

ENRD Forestry Thematic Initiative

Evolution of the National Rural Network joint activities

National Rural Networks exchanging experiences and knowledge on forestry practices.

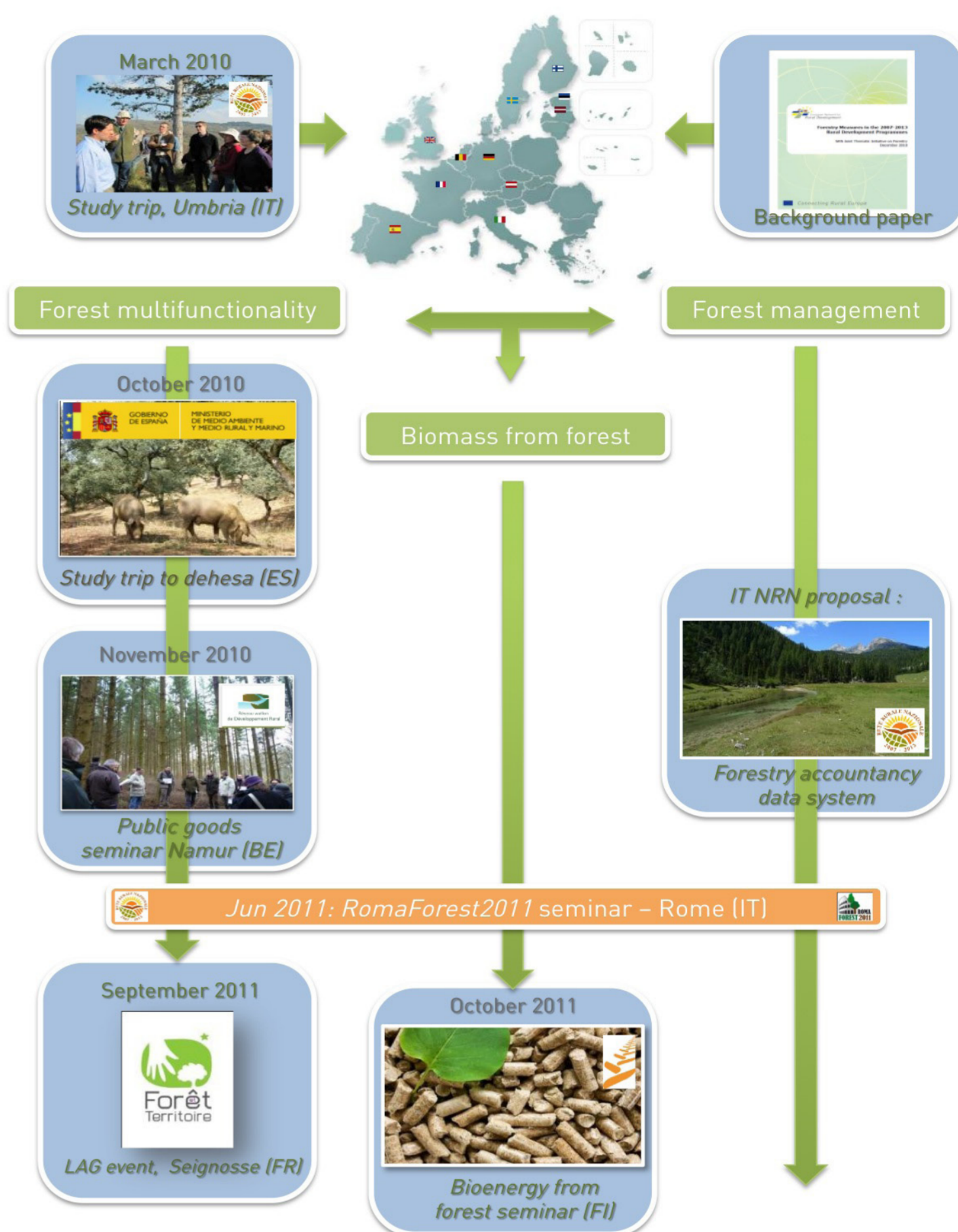
The forestry thematic initiative is a successful example of how National Rural Networks (NRNs) came together to create an exchange platform to improve rural development policy implementation.

The forestry thematic initiative was launched in December 2009 with a core group of 6 networks. Since then, it has grown to include a larger group of networks, forestry experts and Local Action Groups. All with a common purpose: learning how to achieve a more effective and efficient implementation of the forestry measures supported by the EAFRD (European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development)



Three main areas of exchange were identified around which the Networks decided to share knowledge and relevant experience on their national policy contexts and the way forestry-related measures are applied across the EU:

- Forest bioenergy
- The multifunctional role of forests
- Private forest management



Exchange activities such as study visits and seminars have been undertaken since the launch of the initiative and more are planned in the next future.



ENRD Forestry Thematic Initiative

ROMAFORREST2011 CONGRESS



ROMAFORREST2011



Present and future role of forest resources in the socio-economic development of rural areas
Rome, 23rd-24th June 2011

Promoted by the Italian National Rural Network with the participation of the ENRD, the congress discussed the role played by the forest sector in the EU Member States and the opportunities provided by the EU rural development policy for a forest-based rural development.



In this context, the congress aimed to answer the following questions:

1. *What is the destiny of forest sector in Europe?*
2. *Where are rural development policies post 2013 heading to?*

The congress explored forest-based development of rural and mountain areas and related relevant practices. Parallel sessions focused on specific challenges such as mitigation of and adaptation to climate change, conservation of biodiversity, energy production, water cycle management, desertification, prevention of natural risks and socio-economic aspects of forest-based rural development.

At the conclusion of the event, the EU Commission, Managing Authorities and forestry stakeholders joined a round table to present and discuss proposals for forests and forest resources within the future EU rural development framework.



Forests are a crucial resource for the EU, despite not featuring in its constitutional treaties. For centuries, they have been the main resource for the development of rural and mountain areas, alongside agriculture. Today they are facing new challenges (climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, energy production, water management, soil conservation, etc.) and becoming major drivers for the socio-economic development of rural areas.



Day 1 parallel session themes

- Forests, conservation of biodiversity, landscape protection and public services.
- Forests, agroforestry and bioenergy.
- Strategies for mitigation of and adaptation to climate change.
- Competitiveness of the forest sector: wood/non-wood products, supply chains, strategies for forest-based local governance.

Further information:

documents, presentations and other details can be retrieved at: www.reterurale.it/romaforest2011



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European Commission
Agriculture and
Rural Development

Proposal for promoting exchanges on an accountancy data system for the forestry sector and rural development measures

Under the coordination of the INEA Forest Observatory (National Institute of Agricultural Economics)



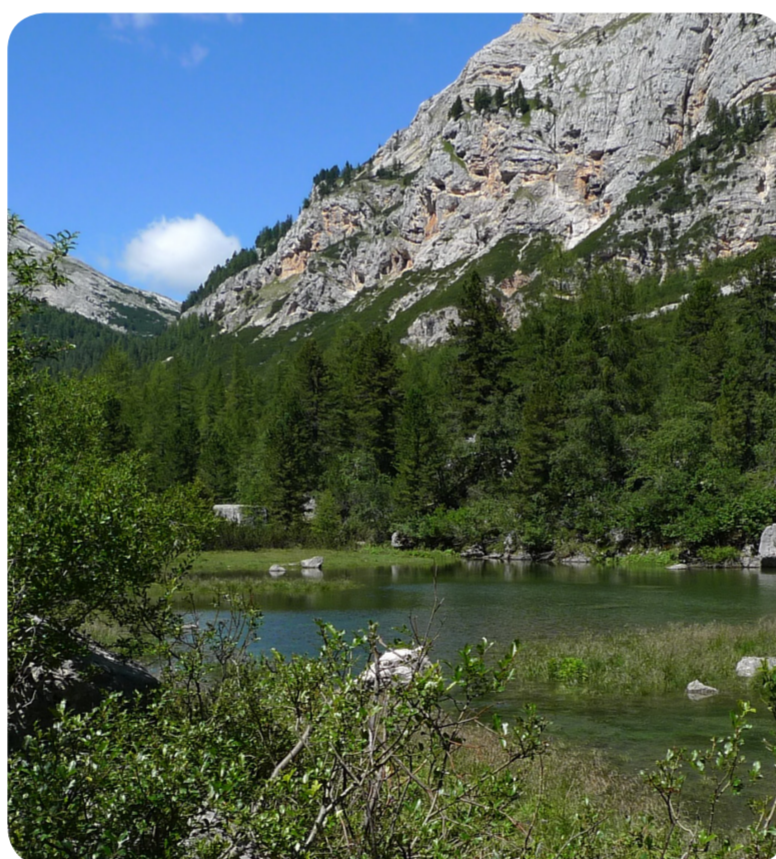
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and the financial support of the National Rural Network Programme, the Italian NRN launches a project for applying the Farm Accountancy Data Network (FADN) principles to the forestry sector.

The aim of the project is to evaluate the performance of forestry enterprises (harvesting enterprises and forest owners). Within the Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for rural development established at EU level, the assessment of socio-economic indicators (such as net added value) implies the need to investigate about costs and revenues structure of forestry firms and to take into account the specificity of forestry resources.

Objectives:

- to adapt the FADN principles to the forestry sector and ensure its integration in the accountancy system
- to define a set of indicators useful to evaluate the impact of RD policies on forestry sector
- to promote exchanges with other Member States about indicators and techniques for the evaluation of RD forestry measures;



Transferability of Results

Differently from agricultural sector, forestry accounting schemes have been scarcely developed across Europe and there are not standardized rules. The availability of accounting data could be extremely useful for monitoring and evaluating the impacts of forestry measures implemented under the EU rural development policy.

Target groups

NRNs, Managing Authorities, forest owner associations, associations of forest harvesting enterprises, private forestry owners with book-keeping practices.



Proposed Activities

1. Preliminary activities:

- Collection of expression of interest from NRNs; designation of a reference person (forestry expert(s))
- Collection of information about existing practices (in particular: baseline indicators, impact indicators, evaluation methods of forestry measures)

Results from the survey will be summarized in a short report by the Italian NRN.

2. Sharing experiences

Bilateral or multilateral exchanges between NRNs to investigate how national monitoring and evaluation systems are addressing forestry measure (collection, processing and use of forestry accountancy data).

3. Reporting

A short document highlighting the information need for the forestry sector:

- How to integrate forestry activities in the FADN system (design and implement an "ad hoc" survey for forestry farms and harvesting enterprises)?
- How to adapt official statistics to the monitoring and evaluation needs for forestry measures?
- Suggestions for the programming period 2014-2020.

4. Dissemination

Final seminar for presenting and discussing the results with EU stakeholders.



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The multifunctional role of forests

A joint Spanish - Walloon NRN activity to explore the economic, environmental and social functions of the forest.



1) The Spanish Dehesa (Andalusia, 27-29 October 2010)



During this study visit participants were able to address forest multifunctionality from different perspectives. Major highlight of the visit was the introduction to Iberian pig grazing in the extensive agro-silvo-pastoral system of the Dehesa and the local processing of Iberian ham (PDO status). The forest was also the place to discover how a LAG boosts the touristic offer within a natural park (bird-watching) by providing local entrepreneurs with training and implementing a Charter for Sustainable Tourism. Linkages were finally explored between cork oak forest and local economic activities (cork industry, hunting, tourism).

The Dehesa is an extensively grazed, wooded pasture system typical of the south-west regions of Spain and southern Portugal. The poor quality of the soil makes it a very marginal system. However, these areas hide a great potential for diversification and ensure the provision of a wide range of environmental public goods and services (biodiversity, soil conservation, retention of human capital and skills, etc.).

2) The management of environmental public goods seminar (Namur, Belgium, 18-19 November 2010)



In this seminar experts were called to highlight the different functions of forest and illustrate how Rural Development measures support forest development and management. The discussion focused on appropriate policies for the management of environmental public goods in the forestry sector. A workshop and a field visit provided several examples of forest multifunctionality:

- The agro-silvo-pastoral system of the Dehesa and the role of well-managed forests in fighting against fire in Spain.
- Forests as invaluable cultural landscape and source of employment for young people, supported by a Swedish LAG.



- The Flemish 'bosgroep' system, which provides coordination to a range of local stakeholders for establishing and running a forest management plan.

« Forest management represents for us a social and cultural heritage : there are no conflicts of use, because people have always been living in the forest, for the forest, with forest and due to the forest. »

- The challenging example of a urban forest which is at the same time a productive area, place for scientific research, recreational place for the residents, and a Natura 2000 protected area (Wallonia).

