



## EFIMED Short Scientific Visits 2012

### 1. BACKGROUND

EFIMED offers grants for *Short Scientific Visits* for young researchers (up to 35 years) from any Mediterranean forest research and education organisation visiting another Mediterranean institution. These *Visits* provide a unique opportunity for interested candidates to get involved in international level forest research and research co-operation.

The aim of a *Short Scientific Visit* shall be to contribute to the scientific objectives of EFIMED and to strengthen the EFIMED network by allowing scientists to: visit an institution in another Mediterranean country, foster collaboration and learn a new technique, use methods and tools not available in their own institution.

The *Visits* should take place between April and December 2012. Scientists coming from the Mediterranean Southern and Eastern sub-regions as well as female researchers are especially encouraged to apply.

The *Short Scientific Visit* should last from two to four weeks (10 to 20 working days).

The topic of the *Visit* should fall within one of the EFIMED research topics, which are the priorities established on the Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda (see [Annex I](#))

## 2. HOW TO APPLY

Candidates interested in a *Short Scientific Visit* should submit to [efimed\(at\)efi.int](mailto:efimed(at)efi.int) the following documentation:

Please fill in an [Application Form](#) as follows:

- Your application should be typewritten and dated (see the form - [Annex II](#)).
- The following appendices are required:
  - List of Publications
  - Work Plan of the short scientific visit (see format of the work plan – [Annex III](#))
  - Endorsement by applicant's host (see template – [Annex IV](#))

The application deadline is **28<sup>th</sup> of February 2012**. Only those applications containing all the required annexes will be considered for evaluation.

Please note that for applying for the *Short Scientific Visit* you should have contacted previously the Host you are interested to work with. You should have tentatively agreed on the work plan and the suitable dates.

## 3. SELECTION

The evaluation of the candidates is delegated to the Scientific Advisory Group of EFIMED. The applicants are selected on a competitive basis according to the selection criteria stated below. The applicants will be informed of the outcome as soon as the selection process has been finalized, approximately one month after the deadline.

The following criteria are used in selecting successful candidates:

- relevance of the research topic within the MFRA
- applicant's previous experience and work on the proposed research topic
- overall quality of the work plan, and
- feasibility of the work planned at the host institution.

Applicants which have not been previously awarded will have preference.

After the evaluation procedure, EFIMED will send to the Applicant an acceptance letter in which the grantee is informed about:

- the approval of the mission,
- the level of the financial grant given, and
- payment method.

The selected applicant must return to EFIMED the signed acceptance letter within one week.

After completion of the *Short Scientific Visit* the grantee has to issue a short scientific report on the *Visit*, according to [Annex V](#). This report jointly with the grant reimbursement form and the corresponding attachments should be submitted to EFIMED within 4 weeks after his/her stay. The grant will be transferred only after the Scientific Committee has accepted the report.

#### **4. FUNDING**

The grant should cover only travel (economy transportation means) and subsistence.

The financial contribution for a *Short Scientific Visit* will be based on a daily allowance of 110 € per working day. In addition it will be included two extra daily allowances corresponding to the outward and return journey.

The total of the grant shall normally not exceed 2500€.

Payments will be executed after completion of the *Visit* and submission of the following documents:

- Approved Short Scientific Visit Report
- Completed Payment Request Form
- Supporting documents of the incurred expenses

An advance payment may be made in exceptional circumstances, which will require additional special justification.

#### **5. HOST INSTITUTION**

The applicant is responsible for obtaining the agreement of the host institution before submitting his application.

The Short Scientific Visit is open to any Mediterranean forest research institution (European and non-European).

You can suggest the institution you are interested in, with no country restriction.

To give you an idea of possible partners, on our website you can find a list of the institution with which EFIMED has already collaborated:

[www.efimed.efi.int/files/attachments/efimed/efimed\\_network\\_consortium\\_countries\\_and\\_contact\\_persons\\_2011\\_12\\_19.pdf](http://www.efimed.efi.int/files/attachments/efimed/efimed_network_consortium_countries_and_contact_persons_2011_12_19.pdf)

It is also possible to propose another organisation.

## **6. CONTACT**

Should you have any question, please contact Ms. Elena Gorriz:

name.surname@efi.int

## ANNEX I:

### Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda priorities

| <b>Mediterranean Forest Research Agenda</b>  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Strategic Objectives</b>  | <b>Research approaches</b>  |
| <b>1. Development of innovative products for changing markets and customer needs</b>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- evaluating and developing financing mechanisms to promote the optimal provision of non-market services (e.g., systems for payment for environmental services by the final users, by the forest managers or by public authorities);</li> <li>- new marketing instruments for the supply of forest products and services, also based on the horizontal and vertical integration of economic agents in the value chain.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>3. Enhancing availability and use of forest biomass for products and energy</b>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- structural and functional genomics at ecosystem level to study adaptive responses to global change in Mediterranean forest ecosystems.</li> <li>- networks of long term genetic experiments to analyze responses of plant material (provenances, families, genotypes) to changing environmental conditions.</li> <li>- modeling approaches at genotypes, tree, ecosystem and landscape level to climate change and management options; As the speed of expected changes is fast, approaches based on modeling of the demographic, ecological and genetic aspects of the communities' evolution should be developed and implemented.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>4. Meeting the multifunctional demands on forest resources and their sustainable management</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- new forest growth and yield models that can provide predictions on the provision of relevant goods and services (mushrooms, pine cones, fodder, water yield, scenic beauty) and take into account the changing climatic conditions;</li> <li>- goal-based silviculture models and adaptive approaches to optimize the provision of relevant goods and services under global change;</li> <li>- new multi-criteria, scenario analysis, and group- decision methods for analyzing stakeholders' preferences on forest management objectives and support consensus building;</li> <li>- new multi-objective forest planning models and advanced optimization techniques to solve multiple objective problems considering the economic, social and environmental functions, within a multi-scale stand-to-landscape-level approach;</li> <li>- new knowledge on the interactions and trade-offs of different types of land uses and development of integrated approaches for forest-land-use planning in the context of rural development;</li> <li>- new presentation techniques such as visualization to show the consequences of alternative management strategies to different stakeholders, thus addressing participatory planning and social sustainability concerns;</li> <li>- new decision support systems to support Mediterranean forestry decision making in a broader context of land use planning. The use of demonstration forests might be instrumental for developing, testing and disseminating the new tools;</li> <li>- long term ecosystem monitoring and experiments (<i>sites ateliers</i>) on the effects of global change and environmental stresses (climate anomalies, salinity and other soil limitations) on natural and planted forest ecosystems, with the use of forest-atmosphere flux stations, instrumented watersheds, water and nutrient cycling; different types (from extensive to intensive) of comparable monitoring sites that cover well the forest typologies, as well as the geographical and climatic diversity of the region should be established;</li> <li>- mobile sensors equipment systems to study effects of forest management, logging operations and fire regimes on carbon budget of forest and other wooded ecosystems;</li> <li>- ecosystem experiments on forest-atmosphere interactions with special emphasis on organic signalling (i.e. VOC) and particular attention on polluted atmospheric conditions (O<sub>3</sub> and other air pollutants) in sub-urban</li> </ul> |

|   |  |
|---|--|
|   | <p>vs. natural environments;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- landscape experiments on the impact of land use change and forest ecosystem management on water resources and soil erosion protection.</li> <li>- landscape experiments on the impact of land use change and forest ecosystem management on biodiversity and biogeochemical cycles at forest landscape level; special emphasis on bi- and tri-trophic interactions at foodweb level (i.e. plant-pests and plant-animal interactions);</li> <li>- large scale infrastructures for whole tree and ecosystem manipulation experiments to simulate responses to changing climatic (temp., precipitation, UV), atmospheric (CO<sub>2</sub> and other GHG, N deposition) and soil conditions.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>5. The sector in a societal perspective</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- development of environmental accounting systems for forest resources at regional and national level, also for the evaluation of the efficiency of defensive expenditure in relation to the value of the stocks and products and services delivered;</li> <li>- environmental accounting system should be associated to forecast modeling in order to evaluate the costs of inaction, as well as the cost of active policies;</li> <li>- designing innovative forest policies or measures within the framework of wider rural development strategies and using a joint territorial approach between all concerned parties;</li> <li>- developing participatory approaches for stakeholders' involvement and responsibilities sharing in local and regional development programmes based on public-private partnership (see the EU "Leader" approach in rural development policies);</li> <li>- developing valuation methods and benefit transfer methods for valuing in an integrated and comparable manner non-market forest services.</li> </ul> |

ANNEX II:

**APPLICATION FORM**

**Date**

**PERSONAL DATA**

Family name (Surname):

First name (Given name):

Gender:  Male  Female

Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy):

Nationality:

Private address (street, no., floor): Town:

Province:

Country: P.O. Box: Post code:

Tel. (Indicate country and area codes):

Fax (Indicate country and area codes):

E-mail address:

**Motivation for applying for the *Short Scientific Visit***

**PROJECT PROPOSAL**

**Title of the project:**

**Home institution (name, country)**

**Position at home institution**

**Host institution (name, country)**

**Please specify the dates at the host institution (dd/mm/yyyy)**

**Abstract of the project (objectives, methodology, data, time schedule) (about 250 words):**

**HOST INSTITUTION DATA**

Contact person's name and surname:

Contact person's e-mail:

Name of the university/institution:

Department or Faculty:

Complete address:

Country:

Tel. (Indicate country and area codes):

Fax (Indicate country and area codes):

**FORECAST OF EXPENDITURE**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| International travel (to and from home university/institution only)<br>Place of departure:<br>Destination:<br>Mean of transport:     Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> Train <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> | € |
| Visa costs, medical insurance if compulsory  | € |
| Costs of stay (110€/working day: includes accommodation, meals, local transport)   | € |
| Total grant requested  | € |
| Other funding received: <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> under preparation  |   |

*I certify that to the best of my knowledge the information given is correct and I agree to inform of any modification*

Date:

Signature:

ANNEX III:

**FORMAT OF THE WORK PLAN (to be appended to the application)**

Please use the format below as applicable. The maximum length of the work plan is 3 pages (excluding cover page).

**A. Cover Page**

1. Technical Data
  - a. Project title
  - b. Date of preparation
  - c. Contact person's name, title/affiliation and contact information

**B. Starting from page 2**

1. **Objective and outputs**
  - a. Objective
    - A clear specification of the main objectives of the project. Link to MFRA priorities.
  - b. Output
    - Expected technical outputs (reviewed and other publications and articles, reports, seminars, technical improvements, etc.) of the project
2. **Methodology**
  - Method(s) to be used
  - Which data will be used and how will it be collected
3. **Work plan**
  - Main activities and their timetable
  - The workplan table below should be filled in, one line per activity in chronological order, to show the planned implementation of the *Visit*.

|  | Day 1 | Day 2 | Day 3 | Day 4 | Day 5 | Day 6 | Day 7 | Day 8 | Day 9 | Day 10 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
|  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |
|  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |
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|  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |
|  |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |

4. **Links to other relevant activities**

List here other recent or ongoing projects and activities of relevance to the proposed project.

ANNEX IV:

## ENDORSEMENT LETTER

**MUST BE ON OFFICIAL HEADED PAPER OF THE HOST  
UNIVERSITY/INSTITUTION**

OBJECT: Invitation for a *Visit* to our university/institution in the framework of EFIMED *Short Scientific Visit*

Dear Sir/Madam,

We hereby invite you to the *(name of the university/institution)*, *(name of the Department/Faculty)*, from *day/month/year* to *day/month/year* (*XX working days*), in order to *(please give the purpose of the Visit)*. During your *Visit* at our university/institution, we will help you in carrying out the following activities:

*(List of activities to be carried out by the applicant)*

*(Add any practical arrangements/comments you deem necessary)*

For all matters linked to your *Visit*, you can contact *(name of contact person, with contact details)*

Yours sincerely,

SIGNATURE of the person legally authorised to represent the host university/institution

POSITION of the person legally authorised to represent the host university/institution

OFFICIAL STAMP or SEAL of the university/institution

ANNEX V.

## SHORT SCIENTIFIC VISIT REPORT

Based on the approved work plan, and following the structure of a scientific publication, it should contain the following information:

**A. Cover Page**

Technical Data

1. Project title
2. Dates of the visit
3. Granted person's name, title/affiliation and contact information

**B. Objectives** (Purpose of the *Visit*)

**C. Methodology**

D. Description of the work carried out during the *Visit* (include the workplan) and main **results** obtained

**E. Discussion**

**F. Conclusions**

G. **References:** bibliography, websites, etc.

H. **Future collaboration** with host institution (if applicable)

I. Projected **publications**/articles resulting or to result from the *Short Scientific Visit* (if applicable)

J. **Letter of Confirmation** by the tutor on the host institute of the successful execution of the mission:

*'Hereby I would like to inform that the above EFIMED Short Term Scientific Visit has been completed and the scientific report approved by the Host.*

*Name. Signature and Seal/stamp. Date'.*

K. **Abstract** of the Mission (2 paragraphs) for EFIMED website

L. **Other comments** (if any)