



# Research networks for science and policy dialogue

## Horizon Europe projects: FORWARDS

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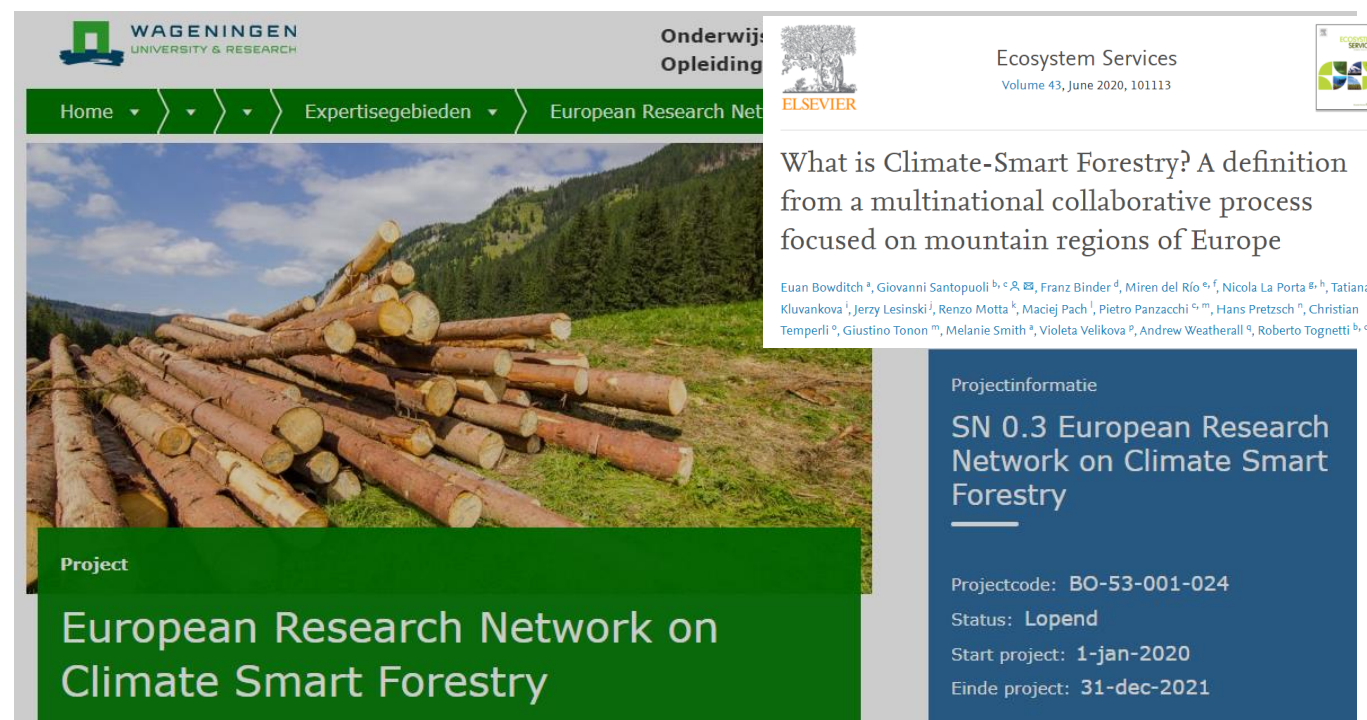
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Forests have been constantly impacted by climate change all over Europe, and even more severe impacts on forest ecosystems are expected. Thus, we have to act proactively searching for new ways in forest management allowing for higher resilience against storms, forest pests, wildfires, etc. project FORWARDS (The ForestWard Observatory to Secure Resilience of European Forests) has been launched in 2022 with ambition to provide best practice examples for the European forest owners, managers and professionals, building on Climate-Smart Forestry (CSF) approach.

## The CSF Network:

- Brings together under a single platform European forestry pilot projects,
- Shows different ways how to manage forest stands wisely,
- Various ways to help mitigate the effects of climate change as much as possible,
- Strengthens cooperation and information exchange among European scientists.



The screenshot shows the website of the European Research Network on Climate Smart Forestry. The header includes the Wageningen University & Research logo, navigation links for 'Onderwijs' and 'Opleiding', and a search bar. The main content area features a large image of a forest with a pile of logs in the foreground. To the right of the image, there is a section titled 'What is Climate-Smart Forestry? A definition from a multinational collaborative process focused on mountain regions of Europe' by Euan Bowditch et al. Below this, there is a 'Project' section with the title 'European Research Network on Climate Smart Forestry' and a table of project details.

Projectinformatie	
SN 0.3 European Research Network on Climate Smart Forestry	
Projectcode:	BO-53-001-024
Status:	Lopend
Start project:	1-jan-2020
Einde project:	31-dec-2021

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2212041620300553>

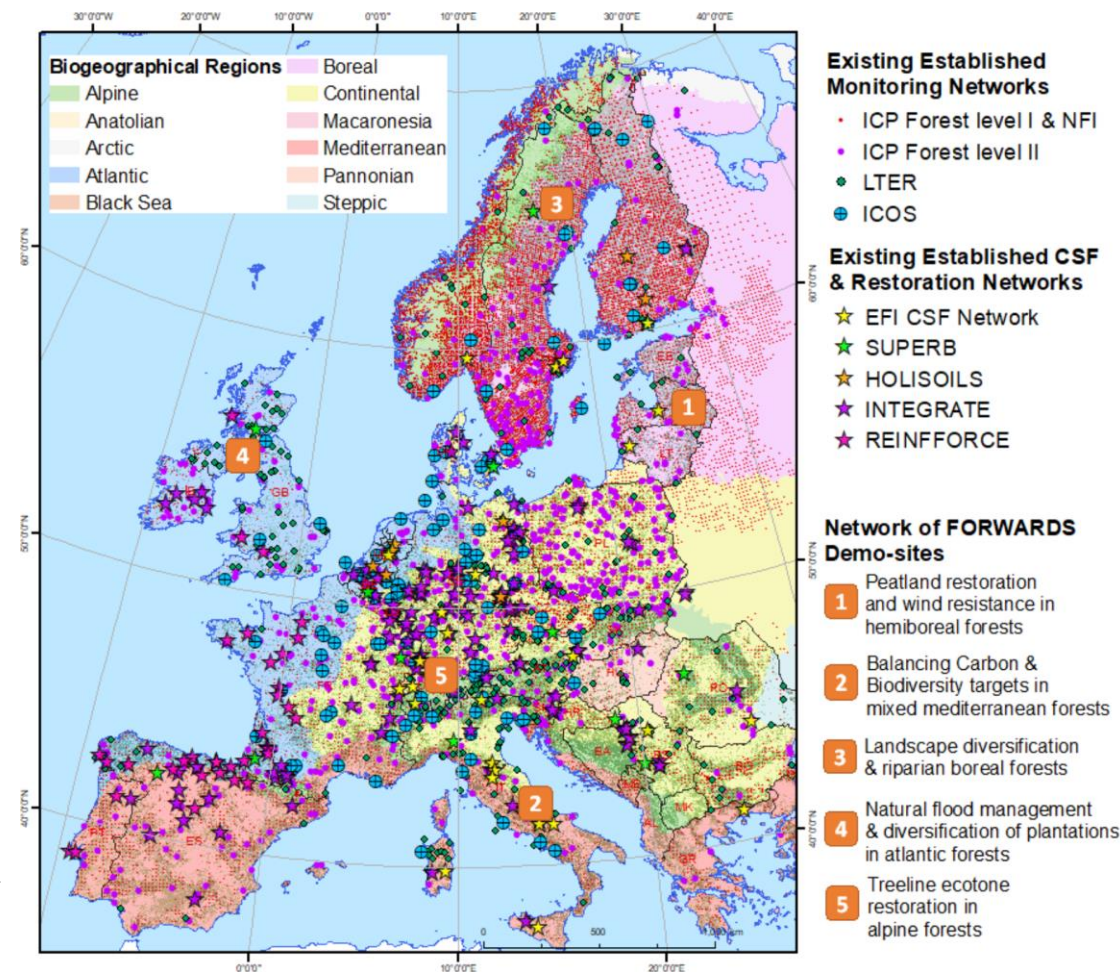


# The ForestWard Observatory to Secure Resilience of European Forests - FORWARDS

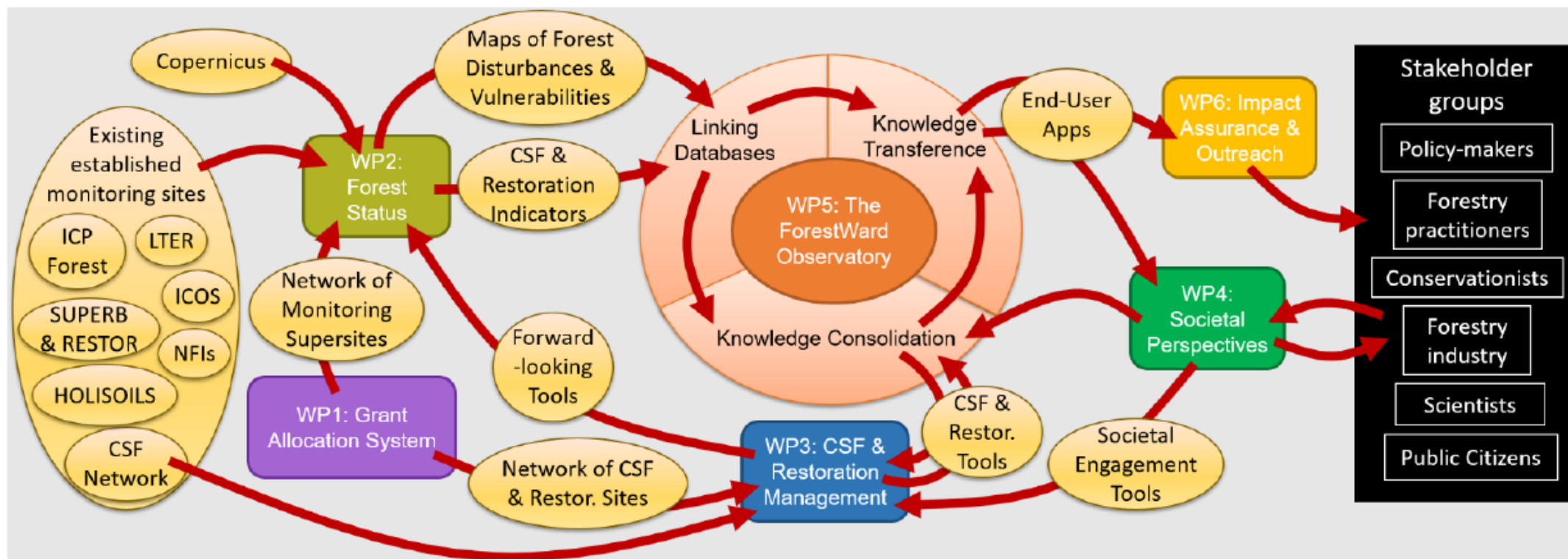
Latvia (LFRI Silava) is a Partner to FORWARDS project and contributes to the CSF network and with a project on forest stands resilience to wind “Reduction of wind damage in birch and aspen stands”

## Expected results:

1. FORWARDS will provide timely and detailed information on European forests' vulnerability to climate change.
2. The project will deliver science-based knowledge to guide management using the principles of climate-smart forestry, ecosystem restoration, and biodiversity preservation.
3. The ForestWard Observatory will be constructed under the principle of co-design to address the information needs by users and stakeholders.



# Links with other national and international research and innovation activities



*Figure 1.2d: Diagram showing how the core of The ForestWard Observatory glues the whole FORWARDS project together (WP5): (a) linking all the databases and data streams generated by FORWARDS, (b) integrating them and enabling the means to analyse them to consolidate the knowledge generated, and (c) securing that knowledge is transferred toward practitioners, policymakers, and other stakeholders. Links among WPs are simplified, with more detail provided in Section 3.1 and Fig. 3.1b.*

### Project "Old-growth forests in the context of climate policy: information for decision-makers"

Project implemented by **Latvian State Forest Research Institute Silava**

#### Project tasks:

- 1) **Information for decision-makers on old-growth forests,**
- 2) Additional old-growth forest sample plots,
- 3) Analysis of scientific publications,
- 4) Awareness raising activities (press, seminar, conference),
- 5) Knowledge exchange with the Baltic and Nordic experts.

**The project is building on 7 yrs. old-growth forest measurements & analysis in Latvia.**

# Which aspects still important to assess by science for decision-makers?

## Research support to policy:

- we do **have the data** and we do **have the analysis**: **the next step is to tell about it!**
- the importance of science being translated to policy,
- support to policy discussions.

## Networking:

- networking with the Baltic and Nordic experts,
- knowledge exchange especially in the region with relatively similar forest characteristics,
- Nordic Forest Research (SNS) network e.g. Project PROFOR - Promoting sustainable forestry in a growing bioeconomy for Europe.

**PROFOR**  
Promoting sustainable forestry  
in a growing bioeconomy

A joint North European Research network  
Including  
Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, and Sweden







Foto: LVMI Silava

*Thank you!*

