

International Union of Forest Research Organizations

IUFRO Meeting Report Form

Organizers of IUFRO meetings and IUFRO focal persons at IUFRO co-sponsored meetings, respectively, are kindly requested to fill in and return this form within two weeks after the meeting or by a given deadline by email (wolfrum@iufro.org). This information will be posted at the relevant IUFRO web pages and may be used for IUFRO News and the IUFRO Annual Report.

(Note: Save this file under a new name and write directly into the form.)

1) IUFRO focal person/meeting organizer:

Name: CHRISTIAN HOFFMANN, EURAC Research, Bolzano, Italy
Function in IUFRO: Deputy Coordinator of Working Group 4.05.04 Forest Based value Chains
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Name: DAVIDE MATTEO PETTENELLA, University of Padua, Department of Land, Environment, Agriculture and Forestry, Padua, Italy
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Name: LIDIJA ZADNIK Stirn, University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty, Ljubljana, Slovenia
Function in IUFRO: Coordinator of Unit 4.05.00 Managerial Economics and Accounting
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2) Meeting data:

Full title of the meeting: THE SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL VALUE ADDED OF SMALL-SCALE FORESTRY TO THE BIO-ECONOMY

Date and venue: 7-8 October 2020, EURAC Research, Bolzano, Italy – **ON-LINE meeting**

Meeting website: <https://www.iufro2020.eurac.edu/>

Number of participants: 73

Presentations: 41 presentations, 5 key-note presentations, and welcome (introduction) given by Pettenella, Hoffmann, Zadnik Stirn, Psenner (president of EURAC), Unterthiner (director of Forestry Dept. Province of Bolzano), Stefani (DIFOR, Ministry of agriculture, food and forestry policies - Italy), and J. Parrotta.

Countries represented: 23

Italy, Slovenia, Germany, Austria, USA, Canada, Finland, Slovakia, Spain, Luxembourg, Serbia, Switzerland, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, United Kingdom, France, Denmark, Lithuania, Tunisia, Peru, Ecuador and Iran

3) Organization of the meeting:

All IUFRO Units involved:

- unit 4.05.00 with working groups: 4.05.01, 4.05.02, 4.05.04, 4.05.05;
- units 3.08.00 and 5.11.00, and working group 9.05.03;
- Task Force: Unlocking the Bio-economy and Non-Timber Forest Products,
- with presence of IUFRO president J. Parrotta and Division 4 coordinator D. Hodges

Host organization(s): Institute for Regional Development of EURAC Research, Bolzano, Italy,

Department of Land, Environment, Agriculture and Forestry of University of Padua, Padua, Italy,
 in cooperation with IUFRO unit 4.05.00 and
 IUFRO Task Force: Unlocking the bio-economy and non-timber forest products.
 and partners: Adam Mickiewicz University of Poznan, University of Belgrade, ETIFOR, Forests
 – an open access journal by MDPI, AIEAA, SIDEA, SISEF, Holz Pichler,
 ProRamus

Study tour(s) to: for October 9, 2020 **was planned** a highly scientific and diversified study tour into the UNESCO World Heritage of the Dolomites, visiting the forest school Latemar (Val Eger), where among others also the consequences of the storm VAIA should be discussed, then visiting a small, but very special saw mill, producing interesting wooden products, and a large(r) sawmill, as well as a district heating plant; the experts should also have given an insight in the production of etheric oil from “pinus mugo” as a non-wood forest product. Unfortunately, **due to the Covid-19 measures, we had to cancel this study tour.**

4) Meeting report

a) Background information (meeting context)

This IUFRO conference is the scientific event in the area of forest managerial economic and accounting, another one in the series of annual conferences, organized by IUFRO unit 4.05.00 and broader. The path to organize this annual IUFRO conference was not a straight one. We had to struggle with drawbacks due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It was our plan to hold in 2020, two 4.05.00 conferences. The first, the original annual IUFRO conference of the Unit 4.05.00 was foreseen in Padua in June 2020, entitled, “Is there a room for the small scale enterprises in the forest bio-economy?”. The second conference, organized by Working group 4.05.04 and EURAC Research, was originally titled with “Expanding the paradigm of forest based value chains towards social and ecological dimensions” and planned for October 2020 at EURAC in Bolzano.

Because of Covid-19 lock down we merged both IUFRO events into one IUFRO conference of the unit 4.05.0 under new title “The social and ecological value added of small-scale forestry to the Bio Economy” and jointly organized by the University of Padua and European Academy of Bolzano, EURAC Research. Then, it was our plan to hold this IUFRO event as a hybrid conference, and to meet at least some of participants physically in Bolzano but the raising Covid-19 figures in autumn have also prevented this. We took advantage of all the benefits that a pure online Webinar could offer and we managed to organize a cross cutting event. We brought together the interests and expertise from different IUFRO divisions (D4, D3, D5 and D9), units and working parties, universities, institutes and enterprises.

EURAC Research is an interdisciplinary, private research association founded in 1992. It is running 11 Institutes, 4 Research Centers and 2 Offices in Rome and Vienna, and has about 500 researchers employed and host also the permanent Secretariat of the Alpine Convention.

The conference was aimed at researchers and practitioners engaged in managerial, social and environmental forest economics and accounting, management of forest enterprises, specifically small-scale enterprises, forest ecosystem services, land-use, natural resource policy, decision support making, and related fields under the bio-economy paradigm. Thus, we also put the focus on interpreting and promoting the impact of forest bio-economy on the development of quality product markets and nature-based services and the concepts behind them: social innovation, product diversification, multifunctionality and the value added network of vertically and horizontally integrated economic stakeholders. The conference was targeted to theme 1 and theme 3 of the IUFRO strategy: “Forest for people” and “Forests and forest-based products for a greener future”.

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b) *Key issues discussed/latest findings in the field (bullet points or text)*

The issues presented and conferred reveal high diversification from the thematic and geographic point, and interdivisional, interdisciplinary and interinstitutional cooperation. The topics addressed and critically discussed are ranging from Innovation, Multifunctional forestry, Socio-ecological & Eco-system services, Small-scale Forestry, Non wood forest products, Regional value chains, Forest policies, Certification, Forest owners, Innovative financing for biodiversity from bio-economy perspective, Socio-cultural forest management, Supplemental income opportunities for small-scale forest business, Indicators for sustainable forest management of small-scale forestry, Actors in regional value chains, Education, Sustainable forest management in indigenous communities, Climate change and its impact on raw material, timber market and payment for ecosystem services.

c) *Conclusions (if possible, summarize key conclusions across presentations):*

- *Actors in large private and public investments are mainly focused on capital-intensive investments based on low cost biomass in vertically integrated value chains, where the perspective of the social or ecological value added often lags behind. As counterpart to this mainstream economic trend, in the future we need to focus towards small-scale labor-intensive activities in the bio-economy context, inclusive of the non-wood products and cultural services, as they seem to have a minor role in the discussions of scientists and decision makers.*
- *The extension of the economic paradigm towards social and ecological value added asks for considering the associated trade-offs or opportunity costs. The challenges of climate and socio-demographic changes, coupled with complex and dynamically changing political and socio-economic situations, support the relevance of transforming the business thinking.*
- *Bio-economy is in the political agenda of EU and of many other countries; the Recovery and Resilience Plans promoted after the Covid-19 event are advancing to reconsider the meaning of the bio-economy in the light of three pillars of the new 20-years plan:*
 - a) *ecological transition*
 - b) *digitalization*
 - c) *social cohesion*

The prevailing understanding of bio-economy is still connected to decarbonization through technological development of new natural resources-based industries. Considering the aspects connected to social cohesion, we should give attention to small-scale activities, oriented also to service production and other “minor” non-wood forest products that are more linked to the territories, more labor intensive and socially inclusive, that promote a multifunctional use of the forests, more based on social than technological capital.

- *The conference contributes to the reduction of misinformation through internet and social media which often leads to the undesired, undervalued and misused outcomes of forest science. The conference for sure increases the transparency, independence, accessibility, inclusivity, integrity and quality of forest science which has never been so important as today, and is one of the key missions also of IUFRO.*
- *Lessons learned for organizing such events on-line: Davide Pettenella, commented in the conclusions of the conference on the loss of opportunities for informal discussions with the on-line format. This is something that we need to somehow incorporate in some form in our future on-line meetings, and would certainly enhance the experience for everyone.*

d) *Outlook to future activities (proceedings, future meetings, other):*

- *The forthcoming annual conference “Managerial, Social and Environmental Aspects of the Forest-based Sector for Sustainable Development: 40th Anniversary Conference for 4.05.00”, Brno, Czech Republic, May 12-14, 2021, <https://iufro2021.lfd.mendelu.cz>*
- *Administrative meeting of 4.05.00 unit in the on-line format; organized in December 2020; will be announced via e-mail to members (officers) of 4.05.00*

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- *Book of abstracts already published (58 pages, with Introduction of C. Hoffmann and D. Pettenella) at https://www.iufro2020.eurac.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Abstract-Book_15.10.20.pdf*
- *Blog – Published on ERAC Blog and distributed via various social media platforms: Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn.*
- *IUFRO report from Lidija Zadnik Stirn, supported by Christian Hoffmann and Davide Pettenella*
- *Scientific Publications of the submitted full papers in the Austrian Journal of Forest Science, foreseen deadline 27.11.2020.*

4) Photos (see a separate file: photos of IUFRO conference in Bolzano, Italy, Oct. 7-8, 200)

Caption:

Credit (not protected by copyright):

5) Other information:

- a) **Communication activities (dissemination of information about the meeting; promotion of IUFRO)**
The conference was promoted via IUFRO official website (<https://www.iufro.org/science/divisions/division-4/40000/40500/activities/>), IUFRO calendar of events, IUFRO mailing lists, mailing lists of office holders, list of University of Padua, list of EURAC research, conference website, lists of conference partners and their media, at the universities and institutes of conference participants. Further communication: book of abstracts, presentations at the conference at conference website, Austrian journal of forest science.
- b) **Related publications /websites**
- **Conference homepage:**
<https://www.iufro2020.eurac.edu/>
 - **Conference Program:**
https://www.iufro2020.eurac.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Program-IUFRO_loI.pdf
 - **List of conference panelists:**
https://www.iufro2020.eurac.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/iufro2020_panelists.pdf
 - **Recorded speeches of the 5 key-note speakers:** https://scientificnet-my.sharepoint.com/personal/iioikhno_eurac_edu/_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?originalPath=aHR0cHM6Ly9zY2l1bnRpZm1jbmV0LW15LnNoYXJlcG9pbmQuY29tLzpmOi9nL3BlcnNvbmsFsL2lpb2tobm9fZXVvYWNfZWRR1L0VtaXRMTGlnbmdSQWhJWEI2OUNvY0tZQndzZkgyWFpyXzBiVnBOMUc4Z2pKUGc%5FcnRpbWU9OUZVVjEyVjAyRWc&id=%2Fpersonal%2Fiiokhno%5Feurac%5Fedu%2FDocuments%2FPresentations%20IUFRO%202020%20Conference%2FKeynote%20presentations%20%28video%29
 - **Padlet (links to web sites and other notes):**
https://it.padlet.com/Davide_Pettenella/i585mu3oidko2xy5/
 - **Conference presentations:** https://scientificnet-my.sharepoint.com/personal/iioikhno_eurac_edu/_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?id=%2Fpersonal%2Fiiokhno%5Feurac%5Fedu%2FDocuments%2FPresentations%20IUFRO%202020%20Conference&originalPath=aHR0cHM6Ly9zY2l1bnRpZm1jbmV0LW15LnNoYXJlcG9pbmQuY29tLzpmOi9nL3BlcnNvbmsFsL2lpb2tobm9fZXVvYWNfZWRR1L0VtaXRMTGlnbmdSQWhJWEI2OUNvY0tZQndzZkgyWFpyXzBiVnBOMUc4Z2pKUGc_cnRpbWU9Vlc0QkVCZDAyRWc
 - **Book of abstracts:**
https://www.iufro2020.eurac.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Abstract-Book_15.10.20.pdf
 - **A Special issue of the Austrian Journal of Forest Science (<https://www.forestscience.at/>) will publish a selected number of peer-reviewed papers presented at the conference.**

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