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Session Chair	Session 5.2	Social innovation in forestry.
Presentations	Session 5.2	<i>Social innovation in forestry.</i>

Abstract Session 5.2 – The role of social innovation for economic, ecological and social values of forests.

Forest management is taking place in a wide range of contexts, a fact which leads to a variety of forest management approaches that differ in their goals, their ways of management and outcomes. Such various approaches therefore have different potentials to cater to the range of economic, ecological and social policy goals for sustainable forest management. The variety of possible goals and management practices is particularly visible in examples of social innovation in forestry. Social innovation is understood as the involvement of civil society in a central role in finding new solutions for the fulfilment of social needs. Social innovations take place in different ownership forms (e.g., private, public or joint/common ownership), have various goals (e.g., local rural development, ecological-oriented landscape management or social inclusion), apply various management approaches (from timber production to multiple services), and may be triggered or supported by various public or private programmes or organisations. In this presentation, we ask how social innovations in forestry aim to provide economic, social and ecological benefits for society. For this purpose, we use a range of examples for forestry-related social innovations from across European countries, including various types of activities such as recreational uses (e.g. mountain biking), using forests for health, care or educational services (e.g. green care or social farming), inclusion of vulnerable groups, community forest stewardship, integrated rural development or innovations for sustainable timber production. Those examples illustrate the potential of social innovations to contribute to such different goals such as income opportunities and regional economic development, conserving ecological values of landscapes, and providing various social values for society, including non-market ecosystem services or the inclusion of vulnerable groups (e.g. refugee immigrants).

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