RESONATE
Resilient Forests for Society

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Hotspot or jackpot? RESONATE project creates resilient forests for society

Are you a forest owner or manager, policy maker or entrepreneur working on forest related topics? Are you a conservation activist or a citizen interested in forests or wood-based products?
You might know a forest which suffered from fire or bark-beetle damages recently. You might have been struggling with different – and sometimes conflicting – demands to the forest, no matter if it's your forest or you are managing it. Or did you have trouble buying wood e.g. for a garden fence or your house renovation project yet?

If this all doesn't apply to you, you might still be concerned about all the recent news in the media about damages to our forests in Europe. To address these challenges, the new Horizon2020 project RESONATE aims to generate the needed knowledge and practical guidance for making European forests, the services they provide, and related economic activities more resilient to future climate change and disturbances. We invite you to learn more about our project and listen to our first story: please check out our recent blogpost on the Resilience blog here.

Networking in a historical castle, discussions in the Bohemian Forest, locally brewed beer:

RESONATE project meeting in Kostelec

After several virtual exchanges, we held a very stimulating first RESONATE project meeting in Kostelec near Prague on 4th to 6th October. We planned this as a hybrid meeting, and met with around 30 people in Czech Republic, and around 40 people joining remotely. The online participation was apparently also more pleasant than an ordinary Teams meeting, as the interactions in Kostelec offered more diverse input than only monitor screens. However, especially the physical meeting part was extremely well received. It was crucial to establish good working relations especially with the young PhD and post-Doc researchers who got a fantastic intro into the project team. Breaks were used intensively for networking and creative thinking. A special highlight was the excursion, with interesting discussions in a local sawmill, where we could see recently salvage-logged wood with little bark beetle still crawling in it.

In our further stops we were looking at two contrasting forest situations – a resilient mixed forest and a site with recent bark-beetle attacks. Finally, we visited a site in the forest at the EXTEMIT-K bark beetle roof experiment, an activity aiming at understanding the mechanisms of conifer tree-bark beetle interactions on the tree level under the hypothesis that drought stress predisposes the tree to bark beetle attack.
Now the project work will continue, but the project meeting was clearly a huge milestone for RESONATE. And we've really enjoyed the hospitality of our Czech colleagues, which included some visits at the excellent local brewery and generous catering at the castle. This let us return home with not only new knowledge created and great memories collected, but also some additional pounds.

From Finland to Spain, from Atlantic to Mediterranean forests: RESONATE Case Studies

There's no RESONATE without our 9 regional case studies. They are located in several biogeographical areas from boreal to mountainous forests, deal with different disturbances, offer a variety of ecosystem services and engage with different types of forest value chains.

Eventually, we will introduce you to all of them.
For now, we will start this introduction with two short interviews we've conducted in Kostelec. The first one is with Juan Picos from University of Vigo. He is managing a cross-border pinewood case study in Galicia and Portugal. Juan emphasizes that his work is both challenging and exciting, because the forest land is managed by many different small owners who impact the wood value chain. One of his jobs is to increase their awareness of how they can make their forests more resilient. Interview in English / Spanish
The second interview features a case study in Catalonia, where many of the forests are very young and sometimes overstocked due to a decrease in forest management. Josep Maria Espelta and his team are exploring what type of forest management is more successful for increasing the resilience of Catalonian forests. Interview in English / Spanish

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