



EUROPEAN FOREST INSTITUTE

---

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

---







Risto Päivinen



Konstantin von Teuffel

## OVERVIEW

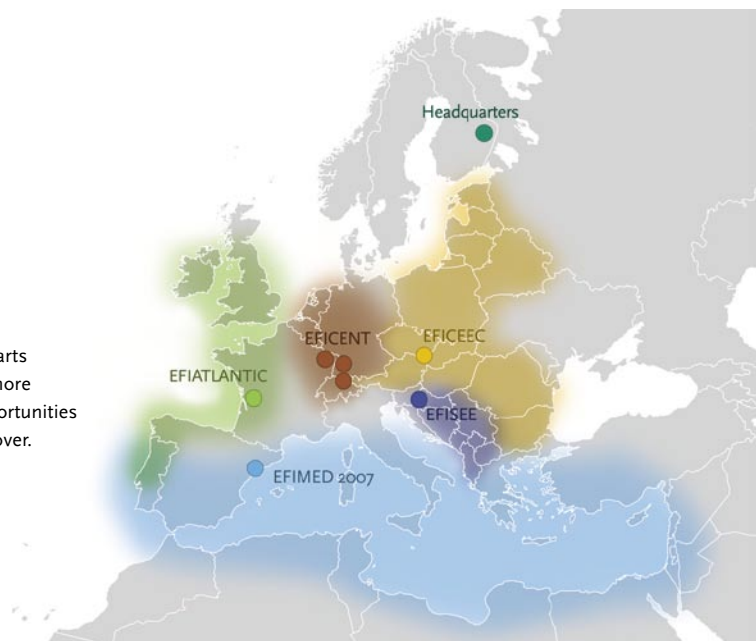
EFI's 15<sup>th</sup> year in existence represented a significant milestone in the Institute's development. Following the EFI Council decision on the new policy framework, our organisational members voted for the establishment of four new Regional Offices located across Europe. This decision is a sign of EFI's robust growth, and also sets us new challenges for the future.

These Regional Offices have a great potential for bringing together forest research resources at the European level, and for moving EFI closer to its Country Members and Associate Member institutions. This development will also help us to address supranational policy-relevant research issues proactively and dynamically. The enthusiastic support for their establishment particularly became evident when the parties proposing the establishment of Regional Offices spent nearly a week at the EFI Headquarters in June. The coordinating role of the EFI Headquarters in this development is of paramount importance.

All this would not be possible without the commitment of our Associate Members and Country Members. The fact that our Associate Members were so active in proposing these offices is a very positive sign, and we wish to thank them for their commitment in the development of EFI.

We also wish to thank our most important resource, our personnel, for their professionalism and dedication to their work. Everyone at EFI will play a key role in seeing these changes successfully through.

EFI's Regional Offices are integral parts of EFI organisation and they bring more visibility for forest research and opportunities for networking in the regions they cover.



## IN 2008

- The EFI Member Countries met at the Council meeting and adopted a new Policy Framework for EFI
- EFI's Annual Conference resolved to establish four more Regional Offices across Europe, with support from the EFI Council.
- Research and Development activities increased and new projects were gained successfully. One of the growing fields was FLEGT Support team which grew into 'EU FLEGT Facility' hosted and managed by EFI

## IN 2009

- Four new Regional Offices will start their activities.
- EFI's budget has grown by 30%.
- EFI's personnel will also grow by 30%.
- Annual Conference to be held in Dublin, Ireland, focuses on regional networking and its scientific seminar is entitled Forest Ecosystem Management in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.



EFI Board: Jim Lynch OBE, Harald Mauser, Liisa Saarenmaa, Birger Solberg, Konstantin von Teuffel, Miroslav Benko, José Antonio Bonet Lledos, (Not in the picture): Andrey Selikhovkin



The Scientific Advisory Board: Emil Cienciala, Hubert Hasenauer, Eeva Hellström, Jean-Luc Peyron, Americo Carvalho Mendes, E.P. Farrell, Victor Teplyakov, (Not in the picture): Antoine Kremer, Michael Köhl, Leena Paavilainen



Representatives from the 17 European countries that have ratified the EFI Convention met at the EFI Council meeting in Spain in May.



Project Centres: Jasper Schipperijn (EUFORIC), Francisco Moreira (PHOENIX), Inazio Martinez de Arano (IEFC), Stuart Dedrick (CONFOREST), Olga Shaytarova (PROCES), Christophe Orazio (IEFC), Ewald Rametsteiner (INNOFORCE)



## ADVOCACY

**EFI aims to keep forest research on the agendas of decision-makers, to ensure that society can benefit from unbiased research findings. Research findings need to be consulted whenever long-term decisions are taken, and our network can provide relevant information covering all aspects of forestry throughout Europe, from forest fires in the Mediterranean to the sustainability of operations in boreal forests.**

In 2008, EFI participated in the first European Forest Week, which was organized jointly by the FAO, the UN Economic Commission for Europe, the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe and the European Commission. The European Forest Week aimed to increase the visibility of forests and the forest sector, and to raise awareness of their importance. EFI contributed towards this goal by organizing a Forest and Wood exhibition in Brussels together with the Confederation of European Forest Owners (CEPF), State Forests of Europe (EUSTAFOR), Scandinavian Forest Owners, the European Confederation of wood-working industries (CEI-Bois), the Federation of European Municipality Forests (FECOF) and European farmers and European agricultural co-operatives (COPA\*COGECA). The exhibition attracted nearly 2,000 visitors, mostly from

outside forestry, giving them a chance to learn about the significance of Europe's forests.

EFI has an official role of observer in the process of the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe (MCPFE). We prepare statements together with the forest research community and comment on the work programme of the MCPFE. In 2008, EFI participated in the Expert Level Meetings of MCPFE and also contributed to the Pan-European input to the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF8), which will convene in 2009.

Another major forum where EFI has a direct influence on decision making processes is the European Commission Advisory Group on Forestry and Cork. We ensure that everyone in our network is aware of the issues to be covered in these meetings, and consult them for their views and proposals on a regular basis.

EFI's Regional Offices widely advocate for forest research in different regions of Europe. In the Mediterranean region, EFIMED initiated the development of a Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda which describes the main forestry research priorities for the region in the period 2009–2020. The European Forest-Based Sector Technology Platform (FTP) has provided the framework for the Mediterranean forest research community to develop this agenda.



Risto Päivinen (second from left) and Filip de Jaeger (right) of CEI-Bois at the European Forest Week event in Brussels.



Jan Fryk, Niels Elers Koch, Birger Solberg



The EFI's Annual Conference in Orvieto, Italy, attracted a record number of participants.



Diana Vuletic, Tibor Littvay, Miroslav Benko, Inazio Martinez, Marc Palahí, Ewald Rametsteiner, Andreas Schuck and Christophe Orazio



Front row: Tommi Suominen, Marja Kolström, Taru Palosuo, Diana Vötter;  
Back row: Marcus Lindner, Hans Verkerk, Vadim Goltsev



Jo van Brusselen, Katja Tröltzsch, Tim Green, Elena Zudina, Sergey Zudin

## NETWORKING

Networking is an integral part of all EFI activities, and one of our four core strategic functions. In 2008, the core network of EFI was strengthened by activities designed to work towards the establishment of the new Regional Offices. Our Project Centres and Associate Members have resolutely worked to realise this opportunity to initiate the new Regional Offices as gateways to guarantee the stronger presence of forest research around Europe.

EFI's Associate and Affiliate Member organisations represent a huge research capacity. Mobilizing this resource for the benefit of European forest research sector is a vital mission for us. This work continues every day in many areas. Research consortia are formed by active member organisations, and fruitful events such as the

annual conference are effectively organized. Through active involvement in the Forest-Based Sector Technology Platform (FTP), EFI is helping its network members to identify valuable new partnerships.

Our Project Centres have always been significant nodes within our network. The first EFI Project Centres will reach the end of their period of activity at the end of 2009. Their vitality remains evident – and indeed some of them are evolving into Regional Offices, thus becoming integral parts of the Institute. At the same time, the concept of Project Centres – thematic networks under EFI's umbrella – is still very attractive, and new Project Centres are already envisaged.

One major goal of our new Regional Offices is to strengthen forest research networking in their respective regions.





Mercedes Rois and Sabaheta Ramcilovic



Minna Korhonen, Jarkko Heikkinen and Petri Hukka



Mari Lepikkö, Anu Ruusila, Satu Ikonen-Williams, Henna Snellman



EFI News and Policy Briefs offer insight into current issues in forest research and beyond.



## INFORMATION

**Research findings and comprehensive statistical information deserve to be disseminated effectively to a wide range of stake holders. One important element of EFI's mission is to publish findings, offer web-based information services and databanks, and organise events that will spread important information.**

EFI publications now target both researchers and policy-makers. Our Policy Briefs in 2008 aimed to support the Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan. A Review of Existing European Forest Sector Foresight Studies was published as an EFI Technical Report and thus paving the way for future EFI foresight studies.

We have continued to develop our electronic tools, including the Euro-forest portal, which was enhanced to include regular news inputs. Traffic through the portal consequently doubled over the year, with a particularly pronounced increase in the number of visitors at the very end of the year.

EFI maintains up-to date information on selected fields, such as forest resources, forest production and trade flows. We develop European forest maps and we also provide them in GIS format for downloading. Our databases can provide a sound basis for analyses and they are applied in research both in-house as well as by our wider network and the research community in general. Some database elements are linked to sophisticated visualisation and analysis tools.

EFI was the main organiser of four events and a co-organiser of five events in 2008. We also launched a new category of 'EFI associated events', which mainly serve our Associate and Affiliate Members. One of the most significant events during 2008 was the high-level scientific conference 'Water and Forests: a convenient truth?', organised by EFI's Mediterranean Regional Office EFIMED. All EFI events involve valuable networking.

# RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

**Research is carried out by cross-disciplinary project teams consisting of staff located at EFI's Headquarters and at the Regional Offices. EFI's Research Strategy sets out a road map for R&D activities.**

Research into climate change impacts has been high on the European research agenda for many years, and it has recently become even more important. In 2008, EFI coordinated a study 'Impacts of climate change on European forests and options for adaptation' commissioned by the EU DG Agriculture and Rural Development. The study concluded that there are major differences between regions, and that the Mediterranean region is expected to suffer most from increased drought stress and intensified fire risk. Northern Europe, on the other hand, may enjoy benefits, particularly from increased growth rates and due to the region's greater capacity for adaptation.

The SENSOR project (Sustainability Impact Assessment: Tools for Environmental, Social and Economic Effects of Multifunctional Land Use in European Regions) aimed to deliver ex-ante sustainability impact assessment tools for policy support to integrate the social, economic and environmental impacts of policy-driven land use changes at European level. One important finding indicates that forest fire risks would increase as a consequence of agricultural land abandonment under a scenario of a drastic reduction of agricultural subsidies from the Common Agricultural Policy.

EFORWOOD project, in which EFI is a partner, covers the whole forest value chain, from growing trees to the use and recycling or disposal of wood products. The Forest Ecology and Management Research Programme has been actively involved in developing the Tool for Sustainability Impact Assessment (ToSIA). During 2008 a second prototype was released and presented both within the project as well as to the external scientific community.

Research work in the field of policy and governance increased in 2008. EFI's FLEGT support team, set up to assist the EU in the implementation of its Forest Law Enforcement,

Governance and Trade Action Plan, evolved into the 'EU FLEGT Facility' hosted and managed by EFI. The facility's core task is to support the bilateral process between the EU and tropical timber producing countries towards signing and implementing 'Voluntary Partnership Agreements' (VPAs). Countries in focus in 2008 included Ghana, Cameroon, the Republic of Congo, Malaysia and Indonesia. Such work is also expanding in China, Vietnam and the Mekong region, the Central African Republic and Liberia. A new regional Asia FLEGT support programme started at the end of 2008 aiming to foster good forest governance and legal timber trade. The EU FLEGT Facility provides a unique opportunity for EFI to inject its expertise and decision support into live political processes within the EU and in partner countries around the world.

The FOPER project, Forest Policy and Economics Education and Research, aims to strengthen the capacities of education, training and research in the fields of forest policy and forest economics in South-eastern Europe. The first phase of the project ends in May 2009. Twenty students will consequently graduate from the project's International Master's Degree Program on Forest Policy and Economics, which has been run by five forestry faculties in the region. A second phase of FOPER will continue from June 2009 until 2011, aiming to consolidate the capacities of researchers and university teachers in forest policy and economics.

EFI's Mediterranean Regional Office (EFIMED) is particularly focusing on the multiple values of forests. One project co-ordinated by EFIMED examined the development and marketing of non-marketed forest products and services, commissioned by the EU DG Agriculture and Rural Development. This survey shows that taxes and subsidies are the financing mechanisms most frequently used in EU Member States to support such strategies. Innovative research is also being conducted in the field of mushroom yield modelling, looking for ways to optimize forest management to maximise the joint production of wood and mushrooms.

---

EFI is the leading institution conducting and advocating forest research and facilitating forest research networking at the pan-European level.

EFI is an acknowledged provider of and a major contact point for unbiased, policy-relevant information on European forests and forestry.

---



EUROPEAN FOREST INSTITUTE

Torikatu 34 | 80100 Joensuu | FINLAND  
TEL: +358 10 773 4300 | FAX: +358 10 773 4377  
efisec@efi.int | www.efi.int