

“Integrate is promoting integrated forest management for policy, practice and society”

Maintaining and enhancing resilience and biodiversity in European forests, while providing a broad range of ecosystem services based on societies' needs, is a growing challenge for policy makers, forest owners, and forest and conservation managers. Meeting these ambitions requires to balance competing demands and to find compromises based on the best available scientific knowledge and practical forest management experience. Furthermore, connecting people from forest management and nature conservation, science and policy-making is crucial to overcome political polarization and limited dialogue between sectoral silos.

The European Integrate Network focusses on integrated forest management as a means for combining the provision of several ecosystem services in one forest landscape ([Prague Declaration](#)). Initiated in 2016 and formally established as a Member-State-driven initiative under the EU

Forest Strategy in 2017, the Integrate Network is now composed of some 20 member countries with representatives from forest management and nature conservation, policy and practice, with the European Commission being an observer. It also facilitates a European network of more than 120 forest demonstration sites on integrated forest management which can be used for field training, communication, and research.

Since 2017, the Network is coordinated by the European Forest Institute through the Integrate Network Secretariat. Integrate member countries participate on a voluntary basis. Each country establishes a national focal point, responsible for sharing information within the country. The Network is chaired in rotation by one of its members for one year each. So far, the following countries have acted as Chair: Germany, Czech Republic, Poland, Denmark, Switzerland as current Chair, to be followed by Spain end of 2021.

The objectives of the European Integrate Network are:

1. To promote cross-sectoral learning and cooperation across country borders on successful approaches for enhancing biodiversity conservation as an integral part of forest management practices.
2. To act as an open, pro-active interface between research, policy, administrations and practice implementation.
3. To provide stakeholders a platform for on-site discussions in the forest to exchange how to best balance demands of nature conservation with other forest functions and services, and vice versa.

To learn more about the network visit:
<https://integratenetwork.org/>

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