

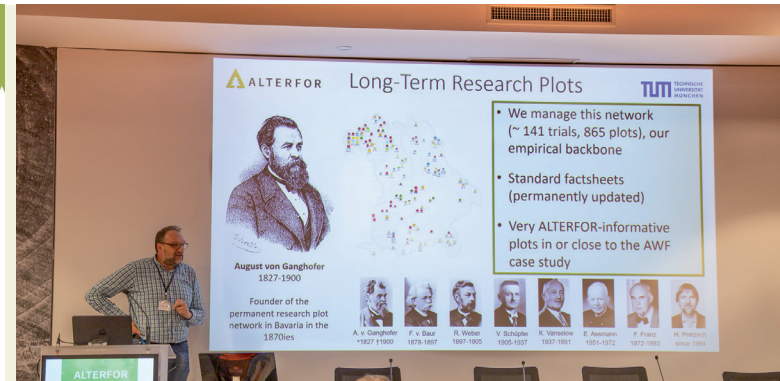


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## ALTERFOR NEWSLETTER

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

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#### 1. CROSS PROJECT MEETING IN PADOVA

The Italian team organised the last cross-project meeting of the ALTERFOR partners in Padova, a medieval city with stunning atmosphere. The meeting took place on 3-5 April 2019 on the site of the oldest university botanical garden in the world.

Since the project is approaching the last phase of implementation, the case study teams delivered comprehensive result-oriented reports on alternative silvicultural methods and how they can be combined in a landscape. In ALTERFOR the term **alternative Forest Management Models**, or FMMS, is used. The result, landscape projection, shows the provision of forest ecosystem services (ES) over a 100 year period. All analyses are documented in a *Synthesis report on new forest management models in a landscape perspective*, to which all ALTERFOR case study teams contributed.

Prof. Maarten Nieuwenhuis<sup>1</sup> introduced its core aspects. The report outlines a state-of-the-art European perspective on forest management and the provision ESs throughout Europe. *The degree of detail in the silvicultural models and associated ES provision modelling, while embedded in large-scale market and climate change scenarios and stakeholder preference research, is, to our knowledge, unprecedented for such a large variety of forested landscapes.*

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Another focus area at the meeting concerned the involvement of relevant stakeholders. The development of FMMS meant that different key actor groups discussed and advocated or – quite the opposite – rejected particular management models in the ten case study areas throughout Europe. *Involving relevant stakeholders into the research activities at early stages fosters the uptake of scientific knowledge, which is a core aim in ALTERFOR.* Dr. Mirjana Stevanov<sup>2</sup> presented factors that can be especially relevant to reach these goals, according to the applied RIU model (Research, Integration and Utilisation). Dr. Stevanov outlined the importance of the alignment of the research process with public policy objectives

<sup>1</sup>WP3 „Landscape Level FMMS“, University College Dublin

<sup>2</sup>WP4 “Implementation”, University of Göttingen



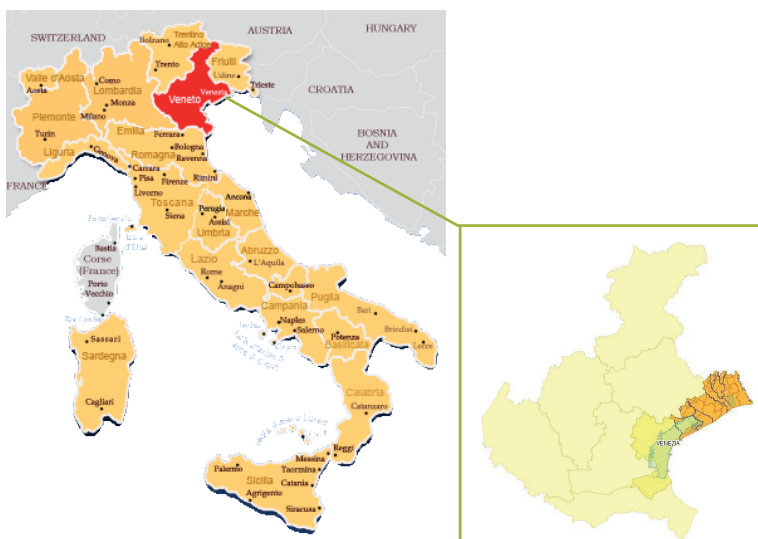
and the optimal timing for delivering scientific results, particularly with respect to relevant political processes. She stressed that catching the interest of powerful actors helps to attract the attention of other stakeholders. In addition, she explained how stakeholders' demands determinate the integration of research results into the practice and emphasized the importance of targeted communication adapted to the needs of the audience.



The third engaging topic was assessing ES provision for Europe as a whole. In concrete terms, it means the integration of current and alternative FMMs into a global model showing the impact on the forest sector and ES provision of applying the alternative FMMs in all EU countries. This European level analyses are the next activities in ALTERFOR, coordinated by IIASA<sup>3</sup> in 2019 and early 2020.

Future project activities will also focus on establishing the so-called demonstration sites. These sites in the case study areas are planned to increase awareness of how different forest management models may affect the state of the forest.

It has become a tradition that the ALTERFOR project partners meet local stakeholders and discuss research topics and their relevance to actual practice directly. This format, called TRAVELLAB, was applied once again on this year's cross project meeting. It included a site excursion and lively roundtable discussion with representatives of the local forest association AFP, FSC Italy, the intermediary service provider AzzeroCO2, the environmental NGO il Nocciolo and a private forest owner.



### CASE STUDY AREA IN THE VENETO REGION

The ALTERFOR case study area is located in the Eastern part of the Veneto region in northeastern Italy. The overall area includes eight municipalities within the Province of Venice and covers a total area of about 69,000 ha with about 140,300 inhabitants and 3 million tourists every summer. It includes fertile and productive farmlands where cereals (corn and maize) and vegetables are grown. The actual case study area consists of forest patches covering 291 ha. They mainly consist of semi-natural remnants of lowland forest (oak-hornbeam that in some cases have been integrated with recently planted forests. In addition, there are 60-70 years old planted forests (mostly pine forests, mixing different pine-species, and locally mixed with holm oak) and relatively small patches of semi-natural riverine forests. All forests in the case study area are publicly owned mostly by local municipalities and managed either directly by the municipalities, by the local Forest Service or they are rented out and managed by private companies.

The Lowland Forest Association (Associazione Forestale di Pianura, AFP) coordinates the management activities and helps private forest owners to manage their forests by offering relevant scientific and technical knowledge, in co-operation with universities and research institutes. The AFP also promotes dialog between different stakeholder groups. Forest owners, both public and private, are interested in joining AFP for networking opportunities, learning from each other and sharing best practices, reducing the costs of forest management planning (i.e. AFP has one Forest Management Plan including all areas) and certification (i.e. FSC Group Certification).

For more details, see the overview prepared by the Italian team (University of Padova and ETIFOR):

[https://www.alterfor-project.eu/files/alterfor/download/Events/Padova/ALTERFOR\\_Padova\\_Travellab\\_01.pdf](https://www.alterfor-project.eu/files/alterfor/download/Events/Padova/ALTERFOR_Padova_Travellab_01.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> WP2 "European Analyses", International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis



## 2. POLICY BRIEF „RECONSIDERING SILVICULTURE TO MEET CHALLENGES TO EUROPEAN FORESTS“

The Paris Agreement relies on European forests to contribute to climate mitigation and bioeconomy. An increased supply of forest products is expected, whereas principles of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) should still be observed. To achieve these ambitious aims at the EU level it is necessary that EU Member States take adequate measures. ALTERFOR investigates new ways of managing European forests to meet these upcoming challenges. The project involves 10 case studies in 9 European countries with highly varying biophysical and socio-political conditions, necessitating attention to the local context and adequately tailored scientific knowledge.

**This first policy brief presents a selection of findings on the current challenges to European forests and desirable silvicultural alternatives for meeting those challenges.** It starts by recapping findings from three selected ALTERFOR countries – Portugal, Slovakia and the Netherlands – to exemplify the main silvicultural challenges, options and hurdles for implementation. Policy implications are then derived from the comprehensive data set acquired by ALTERFOR.

Link: <https://www.alterfor-project.eu/policy-briefs.html>

## 3. ALTERFOR WORKSHOP “MODERN FOREST MANAGEMENT IN EUROPE – CASES FROM ALTERFOR AND POLICY STRATEGIES” (10/05/2019 DRESDEN/GERMANY)

The ALTERFOR workshop aims to **foster knowledge transfer between science and practice** and to **point up policy implications**. The event will be part of the international sub-part of the bi-annual practitioner meeting of the German Forest Association from 8.-12. May 2019. In addition to the conference sessions, an excursion will be organized, visiting the ALTERFOR case study area in Brandenburg. The participants will learn more about the three forest management scenarios at the landscape level that the research team at the Technical University of Munich elaborated based on the stakeholder research by the team at the University of Göttingen. They will have the opportunity to take part in discussions between scientists, forestry practitioners and policy decision makers on highly relevant topics for forest management (such as preventing and fighting forest fire).

Link: <https://www.alterfor-project.eu/project-events.html>

## 4. NEW ALTERFOR FILMS AVAILABLE

A film about the TRAVELLAB in “Vale do Sousa” near Porto, Portugal has been completed. The short video shows the multiple advantages that this new format of cross-regional learning offers both to scientists and practitioners.

In the second film, three local stakeholders and two ALTERFOR scientists (University of Lisbon) give an inside view into challenges that affect forest management in Vale do Sousa and research addressing these challenges.

The films are [available on the project website](https://www.alterfor-project.eu/policy-briefs.html) and on the [YouTube channel of ALTERFOR](#).



## 5. THE RECENT SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATION ON RESEARCH RESULTS IN ALTERFOR

Nordström, EM., Nieuwenhuis, M., Başkent, E.Z. et al. (2019); Forest decision support systems for the analysis of ecosystem services provisioning at the landscape scale under global climate and market change scenarios. European Journal of Forest Research 3, 344.

For further ALTERFOR publications please visit the project website: [www.alterfor-project.eu/publications.html](https://www.alterfor-project.eu/publications.html)

### Project Title

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

### Project Coordinator

Ljusk Ola Eriksson, Professor  
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)

### Scientific Coordinator

Vilis Brukas, Associate Professor  
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)

### Project Administrator

Giulia Attocchi, PhD  
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)

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### Publication, editorial and design

Annamaria Riemer, Inga Döbel  
Fraunhofer Center for International Management and  
Knowledge Economy IMW  
[annamaria.riemer@imw.fraunhofer.de](mailto:annamaria.riemer@imw.fraunhofer.de)  
[www.imw.fraunhofer.de](http://www.imw.fraunhofer.de)

### Contributing Authors

Vilis Brukas, SLU  
Ljusk Ola Eriksson, SLU  
Giulia Attocchi, SLU  
Mauro Masiero, TESAF Department, UNIPD  
Giulia Corradini, TESAF Department, UNIPD  
Alex Pra, Etifor Srl  
Davide Pettenella, TESAF Department, UNIPD

### Photo Credit

Giulia Corradini, TESAF Department, UNIPD  
Inga Döbel, Fraunhofer IMW



### Project Consortium:

Associação Florestal do Vale do Sousa (AFVS), Portugal
Coillte Teoranta, Ireland
ETIFOR, Italy
Forest Research Centre/ School of Agriculture/ University of Lisbon (CEF/ISA/UL), Portugal
Fraunhofer Center for International Management and Knowledge Economy (IMW), Germany
General Directorate of Forestry (OGM), Turkey
Georg-August Universität Göttingen, Germany
German Forest Society (GFS), Germany
International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), Austria
Joint Research Centre - European Commission (JRC), European Union
Karadeniz Technical University (KTU), Turkey
State Forest Enterprise, Lithuania
Southern Sweden Forest Owners Association (SÖDRA), Sweden
Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU), Sweden
Technical University in Zvolen (TUZVO), Slovakia
Technische Universität München (TUM), Germany
University College Dublin (UCD), Ireland
University of Padua (UNIPD), Italy
Vytautas Magnus University (VDU), Lithuania
Wageningen University & Research/ Forest and Nature Conservation Policy Group (FNP), The Netherlands