

Thematic axis workshops

- thematic partner Axis **T1 Integrated management of natural protected areas** -

Name of the Project:

Forêt Modèle "Model Forest"

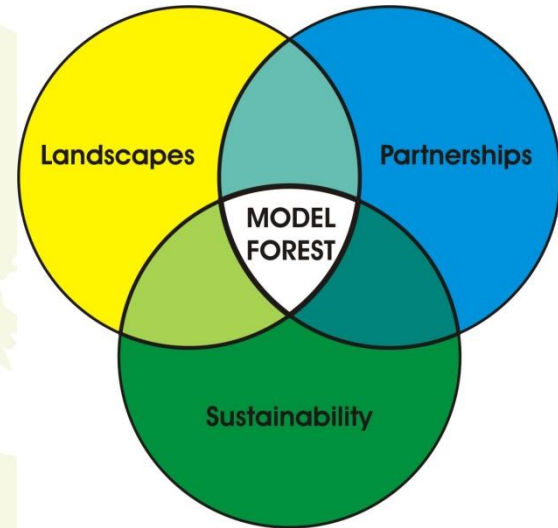
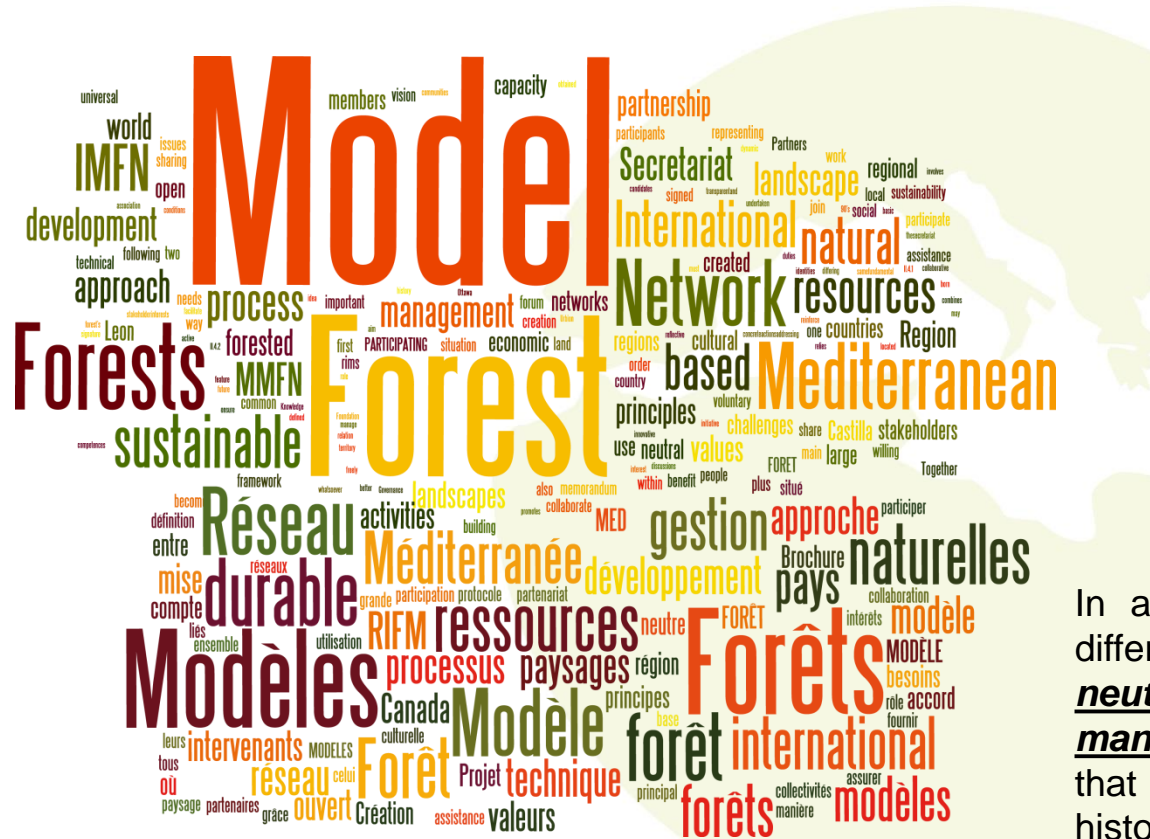
Name of the Partner:

County of Istria

Name of the speaker:

Elena Šestan, member representative of MF „River Mirna Basin"

Forêt Modèle "Model Forest" project



In a Model Forest **a variety of people** with differing interests and perspectives **form a neutral partnership** based on one goal: **to manage their own natural resources** in a way that makes the most sense to them, given their history, economic situation and cultural identities and in a way that does not jeopardize future generations

County of ISTRIA

Surface: 3.476 km²

Municipalities: 31

Cities: 10

Residents: 206.334



Model Forest „River Mirna Basin”

Modelna šuma „Sliv rijeke Mirne”

- the area is rich in agricultural land, river and forest ecosystems
- non-wood forest products such as mushrooms, truffles and medicinal herbs
- high touristic potential - recreation, sports, nature and wellness tourism
- many rural tourist households
- biomass and renewable energy resources potential



Challenges and opportunities on each cross-sectoral component

From your MED project expertise, describe shortly some C&O you have found for each corresponding topic:

Topic 1: Integrated management of natural protected areas

(add more slides if necessary)

C1 Governance and participation involvement

• Founders and members of the Model Forest „River Mirna Basin” in Istria include the Istrian County, Towns and Municipalities from its territory, public institutions relevant for the research and protection of the natural protected areas, as well as private traders and entrepreneurs, various nature-oriented associations, tourist agencies, etc.

C3 Target group focused communication needs:

• The whole population of the MF territory, BUT especially, young population, representatives of the private sector and expert institutions from the domain of forestry, water management and environmental protection

C4 Financial needs and opportunities

- The funds from the MED Forêt Modèle were sufficient for the creation of the MF "River Mirna Basin"
- Participation in IMFN and MMFN tenders and projects
- Application to national and European tenders in agriculture, tourism and entrepreneurship

Challenges and opportunities on each cross-sectoral component

From your MED project expertise, describe shortly some C&O you have found for each corresponding topic:

Topic 1: Integrated management of natural protected areas

C2 Operational and R+D priorities:

- **Nature protection, communication and education**
 - Insufficient and/or inappropriate legislation on truffle & mushroom picking
 - Insufficient and/or inappropriate legislation on the habitat preservation of truffles & mushrooms
- **Cultural and rural tourism**
 - Non-sufficient touristic valorisation of the MF territory
 - Poor cooperation between the NGOs and the tourist offices
- **Agriculture, cattle breeding and sustainable management of the territory**
 - Out-dated agricultural land registers
 - Inappropriate government incentives for agricultural land and lack of supervision regarding the implementation
- **Non-wood forest products**
 - Branding of the Model Forest „River Mirna Basin” products, implementation of product traceability
 - Modification of the legislation on non-wood forest products
- **Forestry, hunting and renewable energy resources**
 - Government incentives for biomass and renewable energy resources processing
 - Continuous investments into wildfire protection and afforestation of MF territory

List of operational tools and best cases

From your MED project outputs, mention shortly some operational tools or best cases experience that could be linked with the corresponding topic (classify them by component if is possible):

Topic 1: Integrated management of natural protected areas

C1 Governance and participation involvement

- *Model Forest tool kit - for the establishment of MF „River Mirna Basin”*
- *Methodological guide for the creation of MF*
- *Organisation of local meetings and workshops on the territory of MF*

C2 Operational and R+D priorities:

- *Informing, motivating and including stakeholders from different sectors*
- *Creation of the MF stakeholders database*
- *Work group meetings*
- *Drafting the Strategic plan of the MF „River Mirna Basin”*

C3 Target group focused communication needs:

- *Private and civil sector representatives, expert institutions, NGOs*

Description of operational tools and best cases

From your MED project outputs, mention shortly some operational tools or best cases experience that could be linked with the corresponding topic:

Topic 1: Integrated management of natural protected areas

Current phase of the Model Forest project in the Istrian County:

- **July 2013** - Registration of the association Model Forest „River Mirna Basin”
- **September 2013 – March 2014** – monthly workshops on drafting and development of the Strategic Plan of the MF „River Mirna Basin” by the members of 5 work groups
- **17th March, 2014** – Model Forest „River Mirna Basin” strategic workshop
- **April 2014** – *expected* adoption of the Strategic plan and defining the vision and the mission of the Model Forest



Description of operational tools and best cases

From your MED project outputs, mention shortly some operational tools or best cases experience that could be linked with the corresponding topic:

Topic 1: Integrated management of natural protected areas

Further requirements:

• **Databases** of the inventory on the Model Forest territory

- animal and plant species, water potential, hydrographical network

• Continuous activities of **awareness raising of the public** on the understanding and importance of sustainable and integrated land management for the development of the MF community

- **Website, educative materials, targeted workshops**

• **Exchange of best case examples and experiences** from other partners with similar challenges in this stage of the project

• Continuous **efforts** in **bringing** other **potential stakeholders** into the Model Forest



Methodological recommendations

From your MED project expertise, mention shortly some methodological recommendations for improving / enhancing a project proposition / development / transferring that could be linked with the corresponding topic (classify them by component if is possible):

Topic 1: Integrated management of natural protected areas

C2 Operational and R+D priorities:

- *Systematic education and raising the awareness of the public regarding the preservation of natural habitats and nature protection*
- *Encouraging the sustainable development of tourist and commercial activities on the territory of the MF*
- *Increase the offer and competitiveness of the local produce from the MF territory, both wood and non-wood products*
- *Development of eco-agriculture and ecological food processing*

C3 Target group focused communication needs:

- *Expert institutions relevant for the management of the natural protected area*
- *Institutional support for the investments of private stakeholders into renewable energy resources production*

C4 Financial needs and opportunities

- *Ensuring funds for the implementation of 3 initial MF activities after its creation - influence on higher level of involvement of private investments into the territory*
- *Revision, better use and capitalisation of national and European incentives of agricultural sector*