EUFORGEN

European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN)

Phase VII (2025-2029)

TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL REPORT 2025

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1. Executive Summary

The European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN) is an international cooperation programme with the overall goal to promote the conservation and appropriate use of forest genetic resources (FGR) as an integral part of sustainable forest management.

As of 31 December 2025, EUFORGEN has a total of 28 member countries, which collaborate to conserve and utilise forest tree genetic resources and manage forest tree species' populations for production of forest reproductive material.

In Phase VII, EUFORGEN is working towards three strategic objectives: 1. Facilitate knowledge sharing and communicate with key stakeholders; 2. Coordinate the implementation of the conservation of forest genetic resources in Europe; 3. Promote the sustainable use of forest genetic resources in European forests.

In 2021, European countries, through EUFORGEN, launched the Forest Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe, a coordinated effort to improve the conservation and sustainable use of European FGR. Built on 20 years of pan-European collaboration, the strategy goes beyond individual countries' efforts by supporting an implementation plan of common actions and recommendations, with clear roles for both the EUFORGEN network and European countries. EUFORGEN's activities, as defined in the "Strategic objectives and implementation plan for Phase VII" flow into the implementation of the Strategy.

This document reports EUFORGEN's activities in 2025, including those of the Steering Committee, the Secretariat and Working Groups. It presents the progress against the Implementation Plan for Phase VII and includes the financial report.

The report provides an account of significant progress towards the EUFORGEN Phase VII deliverables. The report also outlines inputs to the Forest Europe process and related work, as well as collaboration with international organisations, and describes EUFORGEN's contributions and collaboration in external funded projects, including the FORGENIUS and OptFORESTS projects. Finally, it provides an update on EUFORGEN's human and financial resources. Annex 1 provides more details of progress against the Implementation Plan for Phase VII.

2. Introduction

The European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN) is an international cooperation programme with the overall goal to promote the conservation and appropriate use of forest genetic resources (FGR) as an integral part of sustainable forest management. The programme was established in 1994, following the adoption of the 1990 Resolution S2[1] by the 1st Forest Europe[2], Ministerial Conference. Forest Europe, the pan-European voluntary high-level political process for intergovernmental dialogue and cooperation on forest policies in Europe, develops common strategies for its 46 signatories on how to protect and sustainably manage their forests. In 2015, at the 7th Ministerial Conference, signatory countries (Forest Europe has 45 European signatory States + the EU) committed to "continue pan-European collaboration on forest genetic resources through the European Forest Genetic Resources Programme (EUFORGEN)"[3]. This was a clear recognition of EUFORGEN's effectiveness and its distinctive and valuable role in conserving forest genetic diversity and contributing to sustainable resource management. In the same Ministerial Resolution, countries also committed to "promote national implementation of strategies and guidelines for dynamic conservation and appropriate use of forest genetic resources under changing climate conditions," referencing the strategies[4] and guidelines[5] developed by EUFORGEN over the past decade.

In 2021, at the 8th Forest Europe Ministerial Conference, signatory countries further committed to "recognise the need for dynamic conservation and utilisation of forest tree genetic resources and management of forest tree species populations for production of forest reproductive material (as reflected in the updated pan-European indicator for sustainable forest management 4.6 genetic resources[6]) and continue pan-European collaboration on forest genetic resources through the European forest genetic resources programme to this end."[7]

In 2021, European Countries, through EUFORGEN, launched the **Forest Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe**[8], a policy document that provides the framework for enabling the transition to effective genetic resources conservation and sustainable use in the European Region. The Strategy presents an *implementation plan* outlining *actions* to address all the *key*

[1] Strasbourg Resolution S2 "Conservation of Forest Genetic Resources" foresteurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/strasbourg_resolution_s1.pdf

[2] Originally the Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe www.foresteurope.org

[3] Madrid Ministerial Resolution M2, "Protection of forests in a changing environment" https://foresteurope.org/about/ministerial-conferences/madrid

[4] Pan-European strategy for genetic conservation of forest trees www.euforgen.org/forest-genetic-resources/conservation/pan-european-strategy

[5] https://www.euforgen.org/publications/technical-guidelines/

[6] Dynamic conservation and utilization of forest tree genetic resources: indicators for *in situ* and *ex situ* genetic conservation and forest reproductive material. www.euforgen.org/publications/publication/dynamic-conservation-and-utilization-of-forest-tree-genetic-resources-indicators-for-in-situ

[7] Bratislava Ministerial Declaration ''The Future We Want: The Forests We Need'' https://foresteurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Bratislava-Ministerial-Declaration.pdf

[8] Forest Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe. www.euforgen.org/FGRStrategy4Europe

commitments to improving the conservation and sustainable use of European forest genetic resources.

In 2024, at the 9th Forest Europe Ministerial Conference, signatory countries, welcomed the progress in implementing the "Forest Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe" launched by EUFORGEN, and "stress(ed) the need to identify gaps, to assess threats and set priorities for the conservation of forest genetic resources through the 'Genetic Conservation Unit Network". EUFORGEN, funded by its member countries, primarily engages experts from these nations in its various activities. The EUFORGEN Steering Committee comprises National Coordinators from all member countries, collectively bearing the programme's overarching responsibilities.

In 2024, the Steering Committee developed the "EUFORGEN - Strategic objectives and implementation plan for Phase VII"[9], which guides EUFORGEN activities for the period 2025-2029.

The specific objectives for Phase VII of the programme are to:

1. Facilitate knowledge sharing and communicate with key stakeholders on forest genetic resources in Europe. This will involve maintaining and developing EUFGIS[10] and using that and other sources of information to contribute to reports such as the State of Europe's Forests reports[11]. EUFORGEN will also facilitate knowledge sharing and learning among relevant actors and promote the importance of genetic diversity and outputs of EUFORGEN to policymakers, forestry professionals and practitioners on the ground, and within the wider scientific community and society.
2. Coordinate and monitor the conservation of forest genetic resources in Europe. This objective requires EUFORGEN to monitor implementation of the pan-European genetic conservation strategy and update the strategy. It also contributes to implementing activities that address regional-level priorities of FAO Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources.
3. Promote the sustainable use of forest genetic resources by preparing science-based guidelines and recommendations to improve genetic conservation in forest management. The work under this objective also entails analysis of policy issues to recommend changes when they conflict with the appropriate use of FGR.

The deliverables of EUFORGEN Phase VII are:

1. Strategies and guiding principles for replicating threatened GCUs from *in situ* to *ex situ*, including data recording needs for their complementarity and requirements for storing static *ex situ* conservation data on a platform.
2. Threat assessment tools and criteria for assessing the threat status of GCUs.
3. Genetic monitoring schemes evaluation.

[9] EUFORGEN Strategic objectives and implementation plan for Phase VII (2025-2029) - www.euforgen.org/fileadmin/templates/euforgen.org/upload/Publications/Phase_VII_doc/EUFORGEN_PhaseVII.pdf

[10] European Information System on Forest Genetic Resources www.eufgis.org

[11] State of Europe's Forests https://foresteurope.org/state-of-europes-forests/

4. Criteria for the selection of species whose genetic resources should be prioritised for conservation at European level.
5. A methodology to improve the identification of conservation gaps in the pan-European network of GCUs.
6. Identification of the rationale behind the gaps and evaluate the potential solutions for filling them.
7. Assessment of the level of characterisation of European forest tree species and their role in SFM.
8. Science-based recommendations for better incorporating genetic aspects into SFM practices and to monitor their impact.
9. Result of EUFORGEN's evaluation.
10. Policy briefs on relevant topics.
11. Improvement of the EUFGIS Information System and its usage.

The governance of EUFORGEN, during Phase VII, is organised in (i) the Steering Committee which has overall responsibility for the Programme. This is composed of National Coordinators from all member countries; and (ii) the Secretariat which manages the programme and coordinates its activities.

During Phase VII, EUFORGEN carries out its activities through: (i) Discussion Platforms, where national experts (one per member country) meet, share, discuss and analyse relevant issues, share perspectives, and identify needs; (ii) Working Groups, where selected experts (4-8 members) develop specific outputs; and (iii) Task Forces, composed of National Coordinators, who may invite additional experts if needed, established either as systematic instruments to support the Secretariat or as temporary, *ad hoc* mechanisms created to address specific objectives.

During Phase VII, countries who are not members of EUFORGEN are invited to nominate a Contact Person to serve as contact between the Secretariat and the country.

This document reports EUFORGEN's activities in 2025. It also includes a summary of expenditures and financial contributions.

3. EUFORGEN Membership, Governance and Secretariat

3.1 EUFORGEN membership

As of 31 December 2025, EUFORGEN had a total of 28 member countries (Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom). In November 2022, the Steering Committee, decided to declare publicly the support of the EUFORGEN community to Ukraine and to invite Ukraine to join EUFORGEN Phase VI, waiving the fees for Phases VI and VII of EUFORGEN. Ukraine became official member by signing the Letter of Agreement.

The Secretariat maintains an active dialogue with non-member countries in Europe to facilitate new membership.

3.2 EUFORGEN Steering Committee Meetings

During the reported period, the Steering Committee met twice.

The 22nd meeting took place on 17-18 June online. The meeting focused on approving the 2024 technical and financial reports, the process for adding new species in EUFGIS and to the website, progress on the report of the WG for Dynamic and static *ex situ* conservation, discussion on the ToR for EUFORGEN evaluation, activities and workplan, and the nomination of the Task Force for the methodology to identify conservation gaps.

The 23rd meeting took place online on 2-3 December 2025 The meeting focused on presenting the key elements of the 2025 technical and financial reports, the finalisation of the dynamic and static *ex situ* conservation report, the addition of new species in EUFGIS, the next steps of the EUFORGEN evaluation, the progress of Task Force on a concept note to develop a methodology on GCU conservation gaps, the presentation of a case study on the project heritage pages, and the 2026 activities workplan.

3.3 Staff of the EUFORGEN Secretariat

During the reported period, the permanent staff of the Secretariat were Michele Bozzano (Coordinator), Anna-Maria Farsakoglou (Researcher), Sarah Adams (Communications Manager), Lidwina Koop (Administrative Officer), and Gerard Fernández (Communications Officer), with María González Delgado (Communications Officer) joining in July 2025.

4. Activities from EUFORGEN Phase VI (2020-2024)

4.1 Dynamic and static *ex situ* conservation report

The Working Group, composed of Eleonore Scholzen (Belgium), Jan-Peter George (Finland), Aurore Desgroux (France), Colin Kelleher (Ireland), Irena Fundova (Norway), Gregor Božič (Slovenia), Luis Muheim (Switzerland), continued its work towards the finalisation of the report on "dynamic and static *ex situ* conservation". A draft version was circulated to the Steering Committee for feedback, and the Working Group subsequently prepared the section of recommendations based on the feedback received. The final report was sent for language editing and was included as a background document for approval at the 23rd Steering Committee Meeting, after which it will be typeset and will be finalised in 2026.

The Working Group met twice in 2025:

- 29 April 2025, online
- 28 August 2025, online

As decided during the 20th Steering Committee in April 2024, the concept developed by the WG on "Evacuation of threatened material and tracking of movements", composed of Berthold Heinze (Austria), An Vanden Broeck (Belgium), Ulo Niinemets (Estonia), Katharina Liepe (Germany), Brynja Hrafnkelsdóttir (Iceland), Andrea Piotti (Italy), Delphine Grivet (Spain), Joan Cottrell (United Kingdom), was integrated as a dedicated section within the "Dynamic and static ex situ conservation" report, while maintaining separate authorship.

4.2 Guidelines for nurseries, seed centres, and policy makers on production and use of FRM

In 2021, the EUFORGEN Programme released the report "Genetic aspects linked to production and use of forest reproductive material - Collecting scientific evidence for developing guidelines and decision support tools for effective FRM management"[12]. In 2022, the Secretariat began working on dissemination products aiming to reach key target audiences for the contents of this report, namely practitioners and policymakers.

Materials for practitioners

Aiming to support practitioners involved in the FRM production chain with more accessible material, the main findings of the report have been organised in six themes, addressed to the various actors involved in the FRM production chain. In 2022, the Secretariat initiated the development of dissemination material, planned as six dissemination packages. Each package should contain one guidelines booklet with the complete theme content (text and graphics) + 1 (short) video focusing on a key aspect of the theme + 1 wall poster mirroring the main messages from the video.

The six themes are:

1. Silviculture measures and their role in mitigating the effects of climate change
How different regeneration strategies can affect or influence genetic diversity of forest stands

2. Forest Reproductive Materials and Forest Basic Materials
Management of categories and types to face expected future uncertainties

3. Seed orchards – why do we need them?

4. The influence of forest management methods on the genetic structure of forest tree populations
How do the methods used for establishing and managing forests affect forest genetic diversity? (previously theme 6)

5. Seed harvesting, treatment, storage, and nursery practices
How management practices can affect or influence genetic diversity of forest reproductive materials

6. Forest tree breeding strategies to address climate change challenges**
(previously theme 4)

* * Revisions by SC members have highlighted that the information for this theme is somewhat complicated and requires significant revision or a decision not to go ahead with the production of information for this theme. This will be decided in Phase VII

Themes 1, 2 and 4 are pending illustration, typesetting and publication. The Secretariat postponed the development of the videos for each theme until 2026, after agreeing that all

[12] https://www.euforgen.org/publications/publication/genetic-aspects-linked-to-production-and-use-of-forest-reproductive-material-frm

texts must be finalised first in order to develop a coherent approach for the videos. Digital versions of the FRM theme materials are hosted on a dedicated space on the EUFORGEN website, FRM Practice[13], as well as in the Publications section.

5. Implementation of EUFORGEN Phase VII

5.1 Strategic Objective 1: Facilitate knowledge sharing and communicate with key stakeholders

5.1.1 [Activity 1.1.1.i. a.] Evaluation of EUFORGEN to enable the evolution of the programme

A Task Force (TF) was established to develop the Terms of Reference (ToR) for EUFORGEN's evaluation. The TF is composed of Mari Rusanen (Finland), Joukje Buiteveld (the Netherlands), Tor Myking (Norway), Czesław Kozioł (Poland), and Hojka Kraigher (Slovenia).

The TF met twice online:

- 1st Meeting: 5 May 2025
- 2nd Meeting: 2 September 2025

EUFORGEN's evaluation will be composed of two concrete parts: (i) the evaluation of the programme's achievements over the last 30 years and (ii) the evaluation of the EUFORGEN Programme's *modus operandi* of Phases VI and VII

(i) The evaluation of the programme's achievements over its 30 years will have a special emphasis on Phases V and VI, with the aim of providing actionable recommendations for the future strategic direction of EUFORGEN (Phase VII and beyond). The TF prepared the ToR for an external evaluation, and the draft ToR was circulated to the Steering Committee for feedback and for suggestions of potential evaluators.

(ii) The evaluation of the EUFORGEN Programme's *modus operandi* of Phases VI and VII, will be led by the EUFORGEN Steering Committee (supported by the Secretariat) as a self-assessment exercise during Year 4 of Phase VII (i.e. 2028).

5.1.2 [Act. 1.1.1.i. b.] Develop a comprehensive plan for the Communication and Dissemination of EUFORGEN activities and results, with mid-term review

A draft plan for the communication and dissemination of EUFORGEN activities and results was developed in autumn 2025 and will be finalised in early 2026.

5.1.2.1 Communication and dissemination activities of the EUFORGEN Secretariat

The EUFORGEN Secretariat organised or attended the following events:

[13] http://www.euforgen.org/resources/forest-reproductive-material/frm-practice/

- EUFGIS Training Workshop, 12-13 February 2025, Dolenjske Toplice, Slovenia.
- Fourth FORGENIUS Annual Meeting 17-20 February 2025, Vienna, Austria.
- Twentieth Regular Session of the Commission on genetic resources for food and agriculture, 24-28 March 2025, Rome, Italy.
- Joint webinar "Mechanisms of natural and anthropogenic selection on trees in the forest" in collaboration with OptFORESTS project, 11 April 2025, online.
- Technical Working Group meeting of the OECD Forest seed and plant scheme, 13-14 May 2025, Pruhonice, Prague, Czech Republic.
- First FORGENIUS Workshop with end users on web application, 19-20 May 2025, online.
- Annual Meeting of the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme, 23-24 September 2025, Paris, France.
- Forest Europe Expert Level Meeting, 24-25 September 2025, Stockholm, Sweden.
- Side event sponsored by EUFORGEN and FORGENIUS which took place during the Forest Europe Expert Level meeting24 September, Stockholm, Sweden.
- Cross-Country Workshop "Connecting the Baltic Sea Region Countries on Forest Genetic Monitoring", DIVERSE_GENE_WATCH Interreg Project, 2 October 2025, online.
- Joint EUFORGEN - OptFORESTS webinar "Detecting genetic decline – From theory to practice" [14], 6 and 7 November 2025, online
- Joint FORGENIUS Final Conference and Third Biannual EvolTree Conference 2025, 18-21 November 2025, Madrid, Spain

5.1.2.2 Publications and reports

List of EUFORGEN publications produced/released during the reported period:

- EUFORGEN Newsletter March 2025[15]
- EUFORGEN Newsletter June 2025[16]
- EUFORGEN Newsletter October 2025[17]
- Report of the 21st EUFORGEN Steering Committee meeting
- Report of the 22nd EUFORGEN Steering Committee meeting

[14] https://www.euforgen.org/about-us/news/news-detail/joint-euforgen-optforests-webinar-detecting-genetic-decline-from-theory-to-practice

[15] https://mailchi.mp/dc484244c4ee/euforgen-march-2025

[16] https://mailchi.mp/eb9920b25127/euforgen-june-2025

[17] https://mailchi.mp/fed4fceac80d/euforgen-october-2025

5.1.2.3 Video

The EUFORGEN Secretariat released an animated video in April 2025 to celebrate 30 years of EUFORGEN's work[18].

The video provides an overview of EUFORGEN's major milestones, from its founding in 1994 to its recognised leadership today. It showcases achievements such as the development of technical guidelines for forest tree species, the creation of the EUFGIS information system, the adoption of Forest Genetic Resources monitoring indicators, and the launch of the Forest Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe, among many other success stories. It acknowledges the collaboration of 41 European countries throughout EUFORGEN's various phases and reflects on the programme's legacy for future generations.

5.1.3 [Act. 1.1.2] Engage with Forest Europe non-member countries to conserve and sustainably manage FGR

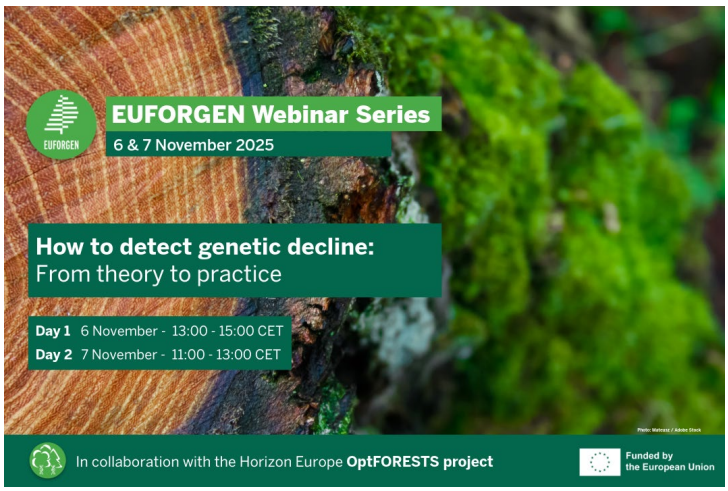
During the Forest Europe Expert Level Meeting held in Stockholm, Sweden, on 24-25 September 2025, the EUFORGEN Coordinator presented EUFORGEN's Phase VII. Part of the presentation was dedicated to encouraging Forest Europe members that are not yet EUFORGEN member countries to nominate a Contact Person and to highlighting of this role within the EUFORGEN community.

5.1.4 [Act. 1.2.1 b.] Webinar series to raise awareness for the forestry sectors, eg: (i) evolution-oriented forestry; (ii) multi-risks management; (iii) adaptive strategies

Various webinars were organised during 2025 as single events or in preparation for meetings.

[18] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kqVBgMg87t0

A Joint EUFORGEN-OptFORESTS webinar: "Mechanisms of natural and anthropogenic selection on trees in the forest" was held on 11 April 2025. This first webinar of the year explored how natural selection shapes tree populations and how forest management can enhance their adaptive capacity to climate change. This online session was organised in collaboration with the Horizon Europe OptFORESTS project[19]. The main speaker for this webinar was François Lefèvre, (INRAE, France), and the presentation was co-authored with Victor Fririon. The webinar's recording is available here: https://youtu.be/soSf1JGVcw4?si=URFdCGANQWOuiIJQ



A second joint EUFORGEN-OptFORESTS webinar: "How to detect genetic decline – From theory to practice", was held on 6-7 November 2025, led by the Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research (NIBIO). The event brought together experts from conservation, forestry and restoration genetics to exchange cross-disciplinary knowledge on how to detect genetic decline in populations and explored thresholds for intervention and practical steps to safeguard genetic diversity. Speakers included Alicia Mastretta-Yanes (Kew Royal Botanic Gardens, UK), Geir Bolstad (Norwegian Institute for Nature Research), Ophelie Ronce (Institute of Evolutionary Science of Montpellier, France), Marjana Westergren (Slovenian Forestry Institute), Arne Steffenrem (Norwegian Institute of Bioeconomy Research), Jan-Peter George (Natural Resources Institute Finland). Discussions were led by François Lefèvre, (INRAE, France) and Erik Kjær (University of Copenhagen). The two sessions of the webinar's recordings are available here:

[19] OptFORESTS project: https://www.optforests.eu/

https://youtu.be/T8aepgfxwlA?si=OdyK7Up79LojUCHe [Session 1] and https://youtu.be/8wZXrmBMoUo?si=e8RJtuNmV9hPNocv [Session 2].

5.1.5 [Act.1.2.2 b.] Disseminate policy recommendations at international meetings and national events

The EUFORGEN Secretariat actively disseminated policy recommendations at several international events:

- Twentieth Regular Session of the Commission on genetic resources for food and agriculture, 24-28 March 2025, Rome, Italy
- Technical Working Group meeting of the OECD Forest seed and plant scheme, 13-14 May 2025, Pruhonice, Prague, Czech Republic
- Annual Meeting of the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme, 23-24 September 2025, Paris, France
- Forest Europe Expert Level Meeting, 24-25 September 2025, Stockholm, Sweden.
- Side event sponsored by EUFORGEN and FORGENIUS which took place during the Forest Europe Expert Level meeting, 24 September 2025, Stockholm, Sweden.
- Joint FORGENIUS Final Conference and Third Biannual EvolTree Conference 2025, 18-21 November 2025, Madrid, Spain

5.1.6 [Act. 1.2.3] Develop dissemination material to communicate the role of trees and genetic diversity using EUFGIS and the GCU network

Building on the initiative started in Phase VI to develop tree species web pages on the EUFORGEN website[20], including visual information on the conservation status of each species, according to the indicator 4.6, additional text summarising the status of knowledge on species' genetic diversity was prepared by the Secretariat for species with no GCU. This complements the work completed in 2024 to include a dedicated page for 110 species (with GCU) on EUFORGEN's website. By the end of the year, all species in EUFGIS had a page on the website.

5.1.7 [Act. 1.3] Conduct EUFGIS NFP training once a year (online / recorded or physical meeting)

In 2025, the annual EUFGIS NFP training, held in Dolenjske Toplice, Slovenia, on 12-13 February 2025, was part of the FORGENIUS activities. For more information, see subchapter 7.1.1 "FORGENIUS Project".

[20] https://www.euforgen.org/species

5.1.8 [Act. 1.4.2] Develop standards and explore options for creating an online information system(s) for geo-referenced records of FRM end use and, where available, performance data

For the progress of this activity see subchapter 8.1.2 “OptFORESTS Project”.

5.1.9 [Act. 1.4.3] Improve EUFGIS to support FAIR data principles and make the FGR data FAIR

For the progress of this activity see subchapter 8.1.1 “FORGENIUS Project”.

5.1.10 [Act. 1.4.4] Link EUFGIS with other relevant Information Systems in Europe

For the progress of this activity see chapter 5 “The European Information System on Forest Genetic Resources (EUFGIS)”.

5.1.11 [Act. 1.5] Participate in next Forest Europe reporting in phase VII

For the progress of this activity see chapter 6 “Inputs to the Forest Europe process and related work”.

5.2 Strategic Objective 2: Coordinate the implementation of conservation of forest genetic resources in Europe

5.2.1 [Act. 2.1.2] Follow-up on FORGENIUS project activities: make protocols for GCU characterisation available

The FORGENIUS GCU sampling protocol is available in EUFGIS here: https://eufgis.org/guide/protocols

5.2.2 [Act. 2.1.3] Annual update of the GCU characterisation using environmental and remote sensing data resources following the standardised protocols

The annual update of the GCU characterisation using environmental and remote sensing data was completed through FORGENIUS in 2025. The GCU characterisation is available in EUFGIS: eufgis.org

5.2.3 [Act. 2.2.1 a.] Core: TF to develop a concept on how to collect existing methodologies / documents and how to develop a methodology to improve the identification of conservation gaps in the pan-European core network of GCUs based on additional data (genetic, phenotypic, environmental zones etc.)

During the 22nd EUFORGEN SC Meeting, the National Coordinators volunteered (or nominated NFPs) as members of a Task Force to develop a concept on how to collect existing methodologies / documents and how to develop a methodology to improve the identification of conservation gaps in the pan-European core network of GCUs based on additional data (genetic, phenotypic, environmental zones etc.). This concept note will then be published to support future research consortia.

The Task Force members developing the concept note are François Lefèvre (France; maybe later to be replaced by Aurore Desgroux, French EUFGIS NFP), Maurizio Sabatti (Italy) with the support of Maurizio Marchi (Italian EUFGIS NFP), Andreas Rudow (Switzerland), and Thomas Sim (UK).

The Task force met twice during 2025:

- 1st meeting, 29 August 2025 online
- 2nd meeting, 2 October 2025, online

The first version of the concept note was prepared and circulated as a background document for the 23rd EUFORGEN Steering Committee Meeting. National Coordinators will provide feedback, and the TF will resume its work in 2026 aiming to finalise the document by the end of March 2026, one month in advance of the 24th EUFORGEN Steering Committee Meeting scheduled for the week of 20 April 2026, in Avignon, France.

5.3 Strategic Objective 3: Promote the sustainable use of forest genetic resources

Nothing to report on this Strategic Objective during Year 1 of Phase VII.

6. The European Information System on Forest Genetic Resources (EUFGIS)

The European Information System on Forest Genetic Resources (EUFGIS), established in 2010 under the EUFORGEN Programme, is the only transnational information system dedicated to FGR in Europe. It provides harmonised data on over 3,500 Genetic Conservation Units (GCUs) covering more than 100 tree species across 35 European countries. All GCUs in EUFGIS meet common pan-European minimum standards for dynamic conservation[21], ensuring the comparability and reliability of information.

Since its inception, EUFGIS has become a cornerstone for monitoring and reporting on FGR conservation. Its data directly support Indicator 4.6 of the Forest Europe process on sustainable forest management and have been used in major assessments such as the *State of Europe's Forests*. Beyond policy reporting, EUFGIS serves as a key reference for conservation planning and the management of GCU networks.

Since 2021, the EU-funded FORGENIUS project has been upgrading EUFGIS with a new interface, modern technologies, and additional datasets. These include links to pan-European climate and environmental databases, the integration of remote sensing data, and genotype and phenotype information for 23 species. The upgraded system will enable more precise and comprehensive characterisation of GCUs, strengthening Europe's capacity to conserve forest genetic diversity under changing environmental conditions.

[21] http://portal.eufgis.org/fileadmin/templates/eufgis.org/documents/EUFGIS_Minimum_requirements.pdf

EUFGIS related activities in EUFORGEN Phase VII:

- [Act. 1.4.4] Link EUFGIS with other relevant Information Systems in Europe

In the framework of the FORGENIUS project, EUFGIS was linked passively with the (GD^2)[22] and the FOREMATIS[23] databases, enabling end-users to identify genetic units (through GD^2) and the locations of Forest Reproductive Material (FRM) (through FOREMATIS) that are in proximity to Genetic Conservation Units (GCUs). The OptFORESTS project will link the EUFGIS and the locations of FRM (through FOREMATIS) actively, through a dedicated service in EUFGIS.

26 EUFGIS NFP were trained, in Dolenjske Toplice, Slovenia, on 12-13 February 2025.

7. Inputs to the Forest Europe process and related work

During 2024 and 2025, the EUFORGEN Secretariat, in collaboration with the EUFORGEN National Coordinators and EUFGIS NFPs, collected and analysed data on GCUs and produced the report for Indicator 4.6, contributing to the State of Europe's Forests 2025 report. This report assessed the status of the FGR in Europe in 2025 by quantifying the dynamic conservation effort and the associated verifiers (species coverage, ecozone diversity, insurance, and countries' involvement) using EUFGIS, and by compiling national data on basic material for FRM production from FOREMATIS. The State of Europe's Forests 2025 report would have been officially presented at an event held in Brussels on 11 December 2025, but its release was postponed to 2026. [related to EUFORGEN activity 1.5 "Participate in next Forest Europe reporting in phase VII"]

A side event sponsored by EUFORGEN and FORGENIUS took place during the Forest Europe Expert Level meeting in September in Sweden. The objective was to introduce the new Phase of EUFORGEN, stress the need for Forest Europe countries that are not EUFOGEN members to nominate Contact Persons [related to EUFORGEN activity 1.1.2], and present the latest findings on conservation and characterisation of FGR.

A dedicated section on EUFORGEN was created on the Forest Europe website under the session "implementing mechanisms"[24]

Meetings during 2025

- Forest Europe Expert Level Meeting, 24-25 September 2025

[22] https://gd2.pierroton.inrae.fr/

[23] https://ec.europa.eu/forematis/

24 https://foresteurope.org/euforgen/

8. EUFORGEN engagement in external initiatives

8.1 Partnerships in external funded projects

8.1.1 FORGENIUS Project

The FORGENIUS H2020 project[25] (2020-2025) aimed to increase the quantity and quality of data in the EUFGIS information system using multiple descriptors from genomic, phenotypic, remote-sensing and predictive models, and to make data and analytical tools available in operationally useful and harmonised standards as a service for users in the fields of conservation, breeding and forest management.

FORGENIUS provided insights into the diversity of European forests and their resilience to climate change. The project used state-of-the-art technology and knowledge in plant and evolutionary biology, ecology, remote-sensing, genomics, genetics, modelling, and forestry. It aimed to upgrade EUFGIS, by adding new types of data and information on the Genetic Conservation Units (GCUs). FORGENIUS allowed a significant upgrade of EUFGIS that will be the key to invent new, adaptive strategies to preserve GCUs at the continental level.

FORGENIUS:

1. assessed genetic, phenotypic, and environmental diversity, as well as resilience of GCUs under climate change;
2. provided scientific evidence to support management decisions that promote the resilience and adaptability of GCUs;
3. characterised the entire network of GCUs presently in EUFGIS (and any that are entered in future) and their genetic resources;
4. created innovative data accessibility and modelling services for users within and outside the forest genetic resources conservation communities.

In addition to characterising the GCUs, FORGENIUS upgraded EUFGIS. The project developed a totally new interface and adopted new technologies to run the information system and associated services. FORGENIUS also generated new data and indices that integrate with and complement existing information. The expanded EUFGIS is a new tool for national authorities responsible for the management of the network of GCUs in each country, as well as for the wider conservation community.

Part of the FORGENIUS activities that fulfilled EUFORGEN's Phase VII activities are:

- [Act.1.4.3] Improve EUFGIS to support FAIR data principles and make the FGR data FAIR

[25] Funded from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 862221 - www.forgenius.eu

The upgraded EUFGIS and its data are using FAIR (Findable, accessible, interoperable and re-usable) principles, as described in the FORGENIUS Data Management Plan[26].

Meetings:

- The EUFORGEN Coordinator and the EUFORGEN Researcher attended the fourth annual conference in February 2025 in Vienna, Austria.
- The final FORGENIUS conference organised jointly with the 3rd biannual EVOLTREE Conference, took place 18-21 November 2025 in Madrid, Spain.

The project ended on 31 December 2025. More information on FORGENIUS is available at www.forgenius.eu

8.1.2 OptFORESTS Project

The OptFORESTS Horizon Europe project (2022-2027) "Harnessing forest genetic resources for increasing options in the face of environmental and societal challenge" aims to work towards the future adaptation of forests by harnessing Forest Genetic Resources (FGR), and supporting their conservation and sustainable use through the following main lines of work and objectives:

- Conducting research on the selection of diverse forest reproductive material (FRM), including mixtures, adapted to future climates
- Fostering sustainable use and resilience of naturally regenerated forests
- Helping expand and diversify nursery production
- Developing nature-based solutions (NBS), tools (e.g., expanded Information Systems) and cultural trajectories to promote forest biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Demonstrating biodiversity solutions

Part of the OptFORESTS activities that fulfil EUFORGEN's activities are:

- [Act. 1.4.2] Develop standards and explore options for creating an online information system(s) for geo-referenced records of FRM end use and, where available, performance data

An internal legal/policy analysis on the traceability of FRM origin was produced and a survey to assess how FRM is traced along the forestry value chain across European countries was created and checked and it will be circulated in 2026.

An article about the project[27] is available as news on EUFORGEN's website.

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26 https://www.forgenius.eu/fileadmin/Websites/Forgenius/Uploads/Documents/Public_deliverables/D_5_1_PUBLIC_Attachment_version2.pdf

27 https://www.euforgen.org/about-us/news/news-detail/euforgen-forest-europe-webinar-forest-genetic-resource-conservation-as-part-of-sustainable-forest/

Meetings:

- The fourth annual meeting of the OptFORESTS project took place 21-23 October 2025 in Sofia, Bulgaria. The meeting was attended by the EUFORGEN Researcher and the Communication Officer (Gerard Fernández).

More information on the OptFORESTS project is available at: www.optforests.eu

8.2 Collaboration with International Organisations

8.2.1 FAO

EUFORGEN maintains an active collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), particularly through the Commission on Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (CGRFA) and its Intergovernmental Technical Working Group on Forest Genetic Resources (ITWG-FGR). As the regional mechanism for Europe under the FAO Global Plan of Action for the Conservation, Sustainable Use and Development of Forest Genetic Resources (GPA-FGR), EUFORGEN ensures as an observer in these processes that European data, experiences, and methodologies contribute to global discussions and policy development on forest genetic resources.

EUFORGEN contributed to the FAO publication "the Second Report on the State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources" that was published in 2025. The report highlights EUFORGEN's key contributions across the four strategic priorities of the GPA-FGR: improving availability of, and access to information on forest genetic resources; strengthening *in situ* and *ex situ* conservation; promoting sustainable use, development, and management of FGR; and supporting policies, institutions, and capacity building.

Discussions between the EUFORGEN Secretariat and FAO continued in 2025 to explore potential collaboration between EUFGIS and SilvaGRIS, FAO's global information system on forest genetic resources officially launched in March 2025.

Meetings during 2025:

- Twentieth Regular Session of the Commission on genetic resources for food and agriculture, 24-28 March 2025, Rome, Italy

8.2.2 OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme

The EUFORGEN Secretariat is collaborating with the Secretariat of the *OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme* to implement joint communication on relevant common issues. The purpose is to disseminate relevant messages related to the sustainable use of forest reproductive material. One aspect of this collaboration will allow wider dissemination of the relevant findings of the report on *Genetic aspects linked to production and use of forest reproductive material (FRM)*[28] and the dissemination material currently being developed.

[28] http://www.euforgen.org/publications/publication/genetic-aspects-linked-to-production-and-use-of-forest-reproductive-material-frm/

As part of this cooperation, the two Secretariats identified a key and urgent area for collaboration: the lack of awareness among policymakers regarding the crucial role that Forest Reproductive Material (FRM) plays in achieving afforestation and reforestation targets. To address this gap, a joint EUFORGEN–OECD Working Group was established in 2025 with an objective of developing targeted policy briefs aimed at raising awareness and informing relevant stakeholders and decision-makers.

During summer 2025, the Joint WG prepared the outlines of the policy briefs, which were presented by the EUFORGEN Researcher at the Annual Meeting of the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme, held on 23-24 September 2025 in Paris, France. Both the OECD Forest Scheme and the EUFORGEN Steering Committee provided feedback on the outlines. The Joint WG will reconvene in 2026 to incorporate the feedback and continue its work, aiming to finalise the policy briefs ahead of the next OECD Annual Meeting in Paris in October 2026. The three members that joined the Working Group representing EUFORGEN, besides the EUFORGEN Secretariat, are Luc Paques (France), Marcin Beza (Poland) and Joan Cottrell (United Kingdom).

The Joint WG meetings in 2025:

- 8 July 2025, online
- 25 August 2025, online

During 2025, the Secretariat attended several events that created awareness about recent outputs of the programme and introduced EUFORGEN's work to new audiences:

- Technical Working Group meeting of the OECD Forest seed and plant scheme, 13-14 May 2025, Pruhonice, Prague, Czech Republic.
- Annual Meeting of the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme, 23-24 September 2025, Paris, France.

9. Impact of the EUFORGEN activities in 2025

In the first year of Phase VII, with the inherent additional administrative and content planning workload, 2025 demonstrated that EUFORGEN continues to deliver scientific, policy, and practical impacts for the conservation and sustainable use of forest genetic resources (FGR).

The video celebrating 30 years of EUFORGEN served as a reminder of what has been achieved so far, where the Programme began and the strength that the EUFORGEN community has built over time. It highlighted that EUFORGEN was born from the need of countries to share views, create common paths, and learn from each other's experiences. Today, it stands as a strong community that continues to build upon these foundations, fostering synergies, demonstrating to the world the importance of forest genetic resources, and developing advanced ways to conserve them.

This 30-year journey continues with an evaluation of past achievements and the definition of a future strategic direction to ensure continued growth, integration of state-of-the-art technologies, and strengthened capacity building.

The FORGENIUS project concluded in 2025, leaving behind a significant legacy: the upgraded EUFGIS Information System. This new version characterised the GCU network using climatic and remote-sensing data, providing a wealth of information that can be well incorporated into sustainable forest management. Beyond this, it demonstrated how additional datasets, environmental, phenotypic, and genetic, can be integrated to offer a more comprehensive understanding of the needs of Genetic Conservation Units (GCUs) and to support their enhanced characterisation.

Identifying conservation gaps within the GCU network, described in the FGR strategy for Europe, was called for in the 2024 Forest Europe Bonn Ministerial Declaration that "stress(ed) the need to identify gaps, to assess threats and set priorities for the conservation of forest genetic resources through the 'Genetic Conservation Unit Network' ". In 2025, initial progress was made in this direction through the Task Force, which drafted a concept note outlining a methodology to address this challenge by making use of the new EUFGIS tools. In parallel, the Working Group on dynamic and static *ex situ* conservation finalised its report, harmonising the framework for *ex situ* conservation approaches across Europe.

Indicator 4.6, presented as part of Forest Europe's State of Europe's Forests 2025 report, provided an overview of the current conservation status of forest genetic resources in Europe and highlighted where further efforts are needed to strengthen monitoring and conservation.

Collaboration with the OECD Forest Seed and Plant Scheme advanced significantly, with joint efforts focusing on raising awareness among policymakers about the crucial role of Forest Reproductive Material (FRM) in achieving afforestation and reforestation targets. The outlines of the forthcoming policy briefs identified key messages to be conveyed, and their further development will ensure that these messages reach high policy levels and are adopted and implemented at the national scale.

Through this continued cooperation among European countries, EUFORGEN is steadily building a stronger foundation for safeguarding valuable forest genetic resources and investing in the forests of the future.

10. Financial summary for 2025

In January 2025, the opening balance of the EUFORGEN trust fund was €348,060 (carried over from Phase VI). The closing balance of the trust fund for 2025 was €486,802.

Total financial contributions received from Member Countries in 2025 amounted to €386,780.

The planned budget for the first year of Phase VII was approximately €365,122. Actual expenditures in 2025 (€259,739) were lower than anticipated. This reduction is primarily attributable to the lower than usual number of in-person activities implemented during the year. The Steering Committee meetings took place only online, and no working group meetings were held in person in 2025, so less staff time was required to coordinate the programme and staff travel was also reduced. For EUFGIS, only the platform upgrade costs were charged to the trust fund; all other related expenses were covered by the FORGENIUS project.

Staff costs in 2025 were approximately €166,812, equivalent to 24.77 person months remaining the largest cost category and representing around 65% of total expenditures.

Other direct costs, including Public Awareness, Communication, Publications, and dissemination, amounted to €23,997. These expenses covered the production of the 30th anniversary video, preparation of species web pages, editing, proofreading, web maintenance, CMS upgrades, and server hosting.

As fewer countries have signed the Membership Agreement for Phase VII, the budget available for this phase will be lower than planned. The EUFORGEN Secretariat will develop a mitigation plan that will be presented during the next SC meeting.

The detailed financial report for 2025 is available in the Annex 3 to this report.

Annex 1 Implementation Plan for Phase VII – Progress status

The three tables below (one for each Strategic Objective) present the planned activities for EUFORGEN Phase VII, and the status of their implementation, as of 31 December 2025.

Strategic Objective 1: Facilitate knowledge sharing and communicate with key stakeholders

Operational Objectives		Activities (External activities require external funding)	Responsibility [1]	Mandate[2]		Source of funding[3]	Timeframe	Means of verification
				FGRS4E KC	FE			
1.1 Facilitate knowledge sharing and learning among relevant actors (e.g. scientists, national competent authorities, practitioners and policymakers, certification bodies, NGO community)	1.1.1 Review existing and potential channels of communication: i) target stakeholder channels (what are the channels that they currently use that are relevant for FGR issues); ii) EUFORGEN's own channels	a. Evaluation of EUFORGEN to enable the evolution of the programme	S, NC			CORE	2025-2027 IN PROGRESS	Evaluation results
		b. Develop a comprehensive plan for the Communication and Dissemination of EUFORGEN activities and results, with mid-term review	S			CORE	2025, 2028 IN PROGRESS [2025] PLANNED [2028]	Implementation of plan, report on C & D activities, analytics of online tools
		c. External: Organise a workshop bringing FGR conservation and breeders together that will identify aspect of genetic diversity relevant in both				EXTERNAL	TBD	

Operational Objectives		Activities (External activities require external funding)	Responsibility [1]	Mandate[2]		Source of funding[3]	Timeframe	Means of verification
				FGRS4E KC	FE			
	1.1.2 Activities to target non-member countries: Members of Forest Europe process who are not EUFORGEN members.	Engage with Forest Europe non-member countries to conserve and sustainably manage FGR	S, NC		✓	CORE	Ongoing IN PROGRESS	List of nominated Contact Persons
	1.1.3 Activities to target non-member countries: Southern Mediterranean and Caucasus countries who are not in FE (consider hotspots of biodiversity)	External: develop partnerships to support non-European neighbouring countries to conserve and sustainably manage FGR				EXTERNAL	TBD	
1.2 Communicate the importance of forest genetic diversity and outputs of EUFORGEN to policymakers,	1.2.1 Target forest owners & managers, forest rangers, and forest owners' associations	a. Dissemination campaign of FRM report and "FRM-Focus on Forest Genetic Diversity" at major events (eg SER Europe) and National magazines	S			CORE	2025-2026 IN PROGRESS	Dissemination material produced and distributed

Operational Objectives		Activities (External activities require external funding)	Responsibility [1]	Mandate[2]		Source of funding[3]	Timeframe	Means of verification
				FGRS4E KC	FE			
forestry professionals and practitioners on the ground, wider scientific community and civil society		b. Webinar series to raise awareness for the forestry sectors, eg: (i) evolution-oriented forestry; (ii) multi-risks management; (iii) adaptive strategies	S			CORE	Ongoing IN PROGRESS	Webinar series available online
	1.2.2 Target policy makers	a. TFs to develop policy briefs on: i) importance of FGR conservation; ii) use of FRM; iii) existing coherent FGR strategy; iv) project findings. Translation depending on country	S, TF	23		CORE	Ongoing IN PROGRESS	Policy briefs available
		b. Disseminate policy recommendations at international meetings and national events	S, NC	23		CORE	Ongoing IN PROGRESS	List of events where policy briefs were distributed

Operational Objectives		Activities (External activities require external funding)	Responsibility [1]	Mandate[2]		Source of funding[3]	Timeframe	Means of verification
				FGRS4E KC	FE			
	1.2.3 Target wider society	Develop dissemination material to communicate the role of trees and genetic diversity using EUFGIS and the GCU network	S			CORE	Ongoing IN PROGRESS	Dissemination material produced and distributed
1.3 Conduct regular training of EUFGIS FP on the use of EUFGIS and the curation of data		Conduct EUFGIS NFP training once a year (online / recorded or physical meeting)	S	7		CORE + FORGENIUS + OptFORESTS	Ongoing IN PROGRESS	List of EUFGIS NFP training events
1.4 Strengthen and promote the use of EUFGIS to a broad group of stakeholders	1.4.1	External: Dissemination workshop on the value and use of EUFGIS for local conservation of FGR		7		EXTERNAL	TBD	
	1.4.2	Develop standards and explore options for creating an online information system(s) for geo-referenced records of FRM end use and, where		17	✓	OptFORESTS	2025-2027 IN PROGRESS	Report available

Operational Objectives		Activities (External activities require external funding)	Responsibility [1]	Mandate[2]		Source of funding[3]	Timeframe	Means of verification
				FGRS4E KC	FE			
		available, performance data						
	1.4.3	Improve EUFGIS to support FAIR data principles and make the FGR data FAIR		4		FORGENIUS	2025 DONE	Upgraded EUFGIS using FAIR principles online
	1.4.4	Link EUFGIS with other relevant Information Systems in Europe		20		FORGENIUS, OptFORESTS	2025-2027 DONE (FORGENIUS) PLANNED (OptFORESTS)	List of linked Information Systems

Operational Objectives		Activities (External activities require external funding)	Responsibility [1]	Mandate[2]		Source of funding[3]	Timeframe	Means of verification
				FGRS4E KC	FE			
1.5 Monitor progress of in situ and ex situ conservation and use of FRM for the FOREST EUROPE Process (Indicator 4.6)		Participate in next Forest Europe reporting in phase VII	S, NC, NFP	22	✓	CORE	2025/2029 ONGOING [2025] PLANNED [2029]	Chapter in the Forest Europe report
1.6 Use AI for communication purposes for the EUFORGEN network		WG to explore the potential applications to use AI for communication purposes for the EUFORGEN network	S, TF, WG			CORE	2027-2029 PLANNED	List of WG members, TF mandate, WG report

Strategic Objective 2: Coordinate the implementation of conservation of forest genetic resources in Europe

Operational Objectives		Activities (External activities require external funding)	Responsibility [1]	Mandate[2]		Source of funding[3]	Timeframe	Means of verification
				FGRS4E KC	FE			
2.1 Characterise FGR in Europe	2.1.1 Based on the characterisation done in GCUs, extract information for FGR in Europe	WG on the assessment of the level of characterisation of European forest tree species and their role in SFM	S, TF, WG	1	✓	CORE/ OptFORESTS	2027-2029 PLANNED	List of WG members, TF mandate, WG report
	2.1.2 Share standardised protocols for GCU characterisation	Follow-up on FORGENIUS project activities: make protocols for GCU characterisation available	S			CORE	2025-2026 DONE	Protocols available online
	2.1.3 Improve the characterisation of all GCUs that are part of EUFGIS	Annual update of the GCU characterisation using environmental and remote sensing data resources following the standardised protocols	S	2		FORGENIUS/ CORE	Ongoing DONE (FORGENIUS) PLANNED (CORE)	GCU Characterisation completed annually

Operational Objectives		Activities (External activities require external funding)	Responsibility [1]	Mandate[2]		Source of funding[3]	Timeframe	Means of verification
				FGRS4E KC	FE			
2.2 Identify conservation gaps and prioritise FGR for conservation	2.2.1 Improve the identification of conservation gaps in the pan-European core network of GCUs	a. Core: TF to develop a concept on how to collect existing methodologies / documents and how to develop a methodology to improve the identification of conservation gaps in the pan-European core network of GCUs based on additional data (genetic, phenotypic, environmental zones etc.)	S, TF	12	✓	CORE	2025-2026 IN PROGRESS	Concept note available
		b. External: Develop a methodology to improve the identification of conservation gaps in the pan-European core network of GCUs based on additional data (genetic, phenotypic, environmental zones etc.) by combining existing methodologies, and developing new ones, and integrating them in			✓	EXTERNAL	TBD	

Operational Objectives		Activities (External activities require external funding)	Responsibility [1]	Mandate[2]		Source of funding[3]	Timeframe	Means of verification
				FGRS4E KC	FE			
		EUFGIS. Identify the rationale behind the gaps and evaluate the potential solutions for filling them						
	2.2.2 Select species whose genetic resources should be prioritised for conservation at European level	External: Develop criteria for the selection of species whose genetic resources should be prioritised for conservation at European level		16	✓	EXTERNAL	TBD	
2.3 Develop criteria for assessing the threat status of GCUs	2.3.1 Incorporate relevant tools in EUFGIS	External: Upgrade EUFGIS incorporating the Decision Support Tool		15	✓	EXTERNAL	TBD	
	2.3.2 Compile robust tools to assess threats to GCUs	External: Collect available threat assessment tools and information available from existing literature and develop threat assessment criteria for assessing the threat status of GCUs		15	✓	EXTERNAL	TBD	

Operational Objectives		Activities (External activities require external funding)	Responsibility [1]	Mandate[2]		Source of funding[3]	Timeframe	Means of verification
				FGRS4E KC	FE			
	2.3.3 Link to an early warning system for pests/diseases	External: Link EUFGIS with relevant information systems for early warning of potential abiotic and biotic threats			✓	EXTERNAL	TBD	
	2.3.4 Evaluate synergies with type of protection areas (as part of EUFGIS)	Create maps in EUFGIS by overlaying maps of GCUs with existing geo-referenced databases from protected areas (e.g. Natura2000)	S	15		CORE	2025-2026 IN PROGRESS	Maps available in EUFGIS
2.4 Develop data quality management and monitoring strategies for long-term conservation of forest genetic resources		a. Conduct a 1-day session on data quality management during the EUFGIS training	S, NFP	10		CORE	2025-2027 PLANNED	List of participants, Minutes of the meeting
		b. WG to evaluate the genetic monitoring schemes	S, TF, WG	10	✓	CORE	2027-2029 PLANNED	List of WG members, TF mandate, WG report

Operational Objectives		Activities (External activities require external funding)	Responsibility [1]	Mandate[2]		Source of funding[3]	Timeframe	Means of verification
				FGRS4E KC	FE			
2.5 Integrate in situ and ex situ conservation and develop a platform to store static ex situ conservation data when needed		a. WG to develop strategies and guiding principles for moving threatened GCU from in situ to ex situ and define data recording needs on their complementarity and develop the requirements for a platform to store static ex situ conservation data	S, TF, WG			CORE	2025-2027 PLANNED	List of WG members, TF mandate, WG report
		b. Project: Evaluate enrichment planting in the context of integrating in situ and ex situ conservation				OptFORESTS	2025-2027 IN PROGRESS	Presentation from OptFORESTS
2.6. Support national implementation of the FGR Strategy for Europe	2.6.1 Support national implementation of the GPA-FGR	a. Align EUFORGEN strategic objectives with the GPA-FGR.	S, NC	22		CORE	2028-2029 PLANNED	Draft of EUFORGEN Phase (VII) aligned with GPA-FGR

Operational Objectives		Activities (External activities require external funding)	Responsibility [1]	Mandate[2]		Source of funding[3]	Timeframe	Means of verification
				FGRS4E KC	FE			
		b. Organise a session in a SC meeting to discuss CBD indicators	S, NC			CORE	2026-2028 PLANNED	Minutes of the SC meeting available
	2.6.2 Capacity building and sharing experience within the EUFORGEN community	National report on selected topics during the SC meetings	S, NC			CORE	Ongoing IN PROGRESS	Minutes of the SC meeting available

Strategic Objective 3: Promote the sustainable use of forest genetic resources

Operational Objectives		Activities (External activities require external funding)	Responsibility [1]	Mandate[2]		Source of funding[3]	Timeframe	Means of verification
				FGRS4E KC	FE			
3.1. Promote the sustainable use of FGR in Sustainable Forest Management	3.1.1 Prepare science-based recommendations and tools for better incorporating genetic aspects into SFM practices	a. WG to prepare science-based recommendations for better incorporating genetic aspects into SFM practices and to monitor their impact	S, TF, WG	18	✓	CORE	2026-2029 PLANNED	List of WG members, TF mandate, WG report
		b. Dissemination campaign for the Atlas of silvicultural practices	S			CORE	2025-2026 IN PROGRESS	Dissemination material produced and distributed
	3.1.2 Target forest owners & managers, forest rangers, and forest owners' associations with tailored information and training	Prepare dissemination material + 1-day session on management and monitoring of GCUs, checklist on minimum requirements, the implications for GCUs during the EUFGIS NFP trainings	S, NC, NFP			CORE/ national level	2026-2028 PLANNED	Dissemination material produced and distributed - List of participants and minutes of the

Operational Objectives		Activities (External activities require external funding)	Responsibility [1]	Mandate[2]		Source of funding[3]	Timeframe	Means of verification
				FGRS4E KC	FE			
								meeting available
3.2 Promote the sustainable use of FGR in planting operations	3.2.1 Compile existing science-based information on FGR use and make recommendations for forest managers and other tree planters (people in charge of FLR) on the use of FRM.	a. Organise an activity with Forest Europe FoRISK Facility to support the use of species or provenances coming from other countries / regions, while preventing the risk of introducing invasive species / new pests and diseases.	S		✓	CORE	2026-2027 PLANNED	Report of the activity
		b. External: analyse the effect of breeding programmes, seed orchards, clonal material and somatic				EXTERNAL / OptFORESTS	2027-2029 PLANNED	

Operational Objectives		Activities (External activities require external funding)	Responsibility [1]	Mandate[2]		Source of funding[3]	Timeframe	Means of verification
				FGRS4E KC	FE			
		embryogenesis on the natural populations of respective species						
3.3 Analyse the impact of policies on the use of FGR	3.3.1 Analyse policy issues and recommend changes when they are inconsistent with the appropriate use of FGR	a. Systematically analyse emerging policy and legal issues to anticipate their development	S, NC			CORE	Ongoing IN PROGRESS	List of emerging policy and legal issues
		b. TFs to prepare policy briefs in response to the emerging policy developments	S, TF			CORE	Ongoing PLANNED	Policy briefs available
		c. WG to prepare a policy brief describing the potential impact(s) of FRM normatives on use of FGR (what are the forestry purposes and different interpretation in countries)	S, TF, WG			CORE	2025-2027 PLANNED	List of WG members, TF mandate, WG report
	3.3.2 Better link EC rural development programme to	a. Develop material for the next RDP preparation to promote the link to	S			CORE	2026-2028 PLANNED	Material available

Operational Objectives		Activities (External activities require external funding)	Responsibility [1]	Mandate[2]		Source of funding[3]	Timeframe	Means of verification
				FGRS4E KC	FE			
	EUFORGEN strategy to support implementation at national level	EUFORGEN FGR Strategy and its implementation at national level						
		b. Organise an event to brief relevant policymakers	S			CORE	2026-2028 PLANNED	News article of the event

1 S = Secretariat, NC = National Coordinator, SC = Steering Committee, TF = Task Force, WG = Working Group, NFP = EUFGIS National Focal Point

2 FE = Forest Europe, FGRS4E KC = Forest Genetic Resources Strategy for Europe Key Commitments

3 CORE/ EXTERNAL/ PROJECT NAME

Related to EUFGIS

Progress labels: PLANNED / IN PROGRESS / DONE / DELAYED/POSTPONED / TBD

Annex 2 Status of EUFORGEN Phase VII deliverables

The table below presents the deliverables for EUFORGEN Phase VII, and the status of their implementation, as of 31 December 2025.

Deliverables	Status
1. Strategies and guiding principles for replicating threatened GCUs from *in situ* to *ex situ*, including data recording needs for their complementarity and requirements for storing static *ex situ* conservation data on a platform	PLANNED
2. Threat assessment tools and criteria for assessing the threat status of GCUs	TBD
3. Genetic monitoring schemes evaluation	PLANNED
4. Criteria for the selection of species whose genetic resources should be prioritised for conservation at European level	TBD
5. A methodology to improve the identification of conservation gaps in the pan-European network of GCUs	TBD
6. Identification of the rationale behind the gaps and evaluate the potential solutions for filling them	TBD
7. Assessment of the level of characterisation of European forest tree species and their role in SFM	PLANNED
8. Science-based recommendations for better incorporating genetic aspects into SFM practices and to monitor their impact	PLANNED
9. Result of EUFORGEN's evaluation	IN PROGRESS
10. Policy briefs on relevant topics	IN PROGRESS
11. Improvement of the EUFGIS Information System and its usage.	IN PROGRESS

Annex 3 Detailed financial report for 2025

Summary of Expenditure - up to 31/12/2025

Details	Budget (EUR)[1]	Total Expenditure (EUR)	2025 Expenditure (EUR)	2026 Expenditure (EUR)	2027 Expenditure (EUR)	2028 Expenditure (EUR)	2029 Expenditure (EUR)	Budget - Balance (EUR)
Secretarial Staff	1,082,440	166,812	166,812					915,628
Staff travel	90,000	11,372	11,372					78,628
Steering Committee (meetings)	175,000	14,208	14,208					160,792
Working Groups and Task Forces	70,000	0	0					70,000
EUFGIS Portal and Websites	184,400	2,800	2,800					181,600
Public Awareness, Communication, Publications and dissemination	42,500	23,997	23,997					18,503
Dissemination events	10,000	0	0					
Evaluation of the Programme	20,000	0	0					
Total direct costs	**1,674,340**	**219,189**	**219,189**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	1,455,151
Overheads 18.5%	309,753	40,550	40,550	0	0	0	0	269,203
Total Expenditures	**1,984,093**	**259,739**	**259,739**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1,724,354**

Carry-over Phase VI[2]	348,060
Other Income VI [3]	4,690
2025 Contributions paid	386,780
2026 Contributions paid	0
2027 Contributions paid	0
2028 Contributions paid	0
2029 Contributions paid	0
Other income VII	7,011
Closing Balance	**486,803**

486,803

(1) As per decisions agreed by EUFORGEN Steering Committee at its 20th meeting, 9-11 April 2024, Bergen, Norway.
(2) Closing balance of Phase VI (2020-2025)
(3) Bank Interest and travel reimbursements

Contributions received by EFI in relation to EUFORGEN Phase VI (as of 31.12.2025)

Country	Annual contribution Phase VII	Total Contribution (EUR)	Contributions received in 2025 (EUR)	Contributions received in 2026 (EUR)	Contributions received in 2027 (EUR)	Contributions received in 2028 (EUR)	Contributions received in 2029 (EUR)	Contribution Status
Austria	13,700	13,700	13,700					
Belgium	13,700	13,700	13,700					
Croatia	5,500	5,500	5,500					
Czech Republic	8,300	8,300	8,300					
Denmark	13,700	13,700	13,700					
Estonia	5,500	5,500	5,500					
Finland	8,300	8,300	8,300					
France	32,900	32,900	32,900					
Germany[1]	38,300	0	-					
Hungary	8,300	8,300	8,300					
Iceland	5,500	5,500	5,500					
Ireland	8,300	8,300	8,300					
Italy	19,440	19,440	19,440					
Lithuania	5,500	5,500	5,500					
Luxembourg	5,500	5,500	5,500					
Malta	5,500	5,500	5,500					
Netherlands	16,500	16,500	16,500					
Norway	13,700	13,700	13,700					
Poland [2]	13,700	12,500	12,500					
Portugal	8,300	8,300	8,300					
Romania	8,300	8,300	8,300					
Serbia	5,500	5,500	5,500					
Slovakia[3&4]	8,300	8,300	8,300					
Slovenia	5,500	5,500	5,500					
Spain	19,440	19,440	19,440					
Sweden	13,700	13,700	13,700					
Switzerland(5)	16,500	82,500	82,500					
United Kingdom / Welsh Government	32,900	32,900	32,900					
Total Received	**360,280**	**386,780**	**386,780**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

(1) Germany did not join Phase VII 1801400
(2) Poland will pay the difference in contribution in the following years
(3) The contribution from Slovakia for the year 2025 was received in 2024
(4) The contribution from Slovakia for the year 2026 was received in 2025.
(5) Switzerland paid in 2025 the total contribution for the entire Phase VII