

INTRODUCTION TO  
**TRAVELLAB:**  
*“LEARNING WHILE TRAVELLING”*

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# Some initial concerns

- We promised to facilitate **European knowledge transfer**. How can we “optimise” it?
- We promised **active engagement of stakeholders** in all project activities (the multi-actor approach). How to do it in reality?
- We learned (or did we?) about case studies in INTEGRAL through the bunches of PowerPoint presentations at project meetings (but never really saw the **CSAs or the real forest**). Can we make it better in ALTERFOR?

# Facesmap

## Forest Land Ownership Changes in Europe: Significance for Management and Policy

Cost Action FP1201

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Themes	Quotes from participants' notes
Local context	<p><i>The good discussion about the history and management plan between the group, owner and the advisory service representative.</i></p> <p><i>"Welcome words, while introducing the region, people listening carefully."</i></p> <p><i>"Information of stakeholders was good structured – from concrete cutting site, management area and Finland in general."</i></p>
Silviculture issues	<p><i>"Mainly clarifying questions to understand specifics of thinning approach, finding and convincing forest owners to join project, cooperation."</i></p> <p><i>"First questions were related silviculture and forest management (important, but not related to main task)..."</i></p>
Forest owners types and values	<p><i>"...this forest owner says that money is not so important, but the very good and revealing question about three wishes showed that monetary basics are very important."</i></p> <p><i>"The sensitive issue of forester's professional dignity evokes attention again."</i></p>
New forest management approaches	<p><i>"Very interested and attentive audience when explaining the local forest advising practices."</i></p> <p><i>"Also issues related to the management plan were discussed."</i></p> <p><i>"Absent forest owners hire more the contractors because they need someone to do the work for them."</i></p>
Forest policies	<p><i>"Main points of interests and driving forces of Croatian Private Forests were restitution process and green tax and these two topics were most interesting for the group."</i></p> <p><i>"Many questions about FMP's role and degree of freedom for management activities. (Mainly to larger owner, the owner with the small estate got fewer questions)."</i></p>

# Aims of Travellab in ALTERFOR

## 1. Helping the consortium to **learn the case study!**

- Grasping the local context
- Direct contact with the local stakeholders
- Seeing the CS = better ideas about current and alternative FMMs

## 2. **Consolidating CS work** by the hosting ALTERFOR team!

- The best learning is by teaching others (e.g. by enhancing cross-disciplinary perspectives within the CS team)
- A chance to anchor ALTERFOR with domestic stakeholders

## 3. Helping the **WP leaders to get into the CS reality**

- Better understanding of the status and the challenges faced by CS teams
- Constructive discussion of the work and the ways ahead

# The set-up of Travellab: day 1

The research team of the host country delivers a presentation [up to 1 hour, including 15 minutes for discussion], introducing the visiting researchers with the following topics:

- The overall **context** for current FMMs in the country and the Case Study Area (CSA): historic milestones, key actors, prevailing forest policy discourses in general and in relation to FMMs in particular
- Key features of the **current FMMs** on the CSA: What are the ideal FMMs strived after? What are the actually implemented FMMs, how do they differ from the ideal and why? How ideal is the ideal in terms of resulting ecosystem services or any other considerations?
- What are the desirable **alternative FMMs**? Why are they desirable and by whom? What are the reasons for lack of their implementation up to date? What can be done to raise the likelihood for implementing the alternative FMMs?

# The set-up of Travellab: day 2



## **Field visit [half day]**

The case study team organises a field visit to the local CSA, preferably involving the local and national stakeholders. The visit can target any objects of relevance, such as:

- demonstration of certain silvicultural techniques, the associated strengths & weaknesses
- outcomes of implementing FMMs, such as certain state of forest, (dis)satisfaction by forest owner(s) or other stakeholders etc.
- creative visualisations of different kinds, e.g. demonstrating the landscape-level outcomes of stand and landscape-level FMMs with help of maps or graphs

Focus should be on problematisation and potential problem-solving (and not on boasting about the domestic forestry achievements to foreign colleagues)

## **Roundtable with stakeholders: Current versus alternative FMMs [1.5 hour]**

The roundtable involves some 4-5 local and national stakeholders, such as forest owners and managers, state authorities, ENGOs, timber industries, etc. The debate shall be moderated by a host, for example the Local Case Coordinator.

## **Workshops [1-2 hours]**

The workshops are organised by the “case-level” scientific WPs with the main aim to take up issues of relevance for respective WPs at the particular stage of the project, with the local case study as the case. The agendas are prepared by respective WPLs in collaboration with representatives of the local research teams

# The set-up of Travellab: day 3

## ***Follow up session [on the last day of a cross-project meeting]***

Leaders of respective WPs report from the workshops [15 minutes each, including time for questions].

# Travellab schedule

TRAVELLAB in conjunction with	Country	CSA	Project month, preliminarily
Cross project	Slovakia	Podpolanie	8
Cross project	Ireland	Galway	18
Cross project	Portugal	Sousa Valley	27
Cross project	Italy (Austria)	Veneto	41
Final conference	Germany	West Augsburg	50



*“A ship is always safe at the shore -  
but that is NOT what it is built for.”*

— **Albert Einstein**

***Have a Good Journey, ALTERFOR Travellab!***