



NEWSLETTER #1

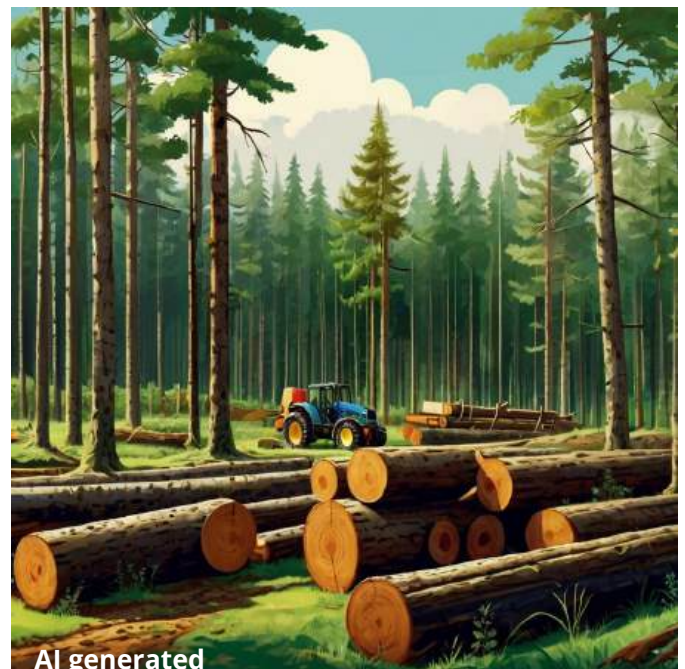
Welcome to FBI4EU newsletter!

In this first issue of our newsletter, we are pleased to invite all readers to take part in our project and follow our efforts!



What is the project about?

Forests are a vital part of Europe's landscape, covering 39% of the EU's territory and playing a significant role in the economy, environment, and rural development. The forest-based industry, dominated by SMEs, contributes substantially to the EU's GDP, employing around 3.6 million people across over 400,000 companies. However, the sector faces challenges, including diverse regional policies, modernization needs, and sustainability issues. Disparities across regions hinder the full potential of the sector, with some areas lacking the infrastructure or policies to support forest-based industries effectively.



AI generated

FBI4EU



The FBI4EU project aims to address these challenges by uniting eight partners from seven European countries, including business support centers, regional development agencies, municipal authorities, and research institutions. This collaborative effort is focused on enhancing the competitiveness and sustainability of forest-based SMEs by developing targeted regional policies, promoting eco-innovation, and sharing best practices across regions. A key player, "Our Land" from Bosnia and Herzegovina, adds valuable regional insights to the project.

Through stakeholder engagement and tailored interventions, FBI4EU fosters sustainable growth, resource efficiency, and innovation in the forest-based industries. Its impact extends to economic growth in rural areas, job creation, and supporting the European Green Deal's goals for a greener, socially inclusive Europe.



A few numbers about the project



1,649,909 €
budget



01 Apr
2024-30 Jun
2028

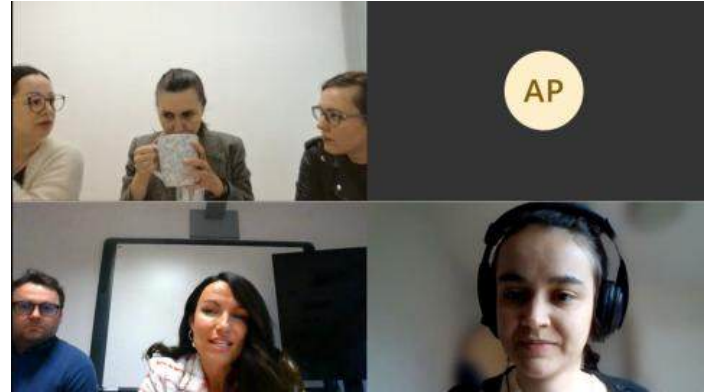


8 partners

Online pre kick-off meeting

On April 25, 2024, the FBI4EU project held its online Pre Kick-Off meeting, gathering partners from various regions. BSC welcomed participants and introduced the project's goals. Each partner shared their background and regional characteristics, fostering understanding among collaborators. BSC outlined the next steps for contracting and project activities. The meeting ended with an open discussion, setting a positive tone for future collaboration and laying a strong foundation for the project.

[More information...](#)



Kick-off event in Slovenia #1

The FBI4EU project kickoff began with BSC leading the Project Management Plan session, which detailed the project timeline, partner responsibilities, communication protocols, and risk management strategies. RRDA then focused on the Project Communication Strategy, covering internal/external communication plans, public engagement strategies, social media management, and crisis communication. In the afternoon, each partner presented their region's policy instrument, sharing regional objectives, challenges, and best practices. These sessions established clear management, communication, and policy frameworks crucial for project success.

[More information..](#)



Kick-off event in Slovenia #2

On the second day of the FBI4EU project meeting, participants visited MSora and Bohinj, gaining insights into sustainable forestry and innovative wood industry practices. At MSora, Slovenia's leading wood manufacturer, participants observed sustainable harvesting, waste reduction, and advanced wood processing technologies that promote a circular economy. The Bohinj visit focused on sustainable tourism, forest conservation, and community involvement in decision-making. Both visits showcased how innovation and sustainability can enhance the competitiveness and resilience of the forest-based industry.

[More information...](#)



Interreg Europe expands cooperation area!

The Interreg Europe programme has been extended to include seven new countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia and Ukraine. This event is an opportunity to establish cooperation with new partners, as well as providing even more opportunities for the exchange of experience and knowledge! These developments have enabled a new partner, Bosnia and Herzegovina, to join the FBI4EU project. With its strong forestry tradition, it will make a significant contribution to the project.

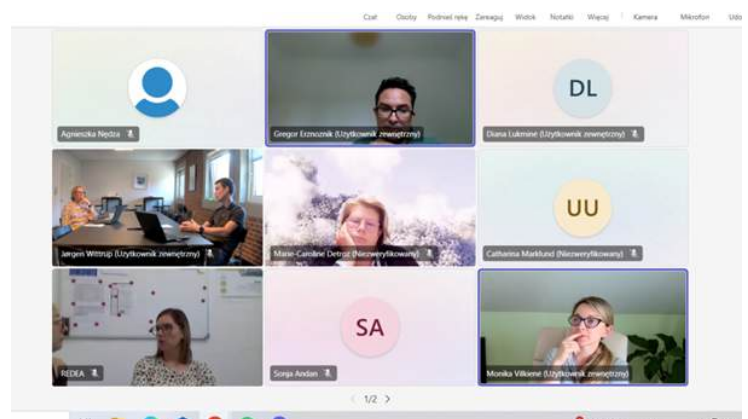
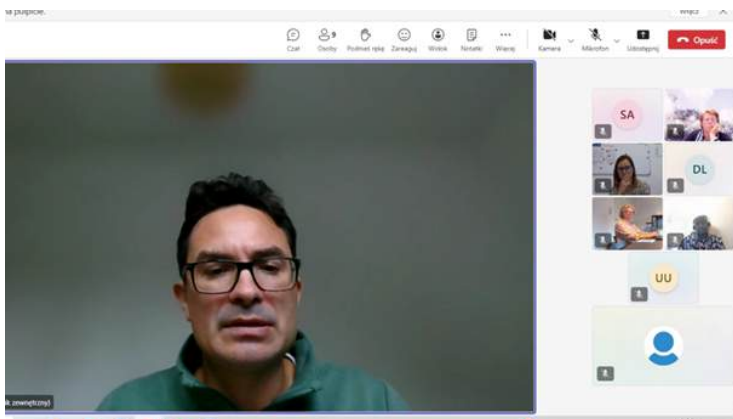
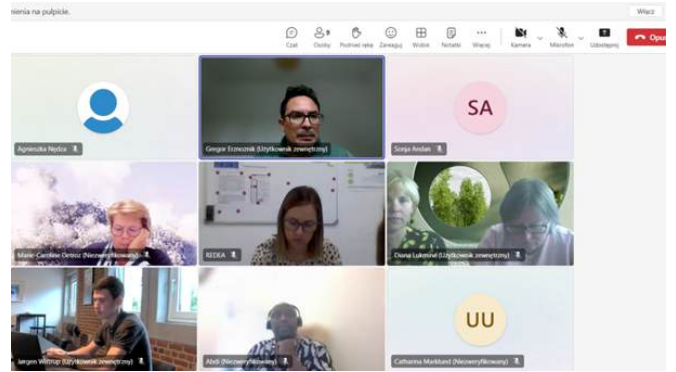
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Online event for financial specialists

On 11 September 2024, BSC Kranj, the project leader, organised an online workshop on project expenditure reporting. Representatives from all project partners were present. The most important element of the meeting was the issue of ensuring clear guidelines for expenditure tracking and financial reporting throughout the project. The workshop addressed important budget management topics for the partners. A highlight of the event was the introduction of the Bosnia and Herzegovina partner representatives.

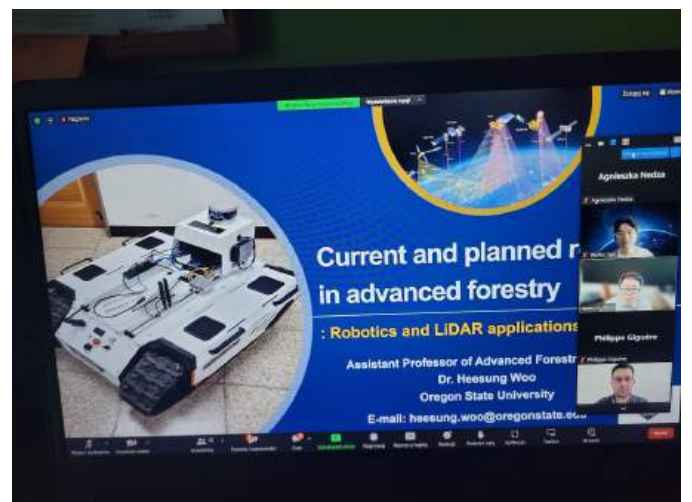
[More information...](#)



Forestry AI Webinar

A Forestry AI webinar was held, attended by the FBI4EU communications manager. This event focused on the intersection of artificial intelligence and forestry, showcasing the latest advancements and research in the field. It was a great opportunity to learn and gain knowledge that can be of significant relevance to the entire project for the FBI4EU project. The webinar was attended by experts who presented extremely interesting information on forestry and how it can be developed with the help of modern technology.

[More information...](#)



Economic importance of forests

Forests are a highly important part of our daily lives, they support lives and industries in ways you may not have considered. The timber industry provides us with an extremely important raw material that we use in our daily lives. Forests also provide numerous non-timber forest products like fruits, nuts, resins, and medicinal plants. They also provide a source of energy, are an important part of tourism and ensure the survival of a huge number of small and medium-sized enterprises.

[More information...](#)

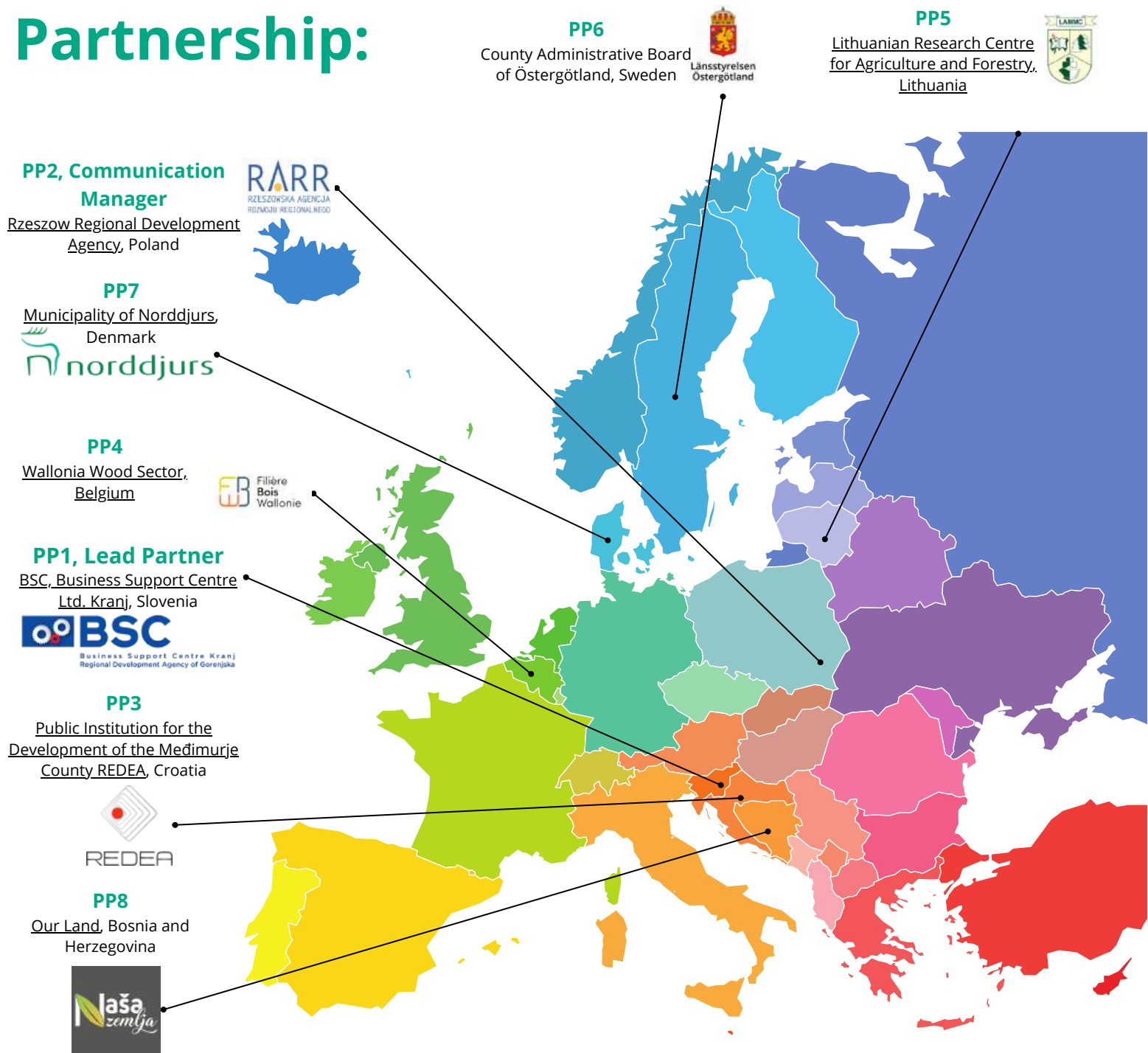


"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

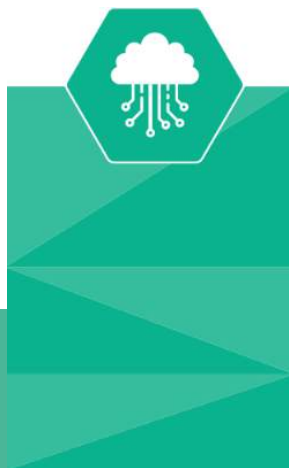
- Helen Keller



Partnership:



The project is co-financed by the European Union from European Regional Development Fund Under the Interreg Europe 2021-2027 program.



Interreg Europe



Co-funded by the European Union

FBI4EU



Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. We truly appreciate your interest and support in our efforts. We look forward to staying connected and welcome your continued engagement as we work together towards a sustainable and innovative future for Europe's forest-based industries. Stay tuned for further updates and opportunities to get involved!

FOLLOW US!



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