Focus 3: Innovation for forest development

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- R2I projects as strategic tools for growth
- MENFRI presentation
- Business opportunities and initiatives in the Regional dimension
- Identified gaps
- Future possibilities
R2I projects as strategic tools for growth

The crucial moment for bringing science into action for the development of Mediterranean communities
Euro-Mediterranean cooperation in Research and Innovation

(Rafael Rodríguez)

- 2004 ESTIME Evaluation of science, technology and innovation capabilities in the Mediterranean countries
- 2008 FP7 MI RA Fostering the EU-MPC Innovation and Science & Technology Communities of Practice
- 2010 FP7 MEDPRO Analysis of the current state and prospective development in main areas of socio economic development
- 2013 FP7 MEDSPRING Mediterranean Science, Policy, Research & Innovation Gateway.
- 2014 (FORESTERRA) INFORMED Integrated Research on Forest Resilience and Management in the Mediterranean
Reinforcing cooperation with European Neighbourhood Policy countries on bridging the gap between research and innovation

(FP7-INCO-2013, R2I-ENP)

- **Involve different stakeholders** among the various steps of the "knowledge value chain", fostering mutually beneficial public-private-partnerships

- **Align better research objectives to socio-economic needs** and improve performance in managing, transferring and using knowledge resulting from research.

- **Enhance cooperation between ENP and EU countries** on addressing key societal challenges of common interest through a Common Knowledge and Innovation space.

- **Promote market uptake** of research results through innovative products and services.

MENFRI

Mediterranean Network of Forestry Research and Innovation
Forestry as a tool for development

Business opportunities and initiatives in the Regional dimension
Private forest owners and local communities are crucial actors that should be empowered and supported.

We must give fair value to products, considering the cost of production impacts.

There should be a decrease in society’s comfort threshold; the bioeconomy should influence the current educational system.
Conservation while exploitation

- The need to reconcile environmental and business objectives in forestry
- Conservation of biodiversity and valorization of local species’ products
- Tourism and local benefits
- Reduction of waste through energetic use
- Fiscal incentives to forest owners (environmental services)
Identified gaps

Existing barriers against forestry development
False friends

- **Forest use rights** but growing populations depending on forests without professional training
- Lack of a common **regional strategy** with real application
- Gap between **global economy** and local benefits and between artisanal and industrial approach
- **Legislation** without regional coherence and agreement
- The search of **productivity** in detrimental to resistance
Future possibilities

Guidelines to increase the potential of the forestry sector
MENFRI recommendations

- **Bring the fabrics into forests**: the complete value chain should be as near as possible to the source of raw materials in order to contribute to the education, enrichment and development of gathering communities.

- **R2I networks**: there is a need of initiatives joining the public and the private sector to put good ideas into real action, support them and even serve as a follow up organization, learning about the challenges and opportunities of these cross-sector processes.
MENFRI recommendations

- **Multi-sectoral pilot studies** (including the complete value chain): good examples to decision-makers about the possibilities and benefits of long-term (and therefore sustainable) approaches

- **Valorisation**: People need to know the importance of consuming and paying the real value of regional products of proved sustainability in order to contribute to ecosystem conservation and societal development