

FOREST ECOVALUE

SUPPORTING MULTIPLE FOREST ECOSYSTEM SERVICES THROUGH NEW CIRCULAR/GREEN/BIO MARKETS AND VALUE CHAINS

SUPPORTED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION

THROUGH THE INTERREG ALPINE SPACE PROGRAMME: € 1,857,054

Ecosystem Services are the direct and indirect benefits that people receive from the ecosystem.

Forests play a key role for climate change mitigation and resilience in the Alpine region, offering multiple ecosystem services which provide also environmental and social benefits.

Forests of the Alpine space are threatened by abandonment, climate change and territorial degradation that progressively lead to a pauperization of natural resources and to a decrease in the provision of forest ecosystem services.

The economic sustainability of forest maintenance for the public and private owners is far from being reached: public funds and the revenues generated by the traditional wood value chains are no longer sufficient. The attraction of additional resources becomes an evident need, together with the exploration of new business models in relation to the multiple ecosystem services of forests.

MAIN PROJECT CHALLENGES

The Forest EcoValue project intends to tackle this challenge and turn it into an opportunity, by developing innovative sustainable win-win business models for forest management, based on green value chains, and involving different sectors (energy, construction, chemistry/pharma, food, recreation etc.), public and private actors, as well as citizens. The project will propose new frameworks for public-private markets and payment schemes, maximizing the value and the resilience of forest ecosystem services towards the regional value chains. The proposed solutions will be tested in a pilot action consisting of a network of 5 Living Labs in Austria, France, Germany, Italy, and Slovenia.

The project will focus on a subset of ecosystem services from the following categories: provisioning (e.g. biomass, raw materials, chemicals); regulating & maintenance (e.g. biodiversity, natural risk reduction, CO₂absorption); cultural (e.g. recreation, habitat experience, health).

PARTNERSHIP

The Forest EcoValue project brings together partners from 5 European countries and involves 10 organizations of very different types and with complementary skills: ecosystem services mapping, forest management, green economy value chains, environmental economics, financial modelling, policy analysis and capacity building.

-  — Finpiemonte SpA – Regional financial and development agency / Coordinator
-  — Lombardy Foundation for the Environment [FLA]
-  — Lombardy Green Chemistry Association [LGCA]
-  — BioBASE – Austrian innovation platform for bio-economy and circular economy
-  — University of Graz, Institute of Environmental Systems Sciences
-  — Slovenia Forest Service [ZGS]
-  — Institute for Environmental Planning and Spatial Development GmbH & Co. KG [Ifuplan]
-  — National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment [INRAE]
-  — Regional Centre for Forest Property Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes [CRPF]
-  — The French National Forest Office [ONF]

The Forest EcoValue project supports the Macroregional Strategy for the Alpine area EUSALP and aims to collaborate with its Action Groups on key domains related to sustainable forest management and ecosystem services valuation. Also, the Forest EcoValue project supports the objectives of the alpine Convention, particularly on mountain forestry, climate change