Forest EcoValue

Support Forest Ecosystem Services through circular/green/bio markets and value chains

Interreg Alpine Space

Co-funded by the European Union

Forest EcoValue

Project presentation

General meeting of the Alpine Towns
Cuneo, 17 May 2024

Project Partners

Partners	Region	Country
Finpiemonte SpA - **Coordinator**	Piedmont	Italy
Lombardy Foundation for the Environment	Lombardy	Italy
Lombardy Green Chemistry Association	Lombardy	Italy
Styrian Wood Cluster - Holzcluster Steiermark GmbH	Steiermark	Austria
University of Graz - Institute of Systems Science, Innovation and Sustainability	Steiermark	Austria
Slovenia Forest Service	Zahodna Slovenija	Slovenia
IFUPLAN – Institute for Environmental Planning and Spatial Development GmbH & Co. KG	Oberbayern	Germany
INRAE – National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and the Environment / Laboratory for Ecosystems and Society in Moiuntains	Auvergne-Rhone-Alpes	France
CNPF – Regional Centre for Forest Property	Auvergne-Rhone-Alpes	France
ONF – Forests National Office	Auvergne-Rhone-Alpes	France

10 organisations
from
5 Alpine Space Countries

Forest EcoValue – The project focus

MAXIMISE the VALUE deriving from FORESTS

Sustain the production of **ecosistem services** that are beneficial for people and local communities

MANAGE the THREATS

Climate change and land degradation lead to a decrease in the capacity to provide ecosystem services. Sustainable forest management practices need to be developed.

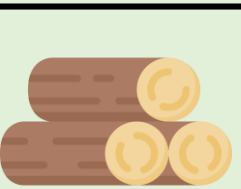
VERIFY the OPPORTUNITIES

- Explore **forest management approaches** in relation to opportunities for forest owners
- Foster the development **of new value chains** beyond the traditional wood supply chain

Interreg Alpine Space
Co-funded by the European Union
Forest EcoValue

The ecosystem services provided by the forest

The benefits provided by forests are conventionally divided into 4 categories of ES:



Procurement

Raw materials: food, clear water, timber and forest products

Regulation

CO2 absorption, climate mitigation, prevention of hydrogeological disruption, biodiversity conservation, etc

Support

Soil formation and oxygen production

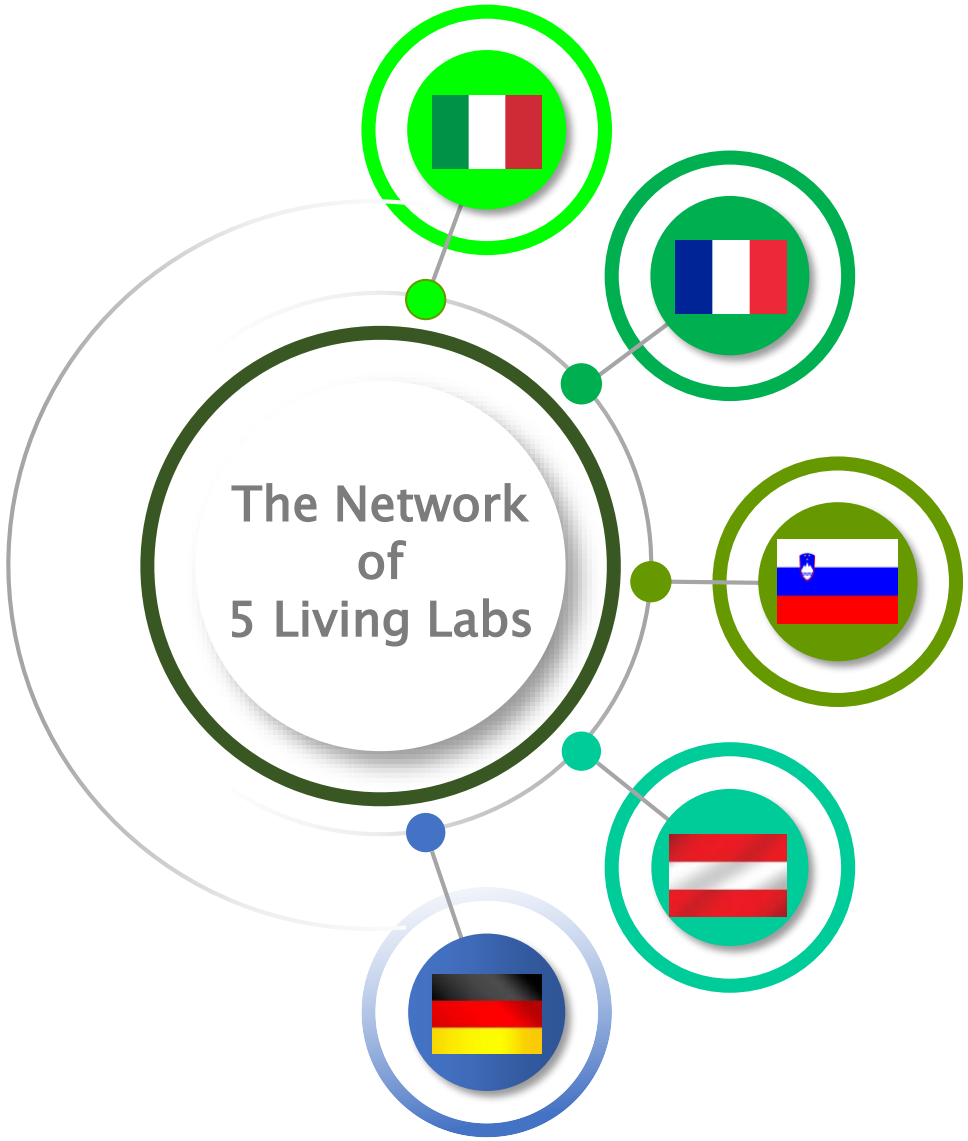
Cultural Services

Eco-tourism and educational functions

The project will work on a subset of them, through local pilot actions

Interreg Alpine Space
Co-funded by the European Union
Forest EcoValue

The pilot action: a network of 5 Living Labs



- **Italy**
  Piedmont, Province of Cuneo (close to the border with France)
- **France**
  Conurbations of Thonon, Grand Annecy and Grenoble, Haute Savoie
- **Slovenia**
  Karavanke Mountains, Northern Slovenia
- **Austria**
  Province of Styria
- **Germany**
  Tegernsee Valley, District of Bad Tölz - Wolfratshausen and Miesbach, Oberbayern

What are Living Labs?

- ✓ Pilot areas representing the opportunities and resources of a territory, where **new ideas and solutions can be developed, tested, and validated**.
- ✓ They provide a **space for interaction** between end-users and stakeholders, allowing everyone to **play an active role in the transformation and innovation process**.
- ✓ They facilitate a **participatory process** where everyone contributes to generating value and **designing solutions for the community's benefit**.

The Participatory Process in Living Labs

One year of work within a structured path in the territories

- An **open dialogue** with public and private stakeholders
- Combining the **value generated** by forests with sustainable management
- **Gathering needs, feedback, data, and reactions** on proposed solutions
- Raising awareness and **engaging policymakers**
- **Exchange transnationally** on common issues with Living Labs in other countries

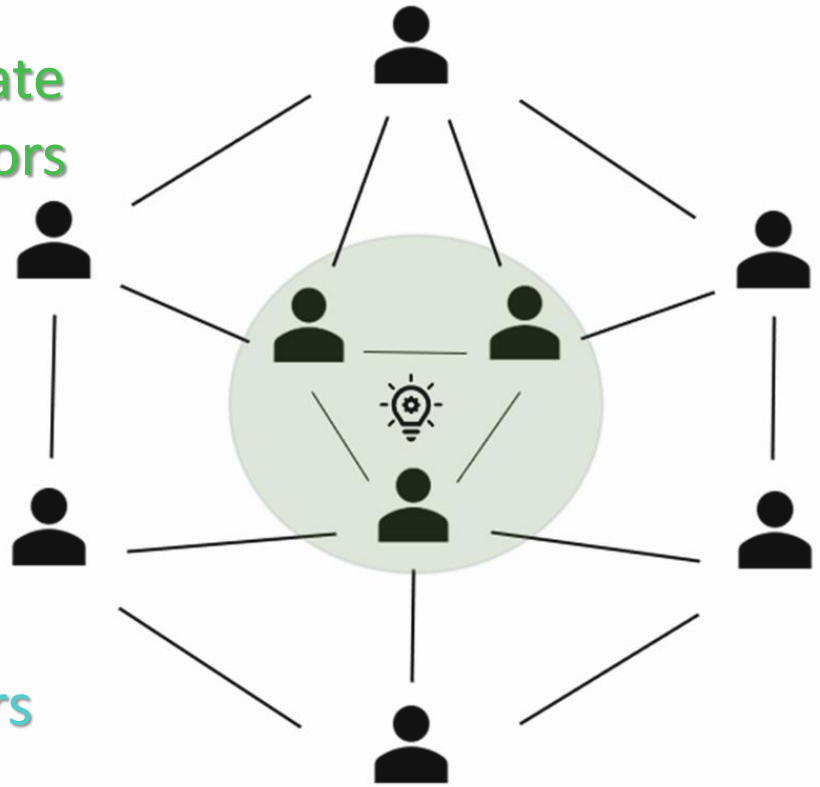
Interreg Alpine Space
Co-funded by the European Union
Forest EcoValue

Who is invited to join?

Forest owners and representative associations

Public and private forestry operators

Businesses and economic operators in the territory



Local organizations

Regional and local government authorities

Financial and insurance sector

Policy makers

Citizens and civil society

Interreg Alpine Space
Co-funded by the European Union
Forest EcoValue

Expected results at local level

Present to policymakers the **NEEDS FOR INTERVENTION** to create favorable conditions

Enhance **SKILLS** within the territories (workshops and Summer School)

Draft a **SHARED ACTION PLAN** among stakeholders

Strengthen green, circular, and bio-based **Value Chains** and develop **new businesses**

Propose **a REPLICABLE MARKET MODEL** for forest valorization and sustainable management

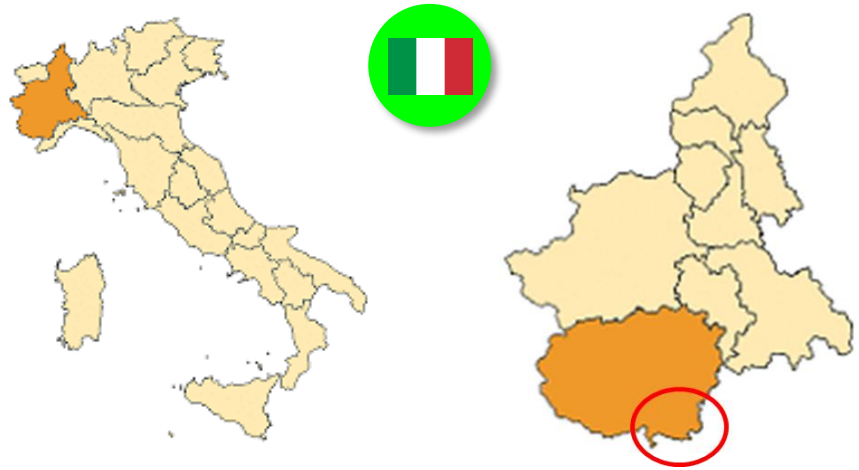
Identify the **ECONOMIC POTENTIAL** of the forested territory

Interreg Alpine Space
Co-funded by the European Union
Forest EcoValue

The Italian Living Lab – Tanaro Valley

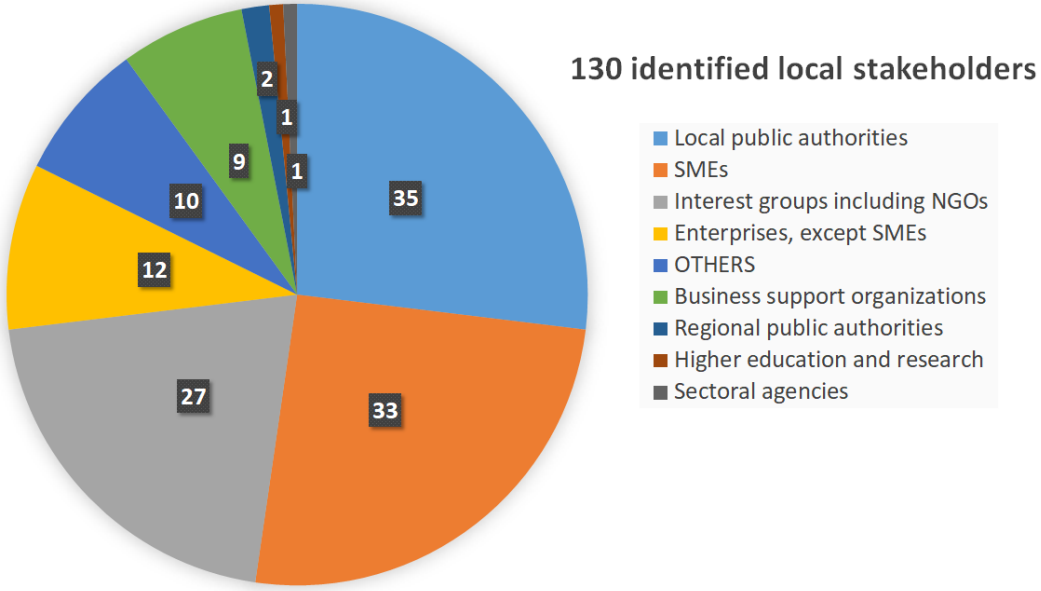
General information

- Total Area: 41.347 ha; 31 Municipalities; 18.000 inhabitants.
- Maritime Alps (up to 2700 m asl); Forest cover: 61%
- Forest owners: 80% private; 20% public



Ecosystem Services of main interest

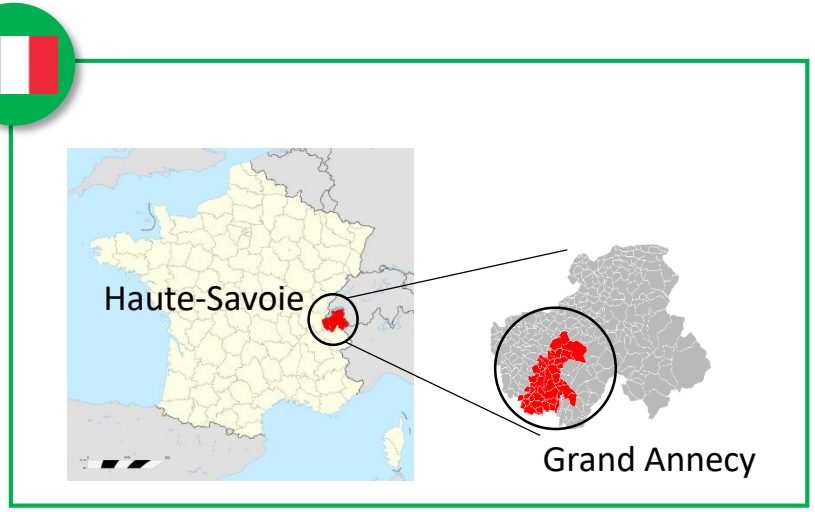
BIOCHEMISTRY	Products of interest (tannins, lignosulphonates, flavonoids, etc)
BIOFUEL	Biomass provision, waste biomass management
CHESTNUT ORCHARD	Sustainability of the production, sustainable trees management
WATER	Maintenance of high quality, reduction of soil pollution
ECOTOURISM	Maintenance of biodiversity and landscape beauty



The French Living Lab – Grand Annecy

General information

- Total area: 515 km2;
- Inhabitants: 250 000 inhabitants
- 32% of the area is covered by forests
- 40% of mixed forests and 16% of pure spruce forest



Ecosystem Services of main interest

RECREATION	Outdoor activities, landscape
BIODIVERSITY	Habitat for biodiversity
RISK MITIGATION	Protection from rockfall, avalanches, etc
WATER	Maintenance of high quality, reduction of soil pollution
WOOD & TIMBER	Provision of wood from sustainable forestery

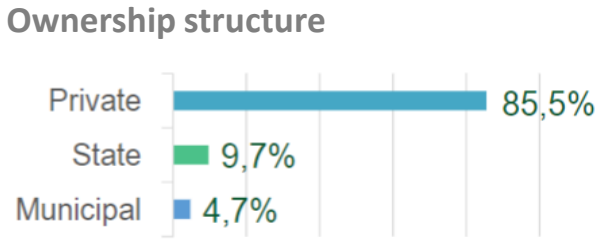
- High touristic vocation: 2 millions nights a year
- Many Natura 2000 sites and protected areas
- Drinking water originates at 80% from the lake
- Cliff and peaks located above cities with high value mansions

Interreg Alpine Space
Co-funded by the European Union
Forest EcoValue

The Slovenian Living Lab – Municipality of Tržič

General information

- Surface: 0,8% of Slovenia - 155,4 km2
- Average elevation: 1080m (max. 2133m)
- Slope: average 25.3º
- Forest cover: over 70%
- Inhabitants: 15.000



Ecosystem Services of main interest

BIOMASS	Biomass provision, waste biomass management; potentials of locally encouraged use of forest as one of the key natural resources
PROTECTION	Forest as a protector and mediator in areas with high relief energy
CULTURAL	Identification of the role of forest in recreation of LL population and visitors

Interreg Alpine Space
Co-funded by the European Union
Forest EcoValue

The Austrian Living Lab – Styria

General information

- Province of Styria
- Total area: 16,401 km²
- 62% of land is covered by forests
- Main forest types: spruce and spruce-fir-beech forests
- Common management practice: clear cutting

Ecosystem Services of main interest

HABITAT	Biodiversity and habitat maintenance
CO_2 BALANCE	Carbon balance maintenance
TIMBER	Continuous timber provision

Over 8000 small scale forest owners
→ focus of the Living Lab

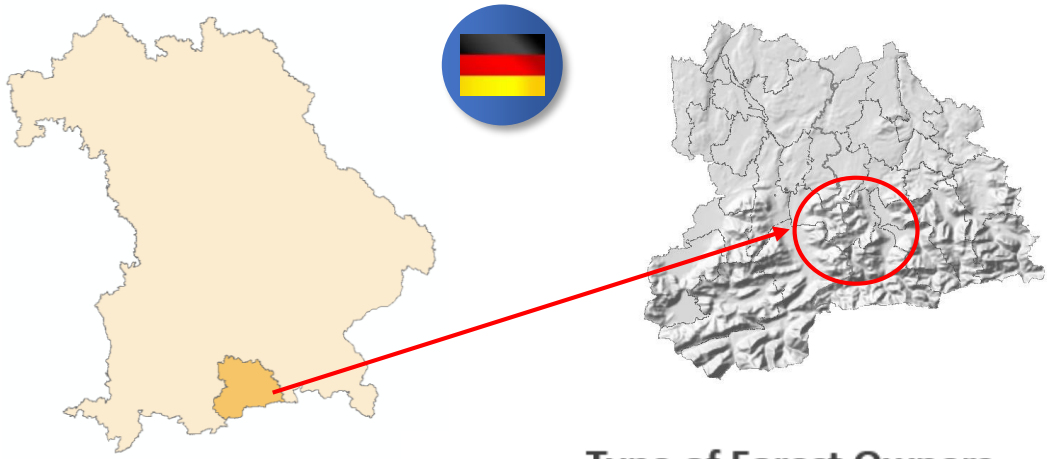
Main stakeholder: Styrian Forest Owners Association (Waldverband Steiermark)

Interreg Alpine Space
Co-funded by the European Union
Forest EcoValue

The German Living Lab – Tegernsee Valley

General information

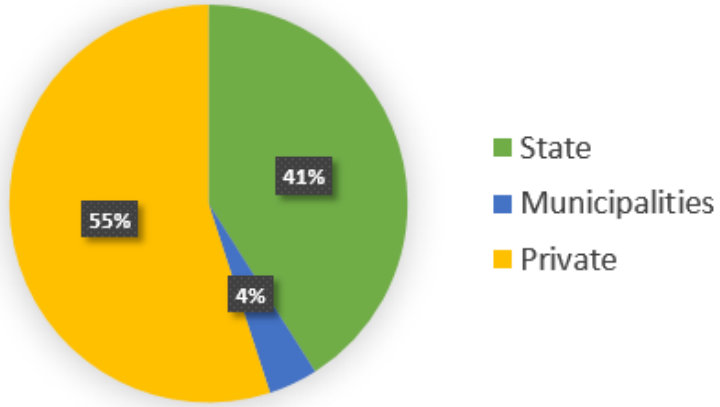
- Total Area: 197.719 ha; 36 Municipalities
- Northern Limestone Alps (up to 2100 m asl)
- Forest cover: 53%
  (spruce 60%, beech 15%, hardwood 11%, fir 6%)



Ecosystem Services of main interest

WOOD BIOMASS	Provision of timber wood and fuel wood biomass
CO_2 STORAGE	Climate regulation through carbon sequestration
HABITAT PROVISION	Provision of nature conservation areas, natura 2000 areas and alpine biotopes
LANDSLIDE PREVENTION	Regulation through protection forests and protective structures
RECREATION	Landscape beauty, sporting activities, cultural and spiritual activities

Type of Forest Owners



Interreg Alpine Space
Co-funded by the European Union
Forest EcoValue

Interreg Co-funded by the European Union

Alpine Space

Forest EcoValue

Thank you for your attention!

Susanna.longo@finpiemonte.it