

European Forest Institute

Activities' Report - Year 2020

Dr. Giorgio Matteucci

1. Introduction

Details on EFI and its structure have been provided in the report of 2019. Here a brief summary.

The European Forest Institute was established in 1993, Finland with the aim of enhancing international forest research and providing decision makers with unbiased forest-related information at a pan-European level. EFI has its Headquarters in Joensuu, Finland, and has offices in Barcelona, Bonn and Brussels and project offices in Malaysia and China.

The governance of EFI has the following bodies: Council, Board, Scientific Advisory Board. The Council provides input into the strategic policy framework of EFI activities, ensuring that EFI services its original purpose. The Board consists of eight members, four of whom are elected by the EFI Council and four by EFI Associate Members (CNR is an associate member). The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) contributes to the research and policy support activities of EFI.

In 2020, the following Facilities were active: Mediterranean Facility (in Barcelona), International Partnership Facilities, Policy Support Facility and the newly established BioRegions Facility.

The activities of EFI are organized in Programmes and Research Networks. In 2020, all the three current programmes were active, as the Governance Programme started, while the Bioeconomy and the Resilience Programmes continued their activities.

2. Main activities carried on by EFI during 2020 relevant for Italy and for CNR

During 2020, the *Governance Programme* started to be operational in the city of Bonn (Germany), conducting research on international trade (of timber and forest products), sustainable financing, land use, forest-related policies and media.

The Bioregions facility was launched. The Facility connects forward-thinking regions across Europe to work together to unlock regional potential through international exchange on the forest circular bioeconomy. The three founding regions are the Basque Country (Spain), North Karelia (Finland), and North Rhine-Westphalia, (Germany). The Facility is open to other regions willing to pursue the same objectives.

A new call of the EFI Network Fund was issued in 2020. The project, on Green book on biocities was awarded in September 2020, under the coordination of SISEF - Italian Society of Silviculture and Forest Ecology. Experts involved in the book writing in 2021 will be also from Cnr (Silvano Fares, Teodoro Georgiadis).

EFI is also supporting young forest scientists through the Young Leadership Programme (YLP), through Short Scientific Visit grants and through partnerships with students' associations.

3. Activities carried on by Dr. Giorgio Matteucci within EFI during 2020 and impact on the Italian scientific community

Connection and information exchange with EFI offices, sharing of information with Cnr and other Italian colleagues.

Participation, under the umbrella of SISEF, to the call of the EFI Network Fund on the Green Book on Biocities.

The participation to the Annual Assembly, organized on line of 13.10.2020 was delegated to Dr. Carlo Calfapietra, deputy representative of Cnr in EFI. Preparation of the Assembly, including voting for the decision making session, were discussed and assessed in cooperation.

4. Evaluation of the participation in terms of benefits and membership cost

The fee is very cheap and has a very high "money for value" return in terms of scientific and lobbying activities for projects and technical/policy activities in the field of forest, wood and sustainability. Furthermore, the participation opens opportunities of being involved in international projects.

5. Evaluation of Italians' attendance and how to improve interest and involvement

In EFI the Italian attendance is very active and considered, also with relevant roles in the governing bodies of the Institute.

At the Annual Assembly, there were 7 Italian participants with voting rights (Cnr, University of Molise, University of Padova, Sisef, University of Tuscia, CREA, University of Turin) and one with relevant role (MIPAAF – Directorate of Forest).

6. Italian experts with important roles within the Union or within related Commissions and Programs (if known)

Since end of 2020, Italy is serving the relevant role of Chair of the EFI council. The Chair is Dr. Enrico Pompei of the General Directorate for Forest of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forest Policies (mandate: 2020-2023).

In 2020, Dr. Elena Paoletti, Research Director at CNR-IRET, stepped down as Chair of the EFI Scientific Advisor Board, but she is still member of the SAB.

At the 2020 EFI Annual Meeting, Prof. Marco Marchetti of University of Molise has been elected as member of EFI Board. He was then nominated as ChairPerson of the Board.

7. If Union with CNR Commission, short summary about the 2020 CNR Commission activities

Not relevant

8. Notes (if any)

The covid-19 pandemic situation has reduced the in presence workshop and conference activities.

9. Conclusions

The participation of Cnr in EFI activities is surely relevant and as value return for the Institution and its researchers

Signature

Rome, August 8th, 2022