

SCIENCE
SUPPORTING
POLICY-
MAKING



EUROPEAN FOREST INSTITUTE



BUILDING UNDERSTANDING OF FOREST AND BIOECONOMY POLICY ISSUES

We are living in a time of accelerated changes and unprecedented global challenges: fossil resource dependence and climate change, energy and natural resource scarcity, rural decline and biodiversity loss. Forests and the forest-based sector can address these interconnected challenges. They are an essential natural capital and a key pillar of the bioeconomy, supporting sustainable economic growth.

But the forest-related policy framework and research landscape are also changing fast and becoming ever more complex. The situation requires strong leadership and vision to create effective partnerships across regions, disciplines, policy areas and sectors and support a better dialogue on the future of our forests and forest research.



PUTTING SCIENCE INTO ACTION

The European Forest Institute (EFI) acts as a pan-European science-policy platform, building and connecting knowledge and people to increase the impact of research and enhance science-policy dialogue.

Typically, policy making requires a good understanding of multiple and complex issues with wide coverage of different aspects. However, mainstream science is built to go the other way. Science structures and incentives have developed over time to look at more and more specialized focus areas. A 'synthesis' of the information is what is needed.

PROVIDING UNBIASED, SCIENCE-BASED KNOWLEDGE

EFI acts as a broker at the science-policy interface. We bring syntheses of evidence-based, reliable and robust information from the scientific community and our network of 120 member organisations. Our work helps policymakers to arrive at a balanced and well-reflected judgement.

Currently there is no other platform at the pan-European level doing this type of science-policy work on forest issues. EFI's science-policy activities help to bring European and global forest research to decision makers on issues that are on today's political agenda. We also bring forward emerging issues which are not yet on today's political agenda, but are likely to be on tomorrow's.

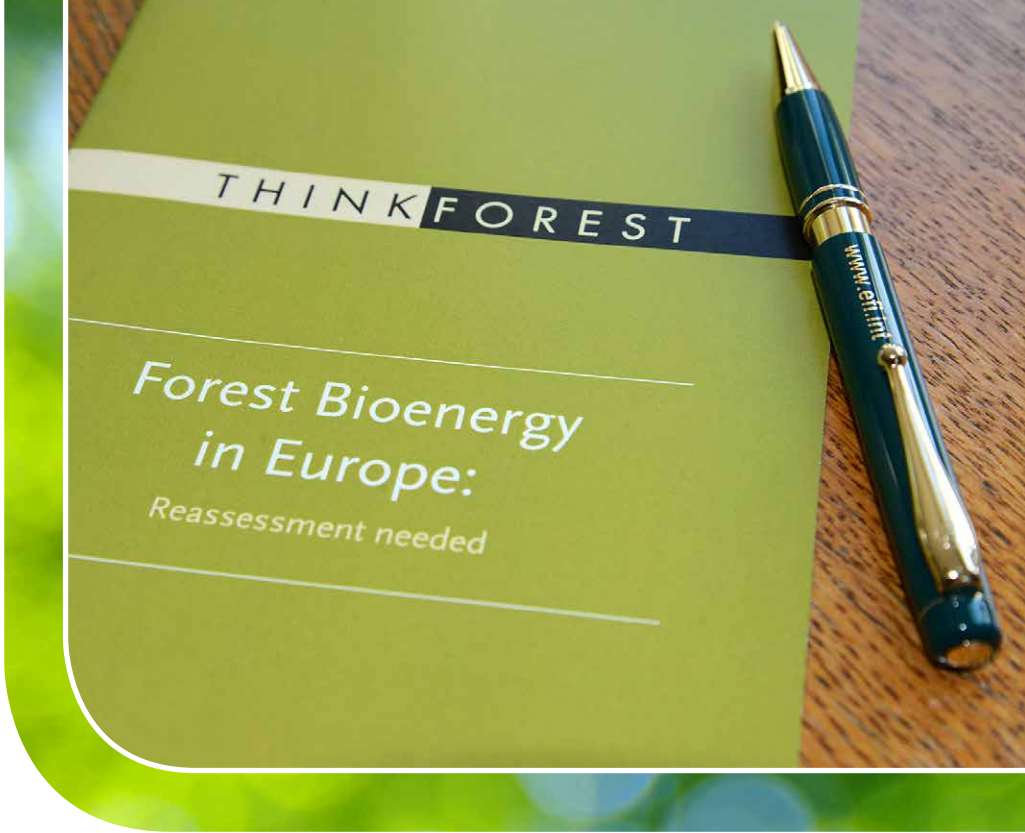


PROMOTING SCIENCE-POLICY DIALOGUE AND NETWORKING

ThinkForest is EFI's high-level discussion forum which brings together policy makers and the scientific community, as well as stakeholders. Chaired by former Swedish Prime Minister Göran Persson, ThinkForest is a unique forum which helps to build bridges on pan-European forest and bioeconomy issues.

ThinkForest facilitates science-policy dialogue at the European Parliament and other policy forums. Since 2012, 12 events have been held, attended by over 700 people.





HELPING POLICYMAKERS NAVIGATE A SEA OF INFORMATION

Often the bottleneck for decision makers is not a shortage of science-based information, but rather the opposite. There is a general lack of synthesis reviews which can say what the science community knows on a particular topic at a more holistic level. EFI's policy support activities are helping to bridge this gap. We use scientific facts and expert analysis to create science-policy studies which are understandable and helpful for supporting policy planning. All our publication series are freely available from our website.



ABOUT EFI

The European Forest Institute (EFI) is an international organisation established by European States. EFI conducts research and provides policy support on forest-related issues. With its 25 Member Countries, 120 member organisations, five Regional Offices and three Project Centres, it offers a unique forest research network and collaboration at the European level.

EFI's policy support activities are financed by a Multi-Donor Trust Fund for policy support, which is supported by the Governments of Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Norway and Sweden.

www.efi.int

MORE INFORMATION

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