

Press release

## Profitable and sustainable European forest management

### **NIBIO is leading the EU project TECH4EFFECT on knowledge and technologies for efficient wood procurement.**

Ås, Norway, 13 December 2016 - To supply the bioeconomy with sufficient biomass, access to wood resources needs to be increased, growth rates accelerated and harvesting and silvicultural operations and business models improved. In the next four years, the European project TECH4EFFECT aims at increasing access to wood resources while reducing the environmental impact of forest harvesting. A web-based benchmarking tool collecting and systematizing forest operations data from across Europe will be developed to provide a solid foundation for knowledge-based forest management.

### **Supplying biomass to the bioeconomy**

To meet the EU climate change targets and reduce Europe's dependency on fossil based products, the bioeconomy relies on ever-increasing amounts of biomass. The next breakthrough in efficiency gains in European forest management will come through knowledge-based management for better informed planning and decision making. Timber harvesting is the most cost intensive and fuel consuming part of forest management and results in the most severe impacts on forest ecosystem services. Relatively small improvements in forest harvesting can lead to potentially large gains in cost, work and fuel efficiency. TECH4EFFECT coordinator Rasmus Astrup concludes: "Technologies are not improving as fast as they used to. We need to focus now on knowledge based advances in efficiency, especially in harvesting."

### **Data-driven knowledge-based revolution of the European forest sector**

TECH4EFFECT focuses on increasing access to wood resources through more efficient silviculture and a better understanding of the business models in the procurement of forest operation services. The project further considers increasing efficiency in forest harvesting and collection, and the reduction of soil impact from forest operations, making environmental considerations a measurable and integrated part of operational efficiency. TECH4EFFECT offers the potential to revolutionize forest operations with a state-of-the-art knowledge-based benchmarking tool. Based on the large amount of data available in modern industrial forest management this benchmarking tool will provide easily accessible decision support.

### **Consortium**

Coordinated by NIBIO, nine research institutes and universities, three industrial partners and seven SMEs are participating in TECH4EFFECT. The consortium shows strong industrial participation and includes leading machine manufacturers and logistics experts, as well as large forest owners and associations of small owners and contractors. Academic institutions from all over Europe represent the main forest regions.

TECH4EFFECT is funded by the Bio Based Industries Joint Undertaking under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 720757.

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Press release and images can be found at [www.tech4effect.eu](http://www.tech4effect.eu). For more information please visit our website or contact:

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**Fact box:**

Project title: Techniques and Technologies for Effective Wood Procurement

Partners: 19

Budget: € 5 million

Project duration: October 2016 – September 2020

Keywords: efficiency, forestry, environment

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**Project partners**

Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO), Norway  
Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR), Italy  
European Forest Institute (EFI), Finland  
University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU), Austria  
Natural Resources Institute (LUKE), Finland  
University of Copenhagen (UCPH), Denmark  
RTDS Association, Austria  
University of Freiburg (ALU-FR), Germany  
Norskog, Norway  
Kuratorium für Waldarbeit und Forsttechnik (KWF), Germany  
Österreichische Bundesforste (ÖBF), Austria  
Ibensoft, Denmark  
Skovdyrkerne, Denmark  
Ponsse Plc, Finland  
Conaibo, Italy  
Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW), Poland  
Latschbacher, Austria  
Konrad Forsttechnik, Austria  
Norwegian land and forest enterprise (Statskog), Norway

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