

Incentives for Forest Ecosystem Services in Europe: connecting science, practice and policy

SINCERE – NOBEL Final Conference
28 – 29 September 2021, Online

This international conference is organised jointly by two European-wide research and innovation projects, [SINCERE](#) and [NOBEL](#).

We present a comprehensive overview of the situation for Forest Ecosystem Services (FES) and related mechanisms in Europe and the associated science, practice, business and policy considerations.

We bring together research and practice partners, and policy and decision makers to discuss FES supply and demand in Europe and beyond.

The conference combines the findings and experiences from both projects, based on practical lessons learned from designing and implementing innovative mechanisms for enhancing FES provision, on further developing and upscaling these mechanisms and on supporting related policy development in Europe.

In three closely interlinked sessions, we will discuss FES from different, complementary perspectives. Session 1 focuses on the scientific knowledge and findings from both projects, providing the conceptual and research-based foundations for creating innovative mechanisms for FES provision. Session 2 concentrates on practical learning and experiences from the planning, design and implementation of 16 innovation action cases. Session 3 focuses on the development of a business case for enhancing FES provision.

| 28 September | 29 September |
|--|---|
| | SESSION 2 Practitioners' views on FES mechanisms |
| SESSION 1 Setting the scene – Knowledge for developing incentives for FES in Europe | SESSION 3 Business models for FES |

SINCERE (Spurring INnovations for forest eCosystem sERvices in Europe) advances innovative mechanisms, including novel policies and business models, which support the provision of Forest Ecosystem Services across Europe and beyond.

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SESSION 1

Setting the scene – Knowledge for developing incentives for forest ecosystem services in Europe

The session sets the scene for the whole conference by presenting the conceptual and research-based foundations for creating innovative mechanisms for FES provision.

Presentations from international experts provide a global perspective on ES provision and related incentive mechanisms as well as key research findings from the two European-wide research and innovation projects, SINCERE and NOBEL, situating them in the global state-of-the-art knowledge about FES and the social, economic and biophysical knowledge needed to advance innovative mechanisms for supporting their provision. In the closing panel, the overall findings and future perspectives, challenges and knowledge gaps are discussed by the keynote speaker, scientists, policymakers, and forest owner representatives.

Session for scientists, practitioners and policymakers.

Day one: Tuesday 28 September

SESSION 1: Setting the scene

Knowledge for developing incentives for forest ecosystem services in Europe

Moderator

Jo O'Hara, *Managing Director at FutureArk Ltd. Vice-Chair at Changeworks*

13.30 CET **Welcome**

13:35 **◆ Opening address**

Robert Mavsar, *Deputy Director, European Forest Institute*

13:45 **◆ Introducing SINCERE and NOBEL**

Georg Winkel, *Head of Bonn Office and Head of Governance Programme, European Forest Institute*

Harald Vacik, *Associate Professor, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna*

An overview of forest ecosystem services in Europe

14:00 **◆ Forest owners and ecosystem services across Europe**

Marko Lovric, *Senior Researcher, European Forest Institute*

14:15 **◆ Innovations for FES across Europe**

Gerhard Weiss, *Head of Office, European Forest Institute, Forest Policy Research Network; University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna*

14:30 Discussion, Q&A

14:45 –

COFFEE BREAK

14:55

| Providing forest ecosystem services | |
|---|--|
| 14:55 | <p>◆ Paying for ecosystem services: state of the art Sven Wunder, <i>Principal Scientist, European Forest Institute</i></p> |
| 15:10 | <p>◆ Role of forest management in innovations supporting forest ecosystem services Harald Vacik, <i>Associate Professor, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna</i> Bart Muys, <i>Professor, KU Leuven</i></p> |
| 15:25 | <p>◆ Focus on auctions – cases from Denmark and Portugal Bo Jellesmark Thorsen, <i>Professor, University of Copenhagen</i> Logan Bingham, <i>Research assistant, University of Lisbon</i></p> |
| 15:40 | Discussion, Q&A |
| Policies for enhancing forest ecosystem services | |
| 16:00 | <p>◆ The politics of FES in Europe: conflicting views, policies and changing societal perceptions Georg Winkel, <i>Head of Bonn Office and Head of Governance Programme, European Forest Institute</i> Helga Pülzl, <i>Assistant Director for Policy Support, European Forest Institute</i></p> |
| 16:15 | <p>◆ Stakeholder engagement and participation - local governance perspective Mireia Pecurul, <i>Researcher, Forest Science and Technology Centre of Catalonia</i> Irina Prokofieva, <i>Senior researcher, Deputy manager, Forest Science and Technology Centre of Catalonia</i></p> |
| 16:30 | Discussion, Q&A |
| 16:45 - 16:55 | COFFEE BREAK |
| Panel discussion: the way forward for forest ecosystem services | |
| 16:55 | <p>Eeva Primmer, <i>Professor, Research Director, Finnish Environment Institute SYKE</i> Eva Müller, <i>Director-General for Forests, Sustainability and Renewable Resources Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Germany</i> Fanny-Pomme Langue, <i>Secretary General, Confederation of European Forest Owners</i></p> |
| 17:55 | <p>◆ Closing words Harald Vacik, <i>Associate Professor, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna</i></p> |
| 18:00 | End of session |

SESSION 2

Practitioners' views on forest ecosystem services mechanisms

The session presents the main findings from the practical innovation action cases implemented in SINCERE and NOBEL. Different mechanisms were employed to engage actors in co-designing, testing, and evaluating innovative mechanisms for enhancing the provision of forest ecosystem services (FES) in the European context, and globally with case studies also in Russia and Peru.

Participants are invited to consider insights and lessons learned from practice and share ideas on how to enhance the further development and wider uptake of innovative mechanisms to support FES provision.

Session for scientists, practitioners and policymakers.

Day two: 29 September

SESSION 2: Practitioners' views on forest ecosystem services mechanisms

Facilitator: *Prospex Institute*

9:00 CET

Welcome

◆ Introduction to session

Marc Gramberger, *Prospex Institute*

9:10

Breakout groups: Exploration of three key FES mechanisms for the future
Participants circulate via three interactive discussion groups on key FES mechanisms with presentations from experts; groups will be allocated automatically in the session.

1. Auctions

- ◆ Thomas Lundhede, *Associate Professor, University of Copenhagen*
- ◆ Alexander Therry, *Project Manager, NatuurInvest*
- ◆ Miguel J. Sottomayor, *Associate Professor, Catolica Porto Business School*

2. Fees

- ◆ Andreas Bernasconi, *Member of the Executive Board, Pan Bern*
- ◆ Enrico Vidale, *External Consultant, CCP*

3. Voluntary payments

- ◆ Liisa Tyrväinen, *Research Professor, LUKE*
- ◆ Martina Belović Kelement, *Expert Advisor, PINPIM*

10:40

COFFEE BREAK

11:00

Work in breakout groups

- ◆ Group 1: Auctions
- ◆ Group 2: Fees
- ◆ Group 3: Voluntary payments

Participants select one group in which they will discuss the focus and potential for upscaling of the innovative mechanism.

Plenary discussion

12:00

Report from the three groups
Discussion

12:50

Conclusion and wrap up

13:00

End of session

LUNCH BREAK

SESSION 3

Business models for forest ecosystem services

This session focuses on building the business case for innovative mechanisms to support the provision of FES. A structured panel debate discusses business models developed for incentivising FES provision and tested in practice, especially focusing on the potential to expand their use, possibilities to build attractive business cases and related challenges.

Impulse presentations from SINCERE and NOBEL present experiences and learning points for FES business models on four key aspects: demand for FES; income streams for FES; financing for FES; and FES business models. After each impulse presentation, a panel of experts from business, finance and forest owners discuss the issues raised and consider the implications for successful business models for FES, before opening the floor to invite contributions from participants.

Session for potential FES providers, beneficiaries and intermediaries, as well as scientists, practitioners and policymakers.

Day two: 29 September

SESSION 3: Business models for forest ecosystem services

Facilitator: *Prospex Institute*

14:00 CET ♦ **Introduction to session**
Marc Gramberger, *Prospex Institute*

Impulse presentations & interactive discussion

14:10 ♦ **Demand for FES**
Dennis Roitsch, *Junior Researcher, European Forest Institute*
Interactive discussion

14:40 ♦ **Income streams for FES**
Sven Wunder, *Principal Scientist, European Forest Institute*
Interactive discussion

15:10 ♦ **Financing for FES**
Bo Jellesmark Thorsen, *Professor, University of Copenhagen*
Interactive discussion

15:40 ♦ **FES Business models**
Nelson Grima, *Project Manager, IUFRO* and Giorgia Bottaro, *PhD Student, UNIPD*
Interactive discussion

Panellists

♦ **Business**
Paula Guimarães, *Sustainability Manager, The Navigator Company*

♦ **Investment**
Vasco Ferreira Costa, *Structured Finance Officer, EIB*

♦ **Forest owners**
N.N., *European Landowners Organization*

16:10 **Wrap up**

16:15 **Close**