

# **European Forest Institute**

## **Activities' Report - Year 2022**

**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 2022, the following Facilities were active: Mediterranean, International Partnerships, Policy Support, BioRegions and Genetic Resource. During

The activities of EFI are organized in Programmes (Governance, Bioeconomy, Resilience) and research networks, that are aimed at supporting the Programmes.

During 2022, the creation of the "Biocities" Facility has been defined (details in paragraph 2).

### **2. Main activities carried on by EFI during 2022 relevant for Italy and for CNR**

During 2022, the technical-scientific and political action work for the creation of the Biocities Facility, based in Rome, was completed. The Facility was officially inaugurated on 20 April 2023. The action of the Italian scientific community, coordinated by the Society of Silviculture and Forest Ecology (SISEF, of which the undersigned is currently Vice-President), significantly helped the choice of Italy and Rome for the location of this important Facility (approved by the Parliament and Senate and by three Ministries, and defined as an International Organization). The Facility is a global reference in generating and communicating relevant scientific knowledge on the potential of the circular bioeconomy concept to rethink urban areas, particularly based on forest-based solutions. The Facility is a leader in developing a new and holistic conceptual framework for the use of green infrastructures and biobased solutions in urban environments, to tackle climate change and other global challenges.

During 2022, the Resilience Programme was particularly active, with three relevant publications on the aspects of disturbances and on sustainable and resilient forest management in European forests (<https://efi.int/publications/operationalizing-social-ecological-resilience-forests-2023-01-26>; <https://efi.int/publications/significant-increase-natural-disturbance-impacts-european-forests-1950-2022-12-13>; <https://efi.int/publications/feasibility-enhancing-carbon-sequestration-and-stock-capacity-temperate-and-boreal>)

Other projects have also been active, including the "Biocities" Network Fund, aimed at drafting a scientific book on the eco-biological transformation of cities (work expected to be concluded in 2023) and the EFINET project, coordinated by prof. Gherardo Chirici of the University of Florence, in which the Cnr was among the stakeholders. The EFINET project had the objective of proposing a framework for a pan-European forest monitoring system, to combine ground-based information with remote sensing. The activities took place from autumn 2021 until the first months of 2023, the final is expected in autumn 2023

### **3. Activities carried on by Dr. Giorgio Matteucci within EFI during 2022 and impact on the Italian scientific community**

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

Participation, in person, to the Annual Assembly, including scientific and open events, held in Barcelona from 5 to 7 of October, 2022.

Support to EFI for the connection within the Italian community for the establishment of the Biocities Facility in Rome; support to Autonomous Province of Trento for decision on participation to the Bioregions Facility.

#### **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.

New opportunities will certainly emerge from the establishment of the Biocities Facility in Rome.

#### **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, held in presence, there were 6 Italian participants with voting rights (Cnr, University of Molise, University of Tuscia, CREA, University of Padova, ETIFOR) and one with relevant high-level role (MIPAAF – Directorate of Forest, president of the Council).

#### **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).

Prof. Marco Marchetti of University of Molise is the Chairperson of EFI Board

Dr. Elena Paoletti, Research Director at CNR-IRET, already former member of the Scientific Advisory Board, has started service as Board member.

Dr. Silvano Fares, Director of CNR-ISAFOM was appointed as SAB member from 2023

#### **7. If Union with CNR Commission, short summary about the 2022 CNR Commission activities**

Not relevant

#### **8. Notes (if any)**

In 2022 the activities of EFI came back to the pre covid-19 pandemic situation, with more and more in presence events, including the Annual Assembly

#### **9. Conclusions**

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

Signature

Sesto Fiorentino (FI), August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023