

Smallholders training as a way to know other forestry realities and to improve forest management

FOREST-IN Project provides training around 150 forest technicians and managers

Usually, owners of small forest properties have approached the management of their territories in a traditional way based on the customs of the area, and on what they have seen their ancestors do. The FOREST-IN project, an initiative funded by the European Erasmus+ programme, has identified the need for more technical training for these forest owners to improve their land management.

The last stage of this Project (in which participate entities from Spain, France and Portugal) is focusing on the training of forest managers, both owners and technicians. Portugal hosted two of these courses at the end of last year and Galicia (Spain) hosted the third in March. The last of these training activities will take place in French Provence from 1 to 5 April. At the end of the course in France, about 150 people will have participated in these training activities, in addition to those who have already attended the multiplier events of the project.

The courses, based on a horizontal and participative model, include conferences, workshops and practical sessions, as well as field visits to learn about good practices carried out, experiences for the certification of sustainable forest management, actions of public administrations, and initiatives of private companies and associations of forest owners. Other aspects known by the participants have been forest and spatial planning, as tools to integrate into their routines and management habits.

The theoretical sessions, conferences and debates, the field trips, and joint work activities have resulted in "a very enriching exchange of experiences", according to testimonials from the participants, who were from FOREST-IN partners countries and what possible to "get to know other forest realities".

About the FOREST-IN project

The FOREST-IN project aims to promote good practices and forestry education through workshops and international technical visits, tutorials and the creation of a mobile application aimed at helping in the decision-making process for sustainable forest management. All this integrated in a concerted strategy that involves the forest community and the general public.

The pedagogical techniques will be innovative and personalized for the recipients of the project, and will be based on a model of horizontal and participatory learning.

FOREST-IN has been established as an international strategic alliance for forestry education and is funded by the Erasmus + Program, the main financial mechanism of the European Commission in the field of Education. The coordinator of this project is the University of Aveiro (Portugal), with these partners: Cesefor Foundation (Spain), PEFC Spain, FSC International, Unimadeiras (Portugal), the Forest Association of Galicia (Spain) and the Forest Model Association of the Provence (France).

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