



EUROPEAN FOREST  
INSTITUTE

# Annual Report 2024

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# Foreword

## Building interaction and engagement

We are delighted to officially welcome Dr. Robert Mavsar, who began his five-year term as Director of the European Forest Institute on 1 January 2024. With his leadership we are confident that EFI will grow even stronger, forging deeper connections with its network, and solidifying its role in research, innovation and outreach.

Connections with EFI's network of Member Organisations, Member Countries and the wider forest community are one of the Institute's unique strengths. 2024 saw an increase in two-way interactions with these groups, paving the way for the development of the new EFI Strategy 2040. New initiatives like information sessions with the EFI Council, the Helsinki Forest Talks with embassies and Research network webinars, as well as ongoing initiatives like the Mediterranean Forest Week have strengthened and deepened engagement, bringing new opportunities for mutual exchange, dialogue and shared learning.

As we look ahead to 2025, we look forward to building on this shared momentum to help shape EFI's vision for the next 15 years.

Dr. Leire Barañano & Prof. Margarida Tomé  
EFI Board Chairs in 2024

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# A year of impact, reflection, and development

In many ways, 2024 marked a milestone year for EFI, our most successful to date. With record levels of activity and engagement across all areas of work, we demonstrated our capacity to generate knowledge, support evidence-informed decision-making, and foster dialogue at the science-policy-society interface. From leading major EU-funded research initiatives and launching global forest governance tools, to hosting influential platforms and reaching millions through our communications, EFI made an impact where it matters.

The year was also a moment of reflection. As we began the process of shaping our next strategy, we took a look at what we have achieved over the past years and where we may have fallen short. Through this exercise, we have confirmed our strengths and recognised opportunities for improvement.

A key priority moving forward will be to strengthen our engagement with EFI Member Countries and Member Organisations, and to build greater impact through joint activities. While this work began to take shape in 2024, we are committed to taking it much further in the years ahead by launching new forms of engagement and collaboration.

In a rapidly changing world, the need for trusted, policy-relevant forest knowledge has never been greater. The next phase of EFI's development will require us to build on our achievements, listen carefully to our members, stakeholders and staff and remain agile in responding to evolving challenges.

I thank our staff, members and partners for their continued dedication and support.

Dr. Robert Mavsar  
Director

A large, dark brown tree trunk with thick, gnarled roots extending from the ground. The roots are exposed and spread out across the foreground. The background is a bright, sunlit forest with green foliage and a strong sunburst effect on the right side.

# **An ambitious European forest research and innovation area**

## Selected highlights:

# 45

**research projects** were implemented during 2024 in relation to EFI's priority topics, of which EFI led 7 EU research projects.

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# 23

**grants** were provided to early stage researchers and professionals to help them develop their capacities and establish links with the international research community.

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# 4.9m€

was the total annual budget of research projects, the highest in EFI's history, further reaffirming that research remains at the core of EFI's activities.

# 43

**peer-reviewed papers** published in 2024 by EFI's researchers.

# Work in 2024:

## Supporting young scientists

The EFI Biocities Winter School, “Cities Call Forests and Back” was organized in collaboration with AlberItalia and SISEF in December 2024 in central Italy. Twenty Early Career Researchers and postgraduate students from a wide set of backgrounds dealing with forest, urban and environment issues came from 11

different countries in and outside Europe. The week-long programme featured international speakers and lecturers with the aim to provide knowledge on urgent and emerging issues linking cities to forests and providing the tools to transform cities as we know them today to Biocities.



Stefano Gallo, AlberItalia

## Tracking wood-based materials with the aiphoria tool

In 2024, aiphoria was launched as an open-source Python library for dynamically assessing wood material flows, carbon stocks, and stock changes. Developed to support researchers, policymakers, and industry stakeholders, aiphoria provides a comprehensive, transparent, and flexible framework for tracking wood-based materials across their entire lifecycle. It is freely available on GitHub.

Originally developed as part of the ForestPaths project, with support from Monifun and Eco2adapt, aiphoria helps quantify the EU forest sector's climate change mitigation potential and limitations. It also makes easier the connection of semi-finished wood products to their end-uses, such as construction, textiles, and chemicals.



[Read more](#)

## Engaging with different perspectives to enable collaborative research



Graphic recording of the workshop by Visuality

The “Network of Networks” meeting organized by the TRANSFORMIT project in Bonn in September created space for dialogue on how we can integrate different forest ecosystem services like biodiversity, water provision and carbon storage into forest management. The collaborative format allowed stakeholders from forest science and policy, forest practice and NGOs to engage in meaningful conversations, understand each other’s perspectives more deeply, and identify new avenues for collaboration. Together, they discussed the barriers and enablers to working collectively across different sectors and explored how to continue this networking and momentum.

[Read more](#)

## Making science meaningful to everyday life with Multipliers

During its three-year lifespan, MULTIPLIERS engaged over 1,500 students, their families and communities in novel learning partnerships to make science more meaningful to their everyday lives. Known as “Open Science Communities”, these partnerships fostered cooperation between schools, research institutions, local communities and informal learning providers to jointly tackle key issues such as biodiversity loss and the dilemma between forest use and forest protection. Students interacted with a broad spectrum of science experts, jointly working on science-based solutions for societal and environmental issues. The project ended in October 2024 with the launch of a new Open Schooling Hub, featuring innovative teaching materials for schools and researchers.

[Read more](#)

Rosa Castañeda



Exhibition at the final MULTIPLIERS event in Bonn

## Exploring forestry professionals’ views on climate change adaptation

One of the outcomes of the Clearing House project, which ended in 2024, is a study which examines forestry professionals’ perceptions on climate change and adaptation strategies across nine European countries. Survey results from 565 respondents reveal widespread topical awareness, but regional differences in perceptions and confidence in adaptation persist. The study identified a North-South gradient of climate change effect perceptions, confirming earlier results (except for Germany). German respondents showed the most negative view with a high consensus of climate change effects in early 2019. Evidence suggests that concrete weather extreme experiences

(2018 with extreme German weather conditions) influence perception. The key adaptation strategies identified in the study included species diversification, artificial regeneration, and enrichment of natural regeneration. Two adaptation paradigms emerged—close-to-nature and intensive forestry—and raise questions about long-term effectiveness. Differences between the perception of public forestry responding to climate change effects and the possibility to adapt emerged as significantly more pessimistic than private forestry and the forest industry.

[Read more](#)



# Science-informed policies to address societal challenges and opportunities

## Selected highlights:

# 4

**high-level ThinkForest** events took place in 2024 in person and online. Scientists, policy makers and stakeholders discussed sustainable finance and carbon farming including in soils.

# 95

**policy makers** registered for policy support high-level events. A total of 870 people participated in the events, and the recordings were watched nearly 1,000 times.

# 348

**citations of EFI's flagship publications** were recorded in 2024. While they were mostly cited in scientific publications, they were also referred to in policy documents and stakeholder outputs. The latter two cited our work on closer-to-nature forest management as well as carbon farming and climate change mitigation.

# 6270

**times EFI's flagship publications and policy briefs** were accessed in 2024. The highest number was reached by the From Science to Policy publication on 'Carbon farming in the European forest sector' (2212) and by the policy brief on 'Combating health problems with urban forests' (810).

# Work in 2024:

## Carbon farming in the European forest sector

EFI's From Science to Policy study on carbon farming was launched in October 2024 and has already been referenced in important European Commission advice documents. To reach the EU's commitment of carbon neutrality by 2050 different avenues to store more carbon, including in soils, need to be pursued. The interdisciplinary team of authors identified different contributing forest management practices, which have varying caveats. While afforestation has the biggest potential, it remains challenging to perform those land-use changes on a large scale. Peatland restoration and management have the second largest long-term potential. While rewetting peatland

significantly reduces soil GHG emissions, side-effects (e.g. increased methane emissions) can offset benefits and, in the short-term also increase CO<sub>2</sub> emissions when productive forests are targeted. Long and variable timescales in forest management and natural disturbances present major challenges to enhancing forest carbon. Setting baselines for verifying carbon removal and gains, establishing clear proofs and gains in the absence of such measures as well as advancing methods and their harmonization remain essential.

[Read more](#)



## Advancing governance: the impact of the Forest Governance Index

The launch of the Forest Governance Index (FGI) website sparked growing interest in assessing national forest governance and its dynamics. The FGI offers a means for systematic checks of forest governance, enhancing stakeholders' understanding of and access to information on key aspects such as participation, accountability and oversight, legislative and institutional clarity, transparency, and compliance promotion and enforcement.

In Laos, the FGI assessment led the government to call for development partners to use the index for monitor implementation of the government's new Forest Strategy 2035. Similarly, in Cameroon, civil society organisations used the FGI findings to emphasize the progress made in forest governance during the implementation of the VPA, showcasing the value of such agreements as a framework for governance improvements.

[Read more](#)

## Forest Europe Ministerial Conference

The 9th Ministerial Conference of FOREST EUROPE, held on 1-2 October near Bonn, gathered more than 160 delegates from 34 European countries, the European Commission, Australia and 24 observer organizations. Two major outcomes were the Bonn Ministerial Declaration on the Future of Sustainable Forest Management in Europe, and the Bonn Ministerial Decision on the establishment of a Forest Risk Facility (FoRISK) as a tool to enhance forest resilience. FoRISK is being

established as a pan-European cooperation initiative on the mitigation, management and prevention forest-related risks, and will be run by a secretariat hosted by EFI in Bonn. After four years of cooperation between the German presidency and EFI under the umbrella of the Liaison Unit Bonn, Sweden takes over the chair of FOREST EUROPE for the coming two years.

[Read more](#)



## Hosting the Technical Facility on deforestation-free value chains

In 2024, EFI's International Partnerships Facility strengthened its commitment to fostering legal, deforestation-free value chains in cocoa, coffee, and palm oil-producing countries. Responding to the EU's request, it launched the Technical Facility on Deforestation-Free Value Chains under the Team Europe Initiative to advance sustainability and ensure regulatory compliance.

The Technical Facility assists countries in transitioning to sustainable, deforestation-free supply chains in line with the EU Deforestation Regulation. It provides targeted policy and technical support, focusing on key commodities such as cocoa, coffee, rubber, palm oil, soy, and cattle. Expertise offered includes traceability systems, legal frameworks, deforestation monitoring, and stakeholder engagement. The Technical Facility's



demand-driven activities emphasise smallholder inclusion and foster multi-stakeholder dialogues, operating across Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia.

[Read more](#)

A pair of hands holds a large, teal-colored speech bubble against a dark grey background. The speech bubble contains the text 'Awareness in society of the importance of forests' in white, bold, sans-serif font. In the lower foreground, there are blurred shapes of other speech bubbles, one pink and one yellow, also being held by hands.

# **Awareness in society of the importance of forests**

## Selected highlights:

# 1954m

media reach in 2024, compared to 1200 million in 2020. Peaks included comments by our experts on fires in Portugal in September.

# 32.8k

followers on EFI's LinkedIn account, a growth of 23% in 2024.

# 35

events organised in 2024, both in-person and online.

# 11

science-media-policy events were held in 2024, part of EFI's work to build and facilitate capacities to effectively support a better-informed dialogue between media, scientists, policy makers, practitioners and society.

# Work in 2024:

## Exploring new approaches with our network

We were joined by 85 participants at the EFI Annual Conference in Bonn in September, where Associate and Affiliate Members had the opportunity to take part in new conversations in two interactive sessions on topical issues. The Members' Dialogue Session focused on communications and multi-stakeholder engagement, exploring some of the challenges and opportunities when engaging with media, policymakers and the general public, and giving insights into

approaches, strategies and impacts. The afternoon's Young Scientists Session explored the world of AI and forests, presenting the results of a Hackathon on Generative AI and forests with media and researchers, as well as enabling three young researchers working with AI to share their knowledge.

[Read more](#)



Satu Ikonen-Williams



Satu Ikonen-Williams



Rosa Castañeda



Rosa Castañeda



Rosa Castañeda



Rosa Castañeda



Rosa Castañeda



Satu Ikonen-Williams



Satu Ikonen-Williams



Satu Ikonen-Williams



Rosa Castañeda

## Enhancing Mediterranean cooperation

The 8th Mediterranean Forest Week (8MFW) took place in Barcelona in November. EFI's Mediterranean Facility (EFIMED) led the organisation of the region's flagship forest event which brought together almost 300 experts, policymakers, and researchers from more than 30 countries in the Mediterranean and beyond. It included enriching interactions among participants, engaging field visits in Catalan forests, and six dynamic plenary sessions exploring critical topics impacting the region's forests from a cross-cutting and multi-disciplinary perspective. EFIMED coordinated six preparatory webinars before the sessions. The event

concluded with a high-level session announcing a proposed Mediterranean Forest Initiative to enhance cooperation among regional actors and scale up restoration efforts. The 8MFW was also an opportunity to strengthen synergies between projects and key organisations. This included hosting the EFI-coordinated ResAlliance project annual meeting and facilitating knowledge transfer on wildfire prevention between the Barcelona Provincial Council, the Catalan Government, and key organisations attending the 8MFW.

[Read more](#)



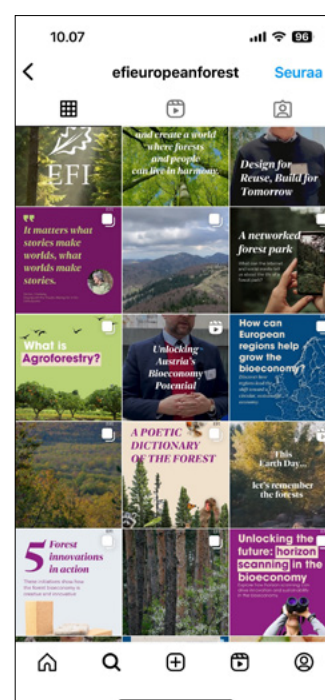
Beth Magre Loren

## Developing new social media channels

There has been growth in EFI's social media, where successful channels like LinkedIn and Facebook have now been joined by Instagram. The Instagram account was established with the primary objectives of science communication, public outreach and engagement, and amplifying EFI's brand identity. Through (visual) storytelling, we aim to communicate scientific findings and share content and knowledge related to EFI, EFI's projects and forests. The Instagram channel can help expand our reach to civil society and the broader public, raising awareness and fostering a deeper understanding of forest-related issues among diverse audiences.

To achieve this, we adopted an innovative approach with cross-collaboration between EFI offices where each month, a different office takes the lead in managing the account. Content is collectively provided, with this approach offering several advantages: it allows us to learn about the diversity of projects and work within different offices, provides a larger pool of inspiration for content creation, and encourages collaborative thinking in an "institutional" way, helping us translate EFI-related content into a format that resonates with our Instagram audience.

[Explore it here](#)



## Innovating communications activities

Through the SUPERB, CLEVER and DETECT projects, over 135 journalists were trained in 2024 through 2 forest visits (SUPERB media workshops), and 4 sessions at the [b future festival](#), [News Impact Summit](#), and [Climate Arena Conference](#). The goals were to provide science-based insights and support media reporting on topics like forest restoration and biodiversity

conservation in Europe, and the impacts of global trade on forests and biodiversity in the Global South. Results from online mapping/social media analyses have been used as an engagement tool to not only gather interest from journalists, but as an icebreaker to discuss the media's role in addressing forest-related themes in almost all these activities.



Rina Tsukaki

## Diplomats meet scientists

In 2024, EFI launched the Helsinki Forest Talks, a new initiative designed to foster dialogue between the diplomatic and scientific communities on key forest-related topics. Organised in close cooperation with embassies in Helsinki, the series provides an informal, closed setting for meaningful exchange between diplomats, scientists, and invited policymakers. Each event is co-hosted by a diplomatic mission, with topics selected jointly to reflect urgent global

and regional forest challenges. The first year saw three successful events: on carbon sequestration and forest-based mitigation (hosted by the German and French Embassies in May), on the growing threat of wildfires in Europe (with the Greek and Spanish Embassies in October), and on climate adaptation and forest resilience in vulnerable regions (with the British and Swiss Embassies in November). The Helsinki Forest Talk events will continue in 2025.



German Embassy Helsinki | Baumgärtner



# Institutional Governance

## Council

The Council of EFI is the highest governing body of EFI and consists of the 30 European States that have ratified the Convention on EFI. The Council meets every three years in ordinary sessions. The Czech Republic chairs the Council during the period 2023-2026.

In 2024, biannual information sessions for the Members of the Council were introduced. The aim of the sessions, held in June and December 2024, was to give an update to the Members of the Council on the recent and upcoming activities of EFI and to provide an opportunity for a more fluent exchange of information between the ordinary sessions.

## Board

The Board of EFI establishes and reviews the overall research framework and the strategy of the Institute and supervises the Secretariat. Board members are not representatives of any government or organization. Four of the members are elected by the EFI Council and four by EFI Associate Members.

In September 2024, the Chair of the Board Dr. Leire Barañano stepped down from the Board after serving two terms. In October 2024, Prof. Margarida Tomé and Dr. Sanja Perić were elected as the new Chair and Vice Chair respectively.

### Board members in 2024:

**Prof. Margarida Tomé** (Chair of the Board), elected by the Conference in 2021

**Dr. Sanja Perić** (Vice Chair of the Board), elected by the Conference in 2022

**Prof. Jyrki Kangas**, elected by the Conference in 2023

**Prof. Felipe Bravo**, elected by the Conference in 2024

**Prof. Verena Griess**, elected by the Council in 2022

**Maggie Charnley**, elected by the Council in 2023

**Prof. Róbert Marušák**, elected by the Council in 2023

**Prof. Dr. Elena Paoletti**, elected by the Council in 2023



*Board members during their spring 2024 meeting in Joensuu, Finland.*

## Scientific Advisory Board

The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) of EFI was established to contribute to the research and policy support activities of EFI. Its work includes anticipating future research needs, stimulating research and study initiatives, and supporting EFI network instruments for regional or thematic interaction with the Associate and Affiliate Members. The SAB reports on its activities to the EFI Board. Throughout 2024, the SAB convened six times: one face-to-face meeting, three virtual meetings, and two written procedures. The primary topics discussed were strengthening engagement of EFI members, and developing the EFI Strategy 2040 and the EFI Research Strategy for 2026-2030.

### SAB members in 2024:

**Prof. Dr. Bart Muys** (Chair)

**Prof. Tatiana Kluvankova** (Vice-Chair)

**Prof. Dr. Gherardo Chirici**

**Dr. Silvano Fares**

**Dr. Hervé Jactel**

**Prof. Dr. Maarit Kallio**

**Prof. Dr. Georg Winkel**

## Management

The Director of EFI is responsible for the overall leadership and strategic development of the Institute. In 2024, Dr. Robert Mavsar was appointed.



Johanna Kakkola

**Dr. Robert Mavsar**  
Director

The Management Team provides the Director with advice on matters concerning the management of EFI, and includes the assistant director and heads of units. In 2024, the Management Team had the following members:



Johanna Kakkola

**Dr. Helga Pülzl,**  
Assistant Director for  
policy support



**Dr. Diana Tuomasjukka,**  
Head of  
Bioeconomy Programme



**Dr. Bernhard Wolfslehner,**  
Head of  
Governance Programme



**Dr. Marcus Lindner,**  
Head of  
Resilience Programme



**Dr. Michele Bozzano,**  
Head of Mediterranean and  
Head of Genetics Resources Facilities



**Dr. Giuseppe Scarascia Mugnozza,**  
Head of  
Biocities Facility



KaTo Photo

**Valerie Merckx,**  
Head of International  
Partnerships Facility



**Rach Colling,**  
Head of  
Communications



**Andrew Male,**  
Head of  
Administration



**Mark Pilbeam,**  
Head of  
Finance

## List of Associate and Affiliate Members

December 2024

### Andorra

- Andorra Research and Innovation

### Austria

- Federal Research and Training Centre for Forests, Natural Hazards and Landscape
- University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), Department of Forest and Soil Sciences

### Belgium

- K.U. Leuven, Division Forest, Nature & Landscape
- Research Institute for Nature and Forest

### Bosnia and Herzegovina

- University of Sarajevo, Faculty of Forestry

### Bulgaria

- University of Forestry

### Canada

- Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service\*

### Chile

- Celulosa Arauco Y Constitucion S.A.\*

### Croatia

- Croatian Forest Research Institute
- University of Zagreb, Faculty of Forestry

### Czech Republic

- Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, Faculty of Forestry and Wood Sciences
- Faculty of Forestry and Wood Technology of the Mendel University in Brno
- Forestry and Game Management Research Institute

### Denmark

- Forest & Landscape, University of Copenhagen

### Estonia

- Estonian University of Life Sciences

### Finland

- Business Joensuu Oy
- Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners (MTK)
- Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE)
- Karelia University of Applied Sciences
- Metsähallitus
- Metsämiesten Säätiö Foundation
- Metsäteho Oy – R&D operations in forestry
- Natural Resources Institute Finland (LUKE)
- Pellervon taloustutkimus PTT ry
- Stora Enso Wood Supply
- Tapio Oy
- University of Eastern Finland
- University of Helsinki, Department of Forest Sciences
- UPM- Kymmene Corporation
- VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland Ltd

### France

- AgroParisTech – ENGREF, The Nancy Centre
- ECOFOR
- French Institute of Technology for forest based and furniture sectors – FCBA
- INRAE
- Institut Européen de la Forêt cultivée (IEFC)
- Office National des Forêts (ONF)
- Reforest'Action
- Université de Lorraine

### Georgia

- Georgian Technical University\*

### Germany

- Forestry and Timber North Rhine-Westphalia
- Center of Forestry Weihenstephan
- Department of Forest Sciences, Dresden University of Technology
- Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development, Faculty of Forest and Environment
- Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute, Federal Research Institute of Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries,
- Forest Research Institute of Baden-Württemberg
- Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research
- University of Freiburg, Faculty of Environment and Natural Resources
- University of Göttingen, Faculty of Forest Sciences and Forest Ecology

### Greece

- Hellenic Agriculture Organization DIMITRA

### Hungary

- University of Sopron

### Iceland

- Land and Forest Iceland

### Israel

- Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael – Jewish National Fund (KKL-JNF) \*

### Italy

- Council for Agricultural Research and Economics - Research Centre for Forestry and Wood (CREA-FL)
- Department of Agriculture, Forest, Food Sciences (DISAFA), University of Turin
- Department for Innovation in Biological, Agro-food and Forest systems of University of Tuscia
- Department of Land, Environment, Agriculture and Forestry (LEAF), University of Padova
- Etifor srl
- Italian Society of Silviculture and Forest Ecology (SISEF)
- National Research Council of Italy (CNR) Rome
- University of Florence – Department of Agriculture, Food, Environment and Forestry
- University of Molise

**Latvia**

- Latvian State Forest Research Institute “Silava”

**Lithuania**

- Agriculture Academy of Vytautas Magnus University
- Institute of Forestry, Lithuanian Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry

**Mexico**

- Chapingo Autonomous University - Forestry Sciences Division\*

**The Netherlands**

- Wageningen Environmental Research
- Wageningen University, Forestry groups

**Norway**

- Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO)
- Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Department of Ecology and Natural Resource Management

**People’s Republic of China**

- Nanjing Forestry University\*

**Poland**

- Forest Research Institute (IBL)
- Polish Academy of Sciences
- University of Agriculture in Krakow, Faculty of Forestry
- Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW), Faculty of Forestry
- Łukasiewicz Poznan Institute of Technology

**Portugal**

- Instituto Superior de Agronomia (ISA), Department of Forestry
- RAIZ – Forest and Paper Research Institute

**Romania**

- Foundation Conservation Carpathia
- National Institute for Research and Development in Forestry “Marin Dracea”
- Transilvania University of Brasov – Faculty of Silviculture and Forest Engineering
- Unversitatea Ștefan cel Mare din Suceava

**Serbia**

- Institute of Forestry
- Institute of Lowland Forestry and Environment
- University of Belgrade – Faculty of Forestry

**Slovak Republic**

- National Forest Centre – FRI Zvolen
- Technical University in Zvolen

**Slovenia**

- InnoRenew CoE
- Slovenian Forestry Institute
- University of Ljubljana, Department of Forestry

**Spain**

- Colegio Oficial de Ingenieros de Montes
- CREAM – Centre for Ecological Research and Forestry Applications
- Institute of Forest Science (ICIFOR), INIA -CSIC
- Forest Sciences Center of Catalonia (CTFC)

- Fundación Centro de Servicios y Promoción Forestal y de su Industria de Castilla y León (CESEFOR)
- Institute of Advanced Architecture of Catalonia (IAAC)
- NEIKER
- University of Santiago de Compostela. GI Sistemas Silvopastorales
- University of Valladolid, School of Agriculture, Food Technology and Forestry

**Sweden**

- Federation of Forest Owners
- Holmen Skog AB
- Linnaeus University
- Skogforsk – The Forestry Research Institute of Sweden
- Sveaskog
- Swedish Forest Agency
- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Faculty of Forestry
- The Marcus Wallenberg Foundation

**Switzerland**

- ETH Zürich, Institute for Terrestrial Ecosystems ITES
- School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences, Bern University of Applied Sciences
- Swiss Federal Institute for Forest, Snow and Landscape Research WSL

**Turkey**

- Istanbul University, Cerahpasa, Faculty of Forestry
- Poplar and Fast Growing Forest Trees Research Institute

**Ukraine**

- National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine
- Ukrainian National Forestry University

**United Kingdom**

- Bangor University
- Forestry Commission, Forest Research
- The James Hutton Institute
- Woodbois Ltd., Guernsey \*\*

**USA**

- University of Georgia, Center for Forest Business\*

**International bodies**

- European State Forest Association (EUSTAFOR)
- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
- International Forestry Students’ Association (IFSA)
- Nordic Forest Research Co-operation Committee (SNS)
- The Union of Southern European Forest Owners (USSE)

125 member organisations in 39 countries

\*Affiliate Members

\*\* Guernsey is a British Crown dependency

# Working at EFI



As a knowledge-driven organization, staff are EFI's primary asset. EFI is therefore dedicated to cultivating a work environment that both attracts and retains top talent. We consistently invest in fostering

an inclusive workplace ecosystem that enables staff to advance their careers while maintaining a healthy work-life balance.

## EFI staff in numbers

# 156

As of 31.12.24, EFI had 156 staff, which represents a slight decrease of 2% when compared to 2023. Researchers and experts are 61% of the total staff.

# 55%

The share of women employed at EFI continues to be above 50%.

# 43

nationalities were represented across EFI's staff, highlighting the continued international character of the organisation.

# 43

was the average age of EFI's staff.

### Digitalisation for a smarter EFI

In 2024, EFI advanced the digitalisation of its internal operations, with improvements introduced across several key areas. As a distributed organisation, these developments were particularly important for strengthening coherence and connectivity across teams and locations. New digital tools were adopted to support people-related processes, streamline access to institutional information, and improve internal communication and collaboration. Enhancements were also made in financial planning and monitoring systems, enabling more informed and efficient decision-making. Together, these changes contribute to a more agile and responsive organisation.

### Fostering a more engaged and inclusive workplace

In 2024, EFI strengthened staff engagement across the organisation. New formats were introduced to encourage participation in planning, idea generation, and identifying future opportunities and challenges. Regular dialogue between staff representatives and EFI's Director helped address emerging issues and support a more inclusive working culture. Staff also contributed actively to the development of EFI Strategy 2040.



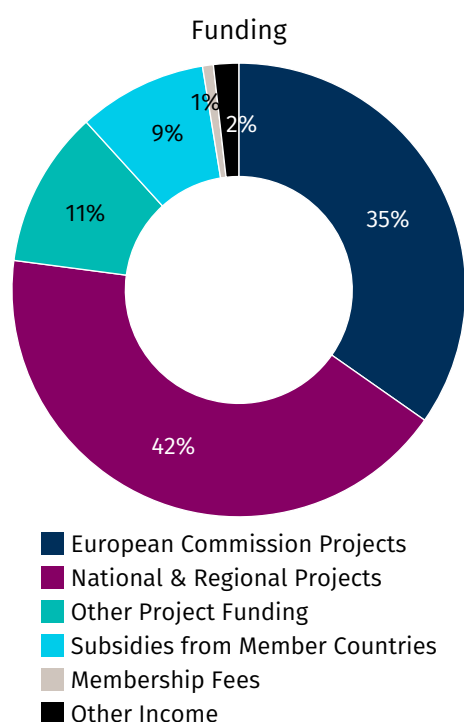
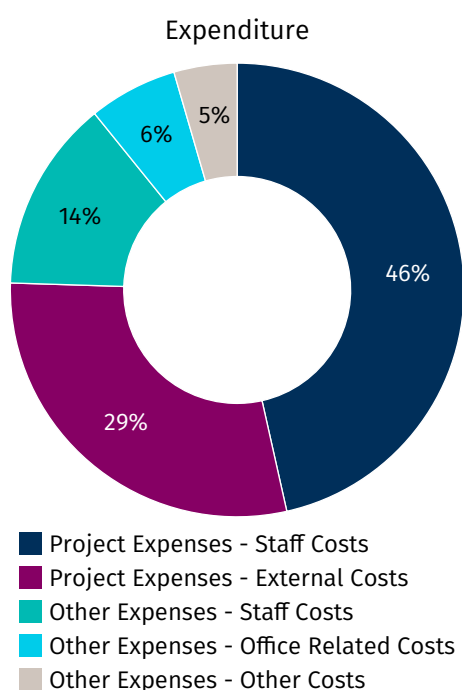
# Financial performance

The funding for 2024 was €29.9 million. The majority (89%) of EFI's funding was for project related activities – dedicated to research and policy support activities.

Of EFI's total funding, 42% came from *National & Regional* funded projects – related to both research and policy support activities directly supporting Member Countries, as well as supporting national goals regarding sustainable development in partner countries. 35% of EFI's funding came from the *European*

*Commission*, in both competitive calls such as Horizon Europe, and directed funds in relation to the European Union's goals for sustainable development in partner countries. *Other Project Funding* also comes from other international organisations, businesses and other sources.

*Subsidies from Member Countries* were provided by some of the countries that host an EFI office – Finland, Germany, Italy, and Spain.



|                                       | 2024              | 2023              |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                         |                   |                   |
| Project Funding                       | 26,592,371        | 17,209,209        |
| Subsidies from Member Countries       | 2,740,000         | 3,073,333         |
| Other Income                          | 535,458           | 405,769           |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME</b>                   | <b>29,867,829</b> | <b>20,688,311</b> |
| <b>EXPENDITURES</b>                   |                   |                   |
| Project Expenses - Staff Costs        | 10,658,676        | 9,481,753         |
| Project Expenses - External Costs     | 13,564,094        | 5,915,892         |
| Other Expenses - Staff Costs          | 2,654,941         | 2,791,745         |
| Other Expenses - Office Related Costs | 1,496,329         | 1,330,081         |
| Other Expenses - Other Costs          | 533,559           | 917,393           |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>              | <b>28,907,599</b> | <b>20,436,865</b> |
| <b>NET</b>                            |                   |                   |
| <i>Financial result</i>               | 960,230           | 251,446           |

## Annex: Projects 2024

### **AF4EU – Agroforestry Business Model Innovation Network**

EFI'S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2023–2025

### **BAIFOR – Barriers to Investment in forests, forestry and forest-based industries**

EFI'S ROLE: CONSULTANT | 2023–2024

### **BIOCONSENT – Entscheidungshilfen für Politik und Praxis zur Erhaltung und Wiederherstellung der biologischen Vielfalt der Wälder, Szenarien für Politik und Praxis**

EFI'S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2022–2025

### **Bioregions Facility**

EFI'S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2019–

### **Boost4Bioeast – BOOSTing the bioeconomy transformation FOR (4) the BIOEAST region**

EFI'S ROLE: PARTNER | 2024–2026

### **CA LEDS – Central Asia Low Carbon Emission Development Strategies**

EFI'S ROLE: SUBCONTRACTOR | 2023–2025

### **CAP-FIRE – Capacity building in Croatia, the Czech Republic, Saxony (Germany) and Slovenia for Wildfire Prevention and Risk Assessment**

EFI'S ROLE: CONSULTANT | 2024–2025

### **CBA – Circular Bioeconomy Alliance Trust Fund**

EFI'S ROLE: COORDINATOR | 2020–2024

### **CIRCHIVE – Developing & piloting biodiversity footprinting & natural capital accounting via a 'beehive' of sectoral hubs, for sustainable transition to a circular EU bioeconomy**

EFI'S ROLE: Partner | 2022–2027

### **CIV-Cocoa – Appui à l'Initiative Team Europe pour une cacaoculture durable et une bonne gouvernance forestière en Côte d'Ivoire**

EFI'S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2022–2025

### **CLEARINGHOUSE – Collaborative Learning in Research, Information-sharing and Governance on How Urban tree-based solutions support Sino-European urban futures**

EFI'S ROLE: COORDINATOR | 2019–2024

### **CLEVER – Creating leverage to enhance biodiversity outcomes of global biomass trade**

EFI'S ROLE: PARTNER | 2022–2025

### **Deer Observer**

EFI'S ROLE: COORDINATOR | 2023–2027

### **DETECT-EFI - Support to project SFB1502**

EFI'S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2022–2026

### **Developing agroforestry-based cotton in Italy – a sustainable path for fashion in Italy**

EFI'S ROLE: COORDINATOR | 2023–2027

### **DIBA 2021 Cooperation**

EFI'S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2021–2024

### **DIBA FIRE 2024**

EFI'S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2024

### **DIGITAF – Digital tools to help agroforestry meet climate, biodiversity and farming sustainability goals: linking field and cloud**

EFI'S ROLE: PARTNER | 2022–2026

### **eco2adapt – Ecosystem-based adaptation and changemaking to shape, protect and maintain the resilience of tomorrow's forests**

EFI'S ROLE: COORDINATOR | 2022–2027

### **EFI 30th Anniversary activities**

EFI'S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2023–2024

### **EFI Design - The provision of analysis, studies and convening of stakeholders, in support of FCDO's design of Phase 2 of the Forest Governance, Markets and Climate programme (FGMC2)**

EFI'S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2023–2024

### **EFITAP – EFI Rapid response Technical Assistance Projects**

EFI'S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2019–2024

### **EU wood policy study – Translating and updating the study on EU wood policy related policies and instruments**

EFI'S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2024–2025

### **EUDR FRANCE – Facilitation support for EUDR implementation**

EFI'S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2024–2025

### **EU-FARMBOOK: Supporting Knowledge exchange between all AKIS actors in the European Union**

EFI'S ROLE: PARTNER | 2022–2029

### **EUFOR – European Forest Research and Innovation Ecosystem**

EFI'S ROLE: COORDINATOR | 2022–2026

### **EUFORGEN – European Forest Genetic Resources Programme**

EFI'S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2018–

### **EVOLTREE– EVOLution of TREEs as drivers for terrestrial biodiversity**

EFI'S ROLE: SECRETARIAT | 2011–

### **FAO Colombia – Contribución a la construcción y desarrollo de la estrategia de sostenibilidad financiera de HeCo incluyendo instrumentos económicos, fiscales y de mercado, para brindar sostenibilidad a las iniciativas que se desarrollen en los paisajes Andes y Caribe**

EFI'S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2022–2024

### **FCM2 – Forest Carbon Monitoring Project**

EFI'S ROLE: SUBCONTRACTOR | 2024–2026

**FEFR – Support Research on Forest Bioeconomy Markets**

EFI'S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2021–2024

**FIRE-RES – Innovative technologies & socio-ecological-economic solutions for fire resilient territories in Europe**

EFI'S ROLE: PARTNER | 2021–2025

**FISE2 – Content support to Forest Information System for Europe (FISE) with respect to support to forest-related EU policies under the EU Green Deal**

EFI'S ROLE: SUBCONTRACTOR | 2022–2025

**FLEGT ASEAN – Regional-ASEAN Forest Governance support programme (FLEGT Asia)**

EFI'S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2020–2024

**FOODLEVERS – Leverage points for organic and sustainable food systems**

EFI'S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2020–2024

**Forest Europe (multi-donor trust fund)**

EFI'S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2021–2024

**FOREST4EU – European innovation partnership network promoting operational groups dedicated to forestry and agroforestry**

EFI'S ROLE: PARTNER | 2023–2025

**ForestPaths – Co-designing Holistic Forest-Based Policy Pathways for Climate Change Mitigation**

EFI'S ROLE: COORDINATOR | 2022–2027

**FOREXT – European Network of Forest Extension Organisations**

EFI'S ROLE: SECRETARIAT | 2022–2026

**Forgenius – Improving access to FORest GENetic resources Information and services for end-Users**

EFI'S ROLE: PARTNER | 2021–2025

**FORWARDS – The Forestward Observatory to secure resilience of European forests**

EFI'S ROLE: PARTNER | 2022–2027

**Geo-hydrological hazard – Assessment of land use/cover in contrasting geo-hydrological hazard. It's a research project engaged by La Sapienza University.**

EFI'S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2024–2025

**GIZ cocoa Cameroon - Support to sustainable cocoa in West Africa and in Cameroon**

EFI'S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2023–2024

**GIZ EU DR Laos – Sustainability and Value Added in Agricultural Supply Chains**

EFI'S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2024–2025

**GPSNR Vietnam and Malaysia – Description of laws and regulations relevant to rubber smallholders in Malaysia and Vietnam**

EFI'S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2024

**HoliSoils – Holistic management practices, modelling & monitoring for European forest Soils**

EFI'S ROLE: PARTNER | 2021–2025

**IMFN-IMFN GOVERNANCE FY2024/25 – NORTHERN EUROPE MODEL FOREST NETWORK**

EFI'S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2024–2026

**INFORMA – Science-based Integrated Forest Mitigation Management made operational for Europe**

EFI'S ROLE: PARTNER | 2021–2025

**Integrate Network MDTF**

EFI'S ROLE: COORDINATOR | 2022–

**INTERCEDE – Capturing market trends and societal perceptions for tailor-made forest services**

EFI'S ROLE: PARTNER | 2024–2028

**KAMI – Sustainability of Malaysian and Indonesian palm oil**

EFI'S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2020–2024

**Koli Forum Secretariat**

EFI'S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2022–2024

**LEARNFORCLIMATE – Learning to realize multiple forest policy objectives under climate related stress and disturbance**

EFI'S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2024–2025

**LIFE SPAN – Saproxylc Habitat Network: planning and management for European forests**

EFI'S ROLE: PARTNER | 2020–2026

**Lookout Station**

EFI'S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2017–

**Mediterranean Forest Week, 8th**

EFI'S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2024

**MeghaDiversity – Systematically monitoring biodiversity impacts of the Meghalaya Restoration and Sustainable Livelihoods Project**

EFI'S ROLE: COORDINATOR | 2023–2027

**MoniFun – Co-creating a blueprint of a harmonised European Forest Multifunctionality Monitoring System**

EFI'S ROLE: PARTNER | 2024–2027

**NATGEO MED Entangled destiny: trees and people of the Mediterranean**

EFI'S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2023–2025

**Natura Sud Est. Cameroon – Gouvernance territoriale et coordination**

EFI'S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2024–2029

**New UK MoU – Contribution to work on improved governance of forests and forest lands in tropical forest countries**

EFI'S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2024–2025

**NRI Liberia Cocoa**

EFI'S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2024

**OptFORESTS – Harnessing forest genetic resources for increasing options in the face of environmental and societal challenge**

EFI'S ROLE: PARTNER | 2022–2027

**PASSAD – Programme d’Appui aux Systèmes Sylvicole et Agroalimentaire Durable (PASSAD) - Renforcement de la gestion durable et inclusive des ressources sylvicoles de Côte d’Ivoire**

EFI’S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2024–2029

**PEFC Assessment**

EFI’S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2023–2026

**PROFORPES - Promoting effective forest PES through the EU financial and state aid programs**

EFI’S ROLE: PARTNER | 2023–2025

**PRUDENT – Promoting Green Nudging for Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry**

EFI’S ROLE: PARTNER | 2024–2028

**ResAlliance – Landscape resilience knowledge alliance for agriculture and forestry in the Mediterranean basin**

EFI’S ROLE: COORDINATOR | 2022–2025

**RESONATE – Resilient forest value chains – enhancing resilience through natural and socio-economic responses**

EFI’S ROLE: COORDINATOR | 2021–2025

**RestCoffee – Coffee agroforestry and nature restoration plan for Regeneration**

EFI’S ROLE: COORDINATOR | 2024

**Restore China**

EFI’S ROLE: COORDINATOR | 2023–2024

**Sci4FE – Support for Forest Europe**

EFI’S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2021–2024

**SOILL – Startup of the Support Structure for SOIL Living Labs**

EFI’S ROLE: PARTNER | 2024–2025

**SUPERB – Systemic solutions for upscaling of urgent ecosystem restoration for forest related biodiversity and ecosystem services**

EFI’S ROLE: COORDINATOR | 2021–2025

**Sustainable Forest and Cocoa (Ghana)**

EFI’S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2024–2028

**Technical Facility on Deforestation-free Value Chains**

EFI’S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2024–2027

**TMUG – ToSIA Management and User Group**

EFI’S ROLE: COORDINATOR | 2010–2025

**TRANSFORMIT – Transforming Forest Management for multiple ecosystem services and nature conservation via the Integrative approach**

EFI’S ROLE: COORDINATOR | 2024–2027

**UGPplus – Enhancing Urban Greening Plans to Mainstream Biodiversity in Society**

EFI’S ROLE: PARTNER | 2024–2026

**UNDP DRC – Renforcement des capacités du GTCRR pour le suivi des jaoins et investissement REDD+ en République Democratique du Congo**

EFI’S ROLE: PARTNER | 2023–2024

**UNDP RoC – Projet préparatoire au programme d’appui à l’engagement de la société civile dans la mise en œuvre et le suivi des engagements de la lettre d’intention.**

EFI’S ROLE: PARTNER | 2023–2024

**UNDP Vietnam – Integrated sustainable landscape management through deforestation-free jurisdiction project in Lam Dong and Dak Nong Vietnam**

EFI’S ROLE: PARTNER | 2022–2024

**URBANA – Development and verification of urban analytics**

EFI’S ROLE: SUBCONTRACTOR | 2024–2025

**VPA Africa-Latin America Facility**

EFI’S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2019–2024

**West Africa Cocoa – EFI support to the EU Flagship Initiative on Sustainable Cocoa, in Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana and Cameroon**

EFI’S ROLE: SOLE PARTNER | 2021–2024

**wildE - Climate-smart rewilding: ecological restoration for climate change mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity support in Europe**

EFI’S ROLE: PARTNER | 2023–2026

**YLP – Young Leadership Programme**

EFI’S ROLE: COORDINATOR | 2022–2024

## Annex 2: Publications 2024

### EFI series

Chiti, T., Rey, A., Abildtrup, J., Böttcher, H., Diaci, J., Frings, O., Lehtonen, A., Schindlbacher, A., Zavala, M.A. 2024. Carbon farming in the European forestry sector. From Science to Policy 17. European Forest Institute. <https://doi.org/10.36333/fs17>

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Chiti, T., Rey, A., Abildtrup, J., Böttcher, H., Diaci, J., Frings, O., Lehtonen, A., Schindlbacher, A., Zavala, M. A. 2024. How can carbon farming in forests contribute to carbon neutrality? Policy Brief 10. European Forest Institute. <https://doi.org/10.36333/pb10>

Chiti, T., Rey, A., Abildtrup, J., Böttcher, H., Diaci, J., Frings, O., Lehtonen, A., Schindlbacher, A., Zavala, M. A. 2024. Come può il carbon farming nel settore forestale contribuire alla neutralità carbonica? Policy Brief 10. Istituto Forestale Europeo. <https://doi.org/10.36333/pb10it>

van den Bosch, M. Combating health problems with urban forests? Policy Brief 9. European Forest Institute. <https://doi.org/10.36333/pb9>

van den Bosch M. Combattere problemi di salute con le foreste urbane, Policy Brief 9. European Forest Institute. <https://doi.org/10.36333/pb9it>

Wunder, S. How can we make Payments for Environmental Services work? Policy Brief 8. European Forest Institute. <https://doi.org/10.36333/pb8>

### Peer-reviewed journal articles

Antoniella, G., Kumar, A., Chiarabaglio, P. M., **Scarascia Mugnozza, G.**, Chiti, T. Do poplar plantations enhance organic carbon stocks in arable soils? A comprehensive study from Northern Italy. *Journal of Environmental Management*, 370, 122882. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvman.2024.122882>

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Barbero-Palacios, L., Barrio, I.C., García Criado, M., Kater, I., Petit Bon, M., Kolari, T.H.M., Björkås, R., Trepel, J., Lundgren, E., Björnsdóttir, K., Hwang, B.C., Bartra-Cabrè, L., Defourneaux, M., Ramsay, J., Lameris, T.K., Leffler, A.J., Lock, J.G., Kuoppamaa, M.S., Kristensen, J.A., Bjorkman, A.D., Myers-Smith, I., Lecomte, N., Axmacher, J.C., Gilg, O., **den Herder, M.**, Pagneux, E.P., Skarin, A., Sokolova, N., Windirsch, T., Wheeler, H.C., Serrano, E., Virtanen, T., Hik, D.S., Kaarlejärvi, E., Speed, J.D.M., Soininen, E.M. Herbivore diversity effects on Arctic tundra ecosystems: a systematic review. *Environmental Evidence* 13, 6. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13750-024-00330-9>

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Bozzolan, N., Mohren, F., Grassi, G., Schelhaas, M.-J., Staritsky, I., Stern, T., Peltoniemi, M., Šebeň, V., **Hasegawa, M., Verkerk, P. J.**, Patacca, M., Jansons, A., Jankovský, M., Palátová, P., Blauth, H., McInerney, D., Oldenburger, J., Jåstad, E. O., Kubista, J., Antón-Fernández, C., Nabuurs, G.-J. Preliminary evidence of softwood shortage and hardwood availability in EU regions: A spatial analysis using the European Forest Industry Database. *Forest Policy and Economics*, 169, 103358. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.forpol.2024.103358>

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- Dunlop, T., Khojasteh, D., Cohen-Shacham, E., Glamore, W., Haghani, M., **van den Bosch, M.**, Rizzi, D., Greve, P., Felder, S. The evolution and future of research on Nature-based Solutions to address societal challenges. *Communications Earth and Environment*, 5(1). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s43247-024-01308-8>
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Yliopistokatu 6B  
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