





Connecting knowledge to action

19 February 2019

To the Members and member organisations of EFI

Connect with us:    

Dear Colleagues,

First of all, let me thank you for your participation in the survey regarding EFI cooperation with China. The survey has been very helpful to map the cooperation of EFI member organizations with Chinese forest research institutions. In total, 30 member organizations responded to the survey of which 17 (55%) have ongoing cooperation with Chinese institutions, while 6 (20%) member organizations are planning to do so in the near future. The most frequently selected collaboration theme was resilience (including forest management and climate change) and the main purpose of the collaboration was developing joint research and networking activities. We will present the survey results as well as discuss our future cooperation with China during our Annual Conference in Aberdeen, UK on 18 - 20 September 2019, organised together with the James Hutton Institute.

I would also like to request your feedback about another important matter for the future of our Network, as discussed in our last Annual Conference in Sardinia: the EFI membership fees for Associate and Affiliate members.

As you know, in 2017 the Annual Conference decided that the total amount of membership fees was to be allocated to finance our new funding mechanism: the **EFI Network Fund**. This provides funding for our member organizations to conduct joint research, networking and capacity building activities, focusing on EFI's three strategic themes: bioeconomy, resilience and governance. The first call (opened in 2017) was a big success and resulted in the funding of **five projects, bringing together 37 EFI Associate Members from 19 countries** (more information: [here](#)).

It is expected that this fund will be of increasing importance in future, due to the fact that fewer instruments are available under the European research framework programmes (e.g., COST or explicitly forest research funding) to support transnational forest research networking. Developing a strong EFI Network Fund seems to be a good approach to strategically self-organise within the EFI network, and ensure funding for European forest research networking. In view of this, we would like to receive your feedback about the EFI Network Fund as well as the level of EFI membership fees it requires. Please [answer the survey](#).

Wishing you a colourful spring,

Marc Palahi