

## Background, Purpose, Co-Creation and Follow-up

### Background

A first round of Regional Workshops took place in summer 2023. Workshops were implemented in six European Regions. These regions cover all European Member States, EU Associated Countries and long-term partner countries in European Research and Innovation programmes related to forests. The workshops were organised in the framework of the EU project EUFORE. EUFORE supports the establishment of the European Partnership “Forests and Forestry for a Sustainable Future” by developing a European Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA). The SRIA is co-created by stakeholders, covering the quadruple helix (Industry and Businesses; Research; Civil Society and Governance/Regulators).

Within this first round of workshops, the stakeholders collected initial R&I themes that should be covered by the SRIA. More than 2,000 themes and ideas were collected and processed further within four Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) covering the topics “Forest Ecology”, “Forest Management”, “Forest Products” and “Social Aspects & Policy”. Each of the TWG drafted a chapter of the SRIA. All participants of the first round of Regional Stakeholder Workshops and additional stakeholders were invited to participate in the TWGs.

### Purpose

Within a second round of workshops the draft SRIA will be further elaborated together with the stakeholders. The focus of the workshops will be put on the intervention logic of the future European Partnership “Forests and Forestry for a Sustainable Future” as well as on the SRIA Roadmap. The Road Map serves as planning document for SRIA implementation. Following topics will be discussed with the stakeholders:

- a. General prioritization  
Participants are asked to rank the R&I topics of each sub-chapter according to their relevance for the respective region. This prioritization exercise will be implemented via a survey prior to the workshops
- b. Level of implementation  
Participants will indicate whether R&I topics of each sub-chapter ranked as most relevant, should be tackled at EU and/or national level.
- c. Temporal prioritization  
Participants are asked when the highest ranked R&I topics of each sub-chapter should be tackled, given a time frame of 7 to 8 years in which the European Partnership is implemented.
- d. Level of funding activities  
Participants will indicate which type of funding activities<sup>1</sup> are needed to address the highest ranked R&I topics of each subchapter adequately. Do the R&I topics as described in the sub-chapters of the draft SRIA need more basic research / knowledge generation (like a Research & Innovation Action) or are they advanced enough to be addressed by practically oriented activities such as knowledge transfer and transition (like a Coordination & Support Action)?

At the end of the workshops the participants will have identified up to 40 R&I themes that are perceived as highly relevant. For these R&I themes a time line for implementation as well as adequate funding activities are suggested. By doing so, a precise framework has been identified that can be considered as a SRIA roadmap. Further, it serves as a valid contribution to the development of the [Partnership Proposal](#)<sup>2</sup>.

### Follow-up

The results will be discussed during a European Stakeholder Workshop in November 2024. A SRIA Writing Group will elaborate a final draft of the SRIA including a SRIA Road Map. The Writing Group will work in close liaison with the SCAR SWG Forest and the European Commission to ensure full compliance of the SRIA with the formal requirements of the European Partnership development. The interested stakeholders can share their views on the SRIA draft via dedicated engagement formats.

---

<sup>1</sup> According to the types of projects under [Horizon Europe](#) (Research & Innovation Actions, Innovation Actions, Coordination & Support Actions...)

<sup>2</sup> This document is a draft and will not be submitted as an application. It serves as an orientation only.