

## Background, Purpose, Co-Creation, Givens, Follow-up and Final Results

<b>Background</b>	This Regional Workshop is one of six workshops organised in 6 European Regions, which cover all European Member States, EU Associated Countries and long-term partner countries in European Research and Innovation programmes related to forests. The workshop is organised in the framework of the EU project EUFORE <sup>1</sup> . <b>EUFORE supports the establishment of a European Partnership on Forestry<sup>2</sup> by developing a European Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) co-created by stakeholders</b> , covering the quadruple helix (Industry and Businesses; Research; Civil Society and Governance; Regulators).
<b>Purpose</b>	<b>The workshop contributes to the co-creation of the SRIA.</b> It will start the <b>initial collection of R&amp;I themes</b> which should be covered within the SRIA. A specific focus is to <b>collect regional specific input</b> from the stakeholders, which will be combined with the regional perspectives provided by the other regional workshops.
<b>Co-creation</b>	The workshop is not expected to layout the entire SRIA and will not have sufficient time to provide detailed information on future R&I topics. It should rather be one piece in the combined input of all six regional workshops towards the general scope of the SRIA and the major R&I topics and directions. <b>The results will be further scrutinised within a stakeholder survey</b> , which will be distributed to European stakeholders after all regional workshops have been held. The combined contributions from the workshops and the survey results will <b>provide major guidance for the Thematic Working Groups (TWG)</b> , which will focus on drafting the different parts of the SRIA.
<b>Givens</b>	The co-creation of the SRIA does not start with a white sheet of paper. Stakeholders can rely on already <b>existing R&amp;I agendas</b> covering the different areas of forests and wood. Furthermore, the general direction of the designated European Partnership on Forestry is already described in a <b>Partnership Fiché<sup>3</sup></b> , developed jointly between the European Commission and the European Member States, who will be the core of the future partnership. The EUFORE project has decided to focus on the following <b>4 main thematic areas</b> , which should also be reflected in the SRIA: I. Forest Ecology, II. Forest Management, III. Forest Products, IV. Social Aspects of Forests and Forest Policy. These general themes will be used when organising the discussion during the Regional Workshop. Finally, the whole stakeholder engagement process within the EUFORE projects needs to be in line with the <b>timeline of the European Partnership development process</b> and therefore will be closely followed by the SCAR SWG FOREST and the European Commission.
<b>Follow-up</b>	<b>TWGs will meet virtually between August – December 2023</b> to prepare first draft versions of the different parts of the SRIA. Participation in the TWGs will be organised by the EUFORE project but is free to all interested stakeholders including the participants of the regional workshops. First initial results will be discussed during a <b>European Stakeholder Workshop on 13 December 2023 in Brussels</b> (more information to follow), which is expected to provide further directions and input to the work of the TWGs. Step by step and relying on this iterative process, the results of the different TWGs will be collected and put together to a comprehensive SRIA document. This will be done by a dedicated <b>Writing Group</b> , which will also be in close liaison with the SCAR FOREST and the European Commission to ensure full compliance of the SRIA with the formal requirements of the European Partnership development. <b>A first draft SRIA, which will describe all R&amp;I themes, is expected at the end of 2023.</b>  In summer <b>2024 a second round of regional workshops</b> will be organised which will look into more <b>details of the SRIA implementation</b> , by providing directions towards the temporal prioritisations of R&I work, R&I approaches to be used to address specific challenges and the use of different funding instruments. These workshops will be followed up again by a <b>European Stakeholder Workshop in October 2024.</b>
<b>Final Results</b>	A third <b>European Workshop will be organised in October 2025, after which SRIA will be finalised. This SRIA will be the strategic R&amp;I guidance document of the European Partnership on Forestry.</b> The final European Workshop in 2026 will be discussing the funding commitments of European Stakeholders towards the implementation of the SRIA in the framework of the designated European Partnership on Forestry.

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<sup>1</sup> See EUFORE Project Brochure.

<sup>2</sup> See European Partnership Brief.

<sup>3</sup> See Fiché on a European Partnership “Forests and Forestry for a Sustainable Future”.