

: Preface

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After fifteen years the IUFRO 4.05.00 *Managerial economics and accounting* international conference returned to Slovenia. This time the organizing team joined forces with the colleagues from the IUFRO 9.05.03 *Cross-sectoral policy impacts on forests* research group to deliver a transdisciplinary event to review the state of the art in forest-related managerial economics, forest and environmental accounting, and cross-sectoral policy impacts on forests. The conference was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, from September 25th to September 27th, 2023, and it held a title *Deal for Green? Contribution of managerial economics, accounting, and cross-sectoral policy analysis to climate neutrality and forest management*. The event was organized by the Department of Forestry and Renewable Forest Resources of the Biotechnical Faculty of the University of Ljubljana, and the Slovenian Forestry Institute.

The decision to organize an international conference is based on current issues related to implementation of the European Green Deal policy initiatives and the New EU Forest Strategy for 2030 European Commission. In the search for environmentally friendly practices for the use of natural resources while maintaining necessary economic growth, countries and unions have chosen different strategies. In many ways, forests and forestry are part of the solution, although their condition is deteriorating in some countries. Still, forests provide multiple ecosystem services and are a place for people's diverse activities, which in some locations compete with each other. In such situations, it is important that we make additional contributions from all disciplines and levels to bridge the challenges in a transdisciplinary effort.

The international IUFRO conference in Ljubljana brought together more than 50 participants who presented the results of their studies and encouraged a constructive dialogue among all. During the two days, the scientific program of the conference included 35 top presentations that were divided into eight sessions. In addition, four invited lecturers gave inspiring talks on innovative approaches to collective action, sustainability, and policy implementation. The present proceedings include four invited lecture papers and 34 extended abstracts. The

attendance at the conference was internationally very diverse (number of participants in parentheses); presenters came from the Czech Republic (7), Italy (6), Slovakia (6), Germany (4), Hungary (3), Serbia (3), USA (2), Bosnia and Herzegovina (1), Croatia (1), Ecuador (1), Finland (1), Norway (1) and United Kingdom (1). There were sixteen participants from Slovenia, for a total of 53 participants.

The titles of eight sessions are Environmental accounting and economic appraisal, Cross-sectoral policy analysis, Social and economic aspects of green deal, Ecosystem services: synergies and trade-offs, Ownership role in short and long-term planning, Labour and employment in forestry, Forest management and decision-making, and Forest products for greener future. The presentations covered topics of managerial economics, social, and environmental accounting and cross-sectoral policy impacts on forests and the environment; illustrating the impact of the new EU Forest strategy and the European Green Deal on society, forests and the economy; revealing the characteristics of the labour market in different regions of the World; exploring multifaceted role of owners within forest management systems, their perceptions of policies and forest management planning, including harvesting behaviour; evaluating the features of timber and non-timber forest products market in relation to other markets and economies; and discussing (forest) ecosystem services, their synergies and trade-offs in relation to existing and future markets. The conference shed new light on the listed topics and allowed for a fruitful discussion among the participants.

At the very end of this preface the organizing committee would like to express its deep gratitude to all the sponsors and supporters who made this event possible. We would like to thank the Pahernik Foundation, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food and its Forest Fund, the company SiDG Ltd., publishing house MDPI and their open access journal *Forests*, and the University of Ljubljana, Biotechnical Faculty. We are grateful to all invited speakers for their opening speeches: John Parrotta, PhD (IUFRO president; U.S. Forest Service), prof. Donald G. Hodges, PhD (IUFRO division 4 coordinator; University of Tennessee), prof. Klemen Jerina, PhD (vice-dean for forestry of the Biotechnical faculty), prof. Marina Pintar, PhD (dean of the Biotechnical Faculty), Nike Krajnc, PhD (director of the Slovenian Forestry Institute), Darij Krajčič, PhD (state secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food), and Mr. Gregor Danev (director of the Slovenia Forest Service). Many thanks to the invited speakers prof. Andreja Kutnar, PhD, prof. Marija Nijnik, PhD, prof. Davide Pettenella, PhD and prof. Mersudin Avdibegović, PhD for the scientific enrichment of the conference. The content of the proceedings is highly scientific thanks to the reviewers, the program is well balanced thanks to the members of the Programme Committee, and the conference ran smoothly thanks to the help of engaging students. Special thanks to the IUFRO organization and the Secretariat in Vienna for their help and support in communicating the event and spreading the news through various channels. Finally, a big thank you to all the authors and participants for their extraordinary contribution, reverently dedication, and endless cheerfulness.

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