

## **Towards an Observatory for Resilient Forests in Europe: Co-designing the ForestWard Observatory**

Forests and society can transform, mitigate and adapt to climate-induced changes. This requires, however, suitable forest management practices, based on timely and reliable information. The [ForestWard Observatory](#) aims to provide a pan-European tool to assess and visualize the resilience of European forests under different climate change projections. It will support climate-smart forestry (CSF) through open data and open-source technologies and operate as a long-lasting practical tool to aid decision-making:

- at **local and subnational** scale to deliver more operational information for local climate smart forestry and restoration management practice
- at **national and European** scale to provide a strategic perspective on disturbances, risks and critical vulnerabilities and threats to European forests.

This hybrid (face-to-face and online) workshop invites **policy experts, public administrators, and practitioners in the field of forest management** to test and co-design a prototype forest monitoring and evaluation platform (the ForestWard Observatory) set up by the [FORWARDS](#) project.

**Date: 5<sup>th</sup> June 2026, from 9.00 to 13.00 including a buffet lunch**

**Venue: Comet Louise, Pl. Stéphanie 20, 1050 Brussels, Belgium**

Draft programme of the workshop:

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|-------------|---|
| 08:45-09:00 | <b>Registration</b> with coffee and snacks  |
| 09:00-09:50 | <b>Introductory presentations with Q&amp;A</b> on the aims and scope of the FORWARDS project, on the needs and expectations of the potential users of the Observatory, and on the goals, data architecture, and functionalities of the Observatory.   |
| 09:50-10:00 | Comfort break   |
| 10:00-11:00 | <b>Hands-on exploration of the Observatory</b> , followed by an interactive discussion. Participants will be invited to test and contribute feedback on usability, data needs, and potential applications, helping to shape the Observatory into a collaborative and user-driven resource for the forestry community. |
| 11:00-11.10 | Comfort break   |
| 11:10-12:00 | Facilitated <b>dialogue on policy relevance</b> and potential uptake of the Observatory at different decision-making levels.  |
| 12:15-13:00 | Lunch   |

Fully open source, the Observatory embodies transparency, reusability, and collaboration. The workshop will therefore serve both as a technical exploration and a participatory design exercise—gathering insights from policymakers and practitioners to ensure the Observatory becomes a central, community-shaped tool for tracking and enhancing forest resilience in Europe.

If interested, please pre-register (in-person and online participation is both possible, travel support may be provided for in-person participants in case of financial burdens):

<https://forms.gle/x5MdaHnNwrfpDR5t6>

Organizers:

- Eszter Kelemen and Barbara Mihók (ESSRG)
- Mona Forsmann (SLU)
- Mariella Marzano (FRCA)

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