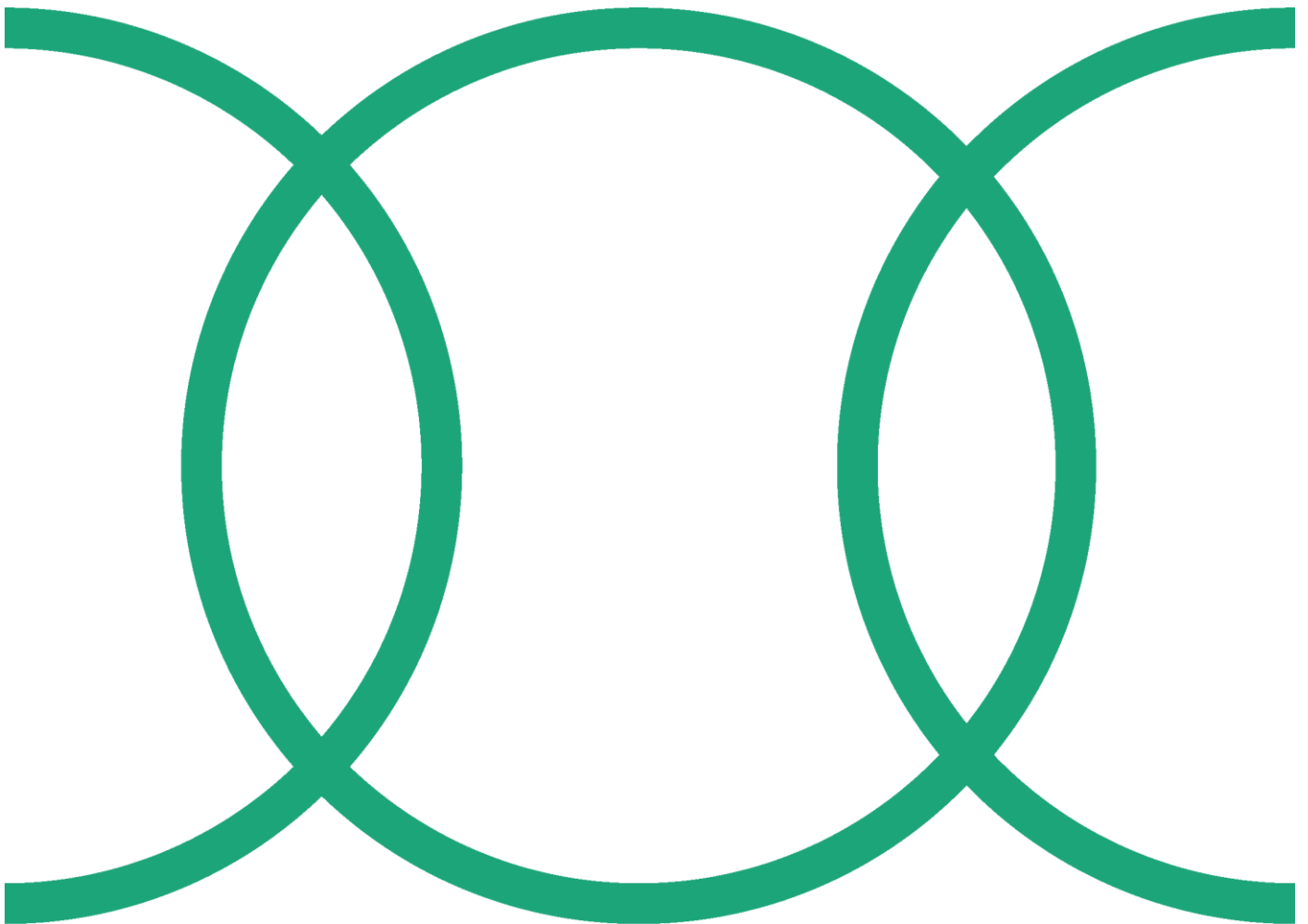


D5.4 Report on REA cooperation activities- first



Document control sheet

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Executive Summary

The deliverable outlines the activities carried out in collaboration with the Research Executive Agency (REA). It specifically focuses on two main aspects: assisting in project management and implementation of various phases, and collaborating with the REA to identify synergies with similar European projects, particularly FOREST4EU.

In detail, the document describes how support was provided in coordinating and overseeing the different stages of the project. This included setting milestones, ensuring timely progress, and addressing any challenges that arose during the implementation process. The collaborative efforts aimed to streamline project workflows and enhance the efficiency of project execution.

Additionally, significant emphasis was placed on fostering connections with other European initiatives that align with the objectives of FOREST4EU. By identifying and establishing relationships with similar projects, the goal was to facilitate knowledge exchange, share best practices, and explore opportunities for joint initiatives.

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Meeting with the Research Executive Agency (REA).

The collaboration with the REA (Research Executive Agency) and the FOREST4EU project began profitably during the drafting of the grant agreement. However, the true collaboration commenced with the official launch of the project. From the very start, at the kick-off meeting of FOREST4EU on February 6, 2022, REA Project Officer Javier Martin-Membiela played a pivotal role in supporting the consortium.

Javier Martin-Membiela provided crucial guidance in both the technical and financial management aspects of the project. Through his detailed presentations, he offered valuable insights that were instrumental in setting the project on the right course. His expertise and proactive approach helped ensure that the project's objectives and milestones were clearly defined and attainable.

This early and ongoing support from the REA has been essential in navigating the complexities of the project, facilitating smooth progress, and addressing any challenges promptly. The collaboration exemplifies how effective partnerships and expert guidance can significantly enhance the execution and impact of research initiatives like FOREST4EU.

Following the kick-off meeting, regular online updates were conducted to review the project's progress, highlighting both critical issues and positive developments. These meetings were held on the dates reported in table 1.

Table 1. meeting with REA

Date	type	Attendees	Type of discussion
06-01-2023	Kick-off Meeting (in person)	All partner of the consortium and Javier Martin-Marbella (REA)	Starting of the proeject
30-03-2032	FOREST4EU project meeting (on-line)	Javier Martin-Marbella (REA) Francesca Giannetti (UNIFI) Davide Travaglini (UNIFI)	Updates on latest project developments, communication and deliverables
23-05-2023	Project issue with the acronym (on-line)	Francesca Giannetti (UNIFI) Javier Martin-Marbella (REA)	GOFORESTS project regarding an "intellectually proprietary right" violation with the acronym
18-07-2023	FOREST4EU project meeting (on-line)	Francesca Giannetti (UNIFI) Javier Martin-Marbella (REA) Francesca Dona (REA)	Quick exchange on the post-review tasks and the ongoing work under this RP and Amendment to change the acronym
18-10-2023	FOREST4EU project meeting (on-line)	Francesca Giannetti (UNIFI) Javier Martin-Marbella (REA)	Updates on latest project developments, communication and deliverables

26-02-2024	2nd meeting of the project (in person/on-line)	All partner of the consortium and Javier Martin-Marbella (REA)	Update of the project
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The consortium received significant assistance in resolving issues related to the alleged intellectual property violation concerning the project's initial acronym "GOFORESTS". The prompt collaboration with REA allowed us to mitigate the damage, including in the project's communication, by supporting the immediate use of the newly chosen acronym, FOREST4EU.

On the very day we received the notification of the issue, Project Officer Javier Martin-Membiela provided immediate support through a dedicated meeting. During this meeting, he guided us through all the necessary procedures to address the problem effectively, which allowed for a swift mitigation of the issue.

This proactive approach and the timely support from REA were crucial in navigating this challenge, ensuring the project could continue smoothly without significant disruption. This incident underscores the value of effective communication and robust support mechanisms in successfully managing and executing large-scale research projects like FOREST4EU.

The periodic updates of project activities and issues were also conducted via email and were essential for maintaining transparent communication between FOREST4EU and REA. This approach allowed the consortium to promptly address any emerging challenges, capitalize on successful strategies, and advise REA of potential issues.

Moreover, the email exchanges enabled us to identify both critical issues and new opportunities for the project. This insight led to the proposal of certain deliverables, as we realized that some events could be more effectively held within broader collaborations with other projects or in larger forestry and agroforestry events.

The continuous support from REA, combined with the consortium's collaborative efforts, has been vital in steering FOREST4EU towards achieving its goals. This collaboration not only facilitated the project's management but also exemplifies how effective partnerships and expert guidance can significantly enhance the execution and impact of research initiatives like FOREST4EU.

Collaboration with other Eu networks, initiatives and project

The collaboration with REA has been highly effective in establishing connections between FOREST4EU and other projects and networks at the European level. These connections have been particularly supportive of the project's activities in communication, dissemination, and exploitation.

By linking FOREST4EU with similar initiatives, REA has enabled the consortium to benefit from shared knowledge, resources, and best practices. This network of interconnected projects has facilitated a more comprehensive approach to addressing common challenges and opportunities within the forestry and environmental sustainability sectors.

The support from REA has also been instrumental in enhancing the visibility and impact of FOREST4EU. Through coordinated communication efforts, the project has reached a broader audience, effectively disseminating key findings and innovations. Additionally, these connections have provided valuable platforms for the exploitation of project results, ensuring that the outcomes of FOREST4EU are not only recognized but also implemented in relevant sectors.

In particular, thanks to REA's support, FOREST4EU was successfully linked with the CAP-NETWORK. This connection enabled us to participate in the "1st EU CAP Network Workshop: National Networking for Innovation," held in Tallinn from November 30, 2023, to December 1, 2023. It also allowed us to schedule our participation in the EU CAP Network conference "EIP-AGRI Operational Groups: Innovation in Practice," which took place in Estoril, Portugal, from May 6 to May 8, 2024.

Participating in these events provided FOREST4EU with valuable opportunities to engage with key stakeholders and experts from various sectors involved in innovation and policy-making related to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), as well as those involved in Operational Groups supporting innovation in forestry and agroforestry. These events facilitated in-depth discussions, knowledge exchange, and networking, which were instrumental in advancing the project's goals. They also allowed us to showcase FOREST4EU's objectives and achievements while gaining insights and feedback from other initiatives and projects in the network.

Additionally, during these two initiatives, we established initial contacts to connect FOREST4EU with EUFARMBOOK, which will serve as a repository for the capacity-building materials, extended summaries, and practical abstracts produced by the project. Thanks to REA's support, we were also informed about the launch events of EUFARMBOOK, which provided us with a clearer understanding of how to effectively utilize this new platform for the project's purposes.

These interactions have been instrumental in integrating FOREST4EU's outputs into Eu-FarmBook, ensuring that our resources are accessible and can contribute to the broader community. The knowledge gained from the launch events has enabled us to optimize the use of Eu-FarmBook, aligning it with the project's objectives and enhancing the visibility and dissemination of our results.

Moreover, REA supported the initial efforts to establish connections with the BBioNets and EUFORE projects. These connections have facilitated the interlinking of FOREST4EU with BBioNets, a sister project, and EUFORE, a project focused on innovation analysis.

Through these collaborations, we have begun setting up joint initiatives with both projects. This integration is expected to enhance the exchange of knowledge, promote innovative approaches, and leverage synergies between the projects, thereby advancing our collective objectives and impact.

The collaboration with REA in establishing these links and facilitating our participation in such high-profile events underscores the significant role that strategic partnerships play in enhancing the impact and reach of research and innovation projects.

Overall, the strategic collaboration with REA has significantly bolstered the project's ability to achieve its objectives and maximize its impact across Europe. This partnership exemplifies the importance of integrated efforts and the sharing of expertise in driving forward successful research and innovation initiatives.