



European project kick-off: INTEGRAL "Future-oriented integrated management of European forest landscapes" starts

The kick-off meeting will be held in Uppsala, Sweden, on the 14th and 15th of November marking the start of the **INTEGRAL project**, funded by the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) of the European Union.

All **20 partners from 14 different European countries** and representatives from the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research & Innovation will gather for the first time. The **Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, SLU**, is the lead partner of INTEGRAL. The Institute of **Forest and Environmental Policy at the University of Freiburg** is the Scientific Coordinator of the project.

The project focuses on the vital environmental and socio-economic role of European forests. They are well documented and acknowledged in policy documents of both the European Union and its member states. Nevertheless there is a need **to improve existing policy and management approaches** due to incoherencies within and between trans-national, national and local forest-related land use policies and mismatches between the policies and their implementation at the landscape level. Providing a new policy and management approach that that delivers a better balance between multiple and conflicting demands for forest goods and services is the main objective of INTEGRAL. The challenge is to meet the different social demands for multiple forest ecosystems.

The project has a duration of 4 years and has received funding by 7 million euro from the Seventh Framework Programme for Research within the area of Sustainable management of resources.

"It is tremendously exciting to lead this venture which embraces the most important forest environments in Europe. The research will be applied in a total of 20 landscapes in 10 European countries that differ in key characteristics, such as ownership, the importance of forestry and forest-based industries and the priorities of allocation and management of new and existing forest lands. We will give the possibility to both local and national stakeholder groups all the way through the project, they play a decisive role. I think this was a central element in the selecting of our project in tough competition with other applications" says professor Ola Eriksson, project coordinator.

MORE INFORMATION:

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