



LAUNCHING CONFERENCE

LIFE SySTEMiC

CLOSE-TO-NATURE FOREST SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES UNDER CLIMATE CHANGES

25 November 2019

Time 11:00 am

**Università degli Studi di Firenze
Aula Magna della Scuola di Agraria
Florence**

Piazzale delle Cascine, 18





The climate change challenge: genetic variability as a tool to save European forests

The influence of climate change on forests is now established and its effects are also visible on European forests. In the Mediterranean area, rising temperatures and the increased frequency of extreme events such as wind storms, heat waves and prolonged dry periods pose a threat to forest formations and new challenges for the sustainable management of forest resources. A very recent and striking example is the Vaia storm, which in one day, in October 2018, destroyed more than 40,000 hectares of forests in the North East of Italy.

The **LIFE SySTEMiC** project (LIFE18 ENV/IT/000124), financed by the EU under the LIFE programme, coordinated by University of Florence and involving partners from Croatia, Slovenia, and Italy, is a project that uses the "tool" of **genetic variability** to protect our forests. The basic idea of the project is relatively simple: the higher the genetic variability of trees in forests, the more likely it is that some trees have genetic characteristics that give greater adaptability to climate change, thereby increasing resistance and the resilience of the forest system and, therefore, help forests to survive.

The **LIFE SySTEMiC** project involves several tree species (Beech, Silver fir, Pedunculate oak, Downy oak, Holly oak, Austrian pine, Maritime pine, Stone pine). It aims to identify **Sustainable Forest Management** methods and silvicultural systems that allow to maintain **higher genetic variability** for all species. Another central project objective is to spread the knowledge of these methods and to promote their use by involving stakeholders, including management bodies, research institutions, forest certification schemes.

The partners in the **LIFE SySTEMiC** project are University of Florence (Dipartimento di Scienze e Tecnologie Agrarie, Agroalimentari, Ambientali e Forestali), Regional Park of Migliarino, San Rossore e Massaciuccoli, Unione dei Comuni Montani del Casentino, D.R.E.Am. Italia, Slovenian Forestry Institute, Slovenian Forest Service and Croatian Forest Research Institute.

The launching conference of the **LIFE SySTEMiC** project will take place in Florence in the "Aula Magna" of the "Scuola di Agraria" on Monday, 25th of November, 2019. During the Conference the project will be presented to the press.