Community of Practice
Forest Management Decision Support Systems

www.forestdss.org

Mission - Community of Practice

- **organizing and disseminating** information and experiences about the development and use of Forest Decision Support Systems (DSS)

- **connecting and mobilizing** developers and users of Forest DSS to support the planning and sustainable use of forest resources

- Supporting **cooperation and communication** among developers and users of Forest DSS

Goals (i-v)

(i) provide mapping of ongoing research activities in the field of decision support;

(ii) improve coordination between relevant fields of research (modelling, decision analysis, adaptation to climate change, IT, social sciences);

(iii) achieve critical mass and ensure better use of limited resources in developing DSS;

(iv) share good practices in implementing research projects focusing on DSS;

(v) share lessons learned from the development and use of forest DSS;

Goals (vi – ix)

(vi) establish a network of research activities carried out at national and regional level for supporting the network;

(vii) promote transnational collaborations and new knowledge generation and innovation by hosting the ongoing activities (e.g. Semantic Media WIKI; case studies, lessons learned);

(viii) provide training for interested researchers and a forum for knowledge exchange (e.g. workshops, summer schools, webinars);

(ix) support actions for rising funding to support collaboration by various means (e.g. projects, exchange programs, networks).

Principles - Community of Practice

- the CoP is a **group of active practitioners** with an interest in the promotion of forest DSSs

- the purpose is to provide a way for practitioners to **share tips and best practices, ask questions** of their colleagues, and provide support for each other

- the CoP is organically created, with **as many objectives and topics the members** of that community are requesting - means of communication (e.g. discussion forums, wikis) are available to support shifts in focus

- the CoP allows members to share knowledge, which may enable other members to **avoid mistakes** and shorten the learning curve

- the CoP can exist as long as the members believe they have something to contribute to it, or gain from it

Activities of the CoP (i)

- Adding **Cases and lessons learned** in WIKI

- Adding **DSS descriptions** in WIKI

- **Providing input** for Focus Topics in WIKI (architecture and design, methods and models, knowledge management processes, participatory processes)

- Formulating **Queries and FAQ's**

- Moderating **Focus Topics in discussion forum**
  - General issues regarding developing a DSS…
  - Finding a DSS for a certain problem…
  - Finding lessons and successful cases…
  - Methods and Models applied in DSS…
  - Application of KM techniques…
  - Participatory processes in DSS development and application…

- Providing a **platform for young researches** to present their work and expertise - provide input to Wiki

Activities of the CoP (ii)

- **Sharing** publications, presentations, reports in the CoP (e.g. using CoP webportal)

- **distributing news via blog**

- Organizing **virtual meetings among members** on issues that are requested to be discussed

- **Participating in a physical workshop** meeting once a year
  - review of the activities and topics raised
  - developing plan for next year

- announcing a **call for contributions** on a certain topic
  - e.g. Special Issue in Forests "Providing Ecosystem Services under Climate Change: Community of Practice of Forest Decision Support Systems"

- **Organizing Training Schools**
  - e.g. ForestDSS Workshop in Lisbon

- **Producing video lectures** on DSS and sharing them
  - using as input for own lectures, offering lectures on demand (e.g. webinars)

Organisation - Community of Practice

- ForestDSS **Members**: The main group of the ForestDSS CoP. Members of this group attend and participate regularly in discussions and activities. The members generally have at least some experiences in a certain subject area of the CoP.

- ForestDSS **Council**: The Council is constituted of those experts that participate in the Annual meeting of the CoP. It is a temporary group which acts as a review panel for the activity of the whole CoP.

- ForestDSS **Working Committee**: a core group of the ForestDSS CoP who participate intensely in the work of the community through discussions and special project activities. This group typically takes on leadership roles in guiding the community activities and works out the work plans.

- ForestDSS CoP **coordinator**: a member of the ForestDSS Working Committee who will be responsible for administration and organization of the members. The coordinator is able to nominate a vice chair for supporting the steering of the CoP.

Membership - Community of Practice

- Members are individuals from **research, public bodies, industry, NGOs** with an interest in the promotion of forest DSSs

- **Any individual** can apply for membership via the platform - membership is administrated by the ForestDSS Coordinator

- The role of each member **is defined by knowledge / expertise** - one should have at least some experience in a Focus Topic of the CoP

- members may take on new roles within the community as interests and needs arise – **a critical review of topics** regarding the mission is needed - "organic" growth

- opportunities for open dialog among people within and outside the CoP should be created - **different levels of participation**

Benefits - Community of Practice (i)

- Meetings & Conferences: **Be informed** about national, international, regional, and topical meetings and conferences and meet others

- Research Resources: Complete your research with our **comprehensive Semantic Wiki** and the published papers of the members of the CoP shared via the platform. Keep up with new developments in the field, fascinating case studies, and profiles of interesting people and organizations with your membership.

- Community: Take advantage of geographic and special interest communities or subgroups formed within the CoP that provide multiple options to learn the tools of your interest in specific areas. Build your **professional profile** by volunteering. Enjoy numerous opportunities to meet colleagues virtually and physical, build teams, advocate for the profession, and hone organizational and leadership skills.

Benefits - Community of Practice (ii)

- Career Resources: Get first word of **job openings** with the announcements made public via the website. Meet face-to-face with prospective employers at the Annual Meeting or during the conferences announced.

- **Educational & Teaching Materials**: Choose from a wide variety of materials to improve your knowledge, practice, and teaching of Forest Management Decision Support and related topics: case studies, online forums, workshops, databases, and more.

Responsibilities of members

- **Active participation in activities** initiated by the working committee by sharing knowledge and experience on a certain domain

- Members **should offer learning opportunities** as part of their structure (e.g. Lessons Learned of case studies)

- Members **should contribute to the wiki** by providing their expertise on DSS development and application (e.g. providing DSS descriptions)

- Members should **contribute to the CoP discussion forum** (e.g. providing feedback to questions raised by other members, advertising activities of the CoP,..)

- Members should **share the work** (publications, reports, tools) via the web platform with other members

Responsibilities of the CoP Working Committee

- should coordinate a **cycle of activities and events** that allow members to regularly meet, reflect, and evolve

- **Maintaining the WIKI** as a well-functioning and easy-to-use platform for sharing knowledge about DSSs, their development and use – see also the activities listed above

- **Ensure the quality of the WIKI content**, as well as to coordinate its future development

- **moderate a topic in the discussion board/forum** that allows communication among members

- systematically and **actively search for and motivate people** likely to publish relevant content on the WIKI

- **Stimulate and coordinate actions** in line with the aim of CoP (e.g. Leonardo Training School, Marie Curie projects)

- **Investigate funding opportunities** for the above activities (Organize ESF Workshops, ESPON Call, integrate in dissemination activities of existing EU projects)

Responsibilities of Council

- those **experts** that participate in the Annual meeting of the CoP, everybody can get involved, whether it is an active member of the CoP or an interested expert participating in the annual meeting
- will **oversee the work plans** presented by the Working Committee
- will **review and comment on the Coordinator report** on the state of the CoP
- can bring up any other topics for **discussion** within the domain of the CoP.

Responsibilities of the Coordinator of the CoP

- is responsible for running the **technical platform of the FORSYS WIKI -** ensure the availability of the WIKI as specified by the Working Committee.

- should ensure the **availability of a communication platform** for questions and feedback

- should **administrate the application for membership**

- should preferably be an organization with access to a team of supporting staff including administrative assistants and programmers.

Members of the CoP Working Committee

- ## DSS description:
  - <u>Jussi Rassinmäki</u>, Christian Rosset, Alexandra Marques, Dominque Weber, Jose Borges;

- ## DSS cases and lessons learned:
  - <u>Sean Gordon</u>, Antonio Floris, Luc Boerboom, Jose Borges, Tomas Lämås

- ## DSS architecture and design:
  - <u>Christian Rosset</u>, Alexandra Marques, Jussi Rassinmäki, Graham West

- ## methods and models:
  - <u>Jordi Garcia</u>, Jose Borges, Mikko Kurttila

- ## participatory processes and knowledge management:
  - <u>Harald Vacik</u>, Eva-Maria Nordström, Chiara Torresan, Isabella De Meo, Teppo Hujala, Luc Boerboom,

- ## system coordination plattform:
  - <u>Allan Sims,</u> Harald Vacik, Christian Rosset

<u>*underlined indicate „main responsibilty"</u>