



## TREES4FUTURE: A success story and future perspectives: European Tree Breeding Centre

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New Wind ®

# Trees4Future

*Designing trees for the future*

2012-2016  
*Research infrastructures for forestry research*

*Luc E. Pâques (INRA-AGPF)*

Final conference, Brussels April 4-6, 2016

Designing Trees for the Future



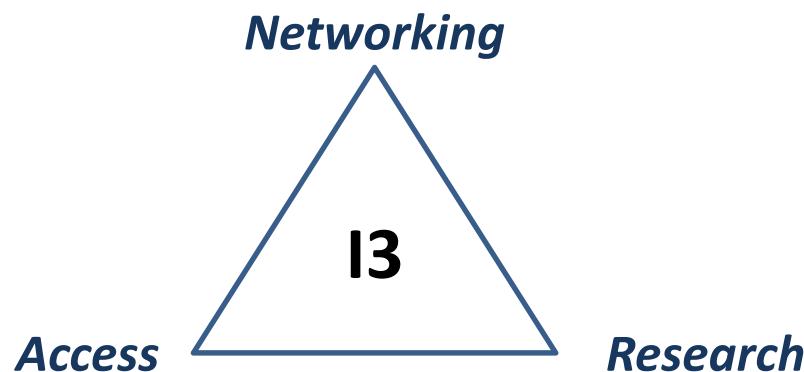
# Objectives: the call... (July 2010)



## 'Research infrastructures for forestry research:

*A project under this topic must provide and facilitate access to the key research infrastructures in Europe for **forestry** research. It should aim to integrate these facilities and resources with a long term perspective.*

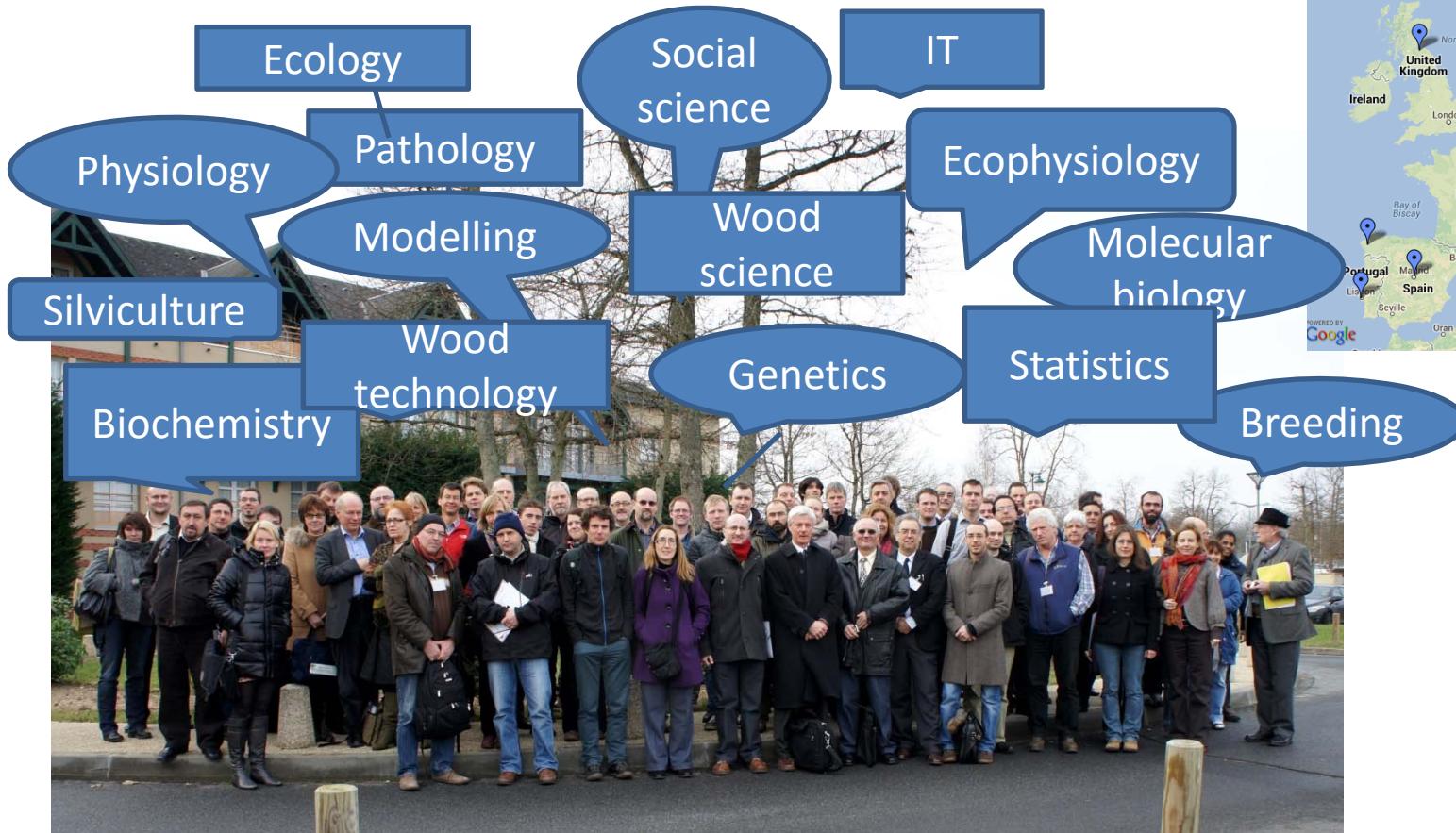
*The overall objective should be to improve services for researchers*



- *sustained and multi-functional production of the forests goods and services*
- *as well as climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies,*
- *and preservation of biodiversity in industrial forests*



# 1st challenge: A multi-disciplinary consortium

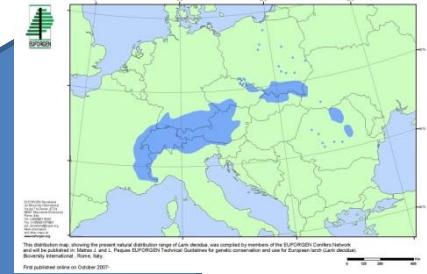
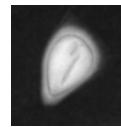


28 partners

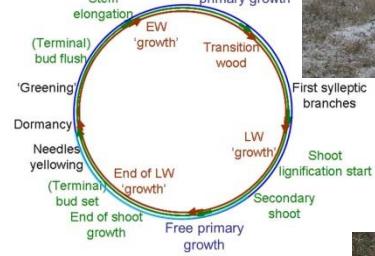
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## 2nd challenge: The complexity of forestry research



**INTERACTIONS**



**TIME**



**SPACE**



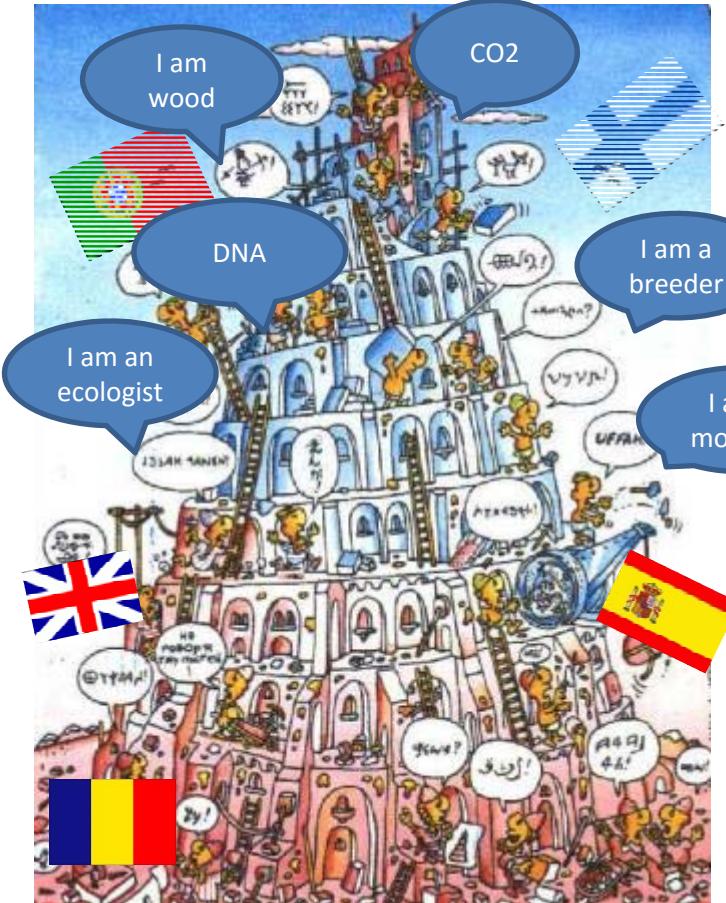
**SCALE**

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**MULTI-TRAITS**

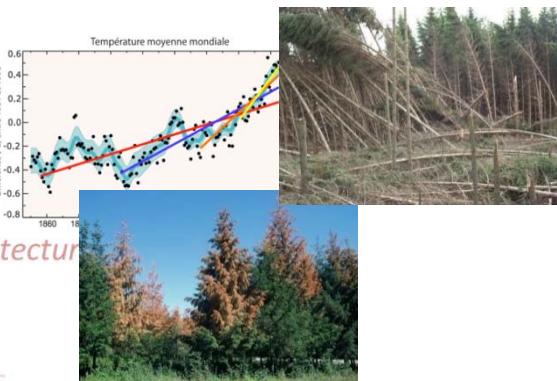
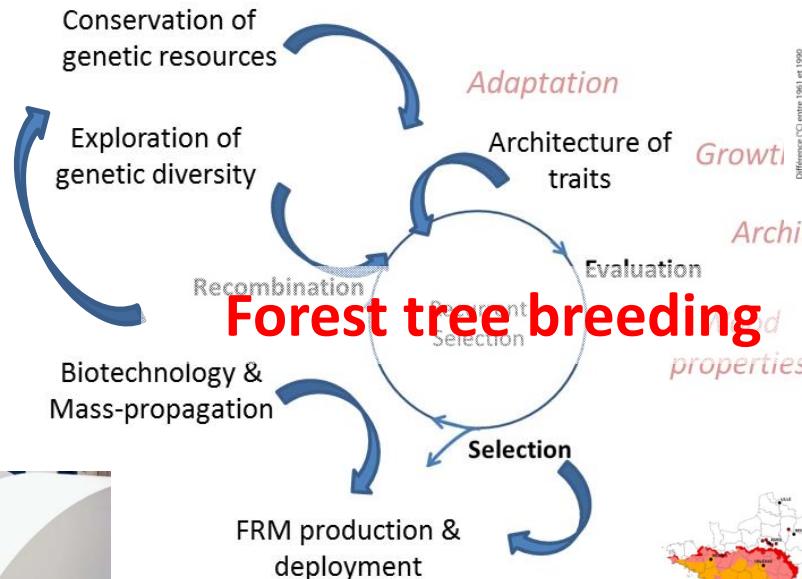


# How to avoid this?



*pro-active position* to prepare research supports to develop better adapted, productive and quality trees in diversified forests

## Native forests



## Forest tree breeding



## Plantation forests



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# Designing trees for the future... outcomes

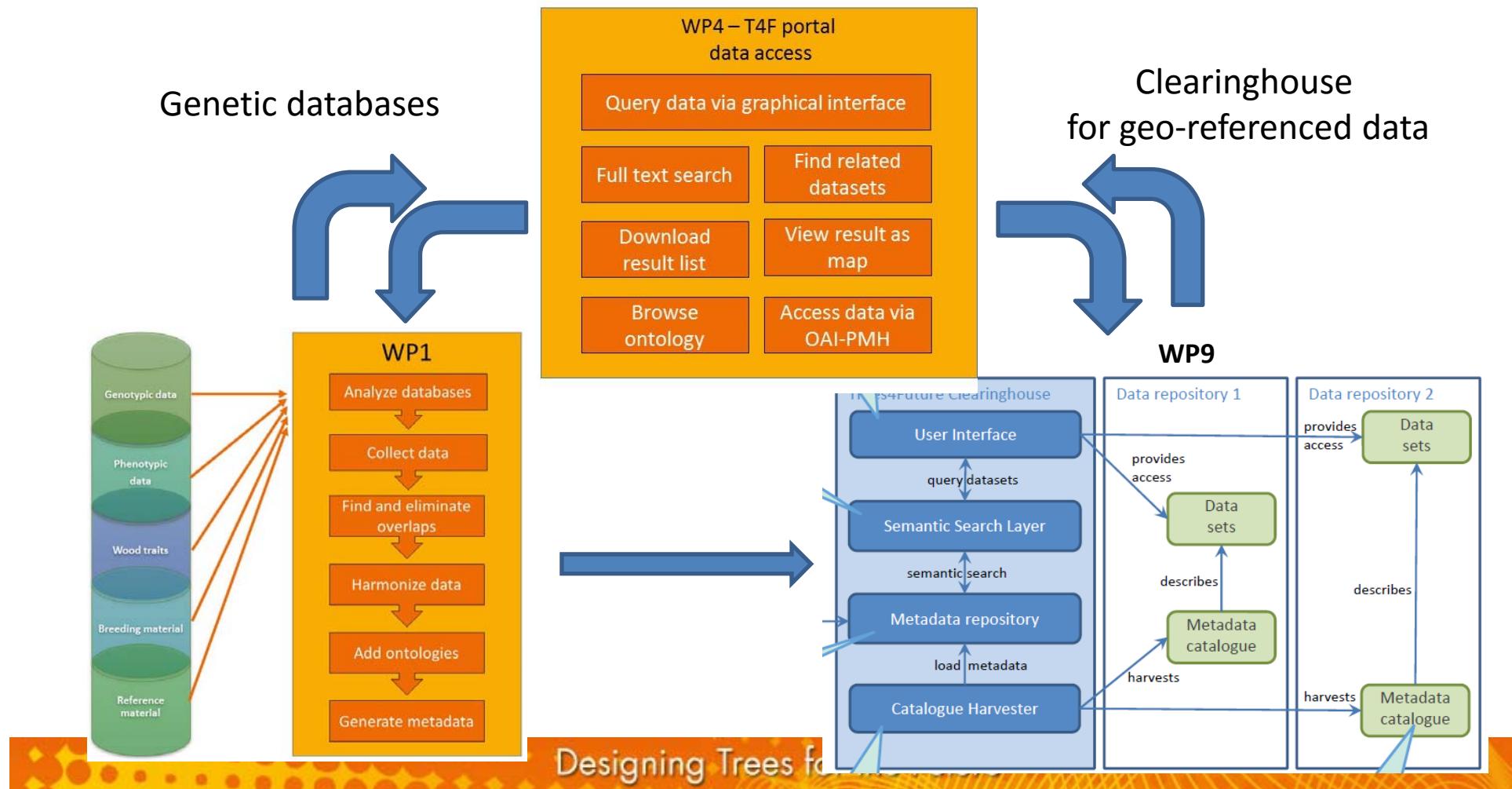


## 1. Access to resources and exchanges of expertise

## 2. New or improved methodologies and tools

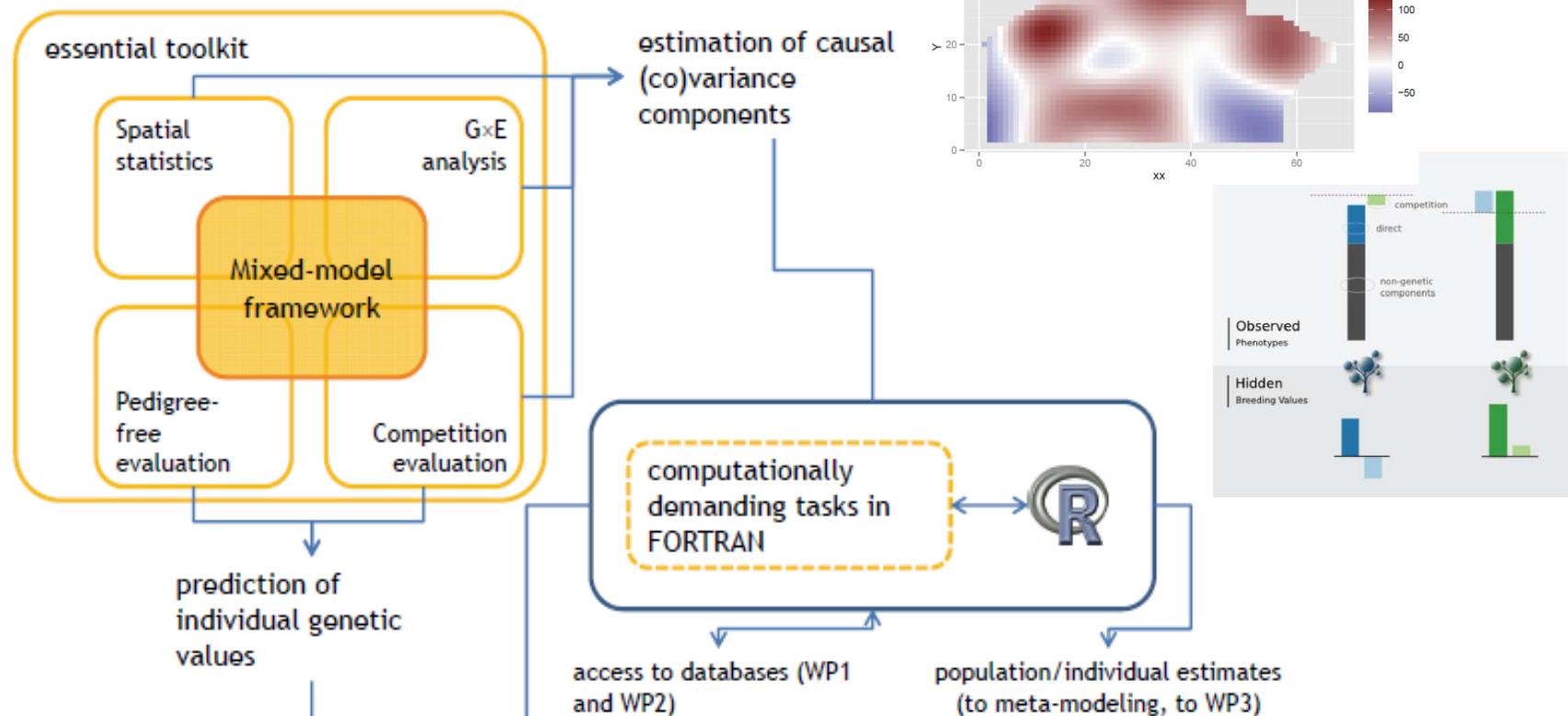
- To information (genetics – environment)
- Better or new ways to generate data
  - International information systems (WP1, WP4, WP9)
  - Standardisation of methodologies (WP2)
- To biological material (MTA) (WP1)
- To diversified forestry research infrastructures (WP5, TNA)
- To services from some key-laboratories (molecular, NIRS) (WP7, WP11)
- From emergent scientific thematic communities
  - Statistical/genetic analysis tools for genetic experiments (WP6)
  - Analysis of tree reaction to environment (WP3, WP8, WP11)
  - Planification of breeding/deployment zones (WP8)
  - Models to simulate impacts of environmental/human practices changes on forestry resources and services (WP10)

## the gate to genetic and environmental data in forestry





# breedR: a powerful open-access suite of statistical tools for forest genetic resources analysis

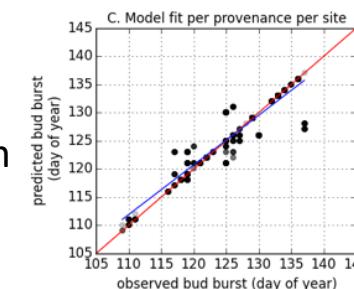
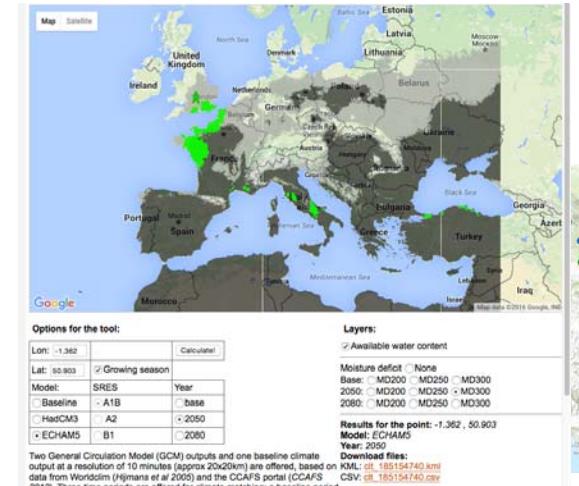




# Spatial modelling tools for deployment of Forest Reproductive Material

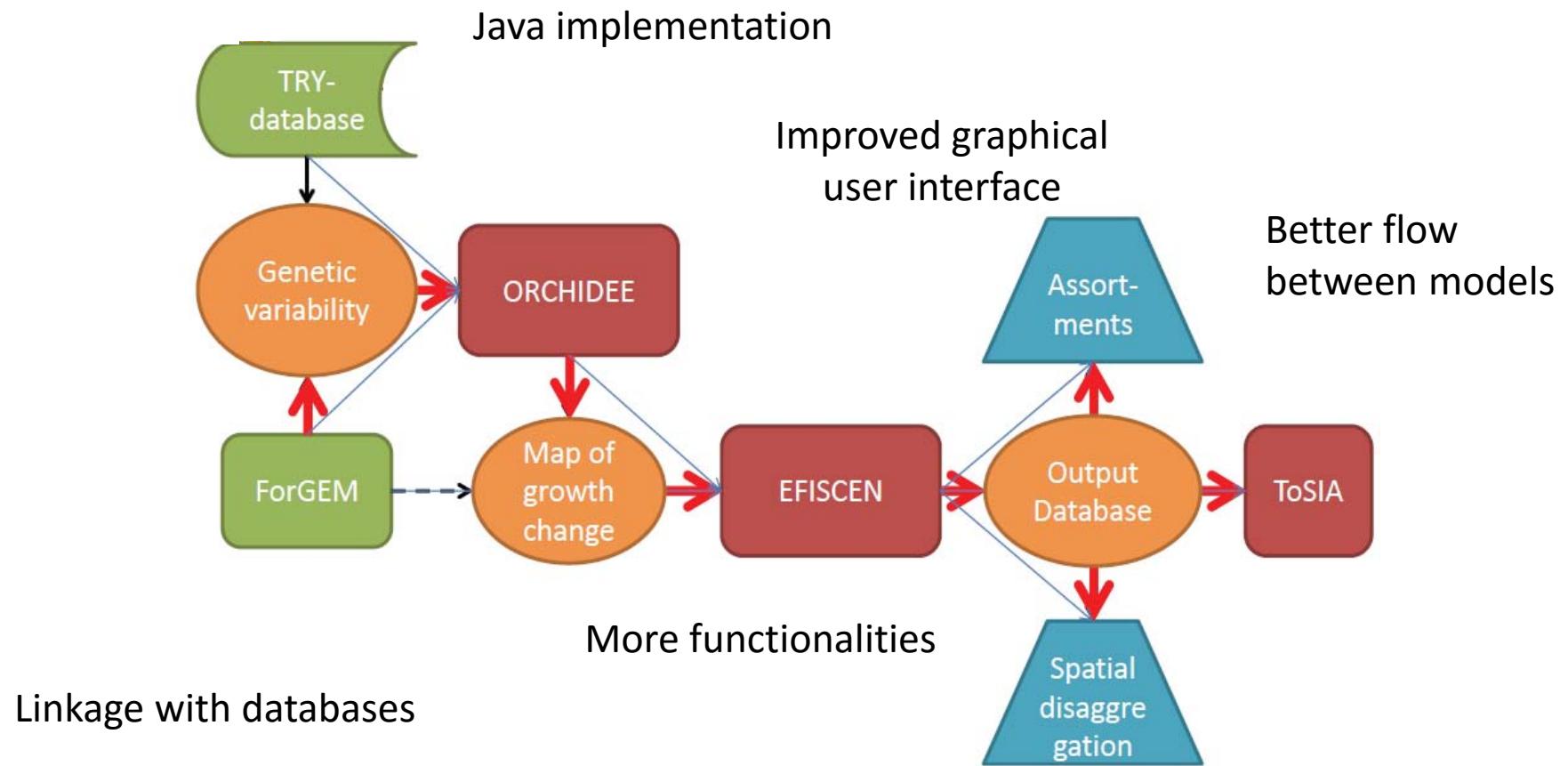


- Climate matching tool web application
- Provenance zone suitability in Europe: Douglas-fir and beech  
Used bioclimatic multivariate and ensemble models  
Douglas-fir: greater genetic adaptation and plasticity to cope with site types outside its niche  
Beech: net loss in area excepted in one bioclimatic zone
- Beech provenance flushing at European test sites  
Provenances able to adapt to new conditions  
Phenotypic plastic response observed in flushing time far from site of origin
- Provenance trial design should be more thorough  
Test all material at all sites: survival, growth, phenology  
Pool empirical trial data in Europe – hence the need for a European Tree Breeding Centre

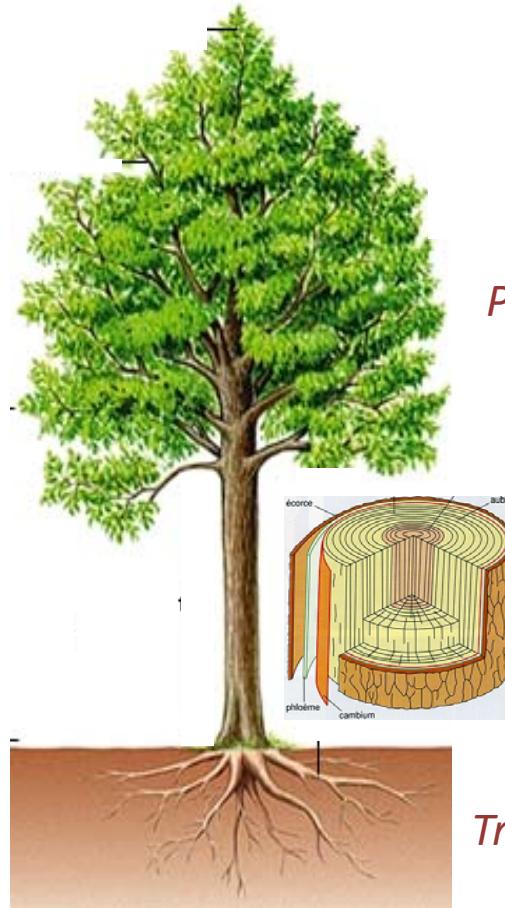


adaptive differences between provenances + phenotypic plasticity

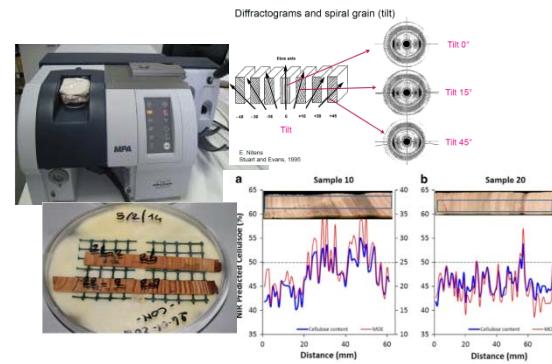
# Better integration and greater power of forest resources models



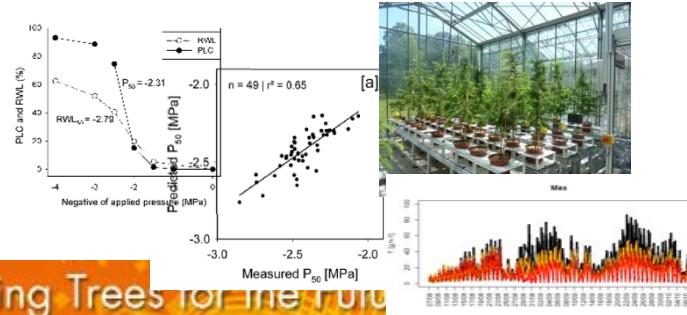
# High-throughput phenotyping methodologies



Flushing  
Senescence  
Dormancy



Lignin/cellulose  
Extractives  
Durability  
Collapse  
MOE  
Spiral grain



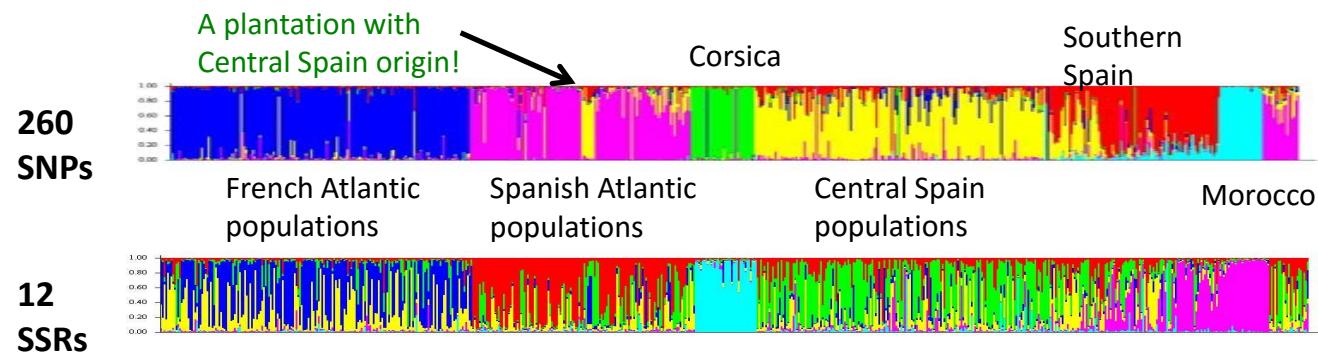
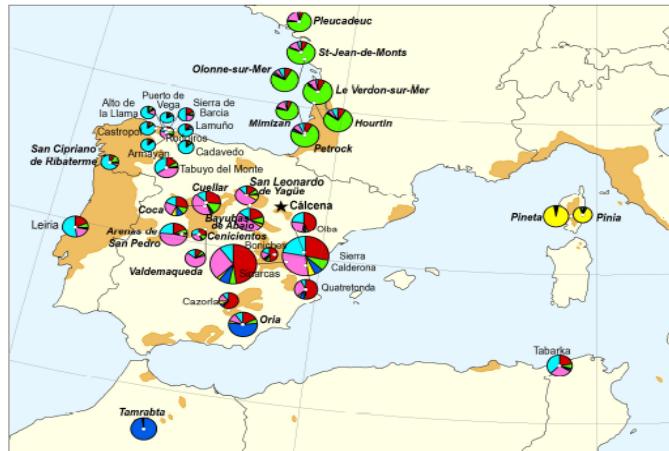
Conductivity  
Cavitation  
WUE



# Towards a network of laboratories for FRM ‘forensics’

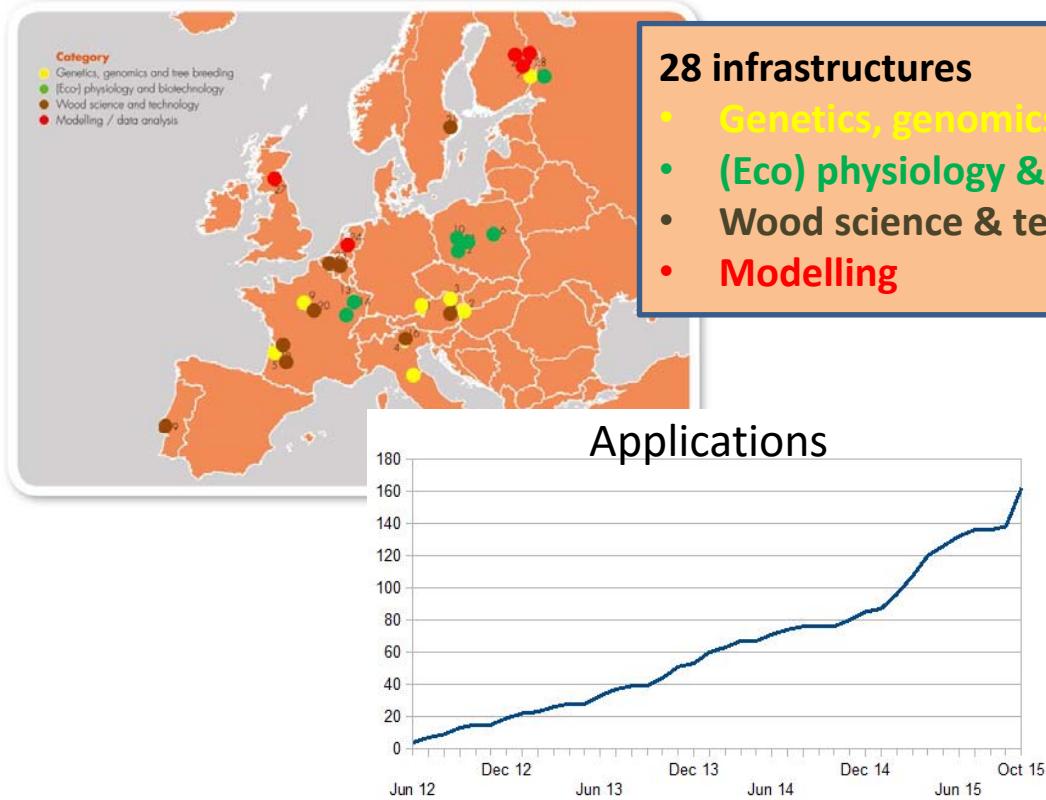


*Objective: exchange, ‘standardisation’, development of SSR and/or SNPs for traceability of Forest Reproductive Material*





# TNA programme: how to bring fresh air to research...?



## 28 infrastructures

- **Genetics, genomics & breeding**
- **(Eco) physiology & biotechnology**
- **Wood science & technology**
- **Modelling**

## Origins of 114 TNA visitors

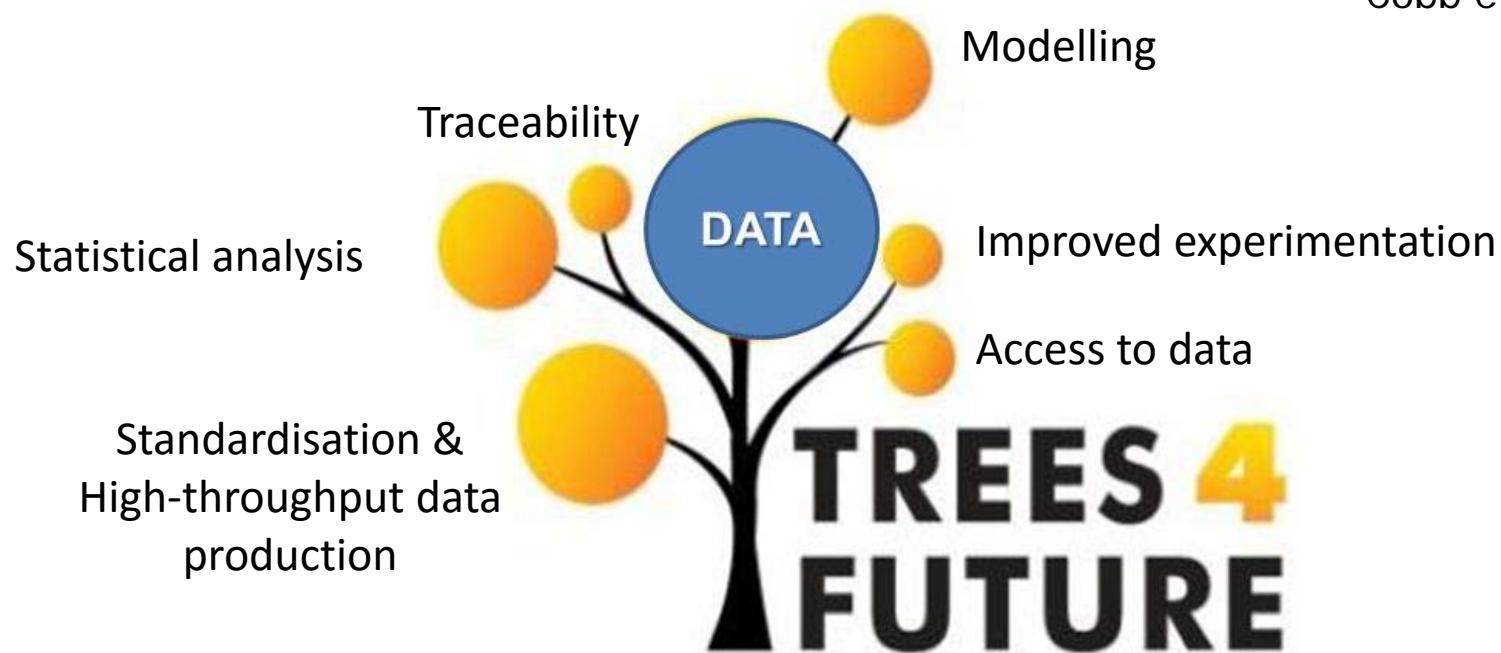


*'I admire and appreciate the support provided. Through this programme I could establish new networks and links with experts which will be an important milestone in future research work.'*

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*'Move from a **data-starved**, largely **observational** discipline...  
to a **data-rich** science capable of **prediction**'*

Cobb et al. 2013





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## Which vision for the future?

*From TREEBREEDEX and Trees4Future RI projects to...*

*the idea of a European Tree Breeding Centre*



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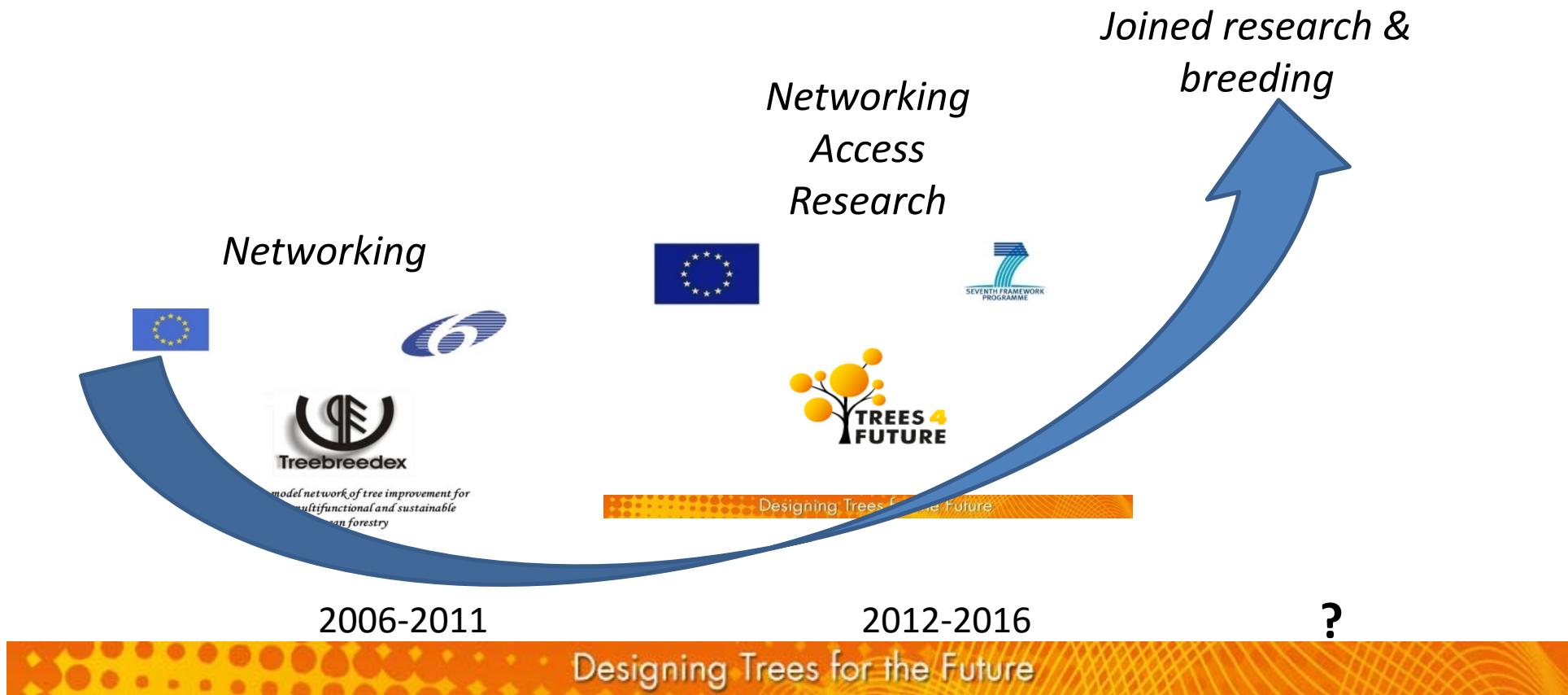


# Which vision for the future?



*From TREEBREEDEX and TREES4FUTURE RI projects to...*

*the idea of a European Tree Breeding Centre*





# Towards a European Tree Breeding Centre: Rationale



## FOREST TREE BREEDING

*Makes value of native/exotic genetic resources  
to create, mass-produce and deploy improved material*

European-wide range:  
(native/cultivated) of species  
and other organisms

European-wide challenges:  
climatic, pest & disease,  
industrial, societal



**Breeding → Huge impact: 50% of European forests are planted forests**

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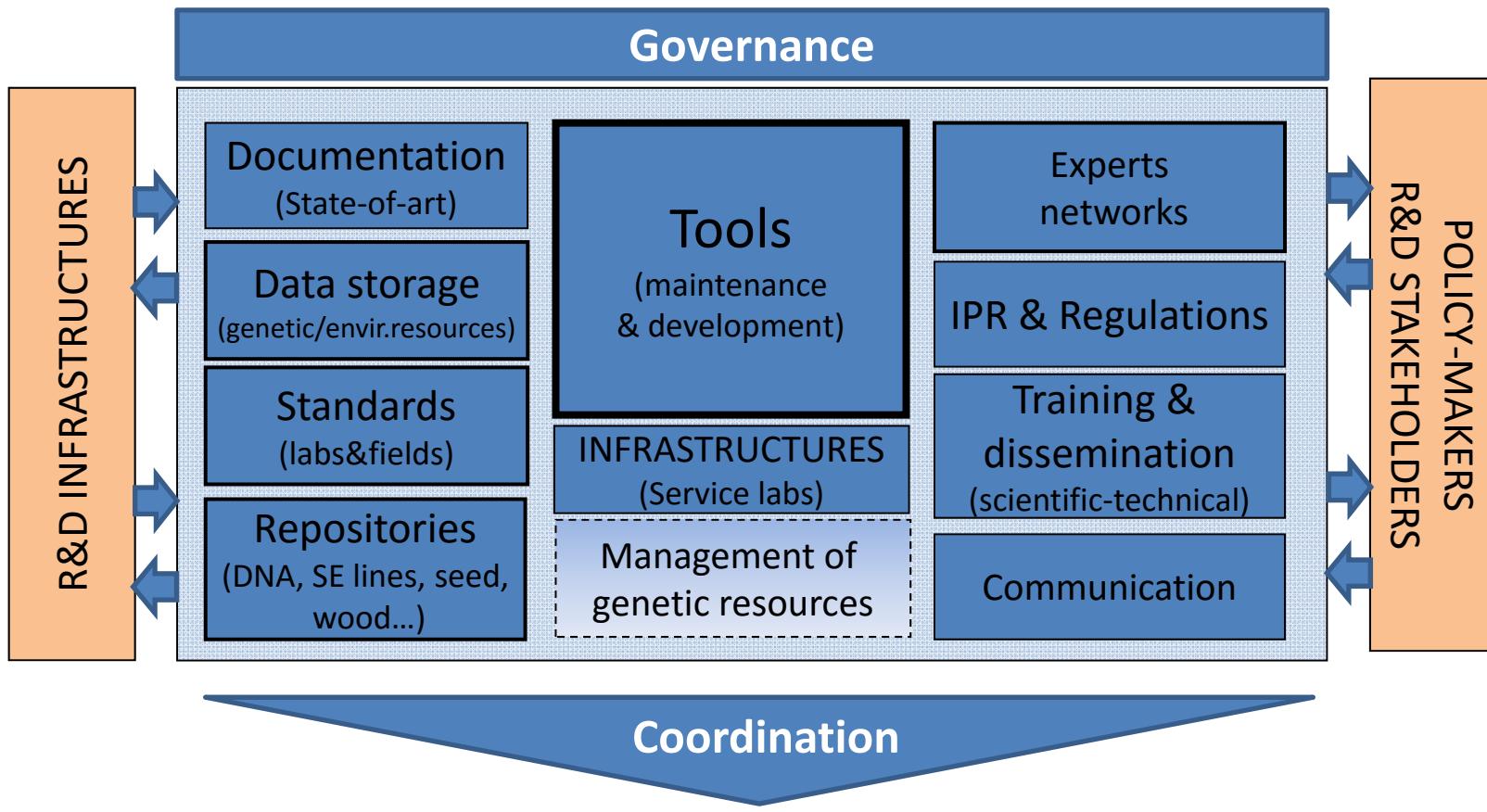
## Towards a European Tree Breeding Centre: Rationale



	Constraints	Needs
European-wide range of species	Genetic diversity Constrained environments	Accessibility
Multi-species	Focus on 3-4 species	Diversification
Perennial species	Long-term perspectives	Continuity
Multi-objectives	Increased complexity (multi-trait, diversity...)	Multi-disciplinary
Breeding activities	Ups and downs	Continuity, critical mass
Breeding process	Scattered R&D expertise	Chain-process
Breeding expertise	Highly heterogeneous	Exchange, training
Urgency of some challenges	Time is 'against' breeding	Join forces!

***More reactive, more efficient, more cost-effective, broader scope***

# *Towards a European Tree Breeding Centre?*



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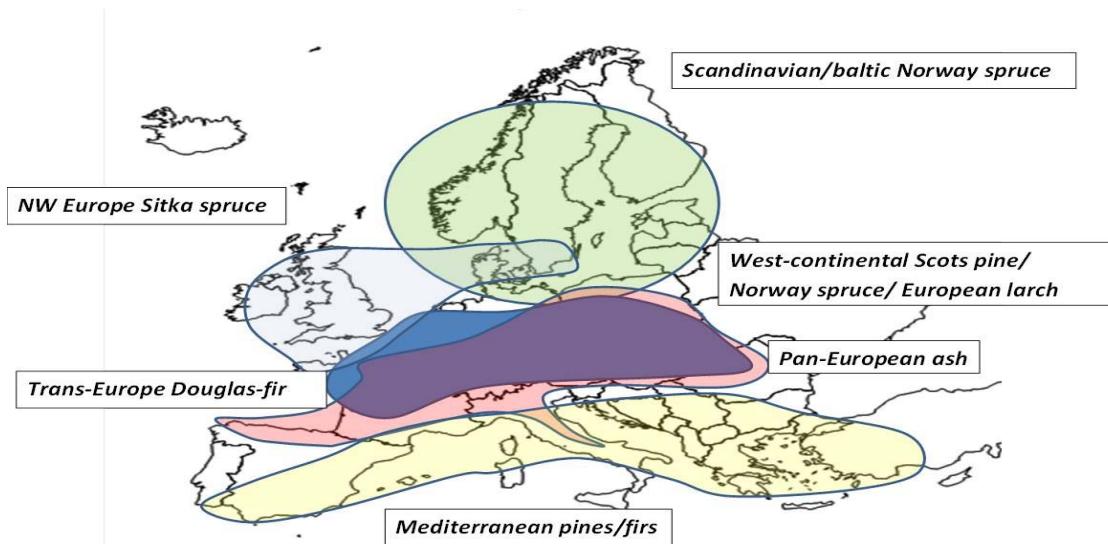
Joined breeding programmes...



# *Why not in Europe?*



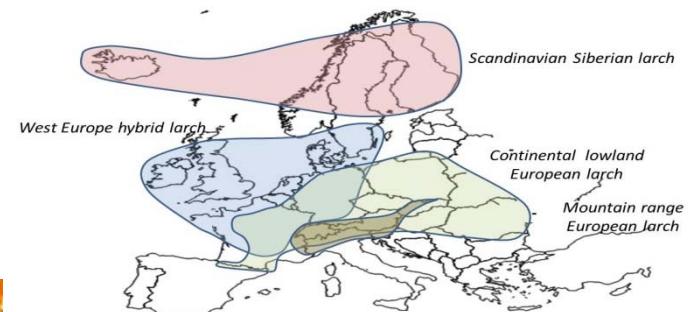
Ex. Norway spruce breeding programmes: 21!



**NOW**



**TO MORROW?**



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## European Tree Breeding Centre: stakeholders' perception



New innovations from 'joined-up' thinking

Sharing methodologies

Increasing capacity

Improving cooperation

Learning from different perspectives

## European Tree Breeding Centre

How to coordinate ... with different 'ways of doing things'?

Who decides on the focus?

Added value of a centre?

What will be the administrative burden?

How will the Centre be funded?

M. Marzano, FR



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



**Co-coordination:** G-J.Nabuurs (ALTERRA, NL)

## WP leaders

S.Flusch (AIT-AU) (S.Gaubitzer)	WP1	L.Sanchez (INRA, FR)	WP6
B.De Cuyper (INBO, BE) (M.Steenackers)	WP2	B.Heinze (BFW, AU)	WP7
J.Climent (INIA, SP)	WP3	D.Ray (FR, UK)	WP8
J.Van Brusselen (EFI, FI) (L.Salminen)	WP4	R.Lockers (ALTERRA, NL)	WP9
F.Miglietta, P.Rosà (FEM, IT)	WP5	G.J.Nabuurs (ALTERRA, NL)	W10
Y.Lecuona (IT, FR) (A.Bakker, L.Premvardhan)	WP12	L.E.Pâques (INRA, FR)	WP11

**28 TNA site managers** and **114 TNA visitors** + **Panel of reviewers**  
& all participants

## Conference organisation

A.Pignard and I.Viriot (IT, FR), M.Korhonen and N.Valbuena (EFI, FI)



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