

# SUST FOREST PLUS

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SOE2/P5/E0598

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"Strategy and collaborative networks for multifunctionality, conservation and employment in southern European territory through resin extraction".



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# 1. Start of the Project SustForest Plus and launch of the website

May 12, 2018

The Sust Forest project developed between 2010 and 2013 laid the foundations for a common strategy for European natural resin, and the current SustForest Plus, which will be developed from 2018 to 2021, will be available under the same website [www.sust-forest.eu](http://www.sust-forest.eu)

The project SustForest Plus SOE2/P5/E0598 "Strategy and collaborative networks for multifunctionality, conservation and employment in Southern Europe through the extraction of resin" is developed from 2018 to 2021, is co-financed by the Interreg Sudoe Program through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) of the European Union and aims to improve the joint management methods of natural resin sources in the Sudoe territory as a strategic and preferential resource for the industry, job creation and the rational use of natural resources.

Sust Forest Plus is an initiative promoted by the main agents of the value chain of natural resin of Spain, France and Portugal to boost the economic activity of the sector with three objectives:

- Satisfy the demand for natural resins of the industry of Southwestern Europe.
- Generate stable and quality jobs in rural areas of the Sudoe territory.
- Valorise commercially and technologically the natural resin produced in the Sudoe forests of as a sustainable, social, economic and environmental resource.

The beneficiary partners of the project are the following entities: Fundación Centro de Servicios y Promoción Forestal y de su Industria de Castilla y León (Cesefor), Centre National de la Propriété Forestière (CNPF), European Forest Institute (EFI), Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Tecnología Agraria y Alimentaria (INIA), Instituto Nacional de Investigação Agrária e Veterinária (INIAV), Município de Penela, Município de Proença-a-Nova y Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM).

The project has also been supported by other entities related to the sector of natural resins and belonging to the SUDOE territory (Tunisia, Greece and Italy) that participate as associate partners of the project, which are: Asociación Nacional de Resineros (ANR), Associação das Indústrias de Madeira e Mobiliário de Portugal (AIMMP), Associação Florestal do Vale do Douro Norte (Aflorodounorte), Certis – Controlo

e Certificação, Lda., Decentraliced Administration of Epirus-Western Macedonia, Diputación Provincial de Soria, Essência Química – Resinas e Derivados, Eurorègion Nouvelle Aquitaine-Euskadi-Navarre, Federación de Asociaciones Forestales de Castilla y León (FAFCYLE), Groupement de Producteurs Forestiers du sud Gironde (CPFA), Holiste Laboratoires et Developpement, Industrial Resinera Valcan, S. A. (IRV), Instituto de Conservação da Natureza e das Florestas (ICNF), National Institute for Research in Rural Engineering Water and Forestry (INRGREF), Junta de Castilla y León, Luresa Resinas, S. L., Pôle de compétitivité Xylofutur, Quercus - Associação Nacional de Conservação da Natureza, Resipinus - Associação de Destiladores e Exploradores de Resina, Rincón de la Vega S.A.L., Sociedad de Resinas Naturales, S.A., Unione Di Comuni Valdarno E Valdisieve y United Ressins – Produção de Resinas S.A.

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## Background

After the crisis suffered since the mid-twentieth century, which led to the disappearance of the sector of European natural resins extraction, it was evident that the European natural resin was competing with extra-community sources, more efficient in wages and productive capacity.

After a period of stagnation, contacts were made between institutions and companies in Spain, France and Portugal in the middle of the past decade, which resulted in collaboration through the transnational project Sust Forest (2010 - 2013). The II International Symposium on Natural Resins (2013) held within the framework of Sust Forest, laid the foundations of the transnational cooperation: defence of prices, improvement of competitiveness, product promotion, R + D + i, common positioning before the European policies forming a common strategy and structure in Europe.

Sust Forest Plus proposes the collaboration in the medium and long term between the three countries (Spain, France and Portugal) based on the sum of efforts through a consensual strategy to work for the common interests of the sector in Europe.

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## 2. Innovation and knowledge transfer, keys to boosting the resin sector

May 13, 2018

Spain has hosted a series of international meetings on how to strengthen the link between research and practice.

Cesefor has coordinated this week the celebration of the I Forum of Forest Bioeconomy of the Southwest of Europe, which has gathered in Valladolid nearly 100 agents of the value chain of natural resins to work around new innovation projects that turn this product into a competitive and future input.

During the three days of the event (with nearly forty conferences held and several working sessions), professionals related to the sector from Spain, France and Portugal have also known some of the initiatives aimed at promoting the use and mobilization in the wood markets.

With regard to natural resins, there has been a boost in activity in recent years supported by the research activity of Cesefor, which since 2010 has promoted the Sudoe Sust-Forest INTERREG project, and which in the Forest Bioeconomy Forum has presented an extension of the same, Sust-Forest Plus, to be developed between 2018 and 2021 and capitalise on a large part of the results obtained in the first stage.

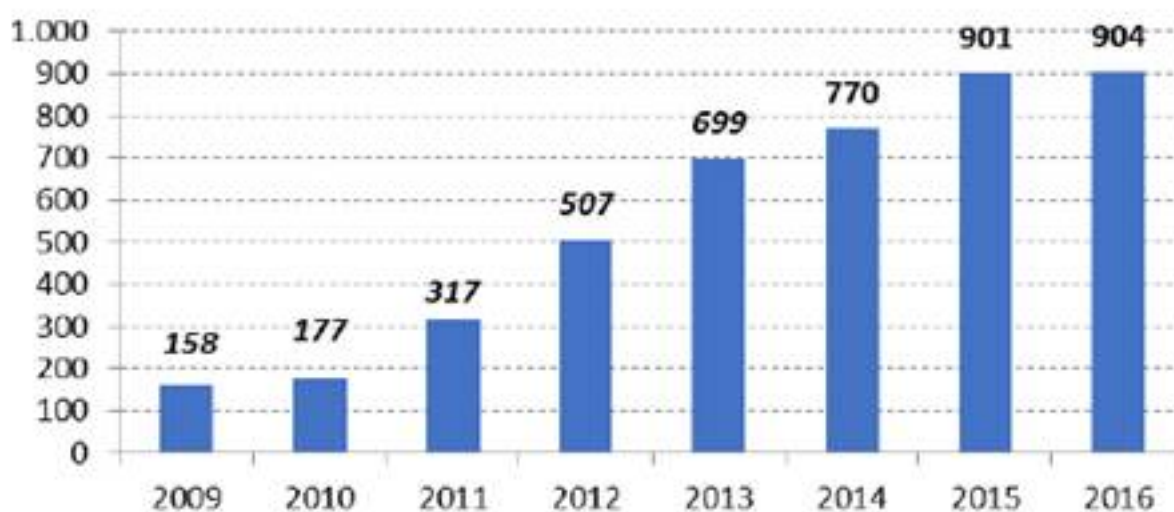
It should be noted that the European market demand for resinous products for the chemical industry has allowed the recovery of resination in Spain since 2011, which has resulted in the installation of three new factories in Castilla y León (in the towns of Cuellar, Almazán and Navas de Oro) and the modernization of the one already operating in Coca.

This has allowed the creation since then of more than 700 jobs of resin workers in the Community. The most recent production data is estimated at 12,000 tonnes of resin extracted from the more than 3.2 million resinous pines in the nearly 30,000 hectares of pine groves in production.



Under this scenario, the Sust-Forest Plus project aims, among other things, to contribute to the generation of stable and quality in rural areas, with the initial premise that resin workers are the most necessary and fragile link in the sector, who need to be supported and protected as a source of rural employment. This initiative, financed with funds from the INTERREG Sudoe programme, will tackle an action plan which includes a study of the socio-economic needs of the group; the application of innovation techniques with the participation of the resin producers from the bottom up; the implementation of actions for the training and transfer of good practices; the modernisation and improvement of extraction techniques and complementarity with other sources of income.

### **Evolución del número de resineros productores para empresas de Castilla y León**



Elaboración propia CESEFOR

As for the forecasts for the current season, the first impressions of how it is developing will not be known until the beginning of June, although it will depend on several factors. Among others, the fact that spring rains have made it difficult for resin growers to prepare the bushes, although these same rainfalls provide the conditions for a good season in terms of production, as long as temperatures rise from this month of May and summer storms periodically replenish the soil humidity of the pine forest.



## **Resin activity as a generator of other services**

During the First Forest Bioeconomy Forum of Southwest Europe, the need arose in numerous interventions to visualize the socio-economic and conservation value generated by the harvesting activity in the mountains, and the demand for payment for environmental services and the benefits that these activities generate with their sustainable management of resources.

In addition to the research and innovation activity carried out by entities such as the Cesefor Foundation, it is worth highlighting the work carried out in the region by the Castilla y León Resin Table, as a meeting point for all the agents in the sector, in which forest owners and managers, resin producers and industrialists are represented, and which carries out important work for the sector and for the administration, helping to identify barriers and to propose solutions.

Among the latter at the end of last year, the Resin Table promoted a legislative adaptation in the area of resin harvesting, which concluded with the approval of an amendment to the Law of Forests of Castilla y León, which will improve the recruitment of public pine forests catalogued to local resin growers, resolving previous imbalances that professionals had identified. An example of actions undertaken under the Forest Resource Mobilization Program of the Junta de Castilla y León, which has been achieved by the collaboration achieved within the Bureau and with administrations and political groups.

## Meeting points with social agents

The Bioeconomy Forum also served to put on the table the proposals of the unions, which include doubling forest investment; a legislative development against the abandonment of forest ownership; a registry of sole and public property and other public uses; the management of forests (public and private property); and educate society in responsible consumption, in which the forest resource and its workers are recognized, among other approaches. Many of them, shared by the rest of agents that intervene in the resin value chain, and that with the implementation of projects such as Sust-Forest Plus are intended to address.

For this reason, the meeting these days in Valladolid has brought together representatives of state, regional, provincial and local administrations, as well as researchers, associations of owners, technological innovation and research companies, technology centres and universities with the aim of seeking agreements for the model that will condition production processes and consumption habits in the coming decades.

Networking is considered essential to achieve the viability of innovation projects, one of the premises on which the INCREDIBLE project is based, also presented at the Forum, and in which Cesefor participates coordinating the resin innovation network.





"We have to value ecosystem services and seek new business models and new ways to link what forest offers with the forest economy," said in the presentation of INCREDIBLE the director of the Mediterranean Office of the European Forestry Institute (EFIMED), Ignacio Martinez de Arano, who along these lines stressed the need to "value non-breeding forest products to generate wealth and welfare in both rural and urban society. In this context, the European project INCREDIBLE (acronym for Innovation Networks of Cork, Resins and Edibles) is incubated, an initiative in which 13 entities from eight countries of the Mediterranean basin participate, and which with the financial support of the European Horizon 2020 programme aims to establish in its area of action a series of innovation networks (iNets) that work and contribute to the transfer of knowledge in non-timber forest products, breaking the division between knowledge and innovation, between science and practice. The aim is to mobilise knowledge and action "in both directions".

Each of the iNets will be presented over the next few weeks, with the resin being the first to convene its launching seminar, with the participation of agents from the French, Portuguese and Spanish sectors to collaboratively draw up the roadmap for this network, developing innovative business models and improving experience in rural regions to develop inclusive economic strategies.

On the other hand, INCREDIBLE will also address society in general with the message that forests managed sustainably by rural inhabitants are a great source of wealth that provide us with cork, resins, aromatic and medicinal plants and edible products such as wild nuts, berries or mushrooms and truffles. Not forgetting that socio-economic activity in our forests also contributes to the prevention of forest fires.

In the work groups carried out in this first meeting of the INCREDIBLE resin iNet, some of the expectations of the interested actors were put on the table, such as consolidating employment and labour improvements, recognition of resin activity in rural development policies, compatibility of resin with other uses of the mountain, or the creation of an interprofessional table of European scope, among others.

These workshops also studied the value chain of the resin, specifying among other things that the product certification adds value, and that from the industry is deepened in the possibilities of developing more products derived from the resin activity, such as bioplastics and new materials derived from natural resins, which also contribute to meeting the demands of the new consumer profile, more aware of the origin and destination of the products it acquires. The fiscal and corporate regulation of resin producers

in Spain, France and Portugal was also shared in this sectoral analysis, as well as the state of forest ownership in each of these regions, and a review of the factors that imply competition, such as producers in non-EU countries, or substitute or petroleum products.

The Resin iNet also highlighted in this long-term scenario planning the opportunities of this resource (renewable, biological, ecofriendly) or its importance as a dynamizer of local economies and preserver of socio-cultural traditions (adding value to the community in which it is based).

This first seminar of the resin innovation network will be followed by other sectoral meetings within the INCREDIBLE project such as workshops; knowledge transfer meetings between science and practice; more transversal content seminars (on business models, application of ICTs); a forestry policy forum, as well as various general assemblies in which the rest of the other

INCREDIBLE innovation networks participate (mushrooms and truffles; aromatic and medicinal plants; fruits and berries; and cork).

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### **3. The project SustForest Plus promotes the association of forest owners for the resin exploitation in the Landes**

June 16, 2018

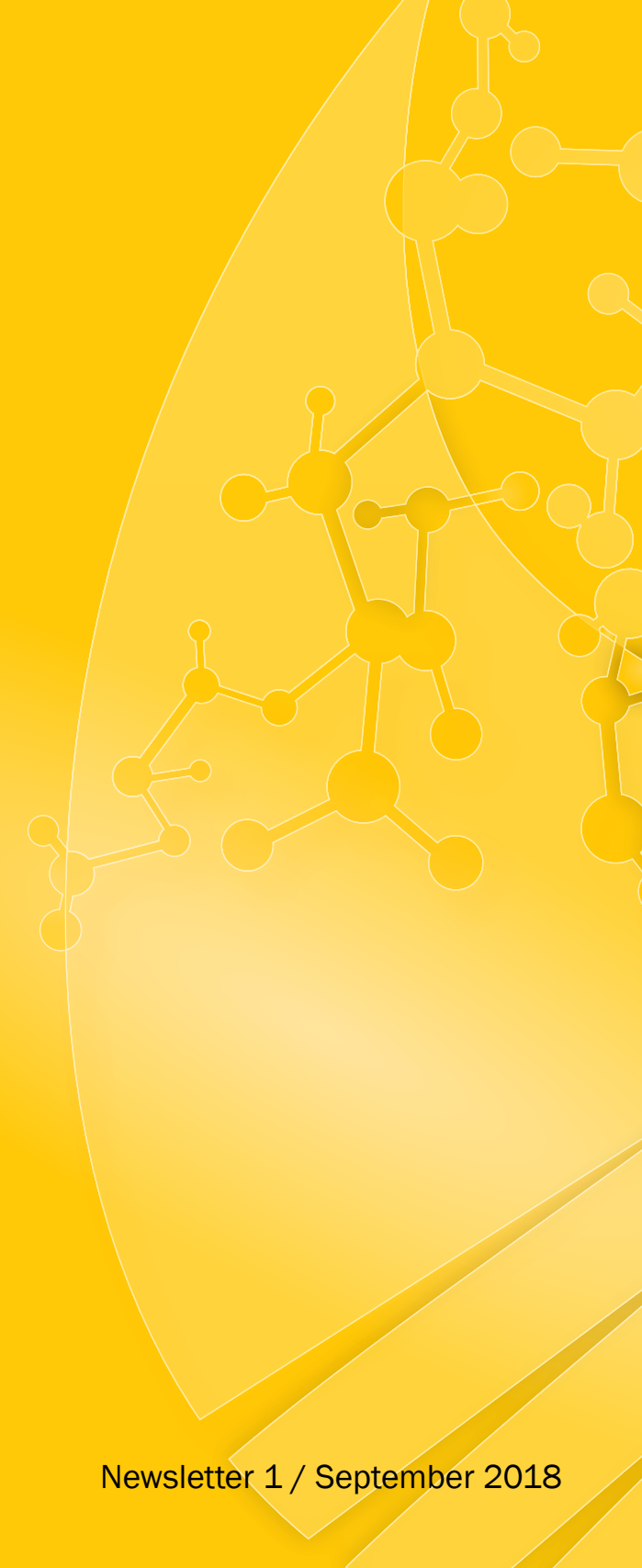
On June 15, the National Centre for Forest Property of Nouvelle-Aquitaine held a day of associative dynamism for resin forest owners. It was the first step for the implementation of a pilot project of forestry association in France. This initiative is carried out within the framework of the European project SustForest Plus (collaboration between French, Spanish and Portuguese partners). The project SustForest Plus will be developed over the next three years under the leadership of the Cesefor Foundation, and co-financed by the transnational cooperation program of the European Union Interreg V B Sudoe

At the conference held in Biscarrosse (region of French Landes), the participants were the company Holiste, partner of the SustForest Plus project, the Groupement de Productivité Forestière (GPF) of Lot-et-Garonne, and the Centre de Productivité Forestière d'Aquitaine. Throughout the information sessions, the latest progress in research related to the exploitation of maritime pine resin in Nouvelle-Aquitaine was presented.

The meeting brought together thirty-four people, mostly forestry experts and forest owners members of several forestry associations and the French resin sector: the GPF Lot-et-Garonne, a Free Trade Union Association and the association Gemme la Forêt d'Aquitaine.

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During the morning session, the European project SustForest Plus, the planned transnational cooperation activities and the actions to be carried out in the French territory were presented. In addition, a survey was carried out among the forest owners to know their interest in integrating the resin activity in their lands, and to probe their interest in participating in the activities of the project SustForest Plus.

Then, the company Holiste described its new method of resin extraction in closed container, which was developed as part of the BioGemme program, informing that the company plans to increase the resin production in the coming years.

In the afternoon, there was a visit to the national forest of Teste-de-Buch (Gironde) where a demonstration of the technique of extraction in closed container was carried out, so that foresters can know an activity that can report an interesting productive complement that will improve the income statement of their lands.

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# 4. The International Conference of the Pine Chemical Association welcomes members of the SustForest Plus project

September 4, 2018

From 16 to 18 September the International Conference of the Pine Chemical Association (CI-PCA) will take place in Lisbon, a meeting that is recognized as the main annual international event of the pine chemical industry.

The CI-PCA brings together thought leaders, innovators and leading industry members from around the world and from all facets of the pine chemical industry to broaden their horizons, their leadership and their network of collaboration.

One of the projects invited to this unique event is SustForest Plus, which will be presented to the more than 200 attendees expected at the Lisbon conference. The development of the SustForest Plus project aims, among other objectives, to establish the European Resin Territories Network (RETR), which will represent the natural resin sector before EU, national and regional public decision-makers. The presence of SustForest Plus in the International Conference of the Pine Chemical

Association is an extraordinary opportunity to connect the European Network of Resin Territories with the sector of the pine chemical industry at a global level.

Another objective of SustForest Plus is the establishment of a European Strategy for Natural Resin (ERNE). The participation of the project partners in the CI-PCA will serve to tune the ERNE with the particularities and current needs of the international resin market, and incorporate the latest innovations, research results and good practices that will be presented during the event.

The transnational initiative SustForest Plus is co-financed by the Interreg Sudoe Programme through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and aims to capitalise on the effort made with the SustForest project, establishing longer-term strategies and creating stable networks of joint collaboration to achieve the objectives of the European natural resin sector.

# 5. Technical conference and presentation of SustForest Plus in New-Aquitaine (France)

September 27, 2018

On 6 September 2018, the Regional Centre for Forest Property (CRPF) in New-Aquitaine organised a technical day on resin extraction and the presentation of the SustForest Plus project, as well as a new method of resin extraction for CRPF staff and the organisations invited: Chamber of Agriculture, Department, Region and Association "Gemme la forêt d'Aquitaine", among others, representing some forty people.

In the morning, the chain of actors of the resin industry in Aquitaine and the possible uses of its products were presented by Henri Husson and Lucie Rupil of CRPF New-Aquitaine. Holiste, the only company in Aquitaine that extracts resin, describes its activity and its objectives for the future.

In the afternoon, Holiste demonstrated the collection of gems on a maritime pine plot in Captieux (Gironde) where the CPFA installed an experimental plot whose aim is to analyse the relationship between the type of season and resin production, as well as the difference in quality of resined wood with unresined wood.

At the beginning of September, an agreement was signed between CRPF New-Aquitaine, ONF, Holiste and CPFA to build a common network of experimental plots for resin extraction and to share measurement results and analyses.

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## 6. The design of the web android application of SustForest Plus for the traceability of miera del monte to the factory is started

September 27, 2018

To facilitate the efficient management of the process of collection, transport and weighing of the whey through its route from the mountain to the factory. This is the objective of the computer application that Cesefor has begun to design within the SustForest Plus project.

This technological tool that Cesefor will develop with the collaboration of the industrial partners of the project, will speed up the relations between the resin workers and the first transformation industry, and will improve the execution of the management tasks of the resinero supply process.

The system, consisting of an architecture that includes a web application and another in Android,

can be used on mobile phones, and will document the traceability of the miera, so that it will mean an advance in the management of the tasks of certification and accreditation of the local origin of the resin.

The Web/Android application will be implemented in a demonstrative way in one of the factories of the project partner Sociedad de Resinas Naturales. Among the utilities of the system are the coordination of the collections of the miera del monte and the monitoring of its weight, quality control and billing, thus helping in the daily management of professionals, decision making and planning campaigns of the company, advancing in the traceability of the miera through the chain formed by resinero, carrero and industry.

# 7. Second SustForest Plus meeting in Bordeaux

September 28, 2018

On October 9, the beneficiaries of SustForest Plus will meet in the French town of Pierroton (Cestas) to celebrate the second General Assembly of the project.

This day is designed through different technical sessions in which the leaders of the task forces will present the progress made during the first six months of the project.

The meeting will be attended by the president of the Pine Chemical Association, Alejandro Cunningham, as a continuation of the line of open collaboration at the last PCA International Conference held in Lisbon, where the SustForest Plus project was presented.

The sessions will be followed by the Italian partner, Union of Municipalities of Valdarno and Valdisieve, which will expose the interest of the resin sector in its territory.

In addition, the general assembly of the project will be held on administrative issues and the functioning of the partnership.

The day will end with a visit to the nearby Teste-de-Buch mountain, where there will be an innovative resin exploitation managed by the Holiste company.





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