

European Forest Institute

Activities' Report - Year 2019

Dr. Giorgio Matteucci

1. Introduction

The European Forest Institute was established in 1993 in Joensuu, Finland with the aim of enhancing international forest research and providing decision makers with unbiased forest-related information at a pan-European level. Twenty-five years later, EFI has grown and developed into an important and acknowledged international organisation, with 28 Country Members and approximately 115 member organisations from 37 countries.

The governance of EFI has the following bodies: Council, Board, Scientific Advisory Board.

The Council is the highest decision-making body of EFI. It consists of representatives of the Member Countries, and meets in ordinary session every three years. As well as electing several members of the Board, the Council provides input into the strategic policy framework of EFI activities, ensuring that EFI services its original purpose.

The Board of EFI establishes and reviews the overall research framework and the strategy of the Institute, and it supervises the Secretariat. 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. Its work includes anticipating future research needs, stimulating research and study initiatives, and monitoring EFI's activities. The SAB reports on its activities to the EFI Board.

EFI has its Headquarters in Joensuu, Finland, and has offices in Barcelona, Bonn and Brussels as well as project offices in Malaysia and China. The Institute has also "Facilities". In 2019, the following facilities were active: Mediterranean Facility (in Barcelona), International Partnership Facilities and Policy Support Facility.

The activities of EFI are organized in Programmes and Research Networks. In 2019 the Bioeconomy and the Resilience Programmes were active.

2. Main activities carried on by EFI during 2019 relevant for Italy and for CNR

During 2019, EFI established the *Governance Programme* to conduct research on international trade (of timber and forest products), sustainable financing, land use, forest-related policies and media. The Planted Forest Facility was transformed in a Research Network, a new research network on Forest Bioeconomy was created, involving research partners from Sweden and Norway and with partnership with CIFOR, UNEP and JRC.

A project of the EFI Network Fund was awarded in 2018 to PIK-Potsdam. CNR (ISAFOM) was the Italian partner of the project FORMASAM – FORest MANagement Scenarios for Adaptation and Mitigation. The project is funding networking, workshop and staff exchange.

EFI activities related to forest, wood and circular bioeconomy are relevant for Cnr research themes. Furthermore, Cnr, within 2019, has founded the Institute of BioEconomy that may establish collaboration with the Bioeconomy Programme of EFI.

3. Activities carried on by Dr. Giorgio Matteucci within EFI during 2019 and impact on the Italian scientific community

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

Participation to Annual Conference and Assembly in Aberdeen, UK on 18 - 20 September 2019. Scientific seminar and decision making meeting.

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.

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 Conference in Aberdeen, there were 4 Italian participants with voting rights (Cnr, University of Molise, University of Padova, Sisef), one with relevant role (MIPAAF – Directorate of Forest) and 4 participants at the scientific conference.

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

Dr. Elena Paoletti, Research Director at CNR-IRET is the Chairperson of EFI Scientific Advisor Board (mandate: 2017-2019).

7. If Union with CNR Commission, short summary about the 2019 CNR Commission activities

Not relevant

8. Notes (if any)

Noting relevant

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