

European Forest-based Sector Research Forum 2005  
Innovative and Sustainable Use of Forest Resources  
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# How to Improve the European Innovation System in Forestry

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# Why is it an issue in forestry?

**But:** making SFM economically viable is an issue

- increasing focus on services, limits to mgmt. freedom
- frame conditions for innovations are difficult

**Thus:** the sector keeps disappearing (economically)

- a rapidly changing world does not spare forestry
- increasingly sophisticated integrated production systems require adequately functioning forestry.



# Forestry Innovation System Failures

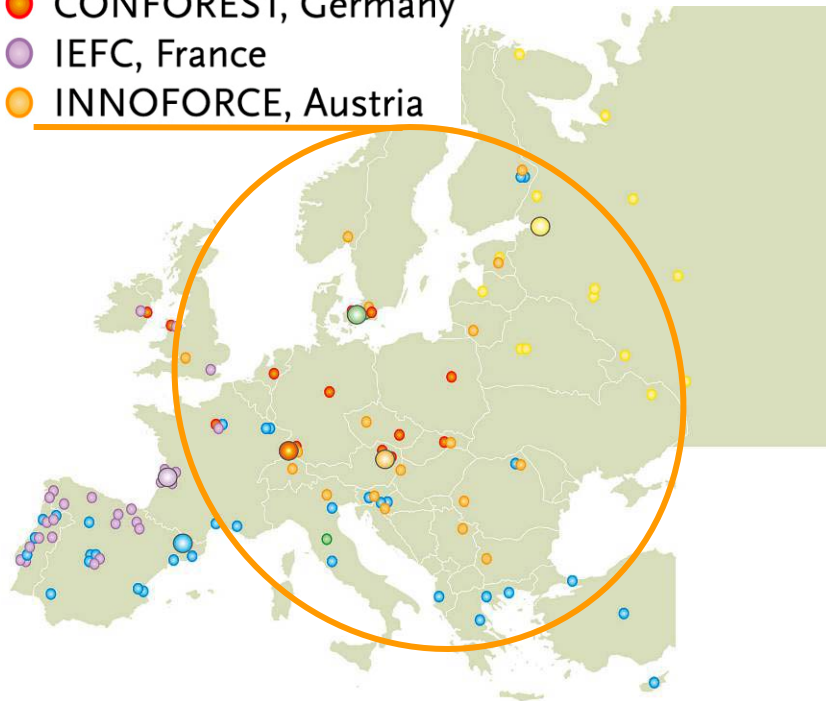
- Too little interaction (“Deliberate Lock-out”)
  - with other sectors, research, demand side, society
- Too little freedom to experiment (“Defensive Lock-in”)
  - dominance of defensive incumbent actors
  - little creative destruction & search for new combinations
  - path dependency: passivity in the past is harmful today
- Missing or inadequate institutions (“hard” and “soft”)
  - policies and programmes (financial support) in favour of incumbents, maintaining status-quo
  - weak/missing bridging or supporting networks & institutions

# How to Improve Forestry Innovation Systems

1. ... through new linking measures: opening up
    - creating interaction space: networks, platforms, events across sectors & users
    - organizing strategic intelligence work (foresight,..)
  2. ... through new / reoriented policies & programmes
    - financial support: more innovation & exploration in funding research and practice (rural development)
    - providing information on new opportunities & markets
    - support co-operation!, new knowledge building & learning
  3. ... through new / reoriented organizations
    - research & education, interest groups, extension, admin., companies
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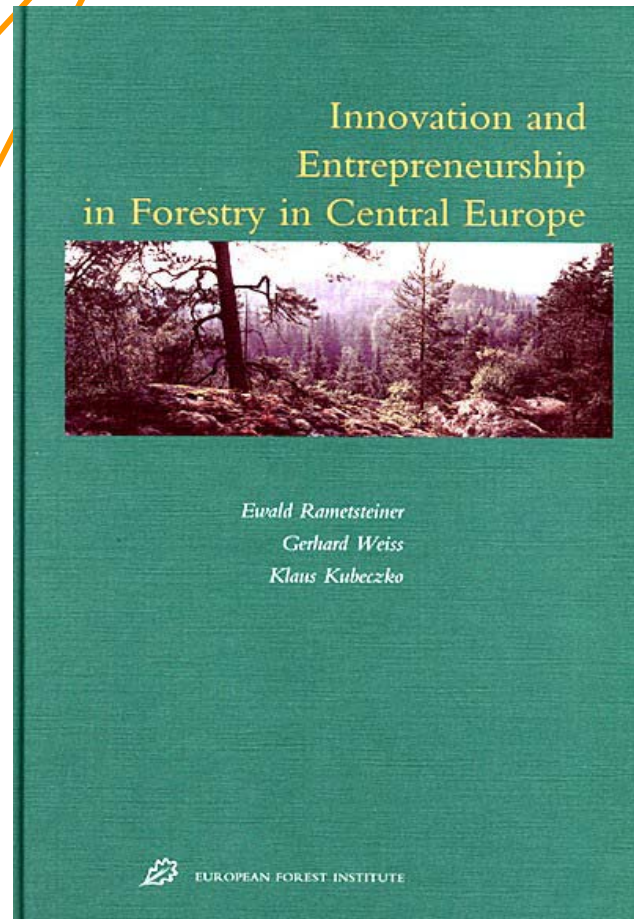
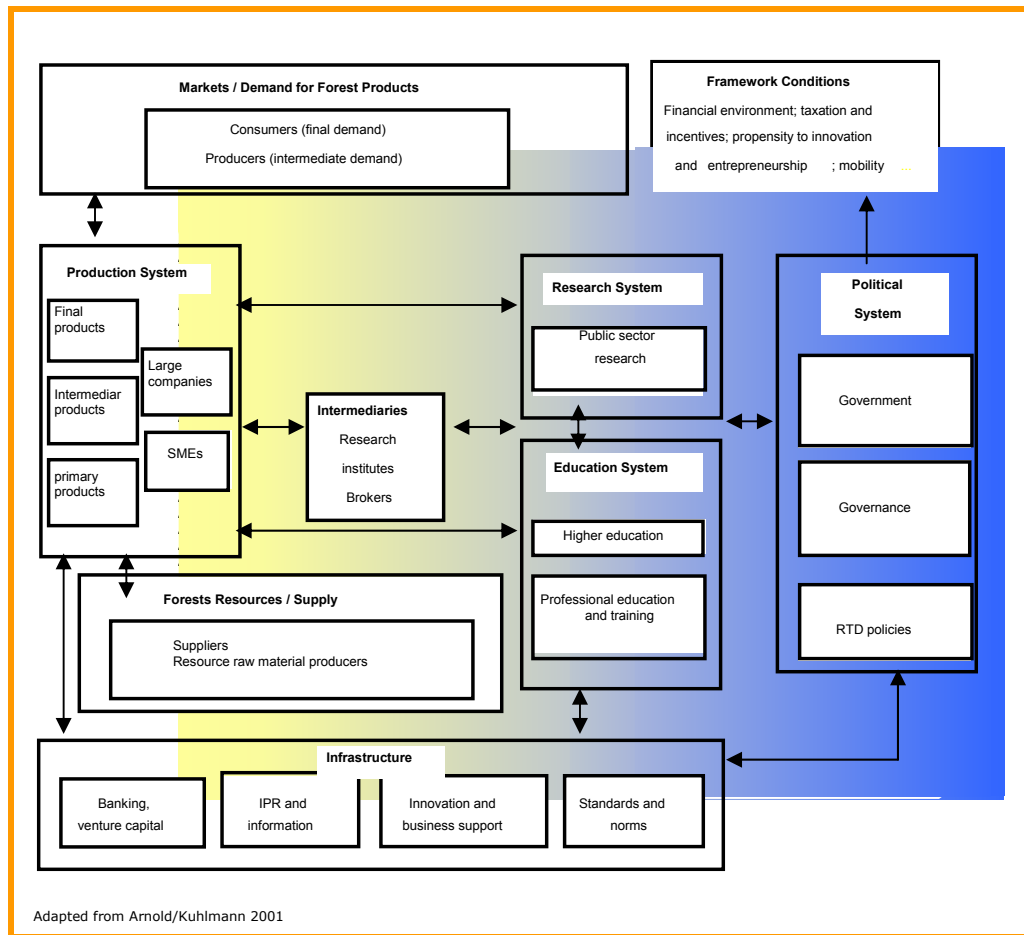
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**Towards a Sustainable  
Forest Sector in Europe:  
Fostering Innovation  
and Entrepreneurship**

# Forestry Innovation System



# How to Improve Forestry Innovation Systems

## 5 Innovation system functions

1. **Manage interfaces: Close the gap**  
...between people: other sectors, research – producers - users
2. **(de-)construct & organise innovation systems**  
...break barriers to innovation in the system (co-operation, info)  
...close gap in adoption time: early adopters - broad adoption
3. **Provide incentives and infrastructure for learning & experimenting (incl. creating opportunity)**
4. **Provide information**  
...market and strategic intelligence, strategy development,..

# Concluding remarks

1. Take a firm-level / market view
2. Create an enabling environment rather than micro-manage innovation



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