

Dear members of the Integrate Network,

In 2023, the **Integrate Network MDTF** entered a new phase, and **was led by our very dedicated and active chair, Michel Leytem from Luxembourg**. Michel and his team **organised a very exciting Integrate Network Annual Meeting in October under the theme “Integrative forest management requires integrative solutions”** which you can read more about [here](#).

Below a few highlights from the past year:

- Michel was invited as a panelist to join the **Forest Europe High Level Policy Dialogue on “Growing healthier forests: How can Sustainable Forest Management enhance resilience”**. He stated that “by engaging actors from policy to practice supported by scientific evidence the Network contributes to the enhancement of biodiversity and resilience of Europe’s forests under a changing climate.” All Take-Home Messages from the event you can find [here](#). **Further activities of the network included the participation and presentations at the Closer to Nature Forestry Workshop in Maribor, Slovenia in April.**
- An **Integrate Network evidence study (funded by BAFU) was published end of 2023** looking into challenges and experiences in adapting forest management to a changing climate from the view of practitioners. Please read the blogpost for more details [here](#).
- **The number of demonstration sites has continuously grown and surpassed 220 sites in 25 countries!** Also new countries joined the demonstration site network. **Bosnia and Herzegovina for example is actively using their newly established sites for educating and training their foresters.** You can read more about their experiences [here](#). Many other **countries have actively used their sites for training including Ireland, Italy, Czech Republic, Germany, Finland and Spain.** The latest version of the **I+ tablet software** has new modules which allow to addressing topics such as of deadwood and carbon in training exercises (available via Google Play Store).
- As of January 1st, Austria will take over the Chairmanship of the Integrate Network. **Georg Frank and his colleagues are fully motivated to further increase the impact and visibility of the Network and use the strong bonds amongst its members to do so.** That also leads to a new composition of the Steering Committee, Ireland will join as forthcoming chair while Spain steps down end of this year.
- The **new four-year Horizon Europe Project “Transforming Forest Management for multiple ecosystem services and nature conservation via the Integrative approach”** or short [TRANSFORMIT](#), led by Bernhard Wolfslehner at EFI, strongly focuses on integrative forest management. **It will allow for collaborations and joint activities with the Integrate Network as well as bringing in its experience and expertise.** We are excited about these possibilities for the coming years and look forward to jointly promoting integrative forest management to both practice and political processes.

We are convinced that our collective efforts have made a positive impact in the past, and we are excited about the possibilities that the coming year holds. Let's carry our achievements and lessons learned in 2023 into the new year, embracing new challenges and opportunities with the same enthusiasm, good spirit and teamwork that defines the Network.

With best wishes from the **Integrate Network Steering Committee**,

Michel Leytem, Marta Alvarez, Steven Doerr, Silvia Ferlazzo, Georg Frank, Maria Schloßmacher, Andreas Schuck, Bernhard Wolfslehner