

FORESTERRA's Stakeholders Advisory Group

Terms of Reference

FORESTERRA- Enhancing Forest Research in the Mediterranean through improved coordination and integration is an ERA-Net Scheme under (*FP7, DG Research*) whose aim is to **reinforce the scientific coordination and integration of Mediterranean programmes in forest research as well as the scientific cooperation with countries of the Mediterranean area.**

The concept of FORESTERRA is to foster the coordination of the network participants' programmes based on **four steps**, each one contributing on its own to reinforcing the cooperation, and at the same time providing the basis for the design of the next stages:

Mapping and information exchange to improve mutual knowledge of existing programmes and capacities as well as for sharing best practices;

Defining **common strategic activities** to reduce the fragmentation of the research community, avoiding overlaps and promoting synergies among existing capacities and identifying scientific areas that required transnational funding;

Implementation of joint activities to consolidate partnerships and develop common schemes for programme evaluation, as well as for mutual opening of facilities, laboratories and experimental sites;

Calls for **joint research projects** to maximise the research impact of the network;

In addition to these four steps, a targeted action will focus on "**upscaling**" the previous four at a global Mediterranean level by exchanging information on existing programmes with other **Mediterranean Climate Areas** in order to identify common strategic activities and scientific priorities of mutual interest.

FORESTERRA wishes to establish a **Stakeholders Advisory Group (SAG)** to ensure good communication and interaction with relevant forest-related policy makers and stakeholders (including researchers) in the region. The SAG will be invited by the Coordinator or the WPLs whenever necessary to provide feedback from and to stakeholders regarding strategic activities, topics or dissemination activities. It is especially important that the SAG advises on Pan-Mediterranean emerging forest-related challenges and gaps of knowledge that require the engagement of the forest research community in the region.

The SAG meets at least once a year, at the occasion of the FORESTERRA SC Meeting or connected to any relevant event or workshop where the input from the SAG is needed.

The work of the SAG is organized by the SAG Chairperson. EFIMED act as secretariat for the SAG.

Composition of the SAG

The SAG composition should reflect in a balanced manner the expertise related to: international cooperation and development, policy making, NGOs, forest owners, forest management and the forest-based sector in general.

Members are selected in their personal capacity; they are not representing their country or institution of origin.

The term of appointment is the duration of the ERA-Net.

On a case by case basis or whenever required, additional Stakeholders and external experts can be invited to take part in SAG works.