

Draft Partner Event – EU Green Week 2026

Date and time

Date: June 18, 2026

Time: 13:00-14:00 hrs (open session to the public)

Location

Venue: Salones del Hotel Alfonso VIII

City: Soria, Castilla y León, Spain

Country: Spain

Adress:

Salones del Hotel Alfonso VIII, Soria (Castilla y León, Spain)

The invitation would include all the logos (2026 EU Green Week, SocialForest, FLoRE & ASFOSO)

Schedule and Speakers/Participants

12:00. Annual General Meeting of members of the Soria Forestry Association (ASFOSO).

13:00. Session open to the public (members and non-members) for the presentation of the SocialForest and FLoRE projects. Under the theme: *Investing in the forests of south-west Europe: innovation, sustainable management and rural development through SocialForest and FLoRE.*

13:00–13:05. Opening remarks by the President of the Soria Forestry Association, Pedro Marín Gil.

13:05–13:25. Presentation of the SocialForest project. Speaker: Pedro Agustín Medrano, Director of the Soria Forestry Association.

13:25–13:45. Presentation of the FLoRE project. Speaker: Amador Martín Gutiérrez, Technician at the Soria Forestry Association.

13:45–14:00. Q&A session and exchange of ideas.

14:00. Informal drinks reception for attendees (a relaxed setting where new synergies often emerge).

Title

Investing in forests for a nature-positive economy: SocialForest and FLoRE experiences in the Sudoe area

Theme

This event will focus on the role of sustainable forest management as a key investment for building a nature-positive economy, in line with the theme of EU Green Week 2026. Through the Interreg Sudoe projects SocialForest and FLoRE, the event will show how forests can generate environmental, social and economic value when they are actively managed, supported by cooperation between public administrations, private owners and local communities.

Both projects demonstrate that investing in forest ecosystems contributes to climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, rural development and social cohesion, helping territories move towards a more sustainable and inclusive economy.

Description of the event

The event aims to present the results and experiences of two Interreg Sudoe projects, SocialForest and FLoRE, which promote innovative approaches to sustainable forest management in the southwest Europe area (Spain, France and Portugal).

Forests represent a strategic natural asset for achieving a nature-positive economy. However, many forest areas in the Sudoe region face challenges such as land abandonment, fragmentation of ownership, climate change impacts, and lack of coordinated management.

SocialForest focuses on improving forest governance through social innovation, participatory management and cooperation between forest owners, administrations and local stakeholders.

FLoRE promotes adaptive forest management models to increase resilience to climate change, prevent forest degradation and enhance ecosystem services.

By bringing together partners and stakeholders from different regions, the event will highlight how investing in sustainable forest management can create environmental benefits while also generating economic opportunities and strengthening rural communities.

The event will contribute to the objectives of EU Green Week 2026 by showing concrete examples of how nature-based solutions and sustainable land management can support a transition towards a nature-positive economy.

Objectives

- To disseminate the results of the Interreg Sudoe projects SocialForest and FLoRE
- To show how sustainable forest management contributes to a nature-positive economy
- To exchange experiences between forest owners, public administrations and stakeholders
- To promote cooperation in forest governance at local and regional level

- To raise awareness about the role of forests in climate adaptation, biodiversity protection and rural development

Target audience

The event is open to a wide range of stakeholders involved in forest management and rural development, including:

- Public and private forest owners
- Local and regional administrations
- Municipalities and local authorities
- Forest associations and cooperatives
- Community forests / shared ownership forests
- Environmental and forestry technicians
- Research centres and universities
- NGOs and rural development organisations
- Companies related to forestry and bioeconomy
- General public interested in sustainable land management

Format and main activities

The event will be organised as a participatory session including:

- Presentation of the SocialForest project
- Presentation of the FLoRE project
- Presentation of pilot experiences and good practices
- Open discussion with participants, Q&A session.
- Networking space to encourage cooperation between actors

Special focus will be given to practical experiences showing how investing in forests can generate environmental, economic and social benefits in rural territories.

Link with EU Green Week 2026 theme

The event directly contributes to the EU Green Week 2026 theme “Investing in a nature-positive economy” by demonstrating that forests are a key natural capital in the Sudoe region.

Through the SocialForest and FLoRE projects, the event will show that investing in sustainable forest management, social governance and climate-resilient ecosystems

leads to long-term benefits for biodiversity, local economies and society.