

DI.I Report on stakeholder mapping and internal stakeholder database



Funded by the European Union *Date* 11.04.2023



101056875
HORIZON-CL5-2021-D1-01
ForestNavigator: Navigating European forests and forest bioeconomy sustainably to EU climate neutrality
WP1
28/03/2023
BOKU
Öllerer, Barbara; Tan, Ellen; Di Fulvio, Fulvio; Yesil, Burcu; Menke, Inga; Nabelssi, Zeinab: Ludvig Alice

#### Abstract

Deliverable D1.1 of the Horizon Europe ForestNavigator project presents the report on stakeholder mapping and internal stakeholder database. The report describes the mapping process and outcomes as well as the dynamic internal stakeholder database. ForestNavigator identifies and maps stakeholders from the sub-national to the international scale based on a set of characteristics, such as stakeholder category, geographical scope, and sociodemographic factors. The aim of the mapping process is to provide a comprehensive and diverse stakeholder base for stakeholder engagement activities throughout the project. The report further describes the dynamic stakeholder database, which will be updated throughout the project lifetime.

## **Keywords**

Stakeholder, engagement, mapping, sub-national, national, European, international, levels, categories

Internal Technical Auditor	Name (Beneficiary short name)	Date of approval
Task leader	Alice Ludvig (BOKU)	11/04/2023
WP leader	Alice Ludvig (BOKU)	11/04/2023
Coordinator	Petr Havlík (IIASA)	11/04/2023
Project Office	Sophie Rau (ARTTIC)	11/04/2023

This report reflects only the author's view, and that the Agency is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.

#### **Dissemination level**

- **PU** Public, will be published on CORDIS
- **SEN** Sensitive, limited under the conditions of the Grant Agreement

#### Nature of the deliverable \*

R



# **Table of Contents**

	Abstract
	Keywords
	Dissemination level
List	of Figures
List	of Tables
Abb	reviations
Exe	cutive summary5
1.	Introduction6
2.	Main section7
2.1.	Methods and materials7
	2.1.1. ForestNavigator stakeholder mapping aim and method7
	2.1.2. Process of the stakeholder mapping
	2.1.3. Definition of stakeholder characteristics
2.2.	Data protection
2.2	Desults of the manning
2.3.	Results of the mapping
3.	Using the dynamic stakeholder database for stakeholder engagement
	activities
3.1.	Policy Steering Committee
3.2.	Stakeholder Board
3.3.	EU Forest Policy Modelling Forum
4.	Conclusions and next steps 19
_	
5.	References
c	Annov
0.	AIIIIEX

# List of Figures

Figure 1. Stakeholder categories	
Figure 2. Scale of stakeholder engagement	
Figure 3. Regions stakeholder organisations are based in	
Figure 4. Countries stakeholder organisations are based in	
Figure 5. Gender distribution of stakeholders	
Figure 6. Diagram of planned stakeholder engagement activities	



4

# List of Tables

Table 1: Ways in which WP1 feeds into other WPs	8
Annex 1: Stakeholder categories sorted by scale of engagement	21

# Abbreviations

BOKU	University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna			
CA	Climate Analytics			
DMP	Data Management Plan			
DoA	Description of Action			
ENEA	Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic			
	Development			
EU	European Union			
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation			
IIASA	The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis			
LULUCF	Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry			
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation			
PMF	EU Forest Policy Modelling Forum			
PSC	Policy Steering Committee			
WP	Work Package			



## **Executive summary**

Effective stakeholder engagement is essential to achieve the objectives of the ForestNavigator project. The ForestNavigator project involves key stakeholders in three key engagement activities: the Policy Steering Committee, the Stakeholder Board, and the EU Policy Modelling Forum. The stakeholder mapping exercise and resulting dynamic stakeholder database form the foundation for effective stakeholder engagement in the ForestNavigator project.

The report illustrates the process of mapping stakeholders and creating a dynamic internal stakeholder database conducted by BOKU, as part of a Stakeholder Integrated Research (STIR) approach (Gramberger et al, 2014). ForestNavigator identifies and maps stakeholders on a set of characteristics that are deemed relevant for its stakeholder activities: stakeholder category, geographical scope (scale of engagement, European region, and country), and sociodemographic factors (gender balance).

The stakeholder mapping shows that the resulting dynamic stakeholder database includes a significant share of all relevant stakeholder categories (policymakers, experts, NGOs, forest owners and managers, and business and industry). All four case-study countries and, additionally, sixteen other countries are represented in the stakeholder database, which enables the project consortium to engage with stakeholders from a range of different national contexts.

Some imbalances across stakeholder categories were identified, some of which are functional to meet the ForestNavigator stakeholder activity objectives. For example, forest owners and managers, as well as, experts and researchers are overrepresented in the stakeholder mapping but those categories are strategic for the overall project scope. However, we recognize that among currently identified stakeholder gender, only one third is female. As we are identifying individuals from nominated institutions and in our further stakeholder identification work, we will prioritize women and other genders where possible to strive towards gender equality. Further, the mapping was used to identify members for the Policy Steering Committee, is being used to identify and members for the Stakeholder Board, and will be used to establish the EU Policy Modelling Forum in 2023. Finally, it is important to note that the resulting internal stakeholder database will be updated throughout the whole duration of the project, also in view of quotas set for specific engagement activities.



# I. Introduction

ForestNavigator's main aim is to assess the climate mitigation and adaptation potential of European forests and forest-based sectors through modelling of policy pathways, consistent with the best standards of LULUCF reporting, and informing the public authorities on the most suitable approach to forest policy and bioeconomy.

The ForestNavigator project involves key stakeholders in three key engagement activities: the Policy Steering Committee, the Stakeholder Board, and the EU Policy Modelling Forum. The stakeholder engagement activities, which are facilitated through WP1, ensure the ForestNavigator results, the policy pathways, and policy recommendations are useful for EU policymakers, national authorities, researchers and experts, representatives of non-government organisations, forest managers and forest owners. The results of the stakeholder engagement activities will also feed into the ForestNavigator Portal, which built by 2025, will support robust decision making, dissemination, outreach, and scientific collaboration.

Chapter 2 describes the applied stakeholder mapping methodology employed in Task 1.1 Dynamic Stakeholder Management and illustrates the stakeholder mapping results. The mapping is a project requirement under Task 1.1 of WP1 Stakeholder dialogue, as detailed in the DoA:

"map stakeholders according to the pre-defined categories, geographical scope, role, interests and diversity criteria, with further refinement in specific clusters, based on interest, expertise and role in the sector." (ForestNavigator, 2022, p. 6)

In Chapter 3 we briefly discuss how the dynamic stakeholder database is used to identify the relevant stakeholders for the three ForestNavigator stakeholder engagement activities.



# 2. Main section

## 2.1. Methods and materials

## 2.1.1. ForestNavigator stakeholder mapping aim and method

During the ForestNavigator project, strong and continuous stakeholder engagement is secured by the multi-layered stakeholder dialogue. Stakeholders were identified through a stakeholder mapping exercise led by BOKU. The mapping process in the ForestNavigator project has been a crucial step in identifying key stakeholders relevant to the project. It applies elements from stakeholder integrated research, also known as STIR approach (Gramberger et al., 2014), to stakeholder engagement in research projects.

The stakeholder mapping is an important tool that can help to monitor whether the identified stakeholders cover the stakeholder characteristics relevant to the project scope and whether there is a need to adjust the composition. Stakeholder mapping in the context of a project describes the process of identifying and analysing stakeholders who are involved or have a potential interest in the project. For ForestNavigator, stakeholder mapping is a key tool for understanding of the type of stakeholders potentially available, their expertise, and how they can be effectively engaged throughout the project lifetime.

The resulting dynamic internal stakeholder database provides a systematic and organised list of stakeholders. Based on the mapping, suitable stakeholders for the various stakeholder engagement activities were identified. The stakeholder database stays flexible throughout the project lifetime to allow for new stakeholders to be added, and for compensating for stakeholders leaving the project, all information will be updated as the project progresses.

## 2.1.2. Process of the stakeholder mapping

The development of a mapping structure, including a set of stakeholder characteristics (see *2.1.3 Definition of stakeholder characteristics*), was the first step of the stakeholder mapping. During the Kick-Off Meeting, WP1 – including the stakeholder mapping task - was presented to the whole consortium in a plenary session as a second step. The project partners agreed on the key stakeholder categories - policymakers and agencies, experts and researchers, environmental and sociocultural NGOs, forest owners and managers, and business and industries. They further agreed that emphasis should be laid on involving policy- and decisionmakers at the EU and national scale, as those are the target group and designated users of the ForestNavigator Pathways. Additionally, a breakout group discussed the stakeholder mapping process in a designated session.

The third step of the stakeholder mapping was to identify relevant stakeholders to be contacted during the project. Following the announcement at the Kick-Off Meeting, all project partners were invited to contribute to an internal list of stakeholders which served as the starting point for both the stakeholder mapping and the internal dynamic stakeholder database. They were reminded of the identified stakeholder categories and asked to identify stakeholders who fall into those categories. BOKU asked the partners to put a special focus on the case studies (Czechia, Ireland, Italy and Sweden) to ensure that the most relevant stakeholders of those countries would be represented in the stakeholder mapping. ForestNavigator is committed to gender balance in stakeholder representation, hence, BOKU additionally emphasised that project partners should include women and, if possible, also other genders (e.g., non-binary) in the list. By actively



involving the project partners in the mapping process, we ensured that this selection represents the stakeholders who are most relevant to the project.

Project partners thereafter added the most relevant stakeholders for their WPs and the overall project scope to the list, based on their expertise and knowledge of the relevant actors in their respective fields. This collaborative approach ensured that a comprehensive list of stakeholders was developed. In case of questions, the project partners communicated with BOKU, and feedback loops were established to ensure that the stakeholder mapping process was continually refined and improved as the project progressed.

While identifying the most relevant stakeholders for the project with the project partners, we additionally asked WP leads to fill the following table and describe how the stakeholder mapping would feed into their respective tasks. The identified needs served as additional drivers for selecting stakeholders for the stakeholder mapping. For an overview, see *Table 1:* 

Table 1: Ways in which WP1 feeds into other WPs.

	Description of needs and corresponding tasks				
WP3	Feedback on mapped management options and needs of policymakers (WS 1); T 3.1 & T 3.4				
WP4	Elicitation of technical info on ecosystem services values; T 4.3 Survey testing and translation for the 4 case studies, survey dissemination; T 4.4				
WP5	Input for market scenarios (foresight exercise) and feedback on preliminary scenarios (WS 1); T 5.1 Identification of relevant wood products and indicating techno- economic data and LCA/LCI data for the relevant products; T 5.4				
WP7	Input on exploratory scenarios towards carbon neutrality				
WP8	Input and feedback/validation from stakeholders on EU and national pathways; T 8.1 & T 8.2				
WP9	Guidance and feedback on different stages of the development of the Forest Data Explorer portal: user-friendliness, usefulness of the content; T 9.2 Guidance and feedback on different stages of the development of the Forest Pathway Explorer portal: user-friendliness, usefulness of the content; T 9.3				

Source: ForestNavigator WP1, contributions from project partners

The existing state of the results of the mapping are illustrated in *2.2 Results of the mapping*. However, it is crucial to note that the mapping is intended as a continuous and on-going process that will be updated throughout the project by keeping a dynamic internal stakeholder database.

#### 2.1.3. Definition of stakeholder characteristics

For the purpose of the mapping, we defined stakeholder characteristics. These characteristics (e.g., stakeholder category) are further specified by categories (e.g., policymakers and agencies, experts and researchers, environmental and sociocultural NGOs, forest owners and managers, and business and industries). With this set of stakeholder characteristics, we can provide a comprehensive overview and depiction of the mapping results. It further provides a tool for



monitoring whether the stakeholder composition is balanced across these characteristics. The following section presents and describes the identified characteristics.

#### Stakeholder category

The five stakeholder categories used in this mapping are policymakers and agencies, experts and researchers, environmental and sociocultural NGOs, forest owners and managers, and business and industries. In the following section, there are descriptions for each of these stakeholder categories and their specific relevance to the project scope.

#### **Policymakers and agencies**

Policymakers and agencies have a significant impact on forest management practices and regulations. Their decisions and policies can influence the use of forest resources, conservation efforts, and the livelihoods of those who rely on forests. Both EU and national policymakers are a key target group of the ForestNavigator project as they are expected to be the main users of the ForestNavigator Pathways in their decisions. Therefore, we included EU and national policymakers with a special focus on the four case study countries to consistently align national and EU decision making. Stakeholders who fall into this category are eligible to be involved in the Stakeholder Dialogue, the Policy Steering Committee and/or the Policy Modelling Forum.

#### Scientific experts and researchers

Scientific experts and researchers have a deep understanding of the complex relationships between forests and forest bioeconomy, climate, and society. Their expertise informs policy decisions, shapes sustainable forest management practices, and provides insights into emerging trends and opportunities from the bioeconomy. Experts and researchers lay the foundation for more informed decisions that can support the transition towards a climate-neutral future in the EU. This stakeholder category can be involved in the Stakeholder Board and the Policy Modelling Forum.

#### **Environmental and sociocultural NGOs**

Environmental and sociocultural NGOs represent the voices and interests of civil society and the general public. They all can provide valuable insights into social, cultural, and environmental impacts of forest management practices and wood use. They can be involved in the Stakeholder Board.

#### Forest owners and managers

Forest owners and managers have a crucial role as key experts on different forest management options considered in ForestNavigator. This stakeholder group plays a critical role in informing the project on the state-of-the-art forest management options enhancing adaptation and mitigation. These stakeholders will benefit from the ForestNavigator output which will enhance their understanding of the effects of different forest management pathways in their region. In addition, they are of key importance for implementing and disseminating sustainable forest management practices that support climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. The engagement of forest owners and managers is essential to ensure the successful transition towards a more climate-neutral future that balances environmental, social, and economic objectives. They can be invited to take part in the Stakeholder Board.



#### **Business and industry**

Business and industry stakeholders are involved in a forest-based value chain or in the national and EU-level bioeconomy. These stakeholders will provide their perspectives on the wood value chain, specifically current trends in wood and biomass demands, innovations in wood use, and innovative and sustainable business opportunities in the bioeconomy. Their engagement and collaboration with other stakeholders can help to create new market opportunities, promote responsible sourcing practices, and foster a more sustainable and circular economy. They can be invited to take part in the Stakeholder Board.

#### **Geographical scope**

By engaging with stakeholders operating on different scales and based in a diverse range of geographic areas, the project promotes the inclusion of different perspectives, needs, and priorities in the development and implementation of sustainable forest management, climate mitigation and adaptation strategies, and green growth opportunity across Europe and beyond. We identify the scales the stakeholders mainly operate on, and the European regions as well as the countries that the organisation the stakeholder represents is based in.

#### Scale of engagement

This category describes the scale that the stakeholder or the organisation they represent mainly operate on. We identify stakeholders operating on four different scales - the European, national, global/international and sub-national scales.

Mapping the stakeholders for ForestNavigator, we focus on the European as well as the national scale for consistency of the national and EU Pathways. The international/global scale provides the larger context, while the sub-national scale is crucial for implementing our results locally.

#### European

Stakeholders operating on the European scale are especially important with regards to the focus of the project. Their engagement and collaboration can help to ensure that the EU's forest-related decisions and actions are aligned with the EU's climate and environmental objectives, promote sustainable forest management, green economy, and support the EU's transition towards climate-neutrality.

#### National

The engagement and collaboration of stakeholders on the national scale can help to ensure that the national forest-related decisions and actions are aligned with the EU goals and promote sustainable forest management and a green economy that meet national needs and priorities.

#### Global/international

Stakeholders operating on the global and international scale are crucial to shaping policies, regulations, and initiatives related to forests and climate change at a global scale, therefore, they are relevant for including in the EU pathways constraints from other global policies.



#### Sub-national

Stakeholders operating on the sub-national scale have first-hand knowledge and experience of the local forest ecosystems management and their interactions with local communities and economies. Their engagement can help to ensure that forest-related decisions and actions are informed by local needs and priorities and to promote sustainable forest management practices and wood uses that contribute to the well-being of local communities and ecosystems.

#### **European regions**

The stakeholder mapping aims to identify stakeholders based in different regions of Europe, including Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Southern Europe, Northern Europe, and Other (i.e., outside of Europe). As a system for classification of the different regions, we use the United Nations geoscheme (UNSD, 1999). The different European regions further correspond to different needs and opportunities for, among others, climate change adaptation and mitigation. By covering the different regions, we aim to get more nuanced and relevant results that speak to these different needs and opportunities.

#### Countries

In addition to focusing on different regions of Europe, the countries in which stakeholder organisations are based are also used as a criterion to monitor geographical balance in the stakeholder mapping. By taking the distribution of stakeholders at the country level into account, the project aims to ensure that different national contexts, both for country case studies and countries that would otherwise not be represented (e.g., in the project consortium), are included in the stakeholder engagement activities. This can help to get the full bandwidth of the different national contexts.

#### **Demographic factors**

As part of the stakeholder mapping process in the ForestNavigator project, demographic factors, namely gender were taken into consideration. By mapping stakeholders based on demographic factors, the project aims to promote inclusive stakeholder engagement and to ensure that the voices and perspectives of all stakeholders are.

#### Gender balance

Gender balance is a key-asset for making this dialogue meaningful, inclusive, and effective. The project strives to achieve gender balance by targeting a representation of women and other genders (e.g., non-binary) of as close to 50% as possible in the stakeholder groups. In order to reach this target, special attention is paid to identifying women stakeholders or stakeholders of other genders as forestry is traditionally a very male-dominated sector (Andersson and Lidestav, 2016).

Other demographic factors such as age, were not considered essential for the mapping exercise. Thus, to ensure compliance with data protection regulations and respect the privacy of stakeholders, ForestNavigator chose not to include the collection and mapping of this personal data such as age.



## 2.2. Data protection

Some personal data has been obtained for the stakeholder mapping. To protect this personal data, we comply with the guidelines developed for the ForestNavigator project and recorded in D11.2 the Data Management Plan (DMP). For the stakeholder mapping specifically, we have retained and used personal data only to the scope of contacting the stakeholders, we have minimised the types of personal data collected, and anonymised information before making it publicly available.

The contact data collection and processing procedures comply with national and EU GDPR. The data stored on the SharePoint repository (<u>GDPR compliant</u>), is only accessible to the Consortium members and will not be made publicly available. For each specific stakeholder engagement activity, further data protection measures will be taken (including collecting comprehensive consent forms) to ensure full GDPR compliance.

## 2.3. **Results of the mapping**

This section illustrates the stakeholder mapping as of March 2023. Overall, 125 stakeholders were identified and mapped. In this chapter, we describe the stakeholders by categories, geographic information, and gender. The number of stakeholders mapped per category are presented in figures and the most relevant findings are highlighted.



## Stakeholder categories

Figure 1. Stakeholder categories

The mapping reveals that stakeholders are quite evenly distributed across all categories, with no single category dominating in terms of stakeholder representation. Two categories, forest owners and managers, and, experts and researchers (both n = 30) are found to be the most represented stakeholder categories, followed by policymakers and agencies (n = 25). This finding corresponds with the project's activities and goals, and in particular the aim of involving a significant representation of decision makers. In the Annex, the stakeholder categories are sorted by their scale of engagement (see *Table 2, Annex*).



#### Geographic scope Scale



Figure 2. Scale of stakeholder engagement

The results show that the biggest share of stakeholders operate on a national scale (n=59), followed by stakeholders operating on a European scale (n=40). This finding aligns with the project's scope to enable EU and national policymakers to align consistency in the development of their respective EU and national pathways. The international/global scale which provides the larger context is represented with n=15, while the sub-national scale, implementing the project results locally, accounts for n=11. Overall, this result shows that there is potential to engage actors at all different scales, for a multiscale co-design and implementation of the project pathways.



#### European Regions

Figure 3. Regions stakeholder organisations are based in

Western Europe (n=61) has the highest representation of stakeholders, partially because many organisations that operate on the EU-level are based in Brussels (BE). Additionally, the coordinator (IIASA) and the project partner with the second largest staff effort (BOKU) are based in Austria. Western Europe is followed by Northern Europe (n=31), Southern Europe (n=20), and Eastern Europe (n=12). This shows that all four European regions are covered and in none of them, less than 12 stakeholders were mapped. In spite of this, WP1 will make an effort to identify and invite more



stakeholders from Eastern and Southern Europe that are currently less represented to improve the geographical balance. Lastly, one stakeholder organisation was based in the United States, accounting for the "Other" category.

#### Countries



Figure 4. Countries stakeholder organisations are based in

The database contains stakeholders from twenty countries, including the four case study countries and additional sixteen countries. The results show that Belgium (n=24) has the highest number of organisations represented, because many EU-level organisations are based in Brussels (BE). Austria (n=15) comes in second largely because the coordinator (IIASA) and the project partner with the second largest staff effort (BOKU) are both located in Austria. Additionally, the project's case studies are well-represented, with Czechia accounting for 6 organisations, Ireland for 12, Italy for 11, and Sweden for 8. These findings suggest that the project has been successful in mapping stakeholders from a diverse range of countries and the case studies.



#### Gender balance



Figure 5. Gender distribution of stakeholders

We also looked at the gender balance of the identified stakeholders. The results show that of the 125 stakeholders mapped, 20 are women, 38 men, and 67 are marked as not available (N/A). The N/A category is used in cases where gender was either not declared or in cases where organisations, rather than individuals within these organisations, were identified. It is worth noting that no other gender was stated beyond the binary (male and female). Overall, the findings on gender balance among the stakeholders provides a starting point to continue striving towards gender balance in the dynamic stakeholder database and the planned stakeholder engagement activities.



# 3. Using the dynamic stakeholder database for stakeholder engagement activities

In this chapter, we describe how we use the dynamic stakeholder database for the three main ForestNavigator stakeholder engagement activities: the Policy Steering Committee, the Stakeholder Board, and the EU Forest Policy Modelling Forum.

Stakeholder interaction will take place as in-person, online or hybrid meetings and consultations, while promoting an effective, balanced, and safe involvement. CA, ENEA and IIASA co-develop and facilitate the engagement, management, and communication strategies (e.g., stakeholders are included in the distribution lists for open-access publications, policy briefings, and newsletters). An overview of the stakeholder engagement activities is provided in Figure 6. Especially for the EU Policy Modelling Forum, we plan engagement activities beyond the duration of the ForestNavigator project.



Figure 6. Diagram of planned stakeholder engagement activities

## 3.1. Policy Steering Committee

The Policy Steering Committee (PSC) is composed of EU-level and national policymakers and agencies relevant for the ForestNavigator project, selected among the ones listed in the stakeholder database.

This Committee will:

- provide feedback on the scenario assumptions and project results, as well as considered policy options,
- provide a continuous update on the evolution of the policy context at the EU level and in national case studies, and
- advise the Consortium to maximise the policy relevance of the project outputs.



The PSC represents the most intensive form of stakeholder engagement in the project, therefore, it will meet with the project representatives every six months, alternating between online and hybrid meetings (Figure 6). Additionally, it gets updates through quarterly newsletters and policy documents.

The PSC has already been established and is currently composed of six members, three EU and three national representatives. The committee first met during the Kick-Off Meeting, where it provided an overview about the policy context and the committee members' expectations for the ForestNavigator consortium.

## 3.2. Stakeholder Board

The Stakeholder Board will include 20 stakeholders, selected from the dynamic stakeholder database. The Board will be composed of all five stakeholder categories (i.e., policymakers and agencies, scientific experts, NGOs, forest owners and managers, and business and industries) and informs the Consortium during thematic workshop engagements.

The workshop scope will depend on the project stage, cover project achievements, and specifically gather stakeholders' views, perceptions, and preferences to inform WP research. Three workshops are planned during the project (Figure 6). The first workshop is organised in June 2023 and will cover the following themes: policy goals and pathways, forest managements options and implications for ecosystem services and markets.

The Stakeholder Board is expected to participate in all three workshops so that members can follow the journey of ForestNavigator and participate in the co-design of pathways (beginning of the project), in their validation (middle of the project), and dissemination (towards the end of the project). With this, we aim to build strong stakeholder engagement where stakeholders contribute with their expertise to the project, will then see the results of their contributions, and help disseminate ForestNavigator results.

The total number and profile of stakeholders participating in each of the workshops will depend on the thematic focus and the goal of the activity. To get optimal expert input, stakeholders from the PSC, the EU PMF, and/or from the dynamic stakeholder database will be invited to participate depending on the goal of each workshop.

## 3.3. EU Forest Policy Modelling Forum

The EU Policy Modelling Forum (PMF) will be composed by modellers and policymakers working on the national and the European scale, selected from the dynamic stakeholder database. The PMF will involve both modellers from the ForestNavigator consortium as well as external ones. External modellers will be progressively added to the core group. The PSC members will be heavily involved in the PMF conceptualisation that will be formalised during the PSC meeting in April 2023, as well as participate in the Forum.

One prime objective of the EU Forest Policy Modelling Forum (PMF) is to ensure that diverse forest modellers and EU policymakers have a regular exchange about up-to-date policy questions, and a consistent representation of policies in forest models at national and EU scale, with the ultimate aim of shortening the policy cycle. The PMF activities will further stimulate researcher capacity and enhance dissemination of scientific advancements.



A first hybrid meeting of the PMF in September 2023 is planned alongside the annual ForestNavigator consortium meeting. Meetings will be organised on a yearly basis, alternating between online and hybrid meetings. The PMF is expected to establish a long-lasting community able to continue to meet and exchange also beyond the project duration, stimulated by common interests identified during the ForestNavigator lifetime.



# 4. Conclusions and next steps

The ForestNavigator stakeholder mapping has comprehensively mapped 125 key stakeholders into five key categories, operating on four scales of engagement, based in different regions and countries, and taking gender balance into account. The resulting dynamic stakeholder database covers all the relevant categories, scales, and geographic and sociodemographic groups that we deemed important for the ForestNavigator stakeholder activities and objectives. Furthermore, all four case-study countries and, additionally, other sixteen countries are represented in the stakeholder mapping, which enables the project consortium to engage with stakeholders from a range of different national contexts.

Nevertheless, there are some current imbalances. First, two stakeholder key categories, namely forest owners and managers, as well as experts and researchers are most represented in the stakeholder mapping. Second, a larger number of stakeholders is based in Western Europe, explained by Brussels-based EU-level organisations. These first imbalances match overall the needs for ForestNavigator stakeholder activities and therefore are not a main concern. Even if, an improvement in geographical balance can also be useful (i.e. inclusion of more stakeholders from South and East Europe). However, among identified individuals, only one third is female. As we are identifying individuals from nominated institutions and in our further stakeholder identification work, we will prioritize women and other genders (e.g., non-binary) where possible to strive towards gender equity.

The dynamic stakeholder database serves as a flexible and adaptable base for the project's stakeholder engagement activities. It has been used to identify members for the Policy Steering Committee, and continuous to be used to identify and contact members for the Stakeholder Board and to establish the EU Policy Modelling Forum. Coordinated by BOKU, ForestNavigator partners will continue to contribute to the database throughout the project lifetime. This will ensure the database stays flexible to stakeholder activity needs, such as the need for additional expertise or stakeholders dropping out of a stakeholder activity.



# 5. References

Andersson, E., & Lidestav, G. (2016). Creating alternative spaces and articulating needs: Challenging gendered notions of forestry and forest ownership through women's networks. Forest Policy and Economics, 67, 38–44. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.forpol.2016.03.014

Gramberger, Marc; Zellmer, Katharina; Kok, Kasper & Metzger, Marc J., 2014: Stakeholder integrated research (STIR): a new approach tested in climate change adaptation research. Climatic Change 128(3), 201-214.

UNSD, 199. Standard Country or Area Codes for Statistics Use (Revision 4). United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Available online: <u>https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/Publications/PublicationsCatalogue/109</u> [Last access: 28 March 2023].



# 6. Annex

Annex 1. Stakeholder categories sorted by scale of engagement

Number of Category	Scale				
Category	European	Global / International	National	Sub-national	Sum
Business and industries	10		8		18
Experts and researchers	6	1	19	4	30
Forest owners and managers	10	1	15	4	30
Environmental and sociocultural NGOs	5	12	4	1	22
Policymakers and agencies	9	1	13	2	25
Sum	40	15	59	11	125

Source: ForestNavigator Work Package 1