





Connecting knowledge to action

22 September 2020

To the Members and member organisations of EFI

Connect with us:    

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are having a colourful and energising autumn. It is a busy time for us here at EFI, with many new activities planned, and of course, our virtual Annual Conference on 13 October – I am looking forward to being with you then!

In September, our Member Countries had the chance to meet, when the 6th Ordinary Session of the EFI Council took place virtually for the first time. Representatives from 18 of our 29 Member Countries discussed the exciting developments which have taken place at EFI over the last three-year period, in order to implement the EFI2025 Strategy. These include the development of the EFI organizational ecosystem, to include three Research Programmes (Bioeconomy, Resilience and Governance), five Facilities and two Research Networks. The Council approved the new policy framework for EFI for the next three-year period. The new framework acknowledges the important role of EFI in increasing awareness in society on the role of forests and forest ecosystems and also the importance of EFI in building bridges between Europe and other continents.

I am also happy to announce that Italy was chosen as the new Chair of the Council for 2020-2023, and that **Alenka Korenjak** (Slovenia) was elected as a new EFI Board member by the EFI Council! Ms Korenjak works in the Forestry and Hunting Directorate of the Slovenian Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food.

The Council meeting was also the last of **Knut Øistad** as Chair of the EFI Board. I would like to thank Knut for his enormous contribution, commitment and support. This meant that the Board needed a new chair, and Prof **Marco Marchetti** (Italy) has been elected to this position. I look forward to working with him over the coming years!

Finally, I would like to welcome three new member organisations to our network:

- University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, Poland
- Faculty of Forestry, University of Agriculture in Krakow, Poland
- Université de Lorraine, France

We now have more than 130 member organisations from 40 countries – a diverse and inspiring network!

With my warmest regards,
Marc