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## ALTERFOR NEWSLETTER

[www.alterfor-project.eu](http://www.alterfor-project.eu)

### ALTERNATIVE MODELS AND ROBUST DECISION-MAKING FOR FUTURE FOREST MANAGEMENT

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#### LOOKING BACK AT THE IUFRO 125<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONGRESS

We are pleased to report that many ALTERFOR scientists presented their project-related research findings to the audience of the largest forest research conference in September 2017. The IUFRO 125th Anniversary Congress took place in Freiburg, Germany, aiming at fostering the exchange between decision makers, scientists and stakeholders. The themes were manifold, from ecosystem service trade-offs to multiple perspectives on the European bioeconomy. 2,050 attendees registered from eighty-nine countries all over the world, with about sixty percent of them from Europe. Almost forty percent of the participants were female.

We asked Giulia Attocchi, member of the project management team at SLU, to describe her impressions about the congress.

*Giulia Attocchi: From my point of view, the IUFRO congress was a great success – also as regards the visibility of ALTERFOR. Numerous ALTERFOR researchers contributed with nine oral presentations and two posters, covering the four multi-disciplinary work packages in the project.*

*The partners' presentations included among others findings on alternative forest management practices in simulation studies, producing individual results for the provision of ecosystem goods and services at the stand and landscape level in different countries. In addition, prospective implementation of ALTERFOR results was illustrated using the RIU-model of knowledge transfer, with practical examples from the case study areas.*

*Since the IUFRO congress is a truly extraordinary platform for networking and establishing collaboration at the global level, it was a great opportunity to show the goals and (preliminary) results of ALTERFOR to a broader audience of scien-*

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*tists and practitioners. Not only could we inspire others how to solve specific issues, such as knowledge transfer practices from scientists to stakeholders, but others also inspired us. For example, we received useful information on possibilities to include climate change in decision support systems in specific case study areas.*

*Provision of ecosystem goods and services (ES) was a recurrent topic in many sessions. I believe that ALTERFOR is a pioneer in proposing alternative forest management models to sustain and optimize the desired basket of ES.*





### CROSS PROJECT MEETING IN IRELAND: A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS FOREST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES WITH STAKEHOLDERS

ALTERFOR organised the second cross-project meeting on 17-19 October 2017, in Galway, Ireland. Encouraged by the positive experiences in Slovakia last year, the Irish project team also invited local stakeholders and decision makers to present their view about current forest management models in the case study area (The Barony of Moycullen, in the County of Galway). The so-called Travellab sessions (an innovative format for cross-regional learning and knowledge transfer) illustrated relevant aspects that ALTERFOR deals with, such as different forest management practices, modelling approaches and forest stakeholders' power resources and interests. Representatives of Coillte (the Irish State Forest Company), the Forest Service, the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Parks and Wildlife Service shared their views and expertise with researchers from eleven European countries.

Today, the main challenges in the Irish case study area are how to capture ecosystem values apart from the (poor) timber yield. The proposals that the Irish stakeholders lively discussed with the ALTERFOR scientists encompass among others the development of wind farms and to foster tourism, recreation or carbon-offset. Water quality is an important issue to consider when thinking about alternative forest management models. The Irish case study area has a considerable freshwater pearl mussel population. This species needs high water quality to survive and reproduce successfully.

The cross project meeting in Galway also included scientific working sessions allocated to the work packages and a discussion among the non-academic partners on how to intensify knowledge transfer to forest stakeholders in the participating countries. In addition, members of the [Scientific Advisory Board](#), representing the external perspective, provided valuable feedback and suggestions how to improve the project implementation.

Take a closer look at the presentations in the meeting [here](#). The next project meeting will be organised in June 2018 in Porto, Portugal.



### INTERVIEW WITH OLA SALLNÄS, MEMBER OF THE SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD (SAB) IN ALTERFOR

Professor Ola Sallnäs is one of the five members of the [SAB in ALTERFOR](#). Ola was until recently professor in forest operations at SLU (Sweden). He has been working for a long time with regional large-scale forest dynamics modelling on the Swedish and European scale. During a two-year stay in the Forest Resources and Climate Unit at the JRC<sup>1</sup>, he has also worked on the further development of forestry applications and wood resources modelling via the inclusion of social economic options into forest models.

*Professor Sallnäs, please share with us your impressions about the overall project progress so far.*

*Ola Sallnäs: I have the impression that the project is well on time, keeping up with deadlines etc. and following the work-plan. Another general impression is that there seems to be a common perception of the way forward, everybody strive to reach the common goal.*

*What do you think, what are the greatest opportunities for impacts that the project ALTERFOR can achieve?*

*Ola Sallnäs: One key phrase in the project is "to learn from each other". Every cross-project meeting contains a Travellab excursion to a forest management area in the hosting country, which gives the participants new knowledge about management problems faced and solutions discussed in the host country. I think these experiences are valuable when discussing alternative forest management models, thus influencing the scientific discussions and eventually forest management practices in the participating countries.*

*How can you as member of the Scientific Advisory Board best contribute to the successful project implementation?*

*Ola Sallnäs: Having an external perspective, I participate in the discussion, specifically stressing the importance of an internal consistency in the project and pointing out if and when deviations from the original work-plan are emerging. In addition, I bring in experiences from similar projects.*

<sup>1</sup>Joint Research Centre

### NEXT STEPS: SCIENTIFIC WORKSHOP CROSS CASES (19-22 MARCH 2018)

An interdisciplinary workshop will be organised in March 2018 in Åsa, Sweden.

The implementation of alternative forest management models (FMMs) in different growth simulators and decision support systems will be presented and discussed. The event will also include field demonstration of the FMMs.



### Project Title

## ALTERNATIVES MODELS AND ROBUST DECISION-MAKING FOR FUTURE FOREST MANAGEMENT

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Photo Credit

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