INNOVAForONE

Innovations and networking in European Forestry

ONEforest Final Conference

18·19 April 2024
VALLADOLID

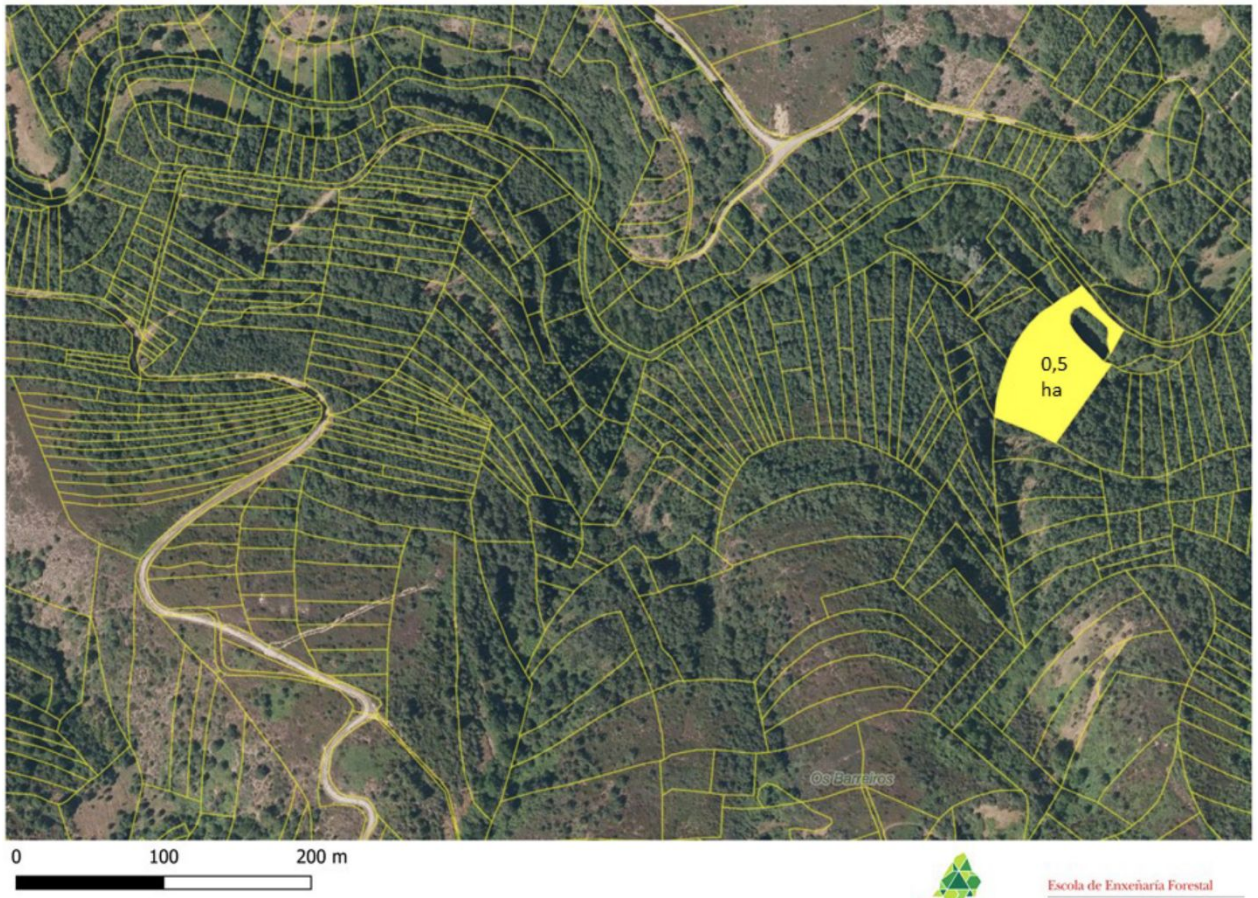
# SMURF overview

SMURF
THE FOREST OWNERS' PROJECT

Sustainable management models and value chains for small forests

One idea:

# To improve support to small forest owners across Europe



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# Basic project INFO

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Funded by the European Union

Program: **Horizon Europe**

Topic ID: **Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors (HORIZON-CL6-2023-CircBio-01-12)**

*5 proposals submitted* 2 proposals accepted

Action type: **Research and Innovation Action**

Approval date: **07 / 07 /2023**

Sister project: **"Small4Good" (ID-101.135.517)**

7.56 M€

coordinated by NIBIO

Project code & name: **101.135.516 - SMURF**

Budget: **5,423,471.25 €**

Time length: **48 months**

Start date: **01 / 01 / 2024**

End date: **31 / 12 / 2027**

https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101135516

Project Information

**SMURF**

Grant agreement ID: 101135516

**EC signature date**
14 November 2023

**Start date**
1 January 2024

**End date**
31 December 2027

**Funded under**
Food, Bioeconomy Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

**Total cost**
€ 5 423 471,25

**EU contribution**
€ 5 423 471,25

**Coordinated by**
FUNDACION CENTRO DE SERVICIOS Y PROMOCION FORESTAL Y DE SU INDUSTRIA DE CASTILLA Y LEON

Spain

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A project by: cesefor, INNOVAWOOD, UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI FIRENZE, blue biloba, milieu Law & Policy Consulting, Xylofutur, AIR INSTITUTE, ipb INSTITUTO POLITÉCNICO DE BRAGANÇA, Preferred by Nature, contactica innovation

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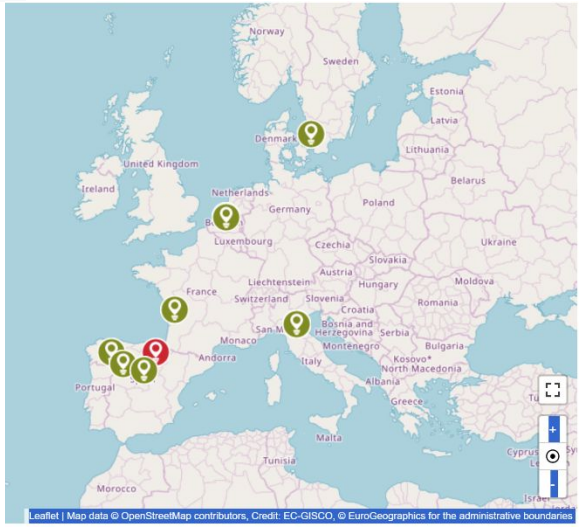
| Number | Acronym | Name of the organization | Type | Country |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | CESEFOR | Centro de servicios y promoción forestal y de su industria de Castilla y León, Coordinator | RTO | SPAIN (ES) |
| 2 | IWOOD | InnovaWood ASBL | ASO | Belgium (BE) |
| 3 | UNIFI | University of Florence | HES | Italy (IT) |
| 4 | BLUEBILOBA | Bluebiloba SRL | SME | Italy (IT) |
| 5 | XYLOFUTUR | Xylofutur Products et materiaux des forest | ASO | France (FR) |
| 6 | AIRINS | Fundación Instituto Internacional de Investigación en Inteligencia Artificial y Ciencias de la Computación | RTO | Spain (ES) |
| 7 | IPB | Instituto Politécnico de Bragança | HES | Portugal (PT) |
| 8 | PBYNAT | Preferred By Nature | NGO | Denmark (DK) |
| 9 | MILIEU | Milieu Consulting | SME | Belgium (BE) |
| 10 | CONTACTICA | Contactica S.L. | SME | Spain (ES) |




**10 Partners from 6 countries:**

- 2 Universities (UNIFI, IPB)
- 2 Research Centres (CESEFOR, AIRINS)
- 3 SMEs (BBB, MILIEU, CTA)
- 1 NGO (PBYNAT)
- 2 Industrial Cluster (IWOOD, XYLOFITUR).

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# Expected RESULTS & OBJECTIVES

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This topic supports the **EU forest strategy for 2030** by:

*securing and promoting* ***small-scale forest management***
for the sustainable use of *wood and non-wood products*,
while fully *respecting the cascading use principle* and
contributing to *biodiversity and*
*climate objectives*,
including *forest ecosystem restoration and protection*.

# PROJECT OBJECTIVES

**O1.** Provide an **updated overview of the**
***whole* forest-based value chain**
**focussing on small-forest properties**
*in different European regions*

**O2. Provide innovative tools to small-forest owners**
**to valorise unexploited non-wood products**
**and damaged/infected wood**

O3. **Establish** a set of **Closer to Nature Sylviculture**
**(CNS) forest management models**
*adapted to most common European bioregions*
via modelling and field validation

# PROJECT OBJECTIVES

**O4. Develop a unified European Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES) system,**
in terms of **carbon credit** validation requirement,
exchange platform and tokens,
to provide a common framework for small-forest owners
for afforestation and forest management practices implementation

**O5. Co-create a comprehensive framework**
by and for small-forest holders, policy-makers and other stakeholders
**to support the transition towards**
***sustainable and profitable* forest-based systems**

**O6. Maximise the impact of the project**
through dissemination and communication of the project results
to different audiences and through exploitation activities

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# Project GOVERNANCE

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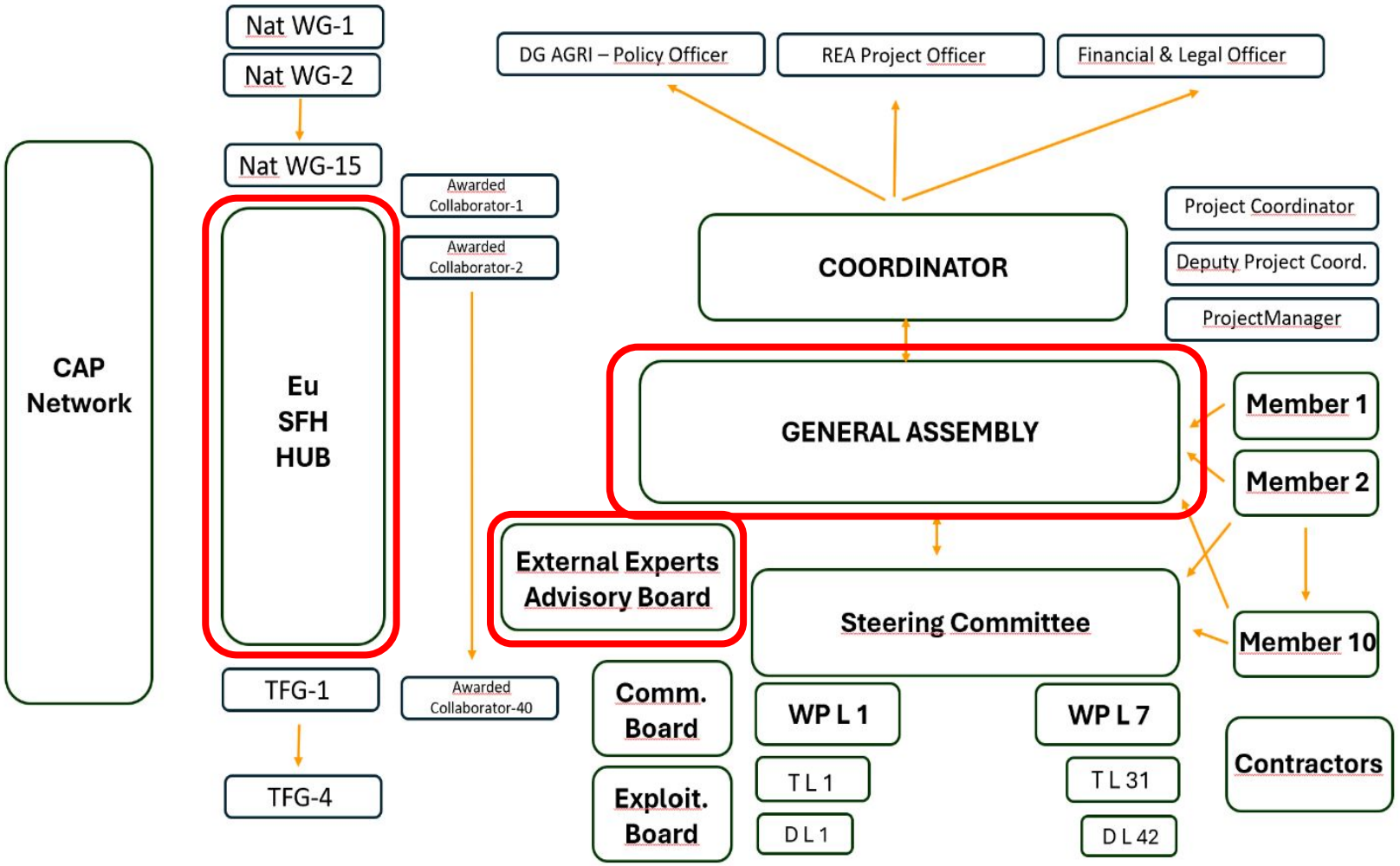
Nat WG-1
Nat WG-2
Nat WG-15
DG AGRI – Policy Officer
REA Project Officer
Financial & Legal Officer
Awarded Collaborator-1
Awarded Collaborator-2
CAP Network
Eu SFH HUB
COORDINATOR
Project Coordinator
Deputy Project Coord.
ProjectManager
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Member 1
Member 2
External Experts Advisory Board
Steering Committee
Member 10
TFG-1
Awarded Collaborator-40
Comm. Board
WP L 1
WP L 7
Contractors
TFG-4
Exploit. Board
TL 1
TL 31
DL 1
DL 42

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# Project CRITERIA

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**C1.** Focus on **forest owners** and particularly on **forest holdings**

**C2.** Focus on **management** and on **avoiding forest abandonment**

**C3. Balance the 3 pillars** of sustainability

**C4.** Develop **multifunctionality** and **multiproduction**

**C5. Strength the local value chains**

**C6.** Incorporate **business criteria**

**C7.** Focus on **business models** and diversification & **vertical integration**

**C8.** Promote **Forest Ecosystem Services** . . .

***through real implementation of systems for their payment***

**C9.** Promote **Closer to Nature Sylviculture** (CNS):

- ✔ Continuous cover
- ✔ Species diversification

**C10.** Focus on **landscapes** and **cultural features**

**C11.** Promote **synergies with agriculture** and **agroforestry systems**

**C12.** Promote **synergies with tourism** and **energy sectors**

**C13.** Promote **forest holdings of a minimum size**

**C14.** Promote **associationism**



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**C15.** Promote **holding aggregations** and **land consolidation**

**C16.** Build up **permanent sectoral alliances**, with industry, forest associations and professionals

**C17.** Promote **FORKIS** (FORest Knowledge & Information Systems)

**C18.** Promote **territorial roots** and **family links**

**C19.** Promote **digitalization** and product traceability

**C20.** Promote **mechanization**

**C21. Promote certification** and **collaborate with certification schemes**



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# Work Packages & TASKS

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**WP1.** Project management

**WP2.** Analysis of small forest properties scenario across Europe

**WP3.** Sustainable adaptation of successful solutions to new EU regions. Case studies

**WP4.** Development of new forest management model: CNS for Europe

**WP5.** Innovative PES approaches: standards, blockchain tokens and digital platform

**WP6.** Sustainable exploitaitation of project solutions

**WP7.** Communication, dissemination, networking and clustering

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# KEY RESULTS
# Main Outcomes

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| NUMBER | MILESTONE NAME | WP | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|
| MS1 | Perform a selection of granted organizations | WP1 | M12 |
| MS2 | Creation of network Hub with 60 organizations of forest owners | WP2 | M9 |
| MS3 | Create at standard of small forest classification at European level | WP2 | M12 |
| MS4 | List of TECH, NWFPs and D/I-WOOD business models for replication across Europe | WP3 | M40 |
| MS5 | Guidelines on new CNS models | WP4 | M30 |
| MS6 | First standard validated under FOREST CO2 CREDITS EU | WP5 | M36 |
| MS7 | First token exchange trial in the platform | WP5 | M40 |
| MS8 | New PES digital platform | WP5 | M45 |
| MS9 | Guidelines for regional, national and EU strategies for reproducibility after the project | WP6 | M48 |
| MS10 | Effective communication and dissemination | WP7 | M48 |

**Creation of the Eu HUB of Small Forest Holdings**

with at least 60 organizations of forest owners

and other related ones

**Cascade funding (1 Mill.Euro)**

of at least 40 organizations willing to collaborate with th project in pilot action.

***Launched in June 2024***

**Organize the first**

**European CONFERENCE on**

**Small Forest Holdings**

**in spring 2025**

## Proposal of Eu classification of Forest Holdings

## The DASHBOARD of Eu Small Forest Holdings

Characterization of **Small Forest Owners**
Analysis of the **legal framework in the 27 member states**
**Analysis of support systems in the 27 member states**

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FAMILY FOREST RESEARCH CENTER

SOMACYL

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# Identify and characterize **10** success stories or **lighthouses**

CNPF Centre National de la Propriété Forestière

Metsäkeskus Forest Centre

La forêt bouge

Communes fores
Fédération natio

Metsä

pro:Holz
Austria

AMERICAN HARDWOOD EXPORT COUNCIL

Forest Enterprises®
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N.Z. FOREST MANAGERS

Alliance FORÊTS BOIS

# Characterization of new business opportunities within the HUB

**Development of Closer to Nature Sylviculture (CNS) models for Europe**

for 11 of the most widespread forest types

**Creation of a new Forest Carbon Credits System**
at **EU level (PES)**

and a **Carbon Market Platform**
with blockchain technology

**Prepare political guidelines**

at European, national and regional level

**to promote Small Forest Holdings in Europe:**

Roadmap for SFH to 2030 &

Action Plans for 2027

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We have four exciting years ahead !
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# Thanks a lot !

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Co-organized by

Partnership

Collaborate