

International Workshop

‘Introduced tree species in European forests: challenges and opportunities’



An international workshop took place in Freiburg im Breisgau (Germany) on 29/30 of June 2015 where 25 experts on introduced and invasive tree species from across the European continent participated. One of the main aims of the project *IN-TREE*, the compilation of a publication on ‘Introduced tree species in European forests’ involving various experts in this field, was discussed during two days, inside and outside of the forest.

The workshop kicked off with the warm welcome by Thomas Haußmann from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food (BMEL) that funds the project *IN-TREE* whose major deliverable is the proposed publication. This followed by EFICENT team’s presentations of the *IN-TREE* project and on the summary of the key definitions that are to be used for the purpose of the publication.

The workshop was split into three presentation sessions where participants presented the content of their anticipated contributions:

- Challenges and opportunities - different case studies across Europe
- Key challenges of introduced and invasive tree species
- Management options and approaches for introduced and invasive tree species

Individual presentations were concluded with discussion on a presented topic. Each presentation session closed with an open discussion on all contributions presented within the given session and how they fit within the proposed publication.

Many valuable comments provided during individual discussion sessions delivered important feedback on the way the publication has been planned. In addition, the workshop extended the

network of experts on the topics covered in the publication, which is tremendously important for a successful progress of the publication as well as for future collaborative work.

The workshop was concluded with a field trip to the Freiburg City Forest that was kindly hosted by Nicole Schmalfuss from the Municipal Forest Administration Freiburg. Although Freiburg City Forest comprises of various tree species, this field trip specifically focused on the management of Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Mirb.) Franco) as it is an introduced tree species (from the Pacific East coast of North America) that has caused substantially heated debate throughout Germany but also in other European countries.



Freiburg City forest: different stages of stand development and management approaches applied