



Forests in Women's Hands - *brief information*

Project Information

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The "Forests in Women's Hands" project (Fem4Forest) has started in July 2020 and involves 14 partners from 10 countries (Slovenia, Croatia, Austria, Germany, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Romania, Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Ukraine). The project is funded under the Interreg Danube Transnational Program. The leading partner is the Forestry Institute of Slovenia. In Serbia, the project partner is the University of Belgrade - Faculty of Forestry, and the associated strategic partner is the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management - Directorate for Forests.

The mission of Fem4Forest is to strengthen the forest sector at the local, regional and interregional level through increased involvement and ability of women actors by supporting their equal presence and competencies at the market in the Danube region. Furthermore, Fem4Forest project aims to integrate innovative labor and timber markets and tools for better integration of women into working places and decision-making processes into the forestry sector in the Danube region, exchange the best practices and increase capacities of the local and regional forest sector by more active roles of woman, as well as support female forest owners in increasing job opportunities and income from their forests and enter new markets.

The project offers a new and innovative approach to education and mentoring that will enable a more active role for women in the forestry sector. The planned activities are demand-driven and target the 3 most crucial components: social inclusion, gender equality and economic independence. Due to the multi-actor approach Fem4Forest has the genuine and strong involvement of target groups that will be engaged in various activities to voice their needs and co-create good practice examples. Thus, the Fem4Forest model (demand-based action plan, awareness campaign, mentoring and training program) for the integration of women will be developed. By addressing the problem of young and long-term unemployed women in rural areas, we will also contribute to a higher employment level in the Danube region in the long term.

Key messages of the Fem4Forest project:

1. It is time to push forward the ability of women actors to gain a foothold in the workforce in forestry sector. Female actors are bringing an improvement for forest

Project ID card

Project title: Forests in Women's Hands
 Acronym: Fem4Forest
 Starting date: 01.07.2020,
 Ending date: 31.12.2022.
 Project Duration: 30 months
 Partnership: 14 partners, from 10 countries
 Project co-funded by European Union funds (ERDF, IPA II, ENI-UA)

Partner countries:

Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Croatia, Germany, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Ukraine



<https://www.facebook.com/Fem4Forest>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/forests-in-women-s-hands/>

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business which will boost the competitiveness of the sector on the European market and further.

2. Female actors (especially private forest owners) in forestry sector are numerous and often neglected. They need support for increasing job opportunities and income, as well as new ways to enter business markets.
3. Equality is the key. More active role of woman unlocks the door of better practices and increased capacities of the local and regional forest sector.

At the beginning of the project, we developed knowledge on the status quo of women in the forestry sector and made a solid basis from existing knowledge, international and national initiatives and good practice examples. "Report on current situation and position of women in forestry in Danube region" describes the current situation of women in forestry of the Danube region. A comprehensive picture of the status of women in the forest sectors of 10 different countries is provided based on existing research and available data.

The collected information on the needs of women in forestry is the foundation of all further activities. Report "Collected needs of women in forestry" describes the results of the Fem4Forest online survey, summarizes the key findings from the in-depth interviews with female forest owners and female forest professionals, and provides an overview of the stakeholder roundtables. Both reports are available at the webpage: <https://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/fem4forest/outputs>

One of the key activities within the Fem4Forest is the organization of round tables. They aim to share information with all stakeholders about the project's activities, as well as to enable discussion about the project results. Each partner country organized 2 round tables in 2021. National team from University of Belgrade – Faculty of Forestry organized online round tables in May and November, with 25 and 17 participants (representatives of key stakeholders), respectively.

The project's core is the development of the Transnational Awareness Raising Campaign Model, training and mentoring program to support successful change in the forestry sector in the Danube region. Through planned pilot activities (in 2022), these tools will be tested and improved (if needed), and recommendations will be prepared and disseminated. Partners will select the most relevant tools and implement them in their respective countries.

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