Knowledge sharing (scientific and technical knowledge transfer)
- Cooperation (working in networks and building strategic alliances)
- **Providing solutions for forestry** (delivering practical solutions to forestry challenges)
- Scientific robustness (strong scientific basis in applied R&D)
- Forest adaptation and risk management (adaptation to climate change and risk mitigation)
- Innovation (capacity for innovation, although with room for expansion)

IEFC is positioned as a strong platform for knowledge generation, technical transfer and cooperation, but there is an opportunity to further strengthen its role in disruptive innovation and direct market connection



An example for the value chain to obtain the skills and main capabilities could be the following:

IEFC Members' Value Chain

Knowledge Generation & Technology Development

Scientific research and innovation in forestry

Sustainable Forest Production & Management

Practices for sustainable forest management and resilience

Transformation & Valorisation

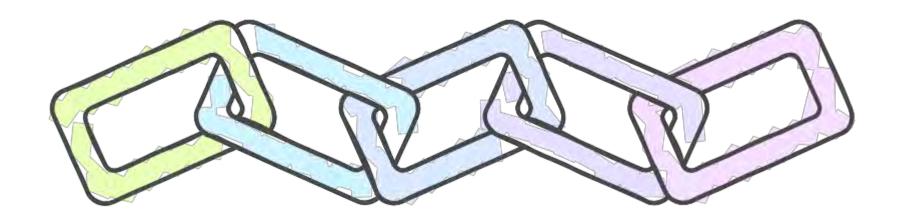
Processes for transforming wood and developing bioproducts

Insurance & Financial Services

Financial instruments for forest restoration and carbon compensation

Transfer, Training & Public Policy Support

Activities for knowledge transfer and policy advising



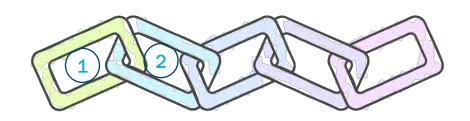


Details for the capabilities and key actors (illustrative):

1. Knowledge and technology generation

- Basic and applied research (genetic improvement, sustainable silviculture, climate adaptation)
- Development of technologies for forest production, monitoring, management and valorization
- Innovation in forest bioeconomy (new materials, bioenergy, bioproducts)

Key actors: universities, research centers (INRAE, CIF Lourizán, ISA Lisbon, NEIKER), technology centers (FCBA, CETEMAS)



2. Sustainable forest production and management

- Active management of planted forests: planning, planting, silvicultural treatments
- Forest certification (FSC, PEFC)
- Application of techniques for climate change adaptation and resilience improvement
- Pest control, forest health management, and prevention of natural risks (wildfires, storms, droughts)

Key actors: forest owners' cooperatives (Alliance Forêts Bois, Western Forestry Co-op), management companies (ENCE, Navigator Company, Altri), public technical services (GAN-NIK, CRPF Nouvelle-Aquitaine)



Details for the capabilities and key actors (illustrative):

3. Transformation and valorization

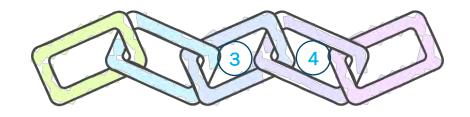
- Primary wood transformation (sawmills, pulp production, energy biomass)
- Secondary processing and manufacturing (structural products, furniture, sustainable construction)
- Valorization of forest residues in biorefineries (biochar, bioplastics, green chemical products)

Key actors: forest industries (ENCE, Navigator Company), technology centers, bioeconomy networks (XYLOFUTUR)

4. Insurance and financial services

- Specialized forest insurance products (wildfires, climate risks)
- Financial instruments for restoration, reforestation, and sustainable management
- Compensation models for ecosystem services (carbon capture, biodiversity)

Key actors: Groupama Forêts Assurances, public and private managers of environmental payment schemes



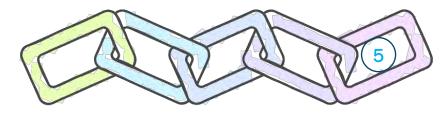


Details for the capabilities and key actors (illustrative):

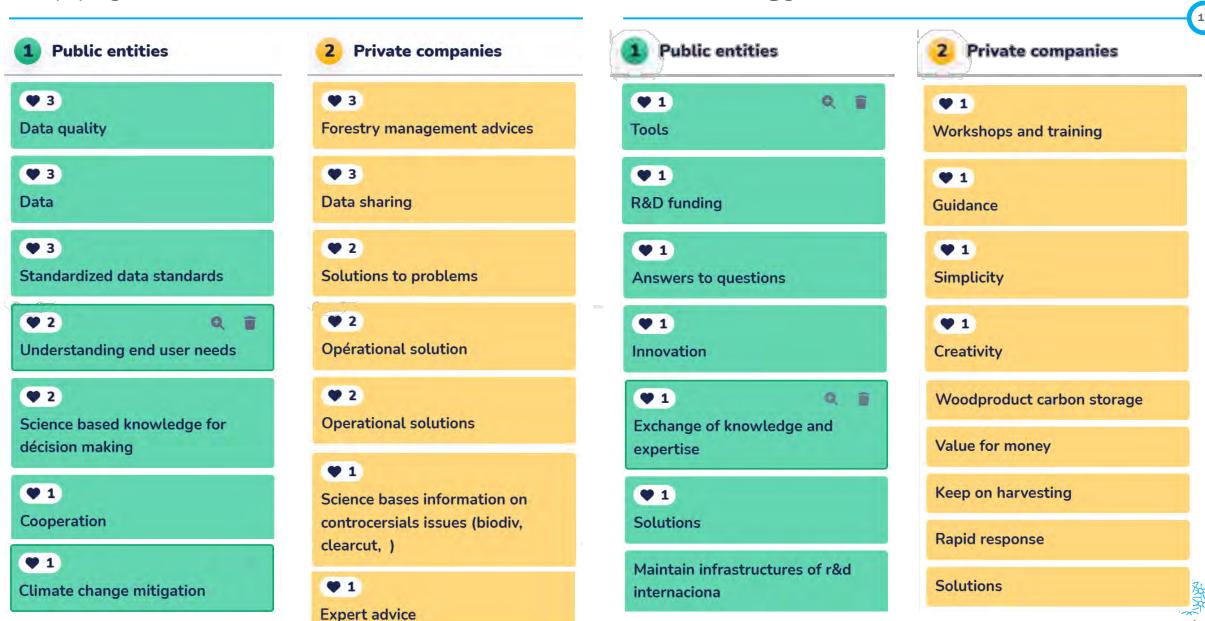
5. Knowledge transfer, training and public policy support

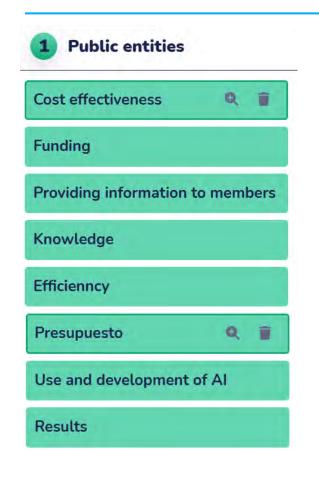
- Technology transfer to the productive sector
- Training of forest technicians and continuous professional development
- Advisory services to local, regional, and national administrations
- Participation in the design of public strategies for bioeconomy, climate action, and rural development

Key actors: transfer networks (USSE, IEFC), universities, public-private cooperation platforms













Public Sector Demands

Key findings: The public sector demands be grouped around four major themes:

1. Data and information management

- Strong emphasis on standardized data, data quality, availability of data and data-driven decision-making.
- Demand for harmonized standards suggests a lack of interoperability between sources and tools at present.

2. Science-based support for decision making

- Need for validated scientific knowledge to support public policies and investment decisions.
- Requests such as climate change mitigation, provision of answers, and science for decision-making reinforce this.

3. Funding and infrastructure

- Interest in R&D funding, cost-effectiveness, budget optimization and maintenance of R&D infrastructures.
- Public authorities seek both financial efficiency and sustained innovation capacity.

4. Knowledge dissemination and cooperation

• Calls for **knowledge exchange**, **support to end users**, **cooperation networks**, and **workshops** indicate the need for better dissemination pathways between research and public administration.

<u>Conclusion</u>: Public authorities are primarily demanding structured, reliable and usable data, scientifically validated support, efficient funding mechanisms and mechanisms to foster knowledge sharing and collaboration. They expect actionable knowledge that is both credible and cost-efficient to help them drive policy and investment decisions.



Private Sector Demands

Key findings: The private sector demands focus around **four main priorities**:

1. Operational, practical solutions

- Strong demand for forestry management advice, operational tools, rapid responses and straightforward solutions.
- Companies seek direct application, not abstract research.

2. Knowledge transfer and training

- Interest in expert advice, science-based information on key issues (biodiversity or clearcutting), and workshops.
- They request **pragmatic**, **digestible information**, adapted to real-world forestry operations.

3. Value and sustainability

- Emphasis on sustainable resources, wood product carbon storage, and ensuring value for money.
- Reflects a growing alignment with sustainability and carbon economy trends.

4. Adapted communication and guidance

- Requests for tailored messages and guidance for sustainable plantations.
- Indicates that the private sector needs customized knowledge and actionable results.

<u>Conclusion</u>: Private stakeholders demand concrete, ready-to-use solutions, science-based but easily understandable information, and clear operational guidance. They seek immediate applicability, pragmatic advice and training that boosts competitiveness and sustainability.

- Lack of articulation and interconnection with other ecosystems
- 2. What do I do and why
- Lack of knowledge in moving beyond TRL (Technology Readiness Levels)
- 4. Do not understand the best transfer method (license, agreement, spin-off, ...)
- 5. Funding

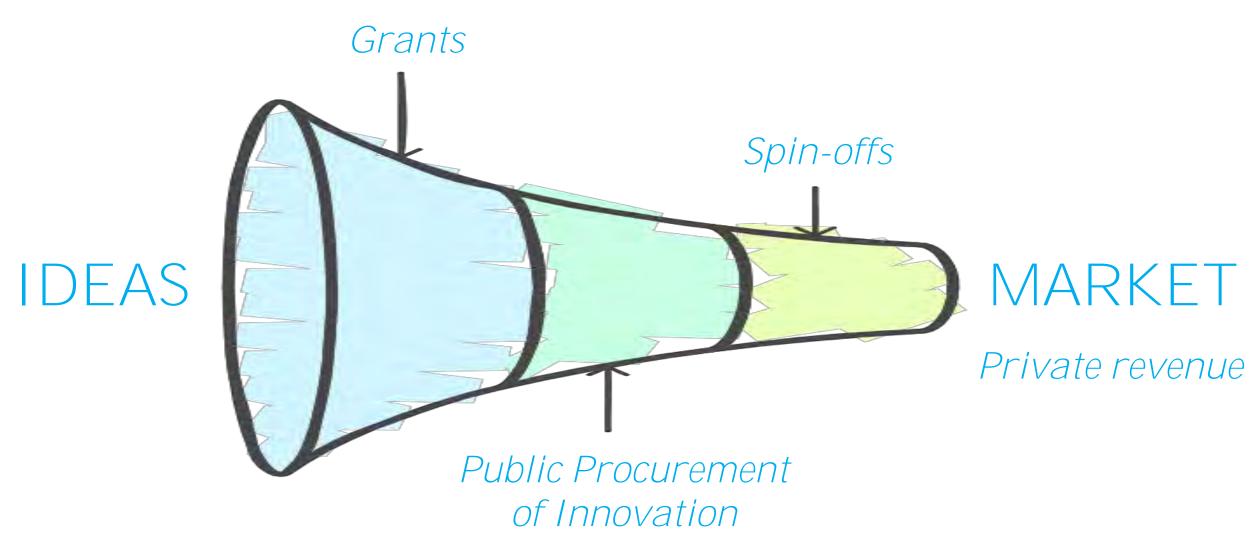




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5. Funding







Grants

Public Procurement of Innovation



Funding

- Funding as a % of the project
- In many cases, the grant is only received upon final project iustification
- 100% of the R&D&I project
- Revenue upon achievement of project milestones



Competence

- Very high competition
- Limited influence or involvement prior to the launch of the funding call
- Low competition and possibility of multiple winners per tender
- Direct influence (Preliminary Market Consultation)



Compatibility

Often incompatible with other incentives and funding schemes

 Compatible with other grants and incentives





Innovation

- Supports the development of high-risk projects and facilitates the advancement of new technologies
- Encourages the creation of consortium-based projects and fosters collaboration in R&D&I
- Enables the development of solutions with high social impact



Technology Transfer

- Anticipates market opportunities through Preliminary Market Consultations (PMCs)
- Accelerates the time to market of innovations (ΔTRL)
- Strengthens the credibility and eases access to new markets and public administrations



Promotion

- Enhances reputation
- Promotes the dissemination of innovation
- Potential to receive awards and public recognition



Examples - Past Opportunity 12M€

EL CDTI V AYUDAS Y SERVICIOS V COMUNICACIÓN V #CDTIDATA (EXCENSACIONADADORE)



COTT STANDARD CONTRACTOR CONTRACT

INCENDIOS

Iniciativa de Compra Pública Precomercial para el desarrollo de soluciones en el ámbito de los sistemas aéreos autónomos multimisión en el campo de la extinción de incendios



Identified need

This initiative arises from the identified need to develop new solutions for the inclusion of autonomous aircraft in the fight against wildfires. The aim is to overcome both technological and commercial barriers to enable their near-future deployment as effective and operational solutions for intensive firefighting operations. These systems are expected to provide greater control over wildfires while offering inherent advantages such as reduced risk for personnel and lower operational costs.

Tendered technological challenge

- Base budget of the tender: €11,996,000 (excluding VAT)
- Execution period: 60 months (36 months for development + 24 months for maintenance operations)
- Awardees per phase:
 - Phase 1 (Solution design): up to 2 contractors (elimination phase)
 - Awarded contractor: SINGULAR AIRCRAFT SL
 - Phase 2 (Prototype development): 1 contractor
 - Awarded contractor: SINGULAR AIRCRAFT SL
 - Phase 3 (Pre-operational validation): 1 contractor



Examples – Past Opportunity

ANEXO I, NECESIDADES Y RETOS PLANTEADOS POR AMUFOR

La necesidad de dar promover un reto de CPI para el medio rural de la CV por parte de AMUFOR se basa en dos problemáticas:

- Por un lado, la factura eléctrica es muy cara y eso -en parte- está provocado por un mix energético descompensado, donde faltaría presencia de biocombustibles sólidos como la biomasa de base agroforestal por parte de la oferta y un déficit de instalaciones y calderas para generar energía térmica para hogares, empresas y edificios públicos.
- Por otro, la falta de gestión agroforestal sostenible en los territorios de interior, con el aprovechamiento de la biomasa que se generaría para usos energéticos descritos en el punto anterior, generan despoblación y abandono del medio rural. Esto, a su vez, redunda en el incremento exponencial de la virulencia que provocan los grandes incendios forestales y su impacto en las emisiones de CO2, lo que conlleva una aceleración del cambio climático.

AMUFOR ha adquirido conocimiento real de la situación de desequilibrios descrita en los puntos anteriores mediante un proyecto europeo -Interreg Med FORBIOENERGY- y sobre formación y análisis de la cadena de valor de los biocombustibles sólidos mediante el proyecto mantenido con la Fundación Biodiversidad denominado CALOR VERDE.

Además, la agencia de desarrollo local de AMUFOR, conoce y participa de una herramienta desarrollada por la red de desarrollo local de la empresa pública Divaleterra, denominada VIAPLAN para que todos los AEDL, como Agentes del ecosistema emprendedor de la CV puedan tutelar procesos empresariales emprendedores de autónomos y microempresas, y hacerse acreedores de ayudas previstas por Servef-Labora.

Así pues, dadas las problemáticas descritas anteriormente, los conocimientos adquiridos por AMUFOR y la existencia de una herramienta empleada por los agentes del ecosistema emprendedor de la CV, el reto pretende obtener soluciones innovadoras para lograr una transición energética sostenible en la Comunitat Valenciana que permita corregir desequilibrios territoriales con lo que ello conlleva: reducción del fenómeno de la despoblación, mantenimiento de la población en zonas de interior y prevención de incendios forestales.



"Implementation of innovative solutions for a sustainable energy transition in the Valencia Region, addressing territorial imbalances such as depopulation and rural abandonment, and contributing to wildfire prevention."

Innovation Procurement (CPI) to develop compensation mechanisms for forest municipalities based on CO₂ emissions produced by companies. With support from the Valencian Innovation Agency (AVI) and its program to promote innovation procurement through tenders for innovative products and services, the technical team of AMUFOR. This work focused on:

- Defining the key challenges in order to launch the consultation clearly
- Identifying a map of potential stakeholders to be involved in the consultation phase
- Conducting technology watch and benchmarking of available tools
- Publishing and disseminating a promotional video to raise awareness ahead of the Preliminary Market Consultation (PMC), expected in the first quarter of 2025

Examples - Open Opportunity 1,7M€





The Galician Forestry Industry Agency aims to serve as an effective management instrument in carrying out functions related to promoting economic activity linked to the forestry industry, enhancing the competitiveness and innovation of companies in the sector, and coordinating research and technology centers associated with the forestry industry.

Rural development aims to improve the quality of life and living conditions of people in rural areas, while also contributing to the territorial cohesion of Galicia. One of the priorities of the Galician Agency for Rural Development is to promote pilot and innovative rural development projects, aimed at strengthening the productive base of rural areas, enhancing their resources and improving the quality of life.

The **Smart Solutions initiative** of the Galician Agency for Rural Development will support the development of **new tools and techniques** to optimize the use of agricultural resources and foster economic activity in rural areas. It also seeks to shape rural spaces that offer a high quality of life and a favorable environment for entrepreneurship and settlement, leveraging the instruments set forth in the **Galician Land Recovery Law**.

The **first step** will be to identify and diagnose **novel**, **non-commercial solutions** based on knowledge, technology, innovation and/or creativity, capable of responding in a new and efficient way to the **sustainability (economic, social and environmental)** and **liveability** challenges faced by rural areas.

Smart Villages – Future solutions for sustainable villages is an innovation procurement (CPI) project promoted by the Regional Ministry of Rural Affairs through Agader. The project has a budget of over 5 million euros in own funds, which is expected to be increased through additional sources of funding such as Next Generation EU or the FID programme of the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation, aiming to reach a total budget close to 15 million euros.

Challenge 1: Development of rural digital services

Design of tools and applications to enable digital public services in rural areas. Includes intelligent platforms for municipal service management using sensors and IoT, as well as innovative solutions to support local commerce, rural products and tourism.

Challenge 2: Technological solutions for bioeconomy in villages
Integration of technology to improve traditional agricultural production with
greater sustainability and added value. Focuses on:

- Decision support systems using drones, sensors and IoT
- Traceability and quality assurance systems linked to local agri-food brands

Challenge 3: Sustainability and circular economy in agricultural production Creation of systems to make full use of agricultural and livestock by-products between villages. Promotes zero-waste models and circular strategies for biowaste management at the inter-village level.

Challenge 4: Sustainable building and urban development
Application of nature-based solutions in housing rehabilitation and
construction adapted to rural Galicia. Includes development of
sustainable materials, eco-friendly public furniture and promotion of
energy self-sufficiency through rural energy communities.



Examples – Open Opportunity

Preliminary Market Consultation – AGROTEX Project "Innovative technologies to boost the agri-food, livestock and agroforestry sectors of Extremadura"

Areas: Ganadería, agroalimentación, agroforestal

Technologies: Digitalización, IA, analítica y tratamiento de datos, Big Data

Link

Entity: Centro de Investigaciones Científicas y Tecnológicas de Extremadura (CICYTEX)

Plazo presentación propuestas: 11/04/2025 23:59h

Object: address the demands and needs of the agricultural, livestock, forestry and agri-food sectors. These include analyzing and implementing new techniques and production improvements that can be adapted to agricultural and livestock farms in Extremadura and integrated into the region's industries and businesses. These activities also support R&D&I advisory and support services aimed at dehesa and woodland managers, farmers, livestock producers, fruit and vegetable processing centers, cooperatives, agri-food companies, cork and charcoal industries, and others related to these fields. Additionally, the center conducts laboratory trials and analyses in microbiology, molecular biology, instrumental analysis, and physicochemical testing, as well as quality control and certification procedures. The know-how generated is also used to support: training for future professionals Knowledge transfer and dissemination to productive sectors. The creation of technology-based start-ups, acceleration of business projects focused on new products and high-value processes for the food, pharmaceutical, cosmetic and chemical markets. All of these efforts are structured around CICYTEX's main R&D lines, which focus on: Agricultural production: cultivation techniques, fruit growing, olive and vine production, plant physiology, vegetables, cereals and food crops, medicinal and non-food crops, agro-industrial waste, forage crops and pastures, technologies for sustainability and soil/crop health. Livestock production: animal health and multi-species approaches (Iberian pig, Merino sheep, Retinta cattle, Verata goat, Extremadura Blue hen, etc.). Agri-food industries: olive oil, dairy, meat, fruit and vegetable processing, wine and fermented beverages, boosting the agri-food sector. Forestry systems and industries: cork oak woodlands, dehesa systems, cork industry, charcoal and lignocellulosic products.

Technological Challenges

- Challenge 1: Integrated digitalization platform to support precision livestock farming in the multi-species extensive production systems of Extremadura.
- Challenge 2: Integrated "Almazara 5.0" solution to enhance the efficiency of virgin olive oil production processes.
- Challenge 3: Development of a biorefinery model for 1st and 2nd generation agroforestry waste to valorize biomass with high levels of recalcitrant compounds.
- Challenge 4: Prototype production line for the creation of biotechnological products with standardized texture and microbial stability from fruit and vegetable residues.
- Challenge 5: ClimaAgroLab an integrated laboratory system for the research of climate variability in agriculture.
- Challenge 6: Pilot plant for dairy products made from raw goat and sheep milk.



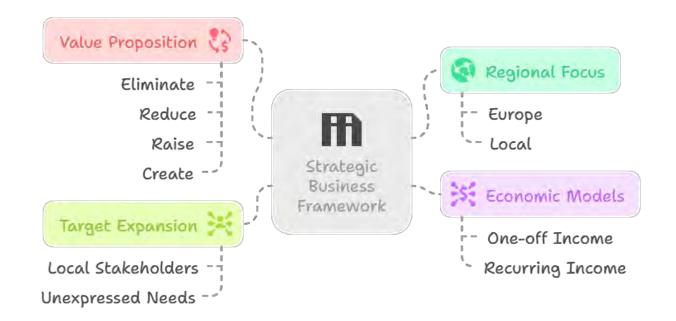
Definition of the Blue Ocean methodology adapted to the Europe – Local – One-time or Recurring Income framework

The Blue Ocean methodology aims to move out of the "red ocean," where organizations compete in saturated markets, and instead **create a blue ocean**: an **innovation-driven space** with no direct competition, aligned with emerging needs, underserved audiences, and new value models.

Applied through a strategy that balances European and local visions and combines one-time and recurring income models, allows the construction of a transformative joint offer. It's not just about competing, it's about redesigning the playing field and creating value where no one else is currently looking.

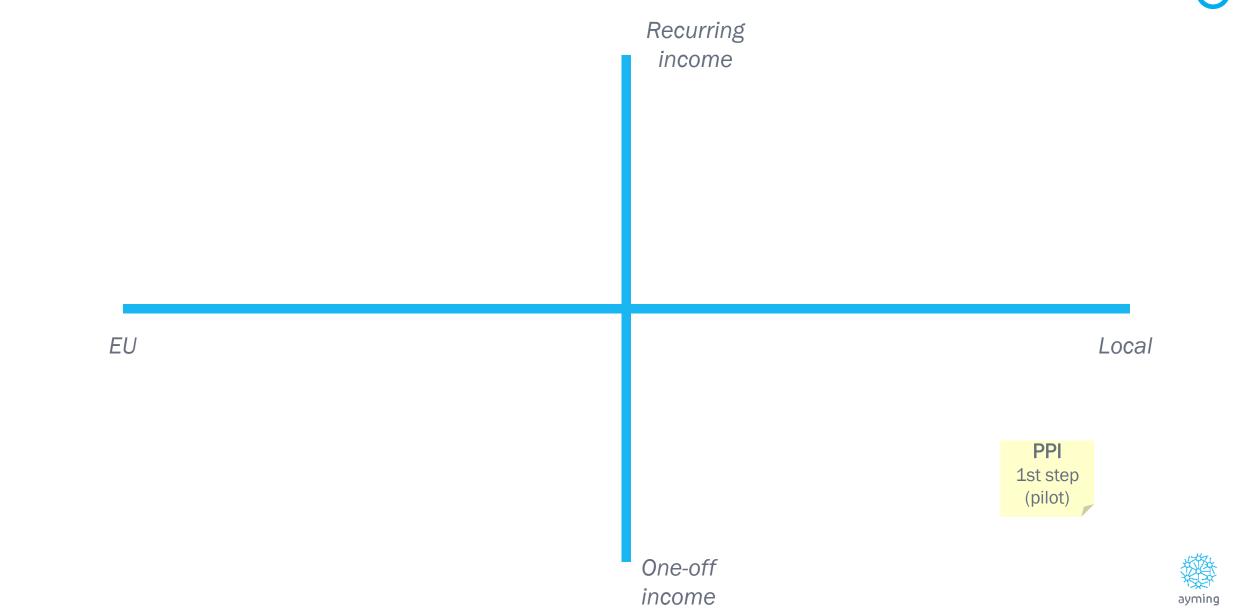
Applied to the context of the Institute or a collaborative network, this strategy relies on four key pillars:

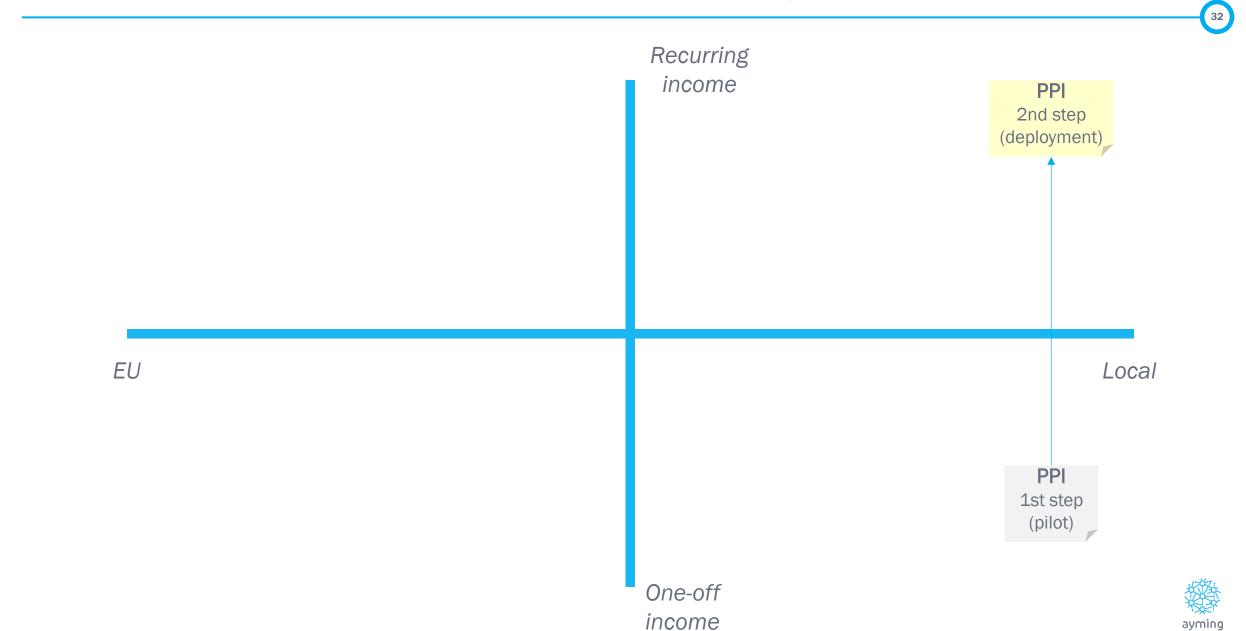
Strategic Business Framework: Europe, Local, and Economic Models











Which IEFC partner project, service or activity would bring value to the end customer and generate revenue in the business sector?





Which IEFC partner project, service o activity would bring value to the end customer and generate revenue for the entity in the business sector?

Decision support tool

Decision on tree planting under cc

Al smart traps

Knowing which trees to plant where and how to manage them in a changing climate.



Transfer of knowledge



Platform of risk assessments



Any project bringing innovation or key knowledge about planted forests

Digested/concrete forest advice





Which IEFC partner project, service o activity would bring value to the end customer and generate revenue for the entity in the business sector?

Al bases Identification of pests and diseases

Planting trees to mitigate CC

Developing a suite of risk modelling tools

processed forest health data

Any tools supporting sustainability of planted forest Diagnostics of forest health issues



A suite of tools and case studies that can be adapted and applied in different situations

Development of routes to market





Which IEFC partner project, service o activity would bring value to the end customer and generate revenue for the entity in the business sector?

Guidance on tree planting with pest and disease risk as a consideration

Bringing knowledge from abroad

Pest management environmental friendly solutions

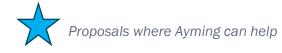
Providing rapid and accurate knowledge on issues of concern to forest owners



Public Procurement of Innovation processes

Monitoring tools (ex. fire risk)

Forest ecology







Recurring demands identified include:

- 1. Standardization and interoperability of forestry data (quality, accessibility)
- 2. Digital systems for **risk monitoring** (pests, wildfires, droughts)
- 3. Operational solutions applicable to daily forest management (easy-to-adopt tools)
- 4. Effective **knowledge transfer** to rural areas and markets
- 5. Promotion of the **circular bioeconomy** (high-value products derived from forest resources)
- 6. Adaptation of silvicultural practices to climate change

Potential actions for IEFC to attend the demands (more details in the following slide):

- 1. Develop a **shared digital platform** for forestry data management
- 2. Launch a network of demonstration pilots for digital risk monitoring
- 3. Create a 'ready-to-use solutions' catalogue
- 4. Establish an IEFC Innovation Hub for Circular Bioeconomy
- 5. Organize annual knowledge transfer missions
- 6. Promote a Climate-Smart Silviculture Program
- 7. Secure funding for joint innovation procurement (CPI/PPI) projects



1. Develop a shared digital platform for forestry data management

- Create an interoperable platform that allows members to contribute, access and standardize forestry-related data (growth, risks, productivity, climate impact).
- Incorporate tools for data validation and quality assurance.

2. Launch a network of demonstration pilots for digital risk monitoring

- Implement small-scale pilots using IoT sensors, drones, satellite data or AI-based predictive systems in planted forests.
- Showcase practical, cost-effective solutions that can be adopted widely by forest managers.

3. Create a 'ready-to-use solutions' catalogue

- Develop a collection of operational tools, protocols and services designed for quick adoption by forest owners, cooperatives and public administrations.
- Emphasize usability and cost-efficiency.

4. Establish an IEFC Innovation Hub for Circular Bioeconomy

- Promote the creation of a specialized hub focused on valorizing forestry by-products into new materials and high-value bioproducts.
- Act as a connector between research institutions, SMEs and industrial players.



Conclusions and recommendations

5. Organize annual knowledge transfer missions

- Facilitate missions, visits or field days where successful technology applications and innovations are shared directly with stakeholders (foresters, municipalities, companies).
- Reinforce knowledge exchange not only among members but towards broader markets.

6. Promote a Climate-Smart Silviculture Program

- Design guidelines, training sessions and pilot actions to adapt silvicultural practices to changing climate scenarios.
- Position IEFC as a reference entity in Europe for climate-resilient forest management.

7. Secure funding for joint innovation procurement (CPI/PPI) projects

- Support members in preparing and launching Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP) or Public Procurement of Innovation (PPI) projects specifically targeted at the identified technological gaps.
- Actively seek support from European programs like Horizon Europe, LIFE, Interreg or national innovation agencies.



Recommendations for IEFC based on demand analysis (public and private):

- Develop tailored transfer formats highly operational for private sector, science-based for public sector.
- Create modular knowledge products factsheets, digital tools, workshops segmented by audience needs.
- Strengthen data governance strategies, lead standardization and quality assurance initiatives.
- Promote public-private pilot projects, testing new tools and solutions jointly with administrations and companies.
- Prioritize communication simplicity and usability, specially in conveying complex R&D outcomes.

Final strategic recommendations for IEFC:

- Set up a portfolio of innovative services, combining the key strengths of its members
- Develop a capabilities and challenges map to identify synergies and project opportunities
- Activate Public Procurement of Innovation (PPI) projects in collaboration with public authorities
- Launch thematic hubs around priority challenges like bioeconomy, forest digitalization or climate resilience
- Implement active knowledge transfer programs targeting end-users and rural territories directly



