

## PROJECT PARTNERS

**University of Oulu**  
Oulu, Finland (Coordinator)

**Alma Mater Studiorum  
University of Bologna** – Italy

**HUN- REN Centre for  
Ecological Research** – Hungary

**International Institute for  
Applied Systems Analysis** –  
Austria

**Czech University of Life  
Science, Prague** – Czech  
Republic

**University of Tuscia** – Italy

**The Lifescape Project**  
United Kingdom

**Lumina SRL** – Belgium

**Natural Resources Institute  
Finland** - Finland

**University of Milan** – Italy



**Stichting Wild Europe** – Netherlands

**Joanneum Research** – Austria

**ProPark – Foundation for Protected  
Areas** – Romania

**Chiang Mai University** – Thailand

**Ministry of Defence – Carabinieri  
Command for Forest Protection and  
Parks** – Italy

**Pilisi Park Forest** – Hungary

**Sumava National Park** – Czech  
Republic

**Ingleby Farms** – Romania

## PROJECT PARTNERS

# FORbEST



## Safeguarding Carbon and Biodiversity across European Forest Ecosystems through Multi-actor Innovation.

FORbEST research is grounded in a transdisciplinary approach using participatory Living Labs designed to engage a diversity of stakeholders in meaningful knowledge exchange through intensive workshops.

## CONTACTS

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# The Project

Forests play a critical role in mitigating climate change and supporting biodiversity, but many **old-growth and natural ecosystems are under pressure from intensive human activities and environmental change**. Protecting and restoring forests is crucial for sustainable and climate-neutral societies. Without coordinated conservation and restoration effort, these ecosystems risk losing capacity to provide essential services like carbon storage and habitat for wildlife. To protect and restore forest ecosystems, the **Horizon Europe FORbEST** project will operate across five key EU biogeographical regions and one tropical area to understand the effects of governance on forests. The project will **engage local communities** in developing conservation and sustainable management practices that enhance biodiversity, support climate adaptation and empower citizens for a greener future.

# Objectives

Employing a **multi-actor approach** grounded in the establishment of six case studies within a **Living Lab community**, our main objective is to contribute knowledge of the climate-biodiversity nexus, through understanding the benchmark value and distribution of **primary forests**, known to be carbon- and biodiversity-rich, and devising a range of management, conservation through active, and restoration options, as well as policy interventions, that support the conservation and optimize ecosystem services provision of such forests.



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# Ambitions

- **From Knowledge to Action**
- **Smart Monitoring for Smart Decisions**
- **Safeguarding carbon and biodiversity**
- **Foreseeing Biodiversity Futures**
- **Connecting Forest Landscapes**
- **Nature as an Economic Opportunity**

## Living Labs & participatory research

Empowering local stakeholders to co-design solutions and best practices for sustainable forest management.

## Stakeholder engagement

Delivering tailor-made information and promoting forest protection and restoration through economic incentives and legal mechanisms.

18

Partners

10

Countries

2025

Project start

2029

Project end

€ 5.9 M

Total budget