

CONNECT

COLLECT

EXCHANGE

# *Operational Framework for a European Forest Risk Facility*

*Forest disturbance regimes are intensifying. Catastrophic events as well as less noticed disturbances do not stop at country borders. Wildfires, storms, outbreaks of pests and diseases, drought, flooding and browsing occur also in places where experience and knowledge of forest risk are less developed.*

*A European Forest Risk Facility will act as a:*

- ***networking platform***
- ***honest broker***
- ***facilitator of a science – policy – practice dialogue***
- ***hub for lessons learned and good practice guidance aimed at enhancing forest resilience and mitigating disturbance risks***



## The 'collect – connect – exchange' principle

### CONNECT

**A wealth of forest risk knowledge and experience exists across Europe. Knowledge is continuously being created by different expert communities while new risks and unexpected crisis situations appear in a changing forest environment. A European Forest Risk Facility will:**

- speed up the dissemination, translation and contextualization of available knowledge, experience and skills
- maintain, interconnect and expand multi-disciplinary, cross-border networks
- enhance the exchange of experiences in risk management amongst and between different disturbance types and communities
- provide training in order to make knowledge accessible and applicable for a wider community

### COLLECT

**By ensuring the continuous collection and sharing of know-how, skills, technological advances and experience a solid basis is provided for decision making in forest risk management and mitigation. This needs to be based on well developed networks of partners from research, operations and forest management from regional to European level. A European Forest Risk Facility will:**

- act as 'honest broker' for stimulating collaboration between science, policy and operational management
- sustain accessibility to latest knowledge from research, operations and forest management
- develop and provide a portfolio of products and services based on demand from the forest risk community
- establish a 'case study' and 'lessons learned' library as input for developing suitable strategies for risk management and mitigation

### EXCHANGE

**Knowledge and experience in forest risk management takes many years for people to attain. Theory needs to be understood and observed in real crisis situations to gain a sound understanding and confidence. Large-scale disturbances happen only rarely in the professional life of a forest manager. Any experience not shared retires with the expert. A European Forest Risk Facility will:**

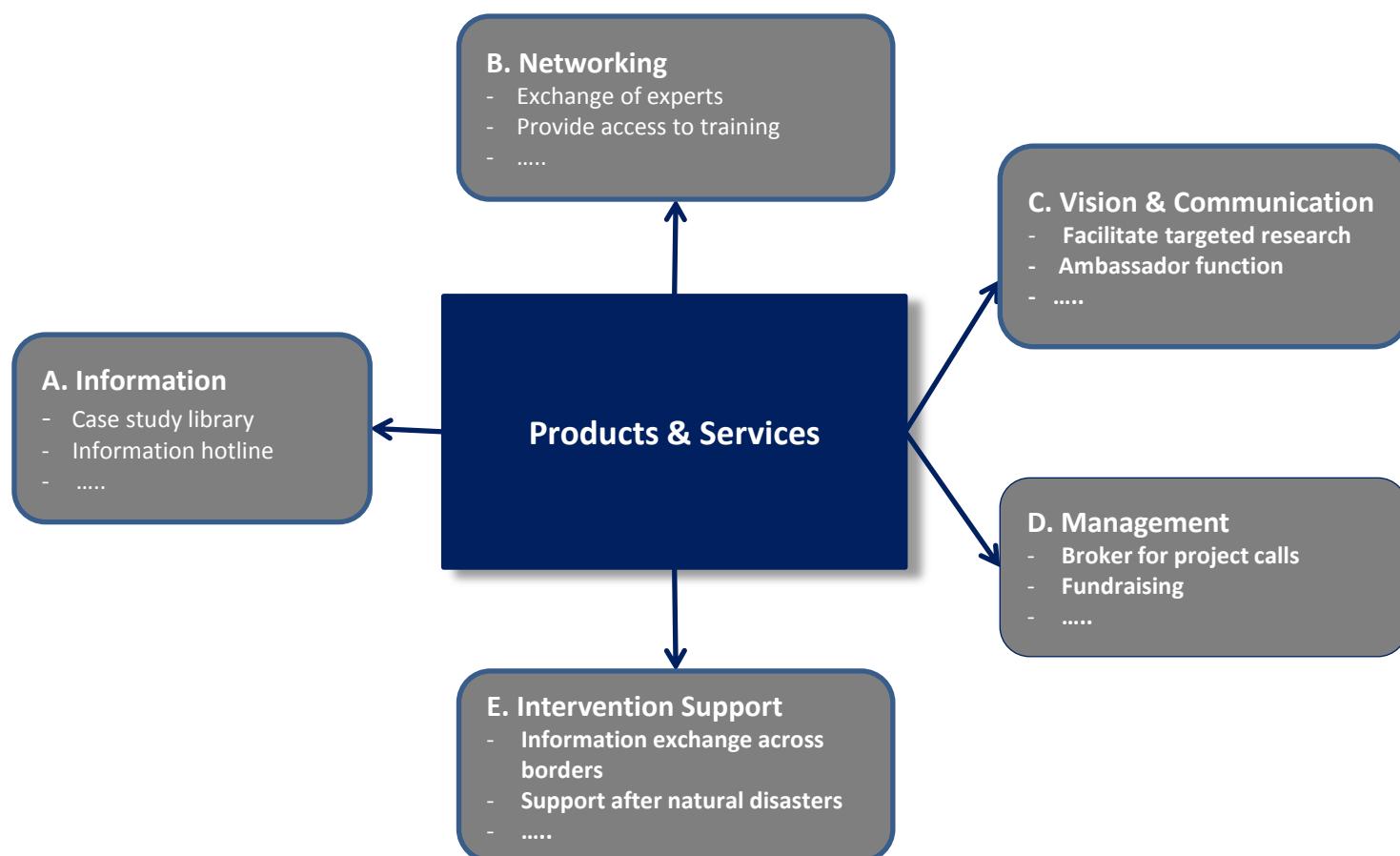
- provide insight into forest risk scenarios that may not be common at present in a country/region but allow for preparing for the unexpected
- fast-track the exchange of experiences by facilitating professional exchanges, training events and workshops across disciplines and disturbances
- help to bridge intercultural and language barriers in close cooperation with local experts and their respective institutions

## What can it deliver?

An intensive and thorough exchange with the forest risk community yielded agreement on a set of **more than fifty products and services** that a European Forest Risk Facility should incorporate in its activity portfolio.

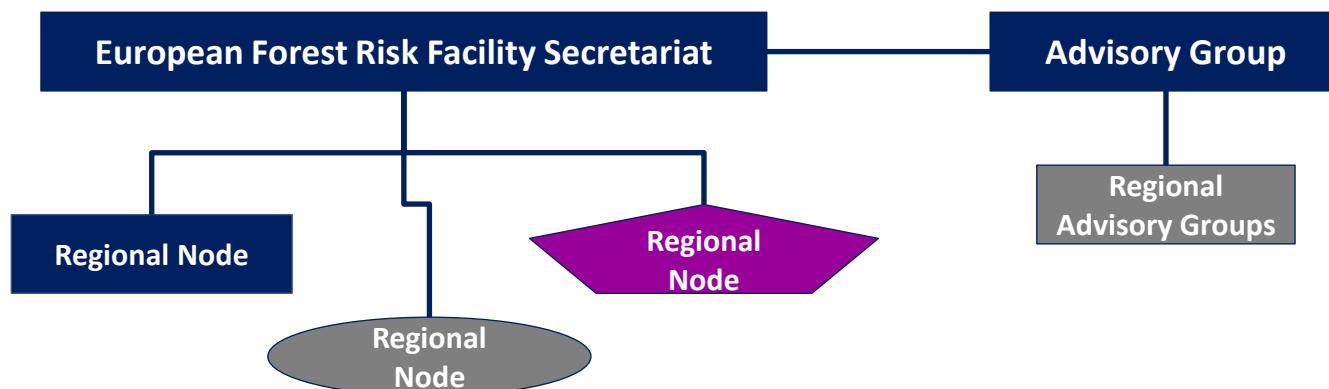
They are designated to **five main thematic categories** including information, networking, vision and communication, management and intervention support and presented in detail as 'products and services sheets'. Each sheet describes a particular product/service and indicates motivation, aim, target groups, potential benefits and duration. The sheets also give an estimate of the resources required for their implementation at different operational levels.

In the course of applying any of the products and services, they can be further developed, refined and tailored based on hands-on experiences. Also new products and services can be identified and elaborated based on emerging needs as suggested by the forest risk community.



## How will it be set-up?

A European Forest Risk Facility will act **at different operational levels** with cohesive but locally adapted objectives and target audiences. That requires a slim and flexibly operating **'European Forest Risk Facility Secretariat'** at pan-European level. It is supported by **'Regional Nodes'** with localized functions to ensure presence, rooting and credibility with respective communities at regional and local level. Regional nodes need not have a pre-fixed operational model but can adapt to national, regional and/or local needs. A European Forest Risk Facility is governed by an **'Advisory Group'** and, if requested, advisory bodies at local level.



## What resources are required?

To establish and effectively run a **'European Forest Risk Facility Secretariat'** resources are estimated at about **400 – 450 kEuro per year**. Costs will cover all basic and essential operations, implementation of a set of products and services and facility development.

The estimate is based on experiences gained during the **FRISK-GO project** where the secretariat function was tested. Activities of a facility can be easily expanded based on a flexible portfolio of products and services. Resources for **'Regional Nodes'** will vary based on the **model of operation applied** and planned/requested activities.

