

## International Union of Forest Research Organizations

### IUFRO Meeting Report Form

Organizers of IUFRO meetings and IUFRO focal persons at IUFRO co-sponsored meetings, respectively, are kindly requested to fill in and return this form within two weeks after the meeting or by a given deadline by email (wolfrum@iufro.org). This information will be posted at the relevant IUFRO web pages and may be used for IUFRO News and the IUFRO Annual Report.  
(Note: Save this file under a new name and write directly into the form.)

#### 1) IUFRO focal person/meeting organizer:

*Name:* Robert Bardon, Antonio Brunori, William Hubbard, Ales Poljanec, Francisco Marini, Janice Sitzes

*Function in IUFRO:* IUFRO 9.01.03 EKE leadership team

*Email:* whubbard@umd.edu

#### 2) Meeting data:

*Full title of the meeting:* Forest Knowledge Exchange: Advancing Innovation with Tradition

*Date and venue:* October 8-14, 2023, Padua, Italy

*Meeting website:* <https://www.iufro-eke.org/>

*Number of participants:* 35

*Countries represented:* Italy, Slovenia, Slovakia, Great Britain, China, Ireland, United States

#### 3) Organization of the meeting:

*All IUFRO Units involved:* IUFRO EKE

*Host organization(s) and sponsor(s):* PEFC Italy & North Carolina State University hosted. An additional sponsor was the online journal "Forests"

*Study tour(s) to:* Karst region of Slovenia

#### 4) Meeting report (max. 100 words per paragraph)

*a) Background information (meeting context)* The group 9.01.03 - Extension and knowledge exchange - IUFRO meets every two years for a meeting on the group's theme of extension and knowledge exchange in the forestry sector. This year's event, organized by IUFRO Unit 9.01.03, focused on dissemination and knowledge exchange, held from 8-12 October in Veneto, with an optional field trip after the conference, on 13-14 October, to the Karst area on the Slovenian-Italian border.

PEFC Italy organized this event with the collaboration of Veneto Agriculture, accompanying the group to the regional forests of Cansiglio certified according to the PEFC Italy scheme for Sustainable Forest Management.

The theme of this meeting was the exchange of forestry knowledge and, specifically, advancing innovation with tradition, starting with the history of forest management and the importance in the history of the Serenissima (Venice Marine Republic): we visited the old maps and the old management plans of The Cansiglio forest stored in Venice State Archive, with a following visit to the same forest, now managed and harvested in a sustainable way.

This conference had the objective, which was largely achieved, of presenting, highlighting, and focusing on the fusion of our new tools and technologies with the inclusion of local information and traditions. The event was attended by 32 dissemination experts 6 countries.

The conference website provides the overall purpose of the meeting as -Professionals who work with stakeholders on education and knowledge exchange have a plethora of new and emerging educational technology tools at their disposal today. Flipped classrooms, online learning management systems (OLMs), virtual reality and other high technologies are expanding and enhancing our ability to reach new and current audiences with vastly different educational experiences than we had access to even just a few years ago. We value these tools but also the customs and traditions that come with local and indigenous knowledge and stakeholder involvement. This conference aims to present, highlight and focus on the blending of our new tools and technologies with the inclusion of local information and tradition-

*b) Key issues discussed/latest findings in the field (bullet points or text)*

- Current & emerging techniques and technologies in Extension and education for forest stakeholders
- Successful measurement of impacts and outcomes of forestry Extension programs
- Continuing education and development needs and opportunities for Extension forestry professionals
- Overcoming barriers to successful knowledge exchange

*c) Conclusions (if possible, summarize key conclusions across presentations):* The utilization of scientifically tested Extension and knowledge exchange practices and protocols is important for the advancement of the profession. These areas of communication within the international forestry community are typically underrepresented, and the professionals who work in this arena are overstretched, but their desire to learn from each other and to improve the skill sets they have to have a broader and deeper impact remains critical to the field. In addition, general conclusions included the need to continue to find ways to incorporate and integrate our traditions, indigenous knowledge along with our western science and new technologies when we are reaching various stakeholders, particularly those who have been traditionally underserved or marginalized.

*d) Outlook to future activities (proceedings, future meetings, other):* The conference website above lists all presentations as well as photos and a video of the field tour. IUFRO-EKE will hold a business meeting in Stockholm at the World Congress in June. The IUFRO-EKE leadership team is also taking requests for a meeting location in 2025.

#### **4) Photos**

**Thank you very much for your kind cooperation!**



*Caption:* IUFRO EKE 2023 Field Tour to Cansiglio Forest in Northern Italy

*Credit (not protected by copyright):* Robert Bardon, USA

**Thank you very much for your kind cooperation!**





*Caption: Our host, Dr. Antonio Brusori, PEFC Italy, discussing forest management in the Beech forest of Consiglio, Northern Italy*

*Credit (not protected by copyright): Bill Hubbard, USA*

**Thank you very much for your kind cooperation!**





*Caption: Dr. Beau Brodbeck, USA*

*Credit (not protected by copyright): Bill Hubbard, USA*

#### **5) Other information:**

*a) Communication activities (dissemination of information about the meeting; promotion of IUFRO)*

*b) Related publications /websites*

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