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# Forests for Human Health: Challenges and Opportunities

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\_invitation & programme overview

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*8 - 9 April 2019, Vienna, Austria*

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Supported by the federal government, federal provinces and the European Union

Following the *Madrid Ministerial Resolution 1*, building on former initiatives, ongoing work and experience in signatory countries and organisations, FOREST EUROPE seeks ways to strengthen the social aspects of sustainable forest management (SFM). Highlighting the positive impact and benefits of forests on human health and well-being, FOREST EUROPE addresses this highly topical issue which is also in line with global agendas including the *UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development* as well as the *EU Forest Action Plan* and the *EU Forest Strategy*.

To support this issue, the FOREST EUROPE Expert Group (EG) on human health and

well-being was established according to the FOREST EUROPE Work Programme Action 4.6 “*Enhancing the social dimension of SFM in the context of the benefits of forests on human health and well-being.*”

The EG conducted the study named “*Human Health and Sustainable Forest Management*”, which will be presented during the workshop. The study provides, amongst others, a review of research resources and scientific evidence published in the recent twenty years in Europe, pertinent to social aspects of SFM in the context of human health and well-being, as well as good practice examples from different European countries.

## Workshop Objectives

The purpose of the workshop is to enable sharing of state-of-the-art knowledge, experience, lessons learnt and good practice examples relating to social aspects of SFM with a special attention to human health and well-being. Moreover, the workshop seeks to promote health benefits of forests and their integration into SFM and thus to raise awareness about the benefits that forests deliver for human health. During the

workshop, main barriers and drivers for the promotion of health benefits of forests will be discussed with the aim to generate green jobs and build better cross-sectoral cooperation with representatives of various sectors and stakeholders. Workshop conclusions will be translated into a set of recommendations for policy makers and further steps for future cooperation based on discussions held at the workshop.

## Target Group

The target group shall comprise policy and decision makers from different sectors (i.e. forest sector, health and social sector,

sports, tourism, etc.), private and public forest owners, entrepreneurs as well as experts from research and academia.

## Venue

Diplomatic Academy of Vienna (*Diplomatische Akademie Wien*)  
Favoritenstraße 15A, 1040, Vienna, Austria  
<https://www.da-vienna.ac.at/en/>

## Programme Overview

*The speakers will be announced with the final agenda in due time.*

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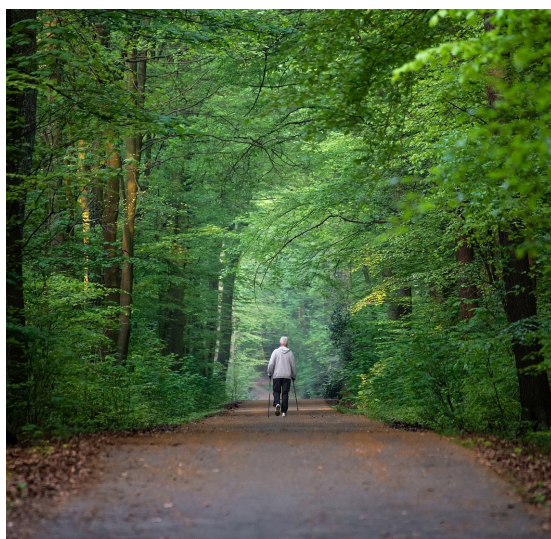
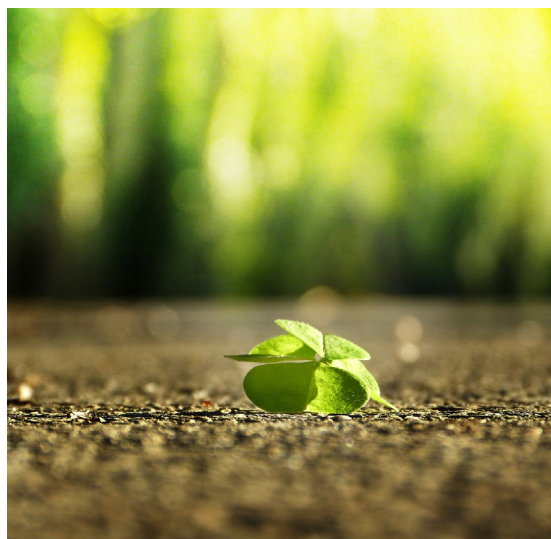
- 13.00-13.30    Opening and welcome speeches
- 13.30-14.30    Block I - Plenary Session *"Presentation of the study Human Health and Sustainable Forest Management"*
- 14.30-15.00    Coffee break
- 15.00-16.30    Block II - Plenary Session *"Role of forests in human health prevention, rehabilitation and therapy"*
- 16.30-18.00    Block III - Panel Discussion *"Expectations, challenges and opportunities"*
- 19.30            Dinner *(location to be announced)*

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- 9.00-10.30    Block IV - Plenary Session *"Best practice examples"*
- 10.30-11.00    Coffee break
- 11.00-12.30    Block V - Parallel Sessions *"Actions and policies"*
- Parallel Session I  
                                 *Barriers and drivers for promotion of health benefits of forests in the context of a green economy*
- Parallel Session II  
                                 *How to communicate the health benefits of forests?*
- Parallel Session III  
                                 *Improving cross-sectoral cooperation between various stakeholders*
- 12.30-13.30    Block VI - Plenary Session (Conclusions)
- 13.30            Lunch
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## Contact

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Registration and further information: [www.foresteurope.org](http://www.foresteurope.org)

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