

# REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOPS

D.3.2.1

RESPONSIBLE PARTNER: LGCA/PP7

**DISCLAIMER**  
THIS DELIVERABLE D.3.2.1 (VERSION 1) WILL UNDERGO FURTHER REFINEMENT AND INTEGRATION UNTIL THE END OF THE FOREST ECOVALUE PROJECT. THE FINAL VERSION WILL REPLACE THIS ONE ON THE PROJECT WEBSITE AND WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE BY APRIL/MAY 2026.



Forest EcoValue

Interreg Alpine Space Programme 21-27

Carbon neutral and resource sensitive Alpine region

SO 2.2: Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy

**Forest EcoValue:**

**Supporting multiple forest ecosystem services through new circular/green/bio markets and value chains**

Project ID: ASP0100005

## List of the Forest EcoValue project partners

- PP1. Finpiemonte SpA – Regional financial and development agency / **Coordinator** [FINPIE] PP2. Lombardy Foundation for the Environment – Fondazione Lombardia per l’Ambiente [FLA]  
PP4. National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment – Institut National de Recherche pour l’Agriculture, l’Alimentation et l’Environnement [INRAE]  
PP5. Slovenia Forest Service – Zavod za Gozdove Slovenije [ZGS]  
PP6. Institute for Environmental Planning and Spatial Development GmbH & Co. KG – Institut für Umweltplanung und Raumentwicklung GmbH & Co. KG [Ifuplan]  
PP7. Lombardy Green Chemistry Association – Cluster Lombardo della Chimica Verde [LGCA]  
PP8. University of Graz, Institute of Environmental Systems Sciences [UNIGRAZ]  
PP9. Regional Centre for Forest Property Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes – Centre Régional de la Propriété Forestière [CNPFF]  
PP10. The French National Forest Office – Office National des Forêts [ONF] PP11. Hozcluster Steiermark – Woodcluster Styria [HCS]

## Document information

<b>Work package:</b>	WP3 - Transfer and take-up of the proposed solutions
<b>WP lead:</b>	PP7
<b>Activity:</b>	A.3.2
<b>Authors:</b>	Deliverable edited by the Forest EcoValue project partners under the supervision of WP leaders (PP7)
<b>Main contributor(s):</b>	Marta Buccaro (PP7)
<b>Reviewers:</b>	Reviewed by Susanna Longo (PP1)
<b>Document version:</b>	1
<b>Due date (month)</b>	M42
<b>Actual delivery date (month):</b>	
<b>Deliverable number:</b>	D.3.2.1
<b>Dissemination Level:</b>	[x] PU: Public (available on the project website)
<b>Type</b>	Report

### Disclaimer

This activity was co-funded by the Interreg Alpine Space Programme 21-27. The views and opinions expressed in this document are solely those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the Alpine Space Programme bodies or the project partners’ regions. Neither the Alpine Space Programme and its bodies nor any person acting on their behalf may be held responsible for the use of the information contained herein.

## Summary

Glossary.....	4
1. Introduction .....	5
2. Project overview .....	7
3. Capacity building workshops in the different countries .....	9
3.1 Italy .....	9
3.2 Slovenia .....	17
3.3 France .....	21
3.4 Germany .....	26
3.5 Austria .....	27

## Glossary

**CB** Capacity Building

**WP** Work Package

**FES** Forest Ecosystem Services

**ES** Ecosystem Services

**LL** Living Lab

**BM** Business Model

**PES** Payments for Ecosystem Services

**PP** Project Partner

**FINPIE** Finpiemonte SpA – Regional financial and development agency

**FLA** Fondazione Lombardia per l'Ambiente

**INRAE** Institut National de Recherche pour l'Agriculture, l'Alimentation et l'Environnement

**ZGS** Zavod za Gozdove Slovenije – Slovenia Forest Service

**Ifuplan** Institut für Umweltplanung und Raumentwicklung GmbH & Co. KG

**LGCA** Lombardy Green Chemistry Association – Cluster Lombardo della Chimica Verde

**UNIGRAZ** University of Graz – Institute of Environmental Systems Sciences

**CNPF** Centre Régional de la Propriété Forestière – Regional Centre for Forest Property Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes

**ONF** Office National des Forêts

**HCS** Holzcluster Steiermark – Woodcluster Styria

**ASFO** Associazione Forestale (Forest Owners' Association)

**PSR** Programma di Sviluppo Rurale (Rural Development Programme)

**GAL** Gruppo di Azione Locale (Local Action Group)

**SFS** Slovenia Forest Service

**SiDG** Slovenski Državni Gozdovi – Slovenian State Forests

**BSC Kranj** Regional Development Agency of Gorenjska

**DRAAF** Direction Régionale de l'Alimentation, de l'Agriculture et de la Forêt

**COFOR** Association des Communes Forestières

**SME** Small and Medium-sized Enterprise

**EU** European Union

## 1. Introduction

This deliverable focuses on the **implementation of Capacity Building (CB) Workshops** across the partner regions. These workshops aim to equip stakeholders with the knowledge, tools, and skills necessary to understand, support, and engage in innovative forest-related business models and ecosystem service frameworks.

These activities, implemented under WP3, were designed to transfer the knowledge and solutions developed through the project's pilot action in WP2. They were synergic with the piloting carried out in the network of five Living Labs and aimed to build awareness and capacity.

Designed as interactive learning sessions, the CB workshops specifically target **local and regional public authorities, forest owners, SMEs, clusters, and other relevant actors**. The content is aligned with the methodologies and tools developed in WP1 and tested in WP2 Living Labs. Each workshop facilitates the

transfer of knowledge on the valuation of FES, market frameworks, payment schemes, and governance models, promoting practical uptake and policy alignment.

Held in the different national contexts of the project partners (e.g. Austria, Italy, Germany, Slovenia, France), the workshops were tailored to regional needs and stakeholder profiles, while ensuring a transnationally coherent approach.

To ensure a distinct and targeted approach between the public events held within the Living Labs (D.2.1.2) and the Capacity Building Workshops, project partners engaged in a dedicated discussion to clarify the differing objectives, audiences, and formats of the two types of events.

#### **D.2.1.2. Intermediate and final public events**

**Target audience:** Local/regional target groups in LLs

**Purpose:** provide updates to the local community and maintain transparency in order to foster the engagement of local target groups.

- ➔ **Intermediate event** keep local stakeholders informed to encourage the continued collaboration.
- ➔ **Final event** offer a comprehensive restitution of the results achieved and the long-term potential of the proposed solutions.

#### **D3.2.1 Regional Capacity Building Workshops**

**Target audience:** from LL territories to the **wider region**. Forest owners, businesses, public administrations, others.

**Purpose:** to promote the transferability of the project solutions and methodologies.

- ➔ **Build knowledge** for the adoption of the project solutions and methodologies
- ➔ **Focus on the ecological and economical aspects** to explain how they are addressed in the project

## **Possible format**

### **Public Events**

#### **Key Objectives:**

- **Intermediate Event:** Keep local stakeholders informed about the project's progress to encourage ongoing collaboration.
- **Final Event:** Provide a comprehensive presentation of the results achieved and highlight the long-term potential of proposed solutions.

#### **Duration:**

- ✓ **Intermediate Event:** 1-3 hours, focusing on concise updates and discussion.
- ✓ **Final Event:** at least half a day, allowing for detailed presentations, demonstrations, and discussions.

### **Capacity building workshop**

**Duration:** Plan for a duration that accommodates brief presentations, interactive sessions, and Q&A. A typical format could be half a day or a full day.

**Location:** Choose an accessible venue for all participants. If possible, consider hybrid options to enable virtual participation.

**Engaging the audience:** Send targeted invitations with a well-defined preliminary agenda. Tailor presentations to address the needs and interests of each target group.

## Possible structure (examples)

### Intermediate Public Event /EXAMPLE

#### Session 1: Opening

Welcome address and introduction to the event's objectives.  
Brief overview of the project's progress and relevance to the community.

#### Session 2: Project Updates

Share updates on activities, milestones, etc.

#### Session 3: Stakeholder Interaction

- Facilitate a Q&A session or small group discussions to gather feedback.
- Encourage stakeholders to share their perspectives and suggestions.

#### Session 4: Closing



### Capacity building workshop / EXAMPLE

#### Session 1: Introduction

- Brief overview of the workshop objectives and expected outcomes.
- Presentation of Forest EcoValue project and its ecological and economic solutions.

#### Session 2: Technical Deep Dive

- Ecological Aspects (TBD, presentation with practical example or success cases)
- Economic Aspects (TBD, presentation with practical example or success cases)

#### Session 3: Interactive Engagement / Hands-on Workshop:

- Engage participants in simulations or real-life scenarios using project tools.
- Examples: Training on sustainable forestry practices for forest owners, Interactive session where participants use project tools to evaluate land use scenarios, etc

#### Session 4: Discussion and Feedback (Q&A or session)

- Facilitate open dialogue to gather opinions and suggestions.
- Identify barriers to adoption and discuss potential solutions.

In order to finalize this document, project partners were required to collect information about the 2 regional CB workshops organised in their countries, such as:

- Agenda
- Number of participants
- Photos (or screenshots, if online)
- Target groups reached
- Press release
- Media appearance (if possible)

## 2. Project overview

Forests of the Alpine Space play a key role in climate change mitigation and resilience, providing multiple ecosystem services (ES) and environmental and social benefits such as CO<sub>2</sub> absorption, air pollution reduction, biodiversity enhancement, and protection against natural hazards. However, they are threatened by abandonment, climate change, and territorial degradation, which progressively reduce natural resources and the provision of forest ES (FES). Maintenance costs of Alpine forests are high, and public funds and traditional wood value chains are insufficient to cover them. Economic valuation and payment schemes for FES are widely discussed but rarely successfully applied.

The Forest EcoValue project addresses this challenge by developing innovative, sustainable business models for forest management and maintenance, supporting new bio-based value chains and ES markets, and involving different sectors, public and private actors, and citizens. Restoring and maintaining healthy forests has been recognised as a source of value for the Alpine region, while also creating business opportunities and green jobs for Alpine communities.

The project focuses on a subset of FES from the following categories:

- **Provisioning** (e.g. biomass, raw materials, chemicals) with a specific focus on non-timber forest products, and on the production of woody biomass for energy, integrated into circular energy markets.
- **Regulating** (e.g. biodiversity, natural risk reduction, CO<sub>2</sub> absorption) concretely working on carbon and biodiversity credits, natural risk management through protective forests, and innovative environmental finance instruments such as green bonds and reverse auctions.
- **Cultural** (e.g. recreation, habitat experience, health) particularly enhancing recreational and tourism services and spiritual and cultural services.

These services have been explored and tested within Living Labs (LLs) across five countries, located in different Alpine territories and representing diverse ecological and socio-economic contexts:

- **Italy – Valle Tanaro, Piedmont:** The LL in Valle Tanaro explores innovative approaches to valorising chestnut groves, promoting non-timber forest products, developing carbon and biodiversity credits, and fostering experiential activities linked to forest and rural heritage.
- **France - Haute-Savoie:** Grand Annecy and Thonon LLs focus respectively on two aspects 1) recreational ecosystem services, enhancing the value of forests through the sale of experiences such as ecotourism, outdoor activities, and educational programmes 2) enhancing the value of water regulation services through a public-private partnership.
- **Slovenia – Karavanke Mountains, municipality Tržič:** The Slovenian LL addresses natural risk management with a focus on torrent control, advances solutions for wood biomass supply chains and promotes sustainable tourism and recreational use of forests.
- **Austria – Province of Styria:** The Styrian LL concentrates on biodiversity and habitat provision and carbon sequestration and storage through innovative financing mechanisms such as reverse auctions.
- **Germany – Tegernsee Valley, Upper Bavaria:** The German LL explores spiritual and cultural services, such as forest cemeteries with biodegradable urns, while also fostering habitat and biodiversity conservation through collaborative public–private partnerships.

Accordingly, the project is aiming to:

- Map and analyse the Alpine Space forests delivery capacity of FES;
- Identify and estimate the economic potential, define business models and FES market frameworks;
- Test the models/tools developed by the consortium in pilot LLs involving local players;
- Compare results at transnational level, identifying obstacles and facilitating factors;
- Analyse the need for innovative policies to foster forest maintenance, FES markets, and new value chains;
- Elaborate refined transferable tools/models and policy proposals to enable new markets and value chains and ensure the expected FES.

Throughout the project, a continuous participatory process is carried out within the Living Labs. Stakeholders' active involvement in these labs is essential for co-designing and testing models and tools, ensuring that the innovative approaches are rooted in local realities. In parallel, public events and capacity-building workshops have strengthened engagement, supported knowledge transfer, and

provided regular updates on project activities. This participatory and long-term approach, tested across the five territories, is paving the way for refined, transferable tools and policy proposals that can unlock new markets and value chains while safeguarding the provision of ecosystem services in the Alpine Space.

Project duration: 36 months

### 3. Capacity building workshops in the different countries

#### 3.1 Italy

##### Introduction

In Italy, two Capacity Building (CB) workshops were organised in 2025 to consolidate and disseminate the knowledge developed during transnational pilot action and the modelling and co-design phases of the Italian Living Lab.

The workshops represented a crucial step for sharing and discussing the progress and solutions emerging from the Pilot Action, also with an audience beyond the Living Lab participants.

They focused, among other aspects, on the integrated business model developed for the Tanaro Valley and on the exploration of potential funding, governance, and replication pathways.

The first workshop, held **in Ormea on 8 May 2025**, involved a group of key local actors — municipalities, forest consortia, ASFOs, cooperatives, and the Forestry School of Ormea. Its objective was to build technical and economic knowledge around the business model under development within the pilot action, supporting participants in understanding its assumptions, mechanisms, and potential applications in the local context.

The workshop adopted a technical yet accessible approach, aiming to make complex concepts understandable and to stimulate interaction and active exchange among a diverse audience with complementary backgrounds. The workshop also explored funding schemes for territorial projects, strengthening participants' capacity to identify financial opportunities — regional, national, and philanthropic — relevant to any future implementation.

The second workshop, conducted **online on 12 September 2025**, reached a broader audience, including professionals, researchers, and public authorities from many Italian Regions. It was designed as a capacity building and knowledge-sharing event, comparing the resolution resulting from the Italian Living Lab with those of other Alpine case studies, and stimulating a structured reflection on replicability, scalability, and integration into policy frameworks.

Across both CB workshops, several key messages emerged:

- The integrated business model as deriving from the Pilot Action was confirmed as technically sound and locally relevant, capable of generating measurable environmental, social, and economic impacts while maintaining alignment with regional forest policy instruments.
- Presenting the model and the solutions developed through the pilot action to **external actors with diverse and complementary expertise** during the CB workshops proved valuable for

**collecting technical feedback and observations** on key aspects such as **economic metrics, governance mechanisms, and implementation feasibility**. This exchange not only helped **disseminate the knowledge generated within the project**, but also **contributed to consolidating and strengthening the proposed solutions**, ensuring their **technical robustness and practical relevance**.

- Participants recognised the potential for public–private partnerships to sustain forest management activities, particularly those characterised by *negative economic return* (so-called *macchiatico negativo*) but high ecological value.
- Participants highlighted the need to broaden the scale of implementation, including more productive forest areas to improve economic balance and enhance credit generation efficiency.
- The workshop confirmed the transferability of the Valle Tanaro approach to other Alpine and Apennine territories, reinforcing the role of Living Labs as territorial incubators for FES-oriented innovation.

In summary, the two CB workshops marked the transition from the design and modelling phase to the strategic consolidation phase of the Living Lab, strengthening both local ownership and the visibility of the project outcomes beyond the local dimension.

### ***Workshop 1 – Technical Validation and Co-Design Session***

**Date:** 8 May 2025

**Location:** Ormea (CN), Italy

**Format:** In-person meeting

**Duration:** Approx. 3 hours

#### **Objectives and Rationale**

The first Capacity Building workshop of May 2025 was organised in synergy with the participatory process of the Valle Tanaro Living Lab.

The meeting was held in a small and operational format, involving the key stakeholders most actively engaged in the Living Lab, to ensure a focused discussion. Its objective was to provide a focus on some technical aspects of the integrated business model developed for the area, together with the economic metrics derived from the regional feasibility assessment. It also included a practical exercise and co-design session to define the implementation steps.

The workshop also aimed to:

- Facilitate dialogue between local practitioners and institutional representatives on how to integrate the model into existing planning and funding frameworks;
- Build knowledge on possible funding opportunities through regional, national, and EU programmes (e.g. Rural Development Funds, LIFE, and banking foundations);
- Establish the basis for a shared roadmap for the short-term continuation of Living Lab activities, through a practical co-design exercise.

## Participants and Stakeholder Groups

The workshop gathered around 10 key stakeholders, representing the main categories of actors within the Valle Tanaro ecosystem:

Type of stakeholder	Stakeholders <b>contacted</b> for the workshop	Stakeholders <b>participating</b> in the workshop
National public authority (TG 1 and 2):		
Regional public authority (TG 3 and 4):	1	1 (Finpiemonte)
Local public authority (TG 5):	1	1 (Comune Ormea)
Enterprise, except SME (TG 6 and 7):	0	0
SMEs (TG 8 and 9):	2	2 (Consorzio Forestale, Coop. Volpe e il Mirtillo)
Business support organization (TG 10):	0	0
Sectoral agency (TG 11):	0	0
Interest groups including NGOs (TG 12-14):	1	1 (ASFO Pamparà)
General public (TG 13):		
Higher education, research org. (TG 17):		
International organization, EEIG (TG 18 – 19):		
Others (TG 16):	1	1 (Scuola Forestale)
<b>TOTAL number of Stakeholders (sum):</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>

This multi-actor composition ensured the representation of both operational forest managers and decision-makers, enabling a realistic assessment of the business model's feasibility and governance requirements.

## Agenda of the workshop

1. Welcome and introduction – Context and objectives of the workshop.
2. Presentation of the final Business Model and validation exercise
  - Training session on ecosystem services evaluation and business model construction.
  - Key metrics and assumptions.
  - Collective validation through a structured feedback session.
3. Brainstorming on implementation roadmap
  - Identification of enabling conditions and potential funding sources.

## Workshop Activities and Methodology

The workshop followed a hands-on and learning by doing approach, combining short technical presentations with facilitated group discussions.

1. Business Model Validation: Participants analysed the model's structure, revenue streams, and cost assumptions through visual tools such as flow diagrams and cash-flow projections. Stakeholders

provided feedback on feasibility and scalability, focusing on management costs, productivity, and potential integration with initiatives like *Green Communities* and *Rural Development Programmes*.

2. Scenario Reflection: The group reviewed economic simulations from the feasibility assessment, comparing scenarios with different co-financing levels (0%, 20%, 50%, 85%). Discussions identified which options were most viable under local conditions and the level of public or private support required for profitable ecosystem-based forest management.
3. Roadmap Co-Design: A final collective brainstorming session defined practical next steps, priority actions, and possible funding instruments. Key proposals included the role of community cooperatives and ASFOs as intermediaries between landowners and funding bodies, and exploring opportunities through banking foundation calls and regional pilot schemes supporting nature-based solutions and rural development.

### **Key Outcomes**

- Knowledge transfer and capacity building: the involved stakeholders have been successfully trained on the basis of ecosystem services evaluation, and on business model canva development and validation.
- Validation achieved: The group confirmed the technical and economic soundness of the proposed model and its consistency with local conditions.
- Refinement of economic metrics: Stakeholders highlighted some mistakes in the estimation of cost and revenues metrics of some products (in particular regarding to chestnut production and orchard maintenance).
- Funding perspectives identified: Several active calls and funding lines were mapped, including PSR (Rural Development Programme) measures on silvo-climatic payments and biodiversity, LIFE sub-programmes, and local foundation grants.
- Governance and cooperation priorities: Participants agreed on the potential to strengthen joint management structures (ASFOs, consortia) and to formalise collaboration through local pacts or forest agreements.
- Follow-up actions defined: The Living Lab coordination team committed to elaborating a preliminary implementation roadmap based on the inputs gathered and to circulate it among participants for final remarks.

### ***Workshop 2 – Capacity Building and Knowledge Sharing Webinar***

**Date:** 12 September 2025

**Location and date:** Online (Microsoft Teams platform),

**Format:** Webinar with interactive session

**Duration:** Approx. 2 hours

### **Objectives and Rationale**

The second Capacity Building event was a national-level webinar designed to share knowledge and disseminate the results of the Italian Living Lab *Valle Tanaro* within the wider Alpine partnership.

Unlike the first, more local and operational workshop, this session targeted a broader Italian audience of professionals, researchers, and public officers in forestry, spatial planning, and environmental policy.

Its main objectives were to:

- Present the *Forest EcoValue* methodological framework and key outcomes across the Living Labs;
- Showcase the integrated business model and roadmap developed for the *Valle Tanaro* pilot area;
- Encourage reflection on the model's replicability, scalability, and policy integration across Italian regions;
- Strengthen stakeholder capacity on ecosystem-service-based business models and funding opportunities for sustainable forest management.

### Participants and Stakeholder Groups

The webinar attracted approximately **50 participants** from various Italian regions, representing a wide spectrum of institutional and professional backgrounds:

- **Public authorities:** regional departments for environment and forestry, mountain unions, and technical staff of municipalities.
- **Professional and research community:** forestry consultants, academics, and researchers from universities and applied research institutes.
- **Associative and private sector representatives:** members of forest consortia, ASFOs, cooperatives, and NGOs engaged in forest and landscape management.
- **Project partners and observers:** representatives of Finpiemonte (lead partner), FLA and Walden srl.

Type of stakeholder	Stakeholders <b>contacted</b> for the workshop	Stakeholders <b>participating</b> in the workshop
National public authority (TG 1 and 2):		
Regional public authority (TG 3 and 4):		12
Local public authority (TG 5):	23	8
Enterprise, except SME (TG 6 and 7):	6	
SMEs (TG 8 and 9):	3	8
Business support organization (TG 10):	9	3
Sectoral agency (TG 11):		
Interest groups including NGOs (TG 12-14):	19	6
General public (TG 13):	7	
Higher education, research org. (TG 17):	7	13
International organization, EEIG (TG 18 – 19):		
Others (TG 16):		
TOTAL number of Stakeholders (sum):	74	50

This composition allowed for a diverse exchange between technical experts, policy practitioners, and territorial actors, promoting the diffusion of knowledge produced within the Forest EcoValue partnership.

### **Agenda of the workshop**

#### **11:00 – Introduction to the Forest EcoValue project**

Overview of objectives, partnership, and transnational methodology.

#### **11:20 – Presentation of the modelling activities and Living Lab results**

Comparative overview of the business models developed in the Alpine Living Labs.

#### **11:40 – Focus on the Italian Living Lab – Valle Tanaro**

Detailed presentation of the business model, key metrics, and roadmap.

#### **12:00 – Interactive workshop and discussion**

Participants invited to comment on:

- Strengths and weaknesses of the proposed model.
- Conditions for replicability and scaling in other Italian regions.
- Synergies with existing programmes and ongoing projects.

#### **12:30 – Final debate and conclusions**

### **Workshop Activities and Methodology**

The event followed a two-part structure, combining informative presentations and participatory reflection:

1. Presentation and benchmarking: The first part provided an overview of the Forest EcoValue transnational framework, presenting the various modelling exercises carried out across the partner regions (Austria, Germany, Slovenia, France, and Italy).
2. In-depth focus on the Italian Living Lab: The integrated business model developed for the Valle Tanaro was presented, including quantitative data on forest interventions, product outputs, carbon and biodiversity credits, and social impacts. Particular attention was given to the economic assumptions behind the model, its cost structure, and the price sensitivity of carbon credits under different funding scenarios.
3. Interactive reflection: Following the presentations, participants joined an open discussion facilitated through a set of guiding questions. Contributions were collected directly in a shared online document, allowing for immediate synthesis of key points. The use of AI was involved for a quick review of participants' contributions, extracting the main themes and reflections pointed out by participants. The debate addressed:
  - The replicability of the model in other Italian mountain areas with similar ecological and socio-economic features.

- Potential funding schemes and governance mechanisms to ensure continuity after the project's end.
- The role of regional and national policies in supporting ecosystem-service-based forestry.

## Key Outcomes

- Validation of the Business Model: Participants confirmed the technical robustness and policy alignment of the *Valle Tanaro* model, recognising its balanced integration of ecological, social, and economic components.
- Participatory and Integrated Vision: The inclusive, bottom-up approach—linking public institutions, private actors, and local associations—was appreciated for fostering trust and collaboration.
- Contextualisation and Transferability: The model's territorial grounding was identified as its main strength, while its methodology was deemed adaptable to other Alpine and Apennine regions with appropriate local adjustments.
- Constraints Identified: Challenges included land fragmentation, high transaction costs, dependence on external incentives, and the need for stronger institutional anchoring.
- Improvement Proposals: Suggested actions involved reinforcing landowner associations (ASFOS), simplifying certification and PES systems, broadening funding through public–private mechanisms, and enhancing monitoring of long-term impacts.
- Funding Tools: Participants cited existing instruments (Rural Development Programmes, Green Communities, Smart Villages, GAL, banking foundations, *Filiera Futura*) and potential new measures, such as national incentives for forest planning and integrating carbon and biodiversity credits into management tools.
- Roles of Organisations: Universities and research centres were identified for technical support; ASFOS, cooperatives, and municipalities for territorial animation; and local authorities for project development and fundraising.
- Overall Feedback: The workshop received highly positive evaluations for its clarity, interactivity, and use of collaborative digital tools. Participants valued the balanced mix of technical input and open dialogue, suggesting the format as a model for future national and regional sessions.

## Photos or screenshots

Progetto Alpine Space Forest

https://teams.microsoft.com/v2/?meetingjoin=true#/l/meetup-join/19:meeting\_ZW...

Scarica la nuova app desktop Teams per migliorare velocità e le prestazioni

LIVE 29:08

Controlla Chat D&R Partecipanti Mano Reazioni Vista Altro Webcam Microfono Condividi Termina evento Abbandona

Registrazione e trascrizione  
Avviata automaticamente in base alle impostazioni dell'organizzatore della riunione.  
[Informativa sulla privacy](#)

## Workshop sui servizi ecosistemici forestali

Sostenere i servizi ecosistemici delle foreste attraverso mercati circolari/verdi/bio-based e lo sviluppo di nuove catene del valore

Workshop di capacity building  
Online, 12 Settembre 2025

Forest EcoValue

Partecipanti (28)

- Alessia Prin U... (non verificato)
- Antonio Martins (non verificato)
- Asbuc Andonno (non verificato)
- BORGHESI CRI... (non verificato)
- Cristina Tha
- Daniela Testa (non verificato)
- De Meo, Isabell... (non verificato)
- Elena MAESTRI (non verificato)
- Fabrizio Cerasoli (non verificato)
- Fabrizio Grama... (non verificato)

Carlotta Pellegrino (non verificato)

Progetto Alpine Space Forest

https://teams.microsoft.com/v2/?meetingjoin=true#/l/meetup-join/19:meeting\_ZW...

Scarica la nuova app desktop Teams per migliorare velocità e le prestazioni

LIVE 34:29

Controlla Chat D&R Partecipanti Mano Reazioni Vista Altro Webcam Microfono Condividi Termina evento Abbandona

## Il Living Lab in Valle Tanaro

- ✓ Un'area pilota in cui venissero rappresentate le opportunità e le risorse del territorio, dove poter **sviluppare, testare e validare nuove idee e soluzioni**.
- ✓ Uno spazio per interagire, coinvolgendo tutte le parti interessate e permettendo a tutti di avere un ruolo attivo nel **processo di innovazione e di trasformazione**.
- ✓ Un **processo partecipativo** coordinato e facilitato, a cui tutti potessero contribuire per **generare valore e trovare soluzioni a beneficio della comunità**.

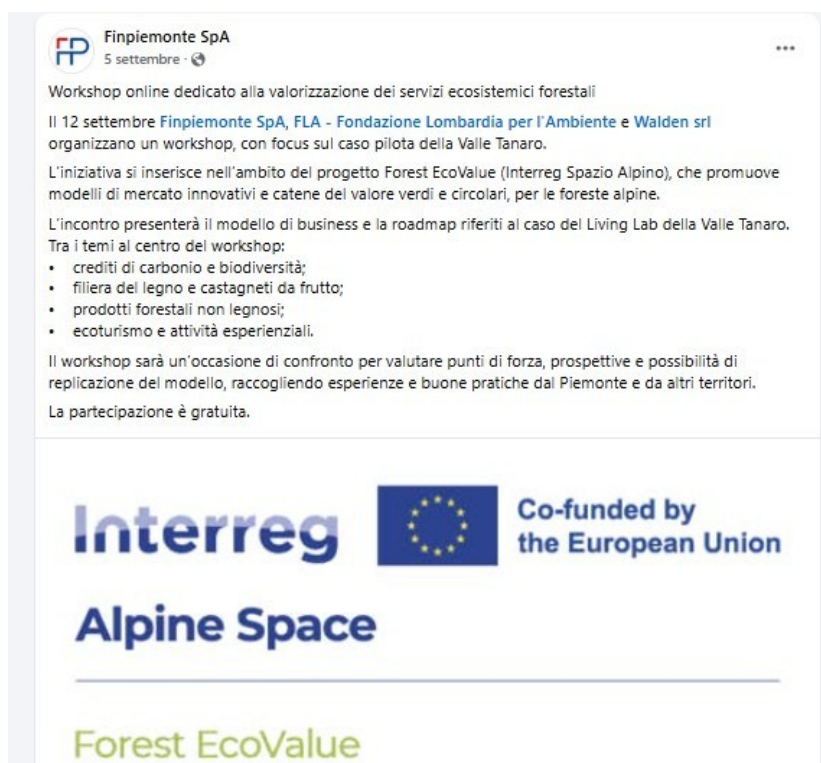
Valle Tanaro

Partecipanti (26)

- Fabrizio Cerasoli (non verificato)
- Fabrizio Grama... (non verificato)
- Gianluca Vitali (non verificato)
- Giorgio Pelassas (non verificato)
- Grossi Flavia (non verificato)
- Isabella Ballaur... (non verificato)
- L. Angelo (non verificato)
- Letizia (non verificato)
- marco abordi (non verificato)
- Maria Beria (non verificato)

Carlotta Pellegrino (non verificato)

Press release and media appearances:



LinkedIn post

Press release: <https://www.finpiemonte.it/news/workshop-online-dedicato-alla-valorizzazione-dei-servizi-ecosistemici-forestali>

## 3.2 Slovenia

### Introduction

As part of the *Forest EcoValue* project, SFS has planned and implemented capacity building activities aimed at strengthening local knowledge and cooperation in the field of sustainable forest management and the use of wood biomass.

The first workshop was organised in Tržič in June 2025 and focused on promoting the use of wood biomass at the municipal level. A second workshop was held in November 2025 within the *Rural Development Committee Meeting of the Gorenjska Region* at SORA Development Agency, addressing modern challenges and strategic directions in forestry. Through these initiatives, the aim is to bring together municipalities, forest owners, companies, and public agencies, fostering dialogue and collaboration for a more efficient and sustainable use of local forest resources.

### ***Workshop 1 - "Use of Wood Biomass in the Municipality of Tržič"***

**Date:** 3 June 2025, 13:00–16:00

**Location:** Inkubator Tržič, Tržič, Slovenia

**Organiser:** Slovenia Forest Service

**Objective:**

The main goal of this capacity building workshop was to promote the use of biomass in the municipality of Tržič, to connect relevant stakeholders, enhance their knowledge, and present the Forest EcoValue project and its activities.

**Agenda of the workshop:**

- Arrival of participants and registration
- Introductory greetings by the organiser (Aleš Poljanec, Director of the Slovenia Forest Service for Professional Affairs)
- Presentation of the municipality's work in the field of woody biomass (Peter Miklič, Mayor of the Municipality of Tržič)
- Presentation of the Forest EcoValue project and the use of woody biomass in the municipality (Živa Bončina, Slovenia Forest Service):
  - Legal frameworks and incentives
  - Potentials and demand for the use of wood biomass
  - Results of a survey on the use of wood biomass among major forest owners
- Example of good practice in the use of wood biomass – Municipality of Kočevje (Marin Radovčič, Komunala Kočevje):
  - Establishment of a district heating system using wood biomass in Kočevje
  - Organisation of biomass supply and purchase
- Workshop session: “How to increase wood biomass use in the municipality of Tržič” – presentation of group results
- Open discussion

**Photos or screenshots:**





### Participants and Stakeholder Groups

Participants were invited via post, email, and phone, sometimes we called after sending an invitation. The organisers maintained direct contact with key stakeholders established during project activities. Invitations were extended to major forest owners (n=50), biomass-related companies, the Regional Development Agency of Gorenjska (BSC Kranj), the Local Energy Agency of Gorenjska, the Biomass Association of Slovenia (project observer), the Forest Owner Association of Gorenjska, Komunala Kočevje (municipal utility company responsible for biomass supply), and several departments of the Slovenia Forest Service.

Type of stakeholder	Stakeholders <b>participating</b> in the workshop
National public authority (TG 1 and 2):	Slovenia Forest Service – project FEV, local and regional units: 6
Regional public authority (TG 3 and 4):	
Local public authority (TG 5):	utility company, part of municipality Kočevje, responsible for biomass (Komunala Kočevje), Municipality Tržič, different departments: 3
Enterprise, except SME (TG 6 and 7):	Companies on the field of biomass Gajles d.o.o., Slovenian State Forests SiDG (company that managed state forests): 3
SMEs (TG 8 and 9):	
Business support organization (TG 10):	
Sectoral agency (TG 11):	
Interest groups including NGOs (TG 12-14):	
General public (TG 13):	
Higher education, research org. (TG 17):	
International organization, EEIG (TG 18 – 19):	
Others (TG 16):	
<b>TOTAL number of Stakeholders (sum):</b>	<b>12</b>

The workshop successfully reached important target groups, including representatives from different departments of the Slovenia Forest Service, municipal authorities (including the mayor), and companies such as Slovenian State Forests (SiDG) and the local firm Gajles. The involvement of the municipality was

particularly valuable, as it plays a crucial role in developing spatial and energy plans and is often the key actor in establishing district heating systems.

**Press release and media appearances if present: /**

### ***Workshop 2 - “Modern Challenges and Strategic Directions in Forestry”***

**Event:** Rural Development Committee Meeting of the Gorenjska Region

**Date:** 10 November 2025, 12:30–15:30

**Location:** Škofja Loka, Slovenia

**Organiser:** Development Agency SORA, with Forest EcoValue contributing one dedicated session.

The second capacity building workshop was organised as part of the Rural Development Committee Meeting of the Gorenjska Region. It was focused on strategic challenges and opportunities in forestry, including sustainable forest management, the role of municipalities in forest planning, and the integration of biomass into local energy systems. In our session Forest EcoValue project and our work in the municipality of Tržič was presented.

The event gathered regional and local stakeholders, policy makers, and forestry experts, providing a platform to discuss practical approaches and policy frameworks supporting the objectives of the Forest EcoValue project.

### **Participants and Stakeholder Groups**

The workshop targeted local authorities, forest owner associations, regional development agencies, and companies active in forest-based value chains.

Type of stakeholder	Stakeholders <b>participating</b> in the workshop
National public authority (TG 1 and 2):	Slovenia Forest Service, Triglav National Park: 7
Regional public authority (TG 3 and 4):	
Local public authority (TG 5):	municipalities of Tržič, Bled, Kranj, Škofja Loka, Železniki: 5
Enterprise, except SME (TG 6 and 7):	
SMEs (TG 8 and 9):	
Business support organization (TG 10):	development agencies BSC Kranj, LAS loškega pogorja, RAGOR, SORA: 6
Sectoral agency (TG 11):	Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry: 1
Interest groups including NGOs (TG 12-14):	Cultural club Tabor: 1
General public (TG 13):	
Higher education, research org. (TG 17):	Biotechnical center Naklo: 1
International organization, EEIG (TG 18 – 19):	
Others (TG 16):	
<b>TOTAL number of Stakeholders (sum):</b>	<b>12</b>

**Photos or screenshots:**



Press release and media appearances if present: /

### 3.3 France

#### Introduction

Within the Forest EcoValue project, the French Living Lab, coordinated by the Office National des Forêts (ONF), organised two capacity building (CB) workshops aimed at strengthening collaboration among forest managers, local authorities, and stakeholders in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region. The first workshop took place on **16 January 2025** in La Tour de Salvagny and focused on introducing the Forest EcoValue approach, its methodology, and its potential to enhance the valuation and integration of forest ecosystem services (FES) into local management frameworks. The second workshop was held on **11 June 2025** in Semnoz, Annecy, combining a technical field tour with

an interactive working session. It aimed to deepen discussions among stakeholders on sustainable forest management practices, climate change impacts, and trade-offs between different forest uses. Both events gathered representatives from public authorities, ONF, COFOR, regional agencies, and other key stakeholders. They provided a platform for dialogue, awareness-raising, and exchange of technical solutions.

#### **Key outcomes**

- Strengthening understanding of the *Forest EcoValue* methodology and Living Lab participatory approach;
- Identification of technical and financial levers to promote FES at regional and municipal levels;
- Recognition of the need for a clearer institutional framework to support the promotion and remuneration of ecosystem services.

#### ***Workshop 1 – “Understanding the Challenges and Needs for Promoting Forest Ecosystem Services”***

**Date:** 16 January 2025, 08:30–13:30

**Location:** 18 av. Monts d’Or, 69890 La Tour de Salvagny

**Organiser:** Office National des Forêts (ONF)

#### **Objective:**

To introduce the Forest EcoValue project, discuss local challenges related to forest management, and explore tools to enhance the understanding and valuation of forest ecosystem services among practitioners and local decision-makers.

#### **Agenda of the workshop:**

- Presentation of the Forest EcoValue project: context, methodology, and objectives (Martin Grau, ONF)
- Presentation of the Living Lab approach and participatory process, with a focus on the Great Annecy case study (ONF)
- Interactive workshop using the Fresco of Forest Ecosystem Services animation tool to identify challenges and needs for promoting FES
- Discussion among stakeholders and Q&A session (COFOR)

#### **Key topics discussed:**

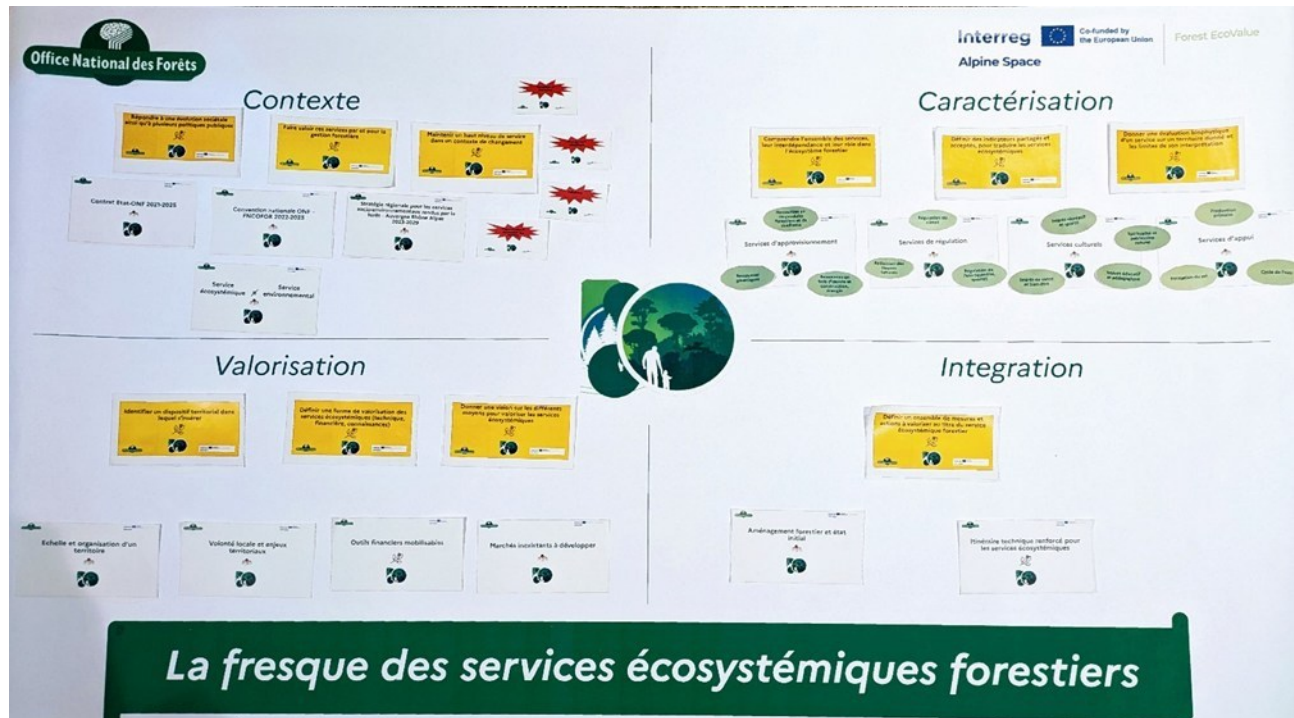
Stakeholders discussed the complexity of forest management in mixed public–private landscapes, high operational costs, and fluctuating wood prices. The Forest EcoValue framework was presented as a way to evaluate FES using biophysical and economic indicators, as well as to explore regional financial mechanisms such as payments for ecosystem services.

The example of the Moise ASL scheme, which compensates forest owners for protecting water sources, was also discussed as a replicable model.

#### **Main outcomes:**

Participants agreed on the value of using tools such as the Fresco to train ONF staff and raise awareness among regional stakeholders. The workshop confirmed the potential for replicating Living Lab approaches in other French regions and identified the use of the tourist tax to maintain recreational forest services as an innovative funding model.

#### Photos or screenshots:



Photos of the animation tool : the fresco of forest ecosystem services

#### Participants and Stakeholder Groups

10 participants, including representatives from ONF (regional and departmental directorates), COFOR (association of forest municipalities), and local elected officials. Key stakeholders included ONF managers and regional forest authorities actively engaged in FEV implementation.

#### Workshop 2 – “Balancing Forest Uses and Ecosystem Services in the Face of Climate Challenges”

**Date:** 11 June 2025, 08:30–17:30

**Location:** Semnoz, 74000 Annecy

**Organiser:** Office National des Forêts (ONF)

#### Objective:

To explore practical approaches to sustainable forest management in the context of climate change and to identify local strategies for balancing timber production, biodiversity, and recreational services.

#### Agenda of the workshop:

- Technical field tour with ONF forest managers illustrating forest management actions (logging, recreational use, adaptation to climate impacts)
- Presentation of the Forest EcoValue project: context, methodology, and objectives (Frédérique Zelmire, ONF)
- Overview of regional Living Labs and participatory processes (ONF)
- Stakeholder workshop: prioritisation exercise on forest management scenarios and ecosystem service outcomes
- Discussion and synthesis of results

#### **Key topics discussed:**

The field visit provided a basis for discussing sanitary fellings related to bark beetle attacks, the management of dying spruce stands, and the need to improve communication with the public regarding access restrictions during logging operations.

During the participatory exercise, stakeholders compared three forest management scenarios (light, moderate, intensive). The moderate approach—combining targeted interventions while maintaining forest cover—was identified as the most balanced option to ensure both forest resilience and service provision.

#### **Main outcomes:**

- Validation of the Forest EcoValue approach as a useful framework for awareness-raising among technicians, elected officials, and local communities;
- Agreement on the importance of establishing a structured framework for the promotion of ecosystem services;
- Reinforced collaboration between ONF, COFOR, and regional authorities to disseminate replicable practices.

#### **Photos or screenshots:**



*Field trip in Semnoz public forest*



*Presentation of Forest Eco Value project and Living Lab*



*Workshop about forest ecosystem services*

### **Participants and Stakeholder Groups**

The event brought together a diverse group of participants representing regional and local public authorities, ONF at national, regional, and local levels, COFOR, SMEs, NGOs, and research institutions. Attendance reflected strong engagement across the forestry and environmental governance landscape, with key stakeholders including ONF field teams, COFOR representatives, state forestry officers from DRAAF, and elected officials from the Greater Annecy area.

In total, 36 participants took part in the meeting: 4 from ONF, 6 from COFOR, 6 from NGOs, 3 from SMEs, and 1 from a forestry school, along with 11 key stakeholders, 2 representatives from DRAAF, and 3 from the Greater Annecy authorities. This broad and well-balanced representation ensured a comprehensive exchange of perspectives and reinforced the collaborative approach underpinning the project's activities.

**Press release and media appearances, if present: /**

## **3.4 Germany**

### **Statement on the Delay:**

*The implementation of the planned Capacity Building Workshops has been temporarily postponed, as the Living Lab is still in the process of assessing the feasibility and validating the developed business ideas. At the current stage, the conceptual foundations and results are not yet considered sufficiently robust to allow for a meaningful and substantial knowledge transfer.*

*The workshops are therefore planned to take place once the outcomes are more consolidated, ensuring that stakeholders receive practical, application-oriented, and validated insights. Holding the workshops*

*prematurely could compromise their quality and effectiveness, while rescheduling them is expected to provide clearer added value for participants and for the project's overall objectives.*

*It has also been noted that the time availability of the involved stakeholders is limited, and their engagement will be sought only when tangible and exploitable results are available, in order to maximize the benefit and impact of their participation.*

*Nevertheless, workshop planning is actively progressing. A draft agenda and an online registration form have already been prepared, and the dates for the sessions are currently being finalised. According to the revised timeline, the workshops are foreseen for the end of January or the beginning of February 2026. Invitations have already been sent to the relevant stakeholders.*

*Stakeholder availability continues to be taken into account, and engagement is being sought at a time when tangible, exploitable outcomes can be shared, thereby maximising the benefit and impact of their participation. The workshops are expected to involve primarily TG16 (public and private forest owners), TG14 (forest owner associations), and TG4 (regional public authorities responsible for forestry).*

### 3.5 Austria

#### Introduction

As part of the *Forest EcoValue* project, two Capacity Building (CB) Workshops were organised in Austria to promote knowledge exchange and stakeholder engagement around the integration of *Forest Ecosystem Services (FES)* into forest management and policy frameworks. The events were co-organised by the **University of Graz** and the **Holzcluster Steiermark GmbH (HCS)** within the framework of the Styrian Living Lab.

The **first workshop**, held on **26 June 2025** at the *Holzinnovationszentrum* in Zeltweg, aimed to introduce the *Forest EcoValue* project and the concept of FES, present funding opportunities, and discuss incentives and barriers for forest owners to participate in ecosystem service schemes. Despite active promotion among forest owners' associations, the session was not attended. However, the preparatory and dissemination activities contributed to raising awareness of the initiative at regional level.

The **second workshop**, held on **30 July 2025** at the *Holzcluster Steiermark GmbH* headquarters in Graz, brought together stakeholders from the forestry, research, and policy sectors to discuss the results of the Styrian Living Lab, explore reverse auctions as a potential business model for ecosystem services, and identify next steps for implementing innovative financing mechanisms in forest management.

Overall, these workshops strengthened cooperation between research institutions, public authorities, and private stakeholders in Styria, contributing to the transfer of the *Forest EcoValue* tools and methodologies into the Austrian context.

#### ***Workshop 1 – “Secure the Future of Forests and Be Rewarded for It: New Options for Biodiversity and Carbon Stability”***

**Date:** 26 June 2025, 16:00–19:30

**Location:** Holzinnovationszentrum, Holzinnovationszentrum 1a, 8740 Zeltweg

**Organiser:** Holzcluster Steiermark GmbH (HCS)

**Objective:**

To introduce the *Forest EcoValue* project and the Styrian Living Lab, highlight the importance of forest ecosystem services, and explore new funding and incentive mechanisms for forest owners, fostering dialogue on how to integrate FES into practical management approaches.

**Agenda of the workshop:**

16:30–17:00 | Welcome and Project Introduction

- *Introduction to the Interreg Alpine Space Project “Forest EcoValue”*
- *Objectives and benefits of the Living Lab Styria for forest owners*

17:00–17:20 | Forest Ecosystem Services (FES) and Funding Opportunities

- *What services do forests provide for society and the climate?*
- *Overview of measures, funding logic, and the reverse auction model*

10-minute break

17:30–18:15 | Motivation and Decision Factors – Group Discussions

- *Current Status: Which funding programs are being used? What is already being implemented in practice? What challenges exist?*
- *Future Outlook on Ecosystem Services: What motivates forest owners to participate (or not participate)? Personal motivations, obstacles & visions*

18:15 | Outlook and Transition to Networking

- *Initial insights and perspectives for action*
- *Invitation to network and further participation*

18:30 onwards | Open Networking & Closing – *Exchange over drinks and regional specialties*

**Key Outcome:**

Although the event was well prepared and widely promoted (through the local Murtal Forest Owners' Association and online), it was not attended. Nevertheless, the process contributed to increased visibility of the *Forest EcoValue* initiative and served as a preliminary engagement step for subsequent events

**Photos or screenshots**

UNSER NETZWERK
CLUSTER-LEISTUNGEN
AKTUELLES
KONTAKT

# Forest EcoValue – Living Lab Workshop

Jetzt teilnehmen und Waldzukunft mitgestalten!

26.06.2025 | 16:00 -19:30

Im Rahmen des Interreg Alpine Space Projekts **Forest EcoValue** laden wir Sie herzlich zum Living Lab Workshop ein. Gemeinsam mit der **Universität Graz** und dem **Holzcluster Steiermark** möchten wir Ihnen zeigen, wie Sie als Waldbesitzer:in neue Einkommensmöglichkeiten erschließen und gleichzeitig aktiv zum Klimaschutz und zur Biodiversität beitragen können.

- Was erwartet Sie?**  
Einblicke in das steirische **Living Lab**, ein Reallabor für innovative, biodiversitätsfördernde Waldbewirtschaftung
- Informationen zu **Fördermöglichkeiten** für Ökosystemleistungen wie Totholzmanagement und Mischwaldentwicklung
- Austausch zu aktuellen Herausforderungen, Förderzugängen und Motivationen
- Vernetzung mit Fachleuten, Projektpartnern und anderen Waldbesitzer:innen bei regionaler Jause

**Ort:** Holzinnovationszentrum, Holzinnovationszentrum 1a  
8740 Zeitweg

**Datum:** 26.06.2025 | 16:00 - 19:30

**Kontakt & Anmeldung:**  
Kilian Silberschneider, MSc  
M: +43 664 167 40 45  
E: [silberschneider@holzcluster-steiermark.at](mailto:silberschneider@holzcluster-steiermark.at)

**Veranstalter:**

**Anmelden**

Frau

Titel

Abbrechen oder Titel

Online registration webpage

## Participants and Stakeholder Groups

Intended audience: regional forest owners, SMEs, forestry associations, and local public authorities (Target Groups 3, 11, 15, 16).

## Workshop #2 – “Secure the Future of Forests and Be Rewarded for It: New Options for Biodiversity and Carbon Stability”

**Date:** 30 July 2025, 14:30–17:00

**Location:** Holzcluster Steiermark GmbH, Reininghausstraße 13a, 8020 Graz

**Organisers:** Holzcluster Steiermark GmbH (HCS) and University of Graz

### Objective:

To present the Forest EcoValue project and its practical application through the Styrian Living Lab, showcase examples from other partner countries, and discuss the feasibility of reverse auctions as an innovative business model for the valuation and remuneration of forest ecosystem services.

### Agenda of the workshop:

14:30–15:00 | Welcome and Technicalities of the Living Lab for the Forest Owners’ Association Styria

15:00–15:30 | Presentation of the Project and Stakeholder Welcome

- *Introduction to the Interreg Alpine Space project “Forest EcoValue”*
- *Ecosystem services of Styrian forests*
- *Experiences from the Living Lab network*

15:30–16:30 | Styrian Living Lab Results

- *Presentation of outcomes and participants’ experiences*
- *Discussion on motivation, challenges, and contractual conditions*
- *Future perspectives and next steps*

16:30–17:00 | Open Networking and Final Discussion

**Key Outcome:**

The workshop enabled an in-depth discussion among stakeholders from academia, industry, and public administration about the operationalisation of ecosystem service schemes in Austria. Participants expressed strong interest in the reverse auction model and discussed potential governance and contractual frameworks to ensure fair compensation for ecosystem services.

**Photos or screenshots:**



**Participants and Stakeholder Groups**

Intended audience: regional forest owners, SMEs, forestry associations, and local public authorities (Target Groups 3, 11, 15, 16).

**Press release and media appearances if present:**

<https://www.holzcluster-steiermark.at/news/nachbericht-waldwirtschaft-neu-gedacht-rueckwaertsauktion-als-modell-der-zukunft/>



Gefördert durch:



Bundesministerium  
für Umwelt, Naturschutz, nukleare Sicherheit  
und Verbraucherschutz

aufgrund eines Beschlusses  
des Deutschen Bundestages