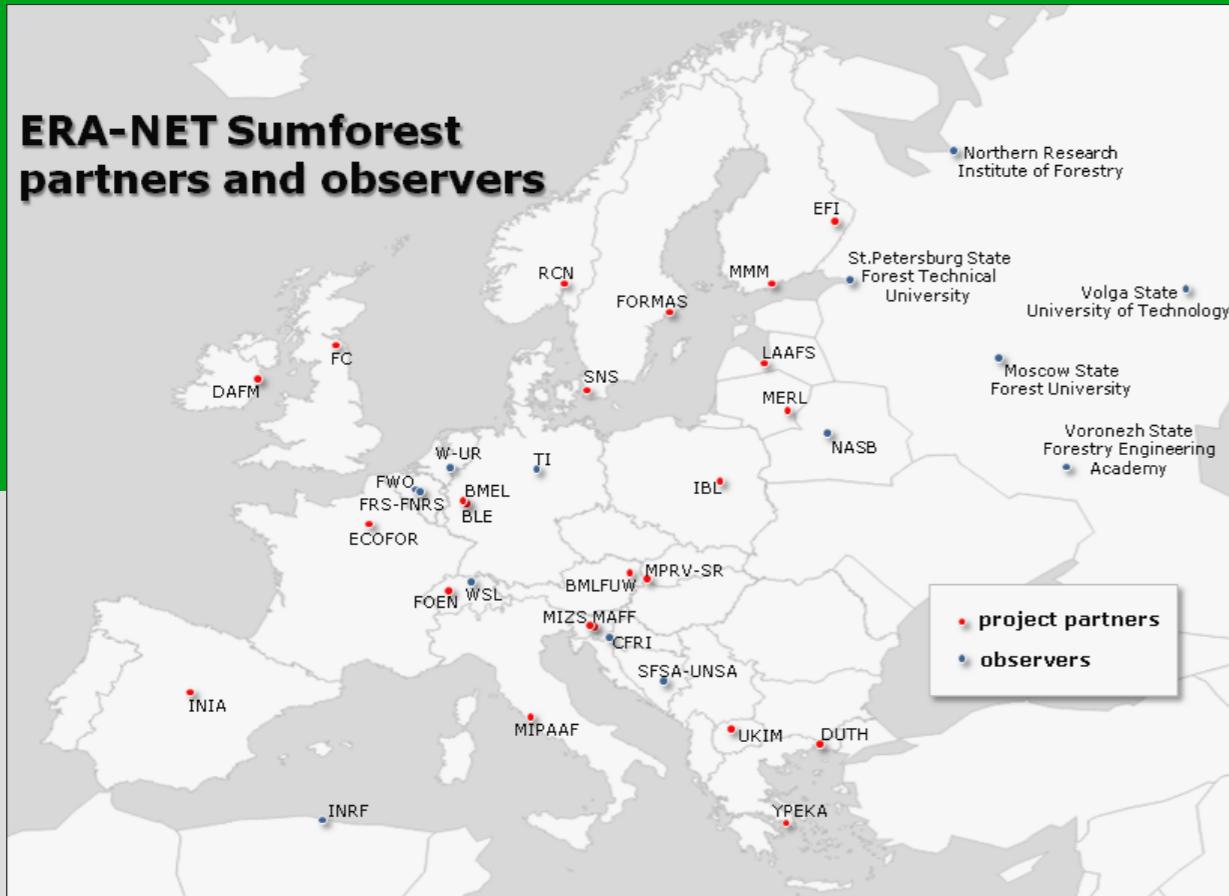




*Tackling the Challenges
in the Implementation of
**Sustainable and
Multifunctional Forestry**
through
enhanced Research Coordination
for Policy Decisions*



Sumforest establishes a network bringing together 23 key actors from 15 European states,
3 associated states and 2 international institutions

www.sumforest.org

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What is Sumforest?

Sumforest is an ERA-NET initiative, which objective is to **step up the cooperation and coordination of research activities** carried out in the Member States and Associated States of the European Union through the networking of research activities and the mutual opening of national and regional research programmes. The ERA-NET scheme contributes to making a reality of the European Research Area by improving the coherence and coordination across Europe of such research programmes.

Sumforest - that stands for Sustainable forest management, Multifunctional Forestry and European Forest Policy - contributes significantly to the construction of a fully **operational European Research Area on Sustainable and Multifunctional Forestry**.

Today, the important climatic, environmental, socio-economic and land-use changes pose new challenges for meeting the multifunctional demands on European forest resources, and for their sustainable management. In the European Union, the **current forest policy environment is fragmented**, complex and sometimes contradictory.

The ERA-NET Sumforest played a crucial role in harmonizing existing and future research programmes and supporting policy decisions relevant to the topic of sustainable forest management and multifunctional forestry.

Key achievements



Since its launch, Sumforest has:

- developed a comprehensive method for **mapping forest research capacities and trans-national cooperation** relevant to sustainable forest management and the multifunctional use of forest resources in EU and partner countries. The results display the research landscape and form a basis for the analysis of strengths and weaknesses, as well as needs, suitability and potential for **strategic transnational actions**.
- given a concise description and **characterization of the European Union Forest policies** and identified the main **information needs** of policy makers regarding emerging issues related to the forest-based sector.
- **launched a joint call for proposals** under the topic "Sustainable forests for the society of the future". All in all, seven projects have been funded.
- **ensured awareness of its existence**, role, activities, calls, and achievements across its partners and stakeholders by using communication tools (flyer, newsletters, posters, press releases...) and workshops to stay up to date with Sumforest activities.

