



Background

After 200 years of unprecedented urbanization and economic growth based on a fossil-based economy, we have arrived at a tipping point. Our urbanized world has become too big for our planet. This is clearly exemplified by climate change, biodiversity loss and the degradation of our natural resources.

Cities, our economic and innovation hubs, need to take the lead in rethinking our economy and its relationship to nature. Cities need to lead a transformational change, not only in replacing fossil energy by renewable energy but also by taking the lead in replacing non-renewable materials like plastics, steel or concrete with renewable biobased materials, and replacing grey infrastructures with green ones, making nature a basic urban infrastructure. Trees, forests and wood have a crucial role to play.

About the European Forest Institute

The European Forest Institute (EFI) is a pan-European international organization. It has 30 Member Countries, and c. 130 member organizations from 40 different countries working in diverse research fields. EFI provides forest-related knowledge around three interconnected and interdisciplinary themes: bioeconomy, resilience and governance.

With a staff of over 100 experts in several offices across Europe, EFI is in a unique position to generate, connect and share knowledge at the interface between science and policy. Its high-level ThinkForest forum brings together policy makers and leading European forest scientists to generate science-policy dialogue on strategic forest-related issues. EFI is a leading science-policy platform providing forest-related knowledge to build a sustainable future: connecting knowledge to action.
www.efi.int

About EFI's Biocities Facility

EFI's Biocities Facility aims to create an informed dialogue on how trees, forests and wood can contribute to rethinking our cities, so they can lead the transformation towards a climate-neutral and nature-positive economy. It works across scientific disciplines and actors to connect knowledge to action to transform the way we create and live in cities.

Target groups for the event:

- Urban foresters and park managers
- Architects/urbanists
- Fashion designers
- Policy makers
- Journalists
- Scientists
- Diplomats
- Other organisations

Grand Opening of EFI's Biocities Facility & Cities in the Age of Forests

20 April 2023 Rome, 08:30-18:00, Location: *Sala Protomoteca, Piazza del Campidoglio*

8:30-09:15 Registration and pre-coffee network

Welcome: *Livia Podestà, EFI Biocities Facility, Rome*

09:15-10:30 High-level opening

Moderator: Marco Marchetti, Chair of EFI Board

- Roberto Gualtieri, Mayor of Rome
- Antonio Tajani, Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Francesco Lollobrigida, Minister of Agriculture, Food Security and Forestry
- Stefano Vaccari, DG of Research Council for Agriculture and Bioeconomy, CREA
- Jan Björklund, Ambassador of Sweden in Italy

10:30-12:30 ThinkForest seminar – Forests and the cities of the future

Moderator: Helga Pülzl, EFI Assistant Director

10:30- 10:50 Marc Palahí, EFI Director, “The Age of Forests” (introductory keynote)

10:50- 12:15 Panel Discussion: Challenges and opportunities for cities and the role of forests

Moderator: Gesche Schifferdecker, EFI

Panelists:

- Stefano Boeri, Stefano Boeri Architetti – Architecture / Urban planning
- Rossella Ravagli, Giorgio Armani SPA – Sustainable fashion
- Yvonne Lynch, Royal Commission for Riyadh City
- Sandra Frank, Co-founder Arvet - Cities made of wood

12:15-12:30 Closing of the session

12:30- 13:55 Light lunch at Terrazza Caffarelli (a short walk from the venue)

Transforming Biocities: Designing urban spaces inspired by nature

14:00-16:00 Afternoon session

Moderated by Francesco Rutelli, President of the Foundation Centre for a Sustainable Future

14:00-14:10 Francesco Rutelli, “Introductory Remarks - Rome's History and Trees”

14:10 -14:40 Keynote: Introduction of the Transforming Biocities book by Giuseppe Scarascia-Mugnozza, EFI Head of Biocities Facility & University of Tuscia and Vicente Guallart, Founder IAAC (Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalonia)

14:45 – 16:45 Panel discussion “The future of cities: Research on Biocities”

Moderator: Jerylee Wilkes-Allemann, Research Associate at the School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences, Bern University, “Research Agenda: Biocities of the future”

Panelists:

- Liz O’Brien, Society and Environment Research Group, Forest Research, UK
- Riccardo Valentini, University of Tuscia & Nobel Peace Prize
- Monica Ubalde, Barcelona Institute for Global Health
- Fabio Salbitano, University of Sassari
- Dan Lambe, The Second World Forum on Urban Forest by Arbor Day Foundation, Smithsonian Institute and FAO
- Clive Davies, European Forum on Urban Forest

16:45- 17:00 Concluding remarks

Alessandra Capuano, Director Department of Architecture & Design, University of Rome-Sapienza

17:00-18:00 Mingle & network, with possibilities for interviews.