The 4-year project ‘OPTimising FORest management decisions for a low-carbon, climate resilient future in Europe’ (OptFor-EU) will support EU forests in their capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change. How? From science to practice, with a user-centred Decision Support System (DSS) assisting decision-making. OptFor-EU will work on management practices, ecosystem service provision and CO$_2$ sink provided by forests, enhancing forest resilience and its capacities to mitigate climate change.

OptFor-EU builds on state-of-the-art datasets, modelling outputs and integrated solutions to co-develop with forest stakeholders the first DSS providing suitable climate adaptation and mitigation options for science-based optimising forest ecosystem services across Europe.

The DSS will enable European forest stakeholders to get an enhanced understanding of potential changes in forest processes, ecosystem services, vulnerabilities, costs, and adaptive capacities for a range of forest management practices, and socioeconomic and climate scenarios, and to select management practices most appropriate to achieve their goals, including:

- mitigating and adapting to climate change
- maintaining and increasing biodiversity
- boosting circular forest economy
- adopting Nature Based Solutions
- integrating socio-economic considerations and forest protection and restoration, through afforestation and reforestation.

14 European forest types, over 3m hectares of forest including 1.84m hectares of protected areas

8 case studies across European forests in Austria, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Norway, Romania, Spain and The UK.

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