

ACTIVITIES



Capacity building

EFIMED coordinates and supports knowledge transfer projects, organises specific courses and provides specific grants to upgrade the skills of researchers coming from the Southern and Eastern countries of the Mediterranean basin. EFIMED and its network have been working towards Advancing Mediterranean Forest Research Capacities (AGORA, 2010–2012), which is a specific EU funded project.

Information and dissemination

EFIMED compiles and disseminates forestry information at the Mediterranean level through specific web-based databases, state of the art reports as well as different types of scientific events. EFIMED Network is timely updated via an online bulletin.

Sponsors

EFIMED, located in Barcelona, Spain, receives funding from the Ministry of Economy and Innovation of Spain, the Department of Economy and Knowledge of Catalonia and Forest Sciences Centre of Catalonia (CTFC).

www.efimed.efi.int

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An Advisory Group enhances the networking of EFIMED. It advises the EFIMED secretariat on ideas and topics to be developed and promoted within the EFIMED instruments and supports the dissemination and networking activities. Its members are:

GIUSEPPE SCARASCIA, Chairman	Italy
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KEITH GILLESS	USA
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SANTIAGO GONZÁLEZ	Spain
MARGARET SHANNON	USA

EFI REGIONAL OFFICES

The Regional Offices of EFI are formally integral parts of the Institute and governed by Terms of Reference and EFI management practices. They address forest research and networking issues at a regional level following the EFI Strategy. Their activities bring visibility to regional forest issues by putting them into European context. Regional Offices also strengthen the EFI network by opening new avenues for funding.

The European Forest Institute (EFI) is an international organisation established by European States. EFI conducts research and provides policy advice on forest-related issues. It facilitates and stimulates forest-related networking, and promotes the supply of unbiased and policy-relevant information on forests and forestry. It also advocates for forest research and the use of scientifically sound information as a basis for policy-making on forests.

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EFIMED is the first EFI Regional Office and it is based in Barcelona, Spain. The creation of EFIMED has been a natural evolution thanks to the active network of EFI Project Center MEDFOREX.

AIM

The EFI Mediterranean Regional Office – EFIMED –

- coordinates and promotes research and networking on Mediterranean forests, forestry and forest products;
- responds to policy needs by providing science-based information on forests and forestry at the Mediterranean level, disseminating research results to all interested parties;
- supports scientific capacity-building, especially in Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries, and
- consolidates an international forest research network, aiming to overcome the fragmentation of the Mediterranean forest research community.

Mediterranean forests require special attention due to several reasons:

- They play a key role in the welfare of urban and rural Mediterranean communities by providing highly appreciated marketed goods (e.g., timber, firewood, cork, medicinal plants, etc.) as well as high value but non-market services (e.g., landscape quality, soil protection, recreation, micro-climate amelioration, etc.).
- They constitute a unique world natural heritage in terms of biodiversity, hosting around 25.000 species of vascular plants, (50% are endemic species) and a high degree of tree richness and endemism (290 indigenous tree species with 201 endemics) with extraordinary genetic diversity.
- Their conservation and management affects the soil and water resources, both being key strategic resources for Mediterranean societies.
- Their future is seriously threatened by climate and land use changes, which add to long-lasting problems related to forest fires, forest over-exploitation, land degradation and the advance of desertification in the region.

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Policy Support

EFIMED provides policy makers with the best available expertise and research-based information to support policy making at different stages through:

- Establishing mechanisms for information sharing between the scientific community and relevant policy makers;
- Developing capacities of public institutions dealing with policy issues;
- Assisting policy makers in policy design and evaluation.

Advocacy

EFIMED's extensive network and international status allows it to act as the voice of the Mediterranean forest research community.

The Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda (MFRA, 2010–2020), coordinated by EFIMED, has resulted for a specific FP7 ERA-NET scheme Enhancing Forest Research in the Mediterranean through improved coordination and integration (FORESTERRA, 2012–2015) which will be instrumental for building a Mediterranean forest research area.

Research

EFIMED promotes and conducts research as well as comparative studies on key scientific priorities within the scope of the MFRA:

- Impact of climate and land-use changes on forest ecosystems functioning and related key resources: water and soil;
- Integration of the risk of forest fires in land use and forest management planning;
- Economic tools and policies for sustainable forest goods and services;
- Models and decision systems for optimising forest management planning.

EFIMED Network and Focal Points

EFIMED network consists of more than 60 forest research institutions from 17 Mediterranean countries. Focal points have been established in order to implement the MFRA, to discuss at national level forest research needs and to disseminate EFIMED activities and results.

Vath Tabaku, Albania	Patricia Sfeir, Lebanon
Elena Rafailova, Bulgaria	Fayçal Benchekroun, Morocco
Dijana Vuletic, Croatia	Jose Borges, Portugal
Alex Christodoulou, Cyprus	Laura Bouriaud, Romania
Timo Pukkala, Finland	Mirko Medved, Slovenia
Eric Rigolot, France	Ricardo Alía, Spain
Vassiliki Kazana, Greece	Zuheir Shater, Syria
Shirra Freeman, Israel	Hamed Daly Hassem, Tunisia
Davide Pettenella, Italy	Neşat Erkan, Turkey

EFIMED has built a strong and dynamic partnership with other international organizations and networks which operate in the Mediterranean region:

International partners, Contact person

FAO (in the context of Silva Mediterranea),
 Christophe Besacier
 AIFM, David Gasc
 CIHEAM, Plácido Plaza
 IEMed, Javier Albarracín
 ARCMED, Denis Boglio
 Mediterranean Model Forest Network, Pilar Valbuena
 EMUNI, Joseph Mifsud

