

Pilot Roadmap

Forestry



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Introduction

The Forestry Pilot is located in the region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia, in the north-east of Italy. The **Legno Servizi Forestry Cluster** has been identified as the key organizational hub dedicated to supporting and developing the wood-forest supply chain in the region.

Legno Servizi operates as a cooperative society and serves as a regional reference point for all stakeholders in the timber industry—ranging from forest owners and logging companies to sawmills and wood craftsmen. It acts as a bridge between public institutions and private enterprises to modernize the local forestry sector.

The primary mission of Legno Servizi is to **valorise the regional forest heritage** and strengthen the local "Bosco-Legno" (Forest-Wood) supply chain. Its core objectives include:

- **Sustainability:** Promoting the sustainable management of forests to ensure long-term ecological and economic health.
- **Competitiveness:** Enhancing the market position of regional wood products against global competition.
- **Traceability:** Ensuring that wood products from Friuli-Venezia Giulia are recognised for their quality and ethical origin through certification.
- **Innovation:** Facilitating the transition toward a circular bioeconomy and smart forestry practices.

Legno Servizi implements its mission through several strategic pillars:

- **Certification Services (PEFC/FSC):** They guide regional companies through the process of obtaining Sustainable Forest Management and Chain of Custody (CoC) certifications. This ensures that the timber harvested in FVG meets international environmental standards.
- **Education and Training:** They recently launched the "**Geo-Forestry Technician**" (Tecnico Geo-Forestale) training path in Tolmezzo. They also organize workshops for students and professionals to cultivate the next generation of forestry experts.
- **Wood Traceability:** They manage the regional brand and database for certified local wood, helping consumers and builders identify 100% regional timber.
- **Environmental Outreach:** Through initiatives like "Foresta in Città" (Forest in the City) and National Tree Day events, they bring forest culture to urban centers (Udine, Trieste) to educate the public on the importance of wood as a renewable resource.
- **Regulatory Support:** They assist businesses in adapting to complex European regulations, such as the **EUTR** (EU Timber Regulation) and the new **EUDR** (EU Deforestation Regulation), ensuring regional companies remain compliant with international law.



Vision

By 2050, the forestry sector in Friuli-Venezia Giulia will be a model of nature-positive management, where forests are not only restored but actively contribute to climate resilience.

Ecosystem services will be at the heart of forest management, driving sustainable practices that enhance biodiversity, water quality, carbon capture, and soil health.

Pastures will be restored, abandoned areas revitalised, and the landscape will be more diverse, offering a harmonious balance between human activity and nature.

Mountain communities will be more aware, open, and engaged, taking an active role in managing their forests and territories with expertise.

Supported by skilled professionals, the sector will navigate climate change challenges and market demands, ensuring long-term environmental and economic resilience for future generations.



Baseline

During the Baseline workshop, the stakeholders have identified different challenges. For each one, they provided details on the state-of-the-art of the challenge, giving an overview of the baseline.

Here below each challenge is reported, clustered by area or topic as emerged during the workshops.

1. Resilient forests to climate change

- Forests and woodlands are increasing in altitude due to climate change (ecosystem migration).
- Variation in the quality of wood.
- Increase in invasive species.
- Impact on biodiversity and local economies (e.g. tourism).

2. Alive Mountains and managed forests

- Need for safeguarding the woodlands and infrastructures.
- Land fragmentation leading to unsustainable forest planning and management.
- Need for multifunctional forest management, with different areas managed differently, according to specific needs.
- Depopulation of rural and mountain areas.
- Lack of involvement of local population in forest management.

3. More aware mountain communities

- Lack of interest in the importance of forests and the forestry sector.
- Lack of awareness and understanding on the importance of forests and biodiversity and of taking care of them.
- Lack of forest worker in general, but also of skilled and trained workers able to manage forests sustainably.
- Depopulation.



Pathways

During the workshop, the participants started from the challenges previously identified and focussed on solutions and initiative that could be implemented to reach the vision.

Below, for each challenge area, details are provided in terms of objectives and outcomes of the initiative and actions to be implemented by 2030 and by 2050 timeframes (Annex 7¹).



1. Resilient forests to climate change

Objective

To ensure the provision of forest ecosystem services is maintained also in a changing climate.

Expected Outcome

Forest ecosystems are able to adapt to a changing climate thanks to an effective and resilient forest planning and management that puts at the hearth the ecosystem services.

Plans

- By 2030: understand how to integrate the different certifications; investment in research and innovation; enhance research and technologies for the cascade use of timber; improve and enhance communication to companies, owners, and citizens; integration of forest education in schools.
- By 2050: enhance transparency in processes and their legality; AI and technologies broadly applied to understand climate change, its effects, and to adapt forest management accordingly; financial education to forest companies; simplification of bureaucracy; interaction between policies (and policymakers) and public and private finance.

¹. Annex 7 of Deliverable 2.2: Nature-Positive Economy (NPE) Pilot Roadmaps, published in July 2026, available at gonaturepositive.eu/resources

2. Alive Mountains and managed forests

Objective

To enhance a rationale use of the land, contrasting abandonment and fragmentation through management and valorisation of resources.

Expected Outcome

Forested landscapes see an improvement in their management and in the infrastructure, abandoned areas are restored, and there are an increased diversity and use of ecosystems.

Plans

- By 2030: enhance the Forest Cluster and foster the dialogue between the actors of the forestry sector in the region; have and approve a clear normative framework valid for all actors of the sector; training to technicians and in schools on ecosystem services; premium for the use of timber for structural purposes; improve monitoring of bark beetle.
- By 2050: develop an interregional system to potentiate short value chains; develop carbon credits system also with a shared economic investment to develop the system.

3. More aware mountain communities

Objective

To enhance awareness of local communities on the importance of the environment and its management and reverse the depopulation trend.

Expected Outcome

(Mountain) communities are more aware, open, active, and expert in the management of their forests and lands, with particular attention to the next generation.

Plans

- By 2030: develop and provide professional trainings matching with what is requested by the territory; create local groups of citizens and foster associations to enhance community meetings and increase awareness on forest topic.
- By 2050: redirect public investments more wisely and continuously to infrastructures and productive areas avoiding the one-shot practice; merge of small municipalities under a single one with more power and resources.

Summary

The forestry pilot has held two workshops, both in presence, with the participation of several local actors and with a good representation of the different target groups. The first workshop, the visioning, was organised back-to-back with the local event for the day of the trees on 21 st November 2025 in the premise of the convenor Legno Servizi Forestry Cluster. The second workshop was organised the 5 th of March, and it was dedicated to both assessing the baseline and defining the pathways.

The participation and interest from the participants were quite good. While a few participated to both workshops, the two groups were mostly different, which needed to dedicate time to explain the process and the concepts of NPE two times.

Overall, the response was good, but for most stakeholders, coming from forestry companies, forest owners, regional government, associations, was difficult to understand how the concept of a NPE applies to their sector and how and what the sector can do to contribute towards the transitioning to a nature-positive economy.

While the concepts of sustainability and sustainable forest management were well known, participants struggled to understand the differences with a nature-positive economy.

Questions from participants were mostly focussing on which practices they would have to implement and what they should change from their current way of working.

The forestry sector in the region perceives itself as already on the pathway towards environmental sustainability and several initiatives have been started already and are currently carried out by regional authorities (e.g. certification of sustainable forest management of all regional forests, forest-timber value chain valorisation, etc.).

The difficulty highlighted is to understand if and how these initiatives can fall into the NPE concept, while ensuring the economic sustainability of companies and the whole sector is the most challenging priority.



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