

## Supporting the associations of Private Forest Owners in South East Europe

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- **Scale of activity:** regional
- **Actor/s:** Associations of Private and Communal Forest Owners (APFO) from South East Region
- **State of the activity:** started 2014, ongoing
- **Keywords:** increase capacities, network of Associations of Private Forest Owners, South East Europe (SEE)



### Summary

The project aims to increase capacities of REFORD-Regional Centre for Forestry and Rural Development <http://refordcentre.org/>. REFORD is a networking organisation representing the interest of Associations of Private Forest Owners (APFO) from Macedonia, Kosovo, Montenegro, RepublikaSrbska, Croatia, Bulgaria, Slovenia and communal forest federation from Albania. This project is promoting cooperation with and within this already existing network of eight APFO's from the SEE and ensuring sharing of experiences and joint learning through the network.

### Background and activities

CNVP - Connecting Natural Values and People Foundation - is a non-profit organisation, with its headquarter in The Hague, Netherlands. Our programmes cover Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia and Montenegro with good experience of joint business development with local partners and connected in the wider region.

The forestry support programmes provided also the opportunity for a more regional focus with a cross border project between the association for private and communal forestry. Through their regular communication, intensive sharing, learning and experiences exchange on the forestry reform processes, the regional linkages between the associations became very strong. In 2010 this Balkan network felt the need of following their good collaboration and decided to register the regional Centre for Forestry and Rural Development.

**Activities:** Support within the project is provided through activities foreseen in three result areas and outcomes:

- 1) A sustainable network of family forestry is functioning in the region;
- 2) Improved service delivery to family forest owners;
- 3) Improved learning and sharing of best practices of SFM and rural development in family forestry among the network organizations from the region.

### Outlook

**Challenges:** Increasing capacities of REFORD network to be able to address family forestry issues from the SEE in Europe. Supporting initiative groups in countries where there is a potential interest of forest owners to create their representation structures like in Serbia or Bosnia and Hercegovina.

**Next steps.** Continuation of capacity building, ensuring functional and sustainable REFORD network.

### Source and contact

**Information gathered at:** the 2nd workshop on Sustainable Forest Management (10-13November 2016)

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