

## The ENFE newsletter

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## CefCo – Certification of Forestry Contractors

### Why do we need Certification of Forestry Contractors?

Forest entrepreneurs carry out a wide range of forestry operations. They offer services to forest owners and forest based industries, among which timber harvesting and transport are predominant. But more and more management tasks are contracted to forest entrepreneurs.

The requirements for qualified services in forest operations become more and more challenging. Forest certification criteria and legal requirements for operations have increased over the recent years, and we have experienced in many countries that contractors are obliged to prove that they are able to fulfil this requirements.

In some countries contractors already have developed certification or licensing systems. However, in most cases these are not directly linked to forest management certification, and they are also designed to meet other objectives than to

prove responsible operations (e.g. quality management, legal compliance, safety and health). But in some cases (e.g. Germany and Netherlands) contractor certificates are already accepted as being in compliance with certification of forest management by FSC and PEFC standards.

### CefCo - A project to provide guidance to contractors for improved services

The objective of this three year project is to develop tools for the certification of forestry contractors which shall be complementary to the certification schemes of responsible forest management certification. By engaging a certified forestry contractor, the forest owner can be assured that this service enterprise complies with all relevant certification requirements, and he can easily outsource responsibilities related to certification of his forest management. The concept will be tested first in four European countries.

Dear Reader,

This special edition of the ENFE News is published to inform you about the project CefCo which was launched this summer.

CefCo is the acronym for Certification of Forestry Contractors, and it deals with an issue which is high on the ENFE agenda for many years. As you will see in this ENFE News this project is complementary and facilitates our initiative towards a European framework for the certification of Good Practice of forest entrepreneurs.

We hope that with our commitment to this project we will contribute to the further improvement of our services for forestry and wood industry.

Yours

Edgar Kastenholz

ENFE Secretary General

Awareness raising, training and promotion will follow at the national and European level. Partners in this project are **NEPCon** (lead), **FSC International** and **ENFE**.




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### **CeFCo** and **EFECT**

#### **– a complementary approach**

With the concept for a European umbrella scheme for contractor certification - **EFECT**  (the topic of our News issue December 07) - ENFE has started an initiative towards the definition of core criteria which have to be fulfilled by a contractor who applies for a credible certification of his services.

The discussion about an umbrella framework that specifies generic criteria for forest enterprises has been launched, but still, practices vary from country to country. Therefore, there is a need to achieve a common understanding about key criteria for contractor certification. **CeFCo** has adopted this task into its

work plan, so that ENFE's contribution to **CeFCo** will use the synergies between the concept of **EFECT**  and the project objectives of **CeFCo**.

### **CeFCo** aims at certification of operations and of management tasks

Small enterprises need simplified management standards to be able to cope with the certification demand and if desired to delegate management tasks to contractors.

Roles and responsibilities in forest management and the supply chain need to be clearly defined to facilitate access to certification with equitable benefits to all involved parties.

Therefore criteria and indicators for forest operations and for contracted management tasks need to be targeted both at contractors and small forest owners.

### **CeFCo** will reach its results in three phases

**In the first phase a global framework of generic standards targeted to both, forest owners and forestry contractors will be developed.**

Simplified forest management standards for small forest owners

This will take into account that many indicators of

certification schemes have to be considered as huge constraints for very small forest holdings. A general framework for simplified standards will be developed and consulted with small owners, service providers and social and environmental stakeholders.

### Generic standards for forestry contractors

Generic standards for forestry contractors will be produced. These will become widely accepted by stakeholders. Existing schemes for contractor certification will be taken into account. They will be analysed to define common key criteria, which will be incorporated in an overall standard.

### **The second phase will be dedicated to reach acceptance and to build competences in practice**

Communication and dissemination targeted to small holdings and forest service providers

Through this project, understanding on issues related to certification and responsibilities of forestry contractors will be enhanced as communication tools will be developed in line with regional and local context..

Capacity building of forestry contractors

Training focused to the target groups will be delivered in collaboration with Contractors Associations in the European countries.

### In the third phase the project results will be implemented.

#### Pilot testing of standards

Developed standards will be tested in four European countries to analyse applicability and suitability at different conditions.

#### Broad consultation on the different options for contractors

Results from pilot tests will be analysed and the best options for contractors will be presented to stakeholders. Potential options include an international certificate for contractors, an alignment of several current schemes for service providers and others identified during the consultation period.

### Benefit for contractors and forest owners

CeFCo will facilitate the further development of contractor certification, and will promote this in an international framework.

Further, CeFCo will provide guidelines for forestry contractors in combination with simplified forest management standards for small forest owner: This will provide specific indicators for the division of responsibilities between forest owners and forestry contractors in the process of achieving certification of responsible forest management.

There are market benefits for both, contractors and forest owners: Contractors will get


guidance to offering services in forest management which opens their range of tasks and services, and thus their income opportunities.

Small forest holdings which basically depend and rely on the activities carried out by service providers will be supported in their attempt to get their management certified with the help of contractors which fulfil all applicable certification requirements.

With contracting enterprises that perform their operations under a global framework for good practices, access to certification can be significantly increased.

### The next steps

#### Workshop to discuss key criteria for forestry contractor certification

A group of experts will meet at a workshop in September 2009 to discuss the key criteria, which have to be met by contractor certificates to meet the demands of a global framework for the activities of service providers in certified forest management. These discussions will be based on the analysis of existing contractor certificates, on the recommendations of the **Guide to Good Practice in Contract Labour in Forestry**, and on the concept which is provided in the frame of **EFECT** .

### Seminar to raise awareness in the industry

CeFCo and its work plan will be presented and discussed with representatives of forestry contractors, of forest owners and industry, and experts in the field of certification.

#### This Seminar will be held on 13 October 2009 in Copenhagen.

An invitation, the venue in Copenhagen and the programme of the seminar will be communicated in due time.

Look forward to the next issue of ENFE News!



Our project COMFOR is completed successfully !

We will report in the next special issue.

Results and papers are available at

[www.enfe.net/comfor.htm](http://www.enfe.net/comfor.htm)