

First cross-project meeting of INTEGRAL (Future-oriented integrated management of European forest landscapes)

Germany, 12 April 2012 – The first **cross-project meeting** of the INTEGRAL project will be held in Freiburg, Germany, from the 16th until the 18th of April 2012. It will serve as a discussion platform for more than 40 scientists representing forest management, as well as forest policy sciences and economics from 18 organizations and 14 European countries.

The cross-project meeting in Freiburg will **establish the methodological framework** for **forest Decision Support System (DSS) research** and **forest policy** and **socioeconomic analyses** in INTEGRAL. The research design will be applied in order to improve integrated forest management in different parts of Europe in a total of **20 landscape case studies in 10 European countries**. The case study areas differ in key characteristics such as ownership, the importance of forestry and forest-based industries and the priorities of allocation and management of new and existing forest lands.

“I am impressed with the enthusiasm and energy that all partners are demonstrating. Ahead of us lies challenging work that will eventually give policy makers and stakeholders on European and national levels access to a knowledge- and competence-base for integrating international, national and local levels in participatory planning processes. We will also be able deliver decision support systems for landscape analyses to those involved in such processes”, says Professor Ola Eriksson, Project Coordinator.

Short background

The INTEGRAL project (2011-2014), funded by the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) of the European Union, is a collaborative project and allies 20 partners from 14 different countries.

The project focuses on the vital environmental and socio-economic role of European forests. They are well documented and acknowledged in policy documents of both the European Union and its member states. Nevertheless, there is a need to improve existing policy and management approaches due to incoherencies among trans-national, national and local forest-related land use policies and mismatches between the policies and their implementation at the landscape level. Providing a new policy and management approach that delivers a better balance between the multiple and conflicting demands for forest goods and services is the main objective of INTEGRAL.

MORE INFORMATION:

Project coordinator

Prof. Ljusk Ola Eriksson, Sweden, Ljusk.ola.eriksson@slu.se; Phone: +46 90 786 83 07

Project leader

Maria Nyberg, Sweden, Maria.Nyberg@slu.se; Phone: +46 90 786 81 09

Scientific coordinator

Prof. Dr. Karl-Reinhard Volz, Germany, karl-reinhard.volz@ifp.uni-freiburg.de; Phone: +49 761 203 37 12

Dr. Metodi Sotirov, Germany, metodi.sotirov@ifp.uni-freiburg.de; Phone: +49 761 203 37 19

Contact person for communication activities

Annamaria Riemer, Germany, annamaria.riemer@moez.fraunhofer.de; Phone: +49 341 231 039 132

Link: www.integral-project.eu